



## 1. Protection (Child Protection / SGBV)

- In light of the increasingly challenging protection environment, UNHCR and protection partners have launched a pilot Protection Cash Assistance Programme (PCAP) which aims to assist refugees to address their protection concerns, complementary to specialized services provided by humanitarian partners which range from shelter, legal assistance, to psychosocial support. The duration of assistance will range from three to 12 months, until the protection incident or situation has been addressed. This programme currently helps for instance women who managed to escape situations of often repeated violence and abuse. For some of them, the long lasting consequences of violence impacted their ability to provide for themselves. In such cases, PCAP ensures that these survivors are supported to meet their basic needs, while being supported through psychosocial support programmes to heal and regain confidence so that they can be supported in finding longer term solutions.
- Following reports of women and girls' being unable to reach community centers, and after consultations with communities, the need to take services closer to women and girls at risk or survivors of SGBV was highlighted. To respond to these needs, SGBV partners have established mobile safe spaces mostly in Tripoli, Akkar and Bekaa regions.
- A specialized team visit each location weekly following a calendar agreement with communities. The primary activities provided include: individual service provision, psychosocial support, parenting skills/emotional support sessions, community mobilization, and dedicated life-skills curriculum for adolescent girls. Enrolment to these activities is very high, and initial findings indicate that this approach may encourage higher disclosure of SGBV. Women/girls organize themselves beforehand – arranging care for children, preparing food and other tasks – to make sure they can participate for the full day of activities.
- To date, some 128,000 children and caregivers have received psychosocial support this year. To increase the quality of the psychosocial services provided, 15 protection partners came together to provide guidance on the type of activities that are best suited to address specific child protection profiles. This guidance is complementary to the Strength and Difficulty Questionnaire which is administered before and after psychosocial support activities to measure the change in wellbeing in children while they participate in these programs.
- For many years, non-existence of operating procedures on child protection in Lebanon has been noted as a major obstacle towards fulfilling basic rights of children based on a standardized legal framework. Recently, the

CP sector achieved a great milestone with the official launch of the “National Standard Operating Procedures for the Protection of Juveniles in Lebanon” in partnership with MoSA and UNICEF. This procedural tool aims at prioritizing and advancing the protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.

## 2. Health

- With the financial support of Talia Charity, Global Smile Foundation conducted its yearly surgical mission to Lebanon; 29 children (9 Lebanese and 20 Syrian) with a cleft lip condition were provided with free life-changing surgery to fix the birth defect.
- In line with the national efforts to reinforce the Early Warning and Response system for outbreaks, WHO conducted an assessment which purpose was to examine the early warning and response system (EWARS) in terms of the national communicable disease surveillance and response system and the national laboratory capacity. Further improvements of the national surveillance system were discussed with the MoPH team and key stakeholders.
- As part of the support provided to the National Tuberculosis (TB) program, WHO along with MoPH/TB program developed guidelines for infection control to be used at health facilities providing care for patients with TB.
- Upon the request of MoPH, a joint WHO/UNDP mission was conducted with the objective of identifying areas of intervention and potential support needed so that Lebanon can reinforce the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention of Tobacco Control (FCTC) agreement, under which tobacco law 174 was issued in 2011. The main recommendations included: enforcing law 174 in public places, public institutions and administrations; working on increasing taxation and pricing of tobacco; continued enforcement of bans on advertising, promotion and sponsorship of tobacco; conducting studies and surveys on tobacco control to monitor tobacco use and prevention policies; and increasing awareness on tobacco control

## 3. Education

- In May, an outreach campaign was launched for the second round of the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) which will be rolled out by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) in June 2016, targeting 9,000 out-of-school-children who missed two years of schooling or more. The majority of the 4,901 children enrolled in the current round of ALP will upgrade to the next level and enroll in the second round. Education partners mobilized their resources to inform the communities about the ALP program and refer children who are out of school to the nearest ALP

schools. A harmonized monitoring and tracking tool was developed and NGOs were trained on data collection.

- On May 11, the MEHE organized a Donor Meeting. During this meeting, the Education Minister presented the updated numbers on enrolment and briefly discussed RACE II. He also stressed the importance of the role of NGO's in the education response and in the implementation of RACE II. Implementation areas for NGOs included delivery of non-formal education, remedial and recreational activities as well as distribution of learning materials and community outreach. The minister announced that he will be appointing the members of the NGO Sub Committee.
- MEHE continued its preparations of RACE II through series workshops with UN agencies and international donors continued the elaboration of the RACE II log frame and provided valuable inputs for the RACE II executive summary. The latter was presented by the Lebanese Minister of Education at the IMF and World Bank Spring Conference in Washington DC.
- On May 10, the UN together with MEHE organized a one-day Higher Education Operational Workshop. The aim of the workshop was to: 1) Map Higher education opportunities available to youth in Lebanon 2) Share best practices in the provision of scholarship opportunities 3) Establish stronger communication among actors
- MEHE issued a circular listing the registration dates for the academic year 2016-17 for children who were registered in 2015-16 in both first and second shift classes in the Lebanese public schools. The education partners were mobilized to inform the communities to approach the schools during the registration period.

#### 4. Basic Assistance

- UNRWA resumed their cash assistance programme for Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS). 93% of the PRS population in Lebanon live under the extreme poverty line and therefore are prioritized for cash assistance. As of March 2016, 10,481 out of 11,175 registered PRS households started receiving a \$100 multipurpose cash grant per month.
- The yearly Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) for 2016 kicked off. Data collection started end of May and is expected to finish during the first week of June. A representative sample of 4,950 households was randomly selected for assessment from the 26 districts of Lebanon. VASyR provides a yearly multi-sectoral overview of the vulnerability situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon by estimating the degree and types of vulnerability at Caza level.
- A new mapping tool was produced by OCHA IM unit and presented to the Basic Assistance Working Group in April showcasing routing from informal settlements to the nearest cash service provider. The analysis is based on

the Interagency Mapping Platform (IAMP) and considers three service providers: Banks/ATMs, Liban Post offices and WFP shops. The purpose of the mapping of informal settlements and routing is to define the distance from the different settlements to cash/food service providers. The analysis indicates that the longest route refugees might take is 18 km whereas the average distance to reach a service provider is 7 km (1 hour walking). WFP shops are the easiest and nearest service provider to reach.

#### 5. Food security

- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO presented the Strategic Review of the Food and Nutrition Security in Lebanon. The Strategic Review was presented as a tool for all stakeholders to use as a reference for programme design for food security in Lebanon.
- The Regional Food Security Analysis Network (RFSAN – a joint programme between FAO and iMMAP) with the collaboration of WFP and ACF, provided sector partners (including government, NGO and UN staff) with a four-day training package on food security definition, concepts and indicators, data visualization and GIS.
- The first field level Food Security sector coordination meeting was held in the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture - Saïda to explore field coordination needs for the South and Nabatieh regions. Around 25 partners attended the meeting including regional MoA representatives. The aim of this first meeting was to exchange information on the food security and agricultural context in the region and facilitate the coordination of partners working in food security with the Ministry of Agriculture offices and centers.
- The Food Security sector has started mapping of existing referral mechanisms. As a sector, it was agreed to refer back to the WFP system and complement if needed, to make sure that all partners are aware of the existing mechanisms.

#### 6. Shelter

- In the Informal Settlements (IS) in the governorates of Bekaa, Baalbeck-El Hermel, Akkar and the North, 40'000 persons, including 820 in May, have benefitted from shelter assistance in 2016. As this winter was less harsh and the distributed material has improved (e.g. heavy duty plastic sheeting), the required number of kits to re-ensure the weatherproofing of shelters, damaged during the winter, dropped by 20%.
- Refugees have been trained on how to reduce fire risks, e.g. to use and maintain fire-extinguishers, distributed to 60'000 beneficiaries.
- Site improvement, like leveling and gravelling and draining rain and grey waters has expanded to now include sites with less than 20 shelters, as the average

number of people per settlement has dropped in some areas.

- In the South, Mount Lebanon and the metropolitan areas of Tripoli and Beirut substandard buildings sheltering 3,000 to 4,000 persons, are rehabilitated every month. These shelters mostly include occupied apartments in bad conditions where the roof is leaking, windows don't close and only a tiny kitchen and one latrine is shared by several families.
- Displaced Syrians benefited from 2/3 of the more than 22,000 rehabilitations completed this year; 20% of the rehabilitation benefitted Palestine refugees in Lebanon or from Syria, and 16% benefitted the Lebanese host communities.

## 7. Energy and Water

- Through recent consultations with municipalities the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) have identified 25 villages in Akkar for wastewater projects. Preliminary assessments/designs have been prepared for several of these projects. Akkar has limited service provision for water and sanitation; implementation of these projects will increase access to sanitation services for some the more vulnerable localities.
- Under the patronage of the MoEW, Oxfam in Lebanon, in collaboration with the Issam Fares Institute supported by the EU organised the Lebanon Water Forum. This event provided a forum for presentations and discussions amongst the water sector with the objective of moving towards an improved water service provision in Lebanon. Amongst the topics covered was that of encouraging a social engineering aspect to planning and design to increase the trust between the consumers and the water establishments with the ultimate aim of increasing the cost recovery for more sustainable service provision.
- Review of the SOP on pest control from the environment perspective is in course by the Ministry of Environment (MoE).
- In the South increased attention is being focused on the largest informal settlement, Marj Al Khokh where refugees need to be relocated and there are major concerns of the environmental impact of wastewater disposal. A joint visit to the settlement by UNHCR, UNICEF, CISP, MoE environmental expert and Marjaayoun ISF was conducted to examine the situation and propose options for a wastewater management system that protects the environment. Designs are being developed for temporary and removable wastewater treatment systems that will serve the 750 individuals in the informal settlement.

## 8. Livelihoods

- Over 800 new people (52% women) were engaged in employability support this month (primarily through skills training but also career guidance). 13 micro-

enterprises received cash-grants in Bourj Hammoud and 3 cooperatives were supported in Akkar as part of an ongoing programme to support the potato and leafy green value chains.

- An analysis of livelihoods-related data collected through the household targeting visits since December 2014 shows that on average, 27% of the adult Syrian refugees had worked at least one day in the month, 50% of which are adult males and 7% of adult females (this is an average of results over 18 months, which vary depending on seasonality). On average, one member of the family, regardless of the household size, is responsible for supporting the entire family financially. Typically, those who work, work irregularly and significantly less than full-time: on average 14 days per month. The average monthly income they earn of USD 177 is in stark contrast to the average monthly expenditure of USD 492, most of which are spent on food and rent. That income from irregular work is insufficient to cover monthly expenditures, including medical expenses, is also reflected in rising average household debts, which reached USD 991 for the first quarter of 2016. A full [dashboard](#) is available on the portal to provide more details.

## 9. Social Stability

- The municipal elections that took place throughout May are having direct consequences in the work of the sector, especially in terms of identifying new project priorities at local level. First, this work was largely halted during the campaign - for example, the Governor of the North expressly instructed all partners not to initiate new projects with municipalities until the elections are completed and the new mayors are in place. Second, in many municipalities partners need to build relationship and trust with new municipal leadership.
- Despite this slowdown in work directly engaging municipalities, there is high level of activities in the sector - partners are present in nearly 200 cadastres, or 80% of the most vulnerable localities.
- In the meantime, key findings on the impact of support to municipalities on social stability shows that basic services remain the primary issue for communities and are therefore a good entry point to bring positive change, whereas concern over unemployment is increasingly becoming the primary driver of antagonistic attitudes and behaviors.
- In an effort to improve the response in urban areas, the sector has initiated collaboration with shelter partners to contribute to the drafting of urban neighborhood guideline. These guidelines will aim at defining the scope of holistic interventions in deprived urban neighborhoods in order to improve living conditions and reduce tensions and are therefore directly relevant to social stability interventions.