

UNHCR Lebanon

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Update



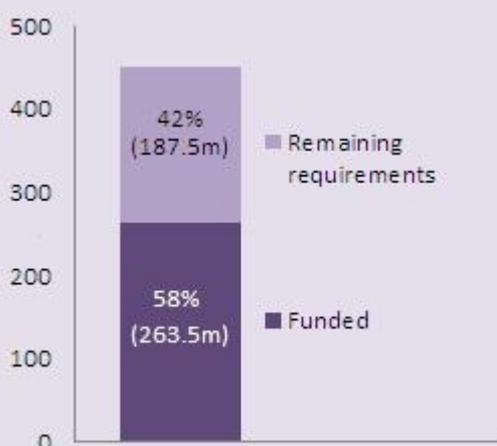
September 2014

Key Figures

1,164,004	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 451m



September developments

- The municipality of Ardeh (North Lebanon) received from CISP a truck for collecting solid waste. This will ensure an increased capacity for the municipality to keep public spaces clean and the community of over 3,000 Lebanese and 500 Syrian refugees will benefit from improved sanitation conditions.
- 1,546 Syrian refugees living in collective centres in Kirbit Daoud, Miniyara, and Wadi El Jamous (Akkar) have benefitted from enhanced access to water and solid waste collection. They also attended hygiene promotion sessions carried out by Concern Worldwide.
- 193 Lebanese and Syrian students can now access safe water and toilets in a public school in Jbeil thanks to WASH works completed by CHF. Moreover, 1,965 refugees have benefitted from the installation of 131 latrines in the informal settlements of Dalhamiye, Taminine, Turbol, and Tamine El Fawka municipalities (Bekaa) by ACF.
- The 50,000-member community of Iklim Al Kharoub (Mount Lebanon) will have access to cleaner drinking water thanks to the six water reservoirs currently under construction by ACTED and CHF.
- In the Bekaa, 15,797 refugees benefitted from desludging and water trucking activities in Aarsal, Marj and Kefardinis, ensuring improved distribution of safe drinking water. Moreover, 248 water tanks and 77 water filters were distributed in Aarsal and other informal settlements in central Bekka, which will benefit from better quality drinking water.

Achievements: January – September

Activity	Reached January -September	Target 2014
Hygiene items	605,462	400,938
Hygiene promotion sessions	156,613	593,700
Water supply	228,696	227,800
Water quality improvement	8,384	695,100
Solid waste management	68,146	383,550
Repair/construction of sanitation facilities	51,800	384,550

Needs

Water: Sufficient access to safe drinking water is a critical on-going need. Improvements to infrastructure and support to the municipalities are 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 country creates a significant risk for the spread 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 water networks and providing the means for safe water storage;
- **Improving basic sanitation**, including through the installation of emergency hygiene facilities and improving the capacity of local communities to collect and dispose of solid waste;
- **Promotion of good hygiene practices:** provision of basic hygiene items to newcomers as well as participation in outreach activities to refugees and host communities during hygiene promotion activities.

UNHCR implementing partners

Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Agence d'aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC), Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF), Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Concern Worldwide, INTERSOS, Makzhoumi Foundation, Oxfam, Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD), World Vision (WVI).