



Lebanon Update

Support to Displaced
Syrians

27 April - 04 May 2012



Displaced Syrian and Lebanese students in a classroom. Mashta Hammoud, north Lebanon © UNHCR – Fouad Juez – March 2012.

Highlights of the week

Numbers

UNHCR and partners are working with the government, local authorities and international and national partners assisting some 24,000 displaced Syrians throughout the country, nearly half of whom, 13,405, have been jointly registered by UNHCR and Lebanon's High Relief Commission in the North. Registration is ongoing.

This week 1,887 persons were registered, most of whom arrived earlier in Lebanon. Displaced Syrians are concentrated in north Lebanon, with over 9,000 in Akkar and an estimated 2-3,000 in Tripoli. The latter are to be registered once the modalities are agreed with the authorities.

Latest assessments show approximately 9,250 displaced Syrians in the Bekaa Valley. As the HRC is not present in the Bekaa, this estimate is based by assessments done by local actors verified by UNHCR and its implementing partners pending formal registration.

There are more limited concentrations of displaced persons known to be residing in Beirut, some 801 of whom have been registered by UNHCR.

Protection and Security

This week 13 wounded Syrians were

admitted to hospitals this week.

Assistance in North Lebanon

Shelter

Rehabilitation for the Mineh collective shelter continued. Efforts include improving kitchen facilities, upgrading the living areas with electricity and creating four new bathrooms.

Outreach

The rehabilitation of a new community center was completed and it is now ready to offer recreational activities, remedial classes, counseling and other outreach activities to both displaced Syrians and local Lebanese.

Education

Education assessments started in order to identify the difficulties and challenges regarding the education needs of Syrian children. Addressing the gaps will enable UNHCR and partners to enhance the capacity of public schools and current programmes, allowing for better assistance.

Health

Access to primary health care is being expanded, mainly in Tripoli. Currently there are three primary health care centers in the North: one in Tripoli, Mashaa and Wadi Khaled. Increasing accessibility will allow displaced Syrians to have easier access to free general and specialized health consultations, as well as diagnostic testing.

Assistance in the Bekaa Valley

Distribution

Improved distribution efforts regarding logistics and mobilization enabled 1,078 families to be assisted with food and non-food items.

The World Food Program (WFP) continued discussions on the modalities of the upcoming food voucher system with UNHCR and other relevant stakeholders.

Education

Education assessments started this week in order to identify the difficulties and challenges regarding the education needs of Syrian children. This is a precursor to enhancing the capacity of public schools and current programmes. In addition, training of partner staff and volunteers as animateurs began this week in preparation to start activities with both Syrian and Lebanese children.

Health

Taanayel hospital has agreed to approve arrangements to accommodate the increased urgent admissions of pregnant women for delivery. Taanayel is specialized in mother and child health care and will be able to support complicated deliveries as well as newborns suffering from respiratory distress and infection upon birth. There are high rates of preterm births and newborns in need of neonatal intensive care; this is attributed to a variety of reasons, including the mother's nutrition, lack of proper pre-natal care and trauma suffered by the conflict witnessed by Syrian women.

Protection/Community Services

In preparation for the upcoming registration exercise, an information campaign was launched in Aarsal. Focus group discussions reaching nearly 200 displaced Syrians over 9 days were conducted. The focus groups aimed to raise awareness on the process and requirements of registration. Also, much effort was put into improving the registration center to meet UNHCR standards and displaced needs. In addition, mapping of services provided by local NGOs continues in coordination with partner agencies in order to set up an effective referral mechanism for displaced Syrians and host communities.

Water and Sanitation (WASH)

Operational partners began looking into water interventions, such as water trucking and provision of water tanks and filters. Issues addressed are a result of various assessments that have revealed the importance of coordination and raising such issues with the WASH group.

Shelter

Rehabilitation of homes of host families continued as planned: 52 homes were rehabilitated in Aarsal; 23 in Saadnayel and 10 in Fakha. In addition, 14 of the 18 mosques targeted for rehabilitation in Aarsal are currently in progress. New shelter plans will include the rehabilitation of 30 unfinished buildings. Each building will serve as a small collective shelter and host approximately four families. UNHCR's partner agency is exploring various ideas for Quick Impact Projects, such as upgrading educational centres, equipping public healthcare centres, and rehabilitating public garden.

Items Distributed in Bekaa	May 3 rd , 2012	Cumulative
Mattresses	0	2,397
Mattresses private donation	0	213
Blankets	0	2,000
Food kits	1,043	3,088
Food kit private donation	0	100
Hygiene kits by UNICEF for newly comers	0	600
Hygiene kits by DRC	195	695
Hygiene kit private donation	0	74
Hygiene kit Lebanese hosting families	35	35
Clothes (private donation)	0	33 packs
Jerry cans of 10 L	0	1,000
Fuel coupons of 20	0	5,534
Baby diapers (private donation)	0	100
Sanitary napkins	0	80
Baby kits	385	615

Items Distributed in North Lebanon	May 3 rd , 2012	Cumulative
Mattresses	0	4,613
Blankets	0	4,857
Food kits	0	9,312
Diapers	0	1,529
Baby milk	0	1,478
Hygiene kits	0	7,302
Hygiene kits by UNICEF for newcomers	0	99
Garments for children by UNICEF	0	1,124
Women's Pads (private donation)	0	239
Torches by UNICEF	0	650
Fuel coupons for 20 liters	0	31,292
Fuel coupons for 20 liters for hosting families	0	164

For more information on Syrian displacement in Lebanon, please visit the Lebanon page on the webportal: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>. There you will find facts, figures, and 'who does what', as well as updates on food and non-food items distributed per area and by agency. Additionally, for more on how the response is being coordinated and the many contributions of various agencies, please click on "situational overview" of the Lebanon page.