



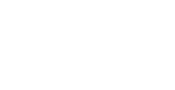
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LEBANON

Lebanon Inter-Agency Response: Syrian Refugees

October 11, 2013

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- 110,700 refugees received WFP food vouchers;
- Over 91,000 refugees benefited from the distribution of hygiene and baby kits and hygiene coupons;
- Over 12,650 e-cards were distributed in Tyre, Saida, Baabda and Binte Jbeil (South Lebanon) this week;
- Over 7,000 refugees received mattresses, bed sheets, kitchen sets and other household items;
- 5,207 newly-arrived refugees were assisted through WFP's food parcel programme;
- 5,000 refugees benefited from a mix of shelter interventions;
- Over 2,500 individuals received primary healthcare services;
- 673 were admitted to UNHCR and IMC supported hospitals;
- Another 106 Syrian refugees departed to Germany from Lebanon as part of the German Humanitarian Admissions Programme (HAP) this week;
- Over 13,800 persons registered with UNHCR.



REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

Over 13,800 persons registered with UNHCR, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees assisted by UNHCR and partners to over 779,000 (over 691,900 people registered and 101,000 awaiting registration).

Current geographical distribution of the registered population is as follows:

North Lebanon: 219,500

Bekaa: 231,400

Beirut and Mount Lebanon: 148,600

South Lebanon: 92,200

UNHCR and Terre des Hommes organized the transportation from different villages in Marjaayoun to the Tyre registration centre of over 285 refugees unable to pay for their transport from remote areas in South Lebanon. The same was implemented in Mount Lebanon with 422 refugees transported to the Beirut registration center. The process will continue throughout October to facilitate the registration of vulnerable refugees.

PROTECTION

As part of the participatory assessment exercise, UNHCR and partners conducted home visits in Aley and other parts of Mount Lebanon to young refugee women aged 14-17 to raise their awareness about their rights and services available to them while identifying the most pressing concerns. Over 60 such focus group discussions were also held with refugee women, men and children in different parts of Akkar and South Lebanon. Most participants mentioned unemployment, low wages, and school enrolment as their main concern. Agencies continue to work to maximize school enrolment in conjunction with the Ministry of Education.

UNHCR and DRC started provided psychosocial activities to refugee children in tented settlements and collective shelters in the Bekaa. This includes recreational activities and counselling. Work is now underway with local municipalities to identify additional venues where such activities could be held.

UNICEF's implementing partner, Intersos, established a playground for children in UNHCR's registration centre in Tyre this week, where recreational psychosocial activities are provided while refugees wait for their turn to register. Over 500 children benefited from these activities.

UNICEF and partners provided psychosocial support to over 11,000 children across Lebanon. Additionally, UNICEF, UNHCR and partners have provided over 5,500 women with awareness sessions on prevention from gender-based violence.

UNICEF and partners distributed 3,000 dignity kits to women and girls, during which awareness raising sessions on personal hygiene, gender-based violence prevention and family planning were undertaken. A mid-way house opened in Mount Lebanon through UNICEF, providing temporary emergency shelter, counselling and other support services to over 15 survivors of gender-based violence and other vulnerable women and girls at any one time. Guidance on clinical management of gender-based violence cases and referrals process was also provided at the center this week.

UNHCR and IRD continue to provide legal counseling on residency permit renewal and birth registration to refugees. Over 380 people benefited from these services this week.

Another 106 Syrian refugees departed to Germany from Lebanon as part of the German Humanitarian Admissions Programme (HAP) this week. This brings the total number of refugees departing to Germany on this programme to 213. Through this programme, 5,000 Syrian refugees will have temporary residence in Germany until they are able to return home in safety and dignity or until they find other durable solutions.

FOOD SECURITY

This week, 110,700 refugees received WFP food vouchers and 5,207 newly-arrived refugees were assisted through WFP's food parcel programme to provide them with support pending their registration with UNHCR.

Ananda Marga Disaster Relief (AMURT) also distributed 45 kilograms (kg) of food donated by Islamic Relief to 126 newly-arrived households in the Chouf (Mount Lebanon).

WFP continued the roll-out of the electronic voucher programme with the technical support of its private sector partner, MasterCard. Over 12,650 e-cards were distributed in Tyre, Saida, Baabda and Binte Jbeil (South Lebanon) this week. This adds to the over 750 unregistered Syrian refugee households who had received e-cards through World Vision in Tyre and Saida during September.

The newly established e-card system was welcomed by refugees as it allows them to meet their basic food needs without having to report to distribution sites and wait in line. The system will also leave a positive impact on the Lebanese economy. So far in 2013, through voucher programmes for Syrian refugees, WFP has injected over US\$ 82 million into the local economy.

Mercy-USA distributed weekly bags of bread to 21,000 refugees throughout September and continues to distribute weekly bags of bread to 6,000 Palestine refugees from Syria in Baadawi camp (North Lebanon) in October.

DISTRIBUTION

Over 7,000 refugees received mattresses, bed sheets, kitchen sets and other household items from UNHCR, DRC, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC) and Makhzoumi Foundation.

EDUCATION

The enrollment of Syrian children in public schools is on-going. Preparations for afternoon shifts to be launched in 70 schools around Lebanon are underway. Lists of refugee student names are being prepared, while the selection of teachers and deployment of staff is in process.

Save the Children International and Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC) identified 12 schools that need rehabilitation including the construction of additional prehabilitated classrooms/toilets to improve their capacity. Similar efforts were conducted in 20 schools last year, while more is planned for this year in order to improve school conditions.

HEALTH

Over 2,500 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 753 individuals benefited from clinical and social consultations and 673 were admitted to UNHCR and IMC supported hospitals.

More than 3,800 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 convey messages about personal hygiene, food safety and the importance of breastfeeding.

UNICEF is providing medical supplies to build the capacity of clinics in the Bekaa (Aarsal, Hermel, Baalbek, Majdel Anjar and Al Marj) and in Tripoli (Jabal Mohsen, Bab el Tabanneh and Dar el Zahraa). The clinics treated 8,078 Syrian refugee outpatients, including 1,630 children under the age of five – 784 of whom were suffering from acute respiratory infections. Antenatal care consultations were provided to 359 pregnant women.

Twelve Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) supported by UNHCR and IMC provided primary health care and information to refugees. Respiratory tract infection, diarrhoea and skin disease remain the top three health problems reported through MMUs. While some cases were treated on site, some were referred to clinics for further care.

SHELTER

This week, some 5,000 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.

The risk of eviction continues to be a pressing one. 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. Some local community leaders have played a very constructive role in delaying possible evictions in certain areas, buying agencies more time to identify alternative solutions for refugees.

Shelter remains one of the most pressing challenges in the refugee response. Three homeless Syrian families in Beirut were provided with shelter and cash assistance through Makhzoumi Foundation. This brings the total number of people benefiting from cash for rent in Beirut since 2013 to 220.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Over 91,000 refugees benefited from the distribution of hygiene and baby kits and hygiene coupons provided by UNHCR, Premiere Urgence (PU-AMI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Makhzoumi Foundation, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC) and World Vision.

UNICEF's implementing partners, Solidarites International and PU-AMI have provided 2,379 people with access to potable water. Additionally, PU-AMI have provided a further 391 beneficiaries with access to toilets and sanitation services. With UNICEF support, Solidarites have also provided hygiene promotion sessions to 2,095 individuals.

ACTED visited 33 refugee households to determine their water and sanitation needs this week. Identified problems include lack of washing facilities and water storage capacity, damaged toilets, as well as a lack of information about available potable water sources. To address these issues, ACTED will rehabilitate/construct hand-washing facilities, conduct water quality testing and filter distribution, as well as hygiene promotion activities to improve general living standards and reduce current health issues including diarrhoea.