

# UNHCR Monthly Update

## Community Development

## April 2014

### Key figures

**1,044,898** individuals registered or pending registration

**78%** women and children

**24%** children at risk

### April Developments

#### Community mobilization

- A total of 331 refugee outreach volunteers (ROVs) were mobilized this month.
- The number of general ROVs increased to 209 and specialized ROV in health, education and child protection increased to 122.
- Over 2,508 families at risk were identified and referred by the ROV for support.
- ROVs report that key community concerns as expressed by refugees this month include their inability to pay rent as a result of landlords increasing prices; increasing drop-out rates in school due to language and curriculum differences; and limited medicine supply and denial of access to hospitals due to space limitations.

#### Case management

- 285 persons received one-time protection cash assistance this month with the largest percentage in the south, Beirut/Mount Lebanon and Qobayat.
- 6,600 persons at risk were identified and referred for support.

#### Livelihoods and self-reliance

- 2,750 persons, 40% Lebanese and mostly women participated in life-skill activities, and entrepreneurship training through community and livelihood centres.
- 209 persons, 40% Lebanese, received training on how to find employment.
- 23 persons, 40% Lebanese, received group lending (micro-credit for home based activities, baking and food processing) services.

#### Social cohesion and conflict mitigation activities

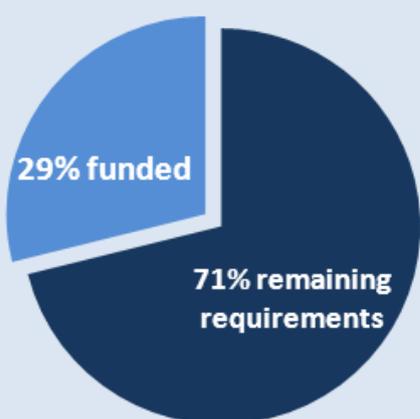
- Local leaders from host and refugee communities are now engaged in dialogue in 6 pilot communities in North Lebanon. In the other half SFCG has dedicated the month of April to prepare Syrian and Lebanese participants separately before starting the dialogue process in May.

### Achievements January – April

Activity	 Reached January-April	 2014 Target
Specific needs cases referred	25,000	75,000
Vocational training	8,750	30,030
Refugee outreach volunteers	331	1000
Community centres established	27	50
Conflict resolution trainings	-	400

### Funding

UNHCR requirements 2014: USD 468 m



Protection requirements: USD 106 m

## Needs

Shelter, health care, education and livelihoods are among the main needs voiced by refugees. Persons with disabilities and older persons at risk have limited access to existing services and specialised care. As a result, issues such as child labor, non-treatment for chronic health care, evictions, isolation, neglect and low self-esteem abound. An ILO assessment on the impact of Syrian refugees in Lebanon showed that Syrians work for lower salaries, longer hours and without social security benefits (30% are informally working and earn 40% less than the minimum wage). Women are the ones mostly unemployed due to family, cultural and health reasons. With high costs of living, these factors are pushing children into the labor market, making families economically vulnerable and placing youth at risk of engaging in harmful practices. With a dispersed Syrian population and limited capacities, UNHCR is exploring innovative ways to timely identify needs, risks and priorities.

## Challenges

**Dispersed refugee population:** With the widespread dispersal of refugees in over 1,700 locations throughout Lebanon, there is a need to build upon existing outreach and support initiatives to prevent and respond to the immense scale of protection risks. ROVs are one way the community can play a role in identifying and addressing risks.

**Overstretched social services and limited job opportunities:** With the escalating number of refugees in Lebanon, public services have become overstretched, job opportunities have diminished, and the prices of basic goods have risen sharply due to inflation. Increasingly, refugees are adopting negative coping mechanisms to survive. National health, legal and social systems need additional support to expand services, especially for the specific needs of women and children.

**Increasing tensions:** Pressure on services and increasing economic competition threaten the wellbeing of both refugees and vulnerable Lebanese. Diminishing salaries and opportunities linked to an increasing workforce have brought about tensions and restrictive government policies regarding livelihoods programmes for Syrians. The impositions of curfews in a growing number of local villages and a recent spate of evictions of refugees from informal settlements are testament to rising tensions.

UNHCR training ROVs in the Bekaa @ UNHCR/  
R. Kevorkian



## Strategy

To effectively address vulnerabilities and safeguard protection space for refugees, UNHCR's strategic priorities are:

- Assist refugees in accessing basic services;
- Strengthen outreach with refugees and host communities;
- Empower and promote self-management in communities;
- Increase livelihood opportunities, as well as promote social cohesion among Lebanese and Syrians through dialogue and community support projects;
- Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Development Centres.

## UNHCR implementing partners

Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (CMLC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Amel Association-Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Makhzoumi Foundation, Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Social, Right to Play, INTERSOS, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), Search for Common Ground (SFCG), International Alert, UNDP, Al Majmoua, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA).