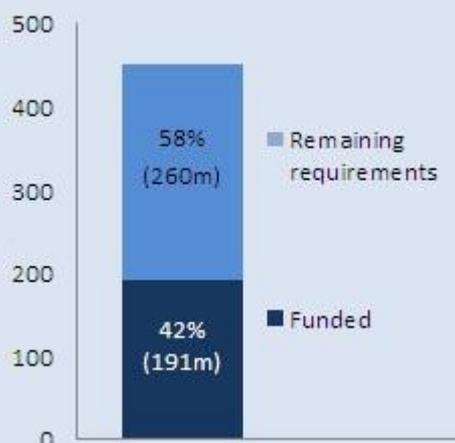


Key Figures

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 609,296 | registered refugee children |
| 77% | of registered children are under 11 |
| 25% | of registered children are at risk |

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 451 m



August developments

Identification and referral of children-at-risk

- 222 children at high risk, including unaccompanied minors and separated children, were identified and provided with support, including psycho-social counseling by case management agencies and refugee outreach volunteers (ROVs) across the operation.
- In Beirut, IRC identified and assisted 134 street and working children to access specialized services, including psychosocial support.
- In Tyr, 10 child protection ROVs were recruited and provided with an induction on Code of Conduct, child protection principles, safe identification and referral of high risk cases to access specialized services through existing child protection implementing partners working in South Lebanon.
- In Tripoli, a child protection youth committee linked to Caritas community centre was created to assist in organizing community-based activities, including information sessions on child protection-related issues as well as create a network of community change agents among Syrian refugees and Lebanese communities.

Training/coaching

- In Mount Lebanon, 659 individuals including Syrian refugees and Lebanese nationals attended information sessions on child protection, recreational activities and life-skills training organized through UNHCR implementing partners.
- Countrywide, 102 child protection service providers working with different NGOs and 16 ROV were trained on child protection concepts, practical skill required to manage complex cases and the referral pathways.
- Peer-to-peer sessions for case workers were held in the Mt. Lebanon and Bekka for 16 NGO staff and ROVs. The sessions focused on general child protection principles and practical skills required to address with complex child protection cases.

Achievements: January - August

| Activity | reached January- August | 2014 Target |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Identified children at risk referred and assisted | 2,059 | 1,515 |
| Training for persons working with refugee children (# individuals trained) | 594 | 600 |

Needs

Many refugee children are in need of psycho-social support due to their exposure to violence and other forms of traumatic events. Refugee children who need assistance require proper identification and safe referral. Their needs include prevention and response to physical violence, verbal harassment, exploitation or pressure, particularly among adolescent boys to return to Syria to fight. Refugee children subject to sexual violence, child labour and early marriage also require proper identification and referral for appropriate assistance by trained professionals. Separated or unaccompanied children need safe living arrangements and assistance to help trace and reunite them with their families, whenever possible.



Children playing around an informal settlement in Lebanon @UNHCR

Educational opportunities, support to parents, activities targeting adolescents and youth can contribute to protect refugee children against negative coping mechanisms and a wide range of child-specific protection risks.

Challenges

Dispersed refugee population: Since refugees live in over 1,700 different locations in Lebanon, outreach to refugee children to identify and respond to their needs is both a challenge and priority. Outreach is crucial to ensuring that refugee children are registered with UNHCR and have access to basic services. It is also important in ensuring that parents register the birth of newborns, and that school-aged children living in remote areas and those with specific protection risks have access to education, health care and other services.

Protracted displacement: With limited access to livelihood opportunities, and dwindling resources, some families resort to child labour and other negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage. As their time in displacement prolongs, the lack of educational opportunities for the majority of school-aged Syrian children presents a significant challenge. Currently, there are over 200,000 school-aged refugee children who lack access to age-appropriate education due to the fact that the capacity of the public education system is overstretched.

Fragile national child protection system: The national child protection system is struggling to provide appropriate care and services to refugee children at risks of abuse and exploitation and children survivors of violence. The Union for the Protection of Children is the only organization mandated by the Ministry of Justice to investigate cases involving child abuse and violence. UNHCR works together with implementing partners to provide support to both refugee children and national institutions providing services to refugees.

Strategy

UNHCR works to ensure that refugee children at risk and/or victims of violence have timely access to appropriate services by:

- Improving outreach to ensure identification and safe referral of children at risks and victims of violence through training of refugee outreach volunteers, frontline workers and others providing services to refugee children;
- Building capacity of child protection actors to better prevent and respond to child protection needs particularly through the establishment of a coaching mechanism for social workers;
- Strengthening national child protection system to ensure emergency referral and provision of adequate care for children at high risks, and reinforce to existing services such as psychosocial support and legal counselling;
- Mainstreaming child protection into all activities carried out within refugee and host communities especially within the health, education and shelter sectors;
- Advocating for expanding access to services for both refugee and Lebanese children;
- Contributing to the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave child rights violations committed in Syria;

UNHCR co-leads the inter-agency working group on child protection together with the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNICEF, and works to ensure the complementarity of interventions benefiting refugee children.

UNHCR implementing partners

Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (CMLC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Relief and Development (IRD), International Rescue Committee (IRC), INTERSOS, Amel Association-Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Makhzoumi Foundation, Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA).

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