

UNHCR Monthly Update

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

October 2013

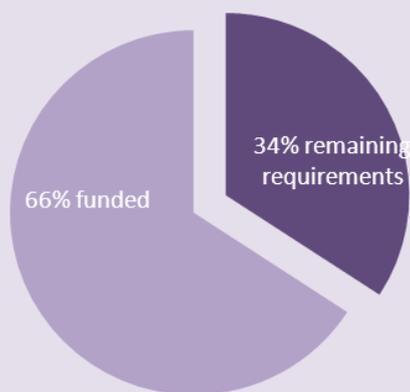
Key figures

729,928 individuals in need of WASH support

Funding

UNHCR WASH requirements: **55.5 m**
 Percentage of funding **66%**

■ Remaining UNHCR requirements (RRP5)
 ■ Funding received as of October



October developments

- Works commenced at three borehole sites in Wadi Khalid and Akroum in Akkar to increase water supply for refugees and host communities.
- The onset of winter weather, especially in elevated areas in the Bekaa and Akkar, began to affect living conditions for the most vulnerable communities, including those living in informal settlements.
- Efforts to unblock and clear drainage systems throughout the country to prevent against flooding and prepare for increased precipitation during approaching winter months got underway.
- Hygiene promotion activities throughout Lebanon continued to reinforce the importance of good hygiene, especially in light of the outbreak of polio reported in Syria this month. UNHCR and partners have given particular focus to informal tented settlements.
- Scabies and lice have been identified as problems in some shelters. UNHCR distributed shampoo and lice combs through Oxfam in the Bekaa, accompanied by hygiene promotion sessions.
- Some 99,000 hygiene kits were distributed in October.

Achievements January - October

Activities	 reached Jan - Oct	 2013 target
Hygiene kits	495,670	500,000
Baby kits	41,263	52,920
Water storage tanks	14,460	23,390
Household water filters	11,160	21,490
Repair/construction of sanitation	10,187	21,270



Needs

Water: Sufficient access to safe drinking water is a critical, ongoing need, particularly as the refugee population has put significant pressure on water systems in areas where large numbers of refugees reside.

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.

Hygiene: As refugees arrive with few possessions, many lack basic items for personal and household hygiene. Without regular supplies, refugees face deterioration in their wellbeing and dignity. UNHCR provides hygiene kits to newcomers, and refugees continue to receive hygiene items on monthly basis once registered.

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 have deteriorated. UNHCR is working with local Water Establishments and municipalities to ensure continuous access to safe water at the household level and basic sanitation facilities in all areas under pressure.

Poor solid waste management practices and limited access to adequate latrines in informal settlements combined with high levels of rain-water create significant health risks for the community. Insufficient drainage channels in informal settlements can lead residents to wade through contaminated flood waters following rain, and makeshift dwellings provide poor protection against flood water.

Limited sewage treatment capacity across Lebanon has been further strained by increased demand. This creates elevated risks for the spread of disease, should there be an outbreak in one area. Government action is urgently needed to resolve the problem, supported by partners.

Dispersed refugee population:

Different solutions are needed in different areas given the wide dispersal of refugees. For example, in some areas water shortages can only be addressed through infrastructure projects which need significant funding.

Security:

In some areas sporadic security incidents have caused 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, Makzhouni, Action contre la Faim (ACF), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC), World Vision (WVI), Concern Worldwide, Oxfam, Intersos.