

Lebanon

January - March 2019

POPULATION OF CONCERN

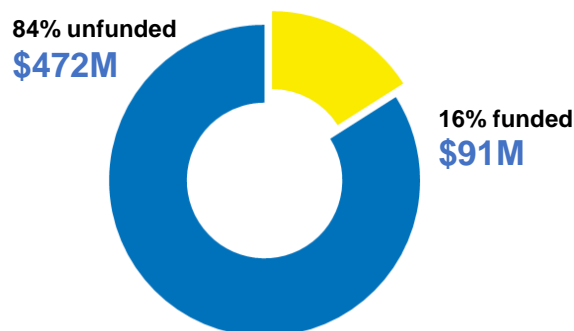
Country of origin



Registration figures as of 31 March 2019. UNHCR registration of Syrian refugees in Lebanon has been suspended since 2015 through a decision by the Government of Lebanon.

FUNDING

USD 562.8 million needed for the Lebanon operation



This report provides a summary of key developments and results in the first quarter of 2019 in narrative and numbers (please see also an indicator report at the end of the document).

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Severe weather conditions including heavy rain and snow, freezing temperatures, and gusting winds in early 2019 affected refugees living in informal settlements particularly in the Bekaa and North regions. The storms badly flooded refugee sites and damaged shelters. UNHCR led the coordination of the emergency response to assist the most vulnerable, both during and following the storms, and provided emergency and weatherproofing kits and core relief items such as mattresses



Amira, a Syrian refugee from Raqqa, removes snow from outside her home in the informal settlement camp of Doures. © UNHCR/Diego Ibarra Sánchez

and blankets. In total, more than 60 actors assisted 43,600 individuals and 357 sites through water trucking (200 sites), desludging (71 sites) and water pumping (21 sites), among others.

Partners worked to identify priority areas where site improvement activities will be required and advocated with the relevant local authorities, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM) to allow for the relocation of refugees living in flood-prone sites where site improvements could not mitigate the effects of the severe weather.

UNHCR's association with the protracted presence of the Syrian refugees continued to make the Office a target for criticism, notably over the perceived slow pace of returns and environmental problems exacerbated by pollution from some informal settlements, particularly along the Litani River. UNHCR engaged with the relevant central and local authorities and stakeholders, including the Litani River Authority, to identify the real problems and find corresponding solutions. The central and local MOIM and MOSA coordinators showed a strong engagement in preventing and responding to various measures and incidents facing the refugees, and collaborated closely with UNHCR and other partners in the response. For example, MOIM and MOSA coordinators played a key role in engaging with local authorities to prevent evictions of refugees, e.g. in the Bekaa and North Lebanon, and in assessing the environmental impact of informal settlements. The assessments are conducted together with the Inter-agency Environmental Task Force, on the basis of which mitigation and response plans are being developed. At the same time, the Tensions Task Force identified and analysed causes of, and possible mitigating responses to intercommunal tensions to prevent an escalation of conflict.

The 2019 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR), led by UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF, was initiated during the first quarter. A representative sample (4,950 families) of Syrian refugees are being targeted through household visits to participate in the survey. The VASyR informs the situation analysis programming and targeting of the inter-agency response, including multi-purpose cash and food assistance.

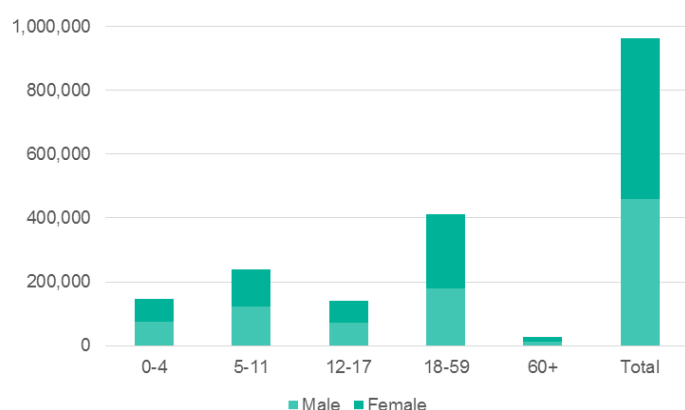
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS

ACCESSING PROTECTION

Registration and data management

At the end of March 2019, 944,613 Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as 18,200 refugees and asylum-seekers from countries other than Syria (of which 78% from Iraq, 11% from Sudan and 3.5% from Ethiopia) were registered with UNHCR in Lebanon. The Government estimated that it hosts 1.5 million Syrian refugees, a figure also reflected in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan as a basis for planning for protection and assistance programmes run by UNHCR and partners.

DEMOGRAPHY OF REGISTERED REFUGEES



- UNHCR continued to update the data of Syrians registered prior to 2015, and of their new-borns, as well as that of refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities. The number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon is gradually decreasing due to departures (resettlement, repatriation and onward movements) and natural deaths.

- In parallel, Syrians approaching UNHCR for the first time were counselled on the Government instruction to suspend UNHCR registration of Syrian refugees in 2015 and had their situation assessed to identify potential needs for protection and assistance interventions. Some Syrians who had previously repatriated approached UNHCR after having returned to Lebanon.
- UNHCR continued to sensitize Lebanese authorities on the importance of resuming registration of Syrians, to enable the Government and the international community to know the size and profile of the entire Syrian refugee population to appropriately plan for and respond to their needs and support refugees' attainment of durable solutions outside the country, as highlighted in the Partnership Paper from the Brussels II Conference.

Legal aid

Access to legal assistance and services continued to be a priority to protect refugees and asylum-seekers against refoulement, arbitrary arrest and detention, abuse, and exploitation.

- UNHCR and its partners provided more than 10,600 Syrians and 660 refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities with legal aid during the reporting period. This included individual legal counselling; awareness-raising and information-sharing sessions; and assistance and representation in front of a court or administrative body. The main issues addressed included legal residency status and renewal; labour law; issues related to exploitation; implications of early marriages; victims of crimes, physical violence or assault; housing, land and property issues; and navigating the juvenile justice system.

Civil documentation

- Following advocacy by UNHCR, the Personal Status Department (PSD) on 12 March 2019 issued a circular accepting a marriage certificate executed in Lebanon and registered with the Syrian Embassy as proof of marriage when seeking a birth certificate or divorce certificate in Lebanon. This will further facilitate the provision of documentation required for full birth registration of Syrian refugees.
- UNHCR continued to support the PSD through additional staffing and equipment to increase its capacity to register civil events. As a result of this support, most PSD centres were able to register a larger number of civil events for refugees, and the waiting time for issuing birth certificates was reduced. UNHCR also continued to inform refugees on birth registration procedures through mass communication tools such as leaflets, videos and posters; as well as through community-based activities and legal counselling. Information is provided at community centres and UNHCR reception centres, as well as through outreach volunteers (OVs), protection monitoring activities and partners.
- To complement this, UNHCR and partners provided individualised legal counselling to some 9,800 families on how to register the birth of their children and directly supported over 1,900 vulnerable families to register their child's birth in the 1st quarter of 2019.
- The legal framework governing civil registration continues to present additional challenges for non-Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers. As an example, the requirement of valid legal stay in Lebanon remains a major obstacle in the issuance of birth certificates at the Foreigner Registry level and in the completion of marriage procedures. Lack of proof of marriage also complicates the procedure of birth registration. In addition, refugee children who are not registered at the District level within one year from the child's birth, as required by the national birth registration legislation, risk to become stateless and may face challenges accessing services later in Lebanon and in obtaining identification documents from their country of origin.

SGBV, child protection and targeted responses for groups with specific protection needs

UNHCR continued prioritizing support to refugees who are particularly vulnerable to protection risks, such as children, survivors of SGBV, and persons with specific needs, including persons with disabilities and older persons.

- With regards to child protection, 39 Best Interest Determinations (BID) and 628 Best Interest Assessments (BIA) were conducted in the 1st quarter to help address the situation of children at risk. With the aim of strengthening Best Interest Procedures for refugee children, UNHCR conducted a BID assessment which among other things led to revising the number of cases managed per case worker to be more in line with minimum standards (25 cases/per case worker for 6-9 months). Capacity-building also continued to be a key priority. Training sessions on BID were conducted for more than 160 frontline workers, including from UNHCR partners as well as small national and local NGOs. The trainings were followed by on-the-job technical support and weekly coaching sessions. To strengthen case management, UNHCR continued supporting the joint Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS+) work plan with UNICEF and MOSA and a Data Protection Impact Assessment was finalized with key child protection partners to inform the development of an Information Sharing Protocol.

- With regards to SGBV, UNHCR continued its interventions on prevention, mitigation and response. As part of a holistic, context-specific response, UNHCR provided case management services to 721 SGBV survivors, helping them in the process of recovery, psychosocial support, legal, health and shelter support as well as complementary assistance such as protection and emergency cash. To ensure quality case management services, UNHCR is providing training to case workers country-wide, to local organizations on SGBV core principles, and training to the Internal Security Forces (ISF) and officers of the Directorate General of General Security (GSO) on how to deal with cases of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. UNHCR is



UNHCR and its partners give particular attention to refugees with specific needs, including women and children, persons with disabilities, older persons, LGBTI individuals and other vulnerable groups. © UNHCR

supporting three safe shelters; given the lack of available places for Syrian refugees in safe shelters, UNHCR is also supporting two other type of shelters in 2019 to function as a safe shelters. Prevention activities were conducted through outreach and awareness raising, which sensitized more than 1,900 community members (1,719 men and 189 women) on SGBV-related issues and close to 8,800 individuals (5,672 women and 3,072 men) participated in activities in mobile and static safe spaces country-wide.

- For persons with specific needs both cash assistance and other support were provided during the first quarter. In addition, 1,500 persons with specific needs participated in counselling activities or received case management and psychosocial or emotional support country-wide. UNHCR also supported several initiatives with local NGOs targeting refugee children with autism and learning difficulties, including initiating a new

partnership in 2019 with the local NGO Youth Association for the Blind (YAB) to support children with visual impairment. These interventions aim to increase the accessibility of children with specific needs to education facilities (e.g. through construction/rehabilitation of facilities), combined with the assessment, diagnosis, treatment and inclusion of children with specific needs in schools, and awareness-raising among parents.

Border monitoring

UNHCR maintains a regular presence at official land border crossing points with Syria (three in the North and two in the Bekaa) to gain a better understanding of the profiles of Syrians entering and exiting Lebanon, and of the reasons for these movements. Since 2015, persons seeking international protection may only be granted access to territory through official border points if the requirements for one of the visa entry categories are met.

- During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted 785 border monitoring interviews at the crossing points, reaching more than 1,700 individuals. Interviewers sought to identify individuals facing protection risks or with specific vulnerabilities, referrals to the Ministry of Social Affairs for consideration under the humanitarian admission criteria, and enabled counselling on border admission and exit regulations (for instance on regularization of stay or payment of fines to avoid a re-entry ban). No cases meeting the narrowly defined humanitarian admission criteria were identified during the 1st quarter.
- According to information received from the GSO, Lebanese authorities apprehended 525 Syrian nationals attempting to enter Lebanon irregularly during the 1st quarter. In some cases UNHCR was able to briefly access the individuals who had been apprehended and provide basic assistance, such as food and water. All the individuals concerned were deported through Lebanese official border points.

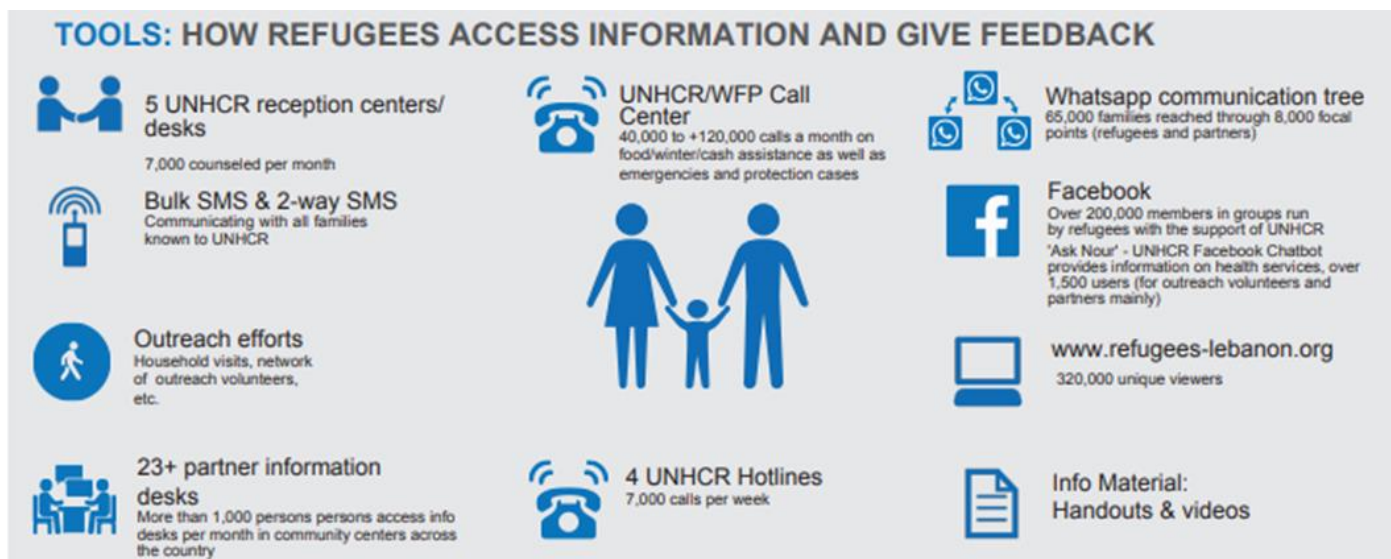
Detention monitoring

Detention of refugees and asylum-seekers on charges of immigration-related offences remained widespread throughout Lebanon. UNHCR and its partners conducted regular visits to places of detention, including ISF prisons and police stations, to identify persons of concern in need and provide legal aid and material assistance. UNHCR does not currently have access to military detention facilities or GSO retention centres, with the exception of the GSO retention centre for non-Syrian asylum-seekers and refugees in Beirut.

