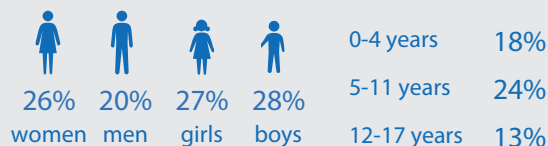


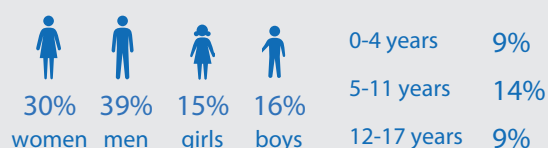
DEMOGRAPHICS

1,500,000 Government estimate of Syrian refugees¹

1,011,366 Registered Syrian refugees²



21,761 Registered non-Syrian refugees (ex. Palestinian)²
86% Iraqi, 9% Sudanese, 2% Ethiopian



UNHCR / E. Fahed

UNHCR's overarching protection and solutions goal in Lebanon:
Preserve a dignified protection space for refugees while working to facilitate their attainment of durable solutions outside the country.

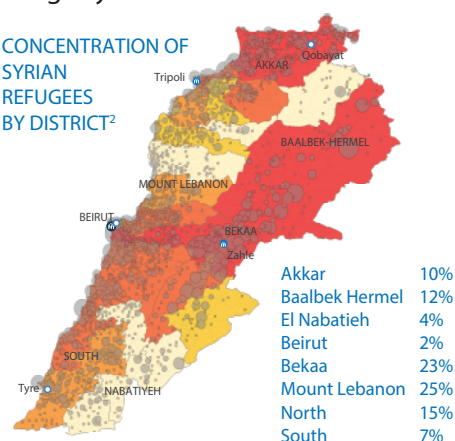
Specifically, in coordination and cooperation with the Government of Lebanon (GOL), humanitarian and development partners and key stakeholders, UNHCR seeks to:

- Ensure access to protection, legal stay and birth and civil status documentation for refugees, and their protection against *refoulement*;
- Preserve the dignity and well-being of refugees while in exile in Lebanon, with priority given to refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities;
- Preserve the hospitality of Lebanese host communities and overall social stability;
- Facilitate refugees' attainment of durable solutions in the form of resettlement and complementary pathways to third countries, while preparing for voluntary repatriation once possible in safety and dignity.

These objectives are pursued through an integrated multi-functional, multi-partnership and stakeholder approach, using one or a combination of several of the following approaches:

- ✓ Protection monitoring
- ✓ Research to inform planning, programming and evidence-based advocacy
- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Policy and legal advice
- ✓ Registration
- ✓ Status determination
- ✓ Legal counselling and advice
- ✓ Individual case management
- ✓ Community-outreach and empowerment
- ✓ Communication with communities
- ✓ Capacity development support to national institutions
- ✓ External communication
- ✓ Assistance and targeted interventions to facilitate access to social and economic rights
- ✓ Resettlement

CONCENTRATION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES BY DISTRICT²



1,700

Localities where Syrian refugees live³

17%

Syrian refugees live in Informal Tented Settlements⁴

¹ Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2017-2020, at: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=12698>

² Based on UNHCR data as of December 2016.

³ Based on UNHCR data as of December 2016; 'localities' are villages and named sub-districts within cities.

⁴ Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) 2016; at: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=12482>

Protection and solutions objectives and main elements of UNHCR's response

1. Preserve Access to Protection

2. Ensure Dignity in Exile

3. Secure Continued Hospitality

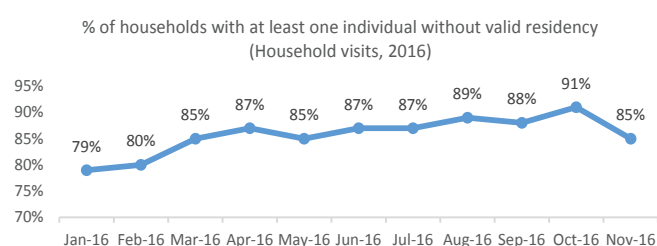
4. Realize Solutions

1. Preserve Access to Protection

Ensure access to protection, legal stay and birth and civil status documentation for refugees, and their protection from *refoulement*

Situation: Lebanon is not a State Party to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. Asylum-seekers and refugees are, in practice, subject to the same entry and stay requirements as other foreigners under the Law of 1962 Regulating the Entry of Foreigners into Lebanon, their Stay and their Exit. The GOL, under the leadership of the State Minister for Displaced Affairs, is in the process of developing a national refugee policy. UNHCR is advocating for the new policy to be informed by the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), which was adopted by the General Assembly in September 2016, as an annex to the New York Declaration for refugees and migrants. Lebanon has consistently affirmed its commitment to the principle of *non-refoulement*. However, the restrictions on admission to territory and suspension of new registrations by UNHCR, which were introduced in 2015 based on a government policy paper from October 2014, coupled with persistent difficulties in obtaining legal residency, continue to impact refugees' access to safety and protection. New arrivals who do not meet the strictly defined humanitarian exception criteria applied by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) risk being refused entry at the borders. Refugees from countries other than Syria, primarily Iraq, Sudan and Ethiopia who are arrested are at

serious risk of *refoulement*, unless resettlement can be secured. Legal residency remains difficult for many refugees to obtain, even though the General Security Office's (GSO) announcement in February/March 2017 to waive the renewal fee for most Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR constitutes a significant step towards making this key element of protection more accessible. Those still lacking valid residence permits are restricted in their freedom of movement and at heightened risk of arrest, abuse and exploitation.



Refugees in Lebanon also face a number of challenges in obtaining civil status documentation, in particular birth registration due to the complex and potentially costly procedure, which puts the children concerned at risk of statelessness. UNHCR estimates that since the beginning of the conflict in Syria, approximately 120,000 children have been born in Lebanon to Syrian refugees. Completing birth registration requires four steps. UNHCR estimates that around 78 per cent⁵ do not have a birth certificate registered with the Foreigners' Registry (final step), and over 50,000 children under five years have not obtained birth registration with the Nofous (third step). After one year following the birth of the child, birth registration entails a lengthy and costly judicial procedure.

1. UNHCR's response

- ✓ UNHCR seeks to fulfil this objective through promoting full respect for the principle of *non-refoulement* and the use of the CRRF – especially in the absence of the 1951 Convention and national asylum legislation – as a framework for Lebanon's response to the refugee situation.
- ✓ Operationally, UNHCR monitors the admission of new arrivals at the main border crossing points and refers cases identified as meeting the humanitarian exception criteria to MOSA, while undertaking evidence-based advocacy to promote an expansion of



UNHCR / F Giraud

⁵Estimates are calculated on the basis of yearly surveys (around 2,500 samples each year since 2011).

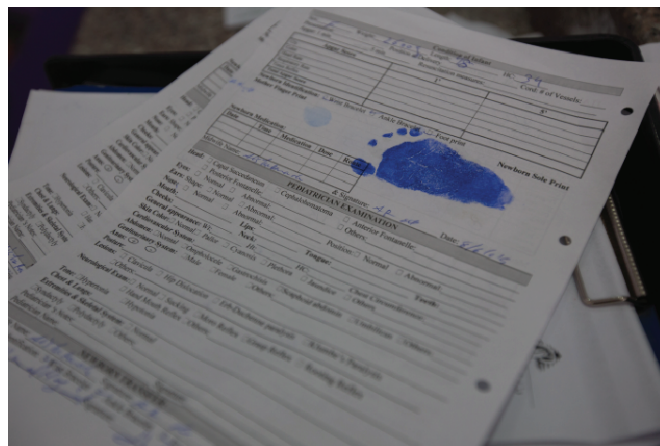
the humanitarian admission criteria, as well as interventions to prevent *refoulement* and to promote protection-sensitive border management.

