

LEBANON FLASH UPDATE #4

SITUATION UPDATE

On 27 November 2024, a ceasefire agreement was signed by Israel, Lebanon, and several meditating countries including the United States. The situation continues to change daily, with over 902,000 individuals displaced within the country having reported returning to their original communities, with an additional 178,817 people remaining displaced as of December 12, 2024 (OCHA, 2024). This figure exceeds the number of people displaced before the ceasefire by 20%, largely due to new displacements that occurred just before the ceasefire (OCHA, 2024).

Despite these returns, many families encounter significant hardships upon returning, such as destroyed homes, devastated infrastructure, disrupted essential services, and ongoing safety concerns. Families are often considered internally displaced as their homes are uninhabitable, even though they have moved back to their areas of origin (OCHA, 2024). In terms of refugee returns to Syria, the Lebanese government has reported fewer than 10,000 Syrians returning since December 8, with daily movements occurring through both official and unofficial border crossings (OCHA, 2024).

The ongoing strikes continue to affect regions like South Lebanon, Nabatiyeh, Bekaa, and Baalbek-Hermel. The health sector has been critically impacted by the violence, with the WHO documenting 158 attacks on healthcare since October 8, 2023 (OCHA, 2024). These attacks have resulted in the deaths of 241 healthcare workers, with 19 primary healthcare centers and three hospitals closed due to insecurity (OCHA, 2024).



UPDATES ON SAMS ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON

November Updates

In November, SAMS actively addressed the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Lebanon by providing medical consultations and enhancing public health awareness. In collaboration with Al Salam Al Ahli, one mobile medical unit (MMU) has been operating, while SAMS has also deployed another MMU in the Bekaa region, which has served 1,393 people, delivering critical medical support.

From November 1-30, 562 beneficiaries received medical consultations from a General Practitioner in Jbeil. Furthermore, 503 beneficiaries benefited from ten visits to six locations (Bar Elias, El Marj, Majdal Anjar, Taalabaya, Saad Nayel and Mekseh) in Central Bekaa. The Midwife conducted 29 public awareness sessions in Central Bekaa and Jbeil, spanning both Bekaa and Mount Lebanon, with each session engaging an average of 10 participants. These sessions addressed vital health topics, including health education, family planning, breastfeeding, preconception care, and antenatal care (ANC). In total, 328 individuals participated in these sessions, gaining valuable knowledge to promote healthier lifestyles.

SAMS has also continued to convene MHPSS activities in Aarsal and Bekka, primarily focusing on Lebanese IDPs. Between November 1 and November 19th, SAMS supported 554 beneficiaries through its Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) initiatives, which included various activities for children.

The case management team continued assisting IDPs in need of psychological support, prioritizing them on the waiting lists. Psychological First Aid (PFA) and recreational activities continue to take place at the Lebanese university in Central Bekaa.

To address this, the Case Management (CM) team has collaborated with the Psychosocial Support (PSS) team to conduct recreational activities for children in shelters. There has been a noticeable interest in WhatsApp groups centered on mental health topics, particularly concerning crises, with significant engagement from members. Participants have expressed a strong desire to join these groups, as the shared content directly resonates with their current challenges. The CM team is documenting interactions within these groups and has noted that beneficiaries are reaching out to hotlines in Bekaa and Aarsal for psychological services.



NOVEMBER IMPACT

General Medical Support for Internally Displaced Persons:



1,393 beneficiaries

Medical Consultations and Support:



1,065 beneficiaries
6 locations

Public Health Awareness Sessions Conducted by Midwives:



29 sessions
328 participants

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS):



554 beneficiaries

Case Management Initiatives:



Psychological Support for IDPs
PFA and Recreational Activities

Child & Community Engagement:



Children's Recreational Activities
Mental Health WhatsApp Groups
Hotline Services

UPDATES ON SAMS ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON

December Updates

In a collaborative effort with local partners, SAMS' Lebanon Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) team, provided comprehensive medical and awareness services to internally displaced persons (IDPs) across multiple locations. In Jbeil, the team conducted medical consultations for 3 beneficiaries through a General Practitioner while offering 33 public health awareness sessions.

The medical team significantly expanded its reach in the Bekaa region, by providing direct General Practitioner consultations to 366 beneficiaries. Additionally, the team delivered 41 general protection and psycho-education awareness sessions and 48 specialized sessions focusing on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and sexual abuse awareness. These targeted interventions collectively reached 491 beneficiaries, addressing critical healthcare needs and providing essential health education and protection support to vulnerable displaced populations.

From December 3- 13 2024, SAMS' team in the Bekaa helped families to prepare for harsh weather conditions by distributing comprehensive winterization kits to vulnerable families. Through two distinct distribution efforts, the team supported 489 families, representing 1,529 individuals.

The first distribution targeted 439 families, providing essential winter survival items, including 48 blankets, 624 child diapers, 208 wet napkins, 394 hand wash products, 394 feminine wash items, 1,182 feminine pads, 2,634 winter gloves, and 878 winter socks. A subsequent distribution for individual cases added 50 blankets, 261 child diapers, 87 wet napkins, 94 hand wash and feminine wash products, 282 feminine pads, 376 winter gloves, and 376 winter socks. This coordinated response ensured that displaced and vulnerable populations received critical supplies to help them cope with challenging winter conditions.



DECEMBER IMPACT



Medical and Awareness Services

- 41** general protection and psycho-education sessions
- 33** public health awareness sessions conducted
- 369** general practitioner consultations.
- 491** beneficiaries with healthcare and education support
- 48** specialized sessions on GBV and sexual abuse awareness.



Winterization Support

- 1,529 individuals supported from 489 families.
- 48 blankets, 624 child diapers, 208 wet napkins.
- 394 each: hand wash products, feminine wash items.
- 1,182 feminine pads, 2,634 winter gloves, 878 winter socks.
- 50 blankets, 261 child diapers, 87 wet napkins.
- 94 each: hand wash, feminine wash.
- 282 feminine pads, 376 each: winter gloves, winter socks.

UPDATES ON SAMS ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON

Additional Updates

In addition to its emergency response efforts, SAMS continues to run various programs focused on health and protection case management services, including community-based initiatives. Participants in the Helping Hands program were screened for mental, neurological, or substance abuse disorders using the RCADS scale. The Helping Hands is an application program that focuses on cognitive behavioral therapy through games and play. The game aims to facilitate gamified training in life skills and to improve mental health literacy among adolescents. It helps to develop emotional awareness and social and emotional problem-solving skills to help them cope with success and hardships in their everyday life situations. Furthermore, through the game, adolescents will learn basic principles of the cognitive behavioral model.

The organization remains dedicated to providing oral health prevention and infection control services to Syrian refugees and marginalized Lebanese populations, enhancing access to secondary healthcare, and supporting young individuals living with diabetes in Lebanon.

IN SYRIA

Despite the ongoing changes and recent influx of Syrian arrivals from Lebanon and internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Aleppo to Northeast Syria (NES) following escalations in conflict, SAMS' local affiliate, the Northeast Syria Medical Association (NESMA) mobilized a Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) on October 16, 2024. This unit, which includes a doctor, nurse, and data entry officer, provides essential life-saving and primary healthcare support to vulnerable individuals in the region. From the beginning of the emergency response until December 11, 2024, the MMU has reached 1,298 individuals, delivering 2,596 services. Specifically, at Adnaniya Camp for Syrian arrivals from Lebanon, the team attended to 994 individuals, providing 1,988 services while prioritizing critical health interventions and emergency care for those in urgent need. Additionally, for the returnees and IDPs from Aleppo in Raqqa City, the MMU reached 304 individuals and delivered 608 services, again focusing on critical health interventions and emergency care for those requiring immediate assistance.



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LOOKING AHEAD AND NEEDS

Looking ahead, SAMS will continue to address the essential healthcare and protection needs of vulnerable populations in Lebanon through the strategic deployment of five roving mobile medical units (MMUs) over the upcoming three months. These mobile units will focus particularly on the Central Bekaa and Baalbak Governorate, areas significantly impacted by recent hostilities and hosting large numbers of displaced and vulnerable populations.

The MMUs will provide comprehensive services, including basic primary healthcare, mental health screenings, and protection concern assessments. Experienced staff will offer these essential services directly to internally displaced persons, conflict-affected Lebanese, Syrian refugees, and migrants, with the ability to make consent-based referrals to other support services as needed.

SAMS will also continue working with local organizations to facilitate the distribution of winter kits, aiming to provide essential support to those affected by the cold weather. This collaboration is focused on ensuring that vulnerable populations receive the necessary items to help them cope with the harsh winter conditions.

SAMS will conduct a damage assessment, the findings of which will be shared in the coming months, with plans to develop a recovery plan for health facilities in southern Lebanon. This will help address the damages to the health sector reported by the World Bank that have been estimated at \$74 million as of October 27, 2024 (World Bank, 2024).





SAMS

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