



Lebanese and Syrian youth play football in Halba as World Cup fever grabs hold of Lebanon Photo credit: UNDP

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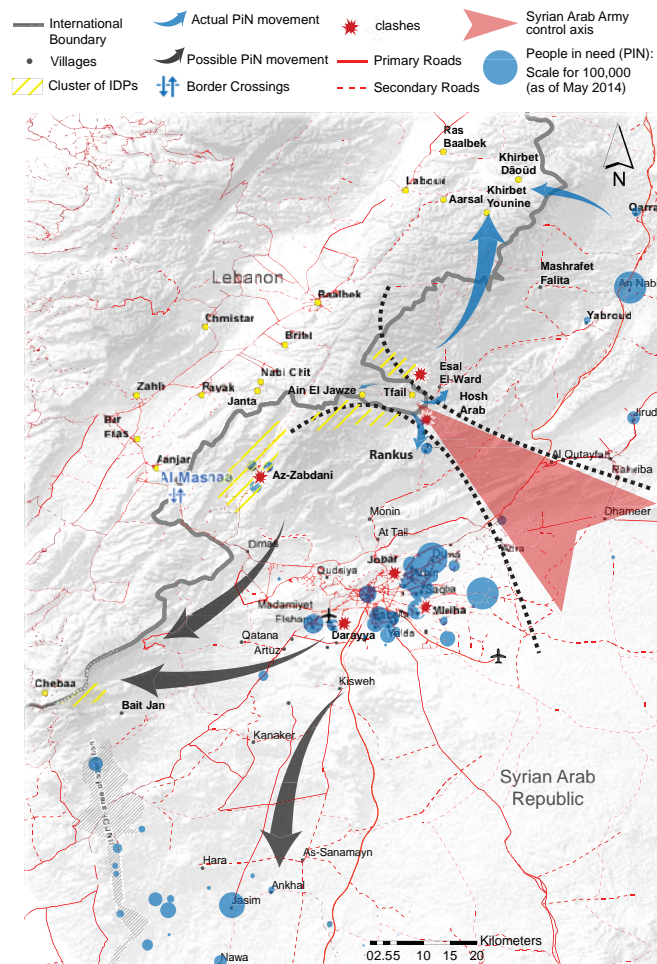
HIGHLIGHTS

- Lebanon continues to be affected by the worsening humanitarian situation inside Syria
- ERF approves projects worth US\$4.5 million to address the humanitarian impact of water scarcity
- Protection concerns with PRS continuing to face restrictions, as GoL announces new restrictions on Syrians
- Vulnerability assessment of host communities begins

Syrian needs and the impact on Lebanon increase

The reporting period saw an upsurge in fighting around Rankus and Esal el-Ward in the Qalamoun area of Syria. This impacted Lebanon in mid-June when numerous incidents of shelling of Tfail in North Bekaa took place, resulting in injuries as well as damage to houses and a mosque. Having previously insisted that they did not want to leave Tfail, most Lebanese residents and Syrian refugees decided to move further into Bekaa and/or back into Syria due to insecurity in their village. While aid agencies regularly reach parts of Qalamoun along the Damascus-Homs highway (such as An Nabk, Dair Attiyeh and Qara), access to Yabroud and Rankus where civilians are believed to be located continues to be problematic. As noted in the fourth report of the Secretary-General on UN Security Council Resolution 2139, the humanitarian situation throughout Syria has continued to deteriorate. There are now 10.8 million people in need, approximately 6.4 million of whom are internally displaced. Up to 4.7 million people find themselves living in areas which are very difficult or impossible for humanitarian actors to reach.

As the humanitarian needs worsen inside Syria, neighbouring countries such as Lebanon will continue to face ever growing numbers of refugees, many of whom have experienced multiple displacements. Unimpeded access for humanitarian partners to those in need is vital.



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

FIGURES (15 July)

# of refugees	1,126,131
# of returnees	17,510
# of PRS	52,355
# of PRL	270,000
# of targeted host community	1,500,000

FUNDING

(Extracted from FTS)

US\$ 1.69 billion requested

29% funded

GoL aims to restrict entry for Syrian refugees

During the reporting period, the Government has reiterated its intent to reconsider the entry criteria, to review qualification of who is eligible for refugee status, as well as its intent to establish camps in border areas. On 31 May, the Government of Lebanon announced that Syrian refugees would lose their refugee status in Lebanon if they crossed back into Syria. The announcement stated that it was acting to "prevent any friction or mutual provocation" between Syrians and Lebanese host communities. The humanitarian community noted that returning to one's home country does not necessarily imply that one is not in need of international protection anymore. Some refugees return briefly to Syria to renew their documents,

check on elderly or sick family members or property, and to see if the situation in their villages is safe enough for return. The High Commissioner for refugees, Mr. Guterres discussed these issues during a meeting with the crisis cell, composed of the Prime Minister, the Minister for Social Affairs, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister of Interior, during his visit to Lebanon on the occasion of World Refugee Day on 20 June.

People in Need

Responding to the humanitarian impact of water scarcity

The humanitarian community, in coordination with the relevant water authorities and in line with the Ministry of Water and Energy's Strategic Plan has begun responding to the expected water scarcity facing Lebanon following an unusual dry and mild winter. Preparedness and response plans to mitigate and address the humanitarian impact of water scarcity were developed. To support these plans, the Humanitarian Coordinator launched a call for proposals for the Emergency Response Fund on 17 June to which 29 organisations submitted 35 projects. Out of these, 24 projects from four local NGOs, 10 international NGOs and one UN agency were approved, to a value of \$4.5 million. Eight out of the 14 benefitting NGOs are first time-recipients of ERF funds. Projects approved will be implemented within three months and will provide immediate assistance in the form of water trucking, jerry can distribution and hygiene promotion for example, to more sustainable interventions such as the installation of pipes and pumps, and the rehabilitation of water supply schemes. ERF projects will benefit Lebanese communities, Syrian refugees and PRS.

FAO and UNDP are also working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Minister of Energy and Water to identify longer-term interventions in line with the Ministries' strategies.

The number of Informal Settlements continues to increase

The number of informal settlements continued to increase across the country, with Akkar and Bekaa hosting by far the highest number with over 300 and 700 informal settlements of four or more tents respectively. With almost 30 per cent of the refugee population in the two governorates living in informal settlements, and with the continued increase in the refugee population, a saturated and fluctuating housing market, and growing tensions between host communities and refugees, threats of, as well as actual evictions are growing every month. 30 referrals were received from Wadi Khaled alone over a ten day period in June, and a recent assessment of the 200 largest informal settlements in Bekaa revealed an increase in potential eviction cases.



Informal Settlement

Photo credit: UNDP

NAME	APRIL	JUNE	VARIATION
# of IS	1,069	1,224	↑14.50 %
# of tents	22,863	26,296	↑15.02 %
# of Refugees	144,511	160,894	↑11.34 %
Average persons/tent	6.32	6.12	↓-3.16 %
Average tents/site	21.40	21.50	↑0.47 %
Average persons/site	135.20	131.50	↓-2.74 %

Source: UNHCR

The international community extends its assistance to poor Lebanese

The World Bank has completed the preparation of a three year, \$8.2 million grant- financed Emergency National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) project. The project implementation is expected to start mid-July, subject to approval from the Council of Ministers. The objective of the project is to expand the coverage and enhance the social assistance package of the existing NPTP to Lebanese affected by the Syrian crisis and all Lebanese households under the extreme poverty line. It aims to assist the Government in alleviating the impact of rising poverty levels by introducing new benefits, namely food assistance provided through an electronic card system, and primary health care services through the Ministry of Public Health.

The introduction of food assistance in particular, will help reduce tensions between Lebanese and Syrian refugee communities. The food assistance component builds upon WFP's current programme and mechanism developed in Lebanon for Syrian refugees. The project will benefit from the expertise of WFP in implementing the e-card food voucher programme. UNHCR will contribute \$3 million to finance the e-card food voucher component. The project will finance the provision of e-card food vouchers to approximately 36,000 Lebanese in

2014. The Government will continue to finance the costs of the health, medication, and education benefits. The project aims to reach 100,000 e-card beneficiaries in the second year, and 195,000 in the third year of the programme, subject to availability of funds.

“UNIDO will work to improve the production capacity, enabling small industries to better respond to market demand, while generating livelihood support and economic opportunities for both themselves and the Syrian refugees”.

