

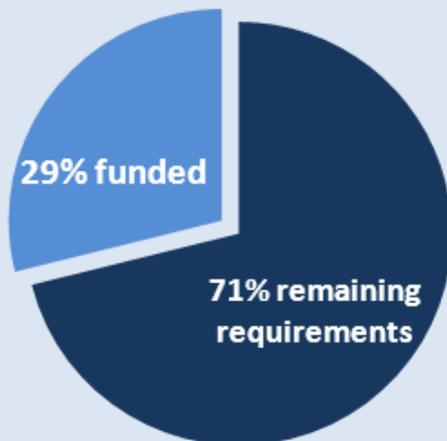
Key figures

1,044,898 individuals registered or pending registration

37% persons with specific needs

Funding

UNHCR requirements 2014: USD **468 m**



Syrian refugees await registration at the UNHCR compound in Tripoli. Work starts at 7.30 in the morning; 1,500 refugees are registered (or re-registered) here every day @ UNHCR / L. Addario

April developments

Access to territory and timely registration

- News sources reported that the Government was considering restricting admissions at the border. In April, increased efforts against smugglers and illegal departures were observed but the border otherwise remained calm. Arida border point was closed to Syrians on 24-27 April for unknown reasons.
- In early April, the one millionth refugee approached UNHCR for registration. Some 50,500 Syrian refugees were registered in April, a 2% increase from March. The average waiting time for registration increased to 25 days, primarily due to an increase in requests from the Bekaa.
- Over 46,000 refugees approached UNHCR for verification and renewal of their registration certificates. 33% of refugees surveyed during renewal were found to lack or have expired residency permits.
- Sampling surveys show that the percentage of refugees that were internally displaced once in Syria before arriving in Lebanon increased from 45% in January to 52% in April. The percentage of refugees that were internally displaced many times in Syria before arriving in Lebanon went up sharply from 11% in January to 54% in April.

Protection violations prevented, monitored and addressed

- Protection monitoring partners IRC, Mercy Corps, Intersos and Oxfam monitored 4,393 individuals in 135 different locations. Issues highlighted include: unemployment and wage discrimination in Mount Lebanon, eviction threats used to extort extra rental payments or assistance in the North and continued arrival of injured individuals into Chebaa in the South. Information campaigns, counseling and follow up actions were undertaken.

Access to legal services and civil status documentation enhanced

- 139 individuals arrested were referred to UNHCR and 55 detention visits were carried out by UNHCR and partners. During these, 415 individuals were counselled or received psychosocial support, 92 individuals received legal counselling in detention by AJEM and 213 individuals received relief items.
- 1,063 persons were provided legal counselling by UNHCR and partners and 43 persons with legal representation before the courts on matters of personal status, including custody documents and marriage registration.
- 3,340 individuals received legal awareness session. The sessions focused mainly on marriage and birth registration.

Durable and humanitarian solutions made available

- In April, 534 refugees were submitted to third countries for resettlement or humanitarian admission and 711 departed, including 541 to Germany on the eleventh and twelfth HAP flights.
- Delegations from France and Switzerland came to Lebanon to interview over 300 Syrians. Over 250 persons received individual counseling on their resettlement status.

Achievements: January - April

Activity	 reached January-April	 2014 Target
Persons interviewed at the border	2,556	8,000
Persons registered (or pending registration)	201,500	600,000
Protection monitoring visits	6,377	10,800
Legal counseling	3,685	11,400
Detention visits	990	3,000
Persons submitted for HAP and resettlement	2,006	6,250
Departures (HAP and resettlement)	1,822	5,900

Needs

Refugees fleeing violence in Syria often undertake perilous journeys through conflict-affected areas and are forced to resort to unofficial border crossings. Upon arrival in Lebanon, prompt registration and documentation remain priority needs to ensure access to services, relief assistance, identification of specific needs and protection interventions.

Refugees who entered through unofficial border crossings or who are unable to renew their residency are not recognized as legally present in Lebanon. The consequences of irregular legal status can be vast, not least relating to risks of arrest and detention, severe limitations on freedom of movement, limited access to livelihoods/employment, risks of exploitation, civil registration and problematic access to essential services, including birth registration.

Physical safety remains an issue of concern, particularly in communities affected at times by shelling or shootings from Syria. Refugees and members of the host community have been exposed to threats, physical

mistreatment retaliatory actions, evictions, secondary displacements and other protection incidents. Lack of legal representation, awareness and irregular legal status complicate access to justice and remedies for these and other rights violations.

Challenges

Lack of legal or administrative refugee framework:

Lebanon is not a state party to the 1951 Convention or to its 1967 Protocol nor does it have specific legislation or administrative practices for refugees and asylum-seekers. As such, refugees lack safeguards beyond the domestic law applying to other foreigners.

Irregular legal status:

An average of 13% of registered refugees entering through unofficial border crossings and are not recognized as legally present in Lebanon. In addition, the vast majority of refugees are unable to pay the often cost prohibitive residency renewal fees at the expiry of 12 months. Without a policy change, the number of refugees in an irregular legal status may grow exponentially into the hundreds of thousands in 2014.

Dispersed refugee population:

Refugees live in over 1,700 different locations in Lebanon making protection monitoring and information dissemination critical to address protection incidents and ensure access to registration and essential services. Restrictions on freedom of movement due to security checkpoints, curfews, distance and lack of documentation also present serious challenges.

Lack of civil status documentation:

Many refugees lack civil status documentation. Worn out documentation can cause delays or rejections at the border, and sometimes, separation of family members. Lack of documents can create obstacles for refugees in accessing basic services like healthcare and education, and in obtaining other critical documentation, such as birth registration. The inability to register births may put refugees at a heightened risk of statelessness and increase vulnerability of individuals to exploitation and trafficking.

Physical safety and security and limited access to justice:

The overall security situation in locations such as the Bekaa and northern Akkar, conflict-prone neighborhoods in Tripoli, and tensions in villages throughout Lebanon, places the physical safety of refugees at risk of violence and physical safety. Solutions remain limited due to the lack of shelter or relocation alternatives as well as lack of access to justice, particularly for those considered irregularly present in Lebanon.

Strategy

UNHCR's protection strategy addresses key challenges and priority concerns of refugees including:

- Ensuring access to territory and reducing the risk of *refoulement*
- Ensuring timely registration and adequate reception conditions
- Preventing, monitoring and addressing protection violations
- Providing access to legal services and civil status documentation to ensure the rights of refugees are respected
- Ensuring durable and humanitarian solutions are made available.

UNHCR implementing partners

Association Justice and Misericorde (AJEM), Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (CMLC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Relief and Development (IRD), International Rescue Committee (IRC), INTERSOS, Makhzoumi Foundation, Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Oxfam, Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA).