



Lebanon Briefing Note: Inter-Agency Winterization Programme

Beirut, 23 December 2013



Background

- Rain started falling in November, and snow and extremely cold weather arrived in December. These conditions will now continue through March and into April in some places.
- Some 840,000 refugees are dispersed in over 1,500 locations throughout Lebanon, with the majority (over 64%) in North Lebanon and the Bekaa. These two parts of the country experience harsh conditions with lower temperatures and snow in the mountainous parts (including the entire Bekaa Valley, which lies above 500 meters).
- Many refugees live in accommodation that is not properly sealed off from the elements (informal tented settlements – ITS, unfinished buildings, garages, work-sites and warehouses).
- The humanitarian community in Lebanon has three main objectives in its winterization programme: (a) shelter assistance, (b) the provision of necessary non-food items, such as blankets, clothes (especially for children – a need identified by refugees themselves through focus groups), and stoves for heating and (c) the provision of money for fuel (including to heat classrooms in order to promote attendance and comfort in schools during the winter months).
- Humanitarian partners are providing winterization assistance to more than half of all the refugees from Syria, as well as to Lebanese returnees and some vulnerable host community families.

Targeted population

- **Vulnerable registered refugees (identified through the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees - VASyR) living at higher altitudes (above 500 meters above sea level)**
- **Any refugee (registered or unregistered) in the worst shelters (such as ITS and collective centers)**
- **Persons with special needs & other special cases (such as all children under 14-year-old living in tented settlements or collective shelters)**
- **360 schools**

Winterization interventions by sector

Shelter assistance¹

Refugees living in sub-standard dwellings including **unfinished buildings** and **informal settlements** need emergency assistance to improve their shelter so that they can remain warm and dry during the cold and wet winter months.

- **What kind of assistance are humanitarian partners providing?** Weather-proofing is carried-out through the provision of shelter materials (such as plastic sheeting, timber, external doors and/or door coverings, associated ironmongery and tools). These will be distributed to 28,000 households (140,000 people) so that they can seal off their shelters for the winter.
- **Who is being assisted?** Assistance will target refugees, both registered and those awaiting registration, as well as other groups living in sub-standard shelters, including members of the host community (i.e. Lebanese living in the same dwellings as the refugees).

¹ Weather-proofing for informal settlements and unfinished buildings is a form of shelter assistance that is provided throughout the year. Targets mentioned in this note refer to the winter months only (November-March).

- **Cost?** The cost of winterization assistance is approximately \$200 USD per household. In addition, a budget of \$500,000 has been allocated to support the most vulnerable ITS in case of flooding.
- **What has been achieved so far?**
 - Since the beginning of the winter more than 27,700 weather-proofing kits have been distributed for Syrian refugee families living in unfinished buildings and informal settlements.
 - During Storm ALEXA the Government authorized the use of the Lebanese Armed Forces to assist effort to transport winterization kits to remote areas blocked by snow, especially in North Bekaa.
 - All partners with the support of UNHCR are redoubling their efforts to continue the distribution of kits, and more than 11,000 additional kits will be distributed before the end of the year.

Non-Food Items (NFI)

- **What kind of assistance are humanitarian partners providing?** Assistance to selected vulnerable refugee households includes quilts or high thermal blankets (one per person), a stove (provided in kind or with cash) and \$100 per month for five months of fuel from November to March (accessible by ATM cash withdrawal).
- **Who is being assisted?**
 - All registered refugee households defined as vulnerable (VASyR) **and** who live in a cadastral area above 500 meters;
 - All occupants of informal settlements (irrespective of registration status, vulnerability, nationality or elevation); and,
 - Other persons who do not fit into the above categories who humanitarian partners have identified as having specific needs or particular vulnerabilities.
- **Cost?** The cost of the winter NFI package for one refugee family of five persons for five months is approximately \$670 USD / household.
- **What has been achieved so far?**

Winter 2013/2014 NFI target	Households	Refugees
Target to be reached end-Dec (2 nd month of the winter)	76,000	380,000
Percentage completed to date	79%	
Target for the entire winter (by March 2014)	90,000	450,000
Percentage completed to date	56%	

Child Protection

- **What kind of assistance is being provided?** Distribution of in-kind winter clothing kits and vouchers worth \$40 USD per child.
- **Who is being assisted?** All children 14 and under living in tented settlements (approximately 108,000 children) will receive in-kind winter clothing. Children living in collective centres, collective shelters or vulnerable communities will receive vouchers (valued at \$40 per child). In total, 65,000 children including Palestinian refugees from Syria will be assisted.
- **Cost?**
 1. Unicef has currently allocated \$4.2 million for winter clothing kits, with another \$1.5 million in the pipeline to cover 35,000 winter kits; a total of \$5.7 million benefitting 123,000 children.
 2. With a unit cost of \$40 per voucher, Unicef is also providing \$2.6 million support in order to reach 65,000 children.
 3. In kind assistance of donated items is valued at \$500,000 of that will support another 10,000 children
 4. Direct support to UNRWA's Winter programme for Palestine Refugees from Syria, valued at \$800,000

- **What has been achieved so far?** 46,000 children living in ITS have now received winter clothing kits plus 20,500 Palestine Refugee children (100% of the PRS population under 17). UNICEF and World Vision have cleared drainage channels of accumulated solid waste at 18 ITS, housing 3,179 people, as a preventive measure against flooding.

Education

- **What kind of assistance is being provided?** The Fuel-for-Schools programme provides up to 2,000 litres per school, to supplement heating requirements between November 2013 and March 2014.
- **Who is being assisted?** 355 schools, including five UNRWA schools in the Bekaa, benefiting 137,500 students.
- **Cost?** \$1.6 million.
- **What has been achieved so far?** UNICEF is working towards its target of 355 schools. All 5 UNRWA schools in the Bekaa, with 2,600 students, have already been covered.

Overall budget

Sector	Households	Refugees	Cost (USD)
Shelter	37,000	185,000	7,400,000
NFI	90,000	450,000	60,300,000
Child Protection	-	173,000	7,300,000
Education	-	137,500 ²	1,600,000
TOTAL			76,300,000

² Includes affected Lebanese in the hosting schools. Each school has an average of 250 pupils.

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Winterization Targeting Map

August 2013

