

## Institutional and Community Support Update

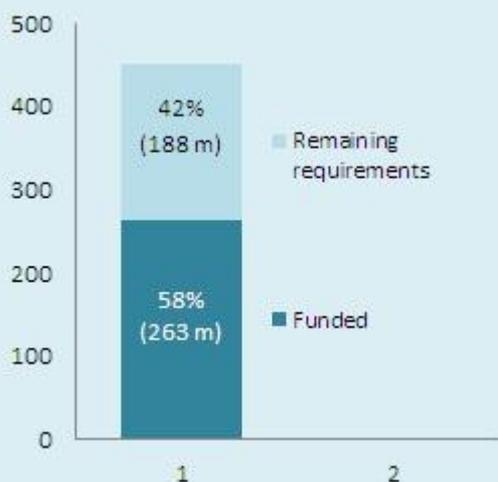
October 2014

UNHCR Representative Ninette Kelley visit to Sibline Water Reservoir-Chouf @UNCHR



### Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 451m



### Highlights:

#### Support to the Ministry of Education

- UNHCR supports The Ministry of Education's Strategy, *Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon (R.A.C.E.)*, which aims to enrol more than 400,000 children affected by the Syrian crisis by 2016. UNHCR provides salaries of teachers for second-shift afternoon classes, as well as technical staff and equipment for central and regional offices of the Ministry of Education.

#### Support to Ministry of Interior and Municipalities Unions of Municipalities

- UNHCR with UN-HABITAT supports local government service delivery through the Regional Technical Offices (RTOs) in Aley and Nabatieh, at the level of Unions of Municipalities. The RTOs help manage the refugee response at community level by working with municipalities to facilitate emergency shelter rehabilitation and projects to help basic service delivery. These offices provide qualified technical experts in project implementation and planning to the Unions to work with municipalities to respond to the needs of both Lebanese and refugee communities. UNHCR and UN-HABITAT will be deploying legal advisors and social workers within the RTOs to work on housing land and property issues.

#### Community support programme

- The Mayor of Sibline Mohammad Oubar and UNHCR Representative, Ninette Kelley, reviewed progress on construction of a water reservoir in Mount Lebanon, as part of a three million USD two-year community support project that is 75 per cent complete. The project will ensure regular water supply to more than 80,000 Lebanese residents and some 16,500 Syrian refugees living in the area. The initiative was developed in consultation with municipal leaders, regional authorities and Lebanon's Ministry of Energy and Water, which helped identify priority areas where pressure on water supplies has increased.

### Needs

The Lebanese people have made tremendous efforts to host and meet the needs of Syrian refugees over the last three years. Currently, over one million registered Syrian refugees are living in more than 1,750 locations, and some towns have more refugees than resident Lebanese. Substantial and prolonged refugee influx invariably place increased political, social, economic and environmental pressures on hosting communities. This is the case in Lebanon where infrastructure that was fragile prior to the Syrian crisis is now under severe strain. The effects of this are visible across the country. Insufficient waste management and sanitation facilities, insufficient water supply and increased demand for basic public services such as health are all outcomes of a spike in

population. Communities and municipalities are struggling to cope with the pace of the crisis and resultant surge of needs.

Support to public institutions, municipalities and hosting communities is critical to mitigate some of the impacts of refugees' presence, to promote social cohesion so that Syrians in need of protection continue to be welcome in Lebanon and to help government respond to increased demand for public services.

## Challenges

Strengthening institutional capacities at both central and municipal level and well as direct support to local communities in various sectors has begun. Hundreds of community support projects have been initiated in areas where poverty levels, refugee numbers and tensions are high. Villages are benefiting from waste management facilities, community centres, school and medical facility improvements, new water supply and livelihood projects. UNHCR is supporting five government ministries to increase service delivery in health, education, social services, protection and security and water supply. Yet these projects are only the beginning of a much needed scaled up effort to support Lebanon deal with the socio-economic impact of the Syrian crisis and refugee influx.

## Strategy

UNHCR reserves 15 per cent of its humanitarian budget for support to public institutions and projects that bring services to local communities providing assistance to refugees.

- Host Community Support: Rehabilitating schools, hospitals and laboratories and new water projects are helping host communities. In addition, the CSP Program is designed to fund quick impact and short-term community projects that meet priority needs of the community and improve the living conditions of both refugees and Lebanese communities.
- Support for government institutions that are providing services to refugees: the Ministries of Public Health (MOPH), Education and Higher Education (MEHE), Social Affairs (MOSA), Interior and Municipalities (MOIM) and Water Establishments within the Ministry of Water and Energy. From the outset of the crisis, UNHCR's strategy has been to anchor its support to refugees in national systems which could, to the extent possible, also benefit Lebanese.
- Partnerships with Development Actors: Through host community and institutional support for public services, UNHCR strives to ensure that humanitarian interventions are linked with national and municipal plans and structures that are supported by development actors. Building partnerships in this endeavour with development actors is a key element of UNHCR's strategy.



## 2013 Expenditures and 2014 budget

UNHCR institutional and community support	2013 Expenditures	2014 Budget
<b>Institutional support</b> (Rehabilitation of infrastructure, staffing and training, equipment, supplies, medications and vaccines)	7.5	50
<b>Community based projects</b> (Health, education, livelihoods, WASH, road & communities facilities)	13.5	10
<b>Total USD</b>	<b>21 million</b>	<b>60 million</b>

## UNHCR implementing partners

Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement. (ACTED), Caritas, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Concern Worldwide, Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Alert, International Medical Corps (IMC), International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC-USA), International Relief and Development (IRD), Oxfam GB, Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Right to Play, Save the Children International, Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), Terre Des Hommes Italy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN-HABITAT, War Child Holland (WCH) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Contact: Loyal Abu Darwich (abudarwi@unhcr.org)