

November 21, 2024

Dear Partners and Friends,

We hope this message finds you well. We write to update you on the ongoing humanitarian situation in Lebanon, particularly as it pertains to the Palestinian refugee community.

The National Institution of Social Care and Vocational Training (NISCVT) Beit Atfal Assumoud (BAS) have been providing essential support to Palestinian refugees who have been severely impacted by the ongoing conflict. Since the escalation of Israeli aggression in Gaza in September 2024, the situation in Lebanon has worsened, resulting in significant loss of life, injury, and displacement. The Lebanese Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) has reported over 3,000 martyrs, 13,970 injured, and 1.2 million displaced individuals across the country, with Palestinian refugees facing compounded challenges due to Lebanon's already precarious economic situation.

Background and Context

The refugee community in Lebanon, particularly Palestinians, has been devastated by the intensifying conflict. As of the latest reports, approximately 80% of Palestinian refugees from southern Lebanon have been displaced. Many are seeking shelter in camps or with relatives, and UNRWA, which traditionally supports this community, has struggled to meet the increased demand for resources. It has been forced to rely heavily on NGOs like BAS to provide emergency relief.

BAS Response to the Crisis

In response to the crisis, BAS has focused its efforts on two key areas:

1. Emergency Response: BAS has distributed essential items, including food parcels, hygiene kits, baby kits, and other relief supplies to displaced families across the camps and UNRWA shelters.
2. Continuing Regular Programs: Despite the security risks and disruption caused by the war, BAS has managed to maintain its health, mental health, and social services programs.

Key Activities and Challenges:

- **Mental Health:** BAS has continued to offer psychosocial support, both in-person and remotely. While therapists are providing critical services, challenges such as limited internet access and financial instability (due to unpaid work) are affecting service continuity.
- **Health Services:** BAS has continued its reproductive health, and urology services in overburdened clinics, notably in Nahr al-Bared, Beddawi, and Ein el-Helweh camps. However, the escalating demand for medical care and the rising cost of medications are placing a significant financial strain on BAS's resources.
- **Community Initiatives:** BAS has partnered with local community groups to provide food, mattresses, financial assistance for medications, and essential household items to displaced families across various camps.

Dental services

Northern Region:

- Beddawi and Nahr Al Bared: Dental services continue to operate as usual, with a particular focus on supporting displaced families. In these regions, treatment and dental education are being provided to address the increased needs of the displaced population.

Southern Region:

- Rashideyeh Camp: Dental services have resumed to accommodate the return of some displaced families. This helps to address the growing demand for dental care in the area as more people are returning back to their homes so work is resumed to full capacity.
- Bourj Shamali Clinic: This clinic remains temporarily closed as both the doctor and nurse have been displaced., and currently working in Ein El Helweh dental clinic. In the interim, dental services are being provided at the Ein El Helweh Dental Clinic to ensure continuity of care.

Ein El Helweh:

- The Ein El Helweh Dental Clinic is fully operational, focusing on treating displaced families while also offering essential dental education. The clinic remains a key provider of services in this area.

Central Region:

- Shatila: Dental services continue to be available in Shatila, with ongoing dental awareness sessions integrated into the educational support program for children receiving learning assistance.

Key Point:

All dental clinics are actively providing critical dental treatment and education, particularly in Beddawi, Nahr Al Bared, and Ein El Helweh, where displaced families are most in need of care. Despite challenges, these clinics are essential in supporting the health and well-being of the displaced communities during this difficult time.

Challenges Faced by Displaced Families

Displaced families continue to endure a multitude of challenges, including:

- Loss of income and jobs, making it difficult for families to support themselves.
- Limited access to food, water, shelter, and medical care.
- Overcrowded shelters, leading to increased vulnerability to violence and exploitation.
- Shortages of essential medications and mental health services, exacerbating existing conditions of trauma.

BAS Sponsored Families

As the conflict has intensified, many families have opened their homes to displaced individuals, and others have sought shelter in camps, schools, and remote areas. In response, BAS's social workers have relocated to safer regions, including Nahr al-Bared and Beddawi camps, to continue providing psychosocial support, food distribution, and emergency relief. Remote support, including financial assistance via OMT, is being provided to families in hard-to-reach areas.

Staff in southern Lebanon have moved to safer locations, including Saida, the Mountain region, and the North, while teams in camps such as Ein Helweh, Nahr al-Bared, and Beddawi continue their work. In Beirut camps, most staff have relocated north, and where direct access is not possible, social workers maintain online communication with displaced families.

The focus has shifted to emergency response, expanding mental health services, and providing practical and emotional support to displaced families, including children, women, men, and adolescents. Social workers also maintain regular communication with sponsored children, encouraging them to provide updates to their sponsors.

Educational and Vocational Programs

Despite the difficult circumstances, BAS continues to provide educational support to displaced children:

- Learning Support: In Beddawi and Nahr al-Bared, learning support classes for grades 1–4 were held in October and November.
- Vocational Training Vocational programs are also being reactivated to provide displaced adults with skills to cope with the economic impact of displacement.
- **Kindergarten Programs:**
 - Beddawi and Nahr al-Bared reopened their kindergartens on October 31, 2024, to support both enrolled and displaced BAS children.
 - Bar Elias is opened on November 4, 2024, pending security conditions.
 - In Shatila, a hybrid learning model is being used, combining in-person and remote classes.

