

Cash for Hosting in Lebanon

January 2014



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
Swiss Humanitarian Aid SHA

FACTS & FIGURES

Population Lebanon:

4.1 Mio.

Syrian refugees in Lebanon:

864,000

Budget

9.33 Mio. CH

Duration of Project

June 2012 to June 2014

Beneficiaries

2,500 Lebanese host families
(16,000 Syrian refugees)

Achievements

- Providing shelter for about 75% of all refugees (registered with UNHCR or waiting for registration) in the project area
- 16 municipalities benefit from community support projects
- SDC facilitated a dialogue between communities, the Government of Lebanon, international organisations and donors to formulate priorities for a Comprehensive Aid Approach combining refugee aid with support for the indigenous population
- Enhancing the capacity of MADA to implement Cash Transfer Programming in humanitarian assistance

Partners

MADA
HRC

Project Office

Kobayat, Akkar District

Contact

Phone: +961 1 739 741
Fax: +961 1 739 742
Email: beirut@sdc.net



Door-to-door registration of refugees hosted by Lebanese families © SDC

Supporting Host Families and Communities” in the Akkar District

The Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) implements a cash-transfer-project in the Akkar District in Northeast Lebanon. The project supports Lebanese families and communities hosting Syrian refugees and is implemented together with our national partner organization, MADA. After it was launched in March 2012, the first transfer was made in September of the same year, and now the project operates in all 16 municipalities of Wadi Khaled and Akroum. The Akkar District is one of the poorest areas in Lebanon with low-income, social vulnerability and weak public infrastructure. Culturally, there is a high sense of obligation to host people in need, regardless of family affiliation. The Syrian crisis has had a significant economic strain on local communities as the people largely depended on cross-border trade before the crisis.

Through the project, host families receive a monthly cash transfer of 100 USD to compensate for additional expenses that occur by hosting refugees (water, electricity, etc.), as well as a livelihood support of another 100 USD.

This presents a cost-effective way to harmonise humanitarian assistance for refugees with the needs of the hosting population. Over 89% of the funds go directly to the beneficiaries. With a daily cash support of USD 1 per hosted refugee the project supports both, Lebanese and refugee families.

The support to the Lebanese population affected by the crisis is aligned with UNHCR's mandate in Lebanon. It upholds a “do-no-harm” approach by addressing the needs of the hosts, avoiding discrepancies in access to services and mitigating tensions between host and refugee communities. The need for last resort options, such as camps for refugees is reduced.

Cash transfer modalities

The hosts need to fulfill a set of basic conditions concerning the quality of the accommodation and support provided to the refugees to receive the cash, which is paid every three months retrospectively. The amount is paid directly to the registered beneficiaries by a partner bank in the region.