

UNHCR Lebanon

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Update

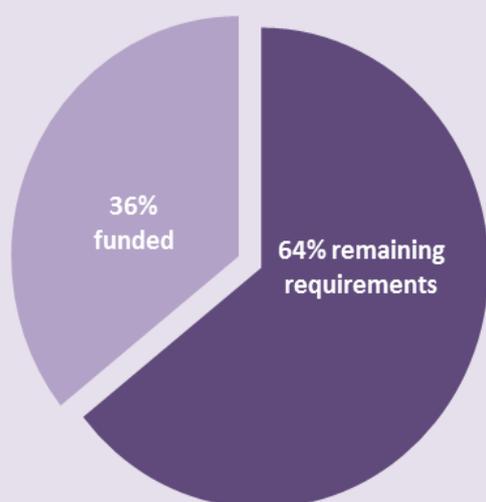
May 2014

Key figures

1,087,814	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 468 m**



UNHCR WASH requirements: **USD 59 m**

May developments

- CISP and UNHCR equipped a pumping station and enabled it to deliver water to a reservoir in Majdlaya Municipality, benefiting over 40,000 people in 15 villages in Zgharta, North Lebanon (with 30,000 Lebanese and 11,000 Syrian refugees).
- UNHCR with ACTED and CHH installed six water reservoirs in Mount Lebanon region benefitting 50,000 people (20% of them are Syrian refugees).
- ACF distributed hygiene/baby kits to nearly 25,000 refugees in the Bekaa.
- Concern and PU-AMI organized sessions on hygiene promotion for prevention of skin diseases for over 200 women and children living in collective shelters and informal tented settlements in Akkar (North) and Sidon (South).
- Concern Worldwide completed electrical work and drains to save refugee homes from flooding in Akkar.
- PU-AMI installed 22 showers benefitting 110 refugees in a collective centre Sidon and provided two garbage containers for collective shelters in Tanary.

Achievements: May

Activity	 reached January -May	 Target 2014
Hygiene items	235,119	400,938
Hygiene promotion sessions	43,505	593,700
Water supply	188,462	227,800
Water quality improvement	5,828	695,100
Solid waste management	54,895	383,550
Repair/construction of sanitation facilities	35,177	384,550

Needs

Water: Sufficient access to safe drinking water is a critical, on-going need. Improvements to infrastructure and support to the municipalities is 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.

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, CHF, Makzhouni, Action contre la Faim (ACF), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC), World Vision (WVI), Concern Worldwide, Oxfam, INTERSOS, Agence d'aide a la Cooperation Technique Et au Développement (ACTED).