



IOM IN LEBANON

- IOM & Qatar Charity aid to 10,000 in Bekaa Valley and capacity building in emergency project management highly appreciated.
- IOM secures funding from Belgium and Australia for rehabilitation, psychosocial and livelihood support.
- Study suggests need to act on improving the legal situation of 200,000 migrant workers.

NEWSLETTER I/2007

Funding received			
			
In-kind Donations			
			
Recent Allocations			

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT!

MAP: IOM Head Office - Southern Lebanon - Bekaa Valley

Bekaa: IOM & Qatar Charity Support 10,000

Through this project, Qatar Charity and IOM have worked together on improving the immediate living conditions of more than 10,000 vulnerable community members in the aftermath of the recent conflict. Concentrating on the largely neglected Bekaa Valley, IOM and Qatar Charity provided school uniforms, gym kits and sports jerseys to students in public schools, as well as winterization items (diesel heaters, blankets, rechargeable lamps) to war affected families. IOM also provided office equipment to 21 public schools, thereby going beyond its initial commitments towards the beneficiaries and the donor. Based on the excellent groundwork that Qatar Charity made possible in the Bekaa, IOM is recognised by Municipal leaders and the general public as a credible and reliable partner. This has and will continue to greatly facilitate IOM's ability to implement projects in the Bekaa Valley and beyond. IOM is ready to continue its fruitful cooperation with Qatar Charity and other partners in order to expand upon the achieved results by catering for additional needs which remain abundant.



Distributed Items per Beneficiary Entity	Planned Direct Beneficiaries	Results	Indirect Beneficiaries
school uniform, gym kit, sport jersey	2,000 students	2,311 students	Families of the students
heater, 5 blankets, rechargeable lamp	1,000 families	1,200 families	Home communities
photocopier, fax, desktop computer	Not planned	21 schools	4,099 students

Capacity Building in Emergency Project Management

In parallel, IOM carried out targeted capacity building workshops to largely non-governmental but also governmental entities, focussing on project management in (post)emergency settings.



Both project components have been warmly welcomed and deemed highly effective in view of the general scarcity of resources and capacities available in the target area. In the meantime, IOM received additional requests for assistance in Baalbeck, Hermel and other Municipalities in the Bekaa Valley and is striving to mobilise additional funds.

IOM secures funding from Belgium and Australia for rehabilitation, psychosocial and livelihood support

Funded by the Government of Belgium, IOM is implementing a psychosocial support component, which will fill existing gaps in psychosocial assistance to children, adults, families and communities affected by the recent conflict, mainly through counselling, social, cultural, anthropological and recreational activities and capacity building of Lebanese professionals. IOM will closely cooperate with the Association for the Protection of War Children (Association pour la Protection de l'Enfant de la Guerre/APEG), a Lebanese NGO specialised in psychosocial support, in particular to children, by establishing a psychosocial centre in Baalbeck and a mobile counselling unit for the Bekaa.



IOM will also support the Lebanese University (Beirut) in establishing a 1-year Master in "Psy-social Animation in War Torn Societies", to be eventually expanded into a fully-fledged 2-year MA programme, involving national and international Centres of Excellence.

Under the Belgian project, IOM is also installing 30 pre-fabricated houses (43 sqm, living room/kitchenette, bedroom, bath room) in Baalbeck (Bekaa Valley) following a request by the Municipality, which has offered government land on which these houses will be installed. In addition, this project will support repairs to partially damaged homes, water/sanitation installations and health facilities, including re-equipment with essential tools and medicines. Within these rehabilitation

activities, IOM will offer livelihood opportunities for local populations and businesses. The Australian-funded project will complement the above initiative through quick-impact response measures in the fields of shelter, non-food items, water/sanitation and health to the most vulnerable IDPs/returnees.

IOM has undertaken representative ground assessments in Tyre district, including the village of Al Kulaila/Al Qulaileh. With a total population of 6,000, 260 of a total to 850 housing were totally destroyed, 240 partially and 300 slightly damaged. While families with slightly damaged houses received some money from the Government, 80 of the 240 partially destroyed homes remain in need of urgent repairs to prevent further damage. While some repairs have been made, grants given have often not been sufficient for complete rebuilding and rehabilitation, particularly as prices for construction material have soared lately.



Regarding totally destroyed homes, nothing has been done as yet, in part due to the fact that a new law was issued forbidding reconstruction of any houses on government-owned land. In these cases, the displaced population is hosted either by friends and relatives, or renting alternative living spaces, with no visible solution to their dilemma. One of the three public schools is in urgent need of a generator, while the only clinic in the village needs refurbishment and a new ambulance. The garbage truck of the villages has been destroyed and needs replacement as well.

80% of livelihoods in this village depend on agriculture. As quick impact measure, IOM provided a 200 kW generator upon request by the Municipality, which will help irrigate the orchards of 16 family-sized farms. The previous one had been destroyed by air raids during summer 2006.



In addition to replacement of destroyed productive assets, complementary livelihood activities such as vocational training are required in order to accommodate existing market needs for electricians, carpenters, black smiths, tailors, and various types of handicrafts. There is currently no public internet facility.

Studies suggest need to act on improving legal situation of 200,000 migrant workers

Following the July/August 2006 conflict in Lebanon and the resulting massive repatriation of migrant workers, IOM and the International Labour Organization (ILO) conducted an assessment with the aim to assist the Government in better regulating, managing and monitoring labour migration, with specific focus on women migrants domestic workers (WMDW), the vast majority of migrant labour in Lebanon.

well as targeted information to be provided to WMDWs and their employers regarding mutual rights and obligations.

A National Steering Committee (NSC) already exists, involving key Ministries (Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Justice, Interior), the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, civil society, trade unions, the bar association and the media. While discussions within the NSC, not free from controversy, are ongoing, the mentioned study is expected to provide new impetus for advancing the situation of migrant labour in Lebanon.

IOM Voluntary Repatriation of Stranded Migrants / Third-Country Nationals From Lebanon During Summer 2006			
Country	Female	Male	Total
 Sri Lanka	93.3%	6.7%	5,397
 Philippines	99.2%	0.8%	4,191
 Ethiopia	99.5%	0.5%	2,410
 Bangladesh	46.3%	53.7%	727
 Sudan	5.2%	94.8%	436
 Vietnam	94.8%	5.2%	77
 Ghana	61.9%	38.1%	65
 Nepal	96.2%	3.8%	26
 Cameroon	70.0%	30.0%	14
 Morocco	43.9%	57.1%	7
 Seychelles	25.0%	75.0%	6
 Madagascar	25.0%	75.0%	4
TOTAL	12,353 92.47%	1,007 7.53%	13,360 100%

In light of the recent political unrest in the country, IOM also conducted a study into the potential need for – and feasibility of – another, potentially large-scale evacuation of migrant labourers from Lebanon in the event of renewed internal or regional conflict. This assessment revealed that most countries would aim to protect their own citizens within the possibilities of limited resources, while not being ready to support the evacuation of third country nationals.

Both studies remain in draft format while partner consultations continue, and will be made available upon request.

Start of Pre-Departure Medical Screening of Australia-bound Refugee Resettlement Cases

At the request of the Australian Government, IOM held 'Australian Cultural Orientation' sessions for the first time in March at IOM Beirut premises for refugees accepted for resettlement to Australia.

An IOM expert trainer provided a four-day intensive session to a first group of thirteen individuals from Somalia, Iraq and Sri Lanka. At the end of the session, each individual received a certificate as pre-condition for resettlement.



Similarly, IOM will soon commence pre-departure medical screening (PDMS) for all refugees approved to resettle in Australia. For this purpose, the IOM office in Beirut is installing a medical check-up point where a doctor will screen the refugees, including for incidence of TB. IOM will implement PMDS for an estimated caseload of 200 individuals (50 family cases) during 2007. PMDS usually takes place ten days before departure in order to ensure that all passengers are fit to travel.

It was found that the potential for abuse and exploitation, often enabled by lack of freedom of movement of WMDWs, can be reduced through addition of WMDW issues in the Lebanese labour legislation, including a standard unified work contract, as