

working for
protection
of refugees
internally and
displaced



Danish Refugee Council

newsletter

DRC LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM

Livelihood Assistance for NBC Refugees

The Loubani family fled Nahr el-Bared refugee camp five days after the conflict between government forces and Fatah al Islam began in May 2007. One of the approximately 30,000 civilians displaced from the Nahr el-Bared, Leila and her husband found a temporary home in Shatila camp in Beirut.

Like so many of the displaced, the family lost not only their home but their economic means to survive. In Nahr el-Bared, Leila ran a successful sewing business, and Hassan operated a thriving sweet shop.

Having realised the vulnerability of this population and building on program experience from the 2006 post-war livelihood assistance; DRC, with the support of ECHO, supported Dahieh-based displaced families in Shatila and Burj el-Barajneh camps.

Together, with local partner Najdeh, DRC assessed 88 displaced individuals, of whom 48 were selected to receive tools and equipment to restart businesses. These 48 join the 110 beneficiaries supported with an in-kind grant under the 2007 European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) funded project.

Leila, who learnt to sew at 15, was one of the first beneficiaries to receive assistance of sewing and overlock machines, and she is already receiving both financial and emotional benefits. "I've earned 85,000LL this month, but what's better than this is when I sit to sew, even if I have all the burdens in the world...I forget them".



Leila Loubani has restarted her small sewing business after receiving an in-kind grant of sewing and overlocking machines

NON-FOOD ITEM AND WINTERISATION DISTRIBUTIONS COMPLETED

DRC's livelihood program has completed Non-Food Item distributions to Palestinian refugees displaced from Nahr El Bared to Beirut and vulnerable Dahieh families.

Winterisation kits including sweaters, blankets and quilts were delivered to 206 Palestinian families in Burj el-Barajneh and Shatila camps, and gas & electric heaters, gas bottles, blankets and quilts to 196 families in Dahieh. 196 vulnerable Palestinian families also received winter-appropriate carpets.

Assessment and distribution was assisted by local NGOs, Najdeh, Mabarrat Association, and the Social Advancement Association.

CONTENTS

Notes from the field.....	2
Exercising Development	2
Providing Opportunities.....	2
Status for non-ID Refugees.....	3
Protection networking workshops.....	3
It's the time for rebuilding.....	4
DRC Publications.....	4

what's new?

NEW ECHO PROJECT APPROVED

ECHO has funded a 12 month project to continue DRC support to non-ID Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. The program will maintain DRC's existing legal aid, advocacy and NFI assistance and incorporate two new elements: shelter rehabilitation and livelihood support. Within the project, the homes of 21 non-ID refugee families in Rashidieh and Burj el-Shemali will undergo major structural repairs to meet basic UNRWA housing standards and 50 non-ID refugees will benefit from in-kind grants and/or vocational training.

DRC COMMITMENT

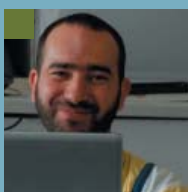
With a commitment to program excellence, transparency and accountability, we invite comments from project participants and beneficiaries regarding the quality of DRC assistance and the performance of DRC staff. Comments may be addressed to the DRC Country Representative, in writing, by e-mail, by fax or telephone. Please include name and contact information if a response is required.



Notes from the field

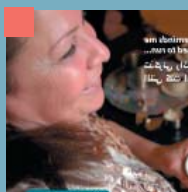
LIVELIHOOD SUCCESSES

DRC is proud to share the successes of our livelihood program beneficiaries.



With new skills and knowledge gained from an advanced computer programming training course supported by DRC, Tarek successfully landed a job with an

international company.

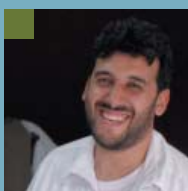


With DRC's support, Fatima was able to re-open her coffee shop. She has been doing so well, that she has been able to open a 2nd store.



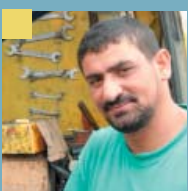
Partners, Hassan and Mohammed re-started their curtain shop business with DRC's assistance. Pleased with the quality of the equipment received,

they are now making double what they were making pre-assistance. They plan to expand their current business soon.



Mahmoud and his wife re-opened their laundry business with DRC's support, and they are now making about 40% more than pre-assistance. They hope to open a 2nd

shop in the near future.