Cristiano Pasini

UNIDO Representative in Lebanon

At the end of June, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in partnership with the Ministry of Industry launched a project to support host communities' productive capacities in areas affected by high influx of refugees. The project will be directly supporting small industries in Bekaa in different economic sectors such as furniture, textile, metal works and aluminum. This support will come through the provision of equipment to Lebanese producers which will enhance their competitiveness, with particular emphasis given to increasing their responsiveness to the demand of relief aid organization. In parallel, capacity building activities will be conducted for Syrian refugees and Lebanese industries, advancing income source diversification and allowing the exchange of industrial expertise between the two communities through on-site training workshops.

Informing targeted host community programming

Primary data collection for an OCHA/REACH project to gain an in-depth understanding of community-level vulnerabilities and priorities, and identify risks of tension in the most vulnerable and crisis-affected communities of Lebanon began in June. As part of the first phase, a comprehensive secondary data review, accessing reports and data from the Government, international humanitarian and development organisations, and media outlets was carried out. The secondary data review focuses on the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanese host communities and disaggregates available data to provide a more contextualised understanding of community vulnerabilities and tensions. In addition, a rapid stakeholder analysis was carried out to identify institutions focused on supporting host communities. The first phase of the assessment also includes interviews with key informants from all villages located in the 242 most vulnerable cadastral zones, while the second phase will see in-depth assessment of 90 priority communities. These 90 communities will be selected on the basis of a preliminary vulnerability ranking index developed through findings from the secondary data review, discussions with the Social Cohesion working group, and preliminary findings from the key informant phase. The second phase is expected to begin at the end of July.

Situation analysis of youth in Lebanon affected by the Syrian crisis

“Intensive efforts are required to help Syrian refugee youth and Lebanese youth to access basic – and also promising – opportunities, and establish new relationships based on respect”.

Ross, Mountain, Humanitarian Coordinator, at the launch of the report

On 11 July, UNFPA launched the results of a landmark assessment which was conducted from September 2013 to March 2014 on the impact of the humanitarian situation in Lebanon on Syrian refugee youth (aged 15-24 years) and Lebanese youth in selected host communities. This assessment was supported by UNICEF, UNESCO, and UNHCR and by Save the Children International, under the leadership of UNFPA. Results of the assessment reveal a situation of perceived vulnerability of Syrian youth, concerning their health, educational, social, psychological, livelihood and economic conditions. For instance, 94 per cent are not in formal education and 78 per cent are not working. Forty-one per cent have, often or sometimes, thought of ending their life and 53 percent never once felt safe in Lebanon. Early marriage is used as a coping strategy for the families' dire economic situation. The analysis also examined the relationship between Syrian refugee youth and their Lebanese peers in host communities. 68 percent of the Syrian refugee youth have no Lebanese friends. However, evidence of success stories on youth-initiated grassroots relations give hope that this challenge can be overcome, especially at the interpersonal level.

Assessments highlight the need to address social cohesion

Two recent assessments conducted by Search for Common Ground (SFCG) in the South and Tripoli, and the American University of Beirut (AUB) in collaboration with Save the Children in Akkar and Bekaa, highlighted how growing strains on host communities are contributing to tensions between refugees and their Lebanese hosts. Both studies found that whilst refugees and host communities generally have frequent and positive contacts on an individual level, there are growing divisions between the communities as a whole. Save the Children/AUB found that a quarter of Lebanese nationals and Syrian refugees never came into contact with one another, whilst SFCG reports that both communities would prefer

to reside in separate neighbourhoods and have less contact. These divisions and tensions between communities are primarily due to competition over livelihood and economic opportunities. Other sources of tension include pressure on basic services, and perceptions from host communities that refugees threaten their value system, and disproportionately benefit from humanitarian assistance.

While tensions may be based more on perceptions than actual experiences, they can nevertheless translate into support from Lebanese for restrictive measures on refugees (such as curfews and restriction of political activities).

In order to address this challenge, the humanitarian response is scaling up social cohesion activities and support to livelihoods, while integrating conflict-sensitivity to avoid further fuelling tensions. So far in 2014, 136 Community Support Projects (CSP) targeting immediate needs of vulnerable Lebanese host communities have been implemented, and social cohesion partners are also setting up participatory planning processes at the local level to ensure that support to communities target the key sources of tensions and help bring people together in dialogue fora. Partners are also engaging journalists, youth, local leaders and officials to create networks of change agents able to combat misperceptions.

