

R&R Syria AISBL

Humanitarian Programme Line

Lebanon 2013-2015

Decision	Budget	Duration
Motion of JIC: 11/06/2013	Target: €380,800/year	15/06/2013 - 31/12/2015
Board R&R Syria: 11/06/2013	Minimum: €500/month	Priority A-

I. Scope

The Humanitarian Programme Line Lebanon 2013-2015 is one of the three main pillars supporting the overarching peacebuilding activities of R&R Syria AISBL in Lebanon. It is therefore directly linked to the Peacebuilding Programme Line Lebanon 2013-2015.

The activities described in this Programme Line detail the humanitarian aid to be carried out in operational regions in North and East Lebanon. The reach of these activities goes beyond the premises and immediate surroundings of the R&R Peace Centres, covering the larger populations of refugees and host communities in need. Humanitarian aid shall be assessed and distributed to the maximum benefit of communities, with a view to addressing the most urgent needs and taking preventative measures. Thus, the Programme Line embodies the core values of impartial aid of R&R Syria. Working among and across communities in this manner furthers the goal of R&R Syria in building relationships that establish its presence and intentions on the ground, whilst also harbouring mutual trust and understanding. Such relationships are important in encouraging local communities to make full use of the R&R Peace Centres once they are operational. Collaboration with municipalities is necessary for the success of the long-term activities outlined in this Programme Line, with respect to enhancing local capacity for disaster response and concerns affecting both refugee and host communities. Such capacity will be further strengthened through the training of local members, who will be equipped to become trainers for their communities in related matters.

This Programme Line shall cover and precede every R&R Peace Centre established in Lebanon, including outreach activities in the target regions. It was endorsed by the Joint Implementation Committee of R&R Syria AISBL and R&R Lebanon and adopted by the Board of Directors of R&R Syria AISBL on the aforementioned dates for the aforementioned duration. This Programme Line is labelled as Priority A- with regard to available funding; it has to be frozen if no funding is available to cover at least the specified minimum operational costs for two following months, after deduction of minimum operational costs for Programme Lines with higher priority.

II. Needs Assessment

Working with key actors on the ground in each target region, R&R Syria has been able to carry out its own qualitative research of the most urgent needs to be responded to. Through discussions with refugee populations in all target areas, important observations have been made informing the development of this Programme Line.

The influx of refugees into the target areas is still growing. By the end of May, 473,000 had officially registered with the UNHCR. After credible estimations, the real number is thought to be at least twice as high. 63,042 have registered in the Akkar caza, 27,968 in the Western Bekaa caza. The movement of refugees continues in large numbers, especially after the offensive of the Syrian regime against Qusayr, an area in close proximity to both the Akkar caza and the Bekaa region. The increasing number of refugees will put extra strain on existing resources, furthering the need for a humanitarian response.

In talks with refugee families and key actors in both our target areas (North and Bekaa), the most urgent red flags in the current situation are hygiene and health related issues, especially with regard to the youth. According to UNWRA, the population of young refugees exceeds 50% of the total figure currently seeking refuge in Lebanon. For this reason, it is particularly important to focus on youth-related issues. A press release in April 2013 from UNICEF, states that of the 400,000 refugees who had registered by then, only 11,000 benefit from primary healthcare support on a monthly basis, whilst 3,000 also receive secondary healthcare. Such numbers indicate a clear need for more operational capacity in the Lebanese healthcare sector in general. A report from UNICEF and ACTED published in May/June 2012 further highlights the needs with regard to hygiene and sanitation. The recommendations include the distribution of emergency hygiene kits, hygiene promotion campaigns and basic training in water tank maintenance. Risks of poor water treatment and sanitation include epidemics of diarrhoea, hepatitis A and skin diseases as well as other illnesses. It is therefore crucial that rapid improvements are made to water accessibility and sanitation.

