

UNHCR Monthly Update

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



September 2013

Key figures

726,535 individuals in need of WASH support

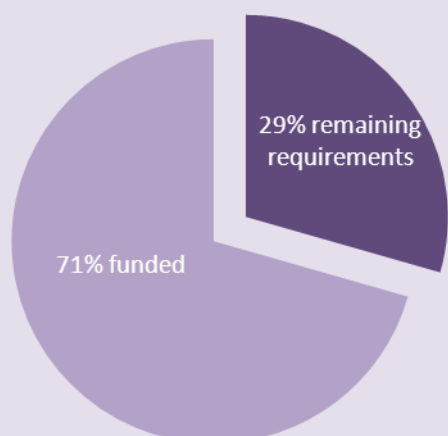
Funding

UNHCR WASH requirements: **USD 55.5 m**

Percentage of funding **71%**

■ Remaining UNHCR requirements (RRP5)



■ Funding received as of September



September developments

- Autumn weather and first storms increased WASH challenges in informal settlements. Storm water in combination with poor solid waste management practices and limited access to adequate latrines created significant health concerns in affected communities north Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley.
- Insufficient drainage channels in informal settlements left many wading through contaminated flood waters during heavy rainfalls, with makeshift tents providing poor barriers to rising flood waters.
- Lower temperatures reduced the demand for water. However, pressure on water supply systems in some areas persisted and continues to be a source of tension in affected communities.
- Some 8,000 individuals living in informal flood-prone areas have been identified as urgently requiring alternative accommodation as winter approaches.
- A solution for several flood prone shelters in Halba, north Lebanon has been identified that will allow their inhabitants to stay in their current accommodation and remedy the risk of flooding. Draining channels will be lined and cleaned and embankments constructed and rehabilitated.
- 98,548 Hygiene kits have been distributed.

Achievements January – September

Activities	 reached Jan - Sep	 2013 target
Hygiene kits	492,740	500,000
Baby kits	36,825	52,920
Water storage tanks	13,105	23,390
Household water filters	9,540	21,490
Repair/construction of sanitation	8,272	21,270



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. Waste management remains poor in most places where refugees live, increasing the pressure on host communities.

Hygiene: As refugees arrive with few possessions, many lack basic items for personal and household hygiene. Without regular supplies, refugees face a deterioration of their wellbeing and dignity. UNHCR provides hygiene kits to newcomers who will continue to receive them on a monthly basis.

Challenges

Strained infrastructure in host communities:

The presence of refugees in local communities 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 entire 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 ongoing works.

Strategy

The WASH strategy consists of the following three 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.

UNHCR implementing partners

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