



# Lebanon Update

## Situation in North Lebanon

December 03- December 09 2011



### Highlights of the week

#### Numbers:

The number of registered Syrians with UNHCR and the High Relief Commission (HRC) has increased from 3,789 to 4,272 during the past week. This is partly due to the fact that a number of displaced Syrians had crossed into Lebanon earlier but only recently approached our Office. In addition, local mayors and NGOs played an active role in referring displaced Syrians to UNHCR-HRC teams for registration. This week's statistics also include an increased number of registered Syrians in Tripoli.

#### Shelter and other projects:

The rehabilitation of Kashlak collective shelter is complete.

As part of the contingency planning for 2012, UNHCR and the HRC are identifying additional abandoned shelters or schools located in safe areas in Wadi Khaled that could be used should numbers and needs warrant it.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is currently supporting 37 families to make needed renovations in their houses. NRC intends to initiate works in some 70 dwellings by the end of the month, and in an additional 20 during January.

#### Distribution:

UNHCR and partner teams continued to conduct home visits to the displaced to check whether there were shortages in food or non food items among displaced families. During this follow-up exercise, 60 mattresses and blankets, 20 food kits and 73 clothing coupons were distributed.

UNHCR, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the HRC assessed the capacity of the local food market with the assistance of the World Food Programme (WFP). The objective of the assessment was to verify whether UNHCR and HRC could move from in kind food distribution to food vouchers allowing Syrians to purchase their food in local shops. This initiative was informed by displaced Syrians themselves who wished to include fresh foods in the distributed food kits. The results of the assessment will be shared within the next couple of weeks and will be reflected in the December distribution.

**Education:**

This week, UNHCR and partners provided remedial classes to some 318 students to help them adapt to the Lebanese curriculum. In addition, UNHCR and its implementing partner Save the Children Sweden (SCS) organized two trainings with 30 teachers currently providing remedial classes to displaced children. The training focused on UNHCR’s mandate and group management in remedial classes. This should equip them with a better understanding of protection and the appropriate tools for managing remedial classes with a large number of students.

**Protection:**

As in previous weeks, the unrest in Syria continues to be a source of stress for those displaced in Northern Lebanon. They worry about their own safety and that of their families in Syria. They are also concerned by their inability to move freely. UNHCR has received recent assurances that long awaited circulation permits will be forthcoming. In addition to weekly protection and border monitoring, UNHCR continues to follow-up on persons of concern who have been detained for illegal entry/stay – of which there are only very few cases involving recently displaced Syrians.

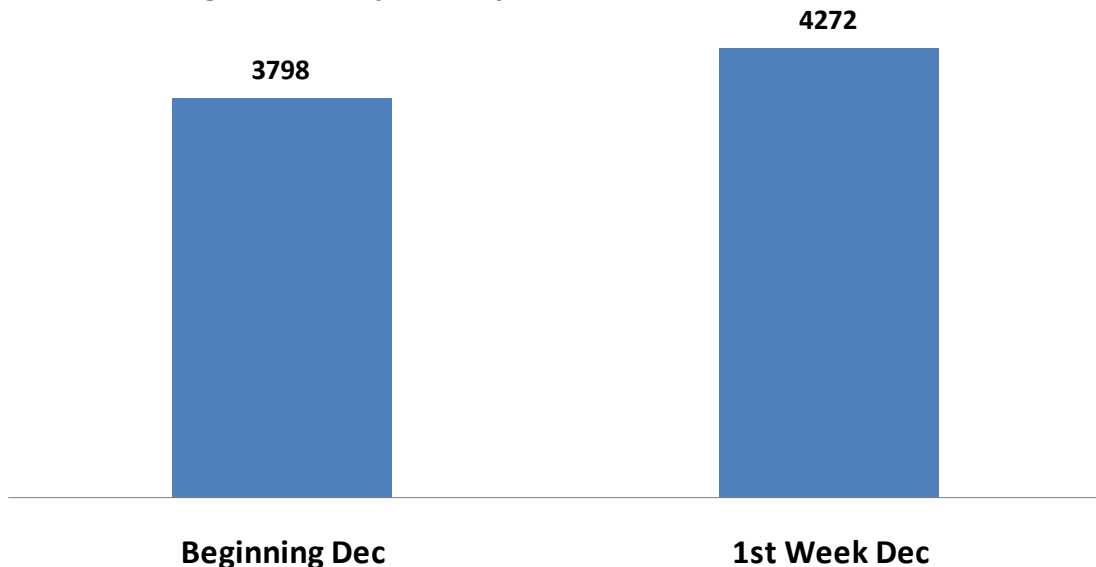
In addition, 105 displaced parents benefited from awareness sessions on health, the right to education and remedial classes, child rights and child abuse in different villages in Wadi Khaled. This comes as part of a broader initiative aiming to reduce the school drop-out rate, and to improve the protection environment among the displaced.

