

SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE: LEBANON INTER-AGENCY UPDATE



February 2014

#FutureOfSyria



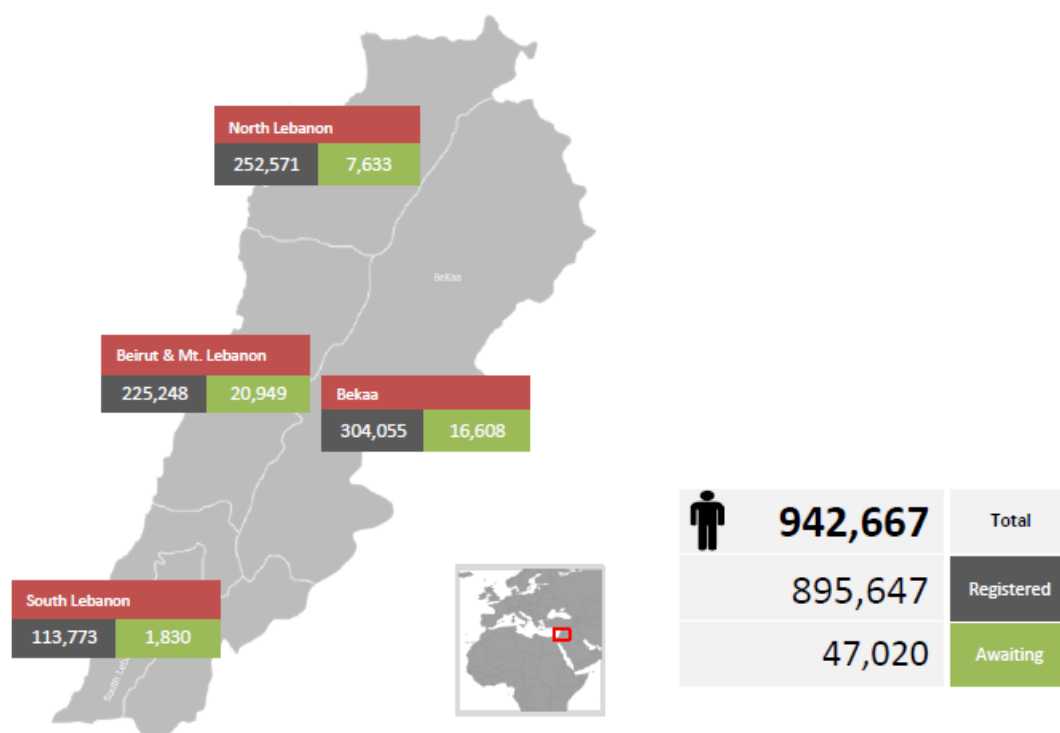
LEBANON

Agencies and the Government of Lebanon requested US\$1.89 billion in the latest inter-agency funding appeal. US\$182 million have so far been received – 11 per cent, as of 31 January.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

- Over 610,000 refugees benefited from food;
- More than 58,000 individuals received mattresses, blankets, fuel, stoves and other household items;
- Over 600,000 Lebanese and Syrian nationals benefited from completed institutional and community support projects;
- 45,000 refugees participated in health awareness sessions;
- Over 31,800 refugees benefitted from various types of shelter support nationwide;
- Some 29,400 individuals received access to primary healthcare services;
- Over 5,000 Syrian students attended accelerated learning programme classes;
- An estimated 13,440 Syrians have arrived in Aarsal since 9 February from different areas in Qalamoun;
- 46,000 persons registered with UNHCR this month.

PROTECTION, REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS



*46,000 people
registered with
UNHCR Lebanon this
month*

Over 46,000 persons registered with UNHCR, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees assisted by UNHCR and partners to 942,667 (895,647 people registered and 47,020 awaiting registration).

PROTECTION

This month witnessed the arrival of 13,440 Syrian refugees in Aarsal following the eruption of violence in the neighboring Qalamoun region of Syria on 9 February. The majority originates from Yabroud, Flita, Al Sahel and Ras al Maara.

Despite sporadic fighting still being reported in and around Yabroud, the pace of the refugee influx significantly decreased toward the end of the month, with only 640 new arrivals identified in Aarsal between 20 and 25 February.

The recent arrivals bring the total refugee population in Aarsal to more than 51,440, exceeding the number of resident Lebanese.

Refugees were also provided with information about available services and recreational places could play by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), UNHCR, UNICEF, Terre Des Hommes, the Danish Refugee Council, Handicap International, the International Rescue Committee, and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Additionally, home visits, namely in newly established refugee settlements, were conducted to ensure that persons with specific needs (unaccompanied/ separated children in need for family tracing and reunification, women and girls at risk, persons with disabilities and in critical medical conditions) are identified and provided with needed specialized assistance.

In north Lebanon, International Relief and Development (IRD) in coordination with UNHCR provided refugees with individual legal consultations and awareness sessions on legal services.

Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC) provided 12 psychosocial counseling sessions for Syrian refugee children, women, and teenagers in Zahle, Teelbaya, Dahrelain and Saida in addition to regular individual sessions.

Also this month, IRC conducted vulnerability assessments for Syrian refugees in 12 villages across Mt. Lebanon and Akkar. The sessions also served to provide information on available services (health, education, birth registration, refugee registration procedures) and to refer identified persons with specific protection needs to different service providers.

INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Over 600,000 Lebanese and Syrian nationals benefited from the completion of various projects including the provision of generators, garbage trucks, snow plough and water reservoir trucks, garbage collection trucks and garbage bins. These projects were implemented by UNDP, UNHCR, Terre des Hommes and other partners.

