

SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE: AN OVERVIEW OF THE WATER, HYGIENE, AND SANITATION SITUATION

June 7, 2014



#FutureOfSyria



LEBANON

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Highlights:

- 660,250 individuals benefited from water supply projects;
- 95,636 individuals benefited from water storage;
- 78,856 individuals benefited from the installation of household latrines;
- 368,646 individuals benefited from sanitation and waste water management;
- 323,494 individuals benefited from solid waste management interventions;
- 372,445 individuals benefited from family hygiene kits;
- 175,546 benefited from hygiene awareness sessions.

**January - May 2014*

Agencies and the Government of Lebanon requested US\$1.89 billion in the latest inter-agency funding appeal. US\$390 million have so far been received – 21 per cent, as of 3 June.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH) aims to ensure that vulnerable populations are protected from water-borne and water-related diseases, and have access to dignified water and waste management facilities.

WASH is concerned with all aspects of environmental hygiene in crisis situations. This includes water supply for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene, facilities for solid waste disposal, safe excreta disposal, drainage and correct hygiene practices.

This weekly overview will shed light on water, hygiene, and sanitation issues and response in Lebanon.

57% of refugees rent apartments

A large percentage of refugees rent apartments. This population shares the same services –rubbish collection, household water supply, access to latrines - as the Lebanese.

Support to authorities and local municipalities in affected areas is key to improving services for both refugee and local communities. Such WASH investments help improve the quantity and quality of water.

Improving Access to Water – The Case of Nabaa al Qadi



Water reservoir in Nabaa Al Qadi, Zgharta- North Lebanon. UNHCR/ Dana Sleiman

A \$USD 375,000 water project was implemented, benefiting 41,000 people in 15 villages in Zgharta

The Nabaa Al Qadi spring – a main water source in the Zgharta district - is now almost completely dry. To address the water scarcity problem in the area, a \$USD 375,000 water project was implemented by CISP in coordination with the North Lebanon water establishment and UNHCR, benefiting 41,000 people in 15 villages in Zgharta (30,000 Lebanese and 11,000 Syrian refugees).

The project involved drilling a borehole in Nabaa Al Qadi's pumping station. The new borehole was equipped with a pump and supply pipes to deliver water to the Majdlaya Municipality water reservoir.

Through this project, availability of drinking water was increased by approximately 150 liters per person per day. Water pumped through the new well has ensured continued supply of water to both Lebanese and Syrian communities in the area.

40% of refugees live in substandard dwellings



In an informal settlement, a group of children fetch water that they bring to their tent to use for washing and cleaning. UNICEF/ Shahezad Nourani

25% of refugees live in garages, warehouses, and work sites (substandard buildings), while 15% are in informal settlements.

Persons living in substandard buildings and informal settlements are the most vulnerable to WASH problems. Agencies work to link these communities to water sources such as boreholes or water establishment networks, or water trucking and other municipal services.

WASH agencies also provide water storage facilities and water treatment initiatives such as chlorination.

Sanitation



An Informal Settlement (IS) in Lebanon that has been equipped with water tanks and latrines. UNICEF/Shahbaz Nourani

Since the beginning of 2014, more than 75,000 refugees and Lebanese have been provided with 15,000 latrines

Safe management of excreta is another crucial WASH intervention; especially in locations such as informal settlements where there are no latrines. Safe waste management is critical to preventing diarrhea and serious epidemics.

Some 80,000 refugees have benefited from the building of 15,581 latrines since the beginning of 2014 alone. All such efforts are implemented by Lebanese contractors or through the participation of refugees. Materials needed are also purchased in Lebanon.

Agencies continue to support municipalities with the supply of sludge removal trucks to help alleviate the extra burden.

A Water Specialist perspective

Ahmad Hammad has joined Concern Worldwide as a Water Specialist in Akkar, North Lebanon, in August 2013.

Along with the rest of his team, he is currently working in coordination with three municipalities in Akkar to provide them with water tanks.

Ahmad explains that the refugee population is growing rapidly in villages that do not have the adequate water and sanitary

“You will find that in many places in Akkar, there is no system in place for solid waste disposal. There are hardly any rubbish bins around. We provide waste bins in places where they are much needed”.

infrastructure. “This is creating a major problem in solid waste management”, he explained, “in collective centres, WASH facilities such as latrines, improving water quality and quantity through water trucking and de-sludging of septic tanks are key in improving water and hygiene conditions among refugees and hosting communities”.



Ahmad and one of UNHCR WASH staff visiting an informal tented settlement in Akkar, North Lebanon. UNHCR/ Bathoul Ahmed

Waste Management

Demand for garbage services has increased in light of an estimated 20% increase in waste across the country.

During 2013, over 40 solid waste collection vehicles and four de-sludge trucks were provided to the neediest areas in Lebanon. Additionally, communal collection bins and thousands of household bins have been installed in refugee locations.

WATER SUPPLY AND SCARCITY

Background

Generally speaking, water is available in most locations in Lebanon. However, even in a normal year there is greater demand for water than available supply. This water deficit is especially hard in the summer and results in water rationing and greater use of groundwater. Access to water in Lebanon is impaired by an ageing and fragile water infrastructure, poor service delivery, low awareness on conservation and, this year, high demand in light of the population increase.

An estimated 48% of the water supply is lost through leaks and unofficial connections

Most of the water networks are over 30 years old and have had minimal investment in maintenance. As a result an estimated 48% of the water supply is lost through leaks and unofficial connections. This is 13% higher than the average global water loss standard.



Broken pipe, Tripoli, North Lebanon.

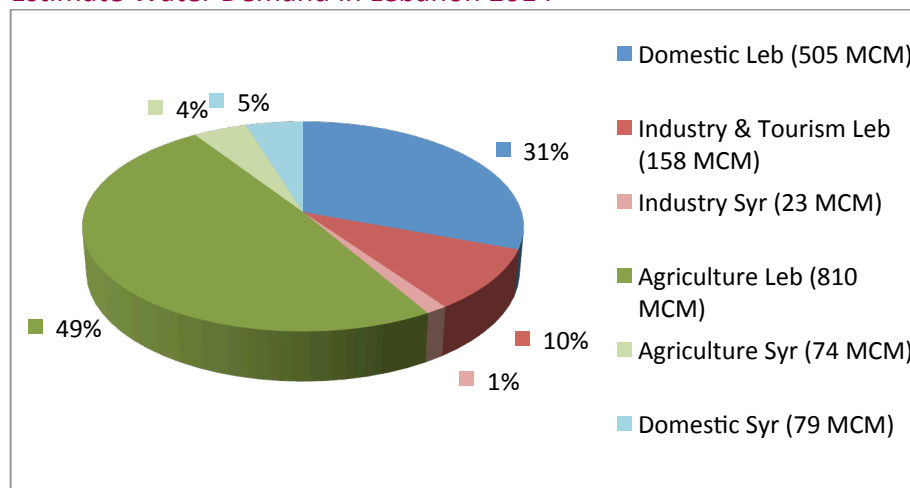
In addition, the current water payment system employed in Lebanon is through flat fees regardless of water consumption. This does not encourage water conservation among consumers.

Agencies are channeling resources towards strengthening the water infrastructure and the capacity of water providers in order to improve access to water for both Syrian refugees and Lebanese communities.

Low Precipitation

Lebanon has recently experienced one of the driest winter seasons on record, with 2014 likely to be the driest summer in a hundred years. The consumption of water by refugees is only a fraction of the overall expected deficit estimated at 720 Million Cubic Meters (MCM). The pie chart below indicates estimated water demand through 2014 by consumer.

Estimate Water Demand in Lebanon 2014



Response to Water Scarcity

The unusually high deficit in 2014 is coupled with an increase in demand due to a population increase. WASH actors have been working to reduce the impact of water scarcity through various water projects.

WASH actors are conducting regular awareness campaigns with both Lebanese communities and Syrian refugees to encourage them to practice water conservation. Agencies are also advocating for the development of sustainable water payment systems that would help preserve water on the long run.

Over 234,703 people (128,794 Lebanese and 105,909 Syrians) have benefited from investments in communal water infrastructure, water establishments, and other small scale projects since the beginning of 2014.

Efforts are focused on locations with high concentrations of refugees where there is excessive demand on the existing water infrastructure, or where the water supply infrastructure was found to be old and fragile.

In the North, 10,359 Syrian refugees and 50,025 Lebanese have benefited from water projects that helped rehabilitate affected water supply systems under stress. In the Bekaa, 41,963 Syrian refugees and 30,192 Lebanese have benefited from such projects. The number of Syrian beneficiaries exceptionally outnumbers that of Lebanese because of the high numbers of informal settlements, many of which are isolated from established water supply networks.

Hala's Story



Hala, 16 year old girl from Yabrud, washes her hands in the collective centre where she was moved, after having gone without water for two weeks in Aarsal during the influx from Qalamoun. UNHCR/L.ABOUKHALED

Hala, 16, arrived in Lebanon in November 2013 as heavy fighting ravaged her hometown in Yabrud, Syria. Hala and her family fled with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They arrived in Aarsal, a border town of 35,000 people that today hosts over 50,000 refugees.

With nowhere to go, Hala and her family, along with 200 newly arrived people found shelter in one of the mosques in Aarsal. They didn't have access to water.

"I felt like I was losing my dignity", she said. "This difficult period taught me how important having access to water is." The family was eventually moved to a collective shelter where water facilities had been installed.

DONORS

USA, Kuwait, EU, Japan, UK, Germany, Australia, Norway, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Russia, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Italy, Ireland, Austria, Republic of Korea, Spain, Luxemburg, Estonia, Czech Republic, Iceland, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Republic of Chile, Mexico, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, State of Qatar, Slovakia, New Zealand, China, and Ecuador..

Contributions have also been received from the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) as well as from private donors, national and international organizations.

AGENCIES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT

