

LEBANON | DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES TO DISPLACEMENT

Context – Displacement Situation

As of 2016, Lebanon hosts an estimated 1.07 million Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR¹, with an additional 380,000 Palestine Refugees.² Lebanon hosts the largest refugee population per capita in the world. The protracted situation has had a severe impact on the refugees themselves and on the municipalities where the refugees have temporarily settled. Basic services are stretched, labour patterns have changed and social tensions have emerged. Remarkably, given the fractured nature of Lebanon's own society, the country's stability has been preserved, although the situation is fragile.

In 2016, an estimated 3.3 million people are in need. As a result of five years of displacement, vulnerabilities are increasing. Personal savings have been exhausted, costs of living are high and opportunities for income generation are limited. An estimated 52 percent of Syrian refugees are unable to meet their survival needs, while an estimated 66 percent lack legal documentation, which limits their capacity to sustain their own well-being. Approximately 2 million vulnerable people are living in some 250 localities, where social tensions and poverty are on the rise. Longstanding economic inequalities are becoming more widespread also among the host communities, and environmental pressures are rising. Demand for basic services continues to far outstrip the capacity of institutions and infrastructure to meet needs, ultimately affecting Lebanon's overall stability.



The newly restored fish market at Sarafand
 (Photo: UNDP Lebanon)

RESULTS

UNDP Lebanon's response to the Syria crisis has supported almost 140 vulnerable communities and reached over 1.4 million Lebanese and Syrians.

Interventions span across nine sectors, including local service delivery systems and livelihoods opportunities in vulnerable host communities. So far, over 14,000 men and women have benefitted from jobs and livelihoods opportunities and over 13,000 people have benefitted from improved access to basic services.

UNDP has used a participatory approach linking national and local government actors with local communities. Through UNDP's support, conflict over and competition for resources and services have decreased while the trust in and legitimacy of local authorities and municipalities have increased.

¹ The official government planning figure for Syrian refugees in Lebanon is 1.5 million.

² Including Palestinian Refugees in Syria (PRS), and Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)



Municipal infrastructure supported by UNDP
(Photo: UNDP Lebanon)

UNDPs Main Thematic Areas of Work

With a focus on stabilization and recovery, particularly for host communities, UNDP leads in co-ordinating the social stability and livelihoods sectors. Across its country programme, UNDP has contributed to the crisis response by strengthening national and local delivery systems to improve access to and the quality of basic public services and livelihoods opportunities. UNDP also helped to enhance the stability and resilience of vulnerable communities. Key elements of the programme include:

- Support to municipalities and host communities through rehabilitation of public infrastructure and basic service delivery;
- Enhancing access to and the quality of productive infrastructure;
- Improving living conditions in Palestinian gatherings;
- Support to MSMEs, start-ups and integrated value chains;
- Creating decent work opportunities for Syrian refugees and host communities through labour-intensive infrastructure improvement (joint programme with ILO);

Humanitarian Partnerships

To address the enormous impact of the Syria crisis through the overall 3RP framework, UNDP has taken a key role in leading and coordinating the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan in collaboration with UNHCR and under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the RC/HC. Ensuring that the plan is integrated as a joint humanitarian and stabilization response, UNDP and

NHCR, together with the Ministry of Social Affairs, co-chair the intersector response mechanism. UNDP has the lead in ensuring a coherent stabilization approach across the nine sectors of the Response Plan (i.e. Basic Assistance, Education, Energy & Water, Food Security, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Shelter, and Social Stability). Through a dedicated coordination team, UNDP has played an important role in the planning, coordination and monitoring processes of the LCRP – a role recognized by the government and the humanitarian partners.

UNDP – UNHCR partnership moving forward

UNDP and UNHCR have joined efforts in supporting livelihoods and opportunities that build the self-reliance of refugees and vulnerable host communities alike. Similarly, joint efforts support municipalities and governors' offices and address social tensions through the establishment of community mechanisms and committees that strengthen self-management – efforts that, in turn, strengthen a culture of participatory local governance and accountability. In addition, through a programme supporting the professionalization of community policing, the agencies support national and local institutions to better address incidents and tensions at the local level in adherence to standard codes of conduct.

Within the 3RP framework and the LCRP 2017 – 2020, UNDP and UNHCR will continue to lead and coordinate the joint inter-sector response mechanism together with the Ministry of Social Affairs. This relationship marshals the comparative advantage of each agency and ensures a common vision throughout the response, uniting humanitarian work and development work while including humanitarian principles and rights of refugees in national development plans and policies.

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