13,440 refugees arrived in Aarsal from Qalamoun, Syria, since February 9

Over 600,000 Syrians and Lebanese stand to benefit from community support projects

Over 610,000 individuals have so far this month benefited from food assistance

FOOD SECURITY

Over 610,000 beneficiaries received either e-cards or food parcels in February. 92 per cent of beneficiaries had previously received food assistance, while eight per cent were newly arrived and newly registered refugees who were receiving food assistance for the first time.

The total number of refugees holding e-cards reached 113,000 in February. Over 50,100 refugees including new-comers were assisted with food parcels and food vouchers by WFP, CLMC, and the Union of Relief and Development Association (URDA). During January and February 2014, WFP injected more than US\$ 33 million into the Lebanese economy. WFP and partners have also assisted more than 50,000 new-comers through its food parcel programme.

Through monitoring efforts, WFP found that the food security situation of Syrian refugees receiving food assistance remained fairly stable, with 76 per cent of refugees having acceptable food consumption scores, and an acceptable average daily diet diversity.

Some, 2,625 persons received food vouchers through the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and the Popular Aid for Relief and Development. These vouchers -worth US\$20 each- are redeemable at local grocery shops and also benefit local businesses.

DISTRIBUTION

More than 58,000 individuals received mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, fuel vouchers, stoves and other household items provided by agencies nationwide.

In Aarsal, core relief items including mattresses, blankets, stoves, fuel vouchers and kitchen sets were distributed to alleviate the immediate needs of all newly-arrived refugee families. A new barcode system was also introduced to speed up identification for distribution by scanning IDs and passports. Stocks are in place to respond to further new arrivals.

58,000 individuals received mattresses, blankets, fuel, stoves and other household items

SHELTER

This month, over 31,800 refugees benefitted from various types of shelter support nationwide. Assistance included the distribution of cash for rent and cash for host families, the rehabilitation of collective shelters, weatherproofing activities, support to informal tented settlements and the distribution of sealing off kits.

In this month's influx to Aarsal, the shelter situation proved to be extremely challenging. Although the majority of new arrivals have settled in existing settlements inside Aarsal or in private accommodation, many new arrivals were forced to spend the night in public halls, trucks and mosques as agencies struggled to identify appropriate shelter.

In addition, pending government approval of suitable sites for formal transit sites, a number of independent agencies began setting up their own informal settlements. Some of these settlements fall below minimum standards for security, sanitation and hygiene. UNHCR, UNICEF and partners began working to support these agencies to ensure safer living conditions, while work is underway with the local authorities and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) to improve contingency options. So far, over 150 unfinished buildings that could potentially host new arrivals have been identified.

EDUCATION

Over 90,000 Syrian refugee students are enrolled in Lebanese public schools including 29,900 students attending afternoon shifts introduced in 79 schools.

Over 5,000 out-of-school children benefitted from the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) provided by UNHCR, UNICEF, World Vision, Hilfswerk Austria International and Amel Association this month. In addition, Iqra completed another round of accelerated learning classes with the graduation of 1,061 children.

31,800 Syrian refugees received various types of shelter support this month

90,000 Syrian refugee students are enrolled in Lebanese public schools

29,000 Syrian refugee students are enrolled afternoon shifts introduced in Lebanese public schools

HEALTH

Over 29,400 individuals received primary health care services including consultations, treatments, referrals, medication, vaccination, antenatal care, postnatal care, family planning, child health care and diagnostic tests provided by the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), UNHCR, Amel Association, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Premiere Urgence (PU-AMI) and the International Medical Corps (IMC). Another 12,400 refugees benefited from primary healthcare consultations provided through mobile clinics.

A further 45,000 individuals participated in health awareness sessions on a number of health issues including family planning, and pre- and post natal care.

IOCC also initiated a nutrition surveillance system that would help improve the screening of malnutrition at the primary health care level in 40 selected primary health care centers. Active community screening for malnutrition began taking place amongst children between 6-59 months and below 2 years of age respectively. All children identified with malnutrition are being immediately referred for treatment at the assigned primary or secondary healthcare centers. In cases where no equipped health care centers with trained staff were available in the area, IOCC staff provided on-site treatment. Over the past month, 11 out of 1,600 screened children between the ages of 0-59 months in the South and Bekaa were diagnosed with malnutrition and provided with immediate treatment.

In Aarsal, vaccination activities reached all sites where new arrivals settled. Mobile clinics and local hospitals continue to provide assistance to the new comers. In the past two weeks, some 1,600 refugees - most children - received specific medical treatment including those children in settlements beyond the checkpoint. Primary health clinics and maternal/pediatric centres remain operational, and mobile medical units continue to reach out to the population scattered throughout Aarsal. Health partners also began door-to-door visits to screen children between six months and five years for malnutrition.

*Over 29,400
individuals
received primary
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services*

*73,600 individuals
received hygiene
and baby kits*

WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE (WASH)

Over 73,600 individuals in various parts of the country benefitted from the distribution of hygiene and baby kits provided by UNHCR, UNICEF, World Vision, CISP, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Save the Children.

Also this month, more than 16,500 Syrian and Lebanese individuals in Qobayat benefitted from water, hygiene and sanitation related community projects including enhancement of water transmission lines, installation of sewage networks and provision of rain water drainage canals.

In Arsal, all new arrivals benefitted from the distribution of hygiene and baby kits. Additionally, water-trucking to informal settlements and to Lebanese families hosting new arrivals is ongoing. Refugees are also benefitting from the set-up of additional water tanks and latrines.

DONORS

USA, Kuwait, EU, Japan, UK, Germany, Australia, Norway, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Russia, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Italy, Ireland, Austria, Republic of Korea, Spain, Luxemburg, Estonia, Czech Republic, Iceland, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Chile, Mexico, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Slovakia.

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AGENCIES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT

