

UNHCR Lebanon

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Update

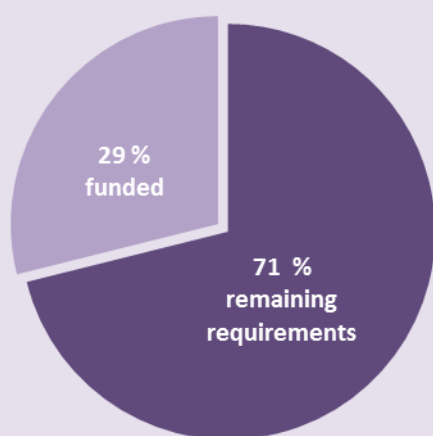
April 2014

Key figures

1,044,898	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**





UNHCR WASH requirements: USD **59 m**

April developments

- CISP restored 60 water pumps to provide regular access to water to 400 Syrians and 6,000 Lebanese in Jezzine, Saïda.
- PU-AMI provided bathing facilities for refugees living in collective shelters benefitting 38 families in Ouzai, Saïda.
- ACF distributed 54 water tanks to 68 Syrian families and water filters for 46 families living in informal tented settlements (ITS) to store and use clean water facilities in Loubieh, Bableiyeh, Insariyeh and Al Bahar in the south.
- CISP cleaned septic tanks to avoid flooding for 20 families and installed plastic water tanks for reserve clean water for 80 families in Marjayoun, Sour and Hasbaya districts in the south.
- UNHCR conducted two trainings of trainers to promote hygiene for 25 families each, living in ITS in Habaya and Majidye in Qobayat.
- As a response to a surge in hepatitis cases, PU-AMI distributed nearly 100 jerry cans and aqua tabs to provide clean water to 94 families living in informal settlements in Zahrani, Saïda.

Achievements: January - April

Activity	 reached January-April	 2014 Target
Hygiene items	143,388	400,938
Hygiene promotion sessions	25,428	593,700
Water supply	77,023	227,800
Water quality improvement	4,483	695,100
Solid waste management	3,540	383,550
Repair/construction of sanitation facilities	20,709	384,550

Needs

Water: Sufficient safe drinking water is a critical need. This is increasingly difficult in areas where large numbers of refugees have settled. Improvements to infrastructure and support to the municipalities to address water shortages faced by both refugees and host communities are required.

Sanitation: Basic sanitation facilities are essential 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. UNHCR provides hygiene kits to newcomers and monthly hygiene kit distributions to the most vulnerable refugees.



Little girl drinking water in transit site, Aarsal @UNHCR/ L. Abou Khaled

Challenges

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.

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 has deteriorated, and UNHCR is working with water establishments and municipalities to ensure continuous access to safe water at a household level and basic sanitation facilities. The lack of sewage treatment facilities in the entire country creates a significant risk for the spreading of diseases, should there be an outbreak in one area. The problem can only be resolved through urgent action by the government.

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:** through the rehabilitation of the water network and provision of means for safe water storage;
- **Improving basic sanitation:** 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:** through the provision of basic hygiene items and outreach to refugees and hosting communities.

UNHCR implementing partners

Action contre la Faim (ACF); ACTED; Cooperative Housing Foundation, (CHF); CISP; Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC); Concern Worldwide; Danish Refugee Council (DRC); INTERSOS; Oxfam; Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI); Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD); Makzoumi Foundation; World Vision (WVI).