



HIGHLIGHTS

- Government of Lebanon (GOL) initiated a series of measures to restrict the flow of refugees into Lebanon. Refugees can only be admitted if falling within the Government of Lebanon’s exceptional humanitarian reasons, which are unaccompanied/separated children (under 16 years old) whose parents/legal guardians are confirmed to be displaced in Lebanon; persons with disabilities dependent on family/relatives confirmed to be displaced in Lebanon; persons needing life-saving medical treatment not usually available in Syria, or not available in a timely manner; and individuals pursuing resettlement or transitioning through Lebanon to a third country.
- On 24 April, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) requested that UNHCR deregister individuals who arrived in Lebanon as of 5 January 2015. This affected 2,626 Syrians.
- On 4 May, MOSA requested UNHCR to temporarily suspend new registration pending the establishment of a new mechanism that responds to the GOL’s concerns and respects UNHCR accountabilities towards persons in need of international protection.
- Partners provide legal assistance and counseling to Syrians in need of renewing their residency or obtaining birth certificates.
- UNRWA is suspending its cash for housing assistance for PRS due to shortage of funds. Refugees are becoming increasingly vulnerable due to lack of access to livelihoods opportunities and uncertain legal status.
- IOM and the Lebanese High Relief Commission launched a project to profile Lebanese returnees from Syria across the country, reaching a total of 5,245 households (28,574 individuals)

FUNDING

(in Million \$)

Original requirement	112
Revised requirement	89
Received	29

PEOPLE

In Need/Target

3.3m People in Need

2.2m People Targeted

Refugees	1,815,000
Vulnerable Lebanese	370,000

PARTNERS

19 partners in Lebanon

Count of partners per area of operation

Beirut & Mt Lebanon	12
Tripoli - 5	11
Akkar	9
Bekaa	
South	

PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

January - June progress

# individuals provided with individual legal counseling	19,059	40,000
# individuals participating in community center and community-based activities	77,094	214,090
# community-self management structures established in collective sites	329	608
# person with specific needs identified & supported through case management	6,458	57,771
PRS Recorded	526	1,000
# Lebanese returnees profiled (restarting in April)	28,574	53,800
# of individuals submitted for resettlement & Humanitarian Admission	4,765	9,000

PROGRESS BY DISAGGREGATION

INDICATOR 1: # individuals provided with individual legal counseling (By type)

Documentation	16,807
Housing/Land/Property	405
Detention	302
Other matters	1,545

INDICATOR 1: # individuals provided with individual legal counseling (Documentation: By type of documents)

Birth certificate	6,949
Legal stay	6,598
Other documents	3,260

INDICATOR 2: # individuals participating in community center and community-based activities

Age < 18	44,099
Age 18-25	11,075
Age 26-59	131,73
Age 60+	780
Age not recorded	7,967



Situation analysis and change in context

Since the last quarter of 2014, the Government of Lebanon (GOL) has initiated a series of measures which have gradually restricted the flow of refugees into Lebanon. On 31 December 2014, 13 January and 3 and 23 February 2015, GSO issued a new set of regulations aimed at managing the flow of Syrians into Lebanon. These regulations provide that Syrians wishing to enter Lebanon will be admitted only for an approved reason upon presentation of valid identity documents and proof of the purpose of their sojourn in Lebanon. A list of categories for which admission would be granted was provided, as well as the duration of the authorized stay in Lebanon.

Refugees are only admitted to Lebanon on the grounds of exceptional humanitarian reasons. These reasons are determined according to criteria established by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA). This includes unaccompanied/separated children whose parents/legal guardians are confirmed to be displaced in Lebanon; persons with disabilities dependent on family/relatives confirmed to be displaced in Lebanon; persons needing life-saving medical treatment not usually available in Syria, or not available in a timely manner; and individuals pursuing resettlement or transitioning through Lebanon to a third country. Pending the establishment of a regular presence at the border, MOSA has indicated it will assess individual cases based on referrals from protection partners. More than 50 cases have been referred to MOSA. To date, 13 cases of those referred by various protection partners have been approved.

The Government issued new regulations governing the renewal of residency permits which, due to onerous requirements and financial costs, have proven hard for refugees to meet. For those not registered with UNHCR, the main obstacle is finding a Lebanese sponsor. For those with UNHCR registration, the requirement to sign the pledge not to work and furnish proof of financial means to survive in Lebanon leaves refugees with an increased sense of insecurity and vulnerability.

In April 2015, the GOL directed UNHCR to deregister all refugees who entered Lebanon post January 5, which is when the restrictions at the border went into effect. UNHCR was duty bound to comply with the direction. A total of 2,626 refugees have been affected by the GOL decision. On May 4, 2015, the GOL directed UNHCR to suspend all new registrations until the GOL decides on a new registration mechanism, except for the add-on of newborns born in Lebanon to registered refugees.

Refugees are becoming increasingly isolated and restricted in their movements due to lack of residency documents. The presence of curfews and raids increases their apprehension and insecurity.

The population of Palestine refugees is increasingly vulnerable and more reliant on assistance. Restrictions at the border and arduous procedures to renew legal status have contributed to their hardship and many live in a precarious situation. Host communities with large numbers of refugees are facing increasing vulnerabilities and pressure in the face of resource constraints and reduced provision of services.

Progress to date

The sector is currently 25% funded of the appeal asked for. As a result, not all targets can be met. Refugees requiring support in understanding the legal requirements under the various new policies are being provided legal assistance and counselling by partners. Around 5 800 persons received individual counselling on legal stay, out of a target 34550 persons. Legal advice and support to register the births of the new-born children are available. Partners engage in awareness-raising and campaigns to highlight the importance of birth registration to reduce future risks of statelessness. However the number of babies not registered at birth remains high, mainly because of the complicated process required. Around 6000 persons received counselling on birth registration, out of a target of 53030 persons.

Highly vulnerable individuals, including female heads of household, unaccompanied minors, survivors of torture and violence and persons with disabilities, are provided social support through extensive well-placed networks of volunteers, local community representatives and partners who help link them with relevant service providers. Around 4,500 persons with disabilities have been assisted, reaching 17 percent of the target. Community and social development centres in some areas act as convenient one stop centres for services to enable easier access for people. Around 329 community self-managed structures have been established in collective sites, reaching about half of the target.



Syrians seeking to register with UNHCR are being counselled about the registration suspension and, where identified, life-saving needs are being addressed.

4,765 refugees have been submitted for resettlement to a third country, on track with the target.

From 20 April - 31 May 2015, IOM and the Lebanese High Relief Commission launched a project to profile Lebanese returnees from Syria across the country, reaching a total of 5,245 households (28,574 individuals) at 9 registration centers across the country, around half of the intended target. Around 45% of these households were of mixed nationality, mostly Syrian-Lebanese, with the majority living in the Bekaa and Akkar. About a quarter of them were unemployed. Asked about their future intentions, around 40% said they planned to return to Syria.