

WEEKLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 16- FEBRUARY 23, 2007

Lebanon Rapid Post-Conflict Recovery Program

Welcome to Mercy Corps Lebanon's weekly progress report on activities implemented in southern Lebanon, Borj el Barajne, and the Bekaa Valley. Please direct any questions or content suggestions to Sarah Kouzi: skouzi@lb.mercycorps.org



Students painting a wall in downtown Baalbek – the pictures were nominated during the drawing contest in which all public school students in Baalbek participated

Mercy Corps implements programs in the following sectors:

- I. Protection**
- II. Logistics and Relief Commodities**
- III. Food Security & Agriculture**
- IV. Water Sanitation and Hygiene**
- V. Nutrition**

I. PROTECTION

The main activities under the Protection sector that took place this week were school rehabilitation activities in Baalbek and Nabatiye and the building of a basketball court at a school in Nabatiye.

School Rehabilitation in Baalbek and Nabatiye

Mercy Corps is pleased to announce that the second phase of rehabilitating 7 public schools in Baalbek is done¹. The contractor is cleaning up the work areas and a final round of monitoring the works will be done on February 24, 2007 with the attendance of the school headmasters. The total number of beneficiaries for the school rehabilitation in Baalbek is 2,382.

Moreover, rehabilitation activities for Phase II is progressing in 15 schools in Nabatiye, the three contractors are taking advantage of the good weather to make up for whatever was delayed due to rain. The works are regularly monitored by the consultant, the engineer and Mercy Corps' monitor. More details are in the table below. The total number of beneficiaries for the Phase I and II repairs in Nabatiye schools is expected to be 10,791 students and staff members.

Public schools' repair update in Nabatiye Caza	
Arnoun Primary School	works 80%complete
Zefta Primary School	50% of works complete: waterproofing roof, external walls, sealing windows and sanitary works
Majdel Silm Primary and Secondary Schools	20% of the contracted works complete
Maifadoun Primary and Secondary schools	40% completed (with 60% of external paint and 100% of sanitary works)
Harouf Public school	70% of membrane work, 90% of external paint work, 60% of sanitary and electrical works complete
Aadchit Ech Shqif public school	100% of electrical works and 60% of roof works complete
Choukin public school	100% of electrical works and 40% of external paint complete
Nabatiye kindergarten	100% contracted works are completed
Hasan Ghandour school	100% sanitary and electrical works and 50% of external paint complete
Habouch Primary school	100% sanitary works, 80% of existing membrane repaired and execution of new membrane complete.
Kfar Roumane Second Primary school	100% of the electrical works and 60% of the sanitary works complete
Kfar Sir Primary and Technical schools	70% of the membrane work, 100% of the sanitary and electrical works, 80% of the external paint in the technical school complete
Zawtar el Charkiye public school	roof works are 60% complete

¹ The Third Mixed Intermediate Governmental School of Baalbek, the First Intermediate Governmental School of Brital, the New Intermediate Mixed Governmental School of Baalbek, Nabi Othman Governmental School, the Second Mixed Intermediate Governmental School of Baalbek, the First Mixed Governmental School of Baalbek and the Orphanage of Islamic Welfare Association.

Basketball court at Nabatiye Technical School

Mercy Corps is building a basketball court at the Nabatiye Technical School. The concrete is cast and is currently left to dry for three weeks before applying two layers of epoxy paint. The school is anxious to have the works complete and start planning for a caza-wide basketball tournament.

Nabatiye Technical School basketball playground



Psychosocial and Youth Activities

The main activity under this sector for this week was engaging children in painting murals in Baalbek. The murals presented a hands-on experience for the children in enhancing their community environment. It aims at empowering the children to bring a change in their communities and nurture the feeling that they can create a difference and improve their community whilst healing them from the emotional war impact.

Drawing murals in Downtown Baalbek

Within the context of psychosocial activities, Mercy Corps held a drawing contest for public primary school children from Baalbek area. The winning drawings were painted this week on a wall in Downtown Baalbek. The mural was completed during the course of one day; on February 23, 2007. Children had an opportunity to paint their messages in a public area while embellishing their neighborhood.



Children painting the wall in downtown Baalbek

II. LOGISTICS AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

Distributions continued this week mainly in Nabatiye to include the distribution of jackets at an orphanage, the distribution of teacher kits and administration boxes and the distribution of fuel for public school heating.

Distribution of jackets in Nabatiye orphanage

Mercy Corps, partnering with the Kamel Yousef Jaber's Social and Cultural Center delivered jackets on Tuesday, February 20, 2007 to 310 students at the Mabarat Assayeda Zeinab School in Jibchit. The school is primarily for orphaned² children attending from Jibchit and nearby villages. The school is comprised of classes ranging from Kindergarten through first Intermediate.



Orphan students receiving Jackets on Tuesday
February 20, 2007 in Nabatiye

There are 322 Students and 33 teachers at the school. Mercy Corps will distribute an additional 12 jackets for students who didn't receive theirs on Tuesday. The jackets will keep the students warm through winter as the temperatures usually drop to zero centigrade during the winter months and most schools do not have efficient heating systems in their classrooms.

Distribution of teacher kit and administration boxes to public schools in Nabatiye

Mercy Corps Nabatiye office this week distributed school kits supplies to 45 public schools in the Caza as teacher kits and administration Boxes³. Each school received a teacher kit and an administration kit.

The 1259 teacher kits were made up of A4 spiral notebooks and A5 notebooks, 2 pens, 4 pencils and 1 eraser. The administration kit included: scientific & normal calculators, geometry sets, rulers, sharpeners, pens, pencil kits, & scissors. Public school teachers have felt difficulties this year since the cuts in the operational school budget trickled down to them as well. The teachers and school administration welcomed the supplemental items.

Schools Receiving teacher & administration kits	Village	Caza	P-Code	# teacher kits	# admin kit
Arab Salim Intermediate School	Arab Salim	Nabatiye	LBN44006	25	1
Houmine el Faouqa Intermediate School	Houmine El Faouqa	Nabatiye	LBN44022	22	1
Roumine Intermediate School	Roumine	Nabatiye	LBN44054	21	1
Ain Qana Intermediate School	Ain Qana	Nabatiye	LBN44005	31	1
Jbaa Primary School	Jbaa	Nabatiye	LBN44027	18	1

² Orphanages receive different cases not solely children who have lost one or both parents. Orphanages are receiving children whose parents can not afford to bring up anymore or whose parents deserted them.

³ The teacher and administration kits are actually the overflow in school kits that were re-assembled to form the teacher and administration kits.

Kfar Fila Intermediate School	Kfar Fila	Nabatiye	LBN44031	13	1
Hessen Halal Intermediate School	Habbouch	Nabatiye	LBN44017	45	1
Habbouch Intermediate School	Habbouch	Nabatiye	LBN44017	40	1
Kfar Roummane 1st Intermediate School	Kfar Roummane	Nabatiye	LBN44032	33	1
Kfar Roummane 2nd Intermediate School	Kfar Roummane	Nabatiye	LBN44032	49	1
Shohadaa Deir el Zahrani Inter. School	Deir El Zahrani	Nabatiye	LBN44011	52	1
Nmairiye Intermediate School	Nmairiye	Nabatiye	LBN44051	21	1
Zefta Intermediate School	Zefta	Nabatiye	LBN44062	30	1
Sameeh Dakheel Shaheen Inter. School	Nabatiye el Tahta	Nabatiye	LBN44050	20	1
Fraiha el Hajj Ali Intermediate School	Nabatiye el Tahta	Nabatiye	LBN44050	27	1
Nabatiye The Third	Nabatiye -Alsalam	Nabatiye	LBN44050	20	1
Hessen Hamad Ghandour School	Nabatiye el Faouqa	Nabatiye	LBN44049	27	1
Nabatiye Formal Intermediate School	Nabatiye el Faouqa	Nabatiye	LBN44049	22	1
Kfour Primary School	Kfour	Nabatiye	LBN44036	10	1
Harouf Primary & First Intermediate School	Harouf	Nabatiye	LBN44019	43	1
Jibchit Intermediate School	Jibchit	Nabatiye	LBN44028	33	1
Aabba Intermediate School	Aabba	Nabatiye	LBN44001	42	1
Doueir Primary School	Doueir	Nabatiye	LBN44012	24	1
Charqiye Primary School	Charqiye	Nabatiye	LBN44009	19	1
Sini Insar Primary School	Insar	Nabatiye	LBN44024	11	1
Insar Intermediate School	Insar	Nabatiye	LBN44024	15	1
Kfar Sir Intermediate School	Kfar Sir	Nabatiye	LBN44033	42	1
Qsaibe Intermediate School	Qsaibe	Nabatiye	LBN44053	30	1
Al Shaheed Naameh Heider Inter. School	Qaaqaaiet el Jisr	Nabatiye	LBN44052	28	1
Sir el Gharbiye Intermediate School	Sir el Gharbiye	Nabatiye	LBN44056	23	1
Braiqaa Intermediate School	Braiqaa	Nabatiye	LBN44008	34	1
Aadchit Intermediate & Primary School	Aadchit	Nabatiye	LBN44002	30	1
Choukine Intermediate School	Choukine	Nabatiye	LBN44010	45	1
Maifadoun Intermediate School	Maifadoun	Nabatiye	LBN44037	47	1
Al Shaheed Al Hajj Mahmoud Faqeeh School	Kfar Tebnit	Nabatiye	LBN	33	1
Yohmor Intermediate School	Yohmor	Nabatiye	LBN44058	23	1
Sheikh Naaim Mahdi Intermediate School	Zaouter el Charqiye	Nabatiye	LBN44059	27	1
Jdeidet Insar School	Insar	Nabatiye	LBN44024	14	1
Zebdine Intermediate School	Zebdine	Nabatiye	LBN44061	49	1
Jarjouaa Intermediate School	Jarjouaa	Nabatiye	LBN44026	21	1
Nabatiye Faouqa Kindergarten	Nabatiye el Faouqa	Nabatiye	LBN44049	5	1
Arnoun Primary School	Arnoun	Nabatiye	LBN44007	6	1
Kfar Roummane Kindergarten	Kfar Roummane	Nabatiye	LBN44032	17	1
Abd El Lateef Fayad School	Nabatiye el Tahta	Nabatiye	LBN44050	52	1
Alshaheed AlTayar Zuheir Shehade School	Mazraat Ain Bou Souwar	Nabatiye	LBN44039	20	1
TOTALS				1259	45

Distribution of fuel for heating to public schools in Nabatiye

Mercy Corps and Kamel Youssef Jaber Social and Cultural Center continued distribution of fuel as ‘mazout’ and gas bottles to public schools in Nabatiye caza. To date, Mercy Corps has delivered 35,475 liters of ‘mazout’ and 1,247 bottles of gas to 60 of schools across Nabatiye Caza. Headmasters receiving ‘mazout’ and gas said that fuel is very important and is much needed. It is warming the classroom for the children, a task they were finding difficult to accomplish this year with the lack of government support.

III. WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Assessment of School Bathrooms in Baalbek and Hermel

A rapid assessment is being conducted to identify bathrooms in need of repair in public primary schools in Baalbek and Hermel. So far, sanitary facilities have been identified in 4 public schools in Baalbek and Hermel: Tal Massoud and El Oussri public schools in Hermel, Wadi Safa and Beshwat public schools in Baalbek. Some schools have over 160 students and only 2 bathrooms that cannot be used by the female students such as in El Oussri public school in Hermel. Other schools’ facilities cannot be used by larger people such as in Beschwat due to the constricted size of the bathroom. A total of 6 toilets will be rehabilitated and health and hygiene awareness sessions will be held. The sanitary facilities of four orphanages are also being assessed for possible rehabilitation.



Sanitary facilities in El Oussri (left), Wadi Safa (middle) and Tal Massoud (right) public schools will be rehabilitated by Mercy Corps

IV. SUCCESS STORY

23 February, 2007-Baalbek

Mercy Corps held a drawing contest for public primary school children from Baalbek area. Drawings were exhibited at the Baalbek Drawing Contest Ceremony on February 11, 2007. The event was attended by 400 children and their respective schools. Schools selected the five best drawings, which were evaluated the day of the ceremony and final winners were selected.



Mural freshly painted in downtown Baalbek

The winning drawings were painted this week on a wall in Downtown Baalbek. The mural was completed during the course of one day; on February 23, 2007. Children had an opportunity to paint their messages in a public area while embellishing their neighborhood.



Majdoleen Naser Albaradhe was born in 1995 in Douris- Baalbek. She attends the Douris public school. Majdoleen's picture was selected to be painted on the wall. "I have been drawing since I was 6 years old" said Majdoleen "I train a lot on drawing and I am very pleased to be rewarded this way, I feel it was a result of my efforts". Majdoleen wished to become a doctor and a famous painter and would like to participate in all drawing activities since "drawing brings imagination to real life". Majdoleen's imagined picture is now painted on a mural in downtown Baalbek for all to see.

Majdoleen Naser Albaradhe

Mercy Corps continuous psychosocial activities for school kids in Nabatiye, Baalbek and Bourj El Barajne have reached so far 71,969 beneficiaries. Activities include but are not limited to drawing contests, shows, awareness campaigns and building or rehabilitating parks and playgrounds. The aim of these activities is to alleviate the impact of the war on the children.