



#1naMillion
#syria

Lebanon Inter-Agency Response: Syrian Refugees

May 17 – 24 2013

	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- Over 73,200 refugees received World Food Programme (WFP) food vouchers;
- Over 65,000 refugees received clothes vouchers, blankets, quilts, kitchen sets, mattresses, recreation kits for children and other household items;
- more than 56,000 refugees benefited from 10,559 hygiene kits as well as over 3,665 baby kits;
- Over 4,000 refugees received primary health care services
- 740 patients were admitted to hospitals nationwide;
- 4,750 Syrians were reported to have arrived in Lebanon this week;
- Over 16,000 persons registered with UNHCR this week.

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2013



Funding is also received in private donations from the following countries:
China, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, and Spain.

¹ EU funding is received from DEVCO and ECHO.

REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

In the past week, over 16,000 persons registered with UNHCR bringing the total number of Syrian refugees assisted by UNHCR and partners to over 488,000 (over 399,000 people registered and 89,000 awaiting registration).

Current distribution of the registered population is as follows:

North Lebanon: 154,000

Bekaa: 138,000

Beirut and Mount Lebanon: 63,000

South Lebanon: 43,000

UNHCR and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) will provide transportation to recently arrived refugees in Cheba'a to the Tyre registration centre as of May 27. Over 1,500 people (300 families) are expected to benefit from this effort. This initiative is meant to help refugees living south of the former "security belt" to access registration and will be replicated in future to target all refugees in the area.

PROTECTION

Local leaders and municipalities reported the arrival of some 4,750 Syrians to Lebanon this week, marking a 750 people increase in comparison with last week. They arrived in Akkar, north and west Bekaa, and south Lebanon including Sidon and Tyre.

Of the 2,585 reported new arrivals who entered Lebanon through Aarsal, the majority are women and children. Many indicated that they had to flee to different cities inside Syria (Hassia, Nabek, Yabrud, Qarah and Damascus) before arriving to Lebanon. Given the severity of security conditions, over half of the Qusair families arrived without legal documentation or belongings. More families have reportedly not yet made it to Lebanon due to high risks of traveling both out of Qusair and to other areas inside Syria.

UNHCR is monitoring the situation closely. At the same time, UNHCR is working on a localized contingency plan with local and international agencies to assess current capacity and ensure there are no gaps in assistance. This includes the prepositioning of stocks, the identification of staff for rapid deployment as needed, and the identification of additional appropriate shelter solutions through close coordination with local municipalities. UNHCR has also liaised with the municipality of Aarsal and stands ready to provide necessary support as needed.

Over 87 refugees were identified this week as having pressing protection issues that require immediate attention. Agencies relied on the monitoring mechanisms to detect vulnerable people for counseling and follow up. People with a disability or urgent health needs, child labour, women at risk of gender-based violence, and separated minors were identified. UNHCR, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center, SHEILD, Terre des Hommes and other organizations engaged in addressing urgent needs including through follow up home visits to ensure that needs have been met and provide further counseling if

needed. Vulnerable separated children were assisted and given urgent registration appointments.

SECURITY

Shelling originating in Syria hit a number of villages in north Lebanon (Wadi Khaled and Akroum) and the Bekaa (Hermel) this week. Five persons including three Syrians were reportedly injured in the North and transferred to Al-Salam Hospital in Qobayat for treatment. Tensions have intensified across north Lebanon and northern Bekaa, following the escalation in conflict in the Syrian village of Al-Qusayr in Homs. As a result, agencies were forced to temporarily suspend operations in both areas.

On the evening of 22 May, rifle shots from an unidentified car were fired at the entrance of the informal tented settlement of Taybeh in Baalbeck, the Bekaa. Three Syrian refugees, a father who wished to remain unidentified and his two children, sustained minor injuries from the incident. The father did not approach aid agencies for help until the following morning where he was immediately transferred to the hospital. Additional police patrols were deployed in the area and investigations are underway by the Internal Security Forces (ISF) to determine the causes of the incident.

Fighting escalated in Tripoli this week between the rival neighborhoods of Bab al-Tabbaneh and Jabal Mohsen bringing the death toll to 24. Tensions and clashes in the area continue to inhibit operations and humanitarian access.

DISTRIBUTION

UNHCR, UNICEF, DRC, CLMC, Makhzoumi Foundation, SHIELD and World Vision assisted over 65,000 refugees through the provision of clothes vouchers, blankets, quilts, kitchen sets, mattresses, recreation kits for children and other household items. Additionally, 73,253 refugees received World Food Programme (WFP) food vouchers.

DRC and CLMC assisted 2,925 newly arrived refugees in the South and Bekaa areas with basic assistance pending their registration with UNHCR.

EDUCATION

Syrian refugee children continued to benefit from remedial classes to help them stay in school. In Mount Lebanon, War Child Holland (WCH) provided remedial classes and accelerated learning programmes in five governmental schools, four Social Development Centers (SDCs) of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), two NGOs, and one municipality to maximize access for beneficiaries. WCH also trained a group of 13 pedagogical staff in a number of SDCs and NGOs on child care and protection to empower traumatized children and help them release their fears. In Haret Hreik, 181 Syrian refugee children attended remedial classes at Amel Association.

The focus continues to be on children who are at risk of dropping out of school, or who are not enrolled in any educational programme. Over the past week, SHEILD referred 188

children at risk to INTERSOS for their inclusion in the child-friendly spaces activities. Agencies also reported that some children are dropping out of school due to bullying by their classmates. Integration classes are hence being offered to remedy this problem. In parallel, UNICEF and Save the Children continue to provide their regular extracurricular classes to support Syrian children with difficulties.

The Joint Education Needs Assessment (JENA) launched by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), UNHCR, UNICEF, and UNESCO started across Lebanese public schools. Needs and gaps assessments began throughout Lebanon but were suspended in Wadi Khaled due to security problems.

HEALTH

Over 4,000 refugees received primary health care services including consultations, treatment, referrals, medication, vaccinations and diagnostic tests. UNHCR, UNICEF, CLMC, International Medical Corps (IMC), Makhzoumi Foundation, Amel Association, and PU-AMI (Premiere Urgence) focused on the provision of primary health care services to prevent serious health problems among Syrian refugees.

UNHCR, IMC, Caritas and Makhzoumi Foundation covered 75 per cent of the cost of hospital care for 740 patients this week. Health officers reported again this week that many refugees are avoiding hospitalization since they cannot cover the remaining 25 per cent. Agencies successfully referred vulnerable patients to other organizations for their coverage while the pressing need for additional funds continues to be prioritized in order to sustain programmes, namely in health.

In Mount Lebanon, over 1,700 Syrian and Lebanese students were vaccinated against measles and provided with vitamin A supplements by Makhzoumi Foundation who expanded their programmes to include schools. At UNHCR's registration center in the Bekaa, more than 1,400 individuals benefited from the ongoing UNICEF immunization campaign against measles and polio.

Some 60 cases of leishmaniasis were identified this week through mobile visits and primary health care centres and provided with treatment. Agencies provided general consultations for leishmaniasis, covered by the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH).

Some 1,500 individuals attended health awareness sessions provided by IMC, Premiere Urgence-Aide Medical Internationale (PU-AMI) and UNFPA at shelters and hospitals. Sessions included topics related to mental health, general health, prenatal/postnatal care, nutrition and family planning.

Over 150 individuals benefited from mental health consultations provided by IMC and the Restart Center for Victims of Torture. Individuals suffering from symptoms of severe depression have been on the rise. The most common depression triggers

observed are the death of a loved one, having experienced a traumatic event and harsh living conditions. Agencies are working to ensure that the most critical cases are counseled and followed up on a regular basis.

SHELTER

A total of 4,345 individuals received shelter assistance this week ranging from house rehabilitations to collective shelters relocations/renovations to rent assistance. This brings the total number of people who have benefited from shelter solutions since January to 90,000.

With the technical support of UNHCR, Layan established a third transit site in west Bekaa, where 20 new tents hosted 300 refugees. The sites are meant to provide vulnerable refugees with temporary shelter while they look for more long term shelter solutions. Two additional sites are now underway in Central Bekaa.

UNHCR has identified locations that could serve as temporary transit sites for shelter. Many of these have been approved by local authorities but await approval from central government. The municipality of Aarsal has also agreed to lease a 10,000 sqm piece of land where 65 tents could be established to host the increasing number of refugees settling in the area.

Efforts to identify and transform additional abandoned public spaces into collective shelters suitable for the accommodation of refugees are ongoing. In addition, UNHCR and DRC are currently evaluating a number of possibilities including a farm in Meksi in the Bekaa where 750 people could be received.

The lack of job opportunities and high unemployment rates have exacerbated existing shelter problems as many refugees are finding it more and more of a challenge to pay prohibitive rents. Fear of homelessness due to dwindling resources continues to be reported as a major concern among refugees. Rent subsidies are provided to the most vulnerable people while more is needed to attend to the needs of an increasingly fragile population.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

This week, more than 56,000 refugees benefited from 10,559 hygiene kits as well as over 3,665 baby kits by UNHCR, DRC, SHIELD, PU-AMI, Makhzoumi Foundation and CLMC. Over 2,200 people in the Bekaa received 440 water tanks by Action Contre la Faim (ACF). ACF also constructed 31 latrines for some 310 individuals in the area. At the turn of the summer season, agencies are prioritizing all water, sanitation and hygiene efforts to prevent communicable and water-borne diseases. ACF conducted chemical and bacteriological water

quality tests in tented settlements in the Bekaa hosting some 1,000 refugees to ensure the minimum hygiene and quality standards are met. Such efforts will continue in the coming weeks to address gaps. In north Lebanon, PU-AMI is laying pipes between the water reservoir and the upper part of the village of Mashta Hammoud. PU-AMI also commenced the upgrading of 19 sanitation facilities in different collective shelters in the Chouf district.