Hasan works out of his van as a car mechanic. With tools provided by DRC, Hasan is now making 40% more than pre-assistance, and aims to re-open a garage.



DRC/UNHCR PROGRAM

Exercising Development

On any given morning, around 8.30am, a vivacious blend of song, laughter and the sound of shuffling feet can be heard escaping from a room at Beirut's Chiyah Social Development Centre. Opening the door, reveals upward of 15 women, aged between 60 and 78 years old, participating in aerobics, yoga or fitness circuit classes.

Enthusiastic 68 year old Rokayah Mroue, who attends classes four days per week, says she "is physically fitter, happier and feels healthier than before" adding that the benefits of the SDC's new Health and Exercise Program for the Elderly are "unquestionable".

The fitness room, recently refurbished and furnished with two treadmills, a cycle machine and an assortment of exercise and rehabilitation equipment is evidence of the success of one of 34 SDC-initiated projects funded by DRC as part of the 12-month project.

The nearly \$1 million USD program, which concluded in December 2007, supported 30 SDCs across Lebanon with material assistance,

training, and support for activities like Chiyah's exercise room - all designed to improve the quality of service provision and outreach potential to the estimated 2,215,000 people in the collective catchment zones.

In addition, over 61 local NGO's, some of whom receive and assist referrals from SDCs, also benefited under the program. Equipment grants, representing over \$90,000 USD, included computers, educational materials, physiotherapy equipment and carpentry tools were distributed to organisations that support vulnerable protection-related groups like orphans, the elderly, disabled, victims of cluster bombs, and youth at risk.

DRC was the implementing partner for the UNHCR-funded 'Capacity Building of Social Development Centres and Protection Monitoring' project, supported the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department. UNHCR operated under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Social Affairs.

DRC LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM

Providing Opportunities...

DRC's 12-month Livelihood Support Program, implemented in the aftermath of the July 2006 conflict, assisted over 850 beneficiaries in the suburbs of Southern Beirut.

The project, which concluded in January 2008, offered economic support to small businesses and vulnerable families through a dynamic combination of in-kind grants, vocational training, apprenticeships, small business training programs and NFI distributions.

Over \$200,000 USD of equipment, in the form of in-kind grants assisted 110 business owners to restart their businesses; preliminary evaluations indicate that about 44% of the diverse mix of tailors, hairdressers, mechanics, bakers and other professionals are reporting an increase in income compared to their pre-assistance figure, and for a third of this group, their income has doubled or more. One of DRC's beneficiaries, Nadia El Jweidi re-opened her hairdressing shop, and is particularly grateful to DRC's support, "My family's income has increased and now I can pay my children's school

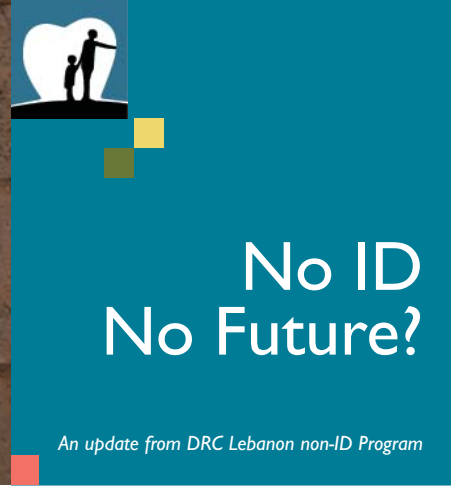
tuition fees."

Success also came for the program's apprenticeship and vocational training beneficiaries. Ghada Abed Al Nabi, a medical lab apprentice and Fatima Diah were employed full-time on completion of their apprenticeships, and Maggie Zeinedine is now engaged in part-time employment. According to Ghada, she "gained a lot of experience after being placed in one of the best labs in the Dahieh area, thanks to DRC finding and selecting a great workplace."

Ten training workshops, intended to increase the knowledge of experienced and first-time business owners and assist inexperienced job seekers, were held during September 2007 - January 2008. Over 170 beneficiaries attended the sessions implemented in collaboration with the Naji Bejjani Training System, Bassem El Halwani and Injaz Lebanon.

The DRC Livelihood Support Program was supported by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department.

"I can pay my children's school tuition fees".



DRC NON-ID PROGRAM

Status for Non-ID Refugees

The future for non-ID Palestinian refugees in Lebanon is finally looking brighter. Under a new agreement brokered by the Lebanese Government and the PLO, non-ID refugees will soon be granted with a form of legal status.

Although the details regarding the type of legal status and the rights non-ID refugees will gain are pending, the agreement which has been discussed with the General Security, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) offers long awaited hope to the population of approximately 3000.

DRC has assisted and advocated for the rights of non-ID Palestinian refugees since 2004 and is encouraged by the forthcoming changes. DRC hopes that, once finalised, the status will allow those concerned to the same work, travel, and education rights as registered and non-registered Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Non-ID refugee and DRC beneficiary, Mohammad, of Ein el-Helweh commented, "Legal papers are really important in one's life. They will allow me to move and travel freely. They will allow me to realise my dreams".

Whilst the exact process of obtaining legal status is also under continuing discussion, non-ID refugees will be required, by a set date, to complete a questionnaire at the PLO's Beirut office. The questionnaire, created by the General

Security and endorsed by the PLO, has been designed to trace and verify identity and history and will be followed by an investigation to substantiate the claim. Upon approval, an ID card will be issued.

For many non-ID refugees, this opportunity is met simultaneously with optimism and fear – as a community that has traditionally sought safety in anonymity and the confines of refugee camps, travelling to Beirut to register will be somewhat daunting. It is at this point, that the next role for DRC becomes clear.

Mireille Chiha, DRC Project Manager, stated that DRC would be working hard to "disseminate accurate information to the non-ID community, especially those in remote areas, and will attempt to alleviate unnecessary anxiety about the process." In addition, Chiha stated that "DRC is continuing discussions with the Authorities regarding the details and the benefits the proposed status will offer."

The process, which is anticipated to start in the imminent future, will attract no fees for refugees. This will lighten the burden for the non-ID families who in a few cases outlay hundreds of dollars for stay and work permits annually.

DRC's ongoing legal aid and advocacy program is supported by the Lisa og Gudmund Joergensens Fond and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department.

WINTERISATION KITS

Winterisation kits have been distributed to non-ID Palestinian refugees in Saida, Beirut and the Beqaa. 52 families from Wavell and the Beqaa gatherings each received 200L of diesel whilst gas heaters, gas bottles and water heaters were distributed to over 100 non-ID families in Ein el-Hilweh, Mieh Mieh, Shatila and Burj el-Barajneh camps.

LEGAL UPDATE

DRC's legal aid team is continuing to conduct interviews with non-ID Palestinian refugees in Ein el-Hilweh and Mieh Mieh camps in Saida.

Over 116 new cases have been added to the legal counselling database; as of February 2008, the database documents the files of 388 non-ID Palestinian refugee families.

NON-ID SUCCESS CASE

Salah was born in Broqin in the West Bank in 1960, he left in 1978 to pursue his education in Jordan.

In 1979, Salah visited his family in Syria, from where he was deported to Lebanon.

Since 1979, Salah has lived in Lebanon and has never been able to return to Jordan or his home in the West Bank.

In 1982, Salah married Suha, a Lebanese citizen and the couple now has 5 children.

In July 2005, Salah and his children were issued with Palestinian passports from the Palestinian Authority in Gaza.

In 2006, under an amnesty for aliens with illegal entry status in Lebanon, DRC supported Salah to pay the fines for his illegal residence and a work permit. At the time, Salah was not issued with a stay permit because his Palestinian passport is not recognised by the Lebanese Authorities.

DRC continued to advocate for Salah and his family and recently the General Security granted Salah and his eldest son Tarek with stay permits. DRC supported Salah with the fees for both the new work and stay permits.

DRC/UNHCR PROGRAM

Protection network w-shops

131 staff from MoSA's Social Development Centres (SDC), Municipal Councils and NGO's attended a series of protection networking workshops as part of the DRC/UNHCR Capacity Building project. The workshops were designed and implemented to assist participants to:



- 1) identify and prioritise protection issues facing local communities
- 2) strengthen community referral services
- 3) identify service gaps in local communities and discuss ways of addressing these gaps in protection.

DRC has monitored the management of protection cases by the 30 SDC centres supported under the UNHCR-funded, 12-month project. A recent evaluation of the centres has recorded over 1,900 protection cases were reported to SDCs in 2007, 95% of which were handled by the SDCs themselves or referred to an appropriate local organisation.

WHO WE ARE

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is a private, non government organisation covering all aspects of the refugee cause.

The aim of the organisation is to protect refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) against persecution and to promote durable solutions.

Danish Refugee Council is an umbrella organisation with more than thirty member organisations.

DRC Lebanon was established in September 2004 in partnership with the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) and a number of community-based local partners.

DRC Lebanon is committed to responding to the assistance and protection needs of refugees and internally displaced persons throughout the country.

Since its establishment, DRC Lebanon has produced a series of population assessment surveys, developed a legal aid and assistance program for non-ID refugees and worked to implement relief and livelihood programs for recently internally displaced persons and returnees.

DRC Lebanon continues to respond to the ever changing needs of new and existing beneficiaries with programs that uphold the Code of Conduct for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), NGOs in Disaster Relief and the UN Convention on Refugees.

DRC is currently present in more than 20 countries worldwide. Its activities are implemented within the following sectors:

Housing and Small-Scale Infrastructure

Production and Income Generation

Food and Non-food Aid

Refugee Law and Information

Social Programmes

NGO Capacity Development and Networking

Information Management and Coordination

Logistics and Transport

DRC LEBANON NEWSLETTER WINTER 2008, Issue Ten

5th floor, Aresco Palace
Justinian Street, Hamra
Beirut, Lebanon

Tel: + 961 | 738 289
Tel: + 961 | 736 987
Fax: +961 | 736 987

Email: drclebanon@cyberia.net.lb
drcadmin@idm.net.lb

Web: www.drc.dk

DRC/UN-HABITAT PROGRAM

It's the time for rebuilding

On the outskirts of Baalbeck, surrounded by the rich soil of the Bekaa Valley, Ali Lakees holds the architectural plans for his new home. Designed by a DRC architect, the plans will allow Ali to rebuild his home, destroyed in the 2006 conflict, with the 40 000USD compensation he is due to receive from the Lebanese Government.



Ali is one of 642 beneficiaries who have to date, received technical assistance from teams of architects, surveyors and engineers as part of the DRC/UN-HABITAT Mobile Reconstruction Unit for Shelter Recovery and Support project.

From urban Baalbek in Lebanon's north to the southern villages of Beit Lief and Majdal Zoun, DRC teams have consulted and collaborated with over 15 communities to ensure that the reconstruction of destroyed homes meets technical standards, that designs are economically feasible and the process is well documented.

As the technical teams journey across the country, the impact of this innovative project is evident. In a recent meeting, Bassam Raad, President of Baalbeck Municipality Council, whose colleagues have been involved in the documentation of the reconstruction, reported

that "this project is essential," adding that he "wished the project could continue so that the city of Baalbeck would become more organised and more developed".

Similarly, project beneficiaries are recognising the significant value that the project is bringing to their communities and are motivated to rebuild and move forward. In Baalbeck, Ali Lakees embodies the enthusiasm of the projects beneficiaries by stating simply, "it's not the time for crying, it's the time for rebuilding".

DRC is the implementing partner for UN-HABITAT Mobile Units for Reconstruction in the Bekaa and South Lebanon which aims to assist 1000 families with technical assistance. The project is supported by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department.

DRC Publications...				
Survey Report on the Situation of Non-ID Refugees in Lebanon				
51 Pages	Eng/Arabic	March 05	Electronic	Hard Copy
Iraqi Population in Lebanon Survey Report				
98 Pages	English	July 05	Electronic	Hard Copy
Needs Assessment of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon				
188 Pages	English	August 05	Electronic	Hard Copy
DRC Newsletter – quarterly since Autumn 05				
4 Pages	Eng/Arabic	Quarterly	Electronic	Hard Copy
Posters – No ID No Future, Assistance, Rights and Protection				
A2	Eng/Arabic	January 05	Electronic	Hard Copy
Non ID Brochure				
Brochure	Eng/Arabic	January 06		Hard Copy
DRC Brochure				
Brochure	Eng/Arabic	January 07	Electronic	Hard Copy
(DRC Documentary - Like Water, Like Air (Non-ID Palestinian refugees)				
Documentary Film	Eng/Arabic	July 07		Hard Copy
Iraqi Population in Lebanon Survey Report				
Pages 105	Eng/Arabic	November 07	Electronic	Hard Copy
Survey Report on the Situation of Non-ID Refugees in Lebanon - UPDATED				
76 Pages	Eng/Arabic	September 07	Electronic	Hard Copy