

Key figures

1,119,585	individuals registered or pending registration
79%	women and children
38%	persons with specific needs
25%	children at risk

June Developments

Community mobilization

- Over 3,000 families were referred by 356 Refugee Outreach Volunteers (ROVs) to UNHCR and partners for assessment and support.
- ROVs noticed increased scrutiny on the part of partners regarding the distribution of newcomer items. ROVs also reported an increase in number children who do not attend school and are obliged to work to support their families. They expressed concerns about the increasing incidence of child marriage due to deteriorating social-economic conditions.

Case management

- 449 persons received one-time protection cash assistance. 1,656 persons have received such assistance to date.

Livelihoods and self-reliance

- 1,140 persons, 50% Lebanese and mostly women, participated in vocational, life-skill activities, and entrepreneurship training through community and livelihood centres.
- 23 persons, 40% Lebanese, accessed group lending (micro-credit) services.
- 59 persons, 50% Lebanese, had training on wage earning employment.

Social cohesion and conflict mitigation activities

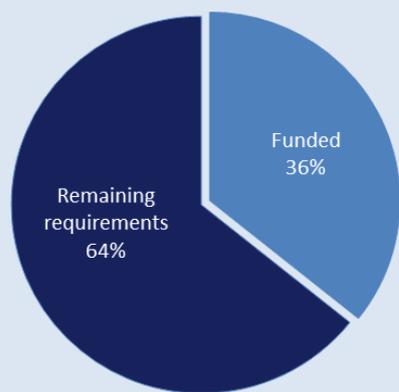
- SFCG released a conflict scan report of 11 communities in Tripoli and the South of Lebanon selected from the localities at the highest risk of tension and conflict. Since October 2013, SFCG Lebanon has been implementing a UNHCR funded project that aims to mitigate tensions between the Syrian refugees and the Lebanese host communities.
- SFCG conducted 40 focus groups, 44 key informant interviews and 900 surveys in order to identify the prominent layers and dynamics of conflict and cooperation between Lebanese and Syrian refugees in the target communities. The report provides valuable findings and recommendations for the humanitarian community in Lebanon to ensure the conflict sensitivity of their programming amidst the on-going refugee crisis.

Achievements January – June

Activity	Reached January- June	2014 Target
Specific needs cases referred	37,250	75,000
Vocational training	12,740	30,030
Refugee outreach volunteers	331	1000
Community centres established	31	50
Conflict resolution trainings	-	400

Funding

UNHCR requirements 2014: USD 468 m



Protection requirements: USD 106 m

Needs

Shelter, health care, education and livelihoods are among the main needs voiced by refugees. Persons with disabilities and older persons at risk have limited access and exiting services and specialized care. As a result, issues such as child labour, non-treatment for chronic health care, evictions, isolation, neglect and low-esteem abound. A UNFPA assessment on Syrian youth showed that 89% of Syrian Youth described themselves as depressed, anxious or afraid most of the time. 33% were forced out of school because of their refugee status, while only 11% attempted to resume education in Lebanon but dropped out mainly because of high cost of education, curriculum difficulty and transport. Persons with disabilities and older persons expressed during UNHCR participatory assessments (PAs) that they feel isolated, neglected and a burden on their families. Women are the ones mostly unemployed due to family, cultural and health reasons. With high costs living, these factors are pushing children into the labor market, making families economically vulnerable and placing youth at risk of engaging in harmful practices. With a dispersed Syrian population and limited capacities, UNHCR is exploring innovative ways to timely identify needs, risks and priorities.

Challenges

Dispersed refugee population: With the widespread dispersal of refugees in over 1,700 locations throughout Lebanon, there is a need to build upon existing outreach and support initiatives to prevent and respond to the immense scale of protection risks.

Overstretched social services and limited job opportunities: According to a livelihood assessment of the ILO, 30% of the refugees are unemployed and 88% of the employed are unskilled or semi-skilled laborers are paid 40% less than the minimum wage in Lebanon with an average salary of 277 USD per month. Female Syrian workers earn 30% less than male workers with an average salary of 165 USD per month.

Increasing tensions: Pressure on services and increasing economic competition threaten the wellbeing of both refugees and vulnerable Lebanese. Diminishing salaries and opportunities linked to an increasing workforce have brought about tensions and restrictive government policies regarding livelihoods programmes for Syrians. The impositions of curfews in a growing number of local villages and a recent spate of evictions of refugees from informal settlements are testament to rising tensions.

Halba community centre- Akkar @UNHCR/S.
Hoibak



Strategy

To effectively address vulnerabilities and safeguard protection space for refugees, UNHCR's strategic priorities are:

- Assist refugees in accessing basic services;
- Strengthen outreach with refugees and host communities;
- Empower and promote self-management in communities;
- Increase livelihood opportunities, as well as promote social cohesion among Lebanese and Syrians through dialogue and community support projects;
- Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Development Centres

UNHCR implementing partners

Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (CMLC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Amel Association-Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Makhzoumi Foundation, Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Right to Play, Social Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), Search for Common Ground (SFCG), International Alert, UNDP, Al Majmoua, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA).