



**Inter-Agency  
Coordination**  
Lebanon



## APRIL UPDATE

- News from April
- Outcomes of the Brussels conference
- Amina's story

Photo: © UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

Amina, a 56-year old Syrian refugee, pictured with the dolls she makes in Shatila camp, Lebanon.

## FUNDING

Agencies and the Government of Lebanon have requested USD 2.75 billion in the 2017 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP). As of April 2017, USD 236.3 million has been allocated in support of the LCRP.

## REGISTERED SYRIAN REFUGEES

A total of 1,011,366 individuals are currently registered with UNHCR in Lebanon.

## APRIL DEVELOPMENTS

### Cash transfers transform lives of Syrian refugees in Lebanon

In past years, cash transfers have transformed humanitarian aid across the globe. That is also the case in countries neighboring Syria where the magnitude of the protracted emergency and the needs are unprecedented. But so is the response. Syrian refugees in Lebanon can access services by swiping a card. Thanks to a single card and complementary programmes, they have a greater safety net that otherwise wouldn't be there.

Last year, the Lebanon Cash Consortium (LCC), UNHCR, UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP), introduced a revolutionary way for refugees to access cash and services. One targeting, one database, one distribution system, one E-card, one appeal mechanism, one call center and links to existing services. The individual follow-up and services provided through the card, catch those that otherwise would fall through the cracks. The system is financially transparent, minimizes duplication, maximizes accountability and addresses needs beyond those caused by income poverty.

This is a first, and none of this would be achievable by a single agency. The result is a humanitarian safety net, a multi-functional platform that strengthens social protection for the Lebanese and allows Syrian refugees to pay back to the hosting community. This is a package built around the needs of refugees themselves.

It's not mere financial support that can send Jamal to school and make his sister get better. It's meeting with their family, working with their community, and ensuring that they benefit from the programmatic skills provided by local NGOs and international humanitarian agencies, based on more than seven decades of working in Lebanon. Only by doing so and applying all the tools in the box, some new, some old, will we succeed in removing the obstacles.

Read the full Op-ed by Tanya Chapuisat, UNICEF Lebanon [here](#).

### Mass evictions in North and Central Bekaa

The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) issued a decision late March to clear refugee settlements in the vicinity of its Riyak military base for security reasons.

UNHCR and partners immediately liaised, and continue to do so, with local authorities including the Bekaa Governor, LAF and concerned municipalities to discuss the modalities of the eviction to take into account the time it takes for people to identify alternative places and the particular constraints of persons with disabilities, older persons, and school-going children.

UNHCR and partner agencies in the area, also visited and contacted all informal settlements in the affected area to ensure the refugees had full information and to

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assess their circumstances. This helped identify those who needed emergency assistance. UNHCR’s evictions hotline has also been active to receive urgent calls for help by vulnerable families in need of care.

Since the decision has been announced, some 4,400 individuals out of the 12,600 individuals affected by the eviction have relocated to different areas across the Bekaa. The Riyak eviction is the biggest seen so far in the Bekaa.

## **BRUSSELS CONFERENCE : INFORMATION AND OUTCOMES**

### **Background**

The European Union hosted on 4-5 April 2017 in Brussels the “Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region”. The conference was co-chaired with the United Nations and with the governments of Germany, Kuwait, Norway, Qatar and the United Kingdom.

This conference brought together representatives of over 70 countries and international organizations, international and Syrian civil society. It built on the London Conference on Supporting Syria and the region of 4 February 2016, during which the donor community pledged significant financial support for humanitarian assistance and protection in Syria, as well as civilian stabilization measures to strengthen resilience in host communities. The Brussels conference also built on the commitments made at the three previous pledging conferences in Kuwait from 2013-15.

### **Lebanon: Background and Demands**

For the past six years, Lebanon has been host to the largest per capita number of refugees worldwide. According to the government of Lebanon, there are now some 1.5 million in Lebanon, of which just over 1 million registered with UNHCR.

Lebanon offered its “approach to mitigate the impact of the Syrian crisis with the support from the international community.

In the vision presented, Lebanon stated its commitment to hosting Syrian refugees but noted the need to reverse the trends of unemployment, poverty and increasing social tensions between Syrians and Lebanese. The vision presented three main goals: increase the level of public investment in the short term, expand educational and vocational training opportunities, and embark on a major programme of new projects for infrastructure investment which will generate employment opportunities.

### **Outcomes**

#### *Pledges*

Over 40 donors at the conference pledged a combined USD 6 billion for the region of 2017 in immediate and longer term support, and USD 3.7 billion for 2018 and beyond. It is to help 13.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance inside

Syria, and over five million refugees and 4.4 million people hosting them across the region.

It was agreed that there is a need to achieve continued and increased flow of humanitarian support for Lebanon and to make grants and concessional loans available on a multi-year basis to help Lebanon realize its vision for development, stabilization, and significant growth in employment.

#### *Lebanon commitments*

Lebanon also made commitments, including implementing structural reforms to instigate growth, implementing its priority capital investment programme and implementing the regulatory framework pertaining to refugees.

### AMINA'S STORY



*A newborn baby sleeps next to Amina's embroidered dolls. ©UNHCR/Houssam Hariri*

Inside one of the countless low-rise buildings in the Shatila refugee camp, Amina, a 56-year old Syrian refugee, meticulously embroiders fish scales onto cotton fabric.

"I am embroidering a fish. It captures the story of a family's dream to travel," said Amina. "They have a little girl who is afraid of travelling. Why? Because she is scared she would drown in the sea and be eaten by the fish."

In April last year, the Mousalli family – a Lebanese father, Syrian mother, and their daughters Marianne and Melina – decided to bring the stories and dreams of Syrian mothers in war-torn Aleppo closer to the world.

Through a relative who remains in Syria, they collect the stories of ordinary Syrians, then turn them into sketches and have them embroidered onto cotton dolls by Syrian refugee women.

"People know that if they buy the doll Salma, they would be helping the real Salma back in Syria, and that the money they are paying is actually going to her. This touches them."

Since the project's inception, over 1,500 dolls with 48 stories have been sold in countries including Lebanon, Kuwait, France and Australia. The tag on each doll carries a message that Marianne says they work towards every day, in the name of all Syrian mothers: "I protect the dreams of my children."

Read the full story [here](#).

## **DONORS**

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This report is compiled by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) based on information provided by agencies working on the Syrian refugee response in Lebanon.

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

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