

Community Support Programme

December 2013

Key figures

232	Total number of locations prioritized for UNHCR CSP interventions*
198	Locations benefitting
140 124	CSPs completed (2011-2013) CSPs on-going
USD 13 m	Funds allocated
100%	Funding level

*Prioritization based on 2004 MOSA/UNDP poverty survey, concentrations of refugees and reported incidents.

December developments

- 43 community support project (CSP) were completed in the North (Qobayat and Tripoli), the Bekaa and in Mount Lebanon this month in the areas of health, water, sanitation and solid waste management. Specifically, the projects included: equipment for primary health care centres, and generators, garbage trucks, and water reservoirs for municipalities.
- The CSP review committee (MOSA, UNHCR and UNDP) endorsed 8 new projects in the sectors of public infrastructure, water, sanitation, and solid waste management.
- 20 CSPs began implementation during the month of December.

Achievements: January - December 2013

Activity	Number of Projects	Completed	Ongoing
Community Infrastructure & Services	180	87	93
Recreational, Sporting and Community Facilities	36	23	13
Livelihoods	15	7	8
Total	231	117	114



Generator delivered to Katermaya Municipality in Chouf, Mount Lebanon, with the Head of the Municipality Mr. Bilal Kassem, and other Municipality members @ UNHCR

Needs

The presence of Syrian refugees in close to 1,600 locations in Lebanon is placing an immense strain on host communities, many of which were already among the poorest in the country. As the country grapples with its own political and internal divisions, the additional pressures brought on by a massive refugee influx are fraying nerves. There is a growing sense that the Lebanese are being asked to continue to accommodate a seemingly endless stream of refugees, without commensurate support. UNHCR is working to address the urgent needs of host communities in 232 prioritized locations in Lebanon. UNHCR needs to continually evaluate and update the communities in need, and is currently working on an updated needs assessment for the planning of future CSPs.

Challenges

A recent World Bank assessment¹ estimates that the Syrian crisis has cost the country billions of dollars in lost economic activity. With more people in the labour market, wages are dropping and unemployment rates of Lebanese have reportedly increased. Vulnerable Lebanese are feeling the effects, as they compete for the same basic services as refugees. Consequently, tensions between Lebanese and refugee communities in some areas are on the rise. In many host communities, particularly in areas where large number of refugees live, increased support is needed to ensure access to the already fragile electricity, water, sanitation, transport, health and education sectors. UNHCR is working to ensure that CSPs are responsive to the needs of host communities.

Strategy

The overarching goal of UNHCR's community support programme is to ensure protection space by supporting communities that are hosting refugees, as well as by providing individual support. Efforts to this end will include:

- Infrastructural interventions at the community level;
- Enhancing livelihood opportunities of host communities and refugees through skills training, capacity building and enhancement of production capacities; and
- Identifying and addressing both the real and perceived causes of conflicts and tensions attributed to the presence of Syrian refugees through social cohesion projects;
- Strengthening community capacity for dispute resolution and conflict management in affected host communities throughout Lebanon;

The Government of Lebanon, as well as host communities, refugees, civil society and local leaders, will continue to be involved in the identification of needs and conflict risks, as well as in the planning and implementation of the broad range of interventions benefitting host communities and refugees.

UNHCR implementing partners

Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Relief and Development (IRD), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), International Orthodox Christian Charities, USA (IOCC-USA), Right to Play, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), ACTED, CISP, Concern Worldwide, Terre Des Hommes Italy, CARITAS, IMC, Oxfam GB, War Child Holland (WCH).

¹ 'Lebanon: Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syrian Conflict', World Bank, 17 September 2013