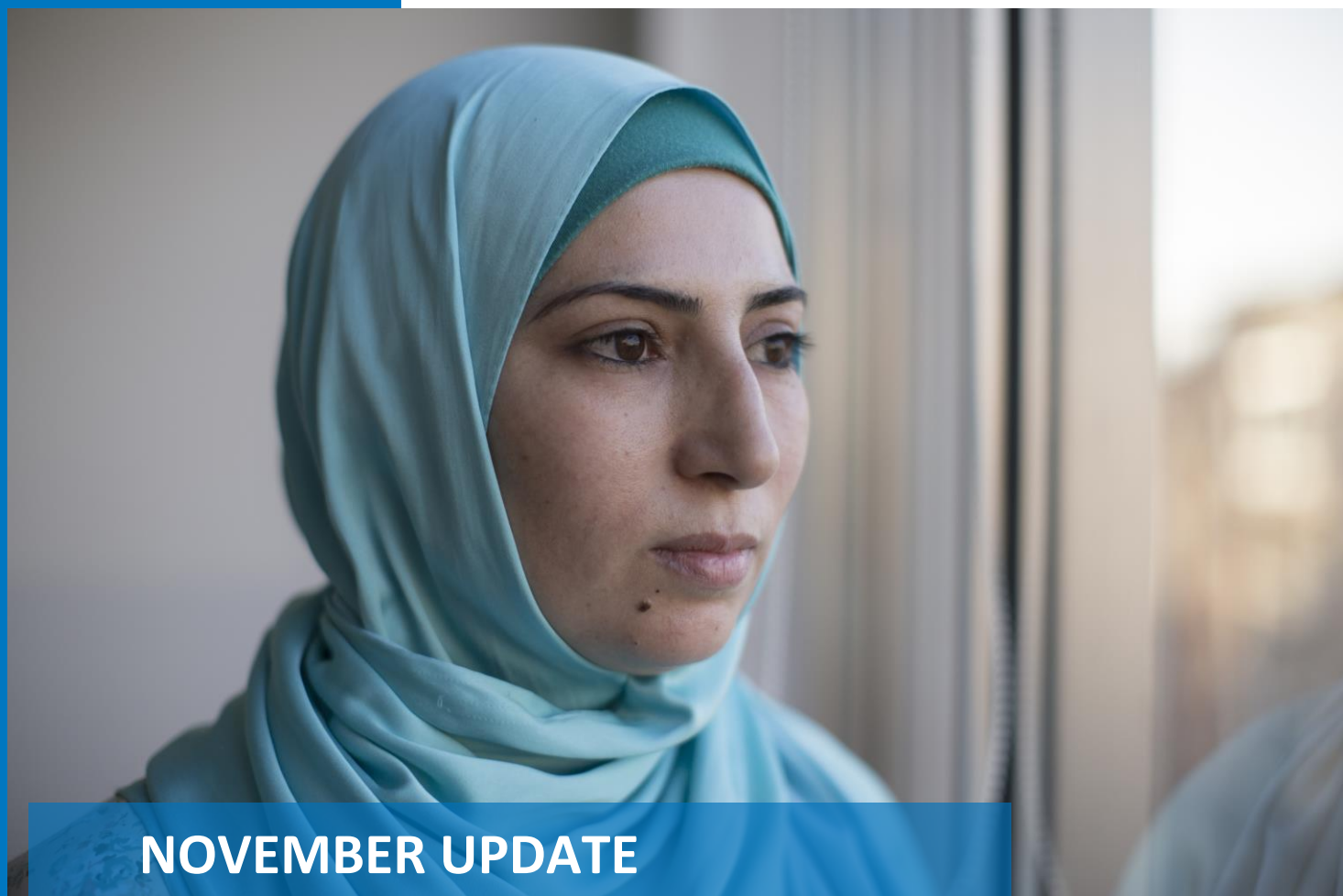




**Inter-Agency  
Coordination**  
Lebanon



## NOVEMBER UPDATE

- **News from November**
- **16 Days of Activism: “Protection and Empowerment of Women and Girls - a Collective Accountability”**
- **Samira’s story: Surviving sexual violence**

## FUNDING

Agencies and the Government of Lebanon have requested USD 2.48 billion in the 2016 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP). As of November 2016, over USD 1 billion has been allocated in support of the LCRP, almost 50 per cent of the plan's requirements.

## REGISTERED SYRIAN REFUGEES

A total of 1,017,433 individuals are currently registered with UNHCR in Lebanon.

### WFP's new two-year relief and recovery operation in Lebanon

The World Food Programme (WFP) embarked this month on a new two-year relief and recovery operation to continue its emergency operation across the region. The operation, set to begin on 1 January 2017, will intensify efforts throughout the region, including in Lebanon, to achieve sustainable solutions through supporting the self-reliance of vulnerable Syrian refugees and poor Lebanese, whilst continuing to provide life-saving food assistance when needed. WFP aims to address the underlying causes of vulnerability while reducing the need for international assistance in the future.

Activities will focus on e-card food assistance for both Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria; e-card top ups and school snacks for Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese pupils and their families; and both food-for-training and food-for-assets activities for Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities. Such food-for-assets and food-for-training programmes are conditional activities, whereby beneficiaries receive cash for food after completing a training or after producing an asset, such as a communal well, or an irrigation channel. These programmes help meet the immediate food needs of vulnerable people by having them build or boost assets that will benefit the whole community. This helps to make individuals and communities more resilient.

WFP intends to reach some 950,000 individuals over the next two years through these programmes. Further updates are available on:

<http://wfp.org/countries/Lebanon>.

### WHO implements a Global School Health Survey in Lebanon

In November, the World Health Organization (WHO) developed data collection tools for a global school-based student health survey with the purpose of getting a better sense of health behaviour risks among Syrian and Lebanese students as a result of the Syria crisis. These include dietary behaviour, hygiene, mental health, protective factors, violence and unintentional injury, sexual and reproductive health attitudes, physical activity and tobacco use, alcohol use, and drug use. The results of the survey will help in prioritizing and adapting health-related interventions targeting youth in Lebanon.

Data collection is expected to start in 32 public and 32 private schools in December 2016. Syrian refugee children enrolled in public schools - notably the second shift - will be included in the survey.

*An ophthalmologic campaign provided diagnostic tests and eyeglasses to 120 Syrian refugees in Kamed Al-Loz.*

### **WHO conducts Mental Health Training for Medical Staff**

WHO conducted an advanced Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) workshop this month for primary healthcare centre (PHC) staff.

The programme aims at scaling up services for mental, neurological and substance use disorders within low- and middle-income countries. It asserts that with proper care, psychosocial assistance and medication, tens of millions around the world could be treated for depression, schizophrenia, and epilepsy.

A psychological first-aid training was also conducted for staff at PHCs and Social Development Centres (SDCs) to help them provide adequate assistance to their patients. The trainings are in line with the National Mental Health Strategy (2015-2020) of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

### **A joint ophthalmology campaign in the Bekaa**

A three-month-long ophthalmology campaign at Amel Association's primary healthcare centre in Kamed Al-Loz, Bekaa, was completed this month, providing diagnostic tests and eyeglasses to some 120 Syrian refugees in the area. In coordination with UNHCR, resident ophthalmologists from Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth (USJ) screened patients at the Amel healthcare centre, while the World Rehabilitation Fund (WRF) provided eyeglasses for patients deemed in need.

Out of the 120 Syrian refugees who were screened, 52 were diagnosed to be in need of corrective eyeglasses and 22 in need of surgery. The campaign was a joint initiative between Amel Association, UNHCR, WRF and USJ.

## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

*The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is an opportunity to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world.*

*Some 44 per cent of the surveyed population knew a survivor of family violence, and 32 per cent stated that they would not interfere in the violence because they considered it to be a private matter.*

Agencies in Lebanon are stepping up efforts to protect refugee women and girls against violence, marking the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign which stretches from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

Violence against women and girls is a grave human rights violation. It devastates lives and causes untold pain, suffering, and illness to women around the world. For refugee women and girls, the risk of violence is heightened in flight as well as in displacement.

### **16 Days of Activism in Lebanon: “Protection and Empowerment of Women and Girls - a Collective Accountability”**

Gender-based violence, in Lebanon and everywhere in the world, affects everyone: women and girls, men and boys. It occurs regardless of age, ethnicity, religious background and nationality. According to a 2016 survey conducted in Lebanon by KAFA and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 44 per cent of those interviewed knew a survivor of family violence, and 32 per cent stated that they would not interfere in the violence because they considered it to be a private matter.

