CARITAS LEBANON

Emergency response for displaced populations from Syria

A hand to support a person in need
A specialized Department at Caritas Lebanon, which is the social and pastoral body of the Catholic church.

Established in 1994, the Migrant Center keeps progressing and growing to serve migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees.

It offers a wide array of services to migrants, regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity or political beliefs.

CLMC serves on a yearly basis more than 250,000 migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers.
CLMC Staff

1994:
• 3 persons
• 1 office

2013:
• 200 persons
• 17 offices
• 6 shelters
OUR VISION
All Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Migrant Workers in Lebanon have their rights recognized, protected and respected.

OUR MISSION
To strengthen and protect the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in Lebanon.
Statistics about Lebanon

- **Area:** 10,452 sq km
- Lebanese population ~ 4,500,000
- Palestinian refugees ~ 600,000
- Migrant workers ~ 400,000
- Iraqi refugees ~ 8,000
- Syrian Refugees ~ 1,500,000

Foreigners: 2,508,000 ½ of the Lebanese population
Since March 2011, Syrians have been leaving their country to flee the crisis.

The exodus to Lebanon has significantly increased since August 2012 as the conflict got bloodier. **Overall 2,141,945**

Although the **smallest** country in the Region, Lebanon is host to the **largest** number of Syrian refugees.
Distribution of displaced Syrians in Lebanon according to UNHCR (01 October 2013)

Total: 774,832
- Registered: 672,945
- Awaiting: 101,887

By Region:
- North Lebanon: 216,174 (13,374)
- Beirut & Mt. Lebanon: 142,596 (43,193)
- Bekaa: 224,866 (41,649)
- South Lebanon: 89,309 (3,671)
## Distribution of displaced Syrians in Lebanon according to UNHCR (01 October 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governorate</th>
<th>Registered Persons</th>
<th>Registered Households</th>
<th>Average waiting period</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beirut &amp; Mt Lebanon</td>
<td>142,596</td>
<td>34,075</td>
<td>41 days</td>
<td>185,789</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>45,424</td>
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<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>216,174</td>
<td>53,344</td>
<td>22 days</td>
<td>229,548</td>
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<td>57,246</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bekaa</td>
<td>224,866</td>
<td>46,622</td>
<td>38 days</td>
<td>266,515</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>55,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>89,309</td>
<td>19,539</td>
<td>10 days</td>
<td>92,980</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>20,429</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Lebanon</strong></td>
<td>672,945</td>
<td>153,580</td>
<td>36 days</td>
<td>774,832</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>178,596</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Demographic breakdown of the Syrian population in Lebanon according to UNHCR (01 October 2013)

52.8% minors as a total of refugees population
Refugees living in overcrowded areas with inadequate access to basic services and where poverty is already present

Existing infrastructure not sufficient

Electricity failure

Water shortage

Sewage network existing in 30% of the territory only

Security and protection gaps
Syrian refugees’ conditions in Lebanon

- Extremely poor families without financial savings,

- Families living in:
  - rented apartments,
  - Informal tented settlements,
  - with Lebanese families.

- Shelter options extremely limited.

- Life very expensive in Lebanon compared to Syria.

- Great difficulties to find a job.
Syrian refugees’ conditions in Lebanon (cntd)

- Rising tensions in many areas
- Fierce competition for work between pre-existing migrant workers and newly arriving refugees as well as with local community → Discrimination and exploitation
- Education, health, rent not accessible for refugees
Many of the refugees left their home empty-handed, even without any financial savings to support themselves.

Most of them are suffering from Intense levels of trauma and stress (depression and anxiety).

Many forced to take new responsibilities in divergence with their traditional social roles.
Syrian refugees’ conditions in Lebanon

- Men are stressed and feeling helpless as they are unable to fulfill their traditional role as breadwinner and family provider
  - lower self esteem, increased violence against women and children

- Women working in paid informal employment (empowerment)
Almost ¼ of children are not attending school due to space limitation, language barriers, difficulty of access.

Boys are working to help their parents earn money to survive.

Girls are not allowed to register at school for cultural reasons.

Shelter options are currently extremely limited because of the staggering number of refugees in the country.
Syrian refugees’ conditions in Lebanon (cntd)

- Half of all refugee population is not receiving necessary medical treatment: chronically ill, pregnant women and children particularly require urgent attention
- Elderly and persons with disabilities ignored
- Lack of enough psycho-social support given the increased level of fear, stress and anxiety that refugees are experiencing
The most vulnerable populations

1,000,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees among the 1,500,000

- SGBV victims
- Families abandoned by one parent or more
- Unaccompanied minors
- Families or persons who have been directly threatened with violence
- Elderly
- Minorities
Situation of Christian Minorities

- Afraid to be present in crowded places with other refugees, in fear of being recognized
- Afraid to register with UNHCR
- Limited access to services
- Which increases their vulnerability
- A needs assessment of the Christian minorities is being conducted, and foreseen to be finalized by December 2013
Syrian refugees’ most pressing needs

- Winterization
- SGBV support and shelter
- Protection
- Shelter
- Financial sustainability
- Infrastructure
- Health Care
- Humanitarian Assistance
Caritas’ response to the crisis

Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center is responding to different needs and is providing:

- Hotlines 24/7
- Humanitarian assistance
- Rent assistance
- Medical assistance
- Shelter (4 shelters + rent assistance)

25,213 families
125,728 members
Caritas’ response to the crisis

- Social and psychosocial assistance
- Legal aid
- Education assistance
- Winterization
- Information Center at Masnaa Border Crossing

“We are trying to provide what [the Syrians] need to stay alive – food, bedding, medical care. But we also have to be with them, to listen to them, to sympathize with them. And pray for peace.”

Father Simon Faddoul, President of Caritas Lebanon
“God and Caritas and Ban Ki-Moon”

Poster written after CLMC’s distribution of stoves in an informal tented settlement in the Bekaa
Legal assistance

A team of 8 CLMC lawyers is providing legal support to Syrian refugees

From December 2012 till September 2013:
- 628 Legal Files opened

68 legal representations before courts. Cases involved:
- Proof of paternity
-Loss of purse and identity documents
- Labor
- Registration of marriage certificate
- Registration of birth certificate
- Custody
- Divorce
- Threat
- Falsification
- Minor abduction
- Theft
- Illegal entry

1,068 persons received financial assistance to pay the $200 return coupon (residency permit) fees thus allowing them to stay in Lebanon, through UNHCR funding.
Caritas provided plastic sheeting, wood and nails to weather-proof tents to **1,240 families** (1,000 tents) in 23 informal tented settlements in Central Bekaa.

- Caritas distributed 1,000 wood-burning stoves to families living in informal tented settlements in the Bekaa
- Caritas distributed 15,000 fuel coupon of 20$ each
Storm and flooding

- Early January 2013, Lebanon was struck by an important storm.

- Among the affected population were the Syrians living in precarious conditions.

- CLMC offered immediate medical consultations, especially for children, as well as new bedding supplies, blankets and food parcels to replace those lost or ruined by water.

- CLMC on a case by case basis attempted to find alternative housing. In Dalhamieh, CLMC negotiated with the landlord to open the warehouse to shelter the families living in damaged tents because of the storm.
Evacuation of migrant workers from Syria

- General Security accepted to allow third country national migrant workers to enter Lebanon and requested that CLMC establishes a shelter for them until they can take flights back to their countries.

- CLMC worked in cooperation with IOM and the relevant embassies in Lebanon and Syria to evacuate their nationals through the Lebanese airport.

- A total of 1,331 migrant workers from Syria have been evacuated so far with CLMC assistance between 12 December 2012 and 05 September 2013.

- The main concern remains for third country national migrant workers still in Syria which may not have regularized immigration status. It is possible that those persons may not be able to leave the country, even if an evacuation is ordered.
Challenges faced by CLMC

- Lack of enough resources to assist people
- Refugees don’t understand the Targeted Assistance newly adopted by UNHCR and its Implementing Partners
- How to differentiate between Syrian refugees and Syrians who used to work and were settled in Lebanon before the crisis
- Difficult working relation with UNHCR
- Lack of real coordination among INGOs and competition to get donors’ support
- Severe competition between INGOs and Local NGOs
Challenges faced by CLMC

- Fast changing operating environment impacting the program level
- Staff overwhelmed
- Turnover among staff
- Lack of time for capacity building
- Security affecting the humanitarian assistance
- Lack of real coordination among UN agencies
- Lack of enough support for the local NGOs
Since the inception of the crisis, over 61 million dollars have been donated by catholic institutions to the Syrian people affected by the Syrian crisis, whether in Syria or in surrounding countries. This amount covers all aspects of humanitarian aid whether food, NFIs, education, health, shelter, elderly, sanitary or psychological support.

Over 42 catholic institutions have been identified as donors. Funds were provided by some 19 sources. 17 countries contributed to the financial aid.

Whether in Syria or in neighboring countries, over 55 implementers (institutions delivering the aid on the ground) were identified.
Relief provided by the Catholic Church to refugees in the MENA Region

- Catholic institutions’ aid covers 7 countries: Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt and Cyprus.

- Aid reached 20 cities in Syria.

- Over 2,000,000$ were donated for education

- Over 11,000,000$ were donated for Food

- Over 7,000,000$ were donated for Health
THANK YOU

FOR YOUR ATTENTION!