Education remains a priority as the school year comes to an end

In order to ensure that refugee children receive an appropriate education, education partners have put considerable efforts into curriculum development and language adaptation. Education programmes included support to affected Lebanese communities with high concentrations of Syrian refugees, through the rehabilitation of 82 schools and payment of school fees. A total of 90,000 Syrian refugee children were supported to attend formal education in public schools. An additional 60,000 PRS, affected and returning Lebanese children have been provided with formal education with the support from the humanitarian community. However, with more than half a million children targeted, incl. 460,000 Syrian refugee children, most of them remain out of school as the school year comes to an end. In an attempt to address this gap, non-formal education programmes have been developed with the support from UNICEF, UNHCR and partners and advocacy is underway for the curriculum to be accredited by the Ministry of Education & Higher Education, so that children in these programmes can transition into formal education. Almost 66,000 children were enrolled in non-formal education programmes so far this year. In order to address the high numbers of children out of school, it is becoming increasingly critical for partners in collaboration with the Ministry of Education & Higher Education to seek solutions to address the high cost of implementing education programmes in Lebanon. The education sector in the RRP6 is currently funded at 41 per cent, and unless more funding is forthcoming over 170,000 refugee and vulnerable Lebanese children may not attend school of any kind and may resort to dangerous situations, such as begging and labour.



Children attend to activities at a Social Development Centre in Akkar

Photo credit: UNDP

Preliminary results of the 2014 VASyR presented

WFP presented the preliminary results of the 2014 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) in Lebanon on 2 July. The 2014 VASyR took place during May and June, and provides a multi-sectoral overview of the vulnerability situation of Syrian refugees one year after the original VASyR. The study also aims to analyze the main changes in Syrian refugees' living conditions compared to the previous year, taking into consideration major factors affecting these changes and recommending steps forward.

The 2014 VASyR was conducted in coordination with UNHCR and UNICEF as well as 11 NGO partners, who participated in data collection. A total of 1,750 households were visited in 115 locations, and 40 focus group discussions (FGDs) were held in 38 locations throughout the country. During the FGDs, refugees reported rent and residential permits as the two main difficulties being faced, followed by a difficult environment within the community and a decrease in the level of assistance received. Overall, refugees felt that the situation was similar or worse than six months ago and predicted that it would get worse in the medium to long term.

According to the preliminary findings, 75 per cent of interviewed households were food insecure (mildly, moderately and severely). Of important note is the drop in the proportion of food secure households from 32 percent in 2013 to 25 per cent in 2014. 66 per cent of school aged children did not enroll in schools, and nearly one-third of the surveyed households could not access needed health assistance. Compared to the findings of the 2013 VASyR, the proportion of households residing in informal settlements increased by two per cent to 14 per cent in 2014, the proportion of households with no access to drinking water increased by five per cent to 33 per cent in 2014, and the proportion of households with no access to hygiene items increased by 27 percent (40 percent in 2014). Further analysis is currently being carried out and it is planned that the final results will be shared towards the end of July.

The Humanitarian Coordinator visits Hermel and Aarsal

On 10 July, the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for Lebanon, Mr. Ross Mountain visited Hermel and Aarsal to take stock of the impact of the Syrian crisis on vulnerable Lebanese and challenges facing Syrian refugees. During his meeting with the Mayor of Hermel, the local representative stressed the need for projects which can have a positive effect on the local labour market, noting that Hermel's economy –as most areas in the Bekaa- is heavily dependent on agriculture. The HC also visited a reforestation and irrigation project of UNDP/UNHCR funded by the EU, which aims to provide economic incentives for woodland rehabilitation and income-generating opportunities for the Hermel host community.

In Aarsal accompanied by the Mexican Ambassador, UNDP and UNHCR, the HC visited a health clinic run by the AMEL Association, which provides medical aid to Lebanese citizens and Syrian refugees and met with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Aarsal. The delegation was briefed on the impact of the presence of Syrian refugees which is more than two-fold the number of Lebanese, on public services such as waste collection, health services, energy supply and education. The delegation also met with humanitarian actors in Zahle who underlined the need for more livelihood projects that focus on the Lebanese economic sector and need to be complemented with more sustainable income-generating opportunities for Lebanese and Syrians in the Bekaa.