Displaced Families' Immediate Needs

As winter approaches, displaced families are in urgent need of:

- Food, hygiene kits, and baby supplies
- Cash assistance to cover the cost of basic needs, including medications.
- Winter clothing blankets, and heating supplies to cope with cold weather conditions.
- Continued mental health services and specialized medical care.

Operational Updates

Several BAS centers and camps have been affected by the conflict:

- Damaged Facilities: Several centers, including Al-Buss, Wavel, and Bourj Barajneh, have sustained damage from the bombardments and airstrikes, with glass breaking and roofs being damaged. These attacks are especially problematic as the camps themselves are in close proximity to military targets.
- Closed Centers: Due to ongoing security threats, centers in Rashideyeh and Al-Buss have been temporarily closed, but operations are resuming where Possible-Bass, and Bourj Al-Shamali and we reopened Rashideyeh and Bourj Al Shamali partially beginning through our team that is still in the camps of October 23rd 2024. In Bourj Al Shamali our team is doing survey for the families that are still in the camp and providing needed psychological and social support. These camps were in close proximity to the attacks, and more than 80% of the families in these areas have been displaced.

-Shift to Northern Centers The operational focus has shifted northward to Nahr al-Bared and Beddawi, which have seen a high influx of displaced families.

All our centers are open to provide as much help they can to the community except al bus center

Staff Adaptations

- Displaced Staff: our team members who were displaced due to the attacks have relocated to the nearest available centers. These staff are continuing to serve the children and families in their new locations, ensuring that education, psychosocial support, and basic services are delivered despite the difficult conditions.

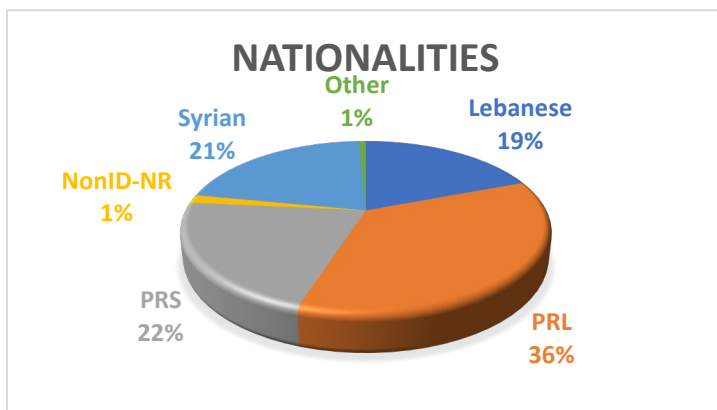
Current UNRWA Shelters and Host Families:

The table below lists the UNRWA schools and shelters currently accommodating displaced families, as well as the number of families and individuals in each location:

1) The table below lists the UNRWA schools and shelters currently open to accommodate displaced.

Area- Location	Shelter	No of Families	No of Individuals
Beqaa	Taalabyah_Al Jarmak School	88	273
Beirut	Yabud School	63	193
Nahr Bared Camp	Amqa School	90	331
Nahr Bared Camp	Battir School	75	251
Nahr Bared Camp	Gaza & Toubas School	98	335
Nahr Bared Camp	Mazar & Majedo School	102	367
Nahr Bared Camp	Mount Tabour School	72	255
Saida	Rafidiya School	60	202
Saida - Siblin	Beit Jala & Bir Zeit School	143	509
Saida - Siblin	Siblin Training Centre	153	573
Saida	Sit Nafisi_Nablus School	62	222
Total		1006	3511

1.1) The chart shows the nationalities of families residing in UNRWA shelters.



2) The table below shows the number of displaced families hosted by friends and relatives, as well as those staying in rented houses within the Palestinian camps in the North, Saida, and Beirut:

Area	No of families	No of Individuals	PRL	PRS	Lebanese	Syrian	others
Nahr el Bared Camp	2217	9205	1870	102	215	19	11
Beddawi Camp	1634	6659	1008	185	286	155	0
Ein Helweh Camp	1733	6771	1404	37	243	43	6
Shatila Camp	92	363	57	4	28	0	3
Mar Elias Camp	103	422	55	2	46	0	0
Total	5779	23420	4394	330	818	217	20

Call for Support

The ongoing crisis requires continued support to meet the growing humanitarian needs of displaced Palestinian families in Lebanon. We rely on the generosity and compassion of our partners to continue providing critical relief, educational programs, and mental health services.

For donations ranging from \$50 to \$2,000, we accept transfers via Western Union or Wish Money. For larger donations, please contact us for bank details. Your support is invaluable as we continue our work on the ground.

We deeply appreciate your ongoing commitment to our mission. Together, we can provide hope and stability to those who need it most.

Bank Name : First National Bank				
Beneficiary Name : The National Institution of Social Care and Vocational Training				
Name of Bank	Adress	Curr	Acc No	IBAN
First National Bank	Immobilia Bldg- Hamra St Beirut - Lebanon P.O.Box 113-5453			
		USD	0001-106845-004	LB78 0108 0000 0000 0011 0684 5004
		Eu.	0001-106845-012	LB56 0108 0000 0000 0011 0684 5012
		STP	0001-106845-029	LB82 0108 0000 0000 0011 0684 5029
		CHF	0001-106845-030	LB55 0108 0000 0000 0011 0684 5030
SWIFT No (FINKLBBE)				

For further information or to contribute, please do not hesitate to contact us.