

Institutional and Community Support Update

March 2014



Background

As the Syrian crisis extends, the pressures on Lebanon mount. A 2013 assessment of the impact of the crisis on Lebanon undertaken by the World Bank concluded that the Syrian conflict has cost Lebanon billions of dollars in lost economic activity for the period 2012-14. The refugee influx has placed increased pressure on already fragile electricity, water, sanitation, transport, health and education sectors throughout the country. With more people in the labour market, wages are dropping and unemployment rates of Lebanese reportedly rise. In some towns the refugee population outnumbers the resident Lebanese.

Roadmap for stabilization

In 2013 the Government of Lebanon issued a Roadmap for Stabilization developed in partnership with the World Bank and the United Nations. This is a living document which sets out priority interventions to mitigate the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon. UNHCR dedicates part of its humanitarian budget to immediate interventions that fall within this roadmap. Specifically the office seeks to strengthen the capacity of authorities to deal with the influx of refugees, to mitigate some of the impacts of their presence as well as to provide support to communities where refugees are hosted.

UNHCR's main areas of intervention

Institutional support includes staffing, training, equipment and expansion of services.

Community support projects are selected based on their location in areas of high poverty and/or with high concentrations of refugees. Locations are prioritized where the presence of refugees has significantly impacted the infrastructure and other aspects of the area; and/or where tensions are most acute, with special consideration given to vulnerable groups. Selected projects must involve the participation of the host community and be consistent with community/municipal priority plans. Projects must be environmentally appropriate, not require sustained funding and be implemented within a calendar year. Special attention is given to those that have an impact on job creation for the local population.

March developments:

This month 12 community support projects were completed in the North (Qobayat and Tripoli), the South, and in Mount Lebanon, in the areas of education, health, waste management, and social cohesion.

Specifically, the projects included: rehabilitation of 2 public schools in Chhim in Mount Lebanon; provision of medical equipment to the Primary Health Care Centre in Chiah; arranging a conference/learning space in Bani Sakher in the North; and the rehabilitation of sewage pipelines in Wadi Khaled.

2013 Expenditures

UNHCR institutional and community support	2013	US\$
Institutional (ministries) support to manage the crisis (vehicles, IT equipment, generators and staffing)		2.0 million
Health and education activities supporting both refugees and Lebanese (medicine, equipment, training, staffing for health and accelerated learning training, salaries school equipment and materials for education)		5.5 million
Community based projects (wells, water, sanitation and waste management facilities, community centres)		13.5 million
Total		21 million

2014 Budget

Within the framework of the RRP6, UNHCR will pursue support to institutions and communities in sectors such as health, education, water and sanitation, social cohesion, and capacity building of authorities responsible for the coordination of the humanitarian response, including line ministries (and their regional and local structures or representations) and municipalities. In each sector of intervention, priority will be given to those projects that have an impact on job creation for the local population. So far, for 2014, US\$ 39 million has been received or firmly pledged and can be tentatively broken down as follows:

UNHCR institutional and community support	2014	US\$
Institutional (ministries) support to manage the crisis (IT equipment, generators and staffing, etc)		2.3 million
Health and education activities supporting both refugees and Lebanese (medicine, equipment, training, staffing for health and accelerated learning training, salaries school equipment and materials for education)		25 million
Community based projects (Water, sanitation, facilities, community centres, etc.)		11.7 million
Total		39 million

UNHCR implementing partners

Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Alert, International Relief and Development (IRD), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), International Orthodox Christian Charities, USA (IOCC-USA), Right to Play, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN-HABITAT, Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF), Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), CISP, Concern Worldwide, Terre Des Hommes Italy, CARITAS, International Medical Corps (IMC), Oxfam GB, War Child Holland (WCH), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Save the Children International, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli.