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#syria



LEBANON

Lebanon Inter-Agency Response: Syrian Refugees

October 04, 2013



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- 32,587 refugees benefited from food coupons;
- 9,000 newly arrived refugees received food vouchers;
- 7,500 refugees benefited from a mix of shelter interventions;
- Over 6,000 refugees received mattresses, bed sheets, kitchen sets;
- More than 4,800 individuals received health education sessions through primary health care centers and outreach visits;
- Over 2,773 individuals received primary healthcare services;
- 903 individuals benefited from clinical and social consultations and over 590 were admitted to UNHCR and IMC supported hospitals;
- 13,000 registered with UNHCR this week.



REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

Over 13,000 persons registered with UNHCR, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees assisted by UNHCR and partners to over 779,000 (over 678,100 people registered and 101,000 awaiting registration).

Current geographical distribution of the registered population is as follows:

North Lebanon: 217,200

Bekaa: 226,600

Beirut and Mount Lebanon: 144,000

South Lebanon: 90,000

UNHCR and Terre des Hommes organized the transportation from Ain Arab and Blat in Marjayoun to the Tyre registration centre of over 160 refugees unable to for their transport from areas remote areas in Mount Lebanon. The same was implemented in Mount Lebanon with 45 refugees transported to the Beirut registration center. The process will continue throughout October to facilitate the registration of vulnerable refugees.

Registration information desks were placed at different distribution points, which facilitated information sharing on registration-related matters. This initiative proved very useful in resolving registration issues in a timely manner as many refugees approached the registration desks with various queries.

PROTECTION

The Participatory Assessment (PA) exercise launched in September continued this week. In Akkar, trained social workers from UNHCR, IRC, IMC, Save the Children, and NRC met with groups of children, females heading households, and people with disabilities in their places of residence. The discussions helped identify problems encountered by refugees who belong to specific age and gender groups. These group discussions coupled with staff training on PA will continue, and their results will be used to develop a tailored response.

The two leading concerns reported by refugee volunteers based on their outreach and visits this week were access to health care and food/non-food assistance. Refugees were directed to public health centers and briefed about available services. Another pressing concern is school enrollment. Refugee parents are keen to enroll their children in public schools, an ongoing process with the deadline having been extended until October 10.

Social workers and refugee volunteers continue to prioritize awareness-raising about the importance of the registration of new born children at birth. NRC, ICLA and SHEILD trained

refugee volunteers this week about the birth registration process and its importance to enable them to relay clear messages to the refugees.

UNICEF's implementing partner Heartland Alliance distributed 2,125 dignity kits (containing scarves, whistles, women's hygiene kits, etc) to women and adolescent girls in Baalbek, Tripoli and Beirut while raising awareness on personal hygiene, early marriage and gender-based violence prevention.

Projects aimed to reinforce peaceful coexistence between refugees and their hosting communities are ongoing.

FOOD SECURITY

This week, 32,587 refugees benefited from WFP food coupons, bringing the total number of refugees who have benefited from food assistance since September to almost 600,000, the highest number of refugees reached in a single month from the outset of the crisis.

This week was also the first week of targeted food distribution in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, south Lebanon and the Bekaa valley. Targeted assistance is based on the results of the vulnerability assessment carried out by WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF in May and June and UNHCR's registration data. Food distribution is now targeted to those most vulnerable including those with no other means of food support. It includes 72% of the registered refugee population.

A move to more targeted food assistance in the North will begin in November once information campaigns have been carried out there.

Over 9,000 newly arrived refugees received food vouchers from OXFAM and the Danish refugee council as preparations for the October distribution cycle continued.

In September, WFP carried out the electronic voucher system ("e-card") soft launch in Nabatieh, South Lebanon. Preparations for the full roll-out of the WFP electronic voucher system (e-cards) to all areas continued this week. With the new system, the money will be automatically wired to the cards, so refugees don't have to wait in line to receive their entitlements. They can also purchase food as needed, throughout the month, saving on transport costs and allowing them to buy fresh food.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) trained 32 pilot animal farmers in the Bekaa Valley on artificial insemination and exams were completed on 3 October. The training aims to increase the fertility rate of the cows, to increase the annual calving crop, to improve the genetic base on a national scale and to reduce the transmission of venereal diseases. In sum, it will contribute toward increased food security through livestock.

DISTRIBUTION

Over 6,000 refugees received mattresses, bed sheets, kitchen sets and other household items by UNHCR, DRC, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC) and Makhzoumi Foundation.

EDUCATION

The enrollment of Syrian children in public schools is on-going. The Ministry of Education (MEHE) issued a circular informing public schools that Syrian children can be registered when there is sufficient space on condition that they pay tuition fees that can be later reimbursed by UNHCR, UNICEF and other agencies. Refugee parents have since expressed concern over their inability to pay these fees. UNHCR is liaising with MEHE to see how this impediment can be addressed.

UNHCR, War Child Holland and Terre des Hommes Italy are also coordinating with MEHE on the launch of additional rounds of Accelerated Learning Programme classes. These will begin as soon as approval is granted from the Ministry and will help out-of-school children catch up on the curriculum.

Information sessions, posters and leaflets are being widely distributed by UNHCR, Caritas and partners to encourage refugee parents to enroll their children in school and to provide information about the process. Save the Children also deployed staff to distribution sites to answer queries related to education.

UNICEF and their implementing partner Relief International provided 586 children with non-formal education classes including language and math in addition to psychosocial support.

HEALTH

Over 2,773 individuals received primary healthcare services this week including consultations, treatments, referrals, medication, vaccinations and diagnostic tests provided by UNHCR and International Medical Corps (IMC). Additionally, some 903 individuals benefited from clinical and social consultations and over 590 were admitted to UNHCR and IMC supported hospitals.

More than 4,800 individuals received health education sessions through primary health care centres and mobile visits across the country supported by UNHCR, IMC and Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC). These sessions are designed to enhance personal hygiene, food safety and the importance of breastfeeding.

Over 1,400 individuals received vaccinations against measles and polio provided by UNICEF at UNHCR's registration centre in the Bekaa bringing the total number of beneficiaries in that region to 34,879.

Also this week more than 50 women with high-risk pregnancies received pre-natal care services by UNHCR and the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) including consultations with gynecologists, echographies, lab tests, etc. In addition, more than 100 women benefited from awareness sessions on Infant and Young Child feeding (IYCF) and on the importance of breast-feeding and optimal complementary feeding during emergencies.

Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC) provided training to 150 staff and the SGUH Hospital on patient safety and infection control, communication, stress management and problem solving. The hospital will start organizing open day sto provide public information on health matters, offer medical consultations and laboratory and radiologic tests for both refugees and local communities.

SHELTER

This week, some 7,500 refugees benefited from a mix of shelter interventions provided by UNHCR, NRC, PU-AMI, Makhzoumi Foundation and others. Materials and tools to seal off shelters from winter elements have been widely distributed. These include plastic sheeting, timber, external doors and/or door coverings.

Refugees who no longer have the means to pay for their accommodation or live on private lands continue to be at risk of eviction. UNHCR and agencies are providing cash for rent or offering the most vulnerable refugees to relocate to other shelters while mediating with landlords to mitigate eviction risks.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Over 31,000 refugees benefited from the distribution of hygiene and baby kits provided by UNHCR, Premiere Urgence (PU-AMI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Makhzoumi Foundation, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC) and World Vision.

Refugees living in informal settlements in the Bekaa, Jeb Jenin, Termine and Sareen benefited from three water supply projects by UNHCR and Action Contre la Faim. These projects will help improve refugee access to water.

Some 36 women between the ages of 16 and 45 attended focus group discussions organized by PU-AMI on the issue of public cleanliness.

Refugees in Mount Lebanon benefitted from the distribution of over 640 vouchers by Makhzoumi for the purchase of personal hygiene and baby items this week.