At the level of our target regions, a UNICEF mapping of February 2013 shows WASH response in some parts of the Akkar but indicates incomprehensive coverage. In addition, the survey shows that WASH assessments were carried out in only 4 areas (Halba, El Bire, Aaidamoun, Wadi Khaled) but not throughout the district; many areas remain unassessed and with no operational force providing WASH related services. However, first bacteriological water tests carried out by Première Urgence in the Akkar showed that the water in most areas is safe for consumption. But the research also indicates serious shortcomings in water distribution, with almost all households relying on wells for access, lacking permanent maintenance and surveillance. The report also indicates a lack of wastewater management. A report carried out in the Bekaa Region by World Vision at the end of 2012 stated that many families rely on city supplies of water as their main source. Among the difficulties reported by families, the access to sufficient drinking water was highlighted. Tests on water quality in the Bekaa area, carried out by ACF in June 2012, indicated that water supplies in some areas were unsafe for consumption. Furthermore, North and Central Bekaa are reported to experience water shortages in some communities during summer months.

After initial difficulties, the international crisis response is better structured by now. Danish Refugee Council has taken charge of the distribution of the necessary food and non-food items to new arrivals, pending registration. Following registration, assistance is mainly distributed through cash and vouchers. However, this service is limited in its reach, especially as far from all refugees are registered with the UNHCR. Other loopholes have also been reported to us, especially when it comes to most basic medical services for new arrivals. First aid items such as plaster, gauze bandage or iodine are lacking from the new-arrival kits. Our research concludes that there are still huge problems with regard to access to clean, public drinking water, especially during summer.

We wish to address the most urgent needs through the distribution of complementary first aid kits and the long-term needs through the development of hygiene-related infrastructure.

III. Objectives

The objectives of this Programme Line shall be implemented in full concurrence with the objectives of the Peacebuilding Programme Line Lebanon 2013-2015, as the overarching objectives of all activities of R&R Syria AISBL in Lebanon. Against this background and in light of the needs assessment detailed above this Programme Line shall strive to realise the following specific objectives:

- a) To alleviate suffering of those affected by the Syrian crisis, in particular the youth and their families, and to address their most urgent material needs.
- b) To empower refugee communities and families for improving the basic health and hygiene conditions under the difficult circumstances of their provisional shelters, particularly with regard to birth and infant health and hygiene.
- c) To increase local capacities for crisis response and disaster risk reduction, especially with regard to the health and hygiene sector, involving host communities and municipalities for sustainably improving their local infrastructure.

IV. Target Population

The main target population are Syrian refugees in the surroundings of each R&R Peace Centre in the North and in the Bekaa regions of Lebanon. However, Lebanese families in need shall also benefit from activities under this Programme Line. When it comes to the distribution of non-food items, the following selection criteria shall apply:

- a) Syrian refugee families 1) who have children under 18, 2) who do not receive regular WASH or cash assistance, and 3) where the head of the household is a woman.
- b) Lebanese families 1) who have children under 18, 2) who have no full-time working member or other source of regular income, and 3) who do not receive regular welfare benefits.
- c) Any family or individual with visible skin diseases or other medical problems related to hygiene or with other special needs aggravating the ability to take care of hygiene.

As outlined in the Peacebuilding Programme Line, R&R will start its operations with the establishment of a first Peace Centre in the surroundings of Halba in the Akkar. Operations under this Programme Line shall precede the establishment of the first Peace Centre by a couple of weeks, building trust and notoriety within the population. It aims to operate firstly in 4 out of 6 main areas within the Akkar caza. These areas are listed as the following:

- Between Halba, El Aabde and Berqayel (Area AA): start of operations in 06/13
- Between Halba, Aakar el Aatiqa and Meshmesh (Area AB): start of operations in 07/13
- Between Halba, El Bire and Mashba (Area AC): start of operations in 07/13
- Sahl area, between Halba and El Aarida (Area AD): start of operations in 07/13
- Wadi Khaled and Akroum (Area AE): outreach operations foreseen in future
- Qbayyat area (Area AF): no operations foreseen in the near future

The establishment of a second Peace Centre is scheduled for the following months in the Western Bekaa area, most probably in the surroundings of Job Jennine. The exact operational areas have yet to be determined, but the aforementioned selection criteria shall apply equally.

V. Expected Results

The following measurable results are expected as output of this Programme Line:

- a) Health and hygiene-related living conditions of both Syrian refugee and host communities is increased, reducing the risk of hygiene related illness among communities; at least 10,000 beneficiaries have received first aid kits or other non-food items.
- b) The local capacity to address health and hygiene -related problems is enhanced, with the presence of local trainers in related matters; at least 21 community trainers have been trained to raise awareness in refugee settlements.
- c) The local capacity to develop and implement strategies for the improvement of water-treatment facilities is increased; at least 3 municipalities have developed and implemented a water-treatment strategy after two years.
- d) At least 4 life-saving emergency operations have been funded for severe cases that are not covered by any other form of assistance.

VI. Activities

The activities of this Programme Line may precede the establishment of the first Peace Centre as detailed above. The Field Manager will play an important role in implementing activities in their initial stages. Collaboration with partner organisations will be vital in beginning distribution of aid. Subsequent activities will unfold as detailed hereafter:

(a) Distribution of hygiene and health-related non-food items

Following the identification of new arrivals and refugee settlements in the aforementioned target areas, a standard kit of most needed health and hygiene-related items shall be established and distributed amongst those in need, following the aforementioned selection criteria. These kits shall be complementary to those already distributed by other organisations, most notably in the context of the Standard Operational Procedures of the UNHCR. In order to foster reliability and trust, the kits are supposed to be distributed on a monthly basis, as long as an urgent need is persistent. Close coordination with the UNHCR and with other humanitarian aid organisations in the operational area shall assure that no duplication occurs.

The kits shall address the most urgent concerns with regard to health and hygiene conditions, containing non-food items, materials and substances that do not require medical prescription. They may contain but are not limited to the following items: plasters, detergent, cotton, iodine, gauze bandage, hygiene gloves, vulnerary paste, burn ointment, painkiller (such as Paracetamol or Panadol), antivenom, lice comb, anti-lice-shampoo, triangular bandage, diapers, soap, water containers, water purification tablets, safety pins, sanitary towels, zinc ointment, etc.

(b) Raising awareness of hygiene and health-related issues

In the midterm, the awareness and knowledge of health and hygiene-related issues shall be increased amongst refugees and host populations, with particular attention towards child hygiene, through the training of volunteer trainers drawn amongst members of all communities. Town hall meetings will be conducted in at least 7 municipalities covered by the activities of R&R Syria, during which information regarding the Peace Centre and activities pertaining to other programme lines such as educational and psychological support can also be disseminated.

These meetings will serve as a space to identify local candidates to become local trainers in health and hygiene-related matters. This activity aims to train at least 3 trainers per municipality, at least 1 of who will belong to the local refugee population. These trainers will be engaged under the coordination of the Peace Centres' Humanitarian Coordinator and operate at least 1 extensive campaign per year directed to both host and refugee communities on health and hygiene-related issues. Town hall meetings in municipalities will also be a platform for collecting problems, suggestions and inputs from the local population to ensure needs and concerns are voiced.

(c) Establishing and implementing infrastructure strategies

In the long run, the livelihood of refugee and host communities shall be improved through the elaboration and partial implementation of strategy plans for the improvement of basic services infrastructure, such as the treatment of drinking and sewage water or electricity supply. In particular, external experts will be engaged to closely cooperate with selected technical personnel from at least 3 chosen municipalities in the operating areas to carry out the task of precisely assessing municipal sewage and water supply systems. This close cooperation with the respective municipalities is aimed at increasing capacity of local authorities to respond to the local difficulties of sewage and water supply systems. Strategy plans may be informed by external consultants and will be tailored to the concerns of each region individually, with a view to focusing on achievable solutions, which will be presentable to central government and/or international donors for implementation.

In areas most affected by shortages of clean water or electricity, intermediary solutions shall be developed concurrent with the strategies and partly implemented in cooperation with local authorities involved. Possible solutions include the installation of mobile water purification units or generators. This activity aims to contribute in a highly operational way to the capacity of local authorities in disaster risk reduction. Consultation on the equipment to be installed may be provided by external experts. The installation and management of such equipment is to be managed by partner organisations in conjunction with the respective Field Manager.

(d) Establishing dispensaries for basic medical support

In parallel to the implementation of the three aforementioned humanitarian aid activities, the possibility of establishing a partnership with an organisation with a broad experience in the field of medical support exists. This organisation might be invited to use parts of the facilities of the Peace Centre as dispensary for basic medical support and/or as an activity hub. R&R Syria shall assure that access to this medical aid shall obey to the values and principles of R&R Syria, especially with regard to impartiality of aid. However, R&R Syria shall hold no responsibility for the implementation of medical standards and for any damages that might occur in this regard.

(e) Emergency response for individual cases not receiving assistance

Being a young and relatively small organisation, the competitive advantage of R&R Syria is its flexibility to identify and fill gaps left by national or international social services. A certain amount of the annual budget shall be earmarked for individual emergency cases identified in the target areas, particularly with regard to children and adolescents. This budget might serve for urgent medical operations or other measures that are necessary to save lives, especially of young beneficiaries under 18. The Joint Implementation Committee and the Board of Directors of R&R Syria shall be informed about each of these individual cases and can veto them with the majority of its members. Special campaigns may be organised to raise funds for these cases..

VII. Staff Planning

The minimum requirement for carrying out the activities under this Programme Line is no specialised staff at all. The Field Manager running the R&R Peace Centre, employed/engaged under the provisions of the Peacebuilding Programme Line, might be in charge of most basic distributions.

However, the Field Manager should be supported as soon as possible by two outreach assistants per Peace Centre, to be drawn from local communities, Syrian or Lebanese. According to the needs and the available funding, these assistants can either be employed/engaged full-time or part-time.

In a third stage, once the Activities (b) and (c) unfold and under the condition of available funding, one full-time humanitarian aid coordinator shall be employed/engaged to lead the team in a respective Peace Centre under the supervision of the local Field Manager.

External consultants shall be engaged at different steps of the Programme Line, according to the specific needs of each activity. Activities may also be carried out by local partner organisations under the supervision of the Field Manager.

VIII. Budget

The Humanitarian Programme Line Lebanon 2013-2015 is one of the three main pillars supporting the overarching peacebuilding activities of R&R Syria AISBL in Lebanon. It is therefore directly linked to the Peacebuilding Programme Line Lebanon 2013-2015 and relies on its basic staff and premises detailed in the budget of the respective programme line.

As defined earlier, the minimum operational costs of this Programme Line is the availability of a minimum funding for the distribution of non-food items after activity (a). The minimum operational costs are hence defined as €500/month. The Board of Directors of R&R Syria has to be immediately consulted if the Treasurer of R&R Syria states in his/her monthly report that no funding is available for covering these minimum operational costs for at least one month, after deduction of Programme Lines with a higher priority. In this case, the Board of Directors must decide how to proceed. If no satisfying solution can be found, the Programme Line must be frozen and all pending contracts or financial obligations have to be dissolved.

AUTHORISED ANNUAL BUDGET

(a) Human Resources

Item	Description	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Humanitarian Aid Coordinator	2 coordinators, 1 in each Peace Centre, full time, including insurance and allowances	€1,000/mth	24,000
Outreach Assistants	4 outreach assistants, 2 in each Peace Centre, full-time, including insurance and allowances	€600/mth	28,800
Subtotal			52,800

(b) Non-food items and other materials

Item	Description	Unit Cost	Total Cost
First Aid Kits	Distribution of an average of 1,000 first aid kits per month, at about €20/kit	€20,000/mth	240,000
Training Material	Materials for the organisation of 7 town-hall meetings and the training of trainers	€1,000/unit	7,000
Infrastructure	Works for the implementation of first measures under the infrastructure strategies in at least 3 municipalities	€20,000/unit	60,000
Subtotal			307,000

(c) Services

Item	Description	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Training	Town-hall meetings in at least 7 municipalities and training of trainers under activity (b)	€1,000/unit	7,000
Consultancy	Consultancy for the elaboration of 3 municipal infrastructure strategies	€2,000/unit	6,000
Emergency Operations	Covering at least 4 life-saving emergency operations per year as specified in activity (e)	€2,000/unit	8,000
Subtotal			21,000

TOTAL AUTHORISED COSTS PER YEAR

EUR 380,800