

Key figures

545,400 individuals in need of WASH support (90% of registered refugees)

UNHCR key targets (RRP 5)

Water

- **130,000** individuals benefit: storage tanks/items
- **130,000** individuals benefit: testing and treatment
- **131,000** individuals benefit: construction/rehabilitation of water network

Sanitation

- **126,000** individuals benefit: desludging of holding tanks and latrine pits
- **135,600** individuals benefit: construction / rehabilitation of latrines

Hygiene

- **173,000** individuals reached by promotion sessions
- **592,000** individuals received kits

Funding

UNHCR WASH requirements: **55.5 m**
Percentage of funding **56%**

- Remaining UNHCR requirements (RRP5)
- Funding received as of August



Needs

Water: Sufficient access to safe drinking water is a critical, ongoing need, particularly as the refugee population has put significant pressure on water systems in areas where large numbers of refugees reside.

Sanitation: Basic sanitation facilities are a necessity for the health and dignity of refugees. An increasing number of refugees live in informal settlements with limited or no sanitation facilities. This creates increased risk of the spread of preventable diseases.

Hygiene: As refugees arrive with few possessions, many lack basic items for personal and household hygiene. Without regular supplies, refugees face deterioration in their wellbeing and dignity. These are provided by UNHCR in the newcomer kit and following that on a monthly basis.

Challenges

Strained infrastructure in host communities:

The presence of refugees in the local community has put pressure on existing infrastructure and resources including water. Water supply and waste management in areas hosting Syrian refugees has deteriorated, and UNHCR is working with the Water Establishment and municipalities to ensure continuous access to safe water at a household level and basic sanitation facilities.

The lack of sewage treatment facilities in the whole of Lebanon creates a significant risk for the spreading of diseases, should there be an outbreak in one area. The Government's urgent action is needed to resolve the problem.

Dispersed refugee population:

Different solutions are needed in different areas given the dispersion of refugees over a wide geographical area. For example, in some areas water shortages can only be addressed through infrastructure projects which need significant funding.

Security:

In some areas the security situation creates delays in the distribution of materials and ongoing works.

Strategy

The WASH strategy consists of the following two main components:

- **Improving access to safe water:** including through the rehabilitation of the water network and providing the means for safe water storage;
- **Improving basic sanitation:** including through the installation of emergency hygiene facilities and improved capacity in local communities for the collection and disposal of solid waste;
- **Promotion of good hygiene practices:** including through the provision of basic hygiene items and outreach to refugees and hosting communities

Achievements January – August

	Individuals reached
Hygiene kits	448,790
Hygiene promotion sessions	44,799
Distribution of garbage bins	34,040
Baby kits	33,295
Water storage tanks	13,070
Household water filters	9,315
Repair/construction of sanitation	7,852

August developments

- Over 30,000 people stand to benefit from the planned water supply upgrade in Zgharta which was approved this month by UNHCR and is now out for tender. Many joint assessments were carried out this month in the area of water, sanitation and wastewater management.
- Refugees and host communities face problems related to waste management in some municipalities, in particular in places where wastewater has started to run openly in streets. This is a significant concern as the approaching seasonal rains could magnify the risk of disease outbreak caused by raw sewage.
- Due to August temperatures, refugees and host communities required an increase in water trucking. While this was anticipated and planned for, the strain on the existing water supply in some locations has created a source of tension between refugees and host communities. The current amount of water trucking is considered sustainable under existing supplies. UNHCR continues to monitor the situation closely, and will determine if intervention is needed.



Construction of a latrine in an informal settlement in the Bekaa © UNHCR/S.Baldwin

UNHCR implementing partners

Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), CISP, Makzhouni, ACF, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC), World Vision (WVI), Concern Worldwide, Oxfam.