

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

Snapshot

January - February 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,170,000	69
Syrian refugees	Organizations

Humanitarian partners continued winter activities as harsh weather conditions swept across Lebanon. Focusing first on those who are among the most vulnerable, blankets, winter clothing, fuel vouchers, stoves and temporary cash assistance were provided to over 380,500 persons. Some 10,000 households received weatherproofing kits to protect their dwellings damaged by the snow and wind. Work was done in more than 270 sites to improve drainage and prevent flooding from rain and melting snow.

New regulations entered into force regarding the entry of Syrians to Lebanon. Syrian nationals who wish to enter Lebanon now are only admitted if they can produce valid identity documents and proof that their stay in Lebanon fits into one of the approved reasons for entry. Seeking refugee in Lebanon is not an approved reason, however, the Government maintains that those with exceptional circumstances in need of protection and assistance in Lebanon will be considered on a case by case. Criteria and processes to determine who qualifies for such exceptional consideration are under development by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The imposition of admission restrictions resulted in a drop of monthly refugee registrations with UNHCR, which fell by close to 80% from a similar period in 2014. Of the 25,000 newly registered refugees in first months of the year, the vast majority had entered Lebanon prior to the imposition of the new restrictions.

The Government also issued new regulations governing the renewal of residency permits. Syrians who are registered with UNHCR must pay a fee of USD 200 and in addition provide: a housing commitment (certified copies of a lease agreement or real-estate deed); certified attestation from a mukhtar (village leader) that the landlord owns the property; and a notarized pledge not to work. Some refugees are also asked to sign a notarized pledge that they will return to Syria when their permit expires or when requested by the Government. Most refugees are unable to pay the USD 200 fee and, moreover, unable to produce the documents required since most do not have formal lease agreements. The new regulations have been met with high concern by refugees who have approached UNHCR and partners with questions and request for assistance. Partners report growing insecurity and unease in refugee communities, as refugees are fearful of being arrested or detained because of lapsed residency visas.

In an effort to ensure outreach to all refugees, protection and cash assistance partners started monthly home visits. The aim is to verify the situation of those registered with UNHCR, to determine whether there are needs unaddressed and to refer individuals to appropriate services. Over 15,000 refugee households were visited in the first two months of the year. Out of those, just over one third are in need of cash assistance to meet their daily needs. To date, approximately 6 per cent of refugee households have received a monthly grant of



175 dollars to assist them in covering their most immediate needs.

The Minister of Education and Higher Education (MOEH) has assumed full responsibility for the enrolment of refugee children in public schools this academic year. Education partners have been working with the Ministry to ensure enrolment as per the Reaching All Children through Education (RACE) programme. A delay in enrolment during the transition phase resulted in a four-month late start of the second shift. Nonetheless, currently 106,000 children in public schools in either the first or second shift.

A total of 200,000 primary health care consultations, including 5,000 women receiving antenatal care, have been supported by health sector partners. The antenatal care coverage remains relatively low and partners are working on strategies to increase awareness among pregnant women to seek preventive medical care.

For the second month in a row, due to funding shortages, refugees benefitting from food support received 19 dollars instead of the initially planned 27 dollars. The impact of this is being closely monitored and results on the nutritional status of refugees are expected to come by the end of March. WFP is undertaking a validation exercise to verify that active e-cards are still owned by the right households and to provide refresher training on the e-card programme policy.

As part of the effort to improve the quality of services provided to refugees, UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs organized structured discussions with 1,200 refugees (separate ones per age, gender and specific needs). The consultations confirmed increased trends in child labor and early marriage. Refugees also indicated becoming increasingly isolated and restricted in their movements, due to curfews and lack of legal documents. A sense of anxiety and worry was prominent particularly among youth, who reported security concerns and fear of harassment. The results of the consultations will feed into redirecting some activities to directly address these concerns.

	REACHED	TARGET
Shelter		
Increase availability of shelter, through new installations, rental support, or upgrades to uninhabitable shelter spaces	3,762	160,000
Upgrading of occupied shelter units to improve living conditions	58,473	400,000
Site improvements and infrastructure upgrade within neighbourhoods and temporary settlements	1,264	191,000
Create conditions for secure affordable housing by providing counselling and assistance for leasing support	0	163,000

	REACHED	TARGET
Basic Assistance		
Conduct social-economic profiling of refugee households	75,000	230,000
Assist most vulnerable families with multi-sector market based interventions	196,460	467,975
Reach targeted households with seasonal multi sector market based interventions, in-kind distribution or vouchers	315,515	442,500

	REACHED	TARGET
Food Security and Agriculture		
Provide food assistance to most vulnerable families (monthly)	900,162	985,000
Increase refugee awareness on good nutritional and food safety practices	0	9,600

	REACHED	TARGET
Social Stability		
Communal level support projects (# of communities)	77	242
Refugee youth in peace building initiatives	197	18,624

	REACHED	TARGET
Livelihoods		
Facilitate access to rapid income generating opportunities for refugees and improve employability through skills training	415	98,738

	REACHED	TARGET
Protection		
Register and verify Syrian refugees in need of international protection in 2015	78,157	1,500,000
Multi-sectorial support to persons with specific needs, including SGBV survivors and children at risk	9,064	98,000
Provide legal counselling on access to civil documentation including birth certificates, legal residency, security of tenure	2,224	40,000
Participation of refugees in community center and community-based activities	13,466	194,000
Facilitate burden sharing through resettlement to a third country for the syrian refugee population	2,141	9,000

	REACHED	TARGET
Health		
Improve access, coverage and quality of primary healthcare (PHC) services	161,487	900,000
Contribute financially towards hospital care of refugees for life saving conditions and deliveries	9,543	77,745
Provide essential equipment and rehabilitation for selected public hospitals	27	82 hospitals

	REACHED	TARGET
WASH		
Facilitate access to adequate, clean and safe water to refugee families	131,125	1,190,000
Provide water storage installations to communities and families		
Ensure access to adequate sanitation through construction and maintainance of sanitation facilities	22,847	335,000
Improve drainage, waste water and sewage systems to reduce the risk of diseases		

	REACHED	TARGET
Education		
Access to learning for school aged boys and girls	91,000	489,145
Provide school supplies to children attending school	29,816	397,935
Strengthen national education system by rehabilitating schools and providing other assistance	0	180 schools

