



Lebanon Update

Situation in North Lebanon

November 18 - November 25 2011



Highlights of the week

Numbers:

The number of registered Syrians with UNHCR and the High Relief Commission (HRC) is 3,605.

Distribution:

The November distribution of food, hygiene kits, winter clothes and fuel has been completed. UNHCR and partner teams continue to go door to door to monitor and respond to the needs of the displaced, including those who have newly arrived.

Efforts are underway to improve food distribution mechanisms. The World Food Programme (WFP) will conduct an assessment of the capacities of the local market in the north to support the use of food vouchers rather than the distribution of food.

Education:

UNHCR teams continue to monitor school attendance through regular home and school visits. This week, UNHCR and partners provided remedial classes to an additional 87 students including a number of Lebanese students with specific needs.

Health:

UNHCR is working with Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) and International Medical Corps (IMC) better address the mental health needs of the displaced. MSF will recruit a psychologist who will work from the public health center of Makassed. IMC continued training of medical staff in three local dispensaries to ensure they are well prepared and trained to deal with persons in need.

Shelter:

UNHCR completed the rehabilitation of the Kashlak collective shelter and has launched the renovation of the Hall of the Kerbit Daoud Mosque.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) continues to support host families in making needed renovations in their houses.

Protection:

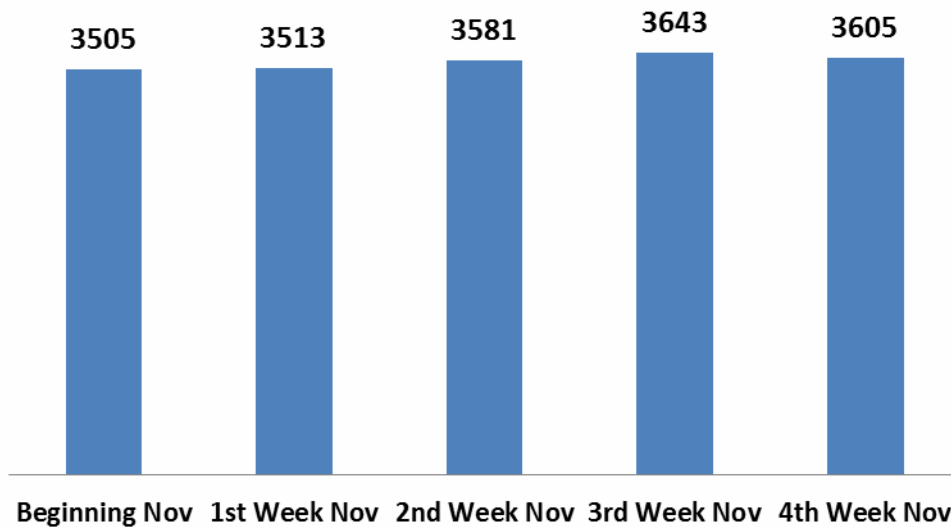
Sounds of gunfire continue to be heard from the Syrian side of the border. The Lebanese Armed Forces intensified their presence in Wadi Khaled where they established a number of mobile checkpoints.

Situational Overview

Beginning in April 2011, Lebanon witnessed an influx of some 5,000 Syrians refugees into northern Lebanon. Many subsequently returned to Syria. Currently there are 3,605 registered persons in the North and Akkar, residing mostly with host families in difficult circumstances.

Those who remain are unwilling to return until stability and security is restored in their Syrian villages. Many individuals and families have been deeply affected by the events that caused them to flee, and are reluctant to go home until the situation stabilizes.

Registered Displaced Syrians Trend in November 2011



Age Group	Females	Males	Total
0-04	352	362	714
05-11	377	356	733
12-18	254	295	549
18-29	361	320	681
30-39	229	224	453
40-49	137	158	295
50-59	63	58	121
60+	29	30	59
Total	1802	1803	3605

Currently, 3,605 Syrians are registered with UNHCR and the HRC.

Identification and registration occurs on a daily basis by outreach teams. The situation is currently stable as a relatively small number of people is arriving to Lebanon or returning to Syria because of the heightened security on the Syrian side of the border. UNHCR and the HRC continue to verify the numbers during the monthly distribution of food/non-food items. Persons found no longer to be in the area are de-registered. Many of these are known to have returned to Syria.

