

Fact Sheet

Beirut, April 2014



Syrian refugees build a shelter from a sealing off kit in Akkar@UNHCR/A. McConnell

Background

Prior to the spring of 2011, the UNHCR operation in Lebanon was a relatively modest one – meeting the needs of 10,000 mostly Iraqi refugees. Since that time, due to the unrest in Syria, the refugee population has grown exponentially. Currently, more than 1,030,000 refugees are registered with the Office, of which all but 5,000 are from Syria.

The response to the Syrian crisis has been a markedly humanitarian one. Syrian refugees have been permitted to enter, and have benefited from assistance from the Lebanese government, host communities, international agencies and NGOs.

UNHCR Programme

Registration

UNHCR registers approximately 2,500 people daily at its offices in Beirut, Tripoli, the Bekaa and south Lebanon. Close to 50,000 people are registered in these four offices every single month.

Civil status documentation

UNHCR works with GOL authorities to ensure that refugees have access to civil status documentation such as birth and marriage certificates and that deaths are properly recorded.

Legal Services

The Office provides legal services to refugees including those who need civil documentation, or who have legal issues before the court and those who have been detained.

Syrian refugees receive a six month residency coupon from the GOL which is renewable after 6 months. Thereafter refugees must renew for a fee of US \$200. This is prohibitive for most. Without recognised legal stay, refugees face risks of arrests and denial of basic services including birth registration. UNHCR and partners are liaising with the government to find a solution.

Health and Psychosocial Support

UNHCR provides support for health care. Because of the high cost of health services in Lebanon, UNHCR cannot cover all health needs. It therefore prioritises primary health care. 65,000 refugees receive primary health care in clinics each month. Secondary health care support is provided for emergency or life-saving care. Some 4,000 refugees benefit from this each month. As many refugees have gone through traumatic experiences, mental health services are also offered to help refugees cope.

Non-Syrian refugees

UNHCR provides protection and assistance to some 7,800 non-Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers. Out of these, the majority comes from Iraq and more than 2,000 are Lebanese dependents of Syrian refugees such as wives of Syrian refugees.

A non-camp environment

Refugees are spread out in over 1,700 locations. Most rent apartments with some 40% living in insecure dwellings including tents, unfinished buildings, garages and warehouses with just 3% living in collective centres.

Number of Offices in Lebanon	6
Number of Staff (75% national staff)	743

Education

UNHCR, UNICEF and partners work closely with the Ministry of Education (MOEHE) to maximize opportunities for formal education for refugees. But with the number of child refugees now surpassing the number of Lebanese children enrolled in public schools, space is an issue. The MOEHE has agreed to permit 90,000 children in the public schools, with UNHCR supporting approximately 30,000 in new second shifts. UNHCR works with partners to help find alternative options for the 300,000 refugee children with no formal education options.

Shelter, Water and Sanitation

UNHCR's shelter and wash interventions prioritise those living in the most insecure dwellings with an aim to ensure they are protected, safe and secure from the wind, rain and snow and also have proper hygiene. Additional interventions include renovating unfinished host Lebanese homes, rehabilitating abandoned schools and temporary shelters, transforming unoccupied warehouses, factories and farms into collective centres, providing soft and hard wall shelter solutions for small settlements, and providing cash to those struggling to pay rent. The water and sanitation strategy consists of two major components: improving access to safe water and basic sanitation as well as promotion of good hygiene practices.

Core Relief Items

In coordination with a number of agencies, UNHCR works to meet the basic needs of refugee families in Lebanon. This includes fuel, blankets, winter clothes vouchers, electric heaters and mattresses to close to 500,000 refugees throughout the country.

UNHCR also assists unregistered refugees and those pending registration with basic items through municipalities and local charities.

Institutional and Community Support

In recognition of the severe impact of the Syrian crisis and presence of refugees on Lebanon, UNHCR supports institutions to strengthen their capacities and also finances projects for local communities.

Last year UNHCR invested over 21 million dollars in these areas. Community support projects include wells, water, sanitation and waste management facilities, generators, etc.

UNHCR also supports twelve community centres for refugees and asylum-seekers in Lebanon. Through the centres, UNHCR and partners offer various activities that benefit refugees as well as local Lebanese including vocational training courses such as hairdressing, computer and cell phone maintenance and life skills training such as IT and English classes to foster self-reliance.

More than 100 refugee outreach workers have been trained to identify and refer persons with specific needs to UNHCR and partners, and provide information on relevant services to other refugees, thus empowering the refugee community as a whole.

Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission

In 2013 over 5,600 refugees were submitted for resettlement or humanitarian admission and over 3,700 departed to third countries. This year the Office has a target of 5,000 persons.

2014 funding appeal

UNHCR appealed for \$468 million in the latest refugee response plan. \$135 million have so far been received, constituting close to 29% of UNHCR's appeal.

Implementing Partners

Acción Contra el Hambre - España, Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Al Majmoua, Association Justice and Miséricorde (AJEM), Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (CLMC), Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Concern Worldwide-Ireland, Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Alert, International Medical Corps (IMC), International Orthodox Christian Charities - USA (IOCC), International Relief and Development - USA (IRD), International Rescue Committee – USA (IRC), INTERSOS - Italy, Lebanese Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Makhzoumi Foundation, MEDAIR - Switzerland, Mercy Corps, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Oxfam - UK, Polish Center for International Aid, Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Relief and Humanitarian Aid Organization, Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Save the Children International (STC), Search for Common Ground - USA, Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD), Solidar Switzerland, Terre des Hommes – Italy (TdH), UN HABITAT, UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), War Child Holland (WCH), World Health Organization (WHO), World Vision Lebanon (WVL).

For more information about Operational Partners please visit the UNHCR inter-agency website for Lebanon:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=122>