



UNRWA LEBANON

2011 Nahr el-Bared Camp

Relief and Recovery Needs



**More than Three Years and Still
Displaced: Urgent Assistance
for Palestine Refugees in
North Lebanon**





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Rationale for NBC Relief and Recovery Needs in 2011

The destruction of Nahr el-Bared Camp (NBC) during the conflict in 2007 and the resultant displacement of some 27,000 Palestine refugees from the camp and its adjacent areas created a humanitarian crisis, the effects of which are still being felt three years on. With generous support from donors since 2007, UNRWA has been able to meet the most basic needs of the displaced refugees. Nevertheless, the long-term recovery of the camp and its residents is still dependent on the pace of reconstruction, and UNRWA's support to the displaced refugees continues to be vital during this interim period. The Agency therefore has no option but to provide relief and recovery assistance to the displaced refugees through 2011 and beyond, while exerting every effort to accelerate the camp's reconstruction.

The displacement of the majority of Palestine refugees from their original homes in NBC and its adjacent areas continues to present a serious humanitarian challenge. This is compounded by the slow rate of economic recovery of the NBC adjacent areas, hampered by restrictions on movement imposed by the Lebanese Armed Forces. The refugees displaced from NBC still live under extremely difficult and stressful conditions, affecting almost all aspects of their lives.

Since 2007, UNRWA's efforts to provide assistance to the displaced refugees in the areas of shelter, food security, water and sanitation, health, and education have served as a safety net to ensure that all displaced refugees can meet their basic critical needs. Alongside these relief efforts, UNRWA has also undertaken extensive economic recovery initiatives through business reactivation grants, capacity development, employment service centres, vocational training and apprenticeships.



In 2010, UNRWA sought US \$16.3 million to deliver core relief and recovery activities. Due to escalating health expenditures, this amount has been revised to \$17.9 million. This means that UNRWA still requires an additional \$1.3 million to cover 2010 expenses.

In 2011, UNRWA's budget for its relief and recovery operations is estimated to be \$18.51 million. In total, the Agency is therefore seeking donors' support amounting to \$19.81 million, which will cover expenses until the end of 2011.

As of October 2010, out of the eight construction packages in NBC, the Agency has started the reconstruction of Package 1 and the initial groundwork for part of Package 2. By the end of 2010, families will start returning to their reconstructed homes in Package 1, with the majority of families from Packages 1 and 2 moving back to their rebuilt residences by the end of 2011. The major constraint to the reconstruction of the camp is the lack of funding. To date, only 36% of the donations required have been secured, with an urgent need for \$12 million to start works in Package 3 and \$34.1 million for Package 4. The reconstruction of the first three school buildings in the UNRWA Compound, adjacent to NBC, is progressing well. The schools should be ready for the start of the 2011-2012 scholastic year, allowing nearly 3,000 primary and secondary school students to relocate from overcrowded temporary school buildings in Beddawi and the NBC Adjacent Areas currently operating on a double-shift basis. The health centre remains to be funded, as do the remaining three school buildings and the NGO compound.

As the main service provider mandated by the international community to support Palestine refugees, UNRWA is obliged to continue providing relief support to the displaced families of NBC until the reconstruction of the camp is completed. Whilst this provision will decrease as families are rehoused, the timeframe for the progressive reduction of this relief support will inevitably be conditional on the progress of the reconstruction itself. This, in turn, depends largely on the availability of funding, as well as on UNRWA's continued progress in overcoming the complex administrative, logistical and political hurdles that it has faced until now.



Relief and Recovery Objectives for 2011

- Provide adequate shelter for NBC displaced Palestinians until their homes are reconstructed (targeted beneficiaries: 5,670 families or 25,866 individuals)
- Ensure the food security of NBC displaced Palestine refugee families (targeted beneficiaries: 4,190 families or 18,889 individuals)
- Enhance the access of displaced Palestinian youths to education (targeted beneficiaries: 611 students)
- Ensure access to health services and medications for all Palestine refugees from NBC (targeted beneficiaries: 5,670 families or 25,866 individuals)
- Promote economic recovery for NBC displaced Palestine refugees (targeted beneficiaries: 5,670 families or 25,866 individuals)



