

Lebanon

World Immigration

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The Syrian Crisis began in 2010 then going into 2011 the first tens of thousands refugees began to make their way to Lebanon most of which settled in Eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. This area is known as a poor agricultural area. There were also smaller groups that made it to the bigger cities such as Beirut, Tripoli and Sidon. Refugees begged at traffic lights and live on the streets or under bridges. Before the Syrian Crisis, Lebanon had already been in bad conditions. The infrastructure has been that way for several years. Electricity, water, roads and bandwidth can hardly support the population. With the population rising it just makes living conditions harder for residents and incoming refugees.

The problem that Lebanon is having with Syrian refugees is that there are too many people coming into the country, while problems are still arising as we are trying to make Lebanon a safer and beautiful country. Adding 1.5 more million people to their population becomes harder to manage refugees, especially if they aren't wealthy. It's the poorer Syrian refugees who create a greater existential problem for Lebanon because of the fact they are unable to care for themselves from the time that they first arrive to Lebanon. The majority of refugees need aid to get them ready to start a new life. But with 70+ organizations suspending their cooperation with the UN in Syria it makes it harder for refugees to make a better life for themselves when the small amount of financial support they receive becomes to decline as more refugees arrive.

The Syrian crisis has brought in 1.5 million Syrian refugees, a third of Lebanon's population to Lebanon, with this growth it has affected the Lebanese Power Sector. Since refugees have moved to Lebanon the energy sectors have worsened. Refugees use about 30% of the daily energy consumption in the area of Lebanon. This affects Lebanon in a negative way, with the aging power plants working below their capacity it causes Beirut Lebanon's capital to have power outages daily for 3 hours while cities outside of Beirut have power outages for 12 hours. This issue causes there to be a loss in work time. In some areas, the outages prevent municipalities from pumping water to homes and businesses. Backup generators only offer a limited amount of energy. When they kick in, people can use an appliance or two in their homes and businesses, but more appliances risk overloading the circuits.

Since the Syrian crisis, Lebanon has made studies on how refugees affect their daily lives. The study of their energy consumption included assessments of the 350 refugee families in the area. All of the refugees put together use up about 486 kW, which takes away energy from Lebanese natives.

During a conference last month, our energy Minister, Cesar Abi Khalil made an announcement that in the following month many power plants were going to be upgraded in Lebanon. The upgrades that are being made to the power plants are helpful but it's not enough to support everyone and stop the daily power outages.

According to a United Nations mid-year update on donor support of the country, high donor commitments have continued to help Lebanon with the impact of the Syrian crisis by sending food, assistance, education, water and sanitation. Since 2016, all of the help and food have had a great impact on Lebanon. This gave food assistance to almost 865,000 individuals;

enabling 197,000 Lebanese children and 150,000 refugee children to enrol in public schools for the 2015-2016 school year; the extension of some 55 miles of publicly-owned water supply networks, covering 30 municipalities and bringing safe water to some 670,000 people.

While the assistance has helped thousands of people, it has remained focused on the short-term emergency response, the importance of longer-term support is crucial to enable partners to plan ahead in other important areas, as in to try to continue to keep children enrolled in school for more years to come and to scale up support to municipalities to strengthen service delivery.

There are other issues that need to be resolved with Lebanon, these include worsening security conditions, weakening State institutions and the need for continued funding for the refugees living in Lebanon. In December 2015, the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan was launched, seeking a total of \$2.48 billion for 2016 to implement joint programs by the Government and the international aid community.

In February 2016, at the conference on Supporting Syria and the Region in London, the international community pledged more than \$12 billion to meet the immediate and longer-term needs of those affected \$6 billion for 2016 and \$6.1 billion for 2017-2020.

The more Syrians arrive, the more the NGOs (Non-governmental Organizations) have to discriminate in favour of those most in need of financial aid: the elderly, the pregnant or those with small children. What Lebanon really needs is for everyone to accept refugees in their countries. We've taken 1.5 million and we survived, just take 20,000. Trust me. You won't even notice them. This is a time of crisis we need to work together to help the Syrian refugees, they

have all left their own country knowing that where they're going they'll have to start over, but this place is keeping them alive and it's the better option than dying in their country.

Works Cited

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