

UN INTER-AGENCY UPDATE

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This update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency response to the influx of Syrians into Lebanon. The response is undertaken in full coordination with the Government of Lebanon.

Highlights of the week

Numbers

Over 30,000 displaced Syrians are receiving assistance and support throughout the country, of whom 26,905 people are registered.

Protection and Security

Tensions are high in the North following heavy clashes and exchanges of gunfire along the Lebanese-Syrian border. Up to 800 beneficiaries reside in impacted villages, such as Bqaiiaa, Mqaibley, Hiche. Local leaders have asked for support from the Lebanese Army and UN security teams are travelling to affected border areas to assess and advise.

Road blocks in Wadi Khaled also prevented staff from commuting to the

field, resulting in 2-day delays in the weekly activities.

This week, 5 wounded Syrians were admitted to hospitals.

North Lebanon

Registration and new arrivals

The flow of new arrivals into Akkar remains stable with approximately 300 people (60 families) arriving in Wadi Khaled on a weekly basis.

In Akkar, UNHCR registered 338 people (79 families) and MoSA registered an additional 140 people (28 families) through door-to-door efforts bringing the total number of displaced registered in the North to 17,157 people.



Distribution

The HRC recently requested the World Food Program (WFP) to replicate the food voucher system that was launched in the Bekaa to North Lebanon. WFP and partners will begin with assessing local grocery shops' capacity in preparation for the launching of the voucher system in August. In the meantime, the WFP will provide food kits for families in Akkar and Tripoli.

Centralized distribution in Tripoli and door-to-door distribution in El Minyeh and Berqayel assisted 1,585 people (317 families). UNHCR along with the HRC, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), WFP, Muslim Aid and the Alaaazm Wal Saadah Association provided the food and hygiene kits, diapers, baby milk and blankets.

Protection/Community Services

Ensuring the safety of families living in border villages is of primary concern to UNHCR and partner agencies given the recent security situation. UNHCR protection teams visited 210 newly arrived Syrians (42 families) in Knaishe, Amayer and Rajem and assessed their physical protection as well as their access to assistance and their relationship with the local Lebanese community. No alarming protection issues were identified and displaced families seem to be receiving timely assistance. UNHCR will continue following-up on families living in precarious zones.

UNHCR made an additional border visit to Aboudiyeh where 150 displaced (30 families) reside to meet with local leaders. Follow-up assessments will take place next week.

Psycho-social support and basic information about registration and

available services were provided to 190 newly arrived Syrians (38 families) in Wadi Khaled during home visits. Outreach workers also identified people with specific needs through these visits, such as people with disabilities, women heads of households, pregnant women and displaced people fearful of registering and referred them to specialized partners for services.

Education

Save the Children (SCS) administered placement tests for children enrolled in the Summer Accelerated Learning Program (SALP). Some 600 children will benefit from courses aimed at filling the gap of time lost from the past academic year due to displacement.

UNHCR and SCS have also drafted a strategy for facilitating enrolment in public schools for the upcoming school year and providing fees, uniforms and school supplies.

While continuing to allow all displaced Syrian children to register in Lebanese schools, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) has said it cannot provide accreditation for Syrian students who complete the school year in Lebanon, nor can it permit them to sit for official exams. According to the Ministry these restrictions are pursuant to a Council of Ministers decree. Agencies are now attempting to reverse this development through advocating for Syrian children's rights at the strategic political level.

Shelter

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) completed minor rehabilitation on 24 hosting homes. An additional 95 houses are undergoing similar renovations that include fixing toilets, doors and windows. NRC also provided 32 families

with shelter toolkits that include wheelbarrows, shovels, electrical wires and equipment for hosting and displaced families to fix and maintain their homes themselves.

Refugee committees were established in four collective shelters to manage the maintenance of the shelters and report concerns to UNHCR.

Health

As of June 30, the HRC stopped covering the cost of secondary health care due to a lack of funding. UNHCR and the International Medical Corps (IMC) are currently covering the costs of life-saving medical care and hospitalization for registered displaced Syrians. HRC exceptionally covered the cost of four wounded Syrians this week.

UNHCR and IMC assessed primary health care centers (PHCC) in the North to discuss the expansion of referral-supported primary health care services. A new PHCC was added to the network in Kobbeh (Tripoli) that will provide free consultations for pregnant women and children under five years old as well as reduced consultation fees for others, which will be covered by UNHCR and IMC. Health awareness sessions will be conducted by IMC through this new PHCC in Tripoli.

IMC is also working on integrating mental health services into the primary health care program by providing job training to PHC workers.

UNHCR and agencies continue to reach out to displaced Syrians to ensure they are aware of all the services provided to them across various sectors. As part of this initiative, health service guides were distributed among the displaced

population along with the schedules of PHCC physicians.

Assistance in the Bekaa Valley

Registration

An estimated average of 200-400 new people (40-80 families) are arriving in the Bekaa per week. UNHCR registered 646 people in Baalbeck bringing the total number of registered individuals in the Bekaa to 8,294.

In addition, a two-day registration in Hermel will take place after the Baalbeck exercise is complete in order to register people who did not have previously have the opportunity to register.

Distribution

The July distribution began Wednesday in central Bekaa and Baalbeck with 725 people (145 families) receiving food and baby kits as well as sanitary napkins. UNHCR, DRC, World Vision, Action Contre La Faim (ACF) and UNFPA facilitated efforts, with the support of local actors in west and central Bekaa and Baalbeck. In addition to distributing food kits, the WFP provided food vouchers to families in Aarsal and central Bekaa. Registered Syrians will continue to receive food vouchers from WFP while families in areas that are not yet registered are receiving food kits.

Caritas Migrant Center (CLMC) provided food kits, bed sheets, blankets, pillow cases and hygiene kits to families in Zahle, Saadnayel, Taalabaya, Bar Elias and Baalbeck.

The International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) distributed 153 hygiene kits to Syrians in Zahle.

Outreach/Community Services

IOCC conducted a nutrition awareness session with Syrian women in Zahle on

various healthy eating habits and the importance of breast feeding. Attendees requested additional and similar sessions for the future.

Education

With a new 150 families in Baalbeck, Save the Children (SCS) is ensuring that children from these families are identified and enrolled in the appropriate classes and activities. Parents also attended awareness sessions conducted by SCS to learn about the educational opportunities for their children.

An education coordination meeting with the MoEHE discussed how to address the gaps in reaching the some 3,000 registered Syrian children in the Bekaa. Budget and capacity of partner organizations will be taken into consideration when revising response programmes.

Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)

As part of the QIP proposed by the Municipality of Aarsal, 15 custom-made garbage bins were procured. They will be delivered after the wall murals, where the bins will be placed, are completed.

Health

Health service brochures were distributed in the Bekaa to inform the displaced community of all services provided to them and through which hospitals, NGOs and local organizations. In addition to this information sharing, a rise in cases of diarrhea and gastroenteritis revealed the need to also educate and inform on a variety of health-related issues, such as food sanitation, how to sterilize water and proper hygiene to prevent infection. IMC will begin these health awareness sessions next week.

The following table provides an overview of relief provided from June 2011 to date in north Lebanon and the Bekaa valley through HRC, UNHCR, Caritas Migrant Center, WFP, DRC, World Vision, UNICEF, ACF, Islamic Relief, IOCC, Layan, Muslim Aid, IMC and UNFPA.

Relief item	Quantity
Core relief items	17,872
Food kit	17,889
Hygiene kits	13,908
Clothing	1,124
Heating Fuel coupons	37,122
Baby kits	922

CLMC's pediatrician and nurse assisted 148 children through medical consultations via the medical mobile clinic. Medication was prescribed by the pediatrician and delivered on site.

Shelter

NRC distributed the first of three payments to begin rehabilitating 30 unfinished houses in Aarsal. Phase one of renovations includes installing windows, doors, toilets, water and septic tanks and kitchen sinks. Each house has the capacity to host up to 25 people (4-5 families) each. NRC also identified three large collective shelters, two in Aarsal and one in Al Fakeha, with the potential of housing up to 60 people (9-12 families) each.

For more information on Syrian displacement in Lebanon, please visit the Lebanon page on the webportal: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>. There you will find facts, figures, and 'who does what', as well as updates on food and non-food items distributed per area and by agency.