

Effects of the Syrian Refugee Crisis on Lebanon: The Challenges of Providing Services and Creating Jobs

Tuesday, 14 July 2015

9:00 to 17:30

Gefinor Rotana Hotel, Beirut

INTRODUCTION

More than four years have passed since the beginning of the Syrian conflict and while the crisis has seriously affected all countries neighboring Syria, Lebanon has been subject to its most destabilizing effects. With a refugee population exceeding 25% of the total population, under-resourced public institutions, and an unstable security situation, Lebanon's capacities to handle the crisis are being overstretched.

The scale of the refugee influx into Lebanon went beyond expectations and the abilities of host communities and local authorities to cope with it. The severe socio-economic implications of the influx are being observed primarily at the job market level, causing heightened competition between refugee and host communities. In addition, the effectiveness of service delivery, which suffered from serious deficiencies before the crisis, has been seriously deteriorating. This has occurred as international aid for refugees is decreasing and demand for basic services are growing, primarily as a result of a majority of refugees being concentrated in the country's poorest areas, thus increasing their vulnerability and heightening security hazards.

A move away from an emergency/relief-oriented response to a developmental approach that considers the implications of the Syrian refugee crisis with respect to public service delivery and job creation in the medium and long-term is urgently needed. To this end, LCPS is holding a closed meeting on 14 July 2015 with key stakeholders to collectively consider the best ways to address the refugee crisis, focusing particularly on the provision of services and job creation. This will engage the leadership of the central government with the full participation of stakeholders including international agencies, local authorities, local NGOs, the private sector, labor representatives, and experts under an integrated framework. It is the hope of LCPS that this will be the start of a series of meetings which can produce and or support policy development ideas and program initiatives that address these pressing challenges.

AGENDA

9:00–9:30 **Registration and Coffee**

9:30–11:00 **Approaches to the Crisis**

SPEAKERS

Dr. Shadi Karam

Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister, Presidency of the Council of Ministers

Mr. Ross Mountain

Deputy Special Coordinator, Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative ad interim at United Nations

Mr. Adib Nehmeh

Regional Advisor on Peace Building, Transition and Governance, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Mr. Sami Atallah

Executive Director, Lebanese Center for Policy Studies

11:00–11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30–14:00 **Provision of Services**

SPEAKERS

Dr. Khalil Gebara

Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Interior & Municipalities

Dr. Dergham Touma

President, Qab Elias Municipality

Mr. Rabih Shibli

Associate Director for Development and Community Projects, Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service, American University of Beirut

14:00–15:00 **Lunch**

15:00–17:30 **Job Creation**

SPEAKERS

Dr. Fady Gemayel

President, Association of Lebanese Industrialists

Dr. Mary Kawar

Regional Advisor on Skills and Employability, International Labor Organization Regional Office

Dr. Kamal Hamdan

Executive Director, Consultation and Research Institute

The working languages of the workshop are Arabic and English, with simultaneous translation.

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