Mediterranean Municipalities at the Forefront of the Refugee Crisis: Peer-to-Peer Learning Workshop for Communities Hosting Refugees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Municipality of Saida</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
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<td>Focal Point</td>
<td>Eng. Mustafa M Hijazi Email: <a href="mailto:hijazi.m@saida.gov.lb">hijazi.m@saida.gov.lb</a></td>
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Monday May 30 – Wednesday June 1, 2016
Amman, Jordan
SAIDA CITY – THE HISTORIC CITY ON THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN
المدينة التاريخية على الحوض المتوسط
• Saida is the third largest city in Lebanon
• One of the oldest cities on the Mediterranean sea (6000 years)
• Lebanese Civil war (1975-1990)
• Subject to several infrastructure destruction due to Israeli Invasions (1982 & 2006)
• Plays a significant role in its surroundings (Governorate seat)
• Connects south to the capital Beirut
• Largest Palestinian camp
• Lebanese Palestinian cooperation network
Demographics:

- Population: Saida (80,000) / Metro (225,000)
- Lebanese (120,000)/ Palestinians (75,000) / Syrians (30,000)
- Old city inhabitants 16500 (2795 houses)
- Population density 774/km²
- 57 School teaching 30507 students
Syrian Refugees in Saida

• Syrian Refugee crisis file started back in 2012 (1,500,000 in Lebanon)
• Formation of union of welfare and relief agency for refugees
• Union of 36 local NGOs
• Municipality commitment and support (Head is a council member)
• Registration and assistance
Services & Support

• 65,000 Refugees in 2013 totaling to 36% of the population.

• Municipality along with relief agencies provided support:
  • Food coupons
  • Water supply and sanitation infrastructure
  • Shelter (13 in total housing 630 families-3150 person)
  • Health care: Provide Medication, health and social support
  • Providing proper education infrastructure: New special school for Syrain refugees. Others enrolled in local schools in coordination with the local education network.
Current Refugees status in Saida

• In Saida city: Total Refugees count to 3860 Syrian family (23160 person) and 430 Palestinian family (2580 person)

• In Ain EL-Helwe camp: 1320 Syrian Palestinian family (7220 person) and 330 Syrian family (1980 person)

• Total number of refugees is decreasing due to:
  • Change of border entry policy
  • Change of local laws (residency restrictions)
  • Illegal migration to Europe
  • Refugees returning homeland due to decrease of international aid
Current Economic & Social Status

- Critical pressure on Institutional, economy and natural resources
- High rate of unemployment (Syrian vs. Lebanese labor force)
- Stress on water and sewage networks
- Stress on electrical and infrastructure
- City strategy has to adapt and change accordingly
- Social cohesion is poor
- Begging and Family disintegration
THANK YOU
شكراً