

working for  
protection  
of refugees  
internally and  
displaced



Danish Refugee Council

# newsletter

## NON-ID REFUGEE PROGRAMME

# Identification Card for non-ID Refugees

*In a long awaited move an agreement has been reached between the Lebanese General Security and the PLO office in Lebanon to grant non-ID Palestinian refugees with an identification card.*

The decision, facilitated by the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee will allow non-ID Palestinian refugees to apply for an ID card, valid for a year, renewable at no cost.

The process, which began on the second week of August 2008, has seen the PLO office in Beirut filled with non-ID refugees on a daily basis – waiting to register for an ID card which undoubtedly represents the most significant response to their situation since the issue became well known in 2004.

To register, a non-ID refugee applicant must present to the PLO office in Beirut with some form of identification, valid or expired, which could include – a birth certificate, ID or travel document and a certificate from the local mukhtar (mayor). An application form, documenting personal history is filled and then reviewed and stamped by the PLO for submission to the General Security.

Non-ID refugees are required to present their applications to the General Security office in their local area and once the claim is submitted, refugees are provided with a temporary certificate stating their file is being considered and their claim is being processed.

A DRC non-ID beneficiary from Rashidieh camp who has obtained his ID card revealed he feels "born again". Echoing his sentiments and



enthusiasm, another hopeful non-ID recipient is investigating how, with the new status, he can open a business outside the camp.

Whilst this recognition and new process indicates a positive shift in policy relating to non-ID refugees, many questions regarding the actual rights that non-ID refugees will obtain from this new status are as yet unanswered.

In principal, the new card will allow non-ID refugees to move freely in the country without the fear of arrest. But to date, it is unclear of

how this recognition will affect their other civil rights. Will non-ID refugees be granted a travel document like other Palestinian refugees? Where will their births and marriages be registered? Will they have the right to work in the same professions as other Palestinian refugees?

DRC and other NGOs are currently working to establish all of the civil rights due to card holders, with DRC in particular focusing on the transfer of non-ID refugee's UNRWA files from other fields of registration to Lebanon and assisting refugees whose cases have been rejected.

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## DRC Commitment

DRC is committed to specific programme excellence, transparency and accountability, and as part of this commitment DRC upholds the Code of Conduct for the ICRC and NGOs in Disaster Relief, and the UN Convention on Refugees.

In 2007, DRC was one of the first international humanitarian agencies to receive certification from the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership. This certification recognises DRC's commitment and compliance to the benchmarks standards of Humanitarian Accountability and Quality Management.

Furthermore, DRC recognises the importance of national and international strategic partnerships and in 2007 formalised a strategic partnership with the UNHCR. DRC Lebanon invites comments from project participants and beneficiaries regarding the quality of DRC's assistance and the performance of DRC staff.

Comments may be addressed to the DRC Country Director, in writing, by e-mail, by fax or telephone. Please include name and contact information if a response is required.



# Notes from the field



## DRC-UN HABITAT

The DRC-UN HABITAT project to assist affected homeowners and local decision makers in the reconstruction process of totally destroyed houses in Southern Lebanon and the Beqaa closed in April 2008 after a formal implementation extension.

The innovative project, which supported communities through 3 mobile units staffed with engineers, surveyors and architects, directly assisted 1,015 families.

311 families in the Beqaa and 704 in Southern Lebanon, eligible for the Lebanese Government reconstruction grants, were provided with technical drawings and cost estimates to accelerate construction once their grants are received.



## NBC LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

The destruction of Nahr el-Bared and the resulting displacement has borne a devastating economic blow for the camp's large population and the local economy.

DRC's experience in livelihood and income generation support and an extension to the 2007 European Commission Humanitarian Aid department funded livelihood project meant that DRC was able to extend its assistance to 48 displaced business owners who had relocated to Beirut refugee camps.

48 business owners, now living in Burj el-Barajneh and Shatila refugee camps of Beirut, were supported through in-kind grants of tools and equipment to restart their livelihood activities in their new location.

Within three months after receiving DRC's assistance, 79% of in-kind grant recipients reported an increase in income.

## EIN-EL HILWEH PROGRAMME

# New Ein el-Hilweh Project

*A three-year DRC project to provide educational and income generation support to Palestinian youth in Ein el Hilweh camp has been approved by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).*

The project targets vulnerable and marginalised youth specifically, and focuses on facilitating access to and increasing economic and education opportunities at local and national levels.

It is anticipated that 700 youth will benefit from some type of livelihood or educational assistance, and about 180 small businesses will receive in-kind or technical support during the project period. DRC is currently finalising a study in EHC which will determine and identify:

- 1) current service providers of education and livelihood assistance;
- 2) types and effectiveness of activities currently being provided in both sectors; and,
- 3) potential local partners under this project based on capacity and interest.

Based on study findings, project activities could include: vocational training in skill areas and levels not currently offered or not offered in sufficient numbers; job counselling and placement services for unemployed and underemployed youth; remedial (including literacy) classes for school dropouts and low achievers; and management training, counselling, and in-kind support for existing or start-up businesses. The project offers an opportunity for DRC and its local partners to respond to gaps in current assistance, and more importantly, to address fundamental problems in education and employment using a longer term, developmental approach.

The project also incorporates a vital advocacy component to increase awareness amongst key stakeholders of the benefits and impediments to Palestinian participation in the Lebanese economy. Advocacy efforts will aim to:

- 1) improve relations with local businesses to increase employment and market access for Palestinians;
- 2) work with local and international NGOs to address assistance gaps identified through the project;
- 3) work with the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee to extend employment rights and improve working conditions for Palestinians.

To date, the project team is focusing on pre-implementation assessments and has met with the main providers of education and livelihood services in Ein el-Hilweh, including UNRWA, and other key stakeholders.





# NO ID NO Future

An update from DRC Lebanon non-ID Programme

## DRC NON-ID PROGRAMME

# Livelihood Activity Update

*Over fifty non-ID Palestinian refugees have been selected to receive livelihood assistance under the DRC non-ID refugee programme.*

The refugees were identified through a two stage assessment process which screened over 370 families across the country. The assessment identified the most vulnerable cases from the non-ID refugee population whose household income would most benefit from the support.

Based on the past success and impact of DRC's livelihood support programmes, assistance will be offered in the form of in-kind grants (IKGs) of equipment to start-up or existing small

businesses, or via intensive vocational training courses. A number of vocational training graduates will also receive tool kits to support their transition into the work force.

The distribution of IKGs, which will include equipment for mechanics, plumbers, computer maintenance shops, and hairdressing salons, and vocational training will be completed by October 2008.

The livelihood component of the non-ID refugee programme is supported by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department.

## LIVELIHOOD BENEFICIARY



One of DRC's in-kind grant beneficiaries is 30 year old, Asaad El Najjar from Ein el-Hilweh camp.

He is the eldest son from a household of 10. With his father ill and unable to work, Asaad is the main source of income for his family.

For the past 15 years, Asaad has been working as a casual labourer in car mechanics. Though it has been his ambition, he has not managed to open up his own mechanics shop due to financial considerations.

With assistance from DRC consisting of equipment and tools, Asaad will be able to work independently and earn a stable monthly income to support his large family, as opposed to his current situation of irregular work.

Asaad says of the assistance he will receive, "I will finally have the opportunity to run my own business, and further demonstrate my own skills in the trade."

## DRC NON-ID PROGRAMME

# Homes for non-ID refugees

*16 non-ID families will no longer have to fear the onset of winter after their homes in both camps and gatherings in Tyre will be reconstructed or rehabilitated under the newest component of DRC's non-ID refugee programme.*

Supported by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department, DRC is constructing 3 houses for vulnerable non-ID families in Rashidieh camp whose current living conditions fall well below the accepted UNRWA standards.

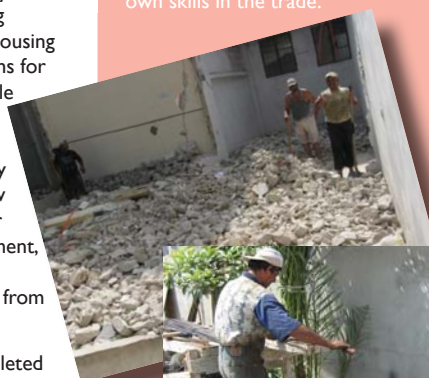
10 homes in Rashidieh and Burj el-Shemali camps that in the past have offered little protection from the extremes of Lebanon's weather and commonly lack adequate water and sanitation facilities will be replaced by new structures that will provide safe, secure and healthy environments for families to live.

3 family homes in Maashouq gathering will also be upgraded under the programme – new roofs, windows, kitchens and bathrooms and finishings

will ensure these homes offer families the protection they need.

DRC non-ID programme manager, Mireille Chiha, who is all too familiar with the poor conditions that non-ID refugees face, believes the programme "goes beyond providing decent housing conditions for vulnerable families; children can study and grow in a safer environment, refugees suffering from asthma can enjoy a healthier shelter."

She added that construction will be completed by mid December 2008.



## DRC INTERNATIONAL

Danish Refugee Council is a private, independent, non-profit organisation (NGO), devoted, on the basis of humanitarian principles and human rights in general, to securing the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and to promoting long term solutions to the problems of forced displacement.

Internationally, DRC participates actively in the efforts of the international community to promote solutions for conflict-affected populations.

The support and capacity building of local and national authorities and NGOs form an integrated part of DRC's work.

DRC is currently working in 25 countries primarily in the Balkans, Caucasus, Central Asia, Horn of Africa, West Africa, Afghanistan and the Middle East and had a total turnover in 2007 of 60 million EUR.

## DRC LEBANON

DRC has been active in Lebanon since 2004 providing protection and assistance to Palestinian and Iraqi refugees, and to Lebanese communities affected by the 2006 war.

The Lebanon programme operates across a number of sectors and, to date, DRC's core activities have focused on:

Housing shelter reconstruction and technical support)

Income generation support (in-kind grants, business training and vocational education)

Non-food aid support (winterisation items, school kits, etc.)

Legal aid (counselling and assistance with legal documentation)

Capacity building of governmental and non-governmental institutions

In addition, DRC has produced a series of population assessment surveys on the non-ID Palestinian and Iraqi refugee communities, and is a leading advocate on refugee protection in Lebanon.

Major programme donors include the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO), Danida, UNHCR, UN-HABITAT, the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the Lisa and Gudmund Joergensen Fond.

## DRC LEBANON NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2008, Issue 10

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## DRC LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME

# Livelihood Needs Satisfied

*In early 2007, when the emergency needs of communities affected by the July 2006 war diminished, DRC transitioned its activities to focus on the longer term livelihood support of struggling communities.*

Livelihood support in the form of in-kind grants (mainly tools & equipment) to restart businesses, vocational training and community infrastructure repair/improvements to improve local economies were designed and implemented in Beirut and Southern Lebanon.

### Southern Intervention

DRC's income generation project for IDPs and returnees in Southern Lebanon officially ended in February 2008.

The DANIDA funded project invested nearly 500,000 USD to promote the self reliance capacity of IDPs and host communities affected by the 2006 war. The project directly benefited the residents in more than 25 rural villages.

81 southern villagers were employed in DRC Village Infrastructure/Cash for Work Projects which rebuilt 218 km of agricultural roads and 898 m of retaining walls to provide safe access for farmers to their agricultural lands.

By the project's end, the income generating potential of 50 young beneficiaries had also increased significantly through a vocational training component. The vibrant group graduated as plumbers, electricians and aluminium technicians – occupations that offer a promising future in

their small but growing communities.



In a rewarding collaboration with French NGO, Première Urgence, graduates received tool kits to enable them to begin work immediately and independently.

### Beirut

Livelihood interventions in Beirut concentrated on the devastated Southern

Suburbs area; the project was funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department and assisted 118 individuals.

Recent evaluations of in-kind grant beneficiaries have demonstrated the lasting impact of the project which ended in January 2008. Over 83% of all beneficiaries evaluated reported that DRC's assistance made a difference in their household's family total income.

The successes of the project's vocational training and apprentice graduates also demonstrate a strong and lasting impact. Of the 9 graduates, 4 learned a vocation, 3 completed apprenticeships, and 2 benefited from both vocational training and apprenticeships. A post project evaluation of graduates revealed a 100% satisfaction with the type and quality of support and reported that 5 had secured employment.

## DRC Publications..

### Iraqi Population in Lebanon Survey Report

98 Pages      English      July 05      Electronic      Hard Copy

### Needs Assessment of Palestinian Refugees in Gatherings in Lebanon

188 Pages      English      August 05      Electronic      Hard Copy

### DRC Newsletter – quarterly since Autumn 05

4 Pages      Eng/Arabic      Quarterly      Electronic      Hard Copy

### Non-ID Brochure

Brochure      Eng/Arabic      January 06      Hard Copy

### DRC Brochure

Brochure      Eng/Arabic      January 07      Electronic      Hard Copy

### DRC Livelihood Postcards

Postcards      Eng/Arabic      June 07      Electronic      Hard Copy

### DRC Documentary - Like Water, Like Air (Non-ID Palestinian refugees)

Documentary Film      Eng/Arabic      July 07      Hard Copy

### Survey Report on the Situation of Non-ID Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon - Republished & Updated

75 pages      Eng/Arabic      September 2007      Electronic      Hard Copy

### Iraqi Population Survey in Lebanon

94 pages      Eng/Arabic      November 2007      Electronic      Hard Copy

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

The Danish Refugee Council in Lebanon is supported by the Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission. Since 1992, the Commission has funded relief to millions of victims of natural and man-made disasters outside the European Union. Aid is channelled impartially to affected populations, regardless of their race, ethnic group, religion, gender, age, nationality or political affiliation.

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