

UNHCR Lebanon

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Update

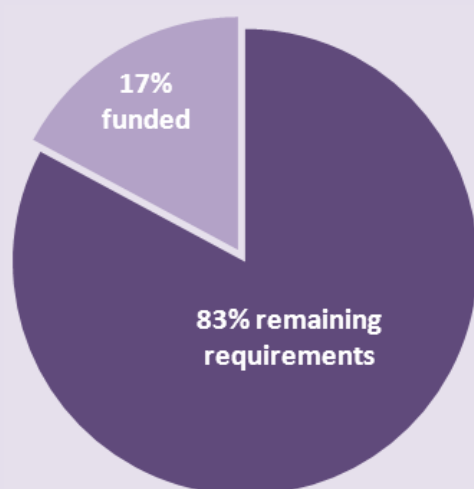
January 2014

Key figures

903,695	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 Requirements 2014: USD 468 m





WASH requirements: USD 59 m

January developments

- Due to lack of precipitation, and concerns about water availability over the coming year, mapping of anticipated water deficiencies is underway. Water establishments have requested funding and technical expertise to rehabilitate existing boreholes and establish new ones in order to increase water supply.
- To respond to the increase in WASH needs due to the increased number of Syrians in Aarsal, INTERSOS has provided emergency water supply to over 1,000 household and rehabilitated 26 sanitation facilities in several sites including: Ghazzeah, Majdel Anjar, Rachaya (Kefar Denis and Daher al Ahmar) and Aarsal.
- Problems with managing waste and garbage collection in the rising number of informal settlements in Akkar has led to meetings with municipalities this month. PU-AMI initiated on site incinerators for informal settlements, and the possibility of recycling to reduce the quantity of waste is also under investigation.
- CISP increased access to water for over 5,284 refugees in the south.
- Following several weeks of discussions with landowners in informal settlements in *Marj al Khohk*, in the south of Lebanon, CISP signed an agreement which will allow partners to construct toilets.

Achievements: January

Activities	 reached January	 2014 Target
Hygiene items	101,901	400,938
Hygiene promotion sessions	5,745	593,700
Water storage tanks	4,990	227,800
Water quality improvement	3,990	695,100
Solid waste management	1,385	383,550
Repair/construction of sanitation facilities	783	384,550

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. Improvements to infrastructure and support to the municipalities to address water shortages faced by both refugees and host communities is necessary.

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.

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

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 whole of Lebanon creates a significant risk for the spreading 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, Makzhouni, Action contre la Faim (ACF), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC), World Vision (WVI), Concern Worldwide, Oxfam, INTERSOS.