The theme adopted by the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) taskforce in Lebanon for 2016 is “Protection and Empowerment of Women and Girls – a Collective Accountability”. The theme emphasizes three strategic priorities:

1. Strengthening the national capacities to prevent and respond to SGBV, including through the provision of services, access to justice, advocacy and legislation.
2. Addressing protection needs of adolescent girls: prevention and response to early marriage, including through access to educational opportunities.
3. Engaging the community, including men and male youth, in actively promoting a protective environment and mitigating SGBV risks.

Several events and activities, organized by UN agencies and NGOs, are taking place in Lebanon to mark the 16 Days of Activism and to increase advocacy against gender-based violence. These include photo exhibitions, awareness sessions, sports activities, participation in the Beirut marathon, panel discussions, video competitions and press conferences. Activities are ongoing until 10 December 2016.

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Ms. Sigrid Kaag, together with the Norwegian Ambassador, H.E. Lene Natasha Lind, visited “Al Dar”, one of ABAAD’s safe houses for women and girls who are survivors of violence or at high risk of violence. Al Dar provides shelter to Lebanese and Syrian women and women from

other origins, in addition to a wide range of medical, legal and psycho-social services to facilitate healing and recovery.

During the visit, the Special Coordinator stressed the importance of protection programmes, stating that the safe houses have saved the lives of many women and girls facing violence. She underscored the urgency to stop all violence against women and girls, and to also put in place the necessary institutional and legal mechanisms to provide protection and ensure legal recourse.

Philippe Lazzarini, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Lebanon, published an op-ed titled “Addressing silent violence” on 25 November, where he highlighted the significant steps that Lebanon has taken to address gender-based violence, while also highlighting the need to continue such efforts. Mr. Lazzarini conveyed that the UN and its partners stand ready to support the survivors of gender-based violence, as well as the Government of Lebanon to do more to protect survivors.

### **2016 Global Theme**

In 2016, the UN campaign strongly emphasizes the need for sustainable financing for efforts to end violence against women and girls, towards the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One of the major challenges to efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls worldwide is the substantial funding shortfall. As a result, resources for initiatives to prevent and end violence against women and girls are severely lacking. Frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals – which include a specific target on ending violence against women and girls – offer promise, but must be adequately funded in order to bring real and significant changes in the lives of women and girls.

To bring this issue to the fore, the UN Secretary-General’s campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women’s call for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in 2016 is “Orange the World: Raise Money to End Violence against Women and Girls”. The initiative provides an opportunity to bring the issue of sustainable financing for initiatives to prevent and end violence against women to global prominence, and mobilize resources for the issue. For more information:

<http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/orangedayapril2016.shtml>

*One of the major challenges to ending violence against women and girls worldwide is the substantial funding shortfall.*

## SAMIRA'S STORY



*Syrian refugee women participate in an outreach session on education in the Bekaa.  
UNHCR@/Matthew Saltmarsh*

Samira\*, a Syrian refugee from Aleppo, is an SGBV survivor in Lebanon.

Back in Syria, Samira used to work as a nurse before the war drove her to leave her country. Before fleeing Syria, Samira was subjected to severe torture and sexual harassment. She also witnessed the harrowing death of her colleague who was tortured to death before her eyes.

To add to her agony, Samira's children were taken away from her following her divorce. In Lebanon, she found herself alone, struggling to make ends meet while trying to maintain her sanity.

As soon as aid agencies learned about Samira, they provided her with accommodation, psychosocial support, and monthly assistance to ensure she can live in dignity. Despite the daily hurdles that she has to overcome, Samira volunteers as a health outreach worker at the collective shelter where she currently resides.

Watch the following video for more on Samira: <http://bit.ly/2g5F9Y5>

*\*Names were changed for protection reasons.*

This report is compiled by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on behalf of humanitarian agencies working on the Syrian refugee response in Lebanon based on information provided by agencies. For more information, please contact Dana Sleiman at [sleiman@unhcr.org](mailto:sleiman@unhcr.org) or Lisa Abou Khaled at [aboukhal@unhcr.org](mailto:aboukhal@unhcr.org).

## **AGENCIES THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS UPDATE**

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ABDAAD, Amel Association, KAFA, OCHA, UNFPA, UNHCR, WHO, WFP, and WRF.

## **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.

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