Humanitarian access

North Bekaa continues to suffer from incidence of shelling

The overall security situation in Lebanon remained tense during the reporting period with three incidents of suicide explosions in the Bekaa and Beirut. The different security organs of Lebanon worked effectively to apprehend numerous suspects and foil planned attacks. Meanwhile, the reported number of instances of shelling and airstrikes has decreased as compared to the previous six weeks. There have been at least 12 reported incidents, one of which resulted in injuries, mostly affecting the areas of Britel, Baalbek, Tfail and Aarsal in the Bekaa. However, humanitarian actors were able to access most areas without restrictions.

Protection concerns as PRS continue to face restrictions

Heightened restrictions on entry to Lebanon and visa renewal for Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) introduced in early May remain in place. Since their introduction, PRS entry to Lebanon has been almost entirely limited to those transiting through to a third country and some cases with confirmed embassy appointments. All PRS currently in Lebanon are required to regularise their legal status, while restrictions in place mean that many are no longer able to renew and are being instructed to leave the country.

UNRWA has expressed deep concerns over the restrictions, noting they could have grave implications on PRS, including restrictions on movements and civil registration (birth or death certificates). UNRWA continues to follow up and actively engage in constructive dialogue with the Lebanese Authorities and has reiterated its calls for the borders to remain open for all refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria and for them to maintain legal status in the country. UNRWA has also introduced a legal advice "hotline" to provide advice and collect information on PRS detentions, visa renewal and legal status issues.

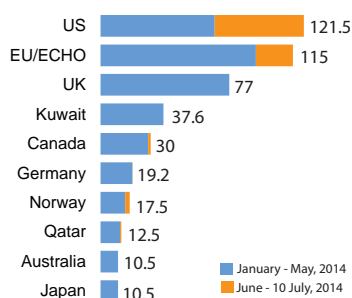


A family Palestine Refugee from Syria now in Lebanon

Photo credit: UNRWA

Funding

Donors contributions to the RRP6 in US\$ millions from FTS as of 14 July 2014.



The revised RRP6 for Lebanon which was launched on 3 July requests \$1.69 billion, compared to \$1.72 billion at the beginning of 2014. As of 14 July, it was funded at 29 per cent with \$502 million received, which represent an additional \$100 million since mid-June. Another \$41 million have been provided outside the RRP6 for humanitarian response bringing the overall humanitarian contributions to \$543 million. The overall RRP6 is funded at 36 per cent. In comparison, the response plan for Afghanistan is funded at 46 per cent, Sudan 45 per cent, South Sudan at 45 per cent.

Also as of July, the regular monthly distribution of hygiene kits and baby kits has been discontinued due to limited resources. In light of the importance of hygiene, in particular in informal settlements, WASH partners are reviewing the possibility of ad-hoc distribution of hygiene product such as soap linked with hygiene promotion activities.

Samah's story

Nine-year old Samah* was born with a congenital deformity and malfunction in her urinary tract, along with only one functioning kidney. She was diagnosed when she was two months old and has so far undergone 17 surgeries. Samah comes from Yarmouk camp in Damascus but in late 2012 she fled with her parents and two younger siblings. "We couldn't live in fear anymore, we escaped Yarmouk camp and we could not find a safe place to go to, except for Lebanon" says Samah's mother. The family now lives in a barely furnished room in a Palestinian refugee camp in South Lebanon. Samah's mother continues: "Life has not been easy here. We had no place to stay, we did not have relatives or friends, and my husband was not able to find a steady job. But at least my children are not frightened by the sound of shelling anymore and they can sleep".



Samah and her brother
Photo credit: Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)

names have been changed to protect the identity of those involved.

Whilst the family was struggling to meet their basic needs, Samah's condition deteriorated and she was found to be in need for an urgent surgery. Samah's father was trying desperately to find help saying "My daughter's health is the most important thing to me, but I could not find a job, and I did not know anybody who could help". He was therefore relieved when he found out that the cost of Samah's life-saving surgery and hospitalization would be paid partially by UNRWA and complemented by the NGO 'Medical Aid for Palestinians' (MAP) through the 'Improving access to life-saving hospital care for Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria in Lebanon' project. "Without the help of these organisations, we would have never been able to afford Samah's surgery" he says.

Samah is recovering well even though she still needs to undergo additional surgery and takes regular medicine at a monthly cost of \$100. In spite of all their worries, Samah's family firmly believe that they will overcome the hardships and eventually return to Syria.

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