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#syria

Lebanon Inter-Agency Response: Syrian Refugees

May 10 – 17 2013

 الجمهورية اللبنانية رئاسة مجلس الوزراء الهيئة العليا للإغاثة	
 UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency	 الجمهورية اللبنانية وزارة التربية والتعليم
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 care	 القطري UAE RED CRESCENT Care for Life
 UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States - Beirut United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- Over 60,000 refugees received clothes vouchers, blankets, quilts, kitchen sets, mattresses, recreation kits for children and other household items;
- Some 14,000 food vouchers were distributed;
- Over 8,000 refugees received hygiene kits and 3,000 received baby kits;
- More than 5,700 students were supported with educational, psychosocial and recreational activities in public schools or in community centers across Lebanon;
- Over 3,700 patients benefited from primary health care services;
- Over 500 patients were admitted to hospitals in the North, the Bekaa and the South this week;
- Over 135 women and girls benefited from psychosocial services in women and girls community centres.

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2013



Funding is also received in private donations from the following countries:
China, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, and Spain.

¹ EU funding is received from DEVCO and ECHO.

REGISTRATION AND NEW ARRIVALS

In the past week, over 15,000 persons registered with UNHCR bringing the total number of Syrian refugees assisted by UNHCR and partners to over 474,000 (over 379,000 people registered and 95,000 awaiting registration).

Current distribution of the registered population is as follows:

North Lebanon: 149,000

Bekaa: 133,000

Beirut and Mount Lebanon: 58,000

South Lebanon: 38,000

Throughout the country, waiting periods continue to decrease and have reached an average of 28 days. The number of people awaiting registration continues to decrease at the rate of 8,000 persons per week on average.

Efforts to improve the registration appointment process are ongoing. The Bekaa office put in place a call centre to increase the hotline capacity. The call centre should be operational as of next week and should help further facilitate the setting of appointments and alleviate the burden on the existing hotlines. In the South, rescheduling of appointments continues, bringing appointments forward from July and August to May and June.

PROTECTION

Local leaders and municipalities reported the arrival of some 4,000 Syrians to Lebanon this week, with many arriving from Daraa and Aleppo as violence escalated in the two governorates. The number of newly arrived refugees in north and West Bekaa was lower than in previous weeks as less people fled from Qusayr to Aarsal. Although there was a respite in violence in Qusayr, there are also reports of families facing great risks in fleeing.

Efforts to encourage minority groups to come forward and register are ongoing throughout the country. Following awareness and sensitization meetings with the Assyrian people in Mount Lebanon, The Assyrian church recently confirmed that more families are now willing to come forward and register as a result of outreach and confidence building measures by UNHCR. Outreach to Syrian refugees in the Dbayeh Palestinian camp is being enhanced with the involvement of the Joint Christian Community (JCC) who is assisting them to come forward and register with UNHCR.

Multiple efforts were underway this week to provide support to vulnerable women traumatized from stressful displacement journeys and those at risk of exploitation. Over 135 women and girls benefited from psychosocial services including individual counseling and emotional support groups at UNICEF-supported women and girls community centres in Berqayel, Wadi Khaled, and Aarsal. These activities targeted survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and women and girls at risk of GBV. The programme also includes skills building, literacy and English courses, and awareness sessions. So far, over 1,300 women and girls (840 women and 504 girls) have benefited from the programme.

In Nabatiye and Tyr districts, SHEILD counseled and assisted three GBV survivors this week. SHEILD also continued to deliver programmes targeting women and children at five Social Development Centres (SDCs) of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) in Tyr, Nabatiye, Bint Jbeil, Marjeyoun and Hasbayya. Over 90 women participated in vocational training including handicraft, hairdressing and sewing at these centres this week. Women also engaged in art therapy classes and recycling projects at Amel Association in Ain El Remmeh.

