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Rainwater flooding a street

Photo credit: UNICEF

HIGHLIGHTS

- Lebanon Crisis Response Plan finalized
- Lebanon's Civil Society contributes to World Humanitarian Summit
- 517,000 children vaccinated against polio
- Winterization support kicks off
- GoL trained on information in emergency preparedness & response

'Whole-of-Syria': Humanitarian Needs

As part of the 'Whole of Syria' approach, humanitarian partners responding to the crisis inside Syria have prepared a comprehensive Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for the country. The HNO shows that almost half of all Syrians, about 10.8 million people, have been forced to leave their homes resulting in the largest displacement crisis globally. An estimated 7.6 million people are internally displaced within Syria and there are more than three million refugees, 1.15 million of whom have sought safety in Lebanon.

The HNO also notes that humanitarian needs in Syria have increased twelve-fold since the beginning of the crisis, with 12.2 million people now in need of humanitarian assistance. Around 6.8 million people are severely food insecure and 11.6 million people require urgent access to water and sanitation. It is estimated that over one million people may have been injured by the end of 2014, requiring access to health services, including emergency trauma care, but only 43 per cent of hospitals are fully functioning. In addition, 25 per cent of schools have been damaged, destroyed or are used as shelters, leaving almost two million children without access to a school.

During a two-day meeting held in Beirut on 15-16 November, partners involved in the 'Whole of Syria' plan agreed on strategic objectives and a timeline for the completion of the 2015 Strategic Response Plan, which will be launched along with the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and the 3RP in Germany on 18 December.

SCR 2165 continues to enable the UN to reach Syrians in need inside Syria

Since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution (SCR) 2165 in July, the UN has sent 35 consignments with humanitarian supplies to Syria from Turkey and Jordan consisting of over 230 trucks. This has enabled the UN to reach over 208,000 people with food assistance, over 253,000 with NFIs and provide WASH to more than 80,000 people. In addition, health and medical supplies have reached over half a million people. Future consignments from both Turkey and Jordan are being prepared. The importance of being able to reach people inside Syria is vital to address the fact that almost half of all Syrians have been forced to leave their homes, many of them multiple times, as described in the HNO.



UN Cross-border shipment through Turkey

FIGURES (26 November)

# of refugees	1,143,900
# of returnees	17,510
# of PRS	42,000
# of PRL	270,000
# of targeted host community	1,500,000

FUNDING

(from FTS)

US\$ 1.69 billion requested
(GoL requested funds included)

46% funded

People in Need

Lebanon Crisis Response Plan is finalized

Following extensive consultations with various stakeholders, the United Nations and its partners, together with the Government of Lebanon, are finalizing the joint 2015-2016 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP). The LCRP aims to: 1) provide humanitarian assistance and protection to 2.2 million highly vulnerable individuals with acute needs; and 2) invest in services, economies and institutions benefitting up to 2.9 million people in the most vulnerable communities. The plan, seeking \$US 2.14 billion, will be launched locally in

December under the auspices of Lebanon's Prime Minister and will form part of the launch of the 2015-2016 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan, which will take place in Berlin on 18 December. On 24 November, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon along with representatives of the Government of Lebanon, attended the Regional Steering Committee of the 3RP, which aimed to review and take stock of status of preparations of country plans and the 2015-2016 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP).

Lebanese civil society issues recommendations for World Humanitarian Summit

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) is a two-year consultation process initiated by the UN Secretary-General to shape a common humanitarian agenda for the future that is inclusive, accountable, and effective. The summit, which will be held in Turkey in 2016, focuses on four main topics: humanitarian effectiveness; reducing vulnerability & managing risk; transformation through innovation; and serving the needs of people in conflict.



Local NGOs engage in group discussions

Photo by: OCHA

As part of the preparations, the Amel Association, with the support of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), The Humanitarian Forum and OCHA, convened a consultative meeting in Lebanon attended by 30 NGOs. The latter interacted with the Humanitarian Coordinator and representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs, and agreed on a set of recommendations. These included the need for national leadership of emergency responses through a national comprehensive plan; greater transparency in programming, funding and human resources; and increased involvement of affected communities in crisis management, planning, and preparedness. Participants also highlighted the need to rely more on national capacities. The recommendations will feed into the Middle East & North Africa regional consultation in the spring of 2015, which in turn will inform discussions at the Summit.

Humanitarian response

Winterization support kicks off

The humanitarian community is providing specific winter assistance to Syrian and Palestine refugees and vulnerable Lebanese families to enable them to stay warm, dry, and healthy through the winter months. This includes a combination of in-kind and cash assistance, as well as shelter improvements. For example, over 90,000 households will receive support to weatherproof their shelters and around 130,000 households will receive basic assistance, while 110,000 children will benefit from fuel being provided to schools and 225,000 individuals will receive winter clothes. As many beneficiaries have already spent one or more winters in Lebanon and received in-kind non-perishable items such as blankets, clothing and heaters previously, such assistance will only be provided to those who arrived since last winter.

A total of \$92 million is required for the programme that runs from November 2014 to March 2015, of which \$43 million has so far been secured.

Heavy rains displace Lebanese and refugees

Heavy rains and overflowing of rivers affected some 14,300 Syrian refugees and Lebanese residing in Akkar. Numerous Informal Tented Settlements (ITS) were severely affected by the floods and families lost their belongings and basic household items such as mattresses and blankets. The vulnerable structures of the shelters in ITS, which are often located on agricultural land, unstable soil, and muddy foundations, contributed to the damages. The agriculture sector was also affected with numerous greenhouses destroyed, resulting in loss of winter crops. Numerous garages and shops were also flooded and had to temporarily cease operating.



ITS affected by heavy rain

Photo by: UNICEF

The interagency response was activated and partners mobilized their stocks and teams for assessments and distribution. They carried out NFI distribution for the most affected ITS and conducted site improvements. WASH partners conducted water tests in the affected ITS, as shallow boreholes may have been contaminated by the floods, overflowing septic tanks and waste water. Results showed that the majority of the tested sites were contaminated and disinfection and water treatment activities were extended to ensure safe water for all.

October National Immunization Campaign for Polio

The October National Immunization Campaign for Polio from 15-21 October reached some 517,000 children across Lebanon.

The campaign was led by the Ministry of Public Health, with direct support from WHO and UNICEF. The private medical sector, including 300 members of the Lebanese Pediatric Society members, contributed significantly to the campaign. In addition to a strong media campaign, UNICEF encouraged NGOs to creatively support in the awareness raising efforts at the level of care-givers and children. Parades, recreation days, and awareness sessions at Primary Health Care Centres were organized under the message: "Vaccinate now. Don't Wait."



Child receives polio vaccination

Photo by: UNICEF

To cover the needs of the October and the subsequent November campaigns, 1.2 million doses of polio vaccine were provided to the Ministry of Public Health through an EU funded project, which amounts to 20 million Euro.

Information management in emergency preparedness and response strengthened

OCHA, together with UNDP and the Prime Minister's Office, conducted the first in a series of trainings on the Role of Information Management in Emergency Preparedness & Response on 17-19 November. Participants included staff from ministries, public administration, municipalities, civil defense as well as the Lebanese Army. The main objective of the workshop was to strengthen the use of information to improve decision-making in emergency response and preparedness. Participants were introduced to the international humanitarian response system, information management cycle, data standards, needs assessments, coordination tools, information sharing and Information Management networks as well as GIS and mapping. A second training will be conducted in December.



Information management in Emergency Preparedness & Response workshop
Photo by: OCHA

Humanitarian access

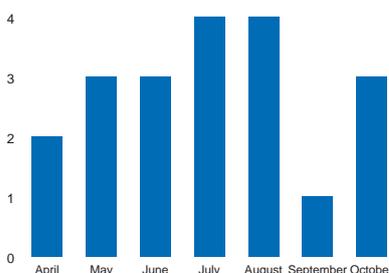
The security situation in the Bekaa and the North deteriorated during the reporting period. According to the Safety & Security Committee for Lebanon (SSCL), northern Bekaa, Tripoli, and Akkar are areas of highest risk for direct and indirect threats against humanitarian workers. Of three reported incidents between 15 October and 20 November, one intimidation intentionally targeted humanitarian staff. Humanitarian workers also face challenges in the field including reduced levels of acceptance from the host communities which requires developing adequate communications strategies. Moreover, The increase in armed conflict as well as sectarian hostilities heighten the risk of indirect harm in vulnerable areas.

