



# Lebanon Update

## Situation in North Lebanon

December 10 - December 16 2011



### Highlights of the week

#### Numbers:

The number of registered Syrians with UNHCR and the High Relief Commission (HRC) has increased from 4,272 to 4510 during the past week. Only a few of this additional number represent newly arrived persons. The vast majority are those who had crossed into Lebanon earlier but only recently approached our Office. Most of these new registrations reside in Tripoli.

#### Shelter and other projects:

UNHCR and the HRC completed the renovation of the hall of Khorbet Daoud Mosque and the Kashlak school, bringing the total number of renovated shelters and schools to five. Three of these shelters are currently hosting some 200 Syrians while the remaining two are now equipped to host displaced families should numbers and needs warrant it.

UNHCR and the HRC continue to identify additional abandoned shelters or schools located in safe areas in Wadi Khaled to host potential displaced in the event of a bigger influx.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) continues to support some 40 families to make needed renovations in their houses.

#### Distribution:

The December distribution of food and non-food to all registered Syrians and the most vulnerable of the host families commenced this week. The quality of the food basket has been improved and fuel coupons, clothes, and blankets were among the non-food items distributed. Hygiene kits are being distributed by Caritas Migrant Center.

#### Education:

Registered Syrian students continue to show interest in remedial classes provided by UNHCR's implementing partner Save the Children Sweden. Some 300 students benefited from these classes during the past week. UNHCR and partner teams have been able to maintain a relatively stable school enrolment rate. Key in this regard has been the greater support among parents for school registration, brought on in part through awareness sessions on the importance of education for their children, and their right to education.. This week, 85 Syrian parents participated in such awareness sessions in different villages in Wadi Khaled.

**Protection:**

Plans to issue registration certificates to persons registered with UNHCR and HRC have been delayed. The certificates are a means to show that the person is someone who is registered with UNHCR and the HRC and is aimed to prevent fraud and facilitate access to needed services. Opposition was expressed this week in some quarters, as it was believed that the registration certificates conveyed rights to residency – which they do not. More awareness-raising is needed on the limited yet essential use of these certificates.

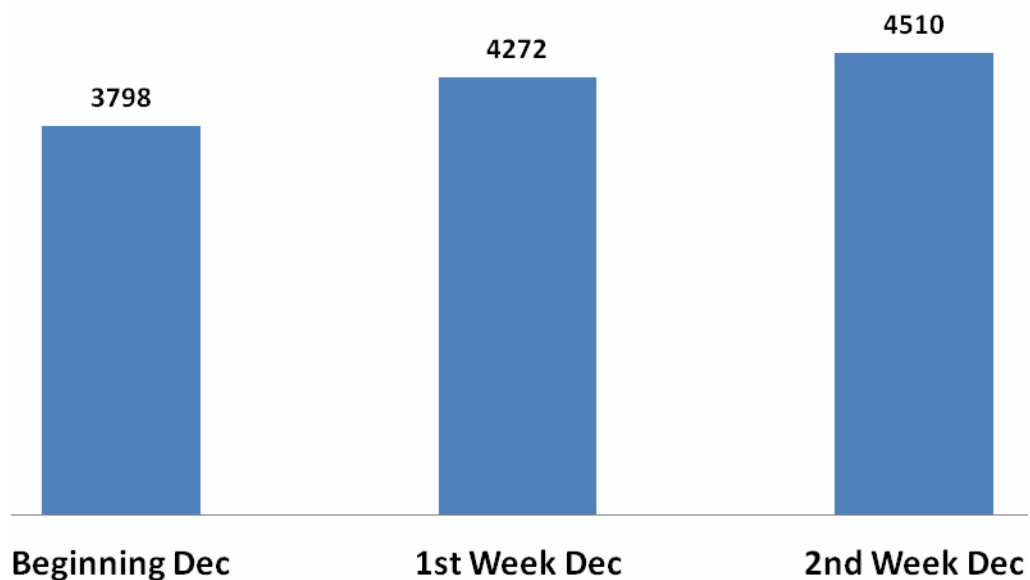
An additional 19 wounded persons were referred to hospitals in the north this week including a 11-year old girl. Several were in coma when they reached the hospitals and one person reportedly died from his injuries. Also at the end of the week, confirmation was received of further efforts by Syrian security forces to close unofficial border crossings to Lebanon. UNHCR is maintaining regular contact with the local authorities to discuss the impact of these developments.

**Situational Overview**

Since April, UNHCR and the HRC have assisted more than 9,000 persons displaced from Syria. Currently there are 4,510 registered persons in the North and Akkar, residing mostly with host families in difficult circumstances. Many Syrians who came to Lebanon last Spring returned to Syria. Since then, cross border movements have become more difficult due to a tightening of security on the Syrian side.

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	445	21%	470	22%	915
05-11	453	21%	436	20%	889
12-18	298	14%	349	16%	647
18-29	471	22%	405	19%	876
30-39	300	14%	293	14%	593
40-49	166	8%	193	9%	359
50-59	75	4%	75	3%	150
60+	41	2%	40	2%	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>2249</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>2261</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>4510</b>

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, over 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 been rehabilitated to host displaced families should there be a need in the future.

UNHCR and the Government renovated 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. NRC intends to initiate works in some 70 dwellings by the end of the month, and in an additional 20 during January.

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	December 14, 2011	Cumulative
Mattresses	0	4.589
Blankets	0	4.857
Food kits	145	4.787
Diapers	0	886
Baby milk	49	1317
Baby kits	0	424
Hygiene kits	0	3.192
Women's underwear	0	714
Tuition fees	53	465
Books	53	465
Stationary	75	596
Uniforms	53	465
Family kit (kitchen utensils)	0	48
Clothes coupons of 75,000 LBP	0	1088
Fuel coupons of 20	1136	7265

## 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. In addition, both displaced and Lebanese parents are benefiting from awareness sessions on the right to education and remedial classes, in addition to child right and child abuse. The latter comes as part of a broader initiative aiming to reduce the school drop-out rate, and to improve the protection environment among the displaced.

## 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, 456 persons have received primary health care services while 178 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, public library and a cine club.