

UNHCR Lebanon

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Update

October 2014

Key Figures

1,132,849	Individuals registered or pending registration
27%	Lack access to potable water
29%	Need improved sanitation facilities (latrine and solid waste facilities)
70%	Need assistance adapting to hygienic conditions in displacement

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD **451m**



October developments

Water

- 270 refugees have access to clean drinking water in informal settlements located in Jbeil and Keserwane districts (Mount Lebanon) following the distribution of 54 water filters.
- Some 1,484 refugees living in collective shelters in North Lebanon received clean drinking water this month from Concern.
- 500 refugees living in Borj el Arab in the North of Lebanon benefitted from the removal of silt and debris from blocked water channels and drains.
- In the Bekaa, 5,300 refugees benefitted from 27,527m³ water to cover the need for October, was delivered by trucks in Aarsal.

Sanitation

- Around 2,000 adults and children refugees in Mount Lebanon participated in activities organized by ACTED and CHF held in collective shelters, and education centres to mark the Global Hand Washing Day.
- 45 latrines were installed and cleaning kits distributed outside of Aarsal improving living conditions for 5,300 refugees living in informal settlements and collective shelters. The cleaning kits contained items such as brooms, wheelbarrows, hoes, rakes and protective masks.
- In addition 11,585m³ sludge was collected and disposed in various areas where refugees lived in the Bekaa. Timely and periodic removal of sludge from settlements is vital to improving sanitation at communal level and ensuring that diseases are not spread caused by the improper management of waste.
- 2,000 families benefitted from hygiene kits that were sent to Aarsal along with 150 water storage tanks in order to provide some immediate relief in the flooded area.

Hygiene

- As a small contribution to municipalities in Tyre, ACF has distributed 332 garbage bins benefiting around 900 individuals.
- 181 hygiene promotion sessions for 5300 refugees were provided by (ACF or INTERSOS) in the Bekaa.
- 1,700 hygiene kits were provided to refugees in flooded area, and 300 hygiene kits were provided to affected host community members that were ranked by MOSA as being at high risk, and benefiting in total 2,000 households.





Achievements: January – October

Needs

Water: Sufficient access to safe drinking water is a critical on-going need. Improvements to infrastructure and support to the municipalities are necessary to address water shortages faced by both refugees and host communities. Particularly as the refugee population has put significant pressure on water systems in areas where they reside in large numbers.

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. Waste management remains poor in most of places where refugees live, increasing the pressure on host communities. Infrastructural improvements in the area of sanitation are needed for both refugees and host communities.

Activity	 Reached January - October	 Target 2014
Hygiene items	615,462	400,938
Hygiene promotion sessions	165,537	593,700
Water supply	238,241	227,800
Water quality improvement	13,947	695,100
Solid waste management	69,872	383,550
Repair/construction of sanitation facilities	53,240	384,550

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 water establishments 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 country creates a significant risk for the spread 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 on-going works.

Strategy

The WASH strategy consists of the following three main components:

- **Improving access to safe water**, including through the rehabilitation of water networks and providing the means for safe water storage;
- **Improving basic sanitation**, including through the installation of emergency hygiene facilities and improving the capacity of local communities to collect and dispose of solid waste;
- **Promotion of good hygiene practices**, provision of basic hygiene items to newcomers as well as participation in outreach activities to refugees and host communities during hygiene promotion activities.

UNHCR implementing partners

Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Agence d'aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC), Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF), Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Concern Worldwide, INTERSOS, Makzhoumi Foundation, Oxfam, Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD), World Vision (WVI)