Coordination

A very solid coordinated response and positive working relations with the government's HRC and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) were established at the outset to the benefit of the refugees and hosting communities. These partnerships continue and together with other UN and NGO partners the needs of refugees and affected communities are being holistically addressed. They include the following:

- Protection interventions to ensure safety, physical integrity and non-refoulement;
- Assistance to meet basic needs;
- Education and remedial classes;
- Provision of medical and psycho-social care.

A common data base is in use by the HRC and UNHCR and referral mechanisms established to enable the displaced persons to access assistance through specialized partners.

Protection The vast majority Syrians who have arrived in the past many weeks have come from Tal Kalakh and Homs. They express fear and anxiety about returning, and most do not feel that the situation is safe enough for them to do so.

Most of those who have recently arrived have crossed at official border crossings expressing fear of going through the unofficial ones

Community Services Outreach workers from the MoSA and partners continue to visit the displaced Syrians at homes and in schools in Wadi Khaled, Tall Bire, and Tripoli in order to counsel them, assess their needs, and refer newcomers to UNHCR and HRC for registration.

Shelter Most of the displaced Syrians reside with host families. Just over 200 persons are accommodated in two (abandoned) schools: Al-Rama and Al-Ibra schools. The schools were initially not well equipped (with sanitation and hygiene facilities) to receive large numbers of people, but have been improved and are regularly monitored.

UNHCR and the Government initiated the renovation of Al Rama, Al Mouanseh, Tikrit Halba and Kashlak schools, while the renovation of the Al Ibra school was undertaken by the Al-Bashaer Islamic Association.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) together with partner organizations and outreach workers have identified host family residences in pressing need of improvement in preparation for the winter. NRC has begun to provide these families

with coupons enabling them to renovate their homes.

**Distribution
(Food/ NFI)**

UNHCR along with the Government, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Caritas Migrant Centre, World Vision, and UNICEF, distribute food and non-food items to the displaced on a monthly basis. UNHCR continues to provide food and non-food items to newly registered families who were not on the UNHCR-HRC database during the last distribution.

Items Distributed	November 23 2011	Cumulative
Mattresses	100	4,469
Blankets	15	4,737
Food kits	504	4,530
Diapers	146	842
Baby milk	177	1218
Baby kits	0	424
Hygiene kits	312	3,176
Women's underwear	0	714
Tuition fees	465	465
Books	465	465
Stationary	75	596
Uniforms	465	465
Family kit (kitchen utensils)	15	47
Clothes coupons of 75,000 LBP	802	988
Fuel coupons of 20	2960	5769

Education

The Minister of Education is facilitating the enrolment of displaced children in public schools. UNHCR is covering the cost of school fees, books, uniforms, notebooks, and stationary. UNHCR and partners also have started remedial classes for Syrian displaced children given the differences between the Lebanese and Syrian school curricula.

UNICEF has committed to providing training and guidance to those who will be facilitating extracurricular activities.

Health

UNHCR, HRC and World Health Organization (WHO) have established a referral system so that registered displaced Syrians have access to health care services through the most specialized partner. Public Health Centres, Social Development Centres of the MoSA, and a few NGO-run health care centres in the region are providing primary health care and medication to the displaced. UNHCR covers up to 85% of diagnostic tests. The HRC covers the cost of secondary and tertiary health care through local hospitals in the north. UNHCR provides additional support where needed. The HRC and UNHCR's implementing partner, the International Medical Corp (IMC), reached

agreements with five hospitals for discounted rates in the provision of necessary health care. IMC is also providing continuous training for health staff at local dispensaries on how best to deal with persons in need.

**Capacity
Building**

UNCHR has invested in strengthening the capacities of government's and local partners through:

- Regular coordination meetings and joint plans of action;
- Technical and material support to the HRC in regard to registration, data collection and verification;
- Training and guidance to outreach teams composed of staff from MoSA and partners;
- Training provided to MoSA Social Development Centres on the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons in the event of an emergency;
- Establishment of medical referral mechanisms and training for the systematic entry of data in the health referral system; and,
- The establishment of referral mechanism to ensure timely attention to specific needs.