



# KEY FIGURES 2015

1,069,000	471m	64%	41
Registered refugees	UNHCR funding requirement (millions USD)	Funding level	Implementing partners



Funding for the Syria Regional Response Plan has also received through private donations from Germany, Italy, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates.

As of 31 December 2015, some 1.069 million Syrian refugees are registered with UNHCR and are living in over 1,750 locations across Lebanon. Registration remained suspended throughout the fourth quarter of 2015 following instruction from the Government of Lebanon issued in May. Syrians approaching UNHCR for protection and assistance are counselled about the suspension of registration, and have their vulnerabilities assessed so that their critical needs can be addressed.

### Protection

In the fourth quarter, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), UNHCR and partners, held participatory assessments with more than 1,300 Syrian and other refugees through 97 focus group discussions. The purpose was to identify protection priorities and solicit feedback on joint solutions. The main findings were that early marriage of girls, child labour among boys, and the vulnerability of women and girls remain key community concerns. Lack of legal documentation and employment opportunities are still seen as significant factors exacerbating vulnerability, and insufficient shelter and health care assistance are seen as contributing to harsher living conditions.

In line with the use of innovative communication tools, a two-way SMS system was set up in the last quarter of 2015 to reach individuals and households targeted for winter assistance. The system was also used to contact individuals targeted by the Canadian Humanitarian Transfer Programme and other resettlement or humanitarian programmes. Counselling lines and information materials were disseminated to counter increased fraud in the last months of 2015.

UNHCR and partners continued to provide legal counselling to refugees, in particular regarding residency and civil documentation. The percentage of refugees without valid residency has risen from 11 per cent in January to over 51 per

### Debts of Syrian Refugees Worsen

Nearly 90 per cent of the more than one million Syrian refugees in Lebanon are in deepening debt, according to the findings of the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) in Lebanon - a new survey by UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP. The survey was based on an assessment of more than 4,000 refugee households.

The amount of money Syrian refugees owe to landlords, shop owners, friends and relatives has increased significantly in 2015. Savings are exhausted, ability to find work is diminished, and humanitarian assistance has dwindled due to shortages of funds in some sectors or is not able to keep up with increasing vulnerabilities in others. The average accumulated debt per Syrian refugee family per month is now USD842, an increase of USD180 from last year. An estimated 70 per cent are now living below the national poverty line (USD3.84 per day). Refugees are borrowing to cover basic needs – rent, food and health care – and successive small amounts are becoming unshakable burdens.

Refugees are being forced to prioritize between vital but competing needs. As well as reducing calories and nutrients in their diets and ignoring ailments, parents are increasingly withdrawing their children from school, often sending them to work in an exploitative informal labour market. They face greater risks of being evicted from their homes and, as their ability to pay off debts wanes further, they are likely to lose the trust of lenders – worsening relations with the host community.

The vulnerabilities of Syrian refugees in Lebanon have been compounded by additional requirements that have been in place since January relating to their residency in Lebanon. To renew their residency every six months, registered refugees of working age have to sign a notarized pledge not to work.

cent at the end of November, while 85 per cent had at least one family member without valid legal residency. UNHCR continues to discuss with the Government measures that could work towards alleviating the procedures for residency renewal.

MoSA, UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM) are jointly working to increase birth registration by refugee parents with the Nofous office (local registry office) at the Personal Status Department, by combining this process with the update of newborns in UNHCR files. If the birth is not registered with the Nofous before the child reaches one year of age, a court procedure will be required to complete the birth registration process. MoSA staff have been present at UNHCR reception centres since mid-2015 to reduce the risk of statelessness. During the reporting period, MoSA staff counselled over 8,800 families on how to register the birth of their child with the Lebanese authorities.

UNHCR is working to prevent and provide support in cases of child abuse. UNHCR and partners have initiated a programme to support street children in Beirut, reaching 488 street children by the end of 2015. The programme includes psychosocial activities such as life skills for adolescents and children, assistance for children exposed to abuse and violence, and a training component for law enforcement officers.

Other protection trainings were conducted to diverse audiences, most notably training on international refugee law was held in collaboration with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy. Participants included government officials from the General Security Office, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, and MoSA. The training aimed to foster a common understanding of international protection and refugee issues. In collaboration with the Lebanese Humanitarian INGO Forum, three workshops on refugee protection and durable solutions were also organized, reaching some 71 frontline NGO staff.

Resettlement remains an important protection tool and a durable solution for refugees in Lebanon. By the end of 2015, UNHCR submitted over 14,300 persons for resettlement consideration (of which over 13,000 were Syrians) to 18 resettlement countries. In addition, a total of 5,000 Syrians were referred to Canada under their Humanitarian Transfer Programme.

Following a large surge in the third quarter, onward movement of refugees decreased with the onset of winter. However, after Turkey announced a change in its visa regime starting January 2016, an increase in the numbers of transit passengers travelling through Beirut airport and Tripoli sea port was observed in the last days of 2015. From UNHCR's findings, the majority of departures of Syrians from Lebanon are reportedly transiting directly from Syria. The numbers of onward movements of Syrians residing in Lebanon are more difficult to gauge, given that departures are mostly of an illegal nature. However, the deteriorating conditions and dwindling assistance, coupled with a lack of livelihood opportunities, have led more Syrians in Lebanon to express their intention to move on.

#### *Basic Assistance*

As the crisis wears on and debts of refugee families get larger, refugees are increasingly vulnerable and struggle to meet

## **Reducing Tension through Improved Health Care Provision**

A recent study commissioned by UNHCR found that access to health care was no longer a driver of inter-communal tensions within refugee-hosting communities. The study also found that both refugee and host communities were now largely satisfied by the level of care provided by Primary Health care Centres, and that shortages of most chronic illness medications have been significantly reduced when compared to 2014 figures. The results come at the end of a multi-faceted health system support programme, led by the Ministry of Public Health and implemented by UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and International Alert. The programme provided vital equipment, medications and vaccines to over 200 PHC and 11 national hospitals, and also trained health staff on providing conflict-sensitive health care.

their most basic needs. Surveys have confirmed that cash is refugees' preferred means of support as it enables them to prioritize how to address their own needs in a dignified and flexible manner. In 2015, UNHCR and partners conducted approximately 120,000 household visits to determine eligibility for cash and food assistance. Out of these, over 20,000 households were found to be severely vulnerable and have been provided with monthly financial support.

To reflect the changing context and conditions of refugee households as reflected in the 2015 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR), the formula for economic vulnerability was reviewed in this quarter with the following results: 28 per cent were found to be severely vulnerable, 32 per cent highly vulnerable, 26 per cent mildly vulnerable and 14 per cent least vulnerable. A number of persons previously categorized as highly vulnerable are now falling under the severely vulnerable category, reflecting the visible deterioration of refugees' conditions.

#### *Shelter*

As winter conditions impacted, improving the shelter conditions of refugee families became an urgent priority. In 2015, an estimated 55 per cent of refugees are living in informal settlements, unfinished buildings, overcrowded apartments or other substandard housing – a 15 per cent increase from 2014. From September to year's end, over 56,000 refugees benefited from shelter assistance. Winterization efforts resulted in a further 9,000 families living in informal settlements and sub-standard buildings being provided with shelter materials

## **Winterization**

UNHCR and partners estimate that 195,000 families need assistance to keep warm and dry this winter. UNHCR has doubled the number of people receiving cash grants for winter in Lebanon this year because of this increased vulnerability. Some 141,000 families have been receiving financial assistance for four months starting in November, in addition to over 8,000 families living in Arsal who have been receiving fuel cards. This will allow refugees to stagger purchases such as fuel for heating. In addition, UNHCR will also distribute assistance to 100,000 Lebanese and Syrian families, including shelter materials, blankets, clothes and fuel for schools.

and maintenance kits - enabling families to insulate their homes and helping them to prevent damage during winter storms. A further 1,085 families living in sub-standard buildings were assisted with rehabilitation works in exchange for rent waivers or reductions.

Following successful test results, insulation kits designed by UNHCR to help refugee families stay warm and dry during the winter were procured - 7,000 kits for substandard buildings and 4,000 kits for shelters in informal settlements. The majority of these kits will be distributed in the first quarter of 2016 to provide support as they continue to face harsh winter conditions.

## WASH

In the fourth quarter of 2015, UNHCR's WASH interventions have led to improved sanitation conditions for more than 80,000 refugees, access to safe water has been improved for over 55,600 refugees, and more than 13,400 refugees have benefited from hygiene promotion activities.

