

Preface:

More than one million Syrians and Palestinians have crossed the border with Lebanon over the past three years, fleeing from the unbearable suffering brought by the war. They live within Lebanese communities across the country, but are primarily concentrated in deprived areas of the North and the Bekaa Valley. Refugees now constitute over a quarter of the pre-crisis population, making Lebanon the country with the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide.

Lebanon has kept its borders open, and the Lebanese people have shown remarkable solidarity. But the burden on host communities is enormous, and is felt in Lebanon more than in any other country. Impact assessments, such as the one conducted jointly by the UN and the World Bank, point to increased strain on basic services (such as education, health, water and sanitation, and waste collection), as well as growing competition for jobs and sources of income. Tensions and frustration are increasing among host communities, who feel neglected in the face of international support perceived to be exclusively earmarked for refugees.

In collaboration with the Lebanese authorities, UN agencies, NGOs and international donors, UNDP is implementing a comprehensive programme to support Lebanese communities hosting Syrians and Palestinian refugees from Syria. Our objective is to boost the resilience of these communities by strengthening local service infrastructure, creating opportunities for rapid employment and income generation, and supporting existing mechanisms for peaceful coexistence. We also work with key national institutions to strengthen their capacity to manage the crisis, with the aim of promoting long-term stability.

The extent of the crisis in Lebanon is exceptional and requires sustained support from the international community. No country should ever be asked to carry such burden alone.

Impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon



A tented settlement for Syrian refugees in the village of Gaza, in the Bekaa Valley, east of Lebanon, February 2014

A recent World Bank study reveals that the total cost of the crisis to Lebanon will reach **USD 7.5 billion** by the end of 2014*

Lebanon, a country of four million people, has demonstrated unfaltering solidarity towards displaced populations by receiving 36% of the Syrian refugees in the region. Already severely economically and socially impacted by the conflict, **Lebanon now hosts over 1 million refugees from Syria**, adding to a pre-existing Palestine refugee population. Refugees now make up over one fifth of the population in Lebanon.* The cumulative economic, social and security consequences are profound and enduring.

A recent World Bank study reveals that the total cost of the crisis to Lebanon will reach US\$ 7.5 billion by the end of 2014*

Local development have had to confront the impact of the Syrian crisis, which reached an unprecedented scale. The crisis is not only challenging the country's existing social and economic infrastructure, it is exacerbating significant development deficiencies such as unemployment, especially among women and youth, and profound disparities between the wealthy and the poor.

*The source of information: UN 2014 Syria Regional Response Plan

Even before the Syrian crisis, some regions of Lebanon (namely in the North and the Bekaa) were among the poorest and most underserved. Social services, infrastructure and livelihood opportunities were inadequate.

Since March 2011, when the Syrian influx to Lebanon began, most of the refugees have been accommodated and supported by the host communities. The Lebanese communities have been hosting and supporting the Syrian refugees far beyond any other country in the region. Yet this long-lasting refugee situation is likely to exhaust the hosting capacities of local populations that have been playing a key role in the response to the refugees so far. The living conditions in host communities that were already suffering from poverty are further deteriorating. This situation is likely to further increase tensions at the local level between hosting communities and Syrian refugees, especially due to the enormous pressure on basic services (water, sanitation, education and healthcare systems).

**1.5 million
Syrian refugees**

during 2014



A tented settlement for Syrian refugees in the village of Gaza, in the Bekaa Valley, east of Lebanon, February 2014

UNDP-Lebanon Stabilization and Recovery Programme - LSRP



Lebanese and Syrian youth play football in the mini football playground set by UNDP in Halba, north of Lebanon, February 2014

Building blocks for
**medium and
long term
recovery** and
development.

Responding to the multiple dimensions of the crisis, UNDP launched an overall strategic and programmatic plan consisting of the Stabilization and Recovery Program with four components:

1. Fostering the Resilience of the most Vulnerable Lebanese Host Communities
2. Improving living conditions of the in Palestinian Gatherings
3. Promoting Peace Building and conflict prevention
4. Strengthening the Capacity of Key National Institutions and Crisis Management and Response

The LSRP will enable host communities to improve their capacity by addressing immediate needs, while also placing building blocks for medium and long term recovery and development. This is implemented through **a participatory approach with established local and regional working groups** including local stakeholders, municipalities, union of municipalities, civil society, private sector and others.

SUPPORT TO THE LEBANESE HOST COMMUNITIES



STRENGTHENING THE **RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES**
AND **INSTITUTIONS** TO COPE WITH THE **SYRIAN CRISIS**

In response to the Syrian crisis and the continued influx of refugees to Lebanon, host communities and local authorities are bearing additional burdens resulting from the increasing demand for already limited social services, employment and other economic opportunities.

UNDP, jointly with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) launched the “Lebanon Host Communities Support Project” (LHCSP) in 2013 as a comprehensive, coordinated and durable response towards the Syrian refugee crisis and its implications on Lebanon.








The project aims to achieve three main goals:

1. Increase livelihoods and economic opportunities in affected areas
2. Strengthen the capacity of local and national actors to deliver basic services in a participatory and conflict sensitive manner
3. Improve local level dispute resolution and community security.

Achievements of the Project during 2013:

During 2013, approximately 100 projects were implemented in five governorates of the South, North, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon and Beirut. Projects encompassed numerous sectors including health, social, education, livelihood, waste management, water management and infrastructure, benefiting thousands of people including both Syrian refugees and Lebanese.

100 projects targeting 1.2 Million Lebanese & 500,000 Syrian refugees.

	LEBANESE BENEFICIARIES	SYRIAN BENEFICIARIES
 PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR <i>Enhanced education through rehabilitation and equipping Public schools</i>	280,000	13,221
 EDUCATION SECTOR <i>Upgrading and equipping public hospitals and primary health care centers</i>	13,268	67,693
 INFRASTRUCTURE <i>Enhancing living conditions and social integration through rehabilitation of playgrounds, theaters, IT centers</i>	126,000	20,000
 LIVELIHOODS <i>Providing Municipalities with equipment to ensure access of residents to basic services</i>	64,080	17,880
 SOCIAL <i>Equipping municipalities to enhance their capacity in delivering basic services</i>	38,000	14,000
 WASTE MANAGEMENT <i>Rehabilitation of irrigation canals, sewage networks</i>	586,850	342,899
 WATER MANAGEMENT <i>Creating job opportunities, enhancing the produce and equipping needed supplies</i>	160,000	42,500

IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS IN PALESTINIAN GATHERINGS



STRENGTHENING THE **RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES**
AND **INSTITUTIONS** TO COPE WITH THE **SYRIAN CRISIS**

Due to the absence of basic urban service providers, the 42 Palestinian refugee Gatherings are considered among the most vulnerable host communities in Lebanon. In addition to some 110,000 original Palestinian residents, these Gatherings host today around 30,000 Palestinian and 5,000 Syrian refugees displaced from Syria, increasing the population by 31%. This has been exerting unprecedented pressure on the physical and living environment and resources

- 54 urgent infrastructure projects implemented in 22 Gatherings and 7 surrounding localities
- 6 municipalities supported in the implementation of projects that benefit residents of Palestinian Gatherings and neighboring Lebanese communities
- 3,800 families in Gatherings received hygiene kits as part of WASH awareness campaign
- Participatory mappings and improvement plans carried out with local community
- Enhanced environmental conditions of shelter units housing Palestinian and Syrian refugees
- Rehabilitation of 317 shelters hosting refugee families from Syria
- 25 Palestinian families from Syria living in tents relocated to rehabilitated collective centers
- 175 jobs created in the local community

Improved access to basic urban services and WASH of 43,500 dwellers in Gatherings through infrastructure projects and service interventions



HYGIENE KITS

3800



REHABILITATION OF SHELTERS

317



INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

54



JOB CREATION

175

PEACE BUILDING AND SOCIAL COHESION



Addressed the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanese host communities and helped strengthening the capacities of the community to face new challenges and manage the crisis in the medium and long term:

- Trained 136 public school teachers (on dealing positively with differences, peace building and conflict resolution) thus benefitting 5,000 students.
- Organized peace building sensitization sessions for school principals and parents' council.
- Produced three news supplements with Annahar and Assafir newspapers on peace building (34,000 copies/issue), engaging journalists from different and diverse media outlets. The latest issue of the joint news supplement tackled the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon and conveyed positive messages to both Lebanese and Syrians, aiming at alleviating the rising tensions between the two communities and raising awareness on the issue from its social, economic and humanitarian perspectives. The upcoming issues will also tackle the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon from socio-economic and humanitarian perspectives.
- Launched the "Journalists' Pact for Strengthening Civil Peace in Lebanon" based on a long and participatory process of consultations and negotiations with senior editors from 35 media outlets in the country (TV, Radios, Newspapers and websites).
- Strengthened the capacity of the eight municipalities of Wadi Khaled in crisis management, mediation, conflict resolution, technical management of municipalities, communication and advocacy.

Training 136 public school teachers targeting 5000 students



CONFLICT RESOLUTION
TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

136



TRAINING FOR
MUNICIPALITIES

8



STUDENT BENEFICIARIES

5000



NEWS SUPPLEMENT COPIES
DISTRIBUTED

3400

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF KEY NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



STRENGTHENING THE **RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES**
AND **INSTITUTIONS** TO COPE WITH THE **SYRIAN CRISIS**

UNDP works closely with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) on disaster risk management and on strengthening the LAF's capacities in Civil Military Cooperation.

Addressing Lebanon's exposure and vulnerability to disasters, UNDP provides technical support to the PMO to strengthen the institutional framework and systems for disaster risk management. This engagement facilitated partnerships between key national institutions, resulting in the development of Lebanon's national response plan. Moreover, multidisciplinary teams were also established to assess Lebanon's progress towards the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Current UNDP support to the PMO includes the creation of a National Operations Room (NOPR) for disaster risk management that would lead response and recovery in case of major crisis, disasters, and major civilian operations.

At the sectoral level, UNDP is currently in the process of developing the contingency plan for a number of key ministries. This is coupled with local level contingency plan development for the cazas of Byblos, Beirut, and Tripoli. The work at the local level also includes awareness-raising and capacity-building exercises that target local institutions and communities on disaster risk management.

Similar to the work at the PMO, UNDP is at the heart of supporting the LAF in strengthening its work in the area of Civilian Military Cooperation (CIMIC) for the purpose of enhancing stability and conflict prevention.

Through the joint efforts of Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) UNDP, UNIFIL, and UNOHCHR, the Lebanese Army CIMIC National strategy was developed and then endorsed by the LAF along with its five-year action plan that is currently being implemented. In addition, UNDP supports the LAF by further strengthening the capacities of LAF officers in CIMIC skills as well as rolling out CIMIC community outreach initiatives.

Distributing 300 prototype emergency kits to public and private institutions



CREATION OF A NATIONAL OPERATIONS ROOM (NOPR) FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



DEVELOPMENT OF CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR THE CAZAS OF BYBLOS, BEIRUT, AND TRIPOLI.



DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL MILITARY COOPERATION NATIONAL STRATEGY