



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HUMANITARIAN/RESIDENT COORDINATOR ON THE USE OF CERF GRANTS

Country	Lebanon
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Reporting Period	01 January – 31 December 2008

I. Executive Summary

In October, thousands of Palestinian refugees still remained displaced more than a year after the destruction of the Nahr el-Bared (NBC) refugee camp in North Lebanon in summer 2007. Over 27,000 refugees had been displaced overnight. The majority of those refugees had been living in dire conditions for the past year and a half in very basic and overcrowded temporary accommodation in collective centres or temporary shelters erected by United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Through the allocation of a Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) rapid response grant, UNRWA worked to ensure food security was maintained for displaced NBC refugee families. UNRWA provided food rations to an average of 4,800 displaced families for three months. Also special baby and infant food parcels for approximately 1,400 children were distributed each month.

Total amount of humanitarian funding required and received during the reporting year	REQUIRED:	\$ 42,711,715		
	RECEIVED:	\$ 18,388,911		
Total amount requested from CERF	FUNDS (IN TOTAL REQUESTED):	\$ 2998,782		
Total amount of CERF funding received by funding window	RAPID RESPONSE:	\$ 1,008,582		
	UNDERFUNDED:	\$		
	GRAND TOTAL:	\$ 1,008,582		
Approximate total number of beneficiaries reached with CERF funding (disaggregated by sex/age if possible)	TOTAL	under 5 years of age	Female (If available)	Male (If available)
	4,090 families (approx. 22,495 persons)	945		
Geographic areas of implementation targeted with CERF funding (please be specific)	Nahr el-Bared adjacent areas and Beddawi camp in North Lebanon			

II. Background

UNRWA requested CERF funds to enable the distribution of supplementary food parcels to displaced families who lacked, more than one year after the end of the conflict, the financial means to provide for all their critical daily needs.

A household needs assessment was carried out by 30 social workers from both the regular and emergency programme. These staff visited all NBC refugee families displaced in the North and other areas of Lebanon in order to compile data using UNWRA's new Social Safety Net criteria that targets refugees living under the abject poverty line, i.e. the food insecure or the "poorest of the poor".

Description of the CERF Component of the Project

1. Objectives of the Project

- Ensure food security is maintained for displaced NBC refugee families;
- Ensure babies and infants receive adequate levels of nutrition.

2. Activities

- Provide food parcels to an average of 4,800 displaced families for three months (November 2008 to January 2009);
- Distribute special baby and infant food parcels for approximately 1,400 children aged six months to three years living in temporary shelters and collective centres in adjacent areas;
- Rationalise the food basket through increasing the amounts of staple items (food parcels contain rice, sugar, milk powder, vegetable oil, tuna, pulses, tomato paste, tea and noodles) to cover an average of 800kCals per person per day for a 30 day period. Different parcel sizes were also introduced to ensure improved support to larger families.

This project was implemented by UNRWA from November 2008 to January 2009. The food security situation of all displaced families was regularly monitored by UNRWA social workers to ensure that displaced families were consuming adequate amounts of food and nutrition levels were maintained.

III. Implementation and results

1. Coordination and implementation arrangements

In November 2008, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved a \$1,008,582 grant from CERF to the UNRWA for emergency food assistance for displaced refugees from the Nahr el-Bared camp in North Lebanon. UNRWA directly implemented this project. The activities were carried out in liaison with other UN agencies and local and international NGOs through the UN Cluster system.

A Household Needs Assessment covering all displaced NBC refugee families was carried out by UNRWA in November 2008. The results of this assessment showed that 98% of all families were still living in abject or absolute poverty and continued to require humanitarian assistance, including supplementary food support.

2. Project activities and results

UNRWA is the main provider of food assistance to the displaced refugees from the destroyed camp and to impoverished refugee families who had, been able to return to their damaged homes in the areas adjacent next to NBC. The CERF funds ensured that food security was maintained for over 4,000 NBC displaced refugee families at the end of 2008, when UNRWA had no other available funding to provide this critical support.

With the CERF grant UNRWA was able to procure and distribute basic food items to guarantee the availability of 800Kcals/day/person for three months. In line with the WFP's food security assessment recommendations (May 2008), UNRWA's food parcel was modified to increase the quantities of staple items depending on family size, and very large families were provided with more than one food parcel. The parcels were designed to provide adequate nutritional level per person per day for one month, based on the assumption that refugees have access to, and are buying, bread and fresh vegetables to bring their daily intake up to a level of 1,800 Kcals per person, as recommended in the WFP assessment.

The food parcels were distributed between November 2008 and January 2009, to an average of 4,090 displaced refugee families (approximately 22,495 persons, based on the average family size of 5.5) who were eligible for this assistance. The baby food parcels were provided to an average of 945 children and covered four months of food support.

The parcels were distributed by the Relief Services section of UNRWA's project office for NBC, the Northern Management Unit (NMU) in coordination with the Procurement and Logistics Department (PLD) at the UNRWA Lebanon Field Office in Beirut. Families were categorised into four groups depending on number of family members (1-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9+ persons). Families received food support relative to their different sizes. Each family food parcel contained the following items: rice, sugar, milk powder, vegetable oil, tuna (white meat), chick peas, dry haricot beans, salt, and lentils.

Basic food quantities for different family sizes

Families of 1-2 persons

Serial #	Food Items	QT	Description
1	Rice	2	KG
2	Sugar	2	KG
3	Whole powder milk (800gm)	2	bag of 800 grams
4	Vegetable Oil	1	Bottle of two liters
5	White meat tuna	3	cans of 185 gm (easy open)
6	Chick Peas	1	KG
7	Dry Haricot Beans	0.5	Bag of one KG
8	Salt	1	Bag of 500 grams
9	Lentils	0.5	Bag of one KG

Families of 3-5 persons

Serial #	Food Items	QT	Description
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1	Rice	4	KG
2	Sugar	4	KG
3	Whole powder milk (800gm)	4	bag of 800 grams
4	Vegetable Oil	2	Bottle of two liters
5	White meat tuna	5	cans of 185 gm (easy open)
6	Chick Peas	2	KG
7	Dry Haricot Beans	1	Bag of one KG
8	Salt	1	Bag of 500 grams
9	Lentils	1	Bag of one KG

Families of 6-8 persons

Serial #	Food Items	QT	Description
1	Rice	5	KG
2	Sugar	5	KG
3	Whole powder milk (800gm)	5	bag of 800 grams
	Vegetable Oil	3	Bottle of two liters
5	White meat tuna	7	cans of 185 gm (easy open)
6	Chick Peas	3	KG
7	Dry Haricot Beans	1	Bag of one KG
8	Salt	1	Bag of 500 grams
9	Lentils	1	Bag of one KG

Families of 9 persons and above

Serial #	Food Items	QT	Description
1	Rice	6	KG
2	Sugar	6	KG
3	Whole powder milk (800gm)	6	bag of 800 grams
4	Vegetable Oil	4	Bottle of two liters
5	White meat tuna	10	cans of 185 gm (easy open)
6	Chick Peas	3	KG
7	Dry Haricot Beans	2	Bag of one KG
8	Salt	1	Bag of 500 grams
9	Lentils	2	Bag of one KG

The size of the baby food parcels differed in relation to the age of the infants, who were divided into two groups¹:

- a. 7-12 months

¹ Please note that there is no group for infants from 0-6 months since it is UNRWA's policy to encourage breastfeeding for infants of this age.

b. 1-2 years

The baby food parcels contained the following items (of different quantities in relation to the age of the infants):

1. Milk
2. Cerelac wheat
3. Cornflakes

All of the items were procured in bulk by the UNRWA PLD. Quotes were collected in addition to samples of the required items for screening. The NMU and the PLD tested the samples and decided which supplier to contract based on a balance between the quality of the items and the tendered cost.

Once the items were delivered to the Lebanon Field Office in Beirut they were packaged in cartons. The PLD, in coordination with the NMU, then transported these items to UNRWA holding facilities in North Lebanon and the items were distributed by the NMU.

Lists of the eligible beneficiaries were drawn up by UNRWA's social workers operating in the North Lebanon Area. The refugees were then informed of the distributions by the NMU's communications and relief services staff. Announcements were placed in public spaces, including in mosques, NGO offices and UNRWA installations such as clinics, the camp and relief services offices, etc.

The problems of constrained economic access to adequate nutrition, due to high levels of unemployment and lack of disposable income, were alleviated through this support and 945 babies and infants had adequate levels of nutrition during this period.

Description of all items procured under this project and costs

Description	Quantity	Unit	Amount (\$)
Family Food Parcels			
Instant whole powder milk (800g)	97561	EA	345,510
White dry haricot beans, ½ kg	2.31	TO	3,355
White dry haricot beans, 1 kg	22.65	TO	28,782
Salt, bag of 500 g or 700 g	22,250	KG	2,301
Vegetable oil two litres	53,976	EA	150,119
Red Lentils , 1 kg	22.65	TO	27,362
Red Lentils , ½ kg	2.31	TO	3,240
White meat tuna chunk with veg. oil, 185 g (easy open)	130,561	TN	105,499
Chick peas 1kg	49.72	TO	47,659
Rice in packs of 2kg	71,784	EA	53,838
Rice in packs of 1kg	23,469	EA	18,306
Sugar in packs of 2kg	71,784	EA	35,533
Sugar in packs of 1kg	20,614	EA	10,719
Total Adult Food Parcels			832,223
Infant Food Parcels			
Cornflakes, size 750 g toasted cord cereal	8,510	EA	29,843
Cornflakes, size 750 g toasted cord cereal	760	EA	2,189

Infant milk formula for ages 7-12 months, 30ml/scoop, size 450 g	4,240	EA	19,151
Infant milk formula for ages 1-2 years, 30ml/scoop, size 900 g	4,561	EA	28,526
Cerelac wheat, size 250 g (for babies age 7-12 months)	4,275	EA	6,519
Total Infant Food Parcels			86,228
Grand Total Food			\$918,451

3. Partnerships

In collaboration with UNRWA, a WFP team carried out a food assessment in April/May 2008 that provided valuable recommendations for the subsequent modifications to the food basket. These modifications were implemented for the CERF-funded food parcels.

4. Gender-mainstreaming

The supplementary food assistance ensured that women and children continued to receive basic food items to support their daily nutritional needs for the critical winter months.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

At each distribution point NMU social workers were present with the lists of the eligible beneficiaries. Distribution collection cards were stamped and the overall project implementation was monitored and reported on by UNRWA's Relief Services staff.

V. Results

Sector/ Cluster	CERF projects per sector	Amount disbursed (US\$)	Number of Beneficiaries (by sex/age)	Implementing Partners and funds disbursed	Baseline indicators	Expected Results/Outcomes	Actual results and improvements for the target beneficiaries
Food Security	08-RWA-004 "Emergency Food Assistance for Displaced Palestine Refugees from Nahr el- Bared camp, North Lebanon"	1,008,582	4,090 displaced Palestine refugee families 945 Palestine refugee infants ages seven months to two years	N/A		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Minimal nutritional standards were maintained amongst the displaced population; ■ No under-nourishment occurred amongst babies and infants; ■ The nutritional status of pregnant women and lactating mothers was maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The provision of supplementary food baskets (containing rice, sugar, milk powder, vegetable oil, tuna, pulses) ensured an average of 800 Kcals per person per day each month. ■ Consultations with the beneficiaries and an assessment by WFP (commissioned by UNRWA) led to a revision of the food basket with quantities of staple foods being increased and some items omitted. Different parcel sizes were also introduced to ensure improved support to larger families. ■ This provision of basic food items freed up families' available small amounts of cash for the purchase of fresh food and other critical expenditures.

VI. CERF IN ACTION

Ibtisam Ghneim of Nahr el-Bared camp

"I was living with my ten family members in a four-room house in the old camp", Ibtisam Ghneim a 45-year-old woman from Nahr el-Bared camp (NBC) told UNRWA. According to Ibtisam, most NBC families were living independently before the conflict in 2007. "NBC was a commercial hub for the surrounding villages; most Palestinian refugees either owned small businesses or worked as labourers and families were largely self-sufficient", Ibtisam says proudly.

However, during the 2007 conflict in NBC between the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the militant group Fatah Al-Islam, Ibtisam's family, like all other NBC families, fled the fighting and was forced to live in emergency accommodation set up in one of the UNRWA schools in Beddawi camp. "We stayed in Beddawi schools for more than 10 months; it was a hard and difficult life. But what could we do, we had no other choice." Ibtisam says.

In March 2008, Ibtisam and her family moved to the area beside the destroyed camp (known as the "adjacent areas") and were hosted in her son's house in sector B. Asking her about her family's living conditions, Ibtisam says: "Even now we are living on what UNRWA and NGOs provide to displaced refugees like us. In fact, the food rations are important and even though it doesn't meet all our essential needs it is still a help since there has been high unemployment after the NBC crisis. Unemployment puts more burdens on us, especially on big families like mine. My husband, who works sometimes in painting, is unable to provide all our needs." Ibtisam hopes one day to see the camp reconstructed and to return back to her house. Her dream remains to see the camp as it was before May 2007, namely the commercial hub for this part of North Lebanon.

Interview by Fadi Tayarr, UNRWA Camp Information Officer, Nahr el-Bared



Parcels purchased by CERF donation being delivered to displaced Palestine refugees from Nahr el-Bared Camp at a distribution centre in Beddawi camp (Photo Credit: Maysoun Mustafa, UNRWA CIO, Beddawi camp)

Annex: Acronyms and Abbreviations

CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
NBC	Nahr el-Bared camp
NMU	UNRWA Northern Management Unit
PLD	UNRWA Procurement and Logistics Department
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Expenditure:

Cost breakdown	Budgeted Amount	Expenditure
A. Operations		
Food baskets	\$733,700	\$832,223
Baby food baskets (infants ages 7 - 24 months)	\$150,000	\$86,228
Subtotal Operations Costs	\$883,700	\$918,451
B. Staff costs (salaries and other entitlements)		
Wages for Labourers for packing & distribution	\$34,000	\$11,101
Subtotal Staff Costs	\$34,000	\$11,101
C. Durable Equipment		
Subtotal Equipment Costs	\$0	\$0
D. Logistics		
Subtotal Logistics Costs	\$0	\$0
E. Other		
Visibility	\$3,400	\$0
Cartons & Adhesive tapes	\$21,500	\$10,286
Subtotal Other Costs	\$24,900	\$10,286
Subtotal Project Requirements	\$942,600	\$939,838
G. Indirect programme support costs		
PSC amount (7%)	\$65,982	\$65,982
Grand Total Cost	\$1,008,582	\$1,005,820