



A "second shift" class for Syrian refugee students in Zgharta, Lebanon @ UNHCR / A. McConnell

- **UNHCR's Achievements at a Glance**
- **Protection**
- **Child Protection**
- **Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)**
- **Statelessness**
- **Community Development**
- **Education**
- **Cash Assistance & Core Relief Items (CRI)**
- **Shelter**
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**
- **Health**
- **Institutional and Community Support**

Numbers indicate the cumulative number of individuals reached or benefitting from the given activity, service, or distributed item.



Protection and Outreach

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Persons registered (or pending registration) | 1,164,004 |
| Specific needs cases referred | 46,500 |
| Individuals receiving info on birth registration | 28,330 |
| Legal counseling | 12,408 |
| Applications submitted (HAP + resettlement) | 7,170 |
| Persons at risk identified and supported | 5,980 |
| Persons departed (HAP + resettlement) | 5,030 |
| Identified children at risk referred and assisted | 2,306 |
| Detention visits (persons reached) | 2,453 |



Education

| | |
|---|--------|
| Primary education "first shift" (2013/2014) | 32,558 |
| Primary education "second shift" (2013/2014) | 31,715 |
| Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP) | 17,500 |
| Remedial classes after school | 3,513 |
| Children with special needs accessing education | 62 |



Core Relief Items

| | |
|---|---------|
| Cash-for-hygiene and baby kits | 213,935 |
| Newcomer and vulnerable families assistance | 35,550 |
| Cash-for-shelter | 25,751 |
| Emergency cash-for-protection | 2,367 |



KEY FIGURES 2014

1,164,004

Refugees (registered + pending registration)

451m

UNHCR funding requirement RRP6 (USD)

58%

Funding level

42

of Implementing Partners



Funding for the Syria Regional Response Plan is also received through private donations from Canada, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, and United Arab Emirates



Shelter

| | |
|--|---------|
| Total-beneficiaries from shelter support | 130,056 |
| Cash-for-rent | 40,587 |
| Informal settlements weatherproofed | 36,999 |
| Unfinished houses weatherproofed | 27,956 |
| Apartments and houses rehabilitated | 11,256 |
| Collective shelters renovated | 6,594 |
| Formal tented settlements | 350 |



WASH

| | |
|--|---------|
| Hygiene items | 605,462 |
| Water supply | 228,696 |
| Hygiene promotion sessions | 156,613 |
| Solid waste management | 68,146 |
| Repair/construction of sanitation facilities | 51,800 |
| Water quality improvement | 8,384 |



Health

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Health education | 491,500 |
| Primary health care | 237,837 |
| Life-saving referral healthcare | 43,409 |



Institutional and Community Support

| | |
|--|-----|
| Total number of locations benefitting* | 202 |
| Total number of projects* | 142 |
| Community infrastructure and services* | 115 |
| Recreational, sporting and community facilities* | 17 |
| Livelihoods activities* | 10 |

* Number of schools, projects or locations, not number of beneficiaries

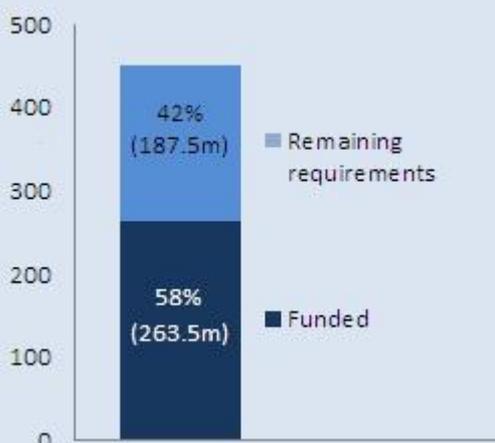
Key Figures

1,164,004 individuals registered or pending registration

39% persons with specific needs

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD **451 m**



September developments

Access to territory and timely registration

- Admissions at the borders continued to be increasingly restrictive, including rumors of an official border closure at the end of the month, which did not occur. The basis for admission or rejection has not been published, but indications are that Syrians with proof of onward travel, professional qualifications, embassy appointments, Lebanese sponsors or, in some cases, those seeking medical treatment unavailable in Syria, are being permitted entry.
- The General Directorate of General Security (GSO) issued a series of circulars during September implementing the Council of Minister's decision of waiving overstay fines. All Syrian refugees who entered Lebanon through official border crossings and overstayed their residency have until December 31, 2014 to regularize their residency without paying the fee. Those who regularize their residency before December 31, 2014, will receive a new residency permit valid for an initial period of 6 months, renewable for an additional period of 6 months free of charge. Syrian refugees who entered Lebanon through unofficial border crossings can also regularize without paying the fee, provided they have identity documentation. Those who regularize their residency will receive a residency permit for 6 months, which is non-renewable. This new policy will benefit refugees without a valid residency (approximately 30% of the total refugee population).
- Approximately 27,000 individuals were newly registered in September, a 16% decrease from the total number of persons registered in August (around 32,000). The number of persons awaiting registration also decreased from approximately 34,000 in August to approximately 24,500 in September, down 28%. The decrease is mainly due to border restrictions.

Protection violations prevented, monitored and addressed

- Largely due to increased security measures, evictions increased from 1,864 persons evicted in August to more than 4,800 in September. 21 evictions from collective sites, mainly informal settlements, were reported in September. At least 17 of these evictions took place in Bekaa and north Lebanon affecting over 2,000 refugees. In Bekaa, evictions were conducted by the Lebanese Armed Forces on the account that refugees were living near military facilities. UNHCR and partners worked to respond through mediation with landlords, municipalities and other stakeholders and, in some cases, provided financial assistance and relocation for vulnerable families.
- IRC, Mercy Corps and Intersos visited over 6,000 refugees in over 700 locations and referred 350 persons with specific needs for assistance in shelter, WASH and school placement. This month, partners focused on monitoring the implementation of the regularization policy, obstacles to access to territory, as well as the increase in security raids in informal settlements and evictions.