During the past week, agencies identified 15 cases of male children between the ages of 12-15 who are working around 11 hours per day seven days a week. Most of these children –all of whom attended school back in Syria- are working as cleaners in restaurants and receive substandard monthly wages. Their families reported that the income they generate helps them cover the families' monthly expenses. The families were immediately referred for rent support, while their cases will be followed closely to ensure that parents are properly counseled on the need to enrol their children in schools or remedial classes.

Amel Association and other agencies continued to conduct home visits to vulnerable families, particularly those that had young children and/or who suffered loss of family members, to help them adapt and provide psychosocial counseling.

SECURITY

The spate of shellings in Hermel and the unconfirmed information about rockets being launched on Hermel from within Lebanese territory continue to be of concern. Tensions and clashes in the area inhibit operations and humanitarian access.

Three shells originating in Syria hit the outskirts of the Lebanese border town Al-Qaa in the Bekaa Valley on Tuesday where a refugee community currently resides. No casualties were reported. The Lebanese army has been deployed to monitor the situation in the area.

DISTRIBUTION

UNHCR, UNICEF, DRC, CLMC, Makhzoumi Foundation, SHIELD and World Vision assisted some 60,000 refugees through the provision of clothes vouchers, blankets, quilts, kitchen sets, mattresses, recreation kits for children and other household items. Over 14,000 food vouchers have been distributed by World Food Programme (WFP) through DRC.

EDUCATION

Over 5,000 children benefited from psychological and educational support this week. This included 1,900 out of school children who were assisted through accelerated learning classes to help them be in a position to enroll in school next academic year. An additional 3,800 children benefited from remedial classes. These programmes are sponsored by UNHCR, Amel Association, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC), The Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children, War Child Holland (WCH) and Terre Des Hommes (TDH). An additional 5,400 children at risk of dropping out of school attended remedial classes and received psychosocial support as part of a UNICEF effort to reduce the school dropout rate.



Over 900 Syrian and Lebanese students also received NRC-led educational support including life skills training, recreational activities and awareness sessions.

UNICEF and Balamand University have begun monitoring attendance in schools. Out of 19,000 children currently being monitored, 2,000 have dropped out. Through this new monitoring system, the up-to-date data collected on students' performance/challenges is expected to enhance the education response.

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), UNHCR, UNICEF, and UNESCO launched a Joint Education Needs Assessment (JENA). Schools across the country will be visited and assessed with an aim to bring to light the most urgent education gaps. Educational programmes will then be adjusted to meet the most pressing educational needs.

HEALTH

Over 3,700 refugees received primary health care services including consultations, treatment, referrals, medication, vaccinations and diagnostic tests this week. UNHCR, UNICEF, CLMC, International Medical Corps (IMC), Amel Association, and PU-AMI (Premiere Urgence) continued to prioritize the provision of primary health care services to prevent serious health problems among Syrian refugees. In the South, IMC started providing primary health care support through a newly contracted clinic in Chhim.

Refugees in Baalbek and Hermel have also had access to primary health care through six UNICEF mobile medical teams currently active in twelve tented settlements in the area. Of

the 9,000 people living in the settlements, 2,000 have sought medical assistance through the mobile clinics to date and 300 children have received vaccinations.

Over 400 individuals were vaccinated against measles and polio in the Bekaa as part of the ongoing vaccination campaign at the registration center in Zahle. Since April, more than 6,000 refugees have received vaccinations.

Over 500 patients were admitted to hospitals in the North, the Bekaa and the South this week. UNHCR and IMC continue to insure admission of patients to the referral hospital network and cover them at 75 per cent. Health officers reported that many refugees are avoiding hospitalization since they cannot cover the remaining 25 per cent. UNHCR and IMC continue to exert all possible efforts to refer vulnerable patients to other agencies and NGOs for their coverage, while stressing the call for additional funds to fill this pressing gap.

Some 2,000 individuals attended health awareness sessions this week by IMC health educators at shelters and hospitals. Sessions included topics related to mental health, general health, GBV and early marriage. In the North, IMC and Oxfam also trained 30 Syrian volunteers on the provision of mental health services at the Makarem Al Akhlak primary health care centre to spread awareness within the Syrian community.

