

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Dear Partners and Friends  
Greetings,

The National Institution of Social Care and Vocational Training (NISCVT) Beit Atfal Assumoud (BAS) have been providing critical support to Palestinian refugees displaced by the ongoing conflict in Lebanon. The escalation of Israeli aggression in Gaza since September 2024 has caused severe human, material, and psychological damage, exacerbating Lebanon's already dire economic and social challenges. The Lebanese Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) reported over 3,000 martyrs, 13,970 injured, and 1.2 million displaced across the country. The situation for Palestinians in Lebanon, already precarious due to the economic crisis, worsened with the war, as they faced an increased lack of shelter, food, and medical care.

UNRWA, which traditionally provides services to Palestinian refugees, struggled to meet the demand for shelter and resources. Its services were overstretched, with shelters quickly overcrowded, and it was forced to rely on NGOs like BAS to provide emergency relief. As of the report's publication, approximately 80% of Palestinian refugees from the South had been displaced, seeking shelter in camps and with relatives. BAS has focused its efforts on supporting displaced Palestinians within the camps.

**In response to the crisis, BAS has been active in two main areas:**

1. Emergency Response: BAS provided relief to displaced families in camps and UNRWA shelters across Lebanon, distributing food parcels, hygiene kits, baby kits, and other essential supplies.
2. Reactivating Regular Programs: BAS has continued its health, mental health, and social services programs, despite the challenges posed by the war.

**Key Activities and Challenges:**

- Mental Health: BAS has provided psychosocial support in shelters and camps, including remote psychiatric consultations. However, challenges include limited internet access, which hampers therapy continuity, and financial instability for therapists, many of whom are at risk of leaving due to unpaid work.
- Health Services: BAS has continued its reproductive health and urology services and dental services particularly in overburdened clinics in Nahr al-Bared and Beddawi and Ein el helweh camps. However, the demand for medical care and the cost of medications are creating financial strain.

-Community Initiatives: BAS and local community groups have also provided food and essential items like mattresses and financial assistance for medications in various camps as we are working with all displaced families not only shelters but also in relative's homes and friends.

### **Challenges for Displaced Families:**

Displaced families face several severe challenges:

- Loss of income and jobs.
- 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.

### **BAS Sponsored Families**

As the conflict in Lebanon escalates, many families have opened their homes to displaced individuals, while others have sought refuge in camps, schools, and remote areas. In response, social workers have relocated to safer regions, including Nahr al-Bared and Beddawi camps, where they continue providing psychosocial support, psychological first aid, food distribution, and emergency relief. For families in more remote areas, remote support is offered, including financial aid through OMT.

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.

### **Learning Support and Vocational training**

- Beddawi & Nahr al-Bared: Learning support classes for grades 1–4, including for displaced children, were held in October and November.
- Nahr al-Bared: Displaced children received support in UNRWA schools in October, with continued support at our center in November.
- Shatila & Borj al-Barajneh: Classes were temporarily suspended in October due to security issues but reopened in November. Borj al-Barajneh will provide remote support.
- Ain al-Helweh: Learning support for displaced children began in October at UNRWA schools and continued at our center in November.
- Borj al-Shemali & Rashideyeh: Learning support classes were suspended due to ongoing challenges.

### **Kindergarten Programs:**

- Beddawi & Nahr al-Bared: Kindergartens reopened on October 31, 2024, supporting both enrolled and displaced BAS children.
- Ain al-Helweh: Kindergarten will reopen, as many children remain in the camp.
- Bar Elias: Scheduled to open on November 4, 2024, pending security conditions.

- Shatila: A hybrid learning model is in place with in-person classes for local children and remote learning for displaced children, though internet and electricity issues may affect online learning.
- Rashidieh, Borj al-Shemali, and Burj al-Barajneh: Displaced children have the option to attend in-person or online preschool classes.

Additionally, music therapy sessions have been integrated into programs, providing calming and interactive activities for children.

This adaptive approach ensures continued support for both displaced and sponsored families, addressing their needs in education, mental health, and emergency relief.

### **Displaced Families' Needs:**

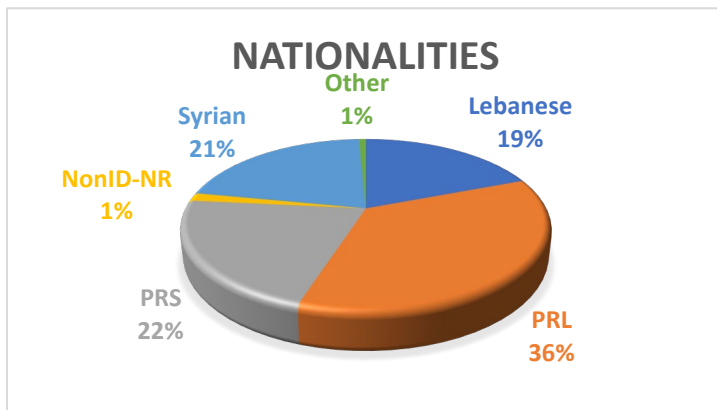
Families require continued support in the form of food, hygiene kits, baby supplies, cash assistance, medications, and specialized medical and psychosocial services. There is also a need for basic household items like winter clothing, blankets, and heating supplies to cope with the cold weather as winter approaches also need financial supports as most families lost their jobs because of the displacement.

The crisis has placed immense pressure on Lebanon's already strained resources and has underscored the urgent need for international support to address the ongoing humanitarian needs of displaced Palestinian families.

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

<b>Area- Location</b>	<b>Shelter</b>	<b>No of Families</b>	<b>No of Individuals</b>
Beqaa	Taalabyah_ Al Jarmak School	88	273
Beirut	Yabud School	63	193
Naher Bared Camp	Amqa School	90	331
Naher Bared Camp	Battir School	75	251
Naher Bared Camp	Gaza & Toubas School	98	335
Naher Bared Camp	Mazar & Majedo School	102	367
Naher 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
<b>Total</b>		<b>1006</b>	<b>3511</b>

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
Naher Bared Camp	2217	9205	1870	102	215	19	11
Beddawi Camp	1634	6659	1008	185	286	155	0
Ein Helwi 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>5779</b>	<b>23420</b>	<b>4394</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>20</b>

**Call for Support:**

We continue to rely on the compassion and generosity of our partners and supporters to meet the growing humanitarian needs of displaced Palestinian families in Lebanon. For donations ranging from \$50 to \$2000, please send via Whish Money or Western Union. For larger donations, please contact us for our bank details.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

For more information or to contribute, please contact us. We will gladly provide additional details on any of our programs.

Warm regards,  
Kassem Aina