
Quarterly Report

**DRC Lebanon,
April-June 2010**

BACKGROUND AND CONFLICT

Description of conflict

The DRC Lebanon programme currently addresses refugees from two main conflicts. The first group is the estimated 250,000 Palestinians, the majority of whom fled from Palestine in 1948 or their descendants. Most others arrived in Lebanon following the “six-day war” in 1967.

The second refugee group is the 15,000-20,000 Iraqi refugees who have fled the ongoing sectarian violence in Iraq. Following the defeat of Iraqi military forces in the spring of 2003, an uprising began against coalition forces. The uprising was mainly supported by the previously dominating Sunni group, redundant militaries and eventually, radical Islamic insurgents. As Iraqi civilians have come increasingly under attack, however, the conflict has taken on the characteristics of sectarian-based civil war complicated by the involvement of external players, including neighbouring countries and Al Qaeda. While a full political or military solution is not expected soon, the security situation is gradually improving and some refugees are returning.

DRC has recently begun working with female economic migrants who work as domestic staff in Lebanon. Although generally not displaced by conflict, many of them suffer severe human rights abuses and have little protection or recourse under Lebanese law.

Displacement situation

Palestinian refugees: Lebanon hosts an estimated 250,000 Palestinians. Half of these live in 12 official UNRWA camps, while the rest are located mainly in dispersed Palestinian communities called “gatherings”. Despite the efforts of UNRWA, living standards for most Palestinians are far below those of the host Lebanese communities, with overcrowding and poor quality infrastructure and services, and lack of access to quality employment opportunities. These circumstances have evolved into a cycle of diminishing opportunity and hope, resulting in increasing discontent and marginalization among Palestinians.

Iraqi refugees: Widespread sectarian violence in Iraq following the US-led invasion in 2003 and overthrow of Saddam Hussein has led to large-scale population displacement both within Iraq itself and to neighbouring countries.

DRC estimates that between 15 and 20 thousand Iraqis currently in Lebanon require some level of assistance. Lebanon has not signed the 1951 UN convention or 1967 protocol relating to refugees, and has no domestic refugee law. The majority of Iraqis in Lebanon do not have legal permission to stay in Lebanon and therefore live in hiding with little access to social services or legal employment. If caught, they are subject to arrest and deportation as illegal migrants.

Migrant domestic workers: Lebanon currently hosts an estimated 200,000 female migrant domestic workers from several Asian and African countries. These women, who come to Lebanon under contract to families as domestic services, are often subject to exploitation and abuse, including sexual, with denial of appropriate legal recourse.

DRC'S PRESENCE

DRC history

DRC opened its Lebanon mission in September 2004. Until mid-2006, DRC's core programme provided legal assistance, material support and advocacy for the Palestinian non-ID refugee population in Lebanon. After a brief closure due to the summer 2006 war, the 'non-ID' project was reactivated, with co-funding from ECHO and the Lisa og Gudmund Joergensens Fond, a private Danish foundation.

After the 2006 summer war, DRC expanded activities to address the short-term, emergency needs of IDPs and returnees in areas directly affected by the conflict. In addition to managing UNHCR's central warehousing and distribution network, DRC's emergency activities included distribution of non-food items (NFI) to IDPs in West Beirut and Mount Lebanon and provision of NFI, winterisation assistance and shelter repair to returnees in two areas of south Lebanon, both funded by ECHO and Danida.

With emergency needs diminished, these activities transitioned, in early 2007, into 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 in three war-affected areas: South Lebanon, the Bekaa and southern Beirut (Dahieh). These activities, funded by ECHO and Danida, were completed in March 2008, respectively. Between October 2007 and April 2008, DRC also provided technical support for housing reconstruction in Southern Lebanon and the Beqaa under a UN-Habitat-funded project.

Between late 2006 and December 2007, DRC implemented a project to develop the capacities of the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs' social development centres (SDCs) in war-affected areas. DRC provided equipment, furnishings and other material items to 30 SDCs, along with staff training and funds for mini-projects targeting vulnerable groups within their communities. Under the same project, DRC also funded protection-related small projects to extend the capacities and outreach of 21 local NGOs to complement government services and programmes.

Since mid-2008, DRC has begun several new initiatives for the Palestinian

refugees. The first, funded by the British government, targets marginalised youth in Ein el Helweh camp, with a focus on education and livelihood support. In March 2009, DRC received ECHO funding for a general Palestinian protection programme focusing primarily on the Saida and Tyre areas in South Lebanon, and in early 2010, with CIDA funding, DRC initiated a small project, also in South Lebanon, providing protection support to elderly Palestinians.

