



KEY FACT OF THE MONTH

Persons provided with legal counselling exceeded end-2014 target

HIGHLIGHTS:

Some 13,400 Syrian refugees were registered in December, and 12,590 were awaiting appointments, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration to 1,146,405. The average waiting period countrywide increased from 13 to 21 days. The number of newly registered refugees increased for the first time since July, although the number of persons registered in December was over 70% lower than the monthly average number of registrations over the first six months of the year. The significant decrease is primarily a result of entry into Lebanon having become more difficult for Syrians.

In December, legal awareness sessions were provided to approximately 9,667 individuals, which is an 12% increase compared to the previous month. The total number of refugees that participated in legal awareness sessions in 2014 stands at over 124,000 persons, exceeding the target for the year. With continued high needs for individual legal counseling, some 2,070 individuals benefited from legal counseling, a 77% increase over the previous month, largely a result of intensification of counseling in respect to the gratis regularization process.

Since the beginning of the year, 35,436 persons have been provided individual legal counseling, meeting the end of year target. In December, over 20,689 individuals, over 60% of whom were female, benefited from empowerment activities, primarily group information sessions to increase awareness of available services and assistance. In 2014, almost 195,000 persons benefited from these types of activities, exceeding the yearly target by almost 40%. In December, 57 persons were submitted for resettlement or humanitarian admission. By the end of the year over 7,304 persons had been submitted for solutions in a third country, exceeding the end of year target of 7,000.

Governorate	Registered		Awaiting	Average waiting period	Total
	Persons	Households			
Beirut & Mt Lebanon	320,024	81,298	7,824	24 days	327,848
North	285,235	70,210	529	11 days	285,764
Bekaa	404,914	90,932	3,882	20 days	408,796
South	136,232	30,344	355	9 days	136,587
Total Lebanon	1,146,405	272,784	12,590	21 days	1,158,995

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

While targeting new registrants, registration will focus on the process of renewal/verification in order to update data and foster accuracy. Efforts to improve access to registration will continue through various modalities, including transport support to registration facilities.

Following the introduction by the Government of a gratis regularization period, legal aid partners have intensified their awareness and counseling activities, ensuring that as many refugees as possible are aware of the regularization process and can make an informed choice to regularize their stay in Lebanon. Messages regarding regularization are being harmonized and a mass information campaign on regularization will be rolled out.

Systematic protection monitoring by sector partners will contribute to increased analysis of common protection issues and trends countrywide. Particular attention has been, and will be, devoted to the continued high number of evictions affecting vulnerable refugee families throughout the country. Monitoring of eviction trends has been reinforced through improved information collection tools across the country, and the protection sector is coordinating with the shelter sector, particularly through field based Eviction Committees/Technical Groups.

As evident in falling registration numbers, restrictions on entry imposed at border points have significantly reduced the number of Syrians and PRS gaining admission to Lebanon. In light of the restrictions, intensified border monitoring and border interventions will contribute to persons seeking international protection having access to territory. It will also aid in the sharing of information on the border situation as well as in developing advocacy messages regarding border policies.

PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS

		End-2014 Target
# of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in 2014	441,684	850,000
# of PRS recorded with UNRWA in 2014	3,243	3,300
# of Lebanese returnees profiled	-	50,000
# of persons provided with individual legal counselling	35,436	35,000
# of persons reached with legal awareness	124,180	110,000
# of persons benefitting from empowerment activities	194,786	140,000
# of persons with specific needs receiving specialized support	32,958	85,000
# of persons submitted for resettlement of humanitarian admission	7,247	7,000

Leading Agencies: UNHCR - David Welin—welin@unhcr.org
Reporting Agencies:

Source: figures reported above reflect the information reported to Sector Coordinators by Partners participating in Working Groups





HIGHLIGHTS:

In late November and early December, trainings were conducted throughout Lebanon as part of on-going capacity building initiatives to strengthen child protection case management. These specific trainings focus on the specific knowledge and skills needed when participating as part of a formal decision-making panel that comes to determine the best interest of a child under specific circumstances, such as unaccompanied children whose parents or legal guardians are not with them. They also included training on case conferences, reporting to the Ministry of Justice, and on the implementation and documentation processes associated with this work.

