

Joint National and International NGO Statement delivered at the Lebanon Launch of the RRP Mid-Term Review on 3rd July 2014

One year ago, the UN launched the largest humanitarian appeal in history. Today, as the conflict in Syria continues -, refugees fleeing for their lives continue to desperately need our support. Together we must strive to help all those affected by this crisis -, both refugees and host communities alike. The impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanon presents multiple challenges. But the current cooperation – between the Government, civil society and international community – also presents a unique opportunity to support communities in need while building a stronger long-term development plan for Lebanon that shares resources more equally across the country.

National and International NGOs are delivering - the largest share of direct humanitarian services and assistance to crisis-affected people in Lebanon, across all Lebanese provinces. While we receive some of the funding for our programs through the UN, a great deal comes from our own fund raising and direct support from many of the donors who join us here today. NGOs have a long history of providing emergency services in Lebanon, and though capitalizing on the spirit of volunteerism -, we are able to provide assistance in a cost-effective way.

The RRP is an appeal for funding. With more than 1,100,000 Syrian refugees registered in Lebanon alone, the NGO community is extremely concerned about the lack of funds- and the growing needs of the communities. For the humanitarian response to be delivered effectively and offer much-needed value for money to donors, it is essential that information on the planned duration and manner in which funding will be delivered is increased and ultimately that we move to a model of multi-year funding. We must work collaboratively to avoid failing those who rely on our help to survive.

As the crisis deepens, the NGO community continues to strengthen work in partnership with line ministries and municipalities, increasing collaboration between government and humanitarian programs to find areas of mutual interest to decrease the costs and increase the benefits of our work.

The Lebanese people and government have done more than any other country to provide a safe haven for the millions fleeing Syria. We expect other countries that neighbor Syria as well as the international community as a whole to share the responsibility and burden created by the conflict, including through ensuring that refugees can flee across borders and by increasing the availability of resettlement and other humanitarian solutions to provide urgent, secure and effective refugee protection.

In the long term, the only sustainable solution for the millions of people affected by the Syria crisis is through an end to the conflict. Renewed efforts from political leaders are desperately needed to achieve a political solution. This is the only way to ensure that we are not here – in this room – year after year, for many years to come.

3rd July 2014, Beirut, Lebanon