



## June UPDATE

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## FUNDING

Agencies and the Government of Lebanon have requested USD 2.48 billion in the 2016 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP). As of 31 May 2016, agencies reported having received USD 726 million.

## REGISTERED SYRIAN REFUGEES

A total of 31 March, 1,048,275 individuals are currently registered with UNHCR in Lebanon.

## LEBANON

### INTER-AGENCY UPDATE

## JUNE DEVELOPMENTS

### WFP's ShareTheMeal Feeds Syrian Refugee Children in Lebanon

The World Food Programme (WFP) shifted the goal for its innovative ShareTheMeal campaign from Syria to Lebanon. The aim is to raise USD 500,000 to feed some 1,400 Syrian children between the ages of three and four in Beirut for one year. The award-winning ShareTheMeal concept is WFP's first fundraising and awareness-building smartphone app. Through the app, users can donate 50 cents (LBP 750), which WFP can use to feed one child for one day, all with a couple of taps on a smartphone. Free to download in any country where Apple and Google are active, ShareTheMeal is a pioneering way for people to join WFP's global mission to create a world with zero hunger – the ambition of the second of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Users are in charge of their giving experience and can help feed a child whenever they want. They can then follow the campaign's progress through the app and see where their donations have gone.

After just a few weeks, the global community was so generous that WFP met the original USD 500,000 goal ahead of expectations. Subsequently, a second campaign was launched in June: for another USD 500,000 to cover another 1,500 Syrian children in Lebanon's Bekaa. That campaign continued through Ramadan. ShareTheMeal is available in eight languages including Arabic and English and accepts payment in 17 currencies including the Lebanese pound. More information is available at [sharethemeal.org](http://sharethemeal.org).

### "Innovating Response" at the Beirut Humanitarian Hackathon

A hackathon is an event in which computer programmers and others involved in software development, including graphic designers, interface designers and project managers, collaborate intensively to devise new software and technology applications. Past hackathons have focused on developing apps for mobile phones and the music industry.

'Innovating Response' was the first Beirut humanitarian hackathon and was held in early June. It focused on designing solutions for those affected by crises, presenting a unique innovation opportunity and a private-public partnership to benefit refugees and affected host communities in Lebanon. The event, hosted by Open Source Action Network at the Beirut Digital District, challenged local tech enthusiasts, students and innovators to devise unique, technology-based solutions to help meet a range of challenges. The aim was to develop workable prototypes that could be seamlessly incorporated into humanitarian programmes.

The Hackathon was won by Kwik Response, a young team that devised a sensor for shelters to warn about fires, floods, leaks, structural stability and changes in temperature. The team won USD 3,000 as well as a promise of free office space at the Beirut Digital District to develop their project. Second place, and USD 1,000, went to 'Sila', Arabic for 'Connection', an app to allow vulnerable communities to

trade and connect with each other. Other teams devised prototypes for vaccination calendars, an app for donations, a babysitting matching service, an ATM information tool for refugees, an education app and a system for tracking changes in refugees' phone numbers. All 12 will receive incubator assistance from Alt City, a Beirut venture supporting innovative, socially-relevant entrepreneurial initiatives. Presenting the prizes, Philippe Lazzarini, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Lebanon, said innovation was becoming increasingly important in the humanitarian field.

The event took place between 3 and 5 June. Sponsors included UNHCR, UNICEF and OCHA. The judging panel included representatives from governments, the private sector and international humanitarian agencies.

### **UNRWA Extends Cash Assistance for Basic Needs to Palestine Refugees from Syria in Lebanon and Strengthens Hospitalization Support**

Thanks to recent contributions, UNRWA Lebanon was able to extend the provision of monthly cash assistance (USD 100 per family) to Palestine Refugees from Syria to help cover their basic needs - including housing - until the end of October 2016. In addition, monthly cash assistance for food (USD 27 per person) will continue until the end of the year.

As of 1 June 2016, UNRWA started implementing a new hospitalization policy: the percentage of secondary healthcare coverage was increased from 95 per cent to 100 per cent in Palestine Red Crescent hospitals; from 85 per cent to 90 per cent in government hospitals; and from 80 per cent to 90 per cent in private hospitals. The Agency will maintain its increased 60 per cent coverage for tertiary care with an increased ceiling of USD 5,000 to help Palestine refugees cope with the trend of growing catastrophic health expenditures.

### **World Refugee Day and the 2015 Global Trends Report**

World Refugee Day is held on 20 June every year to highlight the resilience of refugees and the generosity of the communities hosting them.

This year, World Refugee Day events in Lebanon included activities for both Lebanese and Syrian children, women, artists and musicians, among others. Coinciding with Ramadan, activities also included Iftar meals that brought together Lebanese and refugee families across the country. Agencies who organized activities include Amel Association, Bassma, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre, the Danish refugee Council (DRC), Intersos, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Makhzoumi Foundation, SHEILD and YMCA.

UNHCR Lebanon hosted a musical event with the Atman Institute at l'Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth (USJ). The event brought together children and youths from various Lebanese and refugee communities, including street children, for a day of yoga practice culminating in a collaborative musical performance. The event coincided with the week-long series of festivities to celebrate International Yoga Day on June 19.

UNHCR's annual Global Trends Report, which tracks forced displacement worldwide, was released on World Refugee Day. The report said 65.3 million people were displaced as of the end of 2015, compared to 59.5 million just twelve months earlier, marking the first time that the threshold of 60 million has been crossed.

Measured against the global 7.349 billion population, these numbers mean that 1 in every 113 people globally is now either an asylum-seeker, internally displaced or a refugee. Among countries covered by the Global Trends Report several stand out: Syria at 4.9 million, Afghanistan at 2.7 million and Somalia at 1.1 million together accounted for more than half the refugees under UNHCR’s mandate worldwide.

### **Panel Discussion with Media on Reporting on SGBV in Lebanon**

Media outlets dedicate column inches and considerable airtime to highlighting the predicament of women in the Syria crisis. These are often provided in the form of individual stories of Syrian women and girls, sometimes with their images shared around the world. Some of these stories put gender-based violence on international and national agendas; however, the stories often fail to focus on the core, delicate issues that underpin gender-based violence. Unethical reporting on gender-based violence has at times put the survivors at further risk.

The National Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Task Force in Lebanon organised a panel discussion on 3 June, the first event of its kind aimed at enhancing coordination with journalists and raising awareness on ethical principles and risks associated with the coverage of SGBV issues in Lebanon.

### **Breaking the Legacy and Cycle of Violence and Torture in the MENA Region**

On the occasion of the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June and Restart Centre’s 20th anniversary, the centre organized a regional conference under the title of “Breaking the Legacy and Cycle of Violence and Torture in the MENA Region: Protection, Prevention and Rehabilitation”. Restart Centre is active in the field of rehabilitation for victims of torture and violence. During the conference, sessions tackled the legacy of violence and torture in the MENA region, violent extremism, state obligations, preventing torture, accountability and rehabilitation for survivors.

### **Back to School Outreach Planning Workshops**

The first outreach planning workshops with education partners in preparation for the Back to School (BTS) initiative took place all over the country during the last two weeks of June. Starting early is important to ensure as many partners and community members as possible are actively participating in the initiative. The exercises included outreach planning based on maps that show areas with high concentrations of refugees, locations of collective shelters and informal settlements, as well as estimated numbers of out-of-school children in each area, and locations of second shifts, public schools and schools running the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP).

The workshops helped to gain a proper understanding of where there is sufficient outreach capacity and where more resources are needed. Partners’ community networks will be mobilized in this year’s Back to School initiative and training on interpersonal communication and social mobilization of those partners is planned for the near future, to ensure all front liner staff speak the same language in the field and can overcome and respond to challenges.

# SUPPORTING LEBANESE HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS IN 2016

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## Support to the National Tuberculosis Programme

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) provides support to the National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP) under the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to reduce avoidable tuberculosis-related mortality and illnesses through enhanced prevention, diagnosis and treatment services for all the communities that are affected by the Syrian crisis in Lebanon.

IOM has provided support to the National Tuberculosis Programme in the following areas:

- Material support in the form of medical equipment and medication;
- Coverage of hospitalization fees for suspected and confirmed tuberculosis cases at a number of hospitals across Lebanon;
- Coverage of the costs of diagnostic tests for those affected by tuberculosis cases;
- Rehabilitation and renovation of a number of tuberculosis treatment centers;
- The opening of a new tuberculosis center in Halba-Akkar;
- The procurement of X-ray machines for three tuberculosis centres;
- The recruitment and training of 29 technical staff including physicians, nurses and laboratory technicians; and
- The identification of volunteers and related training to improve community-based tuberculosis awareness and symptom screening in different regions.

## Support to the National Mental Health Programme

Mental Health is a priority in the support provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) to MoPH. Efforts and interventions are in line with the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) strategy and action plan.

In terms of capacity-building and strengthening of the system, and in line with previous efforts to integrate mental health into primary healthcare, WHO provides support to MoPH in building the capacities of primary healthcare staff in assessing, managing and referring mental health cases through the mental health Gap Action Programme – a tool developed by WHO for non-specialized mental health intervention.

Psychological First Aid (PFA) training is considered a priority in the 2015-2020 National Mental Health Strategy for Lebanon. PFA involves humane, supportive and practical assistance for individuals suffering from stress, in ways that respect their dignity, culture and abilities. For this, PFA training of trainers was conducted to enhance the capacities of specialized staff in delivering PFA training to non-mental health front-line staff. PFA training targeting non-mental health staff is planned for all MoPH primary healthcare centres and Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) Social Development Centres (SDC) staff.

WHO also supports MoPH in training emergency room staff in all public and private hospitals on the management of emergency psychiatric cases including around attempted suicide and psychotic episodes.

In line with the 2015-2020 National Mental Health Strategy for Lebanon, WHO is supporting MoPH in developing a strategic framework for Lebanese prisons.

### Support to MoPH and Primary Healthcare Centres

#### 1- Support for Immunization and Nutrition

UNICEF aims to ensure that the most vulnerable girls, boys and women, including Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese returnees from Syria in Lebanon benefit from essential health and nutrition support to reduce mortality and morbidity through high impact and equitable health and nutrition interventions.

To reach its aim, UNICEF is focusing on the following key areas:

- Ensuring access to all childhood vaccines is included in MoPH's routine immunization schedule as well as through immunization campaigns including measles, mumps, rubella and polio vaccinations for children under 5, and tetanus toxoid vaccinations for Syrian women of child-bearing age;
- Ensuring quality primary healthcare services through support and supplies for centres and mobile medical units, healthcare provider training and antenatal care support at primary healthcare level as well as health, hygiene and nutrition education provision at the community level;
- Ensuring access to nutrition services through nutrition screening and treatment, micronutrient supplementation for pregnant/lactating women and children as well as health and nutrition messaging to protect, promote and support appropriate infant child feeding and care; and
- Working with MoPH to ensure an expanded immunization programme for all children. BEYOND NGO also contributes directly to the provision of primary healthcare services through mobile medical units.

At the local level, UNICEF supports MoPH's primary healthcare centres through the provision of medical supplies, equipment, cold chain systems and human resource assistance. In 2016, UNICEF will focus on supporting healthcare centres in the most vulnerable localities across the country.

#### 2- Support for Maternal and Reproductive Health

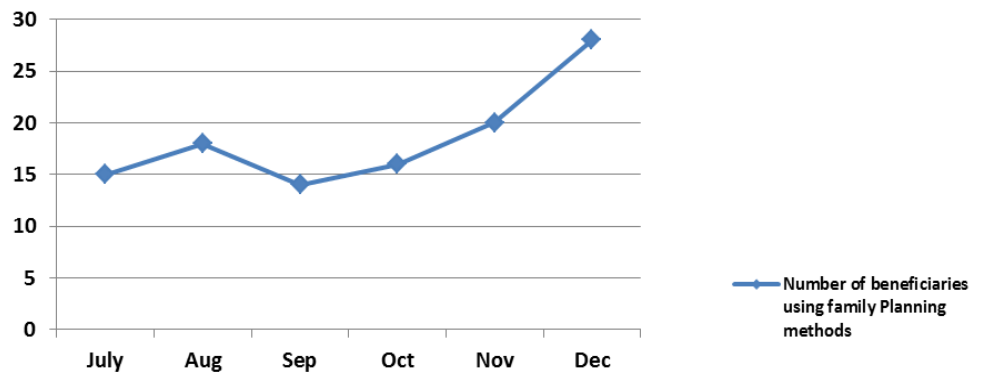
One of United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) priorities in 2016 is to support MoPH in developing reproductive health management tools and in providing related drugs and family planning support. These are made available to MoPH and healthcare centres in Lebanon.

Strengthening maternal healthcare service outlets at the primary and secondary level is also a priority, through covering the cost of procuring and distributing medical equipment to 214 primary healthcare centres as well as maternity hospitals in the country.

The profession of midwifery in Lebanon is regulated through the Order of Midwives, which was recognized by the Government of Lebanon in 2015. Midwives are present in local clinics across the country serving Lebanese host communities and refugees. They provide many of the services that are offered by a gynecologist, and also play a crucial role in health education and in answering patients'

questions on obstetrics and gynecology health requirements. Midwives play a critical role in family planning by raising awareness and encouraging women to use contraception. Such progress was captured at the Kargheuzian primary healthcare centre in Borj Hammoud.

**Graph 1: Number of beneficiaries using family Planning methods (Kargheuzian July-Dec 2015)**



Midwives encourage patients to adhere to the MoPH pregnancy protocols and they follow the progression of pregnancy, help detect abnormalities and ensure adequate referral to these cases. Midwives handle medical records and pregnancy cards are filled and recorded promptly in the MoPH health information system.

Hiring midwives at healthcare centres has substantially decreased the workload on other medical staff, namely nurses and gynecologists, who are able to focus on other issues.

Through the European Neighborhood Instrument Project (ENI), UNHCR has been able to support salaries for 55 staff for MoPH, including 11 midwives working in primary healthcare centres supported by AMEL Association, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre, IOM, IMC, Medecins du Monde, and MoPH.

At the community level, midwives have helped improve the overall health of women and children. They also encourage breastfeeding and improved newborn care. Through the support of MEDAIR, two midwives visit informal settlements and collective shelters in the Bekaa in their mobile medical units. Services provided by midwives from the units include:

- Postnatal care follow-up for mothers and newborns;
- Antenatal care for women in the last trimester in preparation for the upcoming birth;
- Family planning advice;
- Referral for vaccinations; and
- Breastfeeding awareness.

#### **Agencies that contributed to this thematic update**

IOM, HUMEDICA, MEDAIR, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO.

## SANDY'S STORY



Working as a midwife, I have witnessed many changes since I started meeting women during their pregnancies and following up with them after delivery.

Many do not take multivitamins regularly, not knowing that they need to, and sadly this can result in unnecessary health issues among children, including anemia.

I noticed that after regular counseling, more and more women were interested in visiting the Mobile Medical Unit every month to check themselves, take vitamins and medication and to ask questions.

More started going to primary healthcare centres to get check-ups during their pregnancies; more started getting an echography every trimester; and more were having the necessary blood tests.

Next up, fewer women have been choosing to deliver their babies at home, better understanding the risks for themselves and their babies and learning more about complications that can arise.

Another awareness-raising area that I focus on is family planning and particularly discussing the best contraceptive methods.

Sandy Charabati, Midwife, HUMEDICA



## DONORS

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Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Contributions have also been received from the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) as well as from private donors.