

Institutional and Community Support Update

April 2014



Procurement of a bobcat for the Union of Municipality of Baalbeck @ UNHCR

Background

As the conflict in Syria approaches the three-year mark, humanitarian efforts need to be supported by longer-term strategies that can create a bridge between emergency and recovery within the current response. Refugees are granted access to public utilities, health and education. However, the surge in the refugee influx has strained the ability of local authorities to maintain service delivery and added a considerable burden on public expenditure. Competition for jobs has driven wages down, in parallel to an increase in prices of basic necessities. The government of Lebanon needs support in rehabilitating and reinforcing the socioeconomic infrastructure affected by the crisis and in strengthening capacities to deliver basic social services. These activities will contribute to maintaining the protection space for Syrian refugees.

Roadmap for Stabilization

In 2013 the Government of Lebanon issued a roadmap for stabilization developed in partnership with the World Bank and the United Nations. This is a living document which sets out priority interventions to mitigate the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon. UNHCR commits part of its humanitarian budget to immediate interventions that fall within this roadmap. Specifically the office seeks to strengthen the capacity of government institutions to respond to the influx of refugees and to mitigate some of the negative effects of their presence, as well as to provide support to communities where refugees are hosted.

UNHCR's main areas of intervention

UNHCR supports institutions and communities in health, education, water and sanitation, public infrastructure, livelihoods and social cohesion.

Institutional support to Government includes provision of staffing, training, materials, equipment, infrastructure rehabilitation and expansion of services in the following sectors:

- **Health:** Strengthen the public healthcare system and disease surveillance, improving coverage and quality of primary health care services including medications and vaccines, and building capacity of health practitioners.

April developments:

Four community support projects were completed in Bekaa and North Lebanon (Qobayat) in the areas of waste management and livelihoods.

Specifically, the projects included: establishment of a market for fruits and vegetables in Al Marj; and provision of solid waste trucks & bobcats in different locations in Baalbeck and the construction of sewage network in Rama, Akkar.

- **Education:** Enhance the capacity of schools to accept refugees, building the administrative capacity within the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and improving the skills of teachers as well as rehabilitating schools and providing equipment.
- **Social Affairs:** Enhance capacity of the Ministry for coordination of the refugee influx, and build the capacity of regional SDCs to provide services to refugees and host populations
- **Ministry of Interior and Municipalities:** Support municipalities and unions of municipalities through training, equipment, staffing and community infrastructure.

Community support projects designed to improve living conditions of both refugees and host communities alike; they are selected based on their location in areas of high poverty and/or with high concentrations of refugees.



Hospital in Tripoli provided with medical equipment, CSP@ UNHCR/ B.Ahmed

Projects are focussed on areas where the additional presence of refugees has significantly impacted the environment, the infrastructure and the capacity of the municipality to provide essential services;; and/or where tensions are most acute.. Projects must involve the participation of the host community and be consistent with community and municipal level priority plans. They must be environmentally appropriate.

The Community Support Program gives priority to projects in each sector that have an impact on job creation for the local population. So far, for 2014 US\$ 39 million has been received and can be tentatively broken down as shown in the table below.

2013 Expenditures and 2014 budget

UNHCR institutional and community support in millions of USD	2013 Expenditures	2014 Budget
Institutional support to ministries to manage the crisis (vehicles, IT equipment, generators and staffing)	2.0	2.3
Health and education activities supporting refugees and Lebanese (medicine, equipment, training, staffing for health, accelerated learning training, salaries, school equipment and materials for education)	5.5	25.0
Community based projects (wells, water, sanitation and waste management facilities, community centres)	13.5	11.7
Total in millions of US\$	21 million	39 million

UNHCR implementing partners: Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Alert, International Relief and Development (IRD), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), International Orthodox Christian Charities, USA (IOCC-USA), Right to Play, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN-HABITAT, Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF), Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Tech. et Dev (ACTED), CISP, Concern Worldwide, Terre Des Hommes Italy, CARITAS, International Medical Corps (IMC), Oxfam GB, War Child Holland (WCH), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Save the Children International, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), WHO, UNICEF, IRD and International Alert.