Also in 2008, DRC Lebanon initiated its Iraqi refugee programme (funded by the U.S. Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration) targeting vulnerable Iraqi refugees, with an emphasis on reaching those in the outlying, under-served areas of Lebanon.

Finally, in December 2009, DRC, with local partner Kafa, initiated a pilot project to provide female migrant domestic workers (MDWs) with legal counselling and to carry out public advocacy in support of female migrant worker rights in Lebanon.

DRC Lebanon has also produced the following survey and assessment reports:

- *Palestinian Non-ID Refugees in Lebanon*, March 2005 (funded by ECHO); updated September 2007;
- *Profile of the Iraqi Population in Lebanon*, July 2005 (funded by UNHCR);
- *Needs assessment on Palestinian refugees in gatherings in Lebanon*, August 2005 (funded by ECHO);
- *Iraqi Population Survey in Lebanon*, November 2007 (funded by UNHCR);
- *Community Perspectives on Protection: a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Analysis of Palestinian Communities in South Lebanon*, October 2009 (funded by ECHO);
- *Iraqis Taking Refuge in Lebanon – Estimating the Size and Geographical Distribution of Iraqis in Lebanon from a Service Need Perspective*, November 2009 (funded by PRM).

Brief narrative description of current DRC programme

DRC is currently implementing several projects in support of Palestinian and Iraqi refugees. DRC coordinates closely with all relevant stakeholders and service providers, including UNRWA and UNHCR, local Lebanese and Palestinian authorities, and local and international NGOs.

I. Palestinian Refugee Programme (since 2004)

a: Palestinian Refugee Protection Project (March 2009-June 2010):

The purpose of this project is to enhance the protection environment for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon with a particular focus on communities in the south of the country (5 camps and 23 gatherings in the areas of Saida and Tyre).

The project tackles protection at three levels: firstly, at the individual level by providing direct support to highly vulnerable refugees including non-ID refugees and families from Nahr el Bared (NBC) displaced in southern Lebanon, secondly, at the community level, through improved awareness of protection issues, referral and response capacities, and finally at local and national levels through information dissemination, coordination and advocacy.

The project provides directly information and other support to an estimated

5,000 vulnerable Palestinians. Other potential beneficiaries are the estimated catchment population of 150,000 Palestinian refugees living in the camps and gathering in South Lebanon.

b. Enhanced Economic and Educational Opportunities for Palestinian Refugees in Ein el Hilweh camp (June 2008-March 2011)

Under this 3-year project, DRC and its partners seek to reduce the social and economic marginalisation of Palestinian youth by facilitating access to vocational training and job opportunities for young people, supporting start-up and existing small businesses, providing remedial education and life skill training for school dropouts and those students at risk of dropping out, and advocating with community business leaders and national authorities. Proposed outputs include:

- Increased livelihood opportunities for 450 youth and 180 small businesses in EHC will lead to better economic status (increased employment and better job opportunities).
- Increased educational opportunities in EHC for 500 school drop-outs, students at risk of dropping out and graduates seeking higher-level education.
- Increased awareness amongst key stakeholders of the benefits and impediments to Palestinian participation in the Lebanese economy.

c. Enhanced Protection for Elderly Palestinian Refugees in Southern Lebanon (March 2010-March 2011)

This project seeks to improve conditions for marginalised elderly members of the Palestinian Refugee community in Southern Lebanon through advocacy, awareness raising and enhanced community and civil society engagement. Areas of activity include:

- Enhancing advocacy, capacity building and networking on protection issues relating to elderly Palestinian Refugees.
- Increasing social inclusion for elderly community members and skill sharing between generations
- Ensuring sustained care and support to meet basic human rights of elderly Palestinian Refugees

II. Iraqi Refugee Programme (since late 2008)

d. Civil Society Support and Community Outreach for Iraqis

This project projects increases the outreach of NGOs providing services to Iraqis throughout Lebanon, with an emphasis on under-served peripheral areas, while directly meeting urgent needs not covered by others NGOs. Activities include routine liaison and information exchange with Iraqi refugee communities, mobilisation of local NGOs through funded sub-projects and advocacy at local and national levels. Additionally, DRC provides direct support through educational assistance and management of a *special needs fund* to meet urgent individual and household needs on an ad hoc basis. Proposed project outputs include:

- 4,000 Iraqis assisted through information and referral services
- Critical needs of 1,500 highly vulnerable Iraqis are met through in-kind or cash grants

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8 local NGOs working with Iraqis supported with small projects funds ▪ 900 school children receive school supplies <p>III. Assistance to Migrant Workers</p> <p><u>e. Stop the Exploitation of Migrant Domestic Workers!</u> This project provides information and legal services to women migrant domestic workers through DRC’s local NGO partner KAFA. Information activities include newsletter/brochures providing services and other information relevant to MDWs, in several languages, and legal services include legal counselling and representation. The project also includes advocacy activities targeting key stakeholders and the general public.</p>
Strategic objective of programme	Protection and promotion of appropriate solutions to displacement-affected populations on the basis of humanitarian principles and human rights.
Immediate objectives of programme	<p><u>a. Palestinian Refugee Protection Project:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased protection for marginalised and underserved Palestinian refugees in Lebanon <p><u>b. Enhanced Economic and Educational Opportunities for Palestinian Refugees in Ein el Hilweh camp</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased educational and income generation opportunities for youth in Ein el Hilweh camp <p><u>c. Enhanced Protection for Elderly Palestinian Refugees in Southern Lebanon</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved human rights conditions, and social inclusion for marginalised elderly members of the Palestinian Refugee community in Southern Lebanon through advocacy, awareness raising and enhanced community and civil society engagement <p><u>d. Life Skills Development for Young Palestinians in Lebanon</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To support the personal development of a minimum of 500 young Palestinians in the Ein el Helweh Camp and strengthen the capacity of three local NGOs <p><u>e. Civil Society Support and Community Outreach for Iraqis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased civil society capacities to respond to the needs of Iraqi refugees through outreach, networking, project support and advocacy at local and national levels <p><u>f. Stop the Exploitation of Migrant Domestic Workers!</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To develop a set of tools that document and challenge predominant Lebanese perceptions and attitudes towards Migrants Domestic Workers (MDWs), while providing direct services to the most vulnerable MDWs in Lebanon
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Palestinian refugees, communities & civil society

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Iraqi refugees ▪ Asian & African female migrant domestic workers
Main sector(s) /type(s) of intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness raising & advocacy on protection issues ▪ Information management ▪ Legal aid and counselling ▪ Non-food assistance ▪ Livelihood support ▪ Capacity development ▪ Education
List of donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO) ▪ British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) ▪ U.S. Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) ▪ Danish Centre for Information on Gender, Equality and Ethnicity (KVINFO) ▪ Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) ▪ Thunes Foundation

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PAST QUARTER

Main external developments and challenges faced during the past quarter – in terms of politics, displacement situation and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The General Security restarted the issuance of Special Identify Cards (SICs) to non-ID Palestinian refugees. The cards were previously issued to some non-IDs over a 2-month period in late 2008, before the procedure was suspended. DRC will monitor this closely. ▪ Security has remained quite good, though political tensions are increasing with expectations of upcoming indictments from the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.
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Main internal achievements and challenges during the past quarter	<p><u>a. Palestinian Refugee Protection</u></p> <p>The ECHO-funded protection project formally ended in mid-June, though some subcontracted activities continued through the end of the month. Activities during the quarter are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legal assistance to non-ID refugees continues. The process of government registration of non-ID refugees, with issuance of renewable one-year residence cards, was re-launched in March. DRC is monitoring the process. ▪ Assistance to EVIs (extremely vulnerable individuals) continued, either supported by DRC directly and/or through referral to other service providers. During the quarter, 31 new cases were assisted, raising the cumulative total for the project to 130. ▪ 104 community volunteers received training on protection issues and 116
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volunteers implemented protection activities in their respective communities, reaching an estimated 5391 beneficiaries. Over the full project period, 213 volunteers have been trained and over 20,000 community residents have benefited from activities implemented by the volunteers.

- DRC funded small projects for 17 local NGOs during the quarter, with over 8,000 beneficiaries. Cumulatively, DRC supported 25 local NGOs and reached an estimated 15,000 beneficiaries.
- DRC delivered training to staff from 17 local NGOs on topics including training and facilitation, project management, monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy.
- Large public awareness raising activities, both in June, included a fair for disabled children in South Lebanon in collaboration with World Vision and a national ‘march for Palestinian rights’, which ended with a rally in downtown Beirut, organised by a consortium of Palestinian NGOs. DRC is currently distributing 3,000 copies of a final Arabic language protection newsletter prepared under the project.

b. Enhanced Economic and Educational Opportunities for Palestinian Refugee Youth in Ein el Hilweh Camp

Livelihoods:

- The National Association for Vocational Training and Social Services (NAVTS) finalized the theoretical component of the vocational training for 50 beneficiaries.
- NAVTS trainees in electricity and refrigeration/airconditioning began their internships with industrial firms and workshops in the Saida area; carpentry trainees at Najdeh NGO will be placed for internships by the end of July 2010.
- Najdeh Association is delivering intensive vocational training to 12 youth who are also benefiting from life skills sessions and counseling services. The total number of vocational training beneficiaries to date is 76.
- Palestinian Arab Women League (PAWL) submitted the final report of the 2nd year with an impact evaluation. DRC and PAWL signed a new contract for 6 months to November 2010. PAWL will be following up with in-kind grant beneficiaries and potential entrepreneurs for possible loans under their own (non-FCO) micro-credit program.
- PAWL finalized distribution of the IKG for 28 beneficiaries and started follow up to improve the quality of the services and products of their beneficiaries. The total number of beneficiaries receiving IKGs is 55.

Education:

- Local NGOs (Najdeh, Nabila Breir, Solidarity, PATH and Al Ghad) continued to provide remedial education during this quarter. To date, 532 students and recent dropouts have benefited from remedial education.
- 23 school dropouts from last year’s programme are still attending literacy courses with SASCD. SASCD is also assisting 27 new dropouts during the current scholastic year. 7 dropouts from the first year were re-integrated into school.

- Counselors from 6 NGO partners received introductory training from DRC's social work coordinator on basic intervention skills to help them provide appropriate counseling to beneficiaries. Since April 2010, the counselors carried out 1241 counseling sessions (individual, group, house visit, school visit and other).
- During May, DRC signed an MOU with a teaching center (NGO House of Students) in EHC to provide supportive teaching to 20 male Brevet students (low achievers) who could not pass the Brevet exam trial implemented at UNRWA schools during April 2010.
- 52 parents from partner NGO parents councils participated in a 3-day workshop on how to form a parents' council, on the educational environment of their children at home, in the community, at school and on parents' roles in their children's education, as well as on communication skills, conflict resolution and advocacy. The workshop was designed and facilitated by Balamand University.
- As a first step in a large educational awareness initiative, 120 parents, students, coordinators and staff of DRC partners met at the American University in Lebanon campus in Saida to discuss campaign objectives and activities.

c. Enhanced Protection for Elderly Palestinian Refugees in Southern Lebanon

- DRC's partner in this project is the Palestinian Women Humanitarian Organisation (PWHO). Implementation of the project started in May, with activity during the reporting period devoted mainly to setting up operations. PWHO hired two social workers and established an elderly resource and orientation centre (ROC) at its El Buss camp office. PWHO and DRC attended orientation training provided by the donor (CIDA) and prepared detailed activity and monitoring plans. An information system was also developed that includes beneficiary assessment questionnaires, tracking forms and statistical summary forms.
- Current activities include updating a 2006 elderly survey implemented by PWHO; introducing the project to communities, local authorities and NGOs working with the elderly; mapping of existing services for the elderly; and some meetings with potential elderly beneficiaries.

d. Life Skills Development for Young Palestinians in Lebanon

- The project was approved in June 2010, and implementation will start in July.

e. Civil Society Support and Community Outreach for Iraqis

- DRC finalised, printed and disseminated the 6th newsletter to Iraqi refugees.
- DRC finalised and disseminated its fifth outreach report to relevant stakeholders. Report focused on the abuse at the workplace Iraqis are victims of
- DRC supported 177 vulnerable Iraqi households (730 members) with in-kind assistance, assistance for medical cases, rent or fees prior to resettlement
- 6 agreements were signed with local NGOs to implement projects targeting

Iraqis along with the local population

f. Stop the Exploitation of Migrant Domestic Workers!

- Kafa's Listening and Counselling Centre received 16 cases, where they benefited from social and legal counselling.
- The research on the employers' perceptions of Migrant Domestic Workers (MDW) was completed and launched on 23 June 2010: *Servant, Daughter, or Employee? A Pilot Study on the attitudes of Lebanese employers towards migrant domestic workers*. The launch event was sponsored by the Lebanese Ministry of Labor.
- A postcard campaign was launched to petition the Ministry of Labor to enact measures to protect MDW. Postcards will also be distributed in Lebanese bars and cafes.
- A photo exhibition took place in June 2010 where 58 photos documenting the lives of MDW were displayed.
- Kafa's first newsletter targeting MDW was published in four languages: English, Arabic, Nepalese and Tagalog.
- Monthly meetings were held with community leaders.

Main funding developments during the past quarter

- ECHO funding for a 12-month project supporting non-ID and other vulnerable refugees was approved in mid-June.
- A 3-year project for life skills support for Palestinian youth was approved by the Thunes Foundation in mid-June.