

**Syria Crisis Weekly Humanitarian Situation Report
Lebanon
Date: 27 September 2012**

LEBANON

Highlights

- 24 September marked the start of the new school year in Lebanon and enrolment is progressing well.
- To date, more than 3,000 refugee students are enrolled and attending schools, 40 per cent of them supported by UNICEF.

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs:

Estimated Affected Population <i>(Estimates based on initial figures from UNHCR Portal, 27 September 2012)</i>			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	56,225	26,426	29,799
Children Affected (Under 18)	28,675	14,619	14,056
Children Under Five	10,683	5,623	5,060

A total of 56,225 refugees are currently registered with UNHCR and the Lebanese High Relief Commission (HRC) and an additional 23,586 Syrians are awaiting registration. More than 50 per cent of the registered refugees are children under 18. It is estimated that there are over 100,000 refugees throughout the country and 6,575 Palestinians from Syria have recently arrived in Lebanon. As most refugees are living with host families in the poorest areas of the country, UNICEF emergency response also covers host communities.

Inter-Agency Collaboration and Partnerships: UNICEF participated in a second coordination meeting with UNRWA, in which participants were updated on UNICEF's work and plans, such as rapid needs assessment and Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) in Wavel camp for recreational activities and distribution of supplies. This week, UNICEF will distribute recreational, Early Childhood Development (ECD) and adult and baby hygiene kits to Palestinian refugees from Syria. UNICEF will hold a follow up meeting with UNRWA next week to agree specific strategies and interventions for Back-to-School.

Programme response:

WASH: The newly formed WASH sector group will meet for the first time this week. The group will meet fortnightly and will be co-chaired by UNHCR and UNICEF in Chekka. WASH has until now been part of the Shelter sector meetings. In the coming week, the UNICEF WASH team will be monitoring the situation in the field.

Estimated #/% coverage (80%)	UNICEF & operational partners		
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	%age of Target Achieved
Emergency affected population provided with access to safe water	54,000	Approximately 4,285* people daily	7.9%

UNICEF Current Operational Partners: ACF (Bekaa)

*The number of people receiving water on a daily basis will change as the redeemable water voucher system has been implemented. This is why there is a decrease in the number from last sit rep. It is anticipated that the number will increase again when the system is fully operational.

Child Protection: Information by partner organizations and other agencies indicates increased concerns around Syrian refugee children’s involvement in hazardous labour. UNICEF also received reports of increased numbers of street children in Beirut, many of them Syrian. The need for accelerating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services is becoming increasingly clear, both for women and children. There are also concerns over the reported rise of early marriages among adolescent Syrian girls.

The Child Protection in Emergency Working Group met this week, co-led by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and UNICEF. MoSA confirmed that a network of 200 Social Development Centres (SDCs) is available nationwide to provide services to refugees. Twenty five SDCs located in areas with highest concentration of Syrian refugees, mainly in the Bekaa, North Governorates and in Beirut, have been identified to serve as “hubs” for coordination, referral and provision of social services. UNICEF committed to supporting at least seven of those SDCs.

The first Child Protection coordination working group in the north will be held this week, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNICEF. UNICEF plans to meet with the Minister of Social Affairs to present its scale up plans, including the Back-to-School initiative and the work planned with SDCs.

Estimated #/% coverage	UNICEF & operational partners		
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	% of Target Achieved
Children with safe access to community spaces for socializing, play, learning	18,500*	3,780**	20%
UNICEF Operational Partners: Save the Children, THD, War Child, Association Culturelle du Hermel, Mercy Corps, Amel Association			

* This is the UNICEF RRP3 target under the UNHCR pre-set indicator related to “access to safe space and related activities/support”; the sector target for this indicator is 90% of the Syrian children aged 5-17 years, i.e. 32,700 children (current CFS age group) based on a Syrian population of 120,000; UNICEF’s target is 50% based on the acknowledgement that UNICEF is not the only provider of these services in Lebanon.

** This is the number of children to be reached through the existing 20 CFSs. Note that the CFS programme started only in May 2012 and the number of CFS has grown incrementally since then. Also please note that the previous number reported (5,500) included children and their caregivers

Education: The new school year started on 24 September in Lebanon and enrolment is progressing well. To date, more than 3,000 refugee students are enrolled and attending schools, 40 per cent of them supported by UNICEF. While many school directors are working to integrate refugee children in the Lebanese education system, others are reluctant to engage and facilitate integration. UNICEF and partners are tackling the issues as they arise in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) at district and central level.

UNICEF’s Back-to-School strategy was shared with the Education Working Group (EWG) members at the central coordination meeting at the MEHE and supported by the Director General. PCAs for the Back-to-School plan will be finalized in the coming days, covering all of Lebanon, in close collaboration with relevant ministries and building on the existing structures and mechanisms.

Estimated #/% coverage	UNICEF & operational partners			Sector		
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	% of Target Achieved	Sector Target	Cumulative results (#)	% of Target Achieved
Number of refugee children (4-5 years old) access early education activities (school or community-based)	3,000	N/A for the moment		5000	N/A	N/A
Number of refugee children (6-14 years old) enrolled in primary education	8,100 pending registration+ 7,200 host community	1200	N/A	29700	N/A	N/A
Number of children (6-14 years old) attending alternative primary education	6,300	2,050	32.53	10,450	N/A	N/A
Number of public schools/ learning spaces providing an inclusive learning environment	125	10	12	186	N/A	N/A
Children with access to psychosocial support in education programmes	6,300	2,050	32.53	N/A	N/A	N/A
Education specific coordination mechanisms are in place at national and field level	Yes			Yes		
UNICEF Operational Partners: Iqra’ Association, Save the Children International, Amel Association						

Human Resources

	Number staff
Country Office staff	19 (3 internationals and 16 nationals)
Temporary staff	11 (3 internationals and 8 nationals)
Surge	None
Standby partners	6
Under recruitment	1 IP WASH and 2 drivers, one for the North and one for Bekaa
Standby partners: NRC, Irish Aid, RedR	
We currently have 3 consultants one for Supply and one for Communication and on Education	

Next Situation Report: 4 October 2012

For further information, please contact:

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