As the year came to an end, child protection actors undertook reviews of progress during 2014 to inform 2015 preparations and plans. Child protection actors in the South undertook a mapping exercise of their children spaces and youth programming. Actors in Akkar undertook a review of child protection concerns and trends from 2014 that require priority attention in 2015. These include addressing the needs of out-of-school children, child labour, and addressing issues of child marriage and sexual exploitation.

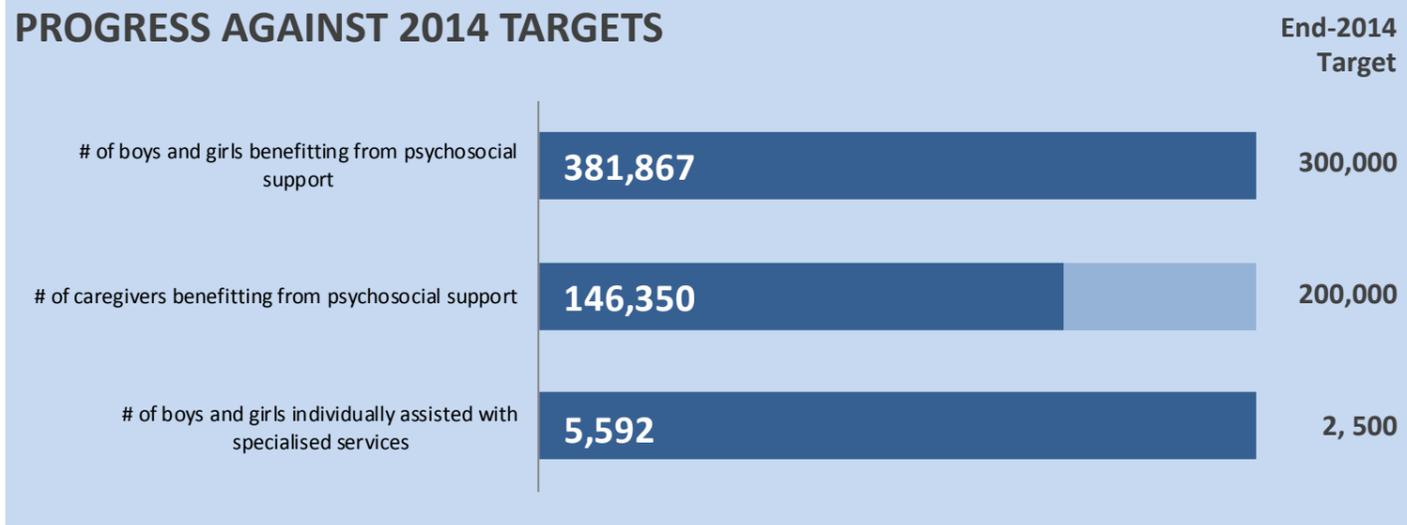
NEEDS ANALYSIS

Linkages between child protection and education actors became even more important as registration for the second shift – intended for Syrian children – continued to be delayed. Out-of-school children are at increased risk of child labour and exploitation. Parents are also encountering other challenges to enrollment, including reports of discrimination and abuse experienced by children. Actors agreed as well on the need to formalize referral processes between abuse reported in school and child protection case management actors for follow-up care.

The on-going constraints and lack of clarity surrounding the correct process for referring cases to the judiciary continue to result ad hoc processes being applied. Relevant line ministries are working on identifying new options and plans for a formal, nation-wide approach.

As 2014 concludes, and with the possibility of decreased funding levels in the future, child protection actors are concerned with how this will impact programming. This is especially the case for areas where capacity is lacking, such as specific and specialised services for children, which are also the most costly. Child protection actors and donors alike will need to reflect seriously on the importance of quality programming and reaching the most vulnerable children. They will also need to accurately assess the cost of achieving these important aims.

PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS



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HIGHLIGHTS:

As part of the 16 days campaign, partners have carried out awareness raising and advocacy activities targeting communities and institutions.

Institutions were mobilized through the launch of a nation-wide media campaign on state due diligence to end violence against women, as well as round-tables with religious leaders and judges on prevention and response to SGBV. In addition, an advocacy campaign was launched to increase effective comprehension of the “Law to Protect Women & Other Family Members from Family Violence,” including the creation of a user-friendly webpage and FAQ on how the new law can help women and girls and a one-day workshop for organizations from the National Coalition to create a common understanding of the law.

Communities were mobilized through several activities such as interactive theatre, focus group discussions, photo exhibitions on gender roles/gender equality and SGBV. Approximately 20,000 members from Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian communities have participated in these activities.

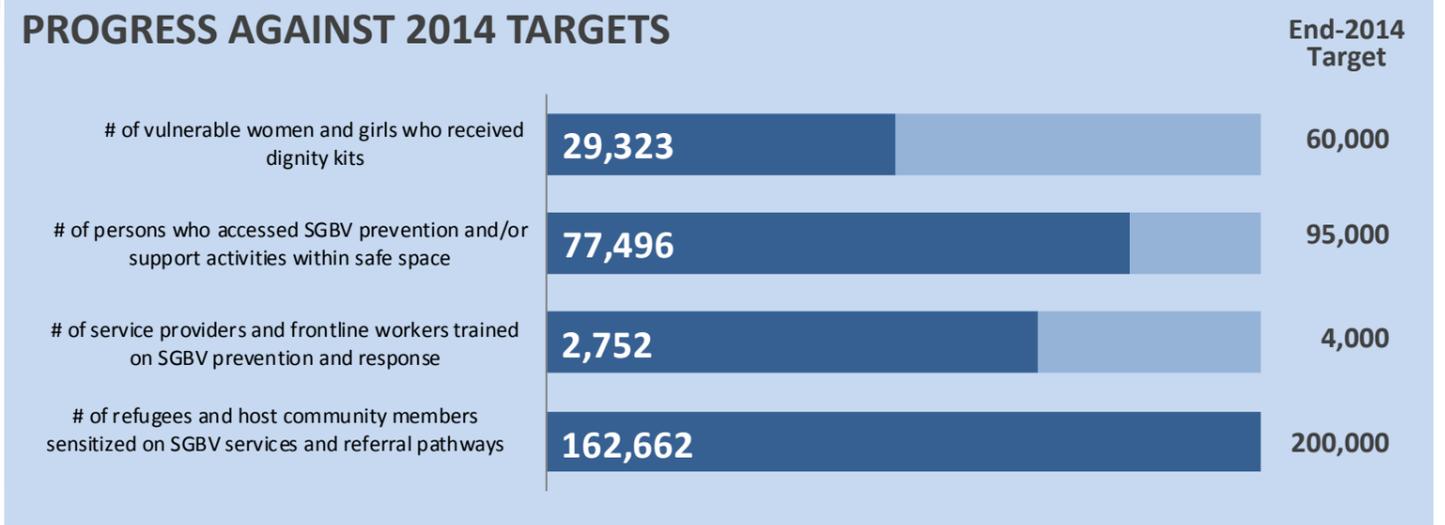
Studies, researches and tools: a new report on the situation of LGBTI refugees was launched. The report gives specific recommendations to SGBV actors to ensure inclusive design of programmes. A new video on early marriage was launched. The video targets children, adolescents and caregivers with a set of rights-based messages that highlight the negative consequences of such practices on girls' health and physical and emotional development.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The SGBV Task Force has concluded an important process of standard setting in December through the signature of the Information Sharing Protocol for safe and ethical data sharing on SGBV incidents, and the finalization of minimum standards for provision of case management services for SGBV survivors. These documents will allow increased quality of the response and increased capacities to analyze trends and patterns of SGBV.

In an effort to increase prevention capacities existing in country, the SGBV Task Force has supported all sectors involved in planning for the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan in applying the gender marker to their response plans to ensure that the different concerns, experiences and capacities of women, girls, boys and men are reflected in the core elements of the response strategies (gender analysis in the needs assessment, gender-responsive activities and related gender outcomes). In addition, an inter-agency pool of resource persons has been created to scale up gender mainstreaming in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan. Five representatives of UN agencies and NGOs have attended a three-day training in Amman aiming at enabling humanitarian practitioners to have an increased understanding of gender equality programming and how to apply it in their respective areas of work. The development of a national protocol on Clinical Management of Rape has been initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health.

PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS



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