WASH activities also include preparatory works for the upgrade of nine water supply systems in the Bekaa and North Lebanon. The project will involve the replacement of over 156 km of sanitation networks, construction of three large reservoirs, drilling and equipping of four boreholes and water connections to more than 10,000 households.

## Health

UNHCR continues to support the Lebanese public health system. UNHCR directly financed 63 Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) staff, including 20 midwives and nurses. Medical equipment including cardiac monitors, infant resuscitators and ultrasound machines was delivered to eight public hospitals. These hospitals also benefited from the rehabilitation of water laboratories and isolation rooms. Support also included the development of a central database for national epidemiological surveillance and response. In the fourth quarter of 2015, UNHCR supported close to 63,000 primary health care consultations and more than 18,800 hospital admissions for life-saving and obstetric care.



Syrian refugees try to keep warm while living in the grounds of an abandoned factory in Faida, in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon.

## Education

As of 1 December 2015, over 460,000 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon are aged 3-17 years old, more than half of whom are currently out of school. As part of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's (MEHE) Reaching All Children with Education (RACE) plan, the Minister of Education committed to enrol up to 200,000 refugee children in public schools in the 2015-2016 academic year. Refugees may access all formal public schools providing regular classes in the morning and 239 schools that opened 'second-shift' classes in the afternoon.

As part of its support to RACE and MEHE, UNHCR supports the mobilization and enrolment of refugee children in first and second-shift classes for the 2015-16 academic year. UNHCR also financially supports the employment of 11 MEHE staff.

To increase school enrolment and prevent absenteeism, UNHCR continues to mobilize parents and communities through parent groups and homework support groups to ensure enrolment and retention of students in schools. Thanks to these efforts, the fourth quarter saw an increase in school enrolment numbers compared to 2014. UNHCR is also supporting the enrolment of over 1,200 refugee youth in formal vocational and tertiary education.

# KEY FIGURES 2015

Reached January - December

Target if Fully Funded



## Protection and Outreach

Monitoring visits	51,037	50,000
Legal counselling	11,608	27,500
Persons submitted for humanitarian admission and resettlement	14,346	13,000
Detention visits	4,402	3,500



## Community Development

Specific needs cases referred through volunteers	48,029	40,300
Refugee outreach volunteers mobilized	507	500
Community centres established	28	35
Individuals registered and benefitting from community centre activities	135,705	82,800
Individuals trained in community-based protection	411	500
Individuals receiving emergency protection cash	1,611	1,611

# KEY FIGURES 2015

Reached January - December

Target if Fully Funded



## Child Protection

Children assisted through case management	3,330	3,100
Individuals trained on child protection standards	622	450



## Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

Individuals accessing SGBV prevention and response services in community centres and through outreach	7,789	10,690
Frontline workers trained on safe and ethical referrals	514	510



## Statelessness

Individuals receiving information on birth registration through individual counseling	15,349	22,000
Individuals receiving information on birth registration through awareness sessions	538	450



## Education

Children whose second-shift fees were co-financed by UNHCR (school year 2014/2015)	59,024	35,500
Children supported for vocation education in school year 2015/2016	1,070	1,000



## Basic Assistance

Households assisted at least once with multipurpose cash grant	20,374	55,000
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## Health

# of primary health care consultations (including reproductive and mental health)	182,100	210,295
# of life-saving referral health care interventions including deliveries	60,222	65,000
Deliveries	31,318	31,000



## Shelter

Individuals receiving shelter support	160,834	117,342
Shelter and site improvement in informal settlements	133,009	88,100
Minor rehabilitation for substandard buildings	13,137	16,400
Free rent provided in rehabilitated buildings	14,688	12,842



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Sanitation infrastructure, maintenance, desludging	119,569	183,648
Hygiene promotion campaigns, hygiene items	274,866	349,543
Access to safe water	105,216	216,415



## Institutional and Community Support

	2014 Allocated Budget (USD)	2015 Budget (USD)
Institutional support (rehabilitation of infrastructure, staffing and training, equipment, supplies, medications and vaccines)	50.5 million	28.5 million
Community-based projects (health, education, livelihoods, WASH, roads and communities facilities)	9.7 million	10.5 million
Total invested	60.2 million	39 million