- During the reporting period UNHCR conducted 76 visits to detention facilities across the country and assisted 385 Syrians (81% males, 6% females and 13% children) with counselling, follow-up, and referrals to appropriate services. More than 1,400 Syrians were transferred to the national Retention Centre of the GSO, mostly for immigration-related offenses related to lack of legal residency; offenders are usually released after 48 hours. This is a decrease compared to the same period in 2018, largely due to a change in GSO procedures. In the past all detainees were transferred to the national GSO retention centre whereas currently detainees can be released after being transferred to governorate-level GSO centres. The GSO was not yet able to provide data on how many Syrians were transferred to governorate-level GSO centres at the time of reporting.
- 2,000 foreigners (excluding Syrian, Palestinian and stateless individuals) without valid residency were administratively detained, which can lead to their deportation or release. Consequently, UNHCR prioritized interventions in respect of non-Syrian refugees or asylum-seekers with the GSO to halt deportation. Through daily visits, 71 individuals registered with UNHCR were identified and assisted with expedited refugee status determination and resettlement assessment. UNHCR successfully prevented two instances of refoulement. However, despite UNHCR's interventions, one Iraqi refugee was deported by Lebanese authorities. Alternatives to immigration detention are limited, and resettlement remains the main solution to prevent refoulement in certain cases.

Community mobilization and outreach

- UNHCR continued its outreach efforts to identify persons at heightened risk, or in need of protection and assistance through 330 community groups, 27 community centres, mass information materials, its call centre and the phone hotline service, SMS, social media (189,000 members on Facebook), and WhatsApp (network reaching 65,000 persons). 2,040 Individuals participated in the 330 community groups which specifically target women, youth, older persons, and LGBTI persons.
- Volunteers, who are predominantly refugees themselves, also help by conveying the priorities and concerns of refugee communities to UNHCR, relaying information about services, policies and procedures affecting refugees' stay in Lebanon, as well as identifying and referring persons at heightened risk to relevant service providers. Volunteers help foster direct refugee involvement in the identification of needs and capacities, and in prevention and response activities. During the 1st quarter, volunteers reached more than 30,000 persons of concern to UNHCR during home visits, awareness and info sessions on various topics including available services, early marriage prevention, and marriage and birth registration. UNHCR also referred more than 1,700 people in need of assistance to service providers as appropriate.



DIGNITY AND RESILIENCE IN EXILE

UNHCR aims to preserve vital access to shelter, health care, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to help vulnerable refugees survive day to day and reduce their vulnerability to exploitation and other protection risks.

Basic needs

After many years of displacement in a situation where predictable livelihood opportunities are scarce, living costs are high, and competition over jobs are increasing, the reliance of refugees in Lebanon on assistance remains immense. UNHCR continued helping the most severely vulnerable refugee families meet their basic needs through cash-based interventions as an integral part of a comprehensive protection response.

- UNHCR provided multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to 32,000 vulnerable Syrian refugee families (218,400 individuals) on average each month during the 1st quarter. UNHCR's regular outcome monitoring activities showed that UNHCR's MPCA programme allow families to rely less on debt and other negative coping strategies.
- As only 19% of Syrian refugee families (37% of severely vulnerable Syrian families) received monthly multi-purpose cash assistance from UNHCR or WFP to help cover their basic survival needs, UNHCR also provided winter cash assistance to close to 170,000 families (908,900 individuals) over the 2018-19 winter season to mitigate economic shocks associated with harsh weather conditions and the reduction of income generating opportunities during this period. Monitoring findings from the 2018-2019 winter cash assistance programme highlighted the importance of the complementarity of the different types of cash assistance among the refugee population (e.g. MPCA, winter and food assistance).

This was evident in terms of wellbeing, where families that received more than one type of cash assistance had better overall perceptions of their wellbeing and outlook on the future, compared to those that only received one type of cash assistance.

- UNHCR supported more than 1,940 cases through the Protection Cash Assistance Programme (PCAP) in the first quarter. PCAP aims to mitigate protection risks or address protection incidents, including by helping refugees to transition into safety, as well as to assist those resorting to harmful coping mechanisms or experiencing abuse, exploitation or harm because they are unable to meet their basic needs as a result of their protection profile. Beneficiaries are supported with cash, case management and other assistance (such as shelter, medical care, psychological counselling, legal aid, livelihood activities and vocational training) in a complementary manner, as part of an individualized response plan. The amount and duration of PCAP is individually tailored based on the level of assistance required to address or resolve the specific protection risk or concern.
- Refugees can withdraw their PCA, MPCA or winter cash assistance through the common LOUISE card at any ATM in Lebanon.



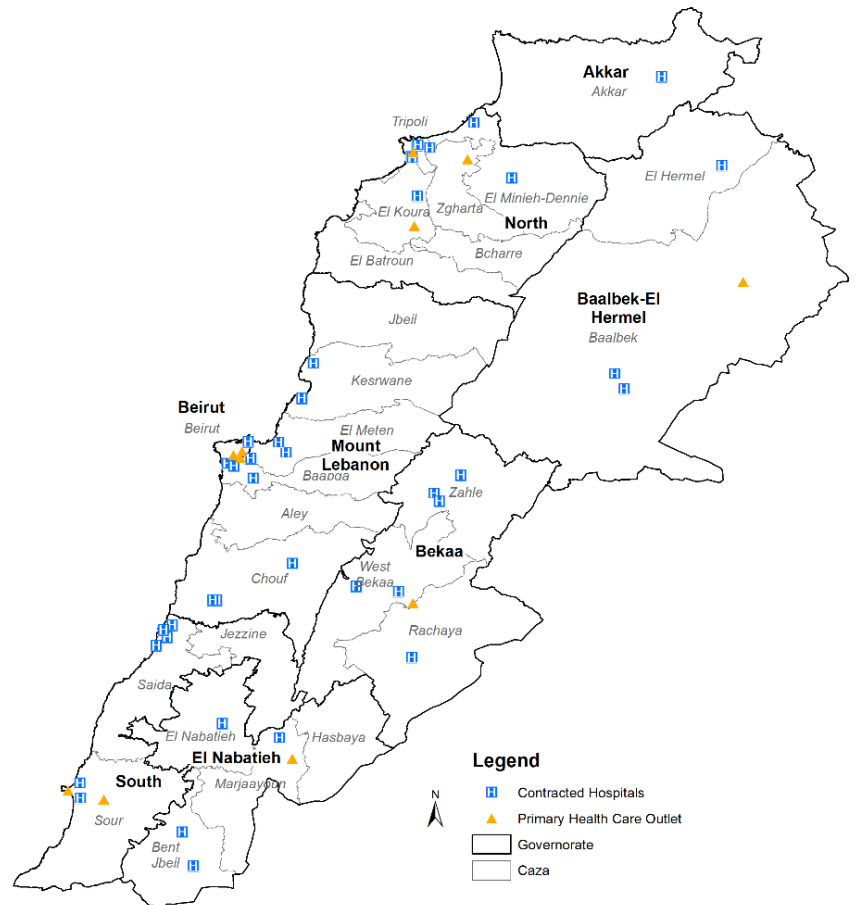
UNHCR uses biometric technology such as Iris scanners to validate recipients of cash-based assistance and ensure assistance is reaching the most vulnerable. © UNHCR

Health care

UNHCR and partners continued to work to improve the health status of refugees by supporting access to essential preventive and curative health care services.

- UNHCR helped refugees access primary health care (PHC) services by subsidizing the cost of consultations and medication through 12 PHC centres (complementing the centres supported by other health sector partners), including two specialized centres for psychiatric services. During the reporting period, 19,700 primary health care consultations were supported by UNHCR. Services include free childhood vaccination, subsidized consultations for acute illnesses, reproductive health, non-communicable diseases and mental health, and subsidized diagnostic tests for the most vulnerable groups. Vaccines and essential acute medicines were provided free of charge with a small handling fee for chronic disease medicines.
- UNHCR also supported PHC centres managed by NGOs, with medical supplies and equipment.
- UNHCR is the main humanitarian agency helping refugees to access secondary and tertiary health care in Lebanon. Child birth, life-saving and emergency interventions are prioritized to reduce preventable deaths. During the 1st quarter, UNHCR supported 16,900 lifesaving and obstetric hospital referrals for 15,500 refugees, of which more than half were deliveries. Refugees were able to access subsidized treatment for acute life-threatening conditions and deliveries through a cost-sharing program through UNHCR's national-wide network of 40 hospitals. Treatment as a consequence of SGBV, torture and acute malnutrition is fully covered by UNHCR.

