

Key figures

993,689	individuals registered or pending registration
78%	women and children
36%	persons with specific needs
24%	children at risk

March developments

Community mobilization

- Over 2,400 families (9,000 persons) were referred by 200 refugee outreach volunteers (ROV) to UNHCR and partners for assessment and support.
- In addition, 47 specialized ROVs were mobilized this month bringing the total to 116. Specialized ROVs perform outreach activities focused on education, health and child protection.
- ROVs report that key community concerns as expressed by refugees this month include: the lack of services for persons with specific needs (disabilities); increasing illnesses among refugees; begging for survival especially children and women; continued frustration among vulnerable families that are targeted out from food assistance; more women employed contrary to the traditional role they play in Syria, and threats to protest at UNHCR for targeted assistance.

Case management

- 306 persons received one-time protection cash assistance; 65% of them are living in the south. 558 persons have received such assistance to date.
- 6,600 persons at risk were identified by registration and field staff and referred for support.

Livelihoods and self-reliance

- 2,500 persons, 40% Lebanese and mostly women, participated in vocational, life-skill activities, and entrepreneurship training through community and livelihood centres.
- 35 persons, 40% Lebanese, accessed group lending (micro-credit) services.

Social cohesion and conflict mitigation activities

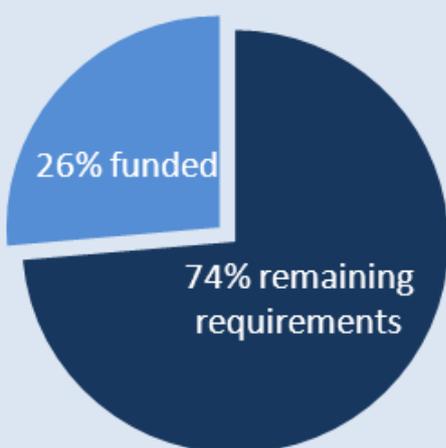
- Field research on the causes of tensions in selected refugee hosting communities in the north and south Lebanon, was conducted by SFCG and which will be analysed in a forthcoming report. Local authorities in the Tripoli area and Tyre continue to participate in conflict mitigation activities.

Achievements January – March

Activity	reached January – March	2014 Target
Specific needs cases referred	19,000	75,000
Vocational training	6,000	30,030
Refugee outreach volunteers	316	1,000
Community centres established	26	50
Conflict resolution trainings	-	400

Funding

UNHCR requirements 2014: USD 468 m



Protection requirements: USD 106 m

Needs

According to the 2013 UN Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VASyR), 72% of refugees are unable to meet their basic needs. During assessments conducted in 2013, refugees expressed a need for support in accessing scarce resources, in particular overstretched social services and job opportunities. Newly disabled refugees expressed difficulties adjusting to their situation, providing for their families, and being accepted by their communities. Older persons and female headed households faced challenges to access available services. Many are unable to leave their homes due to poor health, family situation and lack of financial means. Given the widespread dispersal of refugees throughout Lebanon, information dissemination and outreach on available services is critical. Scarcity of resources and competition has caused violence and tension to escalate between refugee and local communities, requiring additional attention to conflict reduction and host community support.

Challenges

Dispersed refugee population: Refugees now make up over one fifth of Lebanon's population. With the widespread dispersal of refugees in close to 1,700 locations throughout Lebanon, there is a need to build upon existing outreach and support initiatives to prevent and respond to the immense scale of protection risks.

Overstretched social services and limited job opportunities: With the escalating number of refugees in Lebanon, public services have become overstretched, job opportunities have diminished, and the prices of basic goods have risen sharply due to inflation. Increasingly, refugees are adopting negative coping mechanisms to survive. National health, legal and social systems need additional support to expand services, especially for the specific needs of women and children.

Increasing tensions: Pressure on services and increasing economic competition threaten the wellbeing of both refugees and vulnerable Lebanese. Diminishing salaries and opportunities linked to an increasing workforce have brought about tensions and restrictive government policies regarding livelihoods programmes for Syrians. The impositions of curfews in a growing number of local villages and a recent spate of evictions of refugees from informal settlements are testament to rising tensions.

UNHCR Refugee Outreach Volunteer training in the Bekaa @ UNHCR/ R. Kevorkian



Strategy

To effectively address vulnerabilities and safeguard protection space for refugees, UNHCR's strategic priorities are:

- Assist refugees in accessing basic services;
- Strengthen outreach with refugees and host communities;
- Empower and promote self-management in communities;
- Increase livelihood opportunities, as well as promote social cohesion among Lebanese and Syrians through dialogue and community support projects
- Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Development Centres

UNHCR implementing partners

Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (CLMC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Amel Association-Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Makhzoumi Foundation, Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Social, Right to Play, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), Search for Common Ground (SFCG), International Alert, UNDP, Al Majmoua, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA).