

SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE: LEBANON INTER-AGENCY UPDATE



7 November 2014

LEBANON



#FutureOfSyria

Agencies and the Government of Lebanon had requested US\$1.89 billion in the inter-agency funding appeal for 2014.

A mid-year review in June resulted in a downward revision of these requirements to US\$ 1.68 billion. US\$646 million - 38 per cent - has been received as of 15 October.

HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 871,440 beneficiaries had access to food through the e-card modality;
- Some 517,000 children across Lebanon were vaccinated against polio;
- More than 400,000 Lebanese and 100,000 Syrian refugees had access to water; and,
- 60 Syrian refugee students in Lebanon received university scholarships.

PROTECTION

Birth Registration

The preliminary findings of a survey on statelessness in Lebanon undertaken by Frontiers Ruwad Association (FR) revealed that around 40 percent of a sample of 1,000 stateless persons (not necessarily of Syrian origin) is stateless due to difficulties accessing civil registration.

A UNHCR survey between March 2013 and August 2014 indicated that only 30 per cent of Syrian children born in Lebanon have birth certificates.

With the support of five government ministries and in partnership with OHCHR and UNICEF, UNHCR and FR initiated a campaign on birth registration targeting parents of newborns of all origins to prevent statelessness.

To date, UNHCR distributed over 190,000 leaflets and posters at registration sites and community centres. FR is currently conducting capacity building initiatives with participants from relevant ministries to identify ways to strengthen civil registration in Lebanon.

The recent policy of the government of Lebanon to regularize those without legal residency status will definitely improve access to birth registration, as this is required to register births at the Personal Status Department. As a result, 6,500 Syrian children will now potentially be able to have their births registered.

EDUCATION

Syrian refugee children have started the 2014- 2015 school year and have enrolled in the morning shift in public schools all over Lebanon.

UNICEF has organized a training for 32 humanitarian partners in Beirut and Mount Lebanon. The training provided information on how to design education activities in emergencies including conducting assessments, planning, coordination and monitoring of activities.

60 Syrian refugee students received university scholarships.

University Education

The Annual Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) is UNHCR's main global programme for tertiary or university education, providing scholarships annually to refugees to study in host countries.

The initiative was launched in Lebanon at the beginning of September 2014 and received a total of 453 applications in only two weeks.

After detailed screening, 124 applicants were interviewed by selection committees in four locations across the country. Committees were composed of the MOSA, War Child Holland, Save the Children, UNHCR, Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center, and the Norwegian Refugee Council, in addition to members from Lebanese and American universities of Beirut.

60 Syrian refugee students received university scholarships over a period of three to four years. For the academic year 2014/2015, 20 scholarships will be granted to high school graduates entering universities in Lebanon and 40 for second and third year students who are already enrolled.

More than 871,440 people had access to food.

FOOD SECURITY

Since the beginning of November 2014, more than 871,440 beneficiaries had access to food through the e-card modality. In the past week, around 752 newly arrived Syrian refugees received food assistance through food parcels.

National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP)

The Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) launched the Food Voucher Programme for vulnerable Lebanese on 5 November. The Minister of Social Affairs, Rashid Derbas, said that the electronic food card will help vulnerable Lebanese families to meet their food needs; many of the poorest families are living in areas hosting large numbers of refugees.

The Project, which is part of the World Bank grant-financed Emergency support to the NPTP, is co-funded by UNHCR. The World Food Program (WFP) is providing technical support for its implementation. This initiative will provide up to 35,000 low-income Lebanese people with a \$30 monthly cash grant to purchase food using WFP's e-card system.

DISTRIBUTION

With the support of UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF, around 966 people were assisted by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) with mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, and hygiene and baby kits in Akkar, Bekaa and South Lebanon.

More than 276 people in Mount Lebanon and Bekaa received bedding supplies, kitchen sets and baby kits from Caritas Lebanon Migrants Centre (CLMC).

Winter assistance was launched in Rashaya and in El Qaa in Bekaa. Close to 10,000 people (2,000 families) have been assisted with fuel vouchers, jerry cans and blankets so far. Winter distributions are planned for early next week in Arsal, Taalabaya, and Baalbek.

The distribution of ATM cards for the procurement of fuel is ongoing in different areas in Lebanon; an amount of up to \$ 100 will be uploaded to the cards in the coming weeks allowing families to purchase heating fuel for the winter.

HEALTH

The October National Immunisation Campaign for Polio was held from 15 to 21 October and reached out some 517,000 children across Lebanon. Private physicians contributed to achieving these results, with 300 of the Lebanese Paediatric Society members participating in this campaign.

In addition to a strong media campaign and awareness raising efforts, UNICEF sponsored Recreation Days in Bebnine, Tripoli, and Deyr Ammar, which drew children and caregivers into areas of entertainment where vaccination against polio was provided, in cooperation with various partners including Rotary.

Some 517,000 children have been vaccinated against polio.

SHELTER

At least 155 people benefited from SHIELD cash for rent assistance in Tyre and Nabatieh in South Lebanon.

With the recent rainfalls and heavy storms, UNHCR and humanitarian partners including Concern, COOPI, Medair and Save the Children have accelerated their weatherproofing kits distributions in Akkar and Bekaa. Around 4,190 people living in informal settlements, flood prone areas and unfinished buildings, benefited in the past week from shelter support, including weatherproofing kits and medium repair kits.

An additional 330 individuals living in an informal settlement in Central Bekaa benefited from site improvement works conducted by Medair. Site improvement consists of ensuring that shelters are not located in the direct path of floods; digging ditches for drainage channels; sandbagging around shelter units; and, leveling, spreading of gravel, and other earth works to render settlements more habitable and safe for refugees.

WATER, HYGIENE, SANITATION (WASH)

Water testing of ten wells in Arsal was conducted by Action Contre la Faim (ACF). WASH humanitarian partners are also testing for chlorine residual in different settlements. This is part of the process to try to establish where contamination may be getting into the water supply chain. The testing for chlorine will take place at end use, water storage and water trucks.

The shortage of surface water due partly to little rainfall last winter has reduced the production of electricity from dams, leading to a scarcity of electric power. In response, UNICEF has purchased and installed 30 generators in October (12 in the South, 10 in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, 6 in the North and 1 in Bekaa) to benefit more than 400,000 Lebanese and 100,000 Syrian refugees with access to water.

Following floods in Akkar third week of October, WASH humanitarian actors responded with drainage and site improvement interventions,

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desludging of overflowing septic tanks, quality testing of water sources, and provision of water vouchers, jerry cans and sanitation tools to the community.

DONORS

Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, EU, France, Germany, Holy See, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA.

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AGENCIES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT

