

LEBANON/SYRIA SITUATION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY UPDATE

July 2014

JULY DEVELOPMENTS

Community empowerment

- Over 3,200 families were referred this month by 392 Refugee Outreach Volunteers (ROVs) to UNHCR and partners for assessment and support. Observed trends include: increased violence and eviction, especially in the north; persons with disabilities having difficulties accessing services and limited opportunities for integration; and an increase in the number of working children.
- 1,137 persons, 20% Lebanese and mostly women, participated in life-skill activities at community centers.

Case management

- 214 persons received one-time protection cash assistance; 31.8% of them are living in the South, 33.6% in Beirut/ML, and 34.6% in Bekaa. 1,870 persons have received such assistance to date.

Self-reliance

- 252 persons (40% Lebanese) benefitted from entrepreneurship training e.g. business development training
- 29 persons, 40% Lebanese, had training on wage earning employment.

Needs

Shelter, health care, education and self-reliance are among the main needs voiced by Syrian refugees. At the same time, each sub-group of the refugee population faces different protection risks related to their specific needs. Various assessments to date indicate a strong correlation between protection risks and limited self-reliance opportunities e.g. working children, survival sex, early marriage, etc. According to UNHCR's Women Alone report issued in July 2014, many of the challenges facing female-headed households stem from their increasing economic distress. The report further highlighted the need to build on refugee women skills and to counter isolation through expanding the network of community centers and safe spaces. A UNFPA assessment on Syrian youth (15-24 year olds) showed that 89% described themselves as depressed, anxious or afraid most of the time. Youth considered unemployment and security conditions as negatively affecting their psychological status and their propensity to violence, as well as gender relations within households.

Persons living with disabilities have low self-esteem, feel unproductive and are finding it difficult to integrate in their communities. Older persons expressed feelings of isolation, neglect and of being a burden on their families. With a dispersed Syrian population and limited capacities, UNHCR is exploring innovative ways to reach out and timely identify needs, risks and priorities, as well as to engage and support refugees in offering solutions.



Syrian refugees with certificates from their three month English language course @UNHCR

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.

Overstretched social services and limited job opportunities: According to a livelihood assessment of the ILO, 30% of the refugees are unemployed and 88% of the employed are unskilled or semi-skilled laborers are paid 40% less than the minimum wage in Lebanon with an average salary of 277 USD per month. Female Syrian workers earn 30% less than male workers with an average salary of 165 USD per month.

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.

Strategy

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

- Assist refugees at risk to access basic services;
- Strengthen outreach to refugees and host communities;
- Empower and promote self-management in communities;
- Increase self-reliance opportunities;
- Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Development Centres

Achievements: January - July

Activity	Reached Jan - Jul	2014 Target
Specific needs cases referred	42,250	75,000
Life-skills and vocational training provided	14,129	30,030
Refugee outreach volunteers mobilized	392	1000
Community centres established	28	50

Key figures

- 1,138,874 individuals registered or pending registration
- 79% women and children
- 39% persons with specific needs
- 25% children at risk

Funding (UNHCR total requirements: USD 451 m)



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, Right to Play, Social Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), Search for Common Ground (SFCG), International Alert, UNDP, Al Majmoua, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) Search for Common Ground (SFCG), International Alert, UNDP, Al Majmoua, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA).

Contacts: Carol El Sayed, Community Services Officer, elsayed@unhcr.org, Tel: +961 1 849 201 ext. 2453

Links: Inter-agency Information Sharing: <http://data.unhcr.org/lebanon>

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