



# Lebanon Update

## Situation in North Lebanon

November 25- December 02 2011



### Highlights of the week

#### Numbers:

The number of registered Syrians with UNHCR and the High Relief Commission (HRC) is 3,789.

#### Distribution:

The November distribution of food, hygiene kits, winter clothes coupons, and fuel was completed. Over 3,861 persons were assisted.

#### Education:

Parents and children are showing an increased interest in remedial classes. This week, UNHCR and partners provided remedial classes to some 300 students including a number of Lebanese students with specific needs. In addition, UNHCR and its implementing partner Save the Children Sweden (SCS), organized a training with 30 teachers on child rights and child protection.

#### Health:

UNHCR and its implementing partner, International Medical Corps (IMC), with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), completed an assessment of needed equipment for public health centers and hospitals currently supporting the Syrian displaced. These include screen sterilizers, scales for babies, delivery sets, and hematology analyzers. IMC will provide these centers with the equipment within the coming couple of weeks.

#### Shelter and other projects:

The premises of the Association for the Development of Women in Wadi Khaled that is providing remedial classes to children was improved. This included much needed rehabilitation of the electrical system and the latrines.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is supporting 16 host families to make needed renovations in their houses.

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. DRC will provide training to partner NGOs on how to best manage a cine club and a public library and will proceed with the preparation of both premises within the coming weeks.

#### Protection:

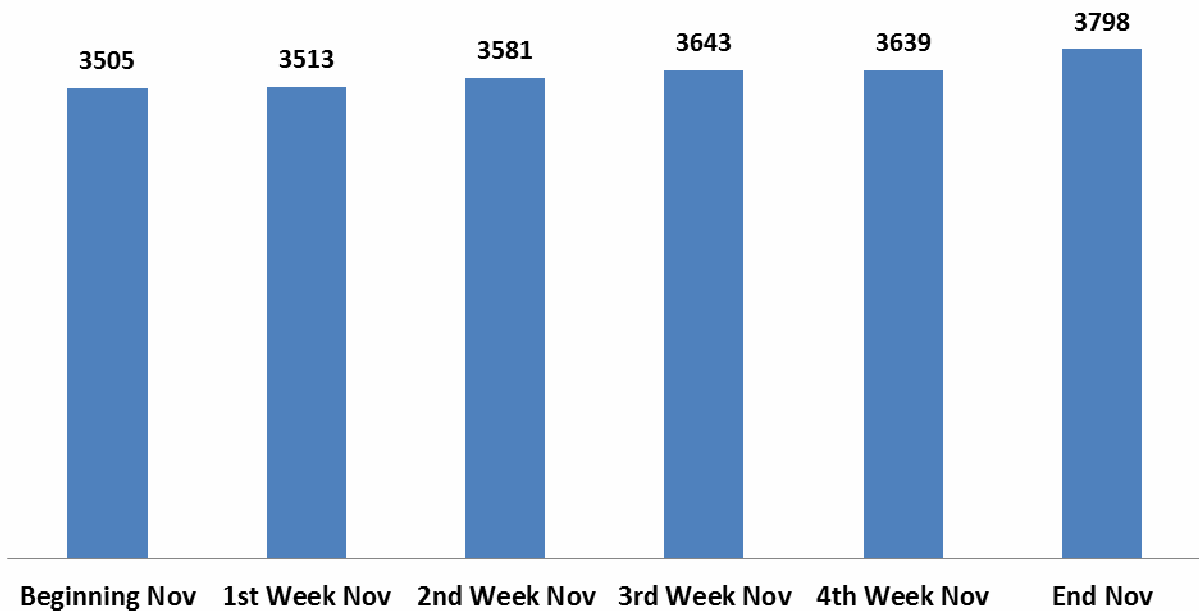
The displaced remain concerned over the situation in Tall Kalakh. The Syrian army is reportedly heavily present on the borders and continued reports point to the presence of planted land mines on the Syrian side. These measures could be slowing the pace of new arrivals into Lebanon.

## 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 3,798 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 November 2011



Age Group	Females	Males	Total
0-04	378	378	756
05-11	387	367	754
12-18	269	304	573
18-29	377	339	716
30-39	246	231	477
40-49	146	172	318
50-59	67	63	130
60+	37	37	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>1907</b>	<b>1891</b>	<b>3798</b>

Currently, 3,798 Syrians are registered with UNHCR and the HRC.

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.

### **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**

Most of the displaced Syrians reside with host families. Just over 200 persons are accommodated in two (abandoned) schools: Al-Rama and Al-Ibra 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. Another three common shelters, Al Mouanseh, Kashlak, and the hall of Khorbet Daoud Mosque are 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.

**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) have also started 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.

### **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 child rights and child protection.