

## Community Development Update

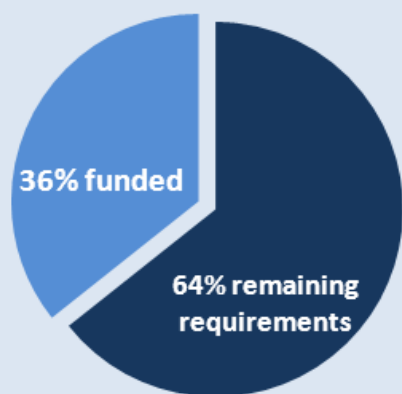
## May 2014

### Key figures

<b>1,087,814</b>	individuals registered or pending registration
<b>78%</b>	women and children
<b>36%</b>	persons with specific needs
<b>24%</b>	children at risk

### Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 468 m



Protection requirements: USD 106 m

### May Developments

#### Community mobilization

- Over 2,508 families were referred by 209 refugee outreach volunteers (ROVs) to UNHCR and partners for assessment and support.
- ROVs this month cited that the needs of older persons are not being met due to the high cost of health services. They also reported that refugees are frustrated from the continuous home visits and household assessments by humanitarian agencies. They expressed concerns that existing services are becoming scarce in terms of material support for vulnerable families. In addition, ROVs cited an increase in the frustration among refugees who lost their eligibility for food assistance, and are not able to find a job because of the limitations set by some municipalities.

#### Case management

- 364 persons received one-time protection cash assistance this month; 30% of them are living in the South, 19 % in Qobayat, 2% in T5, 43% in Beirut/ML, and 6% in Bekaa.
- 6,250 persons at risk were identified and referred for support.



#### Livelihoods and self-reliance

- 2,850 persons, 30% Lebanese and mostly women, participated in vocational, life-skill activities, and entrepreneurship training through community and livelihood centres.
- 23 persons, 40% Lebanese, accessed group lending (micro-credit) services.
- 160 persons, 40% Lebanese, had training on wage earning employment (job preparation).
- Livelihood coordination groups were set up in the south and in Tripoli.

#### Social cohesion and conflict mitigation activities

- During the month of May, SFCG initiated roundtable discussions between Lebanese and refugees in all 11 pilot communities in Tripoli and South Lebanon. Discussions focus on solutions to tensions and will input into decisions on community support projects.
- International Alert introduced conflict sensitive principles and approaches to key actors engaged in nationwide health project funded by the EU's Instrument for Stability.

### Achievements January – May

Activity	 Reached January -May	 2014 Target
Specific needs cases referred	31,250	75,000
Vocational training	11,600	30,030
Refugee outreach volunteers	331	1000
Community centres established	28	50
Conflict training	246	400
Livelihood centers	3	4

## Needs

Shelter, health care, education and livelihoods are among the main needs voiced by refugees. Persons with disabilities and older persons at risk have limited access to existing services and specialised care. As a result, issues such as child labor, non-treatment for chronic health care, evictions, isolation, neglect and low self-esteem abound. An ILO assessment on the impact of Syrian refugees in Lebanon showed that Syrians work for lower salaries, longer hours and without social security benefits (30% are informally working and earn 40% less than the minimum wage). Women are the ones mostly unemployed due to family, cultural and health reasons. With high costs of living, these factors are pushing children into the labor market, making families economically vulnerable and placing youth at risk of engaging in harmful practices. With a dispersed Syrian population and limited capacities, UNHCR is exploring innovative ways to timely identify needs, risks and priorities.

## Challenges

**Dispersed refugee population:** With the widespread dispersal of refugees in over 1,700 locations throughout Lebanon, there is a need to build upon existing outreach and support initiatives to prevent and respond to the immense scale of protection risks.

**Overstretched social services and limited job opportunities:** According to an ILO livelihood assessment, 30% of the refugees are unemployed and 88% of the employed are unskilled or semi-skilled laborers paid 40% less than the minimum wage in Lebanon with an average salary of 277 USD per month, while female Syrian workers get paid 30% less than male workers with an average salary of 165 USD per month.

**Increasing tensions:** Pressure on services and increasing economic competition threaten the wellbeing of both refugees and vulnerable Lebanese. Diminishing salaries and opportunities linked to an increasing workforce have brought about tensions and restrictive government policies regarding livelihoods programmes for Syrians. The impositions of curfews in a growing number of local villages and a recent spate of evictions of refugees from informal settlements are testament to rising tensions.



Syrian refugee girl takes a creative art class at the Women's League in Halba, Lebanon@

## Strategy

To effectively address vulnerabilities and safeguard protection space for refugees, UNHCR's strategic priorities are:

- Assist refugees in accessing basic services;
- Strengthen outreach with refugees and host communities;
- Empower and promote self-management in communities;
- Increase livelihood opportunities, as well as promote social cohesion among Lebanese and Syrians through dialogue and community support projects
- Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Development Centres

## UNHCR implementing partners

Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (CMLC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Amel Association-Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Makhzoumi Foundation, Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Social, Right to Play, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), Search for Common Ground (SFCG), International Alert, UNDP, Al Majmoua, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA).