

Key figures

833,685	individuals registered or pending registration
78%	women and children
39%	persons with specific needs
23%	children at risk

Funding

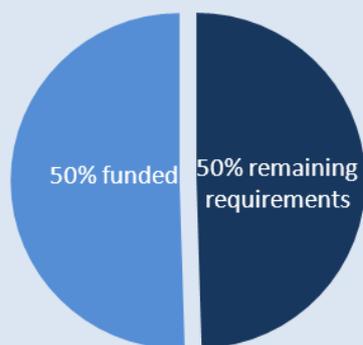
UNHCR protection requirements:

USD **83.1 m**

Percentage funded: **50 %**

■ Remaining UNHCR requirements (RRP5)

■ Funding received as of November



November developments

Access to the territory, registration and civil status documentation

- UNHCR and partners responded to an influx of some 18,000 refugees to Aarsal during the last two weeks of the month. Refugees arrived from the Qalamoun area of Rif Dimashq, Syria, mostly through unofficial border crossings. Protection colleagues quickly conducted outreach and established referral pathways for persons with specific needs.
- UNHCR observation teams continued at the official border crossing of Masnaa, Aarida and Aboudiya.
- UNHCR introduced iris-scanning biometrics in all 4 UNHCR registration centres.
- UNHCR began distributing new leaflets and posters on birth registration targeting illiterate and semi-literate refugees throughout Lebanon. The Ministry of Interior confirmed its support for a 2014 national campaign to raise awareness of the importance of birth registration.

Ensuring respect of refugee rights and providing solutions and services

- In order to respond to threats of evictions of refugees and improve their overall security of tenure, UNHCR and UN-Habitat developed a rapid assessment for housing, land and property issues. The assessment will be conducted in December.
- Some of the main concerns from refugee communities identified by UNHCR protection monitoring teams this month related to security from violence and winterization assistance. The teams also conducted a national-level survey on curfews in municipalities.
- To date, 803 refugees have departed to Germany under the Humanitarian Admissions Programme, and the cases of 3,651 individuals have been submitted.

Community empowerment

- 116 out of the target of 200 refugee outreach volunteers (ROV) have now been mobilized to reinforce linkages and trust with refugee communities. ROV referred 1,164 families to UNHCR, 56% of whom required immediate attention. Nationwide trainings to ROVs on birth registration were provided.
- UNHCR and partners conducted 75 focus group discussions with 818 refugee men and women of diverse ages and backgrounds. 200 women and girls were consulted on the impact of shifting from in-kind to cash-based assistance services, including for sanitary material, nutritional needs, education and empowerment.

Prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence

- The Halba Women Resources Centre in Akkar opened this month. It is the fourth centre funded through UNHCR in Lebanon. It will provide a variety of activities for refugee women, including vocational and life skills training such as home care.
- Eight SGBV-specialized organizations participated in an inter-agency monthly data sharing meeting. Trends were shared for further analysis.

Child protection

- 25 UNHCR registration staff was trained on child protection principles to enhance identification and referral of high risk children.
- Through IRC, the first peer-to-peer coaching sessions for social workers working with refugee children were held in Qobayat, Zahle, Tripoli and Mount Lebanon with the goal to exchange information and harmonize approaches.

Achievements January – November

Activity	 reached Jan- Nov	 2013 Target
Persons registered (or pending registration)	833,685	1,000,000
Community awareness	25,000	13,840
Specific needs cases referred	21,516	9,000
Legal counseling	2,576	2,000
Detention visits	517	300
Applications submitted for the Temporary Humanitarian Admission Program – Germany	3,651	4,000
Persons submitted for resettlement	376	500
Provision of assistance for identified SGBV survivors	100%	100%

Challenges

Dispersed refugee population:

Refugees live in close to 1,600 different locations in Lebanon. This makes information dissemination and outreach even more important for refugees to access registration and essential services, especially for women and girls whose mobility is often restricted by family members.

Protracted displacement:

With limited livelihood opportunities, the vulnerability of refugees increases over time as their resources diminish. When living costs exceed household earnings debt can lead refugees to consider negative coping mechanisms including child labor, and, in some cases, survival sex and child marriage.

Lack of adequate housing and shelter:

Overcrowding and lack of privacy in shared housing, collective shelters and tented settlements can increase risks for women and children.

Limited social services:

National health, legal and social systems require additional support, especially for the specific needs of women and children. Clinical care for sexual violence and specialized skills for dealing with child survivors remain scarce or absent, especially in remote areas.

UNHCR implementing partners

Association Justice and Misericorde (AJEM), Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (CMLC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Relief and Development (IRD), International Rescue Committee (IRC), INTERSOS, Amel Association-Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Makhzoumi Foundation, Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA).

Needs

Refugees fleeing violence in Syria are in need of protection from their arrival in Lebanon at the border, and throughout the length of their stay in the country. Over 39 percent of refugees have been identified with specific needs. This includes: persons with disabilities, older persons, women and children at risk, persons with serious medical conditions and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) among others. These needs require rapid identification and referral for a variety of assistance including: psycho-social counseling, material assistance, shelter, food, other relief items, and health care. As the refugee population within Lebanon is dispersed in rural and urban areas, outreach is essential to identify and respond to vulnerabilities and need for assistance within the community.

Strategy

UNHCR's protection strategy addresses the main protection challenges and priority concerns of refugees with the following main components:

- Ensuring access to territory, registration and civil documentation, including birth registration;
- Ensuring respect of refugee rights and physical safety;
- Through mobile outreach, delivering quality protection, care and access to basic needs and essential services for persons with specific needs, including children and survivors of SGBV;
- Strengthening government and community protection capacities;
- Identifying vulnerable refugees for resettlement and humanitarian admissions programmes;
- Incorporating protection principles and mitigating potential risks linked to shelter, water, sanitation, health, distributions, etc.