✓ To further ensure that refugees are not forcibly returned to countries where they may face harm, UNHCR monitors detention facilities, including the GSO retention center, especially in respect of refugees from countries other than Syria. Detainees of concern to UNHCR are provided with material and legal assistance *in situ*.

✓ Registration activities are undertaken in respect of refugees of other nationalities than Syrian, and of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR prior to 2015, while other Syrian refugees of concern to UNHCR are provided with equal access to protection counselling and assistance. UNHCR also actively advocates for the resumption of registration activities in order to better manage needs and responses, as well as to help prepare for solutions.

✓ To facilitate access to legal residency, UNHCR is supporting the GSO to expand its capacity to process a higher number of applications following its announcement in early 2017 to waive the renewal fee. UNHCR is also following the practice and intervening for a full, inclusive and consistent application of the waiver and its gradual expansion to encompass refugees currently not covered, in line with the commitment made at the Brussels Conference. UNHCR has simultaneously increased its capacity to respond to a higher number of requests for housing attestations and registration certificate renewals, from refugees eligible for the residency fee waiver.

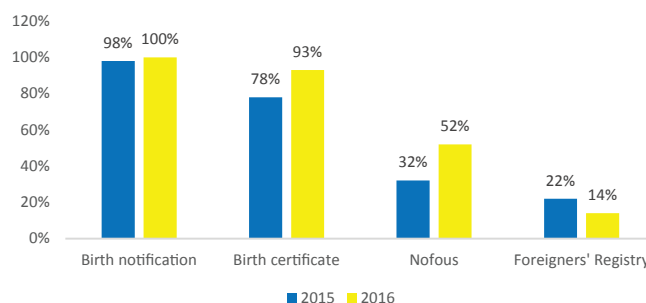
✓ In regard to birth registration, UNHCR is discussing proposals with the authorities to waive the



UNHCR / S Hoibak

requirement of legal stay for the finalization of the process, and is working with the relevant ministries on legal amendments to ease the procedure for late birth registration. Together with its partners, UNHCR continues to raise the awareness of refugee parents and of the responsible authorities on the birth registration process, and provides legal counselling to families who need help in completing birth or marriage registration.

Developments in access to birth registration of Syrian newborns in 2015 and 2016



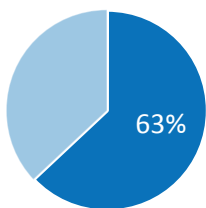
Impact expected

1. The GOL adopts a national refugee policy that builds upon international standards and best practices relating to the protection of refugees.
2. Refugees are able to access protection and are protected against *refoulement*.
3. Refugees are protected from ill-treatment and arbitrary detention.
4. Refugees are registered with UNHCR and have their personal data and needs continuously updated.
5. Refugees with specific needs are rapidly identified and immediately referred for protection and/or assistance interventions.
6. Refugees have timely access to legal residency, provided free of charge at GSO centres.
7. Refugees born in Lebanon obtain full birth registration in a timely manner.

2. Ensure Dignity in Exile

Preserve the dignity and well-being of refugees while in exile in Lebanon, with priority given to refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities

Situation: As the Syria conflict has entered its seventh year, Syrian refugees are finding themselves in a situation of increased physical, social and economic vulnerability. Refugee families have, on average, almost USD 900 in debt, and more than 70 per cent live below the national poverty line of USD 3.84 per day, with 52 per cent below the extreme poverty line. Coupled with the limited livelihood opportunities, this situation exposes refugees to exploitation and negative coping strategies and more hazardous living conditions. Women, children and persons with specific needs, including persons with disabilities, older persons and LGBTI, are particularly affected as the difficult living conditions heighten their susceptibility to abuse and exploitation, and puts them at risk of irreversible and lasting harm.



% of households with at least one member with specific needs⁶

Maximizing the opportunities that will be created through the implementation of the GOL's vision of increased employment and access to vocational education and training presented at the Brussels Conference in April 2017, will therefore be key, in particular for the youth. Although refugees can access health care through a network of private and public institutions, many are finding it difficult to cover the cost of medical care that UNHCR is not able to subsidize beyond the 75 to 90 per cent provided for life saving emergency care. While the public education system is open to refugees, a large number of refugee children are not attending school as they are compelled to work to help their families make ends meet, or because they find it difficult to start or remain in overstretched schools where they sometimes face discrimination, bullying or even abuse. Adequate housing is very challenging for refugees in Lebanon to secure. 55 per cent of Syrian refugees live in poor shelter conditions and are in need of a continuous support, out of whom 17 per



UNHCR / A McConnell

cent live in informal tented settlements and 38 per cent in substandard shelter such as garages, unfinished buildings, worksites, animal stalls, apartments/houses in poor condition or overcrowded apartments. Evictions of refugees unable to pay their rent, or based on security or other grounds further exacerbate the vulnerability of those affected.

2. UNHCR's response

- ✓ UNHCR seeks to fulfil this objective by working closely with partners supporting education and livelihood programs and by undertaking evidence-based advocacy vis-à-vis the GOL on the benefits of investing in human capital and building capacities that enable the refugees to contribute to the local society, increase their self-reliance and develop transferable skills that enhances their possibilities to integrate in resettlement countries or reintegrate in their country of origin when return has become possible in safety and dignity.
- ✓ By interacting daily with the community, including through a network of 500 Outreach Volunteers (OVs), UNHCR is raising refugees' awareness about their rights and services available, and supporting their empowerment.
- ✓ UNHCR is proactively identifying and supporting refugees with specific needs through the prevention and response mechanisms available with public institutions, and by social workers and civil society partners. With the aim of further strengthening the national institutions, UNHCR continues to support MOSA's Social Development Centers, where refugees from all backgrounds can access services and counseling and take part in activities and skills trainings spanning livelihood to literacy, to boost their resilience.

⁶VASyR 2016. Special needs are considered to be: (i) physical or mental disability, (ii) chronic illness, (iii) temporary illness or injury, (iv) serious medical condition, and (v) people who need support in basic daily activities.

✓ UNHCR is supporting refugee children's access to, and retention in public schools through a variety of community-based initiatives including homework support groups and education liaisons, as well as through support to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) to cover fees for enrollment in primary school and vocational training, and through refurbishing and equipping public schools. Through UNHCR's rehabilitation of schools around the country, work opportunities are also being created for Syrian construction workers.

✓ In order to compensate for the limited access to self-reliance opportunities, UNHCR is providing Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MCAP) to 30,000 of the severely vulnerable Syrian refugee families and 1,200 refugee households of other nationalities, as a safety net to reduce their socio-economic

vulnerabilities and consequent exposure to exploitation and other protection risks. At the same time, UNHCR is discussing with MOSA ways to link up this safety net provided by the international community with the basic services offered to the most vulnerable Lebanese by MOSA and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH).

✓ UNHCR is providing Protection Cash Assistance (PCAP) to refugees who have been exposed to a protection incident and require assistance to bridge a period of extreme hardship so that they are not forced to resort to negative coping strategies such as survival sex, begging or homelessness or are put at risk of further harm.

✓ In regard to health care, UNHCR covers 75 to 90 per cent of the cost of life saving emergency assistance, and supports access to comprehensive primary health care services (vaccination, maternal and child health, acute and chronic disease consultations) and mental health care services.

✓ UNHCR provides shelter assistance through the distribution of materials, toolkits and shelter upgrade interventions to those most in need, and works to improve sites in an effort to ensure a stable and safe living environment. In regard to evictions, UNHCR undertakes advocacy and protection monitoring, and provides shelter and WASH assistance to refugees who have relocated and been assessed as needing such support.



UNHCR / S Hoibak

Impact expected

1. Self-reliance and transferable skills of refugees, in particular youth, increase during their stay in Lebanon.
2. Refugees are increasingly aware of their rights and services available, and capacitated to use their full potential.
3. Refugees are empowered to bring forward cases within their communities in need of an immediate response.
4. Refugees with specific needs, including survivors of violence, are rapidly identified and provided timely interventions, including specialized medical, legal, administrative and/or cash-based assistance.
5. Socio-economic vulnerability to protection risks is reduced for families provided with cash-based assistance.
6. Safety net is expanded through the network of services provided by MOSA and MOPH towards enhanced social protection.
7. Increased number of refugee children enroll and remain in school, in safe learning environments.
8. Refugees access life-saving and primary medical care at an affordable cost.
9. More refugees live in stable and safe environments, without being evicted.

3. Secure Continued Hospitality

Preserve the hospitality of Lebanese host communities and overall social stability

Situation: The presence of over 1 million refugees in more than 1,700 locations across Lebanon, coupled with the political, security, and economic shocks resulting from the conflict in neighboring Syria is challenging the social stability among and within communities in Lebanon. Articles and discussions in the media signal a growing feeling of fatigue and saturation from hosting such a large number of refugees for more than six years, with increasing calls for their return being made in the public debate. Syrians are also being portrayed as taking jobs from the Lebanese, and as constituting a threat to the national security. Local authorities are moreover expressing that they are finding it difficult to sustain the hospitality of their constituents, unless tangible support is provided to the local communities to alleviate the pressure on the fragile infrastructure. Although solidarity has so far remained relatively strong in the communities, Participatory Assessments conducted with Lebanese and Syrian persons highlight the challenges that exist in relations between refugees and the host communities. Refugees inform about verbal abuse, physical harassment and discrimination by host communities, and refugee children and education OVs mention a rise in bullying of Syrian children in schools. Evictions and closures of shops run by Syrians further contribute to refugees' feelings of insecurity, and of not feeling welcome.

3. UNHCR's response

✓ UNHCR seeks to fulfil this objective through an integrated protection and external communications approach. In response to the growing anti-refugee sentiments and xenophobic rhetoric in the media,



UNHCR/S Hoibak

UNHCR is developing a nationwide media campaign together with the Ministry of Information, aimed at sensitizing the public to, and training journalists on, the continuing protection needs of the Syrian refugees, while reassuring them that longer-term solutions will be pursued outside of Lebanon.

✓ At local level, UNHCR is coordinating closely with the local authorities, including Mayors, with the aim of ensuring that UNHCR's humanitarian and medium-term response, to the extent possible, also benefits the local communities and does not contribute to tensions. In this regard, UNHCR seeks to ensure that community support and infrastructural projects, such as rehabilitation of schools and upscaling of GSO centres, benefit the hosting communities that provide the protection space to refugees.

✓ As co-lead of the Social Stability Working Group with UNDP and MOSA, UNHCR is working closely with partners and stakeholders in mapping tensions and needs in the local communities around the country, and in supporting the relevant national and local authorities to prevent a potential spread of tensions, and mitigate the impact of such through targeted projects and interventions.

Impact expected

1. Public and political support for hosting refugees in dignified conditions is maintained.
2. Social tensions are reduced, and risks of xenophobia-related violence mitigated.
3. Measures restricting the freedom and well-being of refugees, such as evictions and closure of shops, are avoided.
4. Social cohesion is fostered through joint community support projects and infrastructural projects that address a common issue of concern.
5. Refugees increasingly feel safe and protected in Lebanon.

4. Realize Solutions

Facilitate refugees' attainment of durable solutions in the form of resettlement and complementary pathways to third countries, while preparing for voluntary repatriation once possible in safety and dignity

Situation: The GOL has consistently held that it is not a country of asylum or final destination for refugees. Durable solutions for refugees therefore continue to be sought outside of Lebanon. At the same time, the prevailing security, human rights and humanitarian situation in Syria, coupled with the absence of a political solution, means that conditions are currently not conducive for returns in safety and dignity. Still, discussions on return are taking place between armed actors, and isolated groups or individuals are exploring self-organized returns before conditions are met.

While UNHCR estimates that as many as 10 per cent of the Syrian refugees have resettlement needs, the quota allocated by resettlement States in 2017 has been reduced to 12,000, from the 20,000 places provided in 2016. Refugees identified as needing resettlement have legal and physical protection needs and often additional vulnerabilities, including as survivors of violence and torture, women and children at risk, LGBTI, or as individuals with medical needs or disabilities that cannot be addressed in Lebanon. There are also refugees in Lebanon who cannot go home or are unwilling to do so because they will face continued persecution, placing their lives at risk.

4. UNHCR's response

✓ UNHCR seeks to fulfil this objective by implementing a relatively large-scale resettlement program, through which more than 24,400 Syrian refugees and over 900 refugees from countries other than Syria were submitted for resettlement or humanitarian admission to third countries during 2016. Over 19,000 refugees (primarily Syrians) departed during 2016. In 2017, UNHCR is working to submit at least 12,000 refugees for resettlement, while advocating with States to increase resettlement quotas to at least match 2016 levels.

✓ In parallel, UNHCR is actively advocating for the



UNHCR / L Abu Khaled

international community to expand other legal avenues for refugees to access safety. Other forms of admission include community or private sponsorships, scholarships, labor mobility schemes with protection safeguards, and extended family reunification programmes.

✓ While conditions are still not conducive for returns to Syria in safety and dignity, UNHCR has scaled up preparedness activities, in order to ensure that UNHCR will be ready to assist and facilitate voluntary repatriation once this becomes feasible. Meanwhile, UNHCR monitors spontaneous or self-organized movements with a view to ascertaining the voluntary and informed nature of decisions to return at this stage. UNHCR is monitoring cross-border movements in order to detect trends, and periodically conducts intention surveys and focus group discussions with refugees in order to learn which factors refugees consider most important for their ability to return in safety and dignity. Moreover, UNHCR is developing guidance and coordination mechanisms among agencies to ensure common standards and approaches with regard to return.

✓ In preparation for the facilitation of future returns, UNHCR is also working on issues such as civil status documentation, skills development and education to ensure that, when conditions in Syria permit, refugees and the international community are well prepared to support voluntary repatriation and reintegration. As housing, land and property is one key factor, together with birth and civil status documentation, UNHCR is implementing a number of initiatives that will facilitate refugees' ability to reclaim their housing, land and property upon a return to Syria, and to register births and changes to civil status with the Syrian authorities.



Impact expected

1. Resettlement quotas are increased, and complementary pathways to third countries offered.
2. Refugees in need are identified and accepted for resettlement and other forms of admission.
3. Refugees, the GoL and humanitarian and development actors are fully informed of the conditions and procedures relating to voluntary repatriation, and refugees are assisted to return and reintegrate once this becomes possible in safety and dignity.



CO-ORDINATING REFUGEE PROTECTION

UNHCR works with a broad range of partners under the framework of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), and in particular the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP 2017-2020) to deliver an integrated, multi-sector response to meet the needs of Syrian refugees and impacted communities most affected by the crisis. The LCRP establishes a platform to build the resilience of individuals, families, communities and state institutions. In total, the LCRP brings together 104 partners, including the relevant line Ministries, notably the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), as well as United Nations agencies, and national and international NGOs. UNHCR engages in a range of mechanisms to coordinate refugee protection and assistance activities at the national level and in the four field locations: Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, the North and South. UNHCR and MOSA co-lead the Protection Sector Working Group, which oversees the work of the child protection (co-led by MOSA and UNICEF) and SGBV sub-working groups. UNHCR will continue to strategically engage with humanitarian and development partners to implement the LCRP 2017-2020, including by strengthening the inter-sectorial framework to better achieve the intended impact of the LCRP.