Objective 1: Provide adequate shelter to NBC displaced families

A. Rental Cash Subsidies



NBC Displaced Refugee living in a garage paid for with Rental Cash Subsidy

UNRWA distributes rental cash subsidies to those NBC families who are not living in temporary accommodation or hosted free-of-charge by families across Lebanon. Currently 3,436 families benefit from this support. The domestic expenditure of NBC residents has substantially increased since the conflict while there has been a dramatic fall in family income over the same period. Prior to the conflict, 3% of NBC residents rented accommodation; now that figure is 60%. At the same time the number of people employed has fallen by 30%. Even for those that have found work, their monthly income has dropped by an average of US \$190. 53% of those working in NBC Adjacent Areas are now earning less than \$230/month. To try to help people close this gap, UNRWA seeks to provide all NBC displaced families renting temporary accommodation with a rental cash subsidy equivalent to \$200/month per household until these families are re-housed in the reconstructed camp.

The rate of rental cash subsidy was formerly \$200/month through 2008, but lack of funds forced UNRWA to reduce the rate to \$150/month throughout 2009 and 2010. Since then, families have consistently found it an even greater struggle to meet all their household expenditures. Consequently, UNRWA seeks to return to \$200/month if sufficient funding is secured in 2011.

According to UNRWA's best-case scenario, we estimate that by mid 2011, nearly 300 families currently benefiting from rental cash subsidies will return to their rebuilt homes in Package 1. Therefore, **in the second quarter of 2011, the caseload will be reduced to 3,147 families**. By October 2011, an additional estimated 455 families are expected to return to their reconstructed homes in Package 2.



B. Maintenance of temporary installations

UNRWA has constructed five temporary shelter sites and rehabilitated eleven buildings to be used as collective centres in the NBC Adjacent Areas, accommodating a total of 749 displaced families (3,432 individuals). Significant work is needed to ensure that the shelters are effectively maintained and habitable. In addition, the Agency constructed five temporary schools and two temporary clinics to ensure the displaced refugees' access to education and health services. The first three temporary shelter sites were rapidly constructed to allow NBC displaced refugees to vacate Agency installations and public schools where they had taken refuge during the emergency phase. Now that these temporary shelters have been inhabited for four years, substantial maintenance works are required. Funds are needed to cover repairs (e.g. roof leakages, sewer repairs, drainage repairs) in most of the temporary installations, while major repairs are required in the three temporary shelters mentioned above.



One temporary shelter (left) and one prefabricated school (right) in NBC in need of maintenance

C. Leased land and electricity in Adjacent Areas

Future financial difficulties are anticipated as the three-year leases for the temporary shelter sites expire (it was originally expected that most of the camp would have been reconstructed within this timeframe). The leasing of land is anticipated to increase by three to four times in 2011 for many of the plots used for temporary accommodation and schools, which explains the cost increase of this component as compared to the 2010 budget. This increase is due to the fact that many landlords offered UNRWA a reduced rate immediately after the crisis for humanitarian reasons, but as the displacement continues some landlords have informed the Agency that they will move the rent back to the market rate beginning next year.

Fuel is also needed to provide electricity in the Agency's temporary installations (e.g. clinics, schools) and temporary shelters. As these units are not connected to the national grid provided by Electricité du Liban (EDL), electricity is provided through purchased and rented generators which require significant costs for fuel and maintenance. UNRWA aims to provide a minimum of 8 hrs/day of electricity to ensure the continuous provision of services and adequate living conditions for the refugees.



Objective 2: Ensure Food Security

Due to the dire socio-economic effects of the crisis, NBC families lack the purchasing power to secure access to sufficient nutritious food. The food security of the displaced refugees remains a key concern for their well-being. Without food support, refugees often resort to negative coping strategies such as reducing the diversity, quantity and quality of food consumed, all of which have a long term detrimental impact on health and education. UNRWA intends to ensure food security by providing bi-monthly support to all families (with the exception of Special Hardship Case families who already receive a specific food basket and cash allowance under UNRWA Special Hardship Assistance Programme). This food security support is offered in the form of either 'cash-for-food' or food in-kind. Packaging, logistics and other associated staff costs are included in the 2011 relief and recovery budget under the section entitled "NMU Operation Costs".

The cash-value of the transfer is calculated through the completion of regular consumer price indexing (CPI) in the local area (NBC adjacent areas, Beddawi and Tripoli). The CPI is calculated by assessing the price of the same items included in the UNRWA Special Hardship Case food parcel. This food parcel is designed to provide beneficiaries with 34% of their minimum daily caloric needs. This assessment is made on a monthly basis, and the amount of cash transferred is modified to reflect changing prices. In this way, beneficiaries are protected against the negative impact on purchasing power caused by inflation.

For the distribution of food commodities, the following basket will be distributed according to four different family size groups as highlighted below. All families requesting food in-kind will receive items according to this breakdown. Again the composition of the baskets is designed to give all persons on average 34% of their caloric needs by an average person, or around 800kcal/day/person.

Item	1 to 2	3 to 5	5 to 8	9+ Persons
Rice (Kg)	2	4	5	6
Sugar (kg)	2	4	5	6
Milk Powder (Kg)	2	4	5	6
Vegetable Oil (Lt)	2	4	6	8
Tahina (kg)	0.45	0.9	1.35	1.8
Vermicelli (Kg)	1.2	1.8	2.4	3
Tahina Paste (Kg)	0.42	0.56	0.84	1.05
Chick Peas (Kg)	1	2	3	3
Salt (Kg)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Lentils (Kg)	0.5	1	1	1



Objective 3: Access to Education

A. Transportation for students

The UNRWA Compound in NBC, which was the location for all the schools serving the NBC population, was completely destroyed in the conflict. UNRWA therefore established several pre-fabricated schools in both the NBC Adjacent Areas and Beddawi Camp as a temporary solution. Until all the schools in the UNRWA Compound are rebuilt, the Agency will continue to provide buses to transport 550 students (over 10% of the overall NBC student population) to and from these temporary schools in both NBC and Beddawi. This is a crucial intervention to prevent drop out rates from rising; if families are required to cover the cost of transportation this will dissuade them from continuing to send their child to school. Drop-out rates between intermediary and secondary school have been between 60-80% following the crisis, and UNRWA wishes to remove any factors that may contribute to the further increase of these rates.

B. Financial support for university students

Education services were heavily disrupted as a result of the conflict in 2007. UNRWA provided NBC students who passed the Baccalaureate II exams in 2007 with a grant covering their first year of study at Lebanese universities. Without this subsidy, these students would have been unable to commence with and complete their studies. Because of the financial difficulties that their families are still facing, UNRWA will continue support these students until they complete their higher education.

65 students will still require UNRWA financial assistance to continue their studies in 2011. 51 of them are meant to graduate in 2011 and 14 will continue their engineering studies for an additional year. The costs reflected under this document only refer to the needs for 2011.



Objective 4: Access to Health Services and Medications

While the main health indicators for the population are currently positive, overcrowding in the temporary shelters and the poor conditions in some of the rented accommodation increases the risk of outbreaks of communicable and other diseases. Additionally, because of continued economic hardship, many families are unwilling and/or unable to seek effective and timely medical treatment at their own expense. Therefore, UNRWA continues to provide free basic health services and additional subsidies to help NBC families cover the cost of hospitalisation and medications that are not normally covered by UNRWA through its regular health programme. This includes the subsidy of up to 100% of the hospital bills for displaced refugees as well as medications for chronic illnesses not available through UNRWA clinics (such as mental health, hypertension, diabetes and cardiac treatment).

Though health expenditures for NBC families have steadily increased due to the rising cost of medications and escalating demand for UNRWA health services, UNRWA is taking steps to reduce overall expenses. UNRWA continues to seek new ways of procuring critical medications at lower rates, especially for the growing number of patients who are benefiting from subsidised medicines to treat their chronic diseases.



Objective 5: Promote Economic Recovery

Recent information gathered through an independent statistical survey of refugees now living in the North Lebanon but originally from NBC shows that these refugees are still living under extremely difficult conditions (Lebanon Support, February 2010). Indeed, the average decrease in income after the conflict in all areas has been \$190/month/working person, and 53% of those working are earning less than \$10/day. In 2011, UNRWA intends to implement a range of activities to help refugees recover from the crisis and enhance their employability, thereby encouraging self-reliance and reducing dependency on relief assistance.

A. Improved economic cooperation between Palestinians and Lebanese

NBC's Adjacent Area, formerly a thriving economic hub, is now a military zone with restricted access for all visitors. These entry restrictions have decimated the Lebanese customer base which was central to the success of NBC businesses prior to the crisis. To counteract this, UNRWA seeks to enhance the capacity of its existing Employment Services Centre (ESC) in NBC. The centre currently concentrates on supporting the employment of Palestinian labourers in the reconstruction of NBC, but UNRWA is seeking funds to create a career guidance programme in the ESC that will focus on facilitating the employability of Palestinians in Lebanese businesses. The programme will provide displaced refugees with career counselling, job matching services, and training specifically tailored to the needs of the Lebanese economy, coupled with a proactive approach to promoting the skills and capacities of the Palestinian labour force to Lebanese employers.



B. Supporting Livelihoods

The conflict and the destruction of the camp led to the widespread loss of assets by the NBC refugee community. Helping refugees to recover from current informal indebtedness and avoiding further debt in the future are crucial to the recovery of NBC residents. UNRWA will develop a plan to help refugees structure and formalise their debts.

Concurrently, alternative forms of employment for Palestine refugees will be crucial to driving economic recovery. This will be done through several interventions: (a) the creation of an economic/business plan for NBC and the Adjacent Areas to promote economic diversity in coordination with the NBC Traders Committee; (b) the establishment of a small business park inside the adjacent areas of NBC; and (c) capacity development for external marketing of NBC products.



Displaced refugees employed as construction workers help rebuild NBC Camp





Refugee from NBC receives Rental Cash Subsidy

Budgetary needs for 2011

Sector of Intervention	Budgeted for 2011 (including PSC)
Objective 1: Shelter/Infrastructure	\$9,850,000
A. Rental Cash Subsidies	\$8,200,000
B. Maintenance	\$310,000
C. Rent, Fuel and Electricity in the Adjacent Areas	\$1,340,000
Objective 2: Food Security	\$1,600,000
D. Food Commodities and Cash-for-Food	\$1,600,000
Objective 3: Education	\$257,000
E. Transportation for Students	\$100,000
F. University Scholarships	\$157,000
Objective 4: Health	\$4,250,000
G. Hospitalization/Medications Subsidy	\$4,250,000
Objective 5: Economic Recovery	\$666,000
H. Palestinian-Lebanese Economic Cooperation	\$166,000
I. Supporting Livelihoods	\$500,000
NMU Operations Costs	\$1,887,000
J. NMU Operation Costs	\$1,887,000
TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	\$18,510,000



NBC Population Statistics as of July 2010

5,670 families are currently registered by UNRWA as originating from Nahr el-Bared Camp. 63% of them live in NBC adjacent areas (only 20% of these families were able to return to their own homes) while 33% are living in the neighbouring Beddawi camp and 4% are still accommodated by host families in other areas of Lebanon.

Category	Families	Persons
Registered	5,387	24,667
Non-Registered	31	91
Other Areas	252	1,108
TOTAL	5,670	25,866
A. Refugees Living in North Area		
A.1 Beddawi Camp and Surrounding Areas	Families	Persons
A.1.1 Rented	1,556	7,186
A.1.2 Owned	68	389
A.1.3 With Host Families	95	175
Sub Total	1,719	7,750
A.2 NBC—Surrounding Areas	Families	Persons
A.2.1 Rented	181	818
A.2.2 Owned	21	86
A.2.3 With Host Families	9	15
Sub Total	211	919
A.3 Tripoli and Surroundings	Families	Persons
A.3.1 Rented	113	537
A.3.2 Owned	11	54
A.3.3 With Host Families	12	26
Sub Total	136	617
Returnees to NBC (Adjacent Areas)	Families	Persons
Temporary Shelters	679	3,048
Collective Centers	70	384
Accommodated by ACTED and PU	95	485
Owned	1,016	5,078
Rented (Adjacent NBC)	1,343	6,210
With Host Families	149	267
Total Returnees	3,352	15,472
B. Refugees living outside North	Families	Persons
Sub Total	252	1,108





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