

LEBANON/SYRIA SITUATION

SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV) MONTHLY UPDATE

July 2014

JULY DEVELOPMENTS

- In collaboration with DRC, the roll-out of the pilot project on engaging with men and boys in preventing and responding to violence against women started. In Akkar, DRC conducted nine focus group discussions with selected men from the community to map and assess key influential community members to participate in the project.
- 2,388 community members including Syrian refugees and Lebanese attended information sessions on SGBV services organized by UNHCR implementing partners through community based outreach and 11 women's resource centres/safe-spaces.
- DRC provided training for 100 refugees and local Lebanese on topics including: home care, embroidery, agriculture, and English literacy organized through women resource centers across the country.
- INTERSOS trained 66 NGO service providers including frontline workers working in health, education, shelter and child protection on key SGBV concepts, appropriate referral and care for child survivors of SGBV.
- 31 survivors or individuals at risk of being exposed to SGBV incidents were provided with emergency protection cash assistance to cover rent, transport and other basic necessities including non-food items.
- In the south, IRC conducted training for 10 municipality officials on SGBV basic concepts, referral pathways and the national legal framework to enhance their knowledge in preventing and responding to SGBV related incidents.

Needs:

Refugee women and children are disproportionately affected by SGBV. Unaccompanied girls and adolescents, single heads of households, child mothers and spouses, and women and girls living with disabilities are among the most at risk. 25% of survivors of reported SGBV cases are under 18 years of age.

As local and institutional capacities to address SGBV-related issues are overstretched, refugees need support both for SGBV prevention and response. Due to the negative social stigma associated with SGBV and risks to personal security, survivors are often reluctant to seek assistance. In order to encourage SGBV survivors to seek assistance, the availability of specialized services and safe spaces is essential. Survivors also need emergency and life-saving services including medical services which are often inadequate or lacking. Psycho-social and legal support services need systematic and institutional support to strengthen its capacity. Above all, these services need to be available and accessible to refugees.

Refugee women and girls are in need of safe spaces, such as the twelve centres including the Women's Resource Centres which provide life skills activities, and help women establish support networks.



Discussion with Syrian refugee @UNHCR

Community mediation initiatives including the engagement of men and boys remain critical to address the root causes of violence.

Challenges: Due to the dispersal of refugees in over 1,700 locations, community outreach efforts require significant allocation of resources and time. Yet, community outreach is a priority, in particular to provide access to services for women and girls at risk whose mobility is restricted due to security concerns and cultural values coupled with lack of documentation among refugees, growing tension between refugees and host communities. Additionally, weak legal framework, limited resources and risk to personal security prevent survivors to come forward and seek services.



With the numbers of refugees increasing, overcrowding and lack of privacy in shared accommodation such as collective shelters and tented settlements, places refugees at heightened risk for SGBV.

Scarce economic opportunities coupled with the high costs of accommodation and associated living expenses causes some families to resort to negative coping mechanisms which place refugees at heightened risk of SGBV. These include: early marriage, child labour and survival sex.

Strategy: SGBV prevention and response activities are being pursued in close cooperation with UN agencies and NGO partners. UNHCR also works closely with government ministries including those working in the areas of social services, security, and the judiciary. UNHCR works to improve access to quality of services related to SGBV prevention and response, including:

- Providing safe environments for women and girls through mass communication, community mobilization, and establishment of women resource centres and listening and counseling centres;
- Improving outreach to refugees, including through mobile activities to ensure identification and safe referral of SGBV survivors and those at risk;
- Strengthening existing specialized services for SGBV survivors such as psycho-social, medical and legal services.
- Promoting engagement with men and boys in SGBV prevention and response;
- Strengthening key partnerships with UN agencies, NGOs, government, and local communities to strengthen SGBV prevention, response and coordination mechanism.
- Using integrated programming to mainstream SGBV prevention and response into all sectors, in particular: shelter, WASH and child protection.

Achievements: January - July

Activity	 reached Jan - July	 2014 Target
Provision of assistance for identified survivors	100%	100%
Persons at risk identified and supported*	3,723	-
Safe spaces established for women/girls	12	13
Mid-way houses maintained	2	2
Individuals trained and sensitized on SGBV prevention and response	9,657	15,000
Men and boys mobilized on SGBV	33	330

*Individuals identified as at protection risk who benefitted from psycho-social support and counselling services.

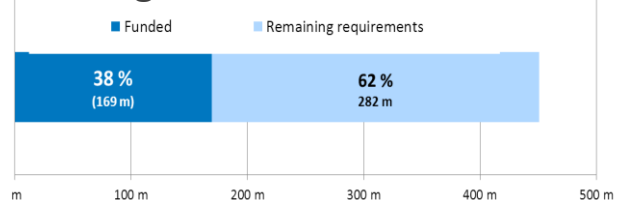
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Links: Inter-agency Information Sharing: <http://data.unhcr.org/lebanon>
Twitter: @UNHCRLebanon - Facebook: UNHCR Lebanon

Key figures

- 1,138,874 individuals registered or pending registration
- 79% women and children
- 39% of women and girl refugees have specific needs
- 30% of refugee households are female headed

Funding (UNHCR total requirements: USD 451 m)



UNHCR implementing partners

Amel Association, Caritas Lebanon Migrants Centre (CMLC); Danish Refugee Council (DRC); INTERSOS, International Medical Corps (IMC); Makhzoumi Foundation, Internal Relief and Development (IRD); Save the Children; Mercy Corps; Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC); Oxfam; Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture; Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHIELD); Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA).