



Bekaa Interagency update – April 2015

1. Registration

As at 30 April 2015, a total of 417,288 individuals/ 94,596 cases have been registered in the Bekaa. An additional 1,965 individuals / 686 households are scheduled for registration, bringing the total number of registered and pending registration to 419,242 individuals / 95,282 households.

2. Protection

For the month of April, GSO contacts estimated an average of 1,400 individuals were granted entry per day at Masnaa border crossing. Though this number is greater than border team observations, it is still less than half of average entries reported per day by GSO in December 2014.

Since the beginning of the year, 61 sites have been impacted by Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) evictions. 5,981 individuals have had to relocate from 31 sites issued with eviction notices. Of the aforementioned sites, 18 have been entirely vacated, while 13 remain inhabited by a portion of the notified families. Thus, 6,422 individuals residing in 43 sites – some of which have already been partially evicted – have been notified to evict and are currently considered at risk of eviction. In April, 7 settlements in Jdita municipality were issued with eviction notices by the municipality. UNHCR and partners are undertaking vulnerability assessments and gauging next steps in terms of possible assistance and support. The Mayor has provided a one month reprieve.

The support of NRC has facilitated negotiations for several existing and relocated settlements in the Bekaa, increasing the security of the residents' housing land and property rights through written lease agreements with their landlords.

International Rescue Committee (IRC), with the participation of MoSA, UNHCR and other local organizations, conducted 4-day training-of-trainers on safe identification and referrals of child protection cases as part of their coaching program.

Lebanese Physically Handicapped Union (LPHU) started their rehabilitation program center targeting children with disabilities through mobile clinic services to facilitate access for persons with disabilities.

Mouvement Social, a new active organization in the Child Protection Working Group, started their work in Kfarzbad, with the capacity to receive high risk child protection cases. Moreover, Himaya have set up case management teams in both central and north Bekaa for child protection cases.

3. Health

There are a total of 29 supported (Primary Healthcare Centres) PHCs in the Bekaa. Relief International (RI) is assessing 4 PHCs in west Bekaa to be supported in 2015 and International Medical Corps (IMC), supported by UNHCR, is to support one additional PHC. The MOPH Mop-up immunization campaign against Polio took place from 23 April until 30 April. Training for the management of cases threatening to commit suicide was conducted by IMC to UNHCR staff. MHPSS Bekaa taskforce developed a data collection factsheet in order to compile trends for mental health illnesses.

4. Education

7,591 students are supported by UNHCR and UNICEF in the first shift, while 13,751 students are supported in second shift public schools across the Bekaa. The ongoing negotiations that were taking place between UNHCR and UNICEF on second shift transportation issues will result in 15,000 children (all vulnerable children attending second shift schools in the Bekaa) being covered with transportation for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Up to 5,000 school-aged children in the Bekaa (out of 10,000 in Lebanon) who have missed school will now be able to attend the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP). This programme will provide out-of-school children with the required competencies to facilitate their future enrolment in the Lebanese formal education system. The new ALP outreach phase was piloted in the Bekaa targeting 5,000 children for its first cycle. On 26 April, 3,400 children from the Bekaa sat for an entrance exam across 15 public schools. Authorization documents are in the process of being issued by MEHE and the GSO to allow students to sit for official exams.

NRC assisted 1,500 children through non-formal education activities in 3 community centers located in Joub Jennine, Saadnayel and Baalbek.

5. Basic Assistance

The Household Profiling exercise is on-going in the Bekaa, after the last training session conducted jointly by WFP and UNHCR. WFP started the targeting process through four partners; UNHCR is identifying severely vulnerable households through four different partners; at least another four operational partners are conducting assessments for cash-based interventions. UNHCR, Save the Children (SCI), World Vision (WVI), RI and Handicap International are planning on providing approximately US\$175 on a monthly basis to 11,570 families identified as



extremely vulnerable and unable to meet their basic needs. UNHCR plan on assisting 7,568 families in the Bekaa and the identification of the families will be done through the Household Profiling exercise. Over 22,000 household visits will be undertaken to identify the most vulnerable families.

6. Food security

Due to the high no-show rate of cases during the first and second rounds of validation and the result of the phone calls investigation on no-shows, WFP in cooperation with World Vision International (WVI), Mercy Corps (MCI), INTERSOS and Action Contre la Faim (ACF) conducted a last round of validation in April 2015. All beneficiaries were informed about this exercise through SMS and posters dispatched in contracted shops, municipalities and informal settlements. Pending no-show cases can contact the hotlines of WVI, MCI, INTERSOS and ACF.

WFP is increasingly prioritizing food assistance for the most vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon who cannot cope without food support. Vulnerable refugees including children under two, elderly over 60, severely disabled, and pregnant and nursing mothers will continue to be eligible for food assistance through the Safety Net Programme as they are considered most susceptible to becoming food insecure.

The first reduction in assistance will take place in May 2015, when 15,000 refugees (across Lebanon) who are able to cope without WFP assistance will be discontinued from WFP food assistance (including about 2,700 individuals in the Bekaa). The total number of e-cards beneficiaries assisted in April in Bekaa is 345,718, including 830 new e-cards distributed to 2,433 individuals in Bekaa by ACF, MCI, WVI and INTERSOS.

7. Shelter

UNHCR through partners (Save the children and Medair) have distributed 1,180 weatherproofing kits and 72 new arrival kits.

Working Group concerns have been referred to Beirut including updating the Standard Operating Procedures for site improvements, sealing off kit review, modalities for rehabilitation of buildings and the use of vouchers for weatherproofing unfinished buildings.

Support to Arsal, through NRC, has included the weatherproofing and WASH upgrades of 608 Housing Units in SSB's. Also through NRC, shelter rehabilitation in SSU's was provided to over 330 housing units with fully integrated WASH component located in north, west and central Bekaa. ERF distribution was completed for over 1,115 families

reaching over 5,550 beneficiaries; 800 of these families are located in Arsal. A "lessons learnt" evaluation of the works in Arsal is scheduled to take place at the end of April and will be shared with partners.

8. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

It is hoped that coordination efforts in April have identified a solution for the WASH support of over 118 sites and 8,487 refugees in the Bekaa that were previously uncovered. This was the result of a sector-wide effort in identifying gaps with all partners, assisted through the analysis of activity info data and due to partners increased reporting activities.

ACF WASH programme, funded by UNHCR, has been involved in the assessment of 18 eviction sites in ACF intervention areas of Faour, Temnine el Tahta, Dalhamiye and Ali En-Nahri. ACF responded with the initial distribution of a total of 191 Hygiene Kits. Assessment needs are still ongoing in order to provide the required WASH assistance. A total of 685 additional Hygiene kits were provided from UNHCR contingency stock in ACF intervention areas where those kits were not previously distributed.

ACF, INTERSOS and NRC continue to undertake WASH activities in Arsal, in spite of insecurity. ACF-WASH team provided services to 10,000 beneficiaries and 12 collective shelters in Arsal. NRC held 46 hygiene promotion sessions in Arsal reaching 784 beneficiaries.

9. Social Stability

Further to the MRR process and the production of the Municipal Action Plans, the month of April witnessed intensive field missions to 27 municipalities that were organized and conducted jointly by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and UNDP regional staff. The main purpose of those field missions was to discuss the action plans and identify priority projects responding to problems and risks. This was an intensive field verification process leading to a list of projects forming the subject of 2015-2016 UNDP intervention in the Bekaa. 164 projects were identified and spread among various sectors: education, healthcare, livelihood, basic services, recreational spaces, solid waste management, waste water management and water management.

The process was carried out applying a thorough identification process supported by technical field assessments ensured through UNDP consulting engineers. This will be followed by desk work in preparing project designs and cost estimates that will feed into the tendering process leading to the project implementation. The information extracted for project identification can serve all other agencies intending to work in the same municipality(ies) and can save time, efforts and resources.