



QUOTE

USD 4.4 million allocated to 17 projects to mitigate against water scarcity

HIGHLIGHTS:

The WASH Sector collaborated with OCHA and Water Establishments to identify and allocate funds to alleviate the short term impacts of water scarcity. The priority projects were verified in line with the Ministry of Energy and Water's strategic plan. The priority projects are targeting high risk, vulnerable communities for approximately 174,000 people - 55% of whom are Lebanese. The water scarcity projects focus on improving water production and distribution capacity in the targeted communities. Broader water conservation messaging has been incorporated into hygiene promotion activities in Syrian refugee locations. In parallel the MOEW has launched the public awareness campaign on water scarcity encouraging household water conservation.

Over July approximately 42,303,000 litres of water were trucked to vulnerable populations. This is equivalent to 1,410,000 litres per day serving an estimated 40,000 people through 230 individual deliveries. The trucking operations are managed by 4 NGOs, predominately in Bekaa (85%), and other hard to reach locations including Wadi Khaled or locations with specific water challenges like the the Waha complex in T5.

For household latrines approximately 2,230 latrines have been constructed with 50% built in Bekaa and 35% built in the greater north of Lebanon serving 11,154 new beneficiaries. Supporting information on desludging of septic or storage tanks is not available but is an increasing issue in field locations.



Syrian refugee Aya, 8-years-old, tries to keep cool as she washes her face outside of her family's home in an informal settlement in Dalhamiyeh in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. / UNHCR / S. Baldwin / August 2013

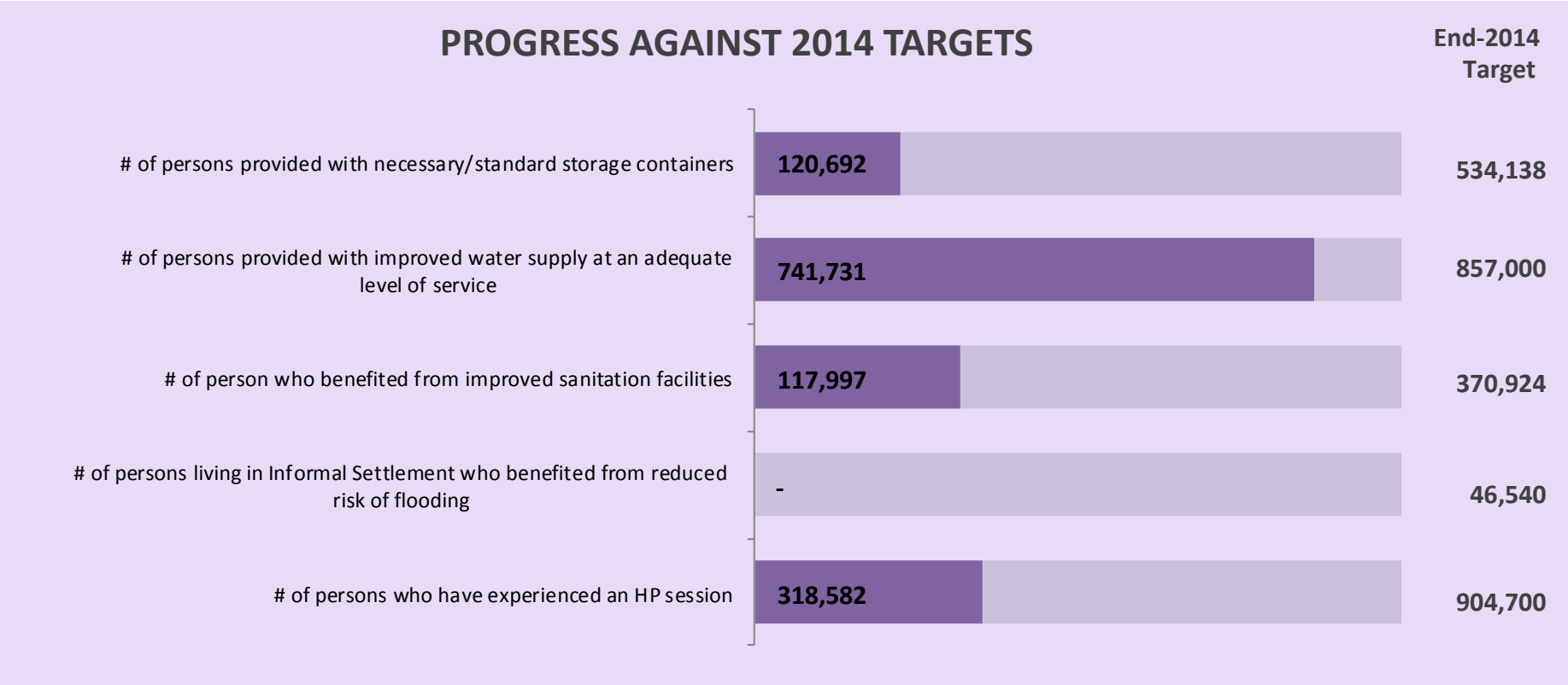
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The water programme at household and communal levels is on track to meet targets and partners are primed to boost activities with the initiation of water scarcity related activities. Better data would provide a richer analysis on the variety and types of water infrastructure support taking place and allow the WASH sector to identify specific needs.

The sanitation programme continues to progress slowly with only 31% of target achieved instead of the 55% expected in latrine construction. However the more critical elements of sanitation at this point are the weak desludging capacity in certain locations, the need to agree and improve designs that cater for safe wastewater management and ensure that sludge is disposed of in appropriate and safe treatment plants. Similar concerns exist on solid waste management, the increase in garbage generation and the decentralized responsibility for managing garbage mean that across Lebanon collectors and disposal sites are pushed to the limit. Additional resources, strategies and support are needed for agencies and authorities across Lebanon to help sanitation.

Hygiene promotion sessions are under target for 2014, maybe due to reliance on WASH committees as substitute hygiene promotion volunteers. WASH sector should identify the critical minimum for hygiene kit needs.

August will include a review of the AI data sets, mapping of WASH donors and development of a national assessment methodology as critical elements of the WASH response.



Source: figures reported above reflect the information reported to Sector Coordinators by Partners participating in Working Groups

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