Some 40 cases of leishmaniasis were identified by IMC this week through mobile visits and primary health care centres and provided with treatment.

SHELTER

Over 60 per cent of the 40,000 individuals living in tented settlements across the country – mostly in the Bekaa- have received shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene assistance. To date, more than 250 informal sites that accommodate these refugees have been assessed and assisted by agencies.

In Qobayat this week, UNHCR and the NRC signed contracts with ten hosting families for the rehabilitation of their houses in return for hosting Syrian refugees. There are currently over 40 households currently working to renovate their houses with first, second and final NRC payments, bringing the total number of refugees benefiting from these contracts to 2,000. NRC is now working to rehabilitate the houses of an additional 500 households and to complete the construction of 60 unfinished houses in the area.

A rehabilitated collective shelter in Bazourieh, south Lebanon, received 58 refugees (13 families). The priority is now to finalize water and electricity works at the shelter.

In coordination with the municipality of Aarsal, Shelterbox and Jousour el Nour (a local NGO) set up tents on private lands or within the vicinity of private houses in the village to accommodate newly arrived refugees. Blankets, floor sheets and solar lamps were also distributed to refugees living in the tents.

Deir Al- Ahmar municipality has given a ten day notice for refugees to evacuate a tented settlement as they did not have permission to set it up in the area. UNHCR is following up with the municipality to ensure that the refugees can be located to an adequate alternative location.

A number of refugee families in the Bekaa have been relocated to the Ain Ata shelter as they were no longer able to pay the rent. Refugees face growing challenges in finding shelter, exacerbated in recent weeks by a spike in rents. More refugees are having to move out of rented accommodation into improvised solutions including tented settlements or substandard abandoned structures. Unfortunately, the capacity in collective shelters remains limited. Agencies are looking to identify and renovate more abandoned structures to host more vulnerable refugees.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

This week, over 8,000 hygiene kits as well as over 3,000 baby kits have been distributed by UNHCR, DRC, SHIELD, Makhzoumi Foundation and CLMC distributed. Action Contre la Faim (ACF) distributed water tanks and constructed latrines for some 40 households and continued to carry out hygiene promotion activities. Premiere Urgence-Aide Medical Internationale upgraded sanitation facilities in Mount Lebanon benefitting over 200 persons.

WASH interventions have been initiated in Tal Al Abiad tented settlement in the Bekaa immediately following health interventions to treat scabies and lice cases reported last week. Over 90 1,000-litre tanks benefitting over 1,000 people have been distributed while 20 latrines have been installed, with a further 40 in process. Water trucking to this settlement has also commenced.

An assessment in a tented settlement at Jeb Jennin (which includes around 1,000 individuals) revealed the need for additional latrines and a potable water sources as more refugees have arrived in the settlement. Agencies have immediately processed the request for these items in order to prevent skin diseases and infections. Agencies are also focusing on family planning and awareness about access to medication to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB PORTAL

<https://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=122>

UPDATES:

- INTER AGENCY MEETING - Minute – April 5, 2013 – Beirut
- New Lebanon Contact List - Syrian Refugee Response 13 .05.2013
- Lebanon Registration Trend Overview 09 May 2013

MAPS:

- Map - Syrian refugees by district in Lebanon 15 May 2013

STATISTICS:

- Lebanon Registration Daily Stats 13, 14, 15 May 2013

REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS :

- W Education Paper Lebanon 2012 War Child Holland
- WCL 961 2013 May Mail Issue 2
- WCL 961 2013 February Mail Issue 1
- Shelter Poll Survey Report Lebanon April 2013 v1
- Service Sector - EMMA Lebanon April 2013
- Lebanon EMMA Executive Summary April 2013
- Construction Labor - EMMA Lebanon April 2013
- Agricultural Labor - EMMA Lebanon April 2013

FUNDING:

- Syria Situation UNHCR funding update as of 16 May 2013.
- Revised SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE PLAN - Funding status