LEBANON

Country Snapshot
Population: 4.4 million
Life expectancy at birth: 80 (men 77.5, women 81.8)
Adult literacy rate: 90%
GDP per capita: US$ 7079
Infant mortality rate: 22 per 1,000 live births
Maternal mortality rate: 25 per 100,000 live births
Females in the labour force age 15+: 23%

Source: The World Bank, Lebanese Baseline Information SNAP/ ACS, central Administration of Statistics, Trade Economics

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
CARE first set up an office in Lebanon to meet the needs of people affected by the war in 2006. For several years CARE implemented projects through Lebanese Civil Society Organizations, such as an ongoing project on social accountability in seven Middle Eastern and North African countries, financed by the World Bank.

In April 2013, CARE decided to re-establish a full-fledged presence in Lebanon in order to address the needs of Syrian refugees and host communities. Lebanon, with a population of 4.4 million people, is currently hosting more than 1,180,000 Syrian registered refugees, the largest number in the region. In addition, over 45,000 Palestinian-Syrians and 50,000 Lebanese returnees have fled to Lebanon. Unlike Jordan or Turkey, Lebanon has not established refugee camps and the majority of refugee families live in unfinished houses, work sites or tents. Although Syrian refugees in Lebanon are permitted to work, most struggle to find employment in seasonal jobs or other opportunities in a depressed and increasingly competitive market.

CARE International in Lebanon has been meeting refugees’ most basic and pressing needs mainly by providing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene assistance (WASH), Cash assistance and Non-Food Items (NFIs) such as winterization and new comer kits in Beirut/Mount, Bekaa and North Lebanon governorates. CARE has also been providing a mapping and referral system, information on how to register with UNHCR and capacity building trainings to staff as well as case studies on topics such as social cohesion, gender and shelter among other services. Between July 2013 and May 2015, CARE has supported over 150,000 vulnerable refugee and host community members.

Multi-purpose Cash
After the adoption of a national wide cash assistance program last winter, cash assistance was identified as one of the most appropriate and relevant modality to be used when addressing the basic needs of the Syrian refugees. Cash assistance promotes the dignity of the refugees as they are given the flexibility to prioritize on how to use the cash assistance based on their immediate needs which is mainly pay for rent, food, medicine, clothes, and fuel for cooking and heating.
CARE is currently implementing a multipurpose cash program as part of the Lebanon Cash Consortium (LCC) together with Save the Children, World Vision, International Rescue Committee, Solidarités International and the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development. The LCC which aims at reaching 3,800 vulnerable Syrian refugees. The LCC has been funded by both DFID as well as ECHO.

Through these projects CARE provide a monthly distribution of a multi-purpose cash grant to vulnerable refugee families in the districts of Aley, Chouf (Mount Lebanon Governorate) and Saida (South Governorate). The LCC partners are using Inter-Agency harmonized methodologies for beneficiaries assessment and selection.

Furthermore, CARE has previously worked with an unconditional cash project in partnership with Secure Islamic France (SIF) reaching over 1,000 families in the districts of Alay, Baabda and Chouf in Mount Lebanon.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

CARE International in Lebanon started its humanitarian intervention with a WASH project in three Palestinian gatherings in Beirut. CARE improved the access to water and sanitation for communities hosting refugees from Syria, as well as hygiene promotion between July to November 2013.

Since October 2013, CARE has been working with WASH projects in both Mount and North Lebanon supporting Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese to meet their most urgent water, sanitation and hygiene needs and to reduce the risk of water borne diseases. CARE’s current WASH programs aims to cover the needs of Syrian refugees and host community members by improving water and sanitation infrastructures at municipal level and providing household rehabilitation. CARE’s household repair and rehabilitation interventions have reached more than 1,100 highly vulnerable Syrian refugees. In addition, hygiene promotion sessions are being provided continuously during the project durations.

CARE has successfully implemented several WASH programs in Bekaa, Mount Lebanon and North Lebanon which has enabled:

- 31 WASH infrastructure projects in 29 municipalities hosting more than 35,000 Syrian refugees and 90,000 Lebanese.
- Emergency water and sanitation repairs to 286 families in 226 Households and two collective centers.
- Hygiene promotion sessions at household level, in community sessions and in schools for Syrian and Lebanese children reached 2,202 Syrians (179 male, 734 female, 1290 children).
- The support of more than 3,000 families through distribution of hygiene items (hygiene-, baby-, and latrine kits). Hygiene awareness sessions were given during the distributions.
- The distribution of 438 anti-lice shampoos, 438 anti-scabies lotions and 187 Aquatab tubes. Information sessions on their usage were given.

**Newcomer Assistance**

CARE implemented a newcomer project in Mount Lebanon between March and June 2014 focusing on covering the basic needs of newcomer families from Syria through distribution of standardized non food items (NFI) assistance. The kits contained of mattresses, buckets, blankets, water container, baby items (for children under 2 years old), hygiene kits, kitchen sets to enable the families to settle down in dignity with basic essential information. At the end of the project, CARE reached 300 families with newcomer assistance.

**Clothes Distributions**

In May 2014, CARE held a clothes distribution for children (under age of 18) living in "Silver Star” collective center housing 35 refugee families, Ketermaya informal tented settlement (ITS) and Dalhoun ITS in Chouf district, Mount
Lebanon. Following donations, CARE, enabled distribution of vouchers for clothes to a total of 267 children for an amount of 33 USD Dollar per child with which the children could buy clothes from a local store accompanied by their parents.

CARE held a second clothes distribution in October 2014 for refugee children in Chouf, Mount Lebanon. A total of 407 children received a 30 USD Dollar voucher which they used to buy clothes, shoes, school material and/or toys from six local stores. CARE set up play houses with balloons and invited the scouts to arrange games and paintings for children. This event was funded by private donations given during the classical music concert “When music rhymes with solidarity” organized by CARE France at the Salle Caveau in Paris.

Winterization Programme

During the winter 2013-2014, CARE reached 3,433 Syrian refugee families and vulnerable Lebanese households in Mount and North Lebanon governorates to cope with the cold winter through distributing full winterization packages consisting of cash for heaters and fuel, blankets and floor mats. In addition, 399 families in upper Chouf, Mount Lebanon, received one month fuel vouchers and 467 individuals received Cash for Food consisting of 27 USD/month per family member for two months.

In Lebanon, Syrian refugees account for more than a 25% increase in the population. In order to meet the most urgent needs and protect the dignity of vulnerable refugees and host communities CARE is devoted to work with host country governments, United Nations agencies, international and local organizations.

Partnership approach

CARE has worked in partnership with Lebanese non-governmental organizations (NGO) such as Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA), Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARD), Summod Foundation and SIF. CARE is currently working with SAVE, IRC, WV, SI and ACTED through its Cash programming. CARE is also the grant holder of funding for the Safety and Security Committee for Lebanon (SSCL). CARE intends to continue to explore partnerships with both local and international organizations in the areas of intervention in order to maximize the impact of programmes.

Major Donors

European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), Humanitarian Coalition Canada (HC), Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD), Department for International Development, Suez Foundation, Cloverleaf Foundation, BNP Paribas, CARE members and private donors.

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