

UNHCR Lebanon

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Update



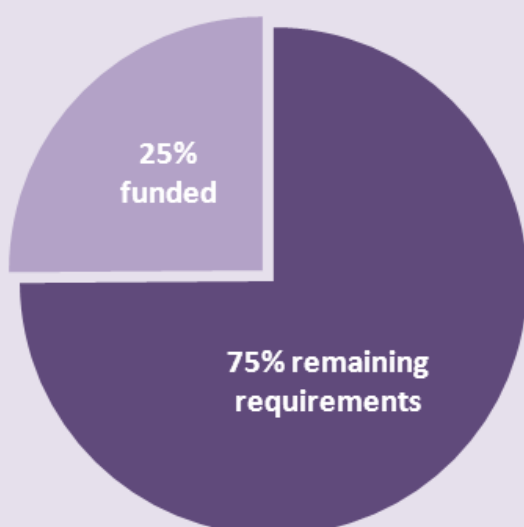
February 2014

Key figures

945,461	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 Requirements 2014: USD 468 m





WASH requirements: USD 59 m

February developments

- New water pumps installed by CISP in Zgharta, Batroun, Koura and Minieh-Dennieh districts of North Lebanon have helped to increase the supply of drinking water for host communities as well as over 8,200 refugees.
- The construction of a new water well by CISP has increased the availability of drinking water to 30,000 people in 14 villages in Zgharta district of North Lebanon.
- Fuel provided to 32 water pumping stations in South Lebanon has helped to provide drinking water to over 22,000 refugees, as well as provided increased access to water for the host communities.
- In Mount Lebanon, 200 refugees received information related to hygiene from PU-AMI WASH and health teams. In one collective centre, 39 people with scabies received treatment.
- This month, Concern Worldwide installed 80 septic tanks in 5 recently rehabilitated collective shelters in Kherbit Daoud village in Akkar. With proper sanitation facilities in place, the selected refugee families are now able to move into their new accommodation.

Achievements: January - February

Activities	 reached January-February	 2014 Target
Hygiene items	135,360	400,938
Hygiene promotion sessions	9,600	593,700
Water supply	61,743	227,800
Water quality improvement	4,483	695,100
Solid waste management	1,987	383,550
Repair/construction of sanitation facilities	17,191	384,550

Needs

Water: Sufficient access to safe drinking water is a critical, on-going need, particularly as the refugee population has put significant pressure on water systems in areas where large numbers of refugees reside. Improvements to infrastructure and support to the municipalities to address water shortages faced by both refugees and host communities is required.

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.

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 approximately 70% of the most vulnerable refugees continue to receive either in-kind or monetised hygiene kits every month.

Challenges

Water shortages and strained infrastructure in host communities:

With low rainfall over the past year, and inadequate snow cover in the mountains, water shortages are expected in 2014. While the lack of rain should occur for several years (2-3) before being classified as a drought, expected water shortages could lead to tensions arising over access to water supplies in areas hosting large number of refugees. UNHCR will continue to work with Water Establishments and municipalities to ensure continuous access to safe water and basic sanitation facilities for all households.

Dispersed refugee population:

Different solutions are needed in different areas given the dispersion of refugees over a wide geographical area. This makes interventions logistically challenging and resource intensive. In some areas water shortages are best addressed through infrastructure projects which require 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 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.