Shelling continues in the North and the Beqaa

23 instances of shelling (shells, rockets and/or missiles) were reported; two-third of which took place in north Lebanon and one third in Bekaa. Moreover, three incidents of border violations and three cases of armed clashes reportedly occurred in Bekaa. 13 situations of gunfire took place; nine of which in the Akkar villages of Aboudieh, Aabdeh and Akroum; however, no injuries were recorded.

Repercussions of clashes in Tripoli reach Akkar

Heavy clashes erupted in Tripoli's old markets on 23 October; following an LAF morning



Reported incident Development in the period April-October 2014
Source: SSCL

operation that targeted a cell affiliated with ISIL in Menyeh-Donniyeh and the arrest of the alleged leader of the cell. The clashes extended from 24-26 October to Bhanin, Mhammara and Tripoli's neighborhood of Tebanneh. As these subsided, around 20,000 residents of Tebbeneh had left the area and sought refuge elsewhere. Local NGOs and foundations, as well as the Lebanese Red Cross offered them assistance.

During the clashes LAF conducted large scale search operations and as a result, large caches of weapons, ammunitions, and explosive materials were seized in addition to three VBIEDs, 20 blast vests, and 227 IEDs.

The toll of the clashes has been severe with 11 civilians killed and 64 injured; 16 LAF killed and 69 injured; 40 armed elements killed and 340 arrested. LAF search and arrest operations are continuing; targeting armed elements particularly in Menyeh-Donniyeh areas.

During the last weekend of October, three targeted attacks against LAF members reportedly escalated into clashes with the armed elements in Mhammara and Bhanine villages in Akkar. Material damage resulted in eight out of 14 Informal Tented Settlements (ITSs) in Mhammara leading to the relocation of all or some residents of seven ITSs. Two women were seriously wounded by bullets that hit shelters.

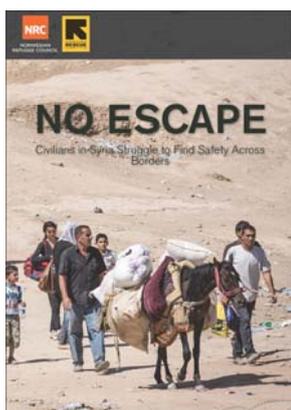
Situation at the borders

The Government of Lebanon adopted a policy paper on 23 October inter alia calling for restrictions on Syrians entering Lebanon, apart from exceptional humanitarian cases. UNHCR registration of refugees requires approval by the Ministry of Social Affairs as per the policy which also encourages refugees to return or go to third countries. The reinforcement of municipal police assistance is stressed on in the policy paper which calls for balancing assistance between refugees and host communities and direct funding to be provided to the Government. The latter however remains committed to the principle of non-refoulement. Humanitarian partners operating on the border have seen a drastic decrease in the number of Syrian and Palestine refugees entering Lebanon in recent months, and UNHCR reports that the number of Syrian approaching their registration centres has gone down 60 per cent compared to the first six months of the year.

'No Escape: Civilians in Syria Struggle to Find Safety Across Borders': Report

On 13 November 2014, NRC and IRC launched a joint regional policy brief, 'No Escape: Civilians in Syria Struggle to Find Safety Across Borders'. The report spells out the challenges faced by Syrian and Palestinian civilians fleeing the Syrian conflict and seeking safety in neighbouring counties (incl. Lebanon) in terms of entry and, if they are permitted to enter, their subsequent uncertain legal status. On average more than 150,000 Syrians were able to cross into neighbouring countries each month in 2013. In October this year, the number of new refugees registered by UNHCR had declined by 88% to only 18,453.

