Reconstruction:
The construction contracts for N1 were signed this week by the Director of UNRWA in Lebanon. Works are expected to start within 2 weeks. In N2, 3 additional buildings were delivered to families this week. Only four buildings remain and it is anticipated that these should be handed-over soon. Finishing works are still ongoing in N3, N4 and N5.

Last week, the DUAL met with the Popular Committee and the Factions to discuss with them the restructuring of the NBRC and the North Vocational Training Centre. Such meetings about NBRC will continue until an agreement is reached and a Memorandum of Understanding is signed.

Message from the Design Unit regarding schedule for the Appeals/Complaints about House Designs for Packages 1, 2, 3, 4, and A0:

- APPEALS / COMPLAINTS FOR HOUSE DESIGNS FOR PACKAGE PACKAGE 1 and 2: UNRWA IS NO LONGER Accepting UNRWA APPEALS / COMPLAINTS RESPONSES: All Previously submitted appeals / complaints for Packages 1 and 2 will Respond to Be Starting May 23.
- APPEALS / COMPLAINTS FOR HOUSE DESIGNS FOR PACKAGE 3's BLOCKS N13 and N20 / A0's 39 buildings: UNRWA IS NO LONGER Accepting APPEALS / COMPLAINTS RESPONSES: All Previously submitted appeals / complaints for PACK 3 blocks N13, N20 and A0 will Respond to Be Starting May 30.
- Accepting STILL UNRWA APPEALS / COMPLAINTS FOR PACKAGE 3 (except Block 13 - N20) 4 HOUSE DESIGNS AND PACKAGE UNTIL MAY 30. May 30 IS THE FINAL DATE

Visits to NBC:
Today, May 13, the head of the Middle East Section of the Australian Aid, Ms Meg Berryman, visited NBC and the Adjacent Area. After being briefed on the whole project and the situation in NBC, the visitors met with some residents in one of the garages on the main street. The residents described the living conditions in the camp and the obstacles and challenges people are facing in their daily life. They focused on the need to speed up the reconstruction process and the concerns they have regarding ensuring the funding for the remaining 5 packages. Later, the Australians visited the reconstruction site and were briefed on the works and had a look at the apartments. The visit was concluded in Clinic 1 in the adjacent area.

Relief:
With regards to this month’s food distribution, the Relief and Logistics Departments have faced some difficulties in getting the relevant items procured in time for the beginning of the month. UNRWA NMU and the LFO are working to correct the issue and plan to start the distribution in the third week of the month. We will announce the exact date in next week’s newsletter, and we apologize for the delay.
Employment Services Centre Activities:
The Employment Services Center conducted three workshops on: (1) How to find a job; (2) How to write a CV and prepare oneself for an interview; (3) How to fill in UNRWA’s online applications. These workshops took place in the Women Program Center (15 trainees), the Aramex Library (8 trainees) and in the UNICEF Center in Beddawi (6 trainees).

Please note that the Employment Center wants to encourage job seekers to come to the center and register with the employment office. The Center is planning more workshops which will be advertised in the newsletter. For more information, please go to the Employment Center. Address: Abu Rajab House, C23, railway near the Relief office.

Health:
On May 07, the DUAL met with the health Staff from NLA, CLA, Beqaa, together with LFO Health Staff & Chief Area Officers in LFO. Fifty health staff from NLA attended the meeting. During the meeting, the department presented to the staff the structural changes taking place in the department; the plan for the rehabilitation of the health centers; the plan for staff capacity building and reclassification of jobs; computerizing and integrating the health centers; development for the mental health services; the hospitalization reforms; and special programs for catastrophic diseases. Please read next month’s LFO Community Newsletter to learn more about the changes.

Education:
Brevet classes finish today the final exams. The students will be preparing for the official exams which they will sit for in June. Some schools will give supplementary lessons to Brevet students for one week.

A Saudi Arabian NGO, “Refugee Soccer” donates football kit in recognition of NLA Girls’ Soccer team’s performance during Palestiadi Games:
UNRWA received an in-kind-donation from a Saudi Arabian NGO called “Refugee Soccer”. One of the NGO founders, Ms. Jessica Abdi, who attended the Palestiadi Games was very impressed by the football skills shown by the NLA team, particularly the girls’ team. In recognition of the NLA teams’ success and to support the NLA students’ football potential, “Refugee Soccer” is giving athletic shoes, footballs, cones, blow-up beach football, sports’ clothes and cloth bags which UNRWA will deliver to the students in the north. Congratulations to the young athletes and thank you to “Refugee Soccer”!

UNRWA Area Staff Union organizes a Labour Day Event:
On May 6, on the occasion of Labour Day, the UNRWA Area Staff Union organized a ceremony in NBC for the UNWRA sanitation laborers, school attendants, the cleaners and the laborers working for the emergency engineering team in NBC. The ceremony was attended by the Chief Field Infrastructure and Camp Improvement Program, Mohamed Abdelal, the Chairman of the Area Staff Union in Lebanon, Musa Nimer, the Staff Union in the north, and UNRWA NLA laborers. Among other issues raised in the speeches, there was emphasis on the importance of the laborers’ work for the community and an appeal to the laborers to continue their hard and welcomed efforts.

NGOs News:
On May 06, the Forum of Palestinian Women in Lebanon performed a play called the "Story of Nour" about sexual harassment and abuse in the Palestinian Youth Club’s theatre. During the play, the audience contributed ideas as part of the interactive performance taking place on the stage. The play was coordinated and supported by the UK NGO Catholic Oversees Development Agency “CAFOD” and the European Union.