**Situational Overview**

Beginning in April 2011, Lebanon witnessed an influx of some 5,000 Syrians refugees into northern Lebanon. Many subsequently returned to Syria. Currently there are 4,272 registered persons in the North and Akkar, residing mostly with host families in difficult circumstances.

Those who remain are unwilling to return until stability and security is restored in their Syrian villages. Many individuals and families have been deeply affected by the events that caused them to flee, and are reluctant to go home until the situation stabilizes.

**Registered Displaced Syrians Trend in December 2011**



Age Group	Females	Percentage	Males	Percentage	Total
0-04	416	20%	441	21%	857
05-11	433	20%	419	20%	852
12-18	282	13%	333	16%	615
18-29	443	21%	379	18%	822
30-39	281	13%	276	13%	557
40-49	159	7%	186	9%	345
50-59	73	3%	73	3%	146
60+	39	2%	39	2%	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>2126</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>2146</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>4272</b>

Currently, 4,272 Syrians are registered with UNHCR and the HRC. A number of displaced Syrians had crossed into Lebanon earlier but only approached our Office during this week. Local mayors and NGOs played an active role in referring displaced Syrians to UNHCR-HRC teams for registration. This week's statistics also include an increased number of registered Syrians in Tripoli.

Identification and registration occurs on a daily basis by outreach teams. UNHCR and the HRC verify the numbers during the monthly distribution of food/non-food items. Persons found no longer to be in the area are de-registered. Many of these are known to have returned to Syria.

### Coordination

A very solid coordinated response and positive working relations with the government's HRC and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) were established at the outset to the benefit of the refugees and hosting communities. These partnerships continue and together with other UN and NGO partners the needs of refugees and affected communities are being holistically addressed. They include the following:

- Protection interventions to ensure safety, physical integrity and non-refoulement;
- Assistance to meet basic needs;
- Education and remedial classes;
- Provision of medical and psycho-social care.

A common data base is in use by the HRC and UNHCR and referral mechanisms established to enable the displaced persons to access assistance through specialized partners.

**Protection**

The vast majority Syrians who have arrived in the past many weeks have come from Tal Kalakh and Homs. They express fear and anxiety about returning, and most do not feel that the situation is safe enough for them to do so.

Most of those who have recently arrived have crossed at official border crossings expressing fear of going through the unofficial ones as the Syrian army is reportedly heavily present along the borders and continued reports point to the presence of planted land mines on the Syrian side.

UNHCR maintains regular contacts with the Lebanese authorities and civil society representatives to follow-up the security situation of the displaced population in the north of Lebanon. UNHCR has provided guidance to the government on the appropriate treatment of army deserters.

UNHCR continues to follow-up on the cases of Syrians who are detained for illegal entry or stay.

According to UNHCR's estimates, some 100 wounded Syrians have been treated in various hospitals in Lebanon since the beginning of the influx. Expenses related to their treatment are covered by the Lebanese authorities through the High Relief Commission. Their treatment and needs are followed up by UNHCR and partners.

**Community Services**

Outreach workers from the MoSA and partners continue to visit the displaced Syrians at homes and in schools in Wadi Khaled, Tall Bire, and Tripoli in order to counsel them, assess their needs, and refer newcomers to UNHCR and HRC for registration.

**Shelter and other projects**

Most of the displaced Syrians reside with host families. Just over 200 persons are accommodated in three (abandoned) schools: Al-Rama, Al-Ibra and Al-Mouanseh schools. The schools were initially not well equipped (with sanitation and hygiene facilities) to receive large numbers of people, but have been improved and are regularly monitored. The hall of Khorbet Daoud Mosque is also being rehabilitated to host displaced families should there be a need in the future.

UNHCR and the Government initiated the renovation of Al Rama, Al Mouanseh, Kashlak schools, and the hall of Khorbet Daoud Mosque, while the renovation of the Al Ibra school was undertaken by the Al-Bashaer Islamic Association.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) together with partner organizations and outreach workers have identified host family residences in pressing need of improvement in preparation for the winter. NRC has begun to provide these families with coupons enabling them to renovate their homes.

UNHCR's implementing partner, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) commenced the rehabilitation of two public gardens: the first is located in the Social Development Center (SDC) of Amayer and the second next to Moukaybel municipality. DRC is

currently monitoring the work of local contractors hired to complete the project. In addition, DRC is planning to launch one public library in Aidamoon village, and a cine club in Wadi Khaled.

**Distribution  
(Food/ NFI)**

UNHCR along with the Government, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Caritas Migrant Centre, World Vision, and UNICEF, distribute food and non-food items to the displaced on a monthly basis. UNHCR continues to provide food and non-food items to newly registered families who were not on the UNHCR-HRC database during the last distribution.

Items Distributed	November 30 2011	Cumulative
Mattresses	60	4,529
Blankets	60	4,797
Food kits	97	4,627
Diapers	44	886
Baby milk	50	1,268
Baby kits	0	424
Hygiene kits	16	3,192
Women's underwear	0	714
Tuition fees	465	465
Books	465	465
Stationary	75	596
Uniforms	465	465
Kitchen sets	1	48
Clothes coupons of 75,000 LBP	57	1,045
Fuel coupons of 20	360	6,129

**Education**

The Minister of Education is facilitating the enrolment of displaced children in public schools. UNHCR is covering the cost of school fees, books, uniforms, notebooks, and stationary. UNHCR and its implementing partner Save the Children Sweden (SCS) are providing remedial classes for Syrian displaced children given the differences between the Lebanese and Syrian school curricula.

**Health**

UNHCR, HRC and World Health Organization (WHO) have established a referral system so that registered displaced Syrians have access to health care services through the most specialized partner. Public Health Centres, Social Development Centres of the MoSA, and a few NGO-run health care centres in the region are providing primary health care and medication to the displaced. UNHCR covers up to 85% of diagnostic tests. The HRC covers the cost of secondary and tertiary health care through local

hospitals in the north. UNHCR provides additional support where needed. The HRC and UNHCR's implementing partner, the International Medical Corp (IMC), reached agreements with five hospitals for discounted rates in the provision of necessary health care. Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) started the implementation of a mental health project jointly with the Makassed Public Health Centre (PHC). A psychologist will be deployed in Makassed's centre to provide mental health counselling to all Wadi Khaled residents including the displaced. Moreover, IMC has launched a series of trainings to the medical and social staff in the PHCs, Social Development Centres (SDCs) and partner agencies on the best techniques and tools to support persons affected by armed conflict. Since May, 433 persons have received primary health care services while 162 persons have received secondary healthcare services.

### **Capacity Building**

UNCHR has invested in strengthening the capacities of government's and local partners through:

- Regular coordination meetings and joint plans of action;
- Technical and material support to the HRC in regard to registration, data collection and verification;
- Training and guidance to outreach teams composed of staff from MoSA and partners;
- Training provided to MoSA Social Development Centres on the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons in the event of an emergency;
- Establishment of medical referral mechanisms and training for the systematic entry of data in the health referral system;
- Training to medical and social services professionals on the best techniques to support persons affected by armed conflict;
- The establishment of referral mechanism to ensure timely attention to specific needs;
- Training with 30 school teachers on UNHCR mandate, Group Management in Remedial Classes and Positive Disciplines;
- Training to outreach workers on registration and ProGress database used to keep track of the record of every registered displaced person, their bio-data, and their legal and psycho-social status;
- Building of quick impact projects such as public gardens and a cine club.