MERATH
Middle East Revive & Thrive

In Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, the MERATH team is implementing over 25 projects for Syrian and Iraqi refugees and internally displaced people through local partners

QUARTERLY UPDATE

July – September 2016

relief@lsesd.org

Education

Over 1000 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon are attending eight informal education programs — 21 educators in Lebanon have been trained for child inclusion

Child Protection

675 children in Syria and 170 children in Lebanon are being provided child-friendly safe spaces to learn, play and feel secure — 21 Lebanese educators and 16 Syrian partners have been trained for child protection

Basic Assistance

Over 300 Syrian and Iraqi households in Lebanon are being provided health care — Over 2,500 households in Syria received water sanitation and hygiene supplies as well as 105 families in Iraq — 525 Syrian refugee households in Lebanon and 60 families in Iraq with infants and toddlers are recieving milk and diapers

Food Assistance

Over 1,900 refugee households in Lebanon, 5,550 households in Syria and 105 households in Iraq received monthly food vouchers or food boxes

Gender-Based Violence

Five partners have been trained on gender-based violence and are promoting gender equality within the Syrian and Iraqi refugee communities

LSESD
Lebanese Society For Educational & Social Development
الجمعية اللبنانية للإنماء التربوي والإجتماعي

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LEBANON

As the school year begins in Lebanon, only half of all primary school-age Syrian children are attending an accredited school. The main reasons for this lapse is due to transportation difficulties, safety concerns, language barriers, discrimination and the unfortunately high rate for child labor. According to the Freedom Fund Report, up to 70 percent of Syrian children from 18 years and younger are being forced to work in hazardous conditions, a majority of which are being paid as little as $1 a day.

Lebanon is a tiny, densely populated country of just 10,000 square km neighboring Syria. It contains 4.5 million people, 1 out of 5 of which are Syrian refugees, approximately 1.6 million. Syrian refugees — 53 percent of which are children — are taking shelter in neglected buildings, informal settlements and rented apartments, though most refugees will pay rent regardless of their living situation. Over 70 percent of Syrian families are living under the poverty line, averaging $940 in debt making it difficult to pay for food and clean water. It is a necessity for there to be continuous support in filling the gaps of food and education services for Syrian children growing up under these circumstances. As the year-long garbage crisis worsens in Lebanon, hygiene and sanitation is rapidly becoming an increasingly high priority as well.

SYRIA

Since the beginning of the Syrian conflict in 2011, 11 million Syrian civilians have been killed or fled the country. 6.5 million have been internally displaced and 13.5 million Syrians are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. Since the start of 2016, the security situation has deteriorated in the governorates of Northern Syria, forcing increasing numbers of locals to flee, while making it nearly impossible for aid to reach those who are the most affected. Around 10 million Syrians are food insecure.

As a result, 80 percent of Syrian households are struggling to survive due to climbing market prices for food and other subsidies, with many driven to starvation. Because of inadequate support for agriculture-based livelihoods, Syria is in danger of having most of its commercial produce industry completely dissipated. Food production has dropped by 40 percent since 2011. The rate of unemployment for household earners is at 58 percent and continues to rise. Because of renewed fighting in Aleppo, schools have been destroyed, abandoned or occupied. The basic needs in Syria continue to be: access to food, water, electricity and medical supplies.

IRAQ

Since the Iraqi army took back several major cities from the Islamic State, many people are attempting to return home. However, this has led to a situation of increased casualties from explosives left in their homes, keeping the number of internally displaced people in Iraq at 3.3 million. That number is expected to rise with the Iraqi military's plans to take back Mosul from IS. There are constant mass executions, systematic rapes, and other acts of violence and attacks on basic human rights throughout the country. It is estimated that by the end of 2016, over 11 million Iraqis will be in need of humanitarian assistance.

Communities are becoming strained and are close to a breaking point due to the influx of IDPs and refugees. Water, food and infrastructure are often used as weapons of war as IS and the Iraq army often blocks aid to help the 2.4 million Iraqis in need of food assistance. 18 governorates have been affected by conflict. In larger cities like Baghdad, terror attacks have killed up to a thousand people in the past year. Shelter, food, water, emergency relief kits and protection services are growing needs throughout Iraq.

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Sources: OCHA, UNHCR, ReliefWeb, World Vision, Mercy Corps, The Daily Star, The Guardian, WFB, IOM, UNAMI, Freedom Fund Report