

Regional partners put forth the Dead Sea Resilience Agenda for building resilience in the Syria crisis

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

During November, the Government of Jordan and UNDP convened the first Resilience Development Forum at the Dead Sea. The event was attended by ministers and officials from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt and by representatives from donor countries, aid organizations and civil society. Following two days of discussions and high-level panels, the event closed with participants uniting behind an agenda for building resilience in the countries directly affected by the Syria crisis.

This month in Turkey, the Ministry of National Education has agreed to provide a certificate to trainees on completion of vocational training courses. Preparations for certification are underway and workshops will be ready and operational by mid-December 2015. Training activities also continue in various locations across the country, with a focus on language courses and building vocational skills. In November, over 1,700 individuals participated in livelihoods activities.

In Iraq, 3RP partners provided support to establish and scale-up 20 small and medium-sized businesses owned by Syrian men and women in both camp and non-camp settings. Syrian refugees continue to benefit from English and Kurdish language trainings as well as vocational trainings in the areas of sewing, hairdressing, electrician training and computer-skills trainings.

In Egypt, visits were conducted to partner organizations to explore vocational training programmes and their linkages with the labour market. Programmes are currently offering handicraft and cooking courses to Egyptian refugee women and plan to expand their activities by providing grants and increased market linkages.

In Lebanon this month, 750 people benefitted from rapid income generation activities in 30 villages, while 624 people have been supported to access employment, through skills training, apprenticeship schemes and career guidance.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

A critical dimension of building resilience is to expand livelihoods and employment opportunities for vulnerable men, women and, especially youth, in compliance with national laws and regulations. In all five countries, livelihoods support under the 3RP is a key way to slow and reverse depletion of individual, family and community assets. To ensure access to sustainable employment, it is vital to equip refugees and vulnerable local populations with the skills that the markets demand. Livelihoods initiatives give refugees the means to cope with hardship, to increase their skills and abilities, and to prosper, as well as improving their prospects in a future return to Syria. In turn, the skills of refugees can help to grow and diversify local economies.

Social cohesion interventions in the region include the development of conflict mitigation mechanisms, with stakeholders helping to conduct participatory conflict analysis to identify sources of tension, along with training on conflict resolution skills such as negotiation, problem solving and mediation.

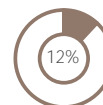


UNDP Lebanon

Sector Response Summary:



292,565 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
34,935 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
4,289,792 currently registered or awaiting registration



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.3 billion required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 2.162 billion received in 2015



LOCAL PEACE COMMITTEES EXCHANGE BEST PRACTICES IN DEALING WITH THE SYRIA CRISIS

Gathered in a two-day retreat in November, 100 participants from the Bekaa and North and South Lebanon, were able to assess their work, share their experiences and learn from the other socio-cultural and socio-economic committees coming from all over Lebanon.

These committees were established together by local authorities and local actors, under the supervision of municipalities in the following governorates: five from the North, five from Bekaa and three from the South. Since September 2014, these committees were able to address the existing challenges as well as those caused by the impact of the Syria crisis on host communities.

In this context, "Mechanisms for Social Stability (MSS)" were designed based on the analysis of local conflicts and the specificities of each region, which led to the creation of these structures. For members coming from southern to northern Lebanon, and meeting for the first time in one place, the event was an opportunity to benefit from lessons learned and experiences across the different regions.

Representatives of 17 committees were proud and happy to discuss the activities achieved in every region. From organizing a kermes for 1,000 Syrian and Lebanese children in Sarafand, a poetry recital in Akroum, to breaking down stereotypes by organizing a Lebanese-Syrian dialogue session in Majdel Anjar, and launching a competition for economic pilot projects in Terbol among other areas, these activities were considered by the different communities as positive initiatives promoting social stability and enhancing mutual understanding of the "Other".

Participants eagerly talked about their activities and also raised the issue of voluntary-based commitment in the committees. "Commitment on the long run is essential in taking part in the activities of the committees," said Haydar El Sheikh from the Berqayel committees. "I hope that other organizations focusing only on Syrian displaced can benefit from this project's approach."

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - NOVEMBER 2015

■ Progress ■ Planned Response, by end-2015

16,333 individuals assisted to access wage employment opportunities



188 community support projects implemented



18,602 people trained or provided with marketable skills and services



These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Targets are based on full funding of the 3RP and an expected 4.27 million refugees by end-2015. All data on this Dashboard is current as of 30 November 2015.