The report calls on wealthy states to urgently step up financial support for Lebanon and increase opportunities for resettlement and alternative humanitarian admissions programmes or other immigration options. It also suggests that Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq create a joint appeal outlining support needed from the international community to ensure that borders are consistently open to civilians fleeing Syria, and to work with aid agencies to ensure immediate assistance is provided to asylum seekers. Humanitarian aid agencies are called on to work with host governments to support the implementation of existing commitments and guidelines related to the registration and documentation of refugees and to strengthen information and services outreach to refugees.



Report available at:

<http://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/resource-file/No%20Escape%20Syria%20report%20IRC%20final%20Nov2014.pdf>

<http://www.nrc.no/?did=9187319>

Funding

As of 28 November, US\$880 million had been received for the overall humanitarian response, including approximately \$777 million under the RRP6, or 46 per cent of the revised RRP6 requirements of \$1.69 billion (Government's request included).

The United States is the largest contributor with \$376 million made available, while the EU through ECHO has contributed \$127 million to the response and the UK \$71 million. Together, these three donors have contributed to two-thirds of the funding received under the RRP6.

On 26 November the Government launched the "We need help to help" campaign in order to raise awareness on the impact of the Syrian crisis and raise funds to support Lebanese host communities.

Amira and Ghada's Story

The Amel Foundation's center in Ain el Remmaneh is full of women, and life. Every single room of the ground-floor apartment located in the middle of the city's residential street, is packed with women either working on colorful handicrafts, painting, taking computer classes, engaging in focus group discussions, attending awareness sessions. The narrow corridor connecting the rooms hosts a closet of hand-made jewelry, wallets and bags. Lebanese, Syrian, Iraqi, and Sudanese accents fill the space and Amel's staff and the women at the center welcome you with a wide smile and immediately express readiness to help.

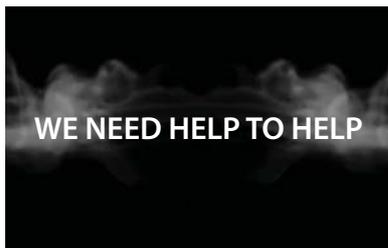
Ghada and Amira are two Lebanese housewives who have made of the center their 'second home' for the last four and a half years. Their engagement with the center began when they were taking part in a two-month training at a Social Development Center operated by the Ministry of Social Affairs. There, they were told that more advanced sessions were given at Amel's center. They both decided not to miss the opportunity.

"See, this room is physically small, but it fits us all. The world outside is huge; yet does not fit everybody," replied Ghada when asked about her experience at Amel Center. According to the 44 year-old mother of two, the Amel Center changed her character and perceptions. "I was never a sociable person," she says; noting that she never interacted with any of her neighbors nor had any friends beyond her family. She explains that at the Centre she met new people, learned how to interact with them, and also developed artistic skills. Ghada explains that her work at the Centre is generating an income which has allowed her to support her family. She insists on reiterating how the Amel experience has also been self-fulfilling on many other levels. Self-confidence, opening up to others and to the outside world are two traits Ghada highlights. Recently she has been bringing along her daughter to the Center.

Amira, 38, who is also married with two children, nods as she listens to her friend's story. She explains how she has met new people of different nationalities and how she learned to accept their culture. "I also became more thoughtful. Who knows, I might be a refugee one day!" she says. "They had to flee and leave everything behind them. Understanding their pain made me start defending their rights," she adds. Amira explains how she is able to support her husband in meeting their family's financial needs. "This income, although modest, helped improve the situation of my family," she says.

The women are paid their transportation fees to and from the Center as well as a stipend of \$65 every three months. Ghada and Amira come to the center almost every day, although they are scheduled to attend only twice a week. "We do not like holidays because the Center is closed," says Amira. "I just love our work; it's about team work and participation," she adds.

The accessories produced by Ghada and Amira are part of the UNHCR funded project "Mann Hiya?" (Who is She?) which aims to build the capacity of Lebanese and refugee women to deal with their daily hardships, as well as become productive and support their families.



Handicrafts

Photo by: OCHA



Accessories

Photo by: OCHA

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