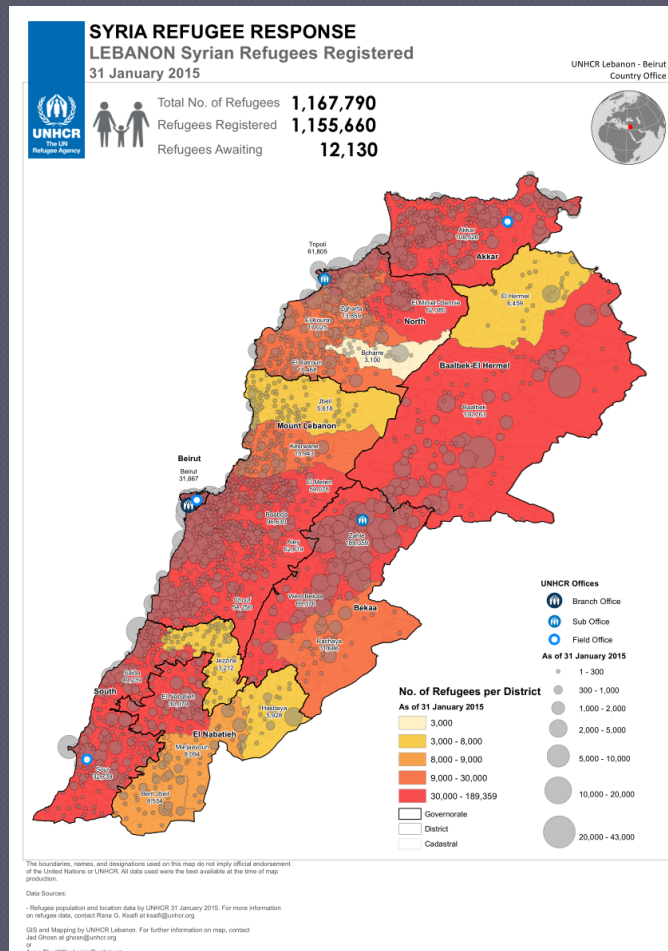


# Community Mobilization in Crisis: Closing The Education & Empowerment Gap

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# The Situation in Lebanon Today



- 1 in 3 people in Lebanon right now is a Syrian or Palestinian Refugee; 1 in 3 is a vulnerable Lebanese
- Refugees are barred from most legal employment, face high cost of living, high barriers to education at all levels

# Why Higher Education?

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- Syrian refugee populations are more educated than most large recent refugee flows; basic education programs established in other contexts don't meet the needs of the refugees
- Higher education is particularly inaccessible, because of high private university tuition
- Lack of higher education could leave a generation of Syrian youth without the skills necessary to rebuild their communities, as refugees or upon an eventual return

# The CMIC Project

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- ◉ A hybrid certificate program to be offered by uOttawa and American University in Beirut (projected start date: September 2017)
- ◉ Two goals:
  - Transferrable credits that can be used to begin or re-start a university education
  - Training skilled mobilizers who can start and run projects in refugee and vulnerable communities

# What it addresses:

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- ◉ No access to legal work => develop skills that can be used without needing a work visa
- ◉ Financial problems => free tuition + stipend
- ◉ Host/Refugee tensions => mixed student population of Syrians, Palestinians, Lebanese, and others
- ◉ Lack of papers => flexible, case-by-case admissions process,
- ◉ Insufficient English => pre-enrollment and during certificate English classes

# Major challenges:

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- It's Expensive. Really, Really Expensive.
- University bureaucracy is complex: difficult to get all the moving pieces organized.
- Working with a variety of partners (2 Universities, 2+ NGOs) in two countries means a lot of different perspectives, constraints, and challenges
- Maintaining a team when funding is unstable and uncertain

# Follow Us!

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- On Facebook: search “Community Mobilization in Crisis - University of Ottawa”
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