MAP OF UNHCR-SUPPORTED PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRES AND NETWORK OF CONTRACTED HOSPITALS



Education

UNHCR's approach to education aims to increase the number of children enrolled in the formal education system and keep them in school, by identifying and providing support to out-of-school children and strengthening the involvement and responsibility of parents and the broader community. Close to 50% of the school-age Syrian refugee population are estimated to be out of school.

- In 2019, UNHCR is targeting close to 2,000 out-of-school refugee children (aged 10-14) and youth (aged 15+) with basic literacy and numeracy (BLN) programmes designed to prepare them to transition back to formal education. During the 1st quarter, eligible children/youth who have no prior education and lack basic literacy and numeracy skills were identified.
- Preparations for the foreign language programme also began in the 1st quarter. This programme targets refugee youth at risk of drop out, in order to support their retention in schools. Outreach activities will identify 1,570 children who will be participating in the programme and 135 mentors facilitating the classes. Trainings and classes are planned to take place by the end of the 2nd quarter. UNHCR's education programme aims to mitigate the social tensions between the refugee and host community members through the implementation of foreign language groups. Lebanese mentors from Lebanese universities proficient in either English/French are selected to facilitate the language support sessions in community venues targeting Syrian refugee children at risk of dropping out of school.
- In addition, as part of efforts to prevent refugee students from dropping out of school during the reporting period, 338 Education Community Liaisons were deployed in 260 schools across Lebanon to help create a safe and conducive learning environment inside public schools; 216 Homework Support Groups were formed in community venues, providing around 2,200 children with a safe learning space; 44 Parent Community Groups were established to increase the engagement of parents in their children's education; and 131 volunteers were mobilized to raise awareness on the importance and availability of education.



“Lots of refugee children and youth in Lebanon do not have access to education. Others have to repeat several years because there is no equivalency system in place.” Amana is a refugee from Eastern Ghouta, Syria, whose own education was disrupted. Now a university student in Lebanon, she volunteers at homework support groups (pictured) for refugee children. © UNHCR

Shelter and WASH

- In response to threats of eviction directed towards refugees living in informal settlements and collective shelters located near rivers and irrigation canals in the Bekaa, South and Akkar, UNHCR mobilized refugees in neighbourhood cleaning campaigns and worked to address the issues identified as having negative environmental impacts, e.g. through relocation of toilets, upgrading wastewater collection systems and improving desludging plans. UNHCR is also supporting MOSA, through inter-agency coordination mechanisms, in the development of a national plan to mitigate pollution in informal settlements both related to blackwater and solid waste management. Specifically, UNHCR is supporting MOSA to complete an assessment of the blackwater and solid waste situation in 333 sites within 200m of the Litani River.

- UNHCR continued to provide recurrent basic WASH services in informal settlements located in three municipalities in the Bekaa; more than 5,500 refugees benefited from water quality and safety monitoring and some 1,800 refugees benefited from water trucking in locations with limited access to safe water for drinking and cooking. More than 4,500 refugees also benefited from improved sanitation through desludging and wastewater treatment. To improve hygiene practices, UNHCR held consultation with communities to develop awareness raising materials on solid waste management at household level, menstrual hygiene management and safe hand washing practices.

SUPPORTING HOST COMMUNITIES TO PRESERVE SOCIAL STABILITY

- In 2019, UNHCR plans to support six ministries (MOSA, MOIM, MFA, Ministry of State for Displaced Affairs (MOSDA), Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), and the Ministry of Environment (MOE)) with staffing, capacity building and equipment, as well as rehabilitation and expansion of public schools.
- In parallel, UNHCR will continue to implement community support projects (CSP) and solidarity initiatives (SI) across the country. These initiatives aim to address protection concerns that will mitigate and address the triggers of tensions between host and refugee communities. CSPs and SIs are being designed and identified in the 1st quarter and implementation is expected in the 2nd quarter. By the end of March, 18 SI proposals had been received, out of which seven have been approved and six remain under review; additional proposals are expected in the 2nd quarter. UNHCR engages with the host community through consultation with relevant stakeholders (community leaders, local authorities such as unions, municipalities and governors, and civil society including scouts) at the level of the needs assessment, analysis, project design, and throughout the implementation. UNHCR also provides training on innovation and project management, to ensure that the projects selected target the root causes of the social tensions.
- In addition, UNHCR continues to co-lead the Tensions Task Force with UNDP, MOSA and MOIM, which seeks to monitor and analyse inter-community relations in Lebanon with a view to fostering joint analysis and a coordinated response to defuse tensions and prevent conflict. During the 1st quarter of 2019, one Quarterly Tension Brief and two Monthly Briefs (January and March 2019) were produced.
- Conflict Sensitivity and Do No Harm practices are being mainstreamed across the response through initiatives by the Social Stability sector, which has organized a series of trainings to relevant partners and sector coordinators on national and field levels. The objective of the trainings is to introduce partners to the concept of Conflict Sensitivity and train on how to incorporate it into the programme design.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

In the first quarter of 2019, UNHCR continued its communication activities with the aim of sensitizing the public to the situation of refugees and create public awareness on UNHCR's impact and scope of work, including its support to the Government of Lebanon and vulnerable host communities.

In 2019, media reports and political rhetoric continued to show growing fatigue from hosting large numbers of refugees. Public calls for the return of refugees to Syria continued to intensify in 2019 with UNHCR's role in refugee protection being highly politicized. UNHCR undertook proactive steps to counterbalance negative media stories and to help preserve the protection space for Syrian refugees in Lebanon through answering media queries and conducting interviews with local and international media, public campaigns, text and video stories, media visits, press releases, and social media content.

Media and public interest around Syrian refugees in Lebanon remained high, with the office receiving a number of queries every week from national, regional, and international press. Issues related to return and the socio-economic situation of Syrian refugees after years in exile remained at the heart of media interest.

UNHCR also continued to monitor and analyze media and social media to keep track of trends relating to refugee issues, and public perceptions and sentiment.

REALISING SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT

Resettlement

UNHCR estimates that as many as 10% of the Syrian refugees in the region, including Lebanon, have resettlement needs. Resettlement and the identification of complementary pathways remained a key component of UNHCR's efforts to find durable solutions for the most vulnerable and at risk refugees, and has been highlighted in the context of the Brussels Conferences.

- UNHCR Lebanon plans to submit 7,900 refugees from Syria and 900 refugees from other countries for resettlement in 2019. In the 1st quarter of 2019, 2,791 Syrian refugees and 220 refugees of other nationalities were submitted for resettlement from Lebanon, while 1,566 departed on resettlement to 12 countries.
- UNHCR Lebanon continued to use a merged RSD-resettlement procedure to ensure that the most vulnerable refugees are expeditiously identified and processed for resettlement. Systematic counselling was also provided to refugees whose cases are being processed for resettlement, including those who have been waiting for protracted periods following submission of their cases to resettlement countries; 2,400 cases were provided with such counselling (either in person or by telephone) during the 1st quarter of 2019. In addition, refugees departing on resettlement were provided with detailed counselling on exit formalities.
- In light of reduced resettlement quotas, UNHCR Lebanon has been actively engaged in seeking solutions for refugees through alternative/complementary pathways, including through a pilot family reunification project in which UNHCR provides counselling on States' family reunification programmes, assistance with administrative procedures and travel costs, interventions with respect to exit clearance, and advocacy with relevant embassies in order to expedite family reunification processing for particularly vulnerable cases.

Repatriation

- During the 1st quarter, UNHCR recorded the departure of 2,429 individuals (60% females and 40% males) who returned on their own from Lebanon to Syria. In addition, around 2,000 Syrians, of whom 1,516 known to UNHCR (44% females and 56% males), returned to Syria in self-organized or GSO-facilitated movements. Overall, around 75% of the refugees returned to their place of origin.



Based on 114 standardized pre-departure questionnaires completed (on a family-basis) prior to group movements, the top four most cited reasons for returning were 'socio-economic conditions in Lebanon' (42%, including issues such as ability to pay for rent, food, other basic necessities, medical costs, and education), 'ability to find work/livelihoods in Syria' (9%), 'improved security' (7%) and 'family reunification' (7%). Respondents were able to cite multiple reasons.

- UNHCR is not organizing voluntary repatriation to Syria at this point in time but liaises with the GSO regarding planned group movements. As referenced above, UNHCR conducts pre-return interviews to assess the intentions and motivations of refugees intending to return, and identify any document and/or other needs they may have. However, since the lists of refugees having signed up and been cleared by Syria for return are usually only received by UNHCR a couple of days before the departure, it remains difficult to interview everyone and effectively respond to all needs with e.g. civil documents; UNHCR therefore continues to advocate for the importance of receiving the lists at least five days in advance of a movement. The GSO has confirmed that the lists are shared with UNHCR as soon as they are received from Syria, and committed to try to arrange movements within longer deadlines. During the reporting period, UNHCR was present at 13 departure points used for 2 group return movements in January and February. At the departure points, UNHCR staff observes the process and addresses queries and immediate needs of the refugees, and specific protection issues such as the separation of families. In February, UNHCR Lebanon also conducted an intentions and perceptions survey with refugees related to return issues. The consolidated findings will be published in an updated version of the *Longing to Go Home, in Safety and Dignity* report, and included in the next quarterly update.

LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP

- UNHCR, as the coordinator of the humanitarian refugee response under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) led by MOSA, continued to play a leading role in inter-agency and inter-sector coordination. In these fora and within the sectors, UNHCR promotes the centrality of protection and a holistic and complementary approach to the support provided through a direct coordination role and dedicated staffing support. In 2019, UNHCR continues to co-lead the Protection, Basic Assistance, Health, Shelter, and Social Stability Sectors within the LCRP, with a focus on preventing a deterioration of the protection, well-being and dignity of the most vulnerable people targeted through the response.
- UNHCR is coordinating efforts to strengthen inter-agency emergency preparedness and response through an action plan that was developed early in 2019 based on lessons learned and identified gaps. Emergency focal points have already been identified and added to the emergency portal, emergency tools were harmonized and partners were given access to the emergency data portal. Efforts are ongoing to ensure emergency SOPs are in place in all field locations; the emergency data portal will be further refined to allow for better a gap analysis and targeted response.
- UNHCR is also actively engaged in all three pillars of the UN Joint work plan as part of the UN Strategic Framework for Lebanon focusing on peace and security, stability and governance, and poverty reduction and sustainable development. UNHCR plays a role in ensuring that refugees are reflected in relevant UN plans, including in its role as the co-lead of the outcome group on Social Protection.

UNHCR Lebanon is grateful for the support of its donors, including major donors of unearmarked and regional funds, as well as private donors:



PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS

January - March 2019

Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers

	Reached Jan-Mar	2019 Target (prioritized)*	2019 Target (if fully funded)
Protection			
Legal assistance and counselling provided	10,649	23,170	39,500
Persons submitted for resettlement and humanitarian admission	2,791	7,900	7,900
Monitoring visits to detention centres conducted	76	1,300	1,900
Persons assisted through SGBV psychosocial support		2,247	2,800
Community groups and volunteers supported	645	870	1,300
Individuals/cases receiving protection or emergency cash assistance	2,660	2,890	8,670
Children registered and issued documentation under regular birth registration procedure	1,888	12,788	26,982
Basic Assistance			
Average number of households assisted with monthly multi-purpose cash grants	32,027	33,000	84,000
Households receiving seasonal support (winter 2018-19)	167,339	165,000	170,000
Health			
Individuals benefitting from referral health care	15,441	73,000	100,000
Education			
Children enrolled in basic education	207,439	250,000	300,000
Students enrolled in upper secondary education	4,903	4,907	12,260
Shelter and WASH			
Shelter maintenance tool kits and materials provided		24,890	44,110
Households benefitting from shelter upgrades in exchange for an occupancy agreement		2,110	7,057
Individuals with access to improved sanitation		145,714	238,262
Individuals assisted with improved access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and for domestic use		42,347	128,490
Public information			
Public awareness campaigns conducted		2	2
Opinion surveys conducted		1	1
Interviews with media given		120	120
Media stories on UNHCR operations published		15	15
Media monitored and analyzed		365	365

Institutional and community support	2019 Budget (USD)
Institutional support (rehabilitation of infrastructure, staffing and training, equipment, supplies, medications and vaccines)	12.5 million
Community-based projects (health, education, livelihoods, WASH, roads and community facilities)	4.5 million
Total invested	17 million

Refugees and asylum-seekers (other nationalities)

	Reached Jan-Mar	2019 Target (prioritized)*	2019 Target (if fully funded)
Protection			
Legal assistance provided	657	1,500	3,000
Monitoring visits to detention centres conducted	110	850	1,700
Persons submitted for resettlement and humanitarian admission	220	900	900
Persons departed through resettlement	89	400	400
Individuals/cases receiving protection or emergency cash assistance	196	400	700
Individuals with specific needs receiving non-cash support	172	1,000	2,000
Persons assisted through SGBV psychosocial support	41	150	250
Basic Assistance			
Average number of households assisted with monthly multi-purpose cash grants	1,258	1,190	2,160
Households receiving seasonal support (winter 2018-19)	2,539	2,700	2,700
Health			
Individuals benefitting from life-saving emergency and obstetric referral health care	97	520	1,000
Education			
Sensitization and community mobilization campaigns conducted to promote school enrolment	5	47	90

Stateless

	Reached Jan-Mar	2019 Target (prioritized)*	2019 Target (if fully funded)
Protection			
Persons receiving legal assistance		100	300

* As of March 2019. Priorities and targets are subject to change throughout the year to respond to unforeseen needs, funds available, and other factors.