

Core Relief Items (CRI) Update

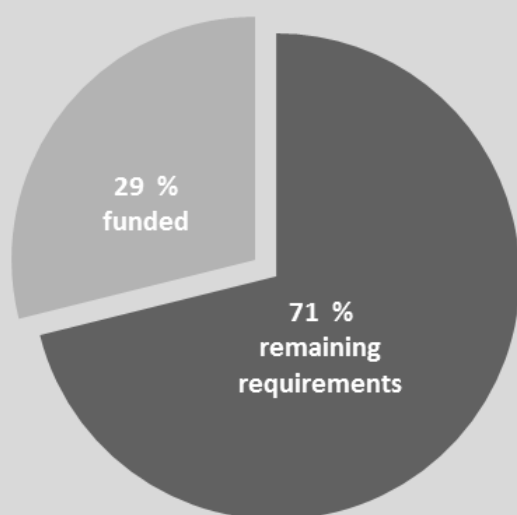
April 2014

Key figures

1,044,898	Individuals registered or pending registration
68 %	refugees targeted for winterization assistance supported by UNHCR's programme over the winter
16 %	refugees targeted for UNHCR's newcomer assistance supported by UNHCR in April

Funding

UNHCR requirements 2014: USD 468 m



CRI requirements: USD 61 m






Syrian refugee receives blankets, jerry cans and fuel vouchers in Aarsal @UNHCR /A.McConnell

April developments

- UNHCR distributed in-kind winterization packages and hygiene kits to 47,500 refugees, bringing the total number of people who benefited since last November to 402,500.
- SIF, CARE, DRC along with UNHCR field offices provided newcomer assistance consisting of kitchen sets, blankets, mattresses, buckets, jerry cans, hygiene and baby kits to 9,475 new arrivals all over the country.

Achievements: January - April

Activity	 Reached April 2014	 2013 - 2014 Winter Target	 December 2014 Target
Refugees supported with winter fuel, through ATM cards or fuel vouchers	402,500*	311,000	-
Refugees supported with high thermal blankets or quilts	418,078*	311,000	-
Refugees supported with heating stoves (in-kind)	185,525*	75,000	-
Newcomer assistance	22,260	-	96,780

* Figures are since November 2013 (winterization 2013-2014 programme)

Needs

Winterization: During the winter, refugees are in need of protection against the cold, including blankets, heating stoves and fuel for the five months from November to March. This is particularly true for refugees living in in substandard dwellings that do not provide adequate protection against winter.

Newcomer Assistance: In addition, many refugees have neither basic household items nor the means to purchase them upon arrival. These items include blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, water storage containers, as well as hygiene and baby items.

Challenges

Dispersed refugee population:

Refugees live in over 1,700 locations in Lebanon. This hinders the distribution of in-kind CRI to those in need and increases logistic costs. It also makes it difficult to conduct quality needs assessment and design assistance according to requirements, gender and age composition of the household.

Poor infrastructure, weather and insecurity:

Given the dispersed refugee population and the large number of refugees, distribution of CRIs requires coordinated procurement, transportation, storage and distribution of items. Challenges to distribution include limited warehouse capacity, poor transport infrastructure, and lack of suitable public facilities for use as distribution sites. Severe weather conditions during the winter and security issues have delayed some deliveries, especially in Tripoli and Bekaa. Moreover, the distribution of cash assistance via ATMs was faced with the unavailability of ATM machines in Wadi Khaled and Aarsal in the North. Hence UNHCR turned to alternatively providing assistance via fuel vouchers and in-kind stoves.

Strategy

UNHCR's strategy is to provide support to refugees – both registered and unregistered – when they are at their most vulnerable, upon their arrival in Lebanon and during the cold winter months.

Winterization:

Over half a million refugees (and Lebanese returnees and vulnerable host community families) need assistance during the 2013/2014 winter. They were targeted based on their vulnerability, the severity of the weather in their locations, the quality of their shelters, or other special needs they may have. The main modality for assistance was cash transfer via ATM cards. UNHCR reached out with in-kind winterization assistance to 120,000 refugees who live in cadastral areas above 500 meters and have not been able to receive the cash transfer for winterization programme.

Newcomer Assistance:

UNHCR has assumed the role of 'provider of last resort' to the newcomer programme implemented through a dozen agencies with independent funding. In the situation of a sudden emergency or when these agencies do not have the resources to support the newcomers in their area of responsibility, UNHCR steps in to provide refugees who arrived in the past month (or earlier) with a standardized package of essential items.

Emergency Stocks:

UNHCR should maintain capacity to respond to a sudden increase in new arrivals all through 2014. Supplies of CRI should be regularly replenished, and more warehouse capacity is needed, especially in North Lebanon.

Use of a new assistance modality – CASH via ATM card:

UNHCR introduced the use of cash assistance via ATM cards instead of in-kind assistance for the 2013-14 winterization programme. This has reduced costs related to distribution and increased the autonomy of refugees to use assistance according to their specific needs. In 2014, UNHCR will continue with CASH via ATM cards to monetize some forms of assistance, but it will not replace distribution of all CRI. UNHCR will also scale up outreach and market monitoring to assess the impact of cash assistance on refugees and host communities.

UNHCR implementing partners

ACTED, CARE, CISP, Concern, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Dar El-Fatwa, Ghiras, Makhzoumi Foundation, Save the Children International (SCI), Sawa, Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD), SIF, Solidar Suisse, World Vision International.