



# Lebanon Update

## Support to Displaced Syrians

20 April - 27 April 2012



Displaced Syrians wait to be registered by UNHCR staff to receive food and other supplies. Tripoli, North Lebanon © UNHCR – Fouad Juez – March 2012.

### Highlights of the week

#### Numbers

UNHCR and partners are working with the government, local authorities and international and national partners assisting some 24,000 displaced Syrians throughout the country, nearly half of whom 11,518 have been jointly registered by UNHCR and Lebanon's High Relief Commission in the North. Registration is ongoing with an additional 1,578 people registered this week. This increase does not reflect new arrivals but recently registered displaced Syrians.

Displaced Syrians are concentrated in north Lebanon, with over 9,000 in Akkar and an estimated 2-3,000 in Tripoli. The latter are to be registered once the modalities are agreed with the authorities.

Latest assessments show approximately 9,000 displaced Syrians in the Bekaa Valley. As the HRC is not present in the Bekaa, this estimate is based by assessments done by local actors verified by UNHCR and its implementing partners pending formal registration..

There are more limited concentrations of displaced persons known to be residing in Beirut, some 791 of whom have been registered by UNHCR.

#### Protection and Security

Regarding wounded Syrians, 20 were admitted to hospitals this week.

#### Assistance in North Lebanon

##### *Shelter*

Cleaning supplies, cement, work tools, electrical supplies and other basic rehabilitation tools were procured to help displaced Syrians rehabilitate abandoned houses they have moved into for shelter. Twenty six additional houses were identified for rehabilitation.

##### *Education*

UNHCR and partners recently learned of newly arrived families in Amayer and are working toward enrolling the children of these families in remedial classes.

##### *Health*

Agreement was reached for training on mental health to begin on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Accredited by the World Health Organization (WHO) and adapted by the Ministry of Health and the Order of Lebanese Physicians the training will assist doctors, nurses and social workers detect and screen cases for mental health at the primary care level and treat common mental disorders.

In addition, health awareness sessions for displaced Syrians have expanded from Wadi Khaled and will now be reaching people in Tripoli, Akkar and Halba. These are designed to raise awareness on a variety of issues including personal

hygiene, reproductive health, sanitation and respiratory disease.

#### *Quick Impact Projects*

Committees met in Amayer, Moqaibleh, Karha and Mounseh to discuss potential Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) aimed at improving the community space for both displaced Syrian and host Lebanese families. There are proposals for a variety of projects such as creating public gardens in Andqet and Abde, setting up a village center in Mwense, creating an elderly home in Qinye, establishing a social development center in Qarha and more. Selected projects will begin to be implemented in May.

#### **Assistance in the Bekaa Valley**

##### *Distribution*

Monthly distribution started this week assisting 545 families around the Bekaa. UNHCR and partners are providing support to the local organizations and municipalities who are facilitating distribution efforts. UNHCR's implementing partner, the Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) outreach workers are participating in and observing distribution in order to identify gaps. Currently, distribution is taking place both in centers of local partners as well as through home to home efforts.

The World Food Program (WFP) continued this week discussions on the modalities of the upcoming food voucher system with UNHCR and other relevant stakeholders.

##### *Education*

Spaces geared toward children's activities, games and education are being established in the Bekaa. Social workers and animators from two local NGOs, AMEL Association and Sawa Group Association, are learning how to manage these spaces, help children express themselves and provide proper support. Home visits have helped UNHCR and

partners register close to 400 children who will benefit from these child friendly spaces as well as remedial classes, beginning next week.

##### *Health*

Psychologists and social workers continued their home visits to assess the mental health of displaced Syrians in the Bekaa. UNHCR and partners are finding that many displaced are experiencing a psychological adjustment to their new surroundings, due to anxiety over the future as well grief due to the losses they have endured. UNHCR is working to ensure that proper mental health assistance is provided.

This week UNHCR and its implementing partner, International Medical Corp (IMC), met with local primary health care centers to discuss challenges, needs and to establish a health referral mechanism.

##### *Protection/Community Services*

A Protection Coordination meeting this week focused on mapping out services available in the Bekaa to respond to protection cases, as well as establishing a referral mechanism. Discussions also revolved around UNHCR's upcoming registration exercise aimed to start on 8 May in Aarsal. An information campaign was launched in Aarsal to raise awareness among the displaced population about the registration process and a hotline was established, calls free of charge, to respond to individual questions and concerns.

##### *Water and Sanitation*

Agencies continue to gear up to address growing needs (such as health and hygiene promotion) in the Bekaa region including mapping water sources, looking at water treatment, and bringing in water and sanitation (WASH) experts.. Discussions will be taking place with local water authorities to minimize pressure on current water systems as the area continues to absorb displaced Syrians.

More implementing partners with WASH capacity are needed.

*Shelter*

UNHCR's implementing partners – the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and DRC – are moving ahead with rehabilitation work to ensure shelters are made adequate for hosting displaced Syrians. More collective shelters need to be identified, particularly in the

Central/West Bekaa region. Issues currently under discussion include identifying modalities and minimum standards to ensure proper management of collective shelters, and developing a longer term strategy for those living with host families.

Items Distributed in the Bekaa	April 25, 2012	Cumulative
Mattresses	0	2,397
Mattresses private donation	213	213
Blankets	0	2,000
Food kits	545	2,045
Food kit private donation	0	100
Hygiene kits by UNICEF for newcomers	0	600
Hygiene kits by DRC	0	500
Hygiene kit private donation	0	74
Clothes (private donation)	0	33 packs
Jerry cans of 10 L	0	1,000
Fuel coupons of 20	0	5,534
Baby diapers (private donation)	0	100
Sanitary napkins	0	80
Baby kits	230	230

Items Distributed in North Lebanon	April 18, 2012	Cumulative
Mattresses	0	4,613
Blankets	0	4,857
Food kits	0	9,312
Diapers	0	1,529
Baby milk	0	1,478
Hygiene kits	0	7,302
Hygiene kits by UNICEF for newcomers	0	99
Garments for children by UNICEF	0	1,124
Women's Pads (private donation)	0	239
Torches by UNICEF	0	650
Fuel coupons for 20 liters	0	31,292
Fuel coupons for 20 liters for hosting families	0	164

For more information on Syrian displacement in Lebanon, please visit the Lebanon page on the webportal: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>. There you will find facts, figures, and 'who does what', as well as updates on food and non-food items distributed per area. Additionally, for more on UNHCR's current programme per sector, and for information on how the response is being coordinated and the many contributions of various agencies, please click on "situational overview" of the Lebanon page.