Access to legal services and civil status documentation enhanced

- UNHCR received referrals of 1,111 Syrians arrested for questioning over the course of September, including some 730 Syrians who were arrested in Aarsal between 19 and 25 September and released after questioning.
- There are currently 393 Syrian refugees in detention across Lebanon, an 8% increase from August. Of these, 73 Syrians were detained solely on the basis of their irregular status. 57 detention visits were carried out by UNHCR and partners, reaching out to 238 individuals. Of these, 180 individuals received legal counseling and 156 received medical assistance.



Syrian refugee family inside their collective shelter accommodation @ UNHCR

- UNHCR and partners provided legal counseling to 4,093 persons on regularization of legal status, birth registration, housing, land and property rights as well as general security concerns. 96 cases were provided with legal representation before the courts on matters of personal status, including custody documents and marriage registration. 6,508 individuals took part in legal awareness sessions mainly on the regularization process, as well as marriage and birth registration, labor and housing, land and property related issues.

Durable solutions made available

- A total of 1,570 persons were submitted for resettlement in September, bringing the total submissions in 2014 to 7,170 persons (81% of the annual target).
- 520 persons departed Lebanon, bringing the total departure numbers for 2014 to 5,030 persons (85% of annual target).
- This month also saw the last departure to Germany for the 2013 HAP programme.

Achievements: January - September

| Activity |  reached January-September |  2014 Target |
|--|---|---|
| Persons interviewed at the border | 8,154 | 8,000 |
| Persons registered (or pending registration) | 380,626 | 600,000 |
| Monitoring visits | 28,549 | 50,000 |
| Legal counseling | 12,408 | 11,400 |
| Detention visits | 2,453 | 3,000 |
| Persons submitted for HAP and resettlement* | 7,170 | 8,400 |
| Departures (HAP and resettlement)* | 5,030 | 5,900 |

*Includes Syrian and other nationalities

have entered through official crossings have difficulties meeting the residency renewal fees. UNHCR continues to advocate for the waiver of such fees.

Dispersed refugee population: Refugees live in over 1,750 different locations in Lebanon making protection monitoring and information dissemination challenging. Compounded upon this, restrictions on freedom of movement due to security checkpoints, curfews and lack of identification expose refugees to a myriad of vulnerabilities.

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 some villages, places the physical safety of refugees at risk of violence. 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, and
- Ensuring durable and humanitarian solutions are made available.

UNHCR implementing partners

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

Needs

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

Challenges

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

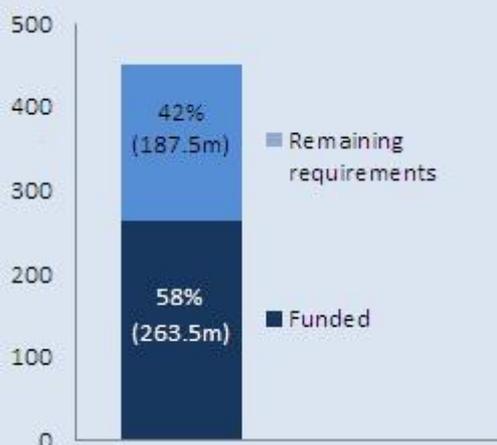
Irregular legal status: An average of 13% of registered refugees have entered through unofficial border crossings and are not able to pay the prohibitive regularization fees. In addition, those who

Key Figures

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 609,217 | registered refugee children |
| 77% | of registered children are under 11 |
| 25% | of registered children are at risk |

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 451 m



September developments

- In the South, UNHCR and partners jointly held focus group meetings with both Syrian refugee and Lebanese children. Key concerns and problems raised by the children include discrimination, child labour, exploitation, limited education opportunities and inability to afford covering basic needs.
- Youth committees in Kherbet Daud and Wadi Khaled organised four information sessions on self-protection and SGBV prevention, which were attended by 117 refugees and Lebanese children.

Identification and referral of children-at-risk

- 247 children at high risk, including unaccompanied minors and separated children, were identified and provided with support, including psychosocial counselling by case management agencies and refugee outreach volunteers (ROVs) across the operation.
- In the Bekaa, Intersos identified and assisted 17 children involved in child labor, including working in agricultural fields, barber shops and grocery stores. These children were provided with psychosocial counseling and families received emergency protection cash assistance to cover transport fees, rent and purchase basic essential items.
- In Qobayat, 139 children were identified and assisted to access specialized services.

Training/coaching

- Peer-to-peer sessions for case workers and ROV's in Bekaa and Akkar focused on responding to child labour and working with parents to address the psychosocial needs of children related to the impact of war and displacement. Sessions were also held for caseworkers and ROVs on working with child survivors of sexual abuse.
- Basic child protection trainings were held for 44 specialized child protection ROVs in Mount Lebanon, Tripoli and South.
- 52 child protection service providers working with different NGOs were trained on child protection concepts, practical skill required to manage complex cases and referral pathways.



Needs

Many refugee children are in need of psychosocial support due to their exposure to violence and other forms of traumatic events. Refugee children who need assistance require proper identification and safe referral. Their needs include prevention and response to physical violence, verbal harassment, exploitation or pressure, particularly among adolescent boys to return to Syria to fight. Refugee children subject to sexual violence, child labour and early marriage also require proper identification and referral for appropriate assistance by trained professionals. Separated or unaccompanied children need safe living arrangements and assistance to help trace and reunite them with their families, whenever possible.

Educational opportunities, support to parents, activities targeting adolescents and youth can contribute to protect refugee children against negative coping mechanisms and a wide range of child-specific protection risks.

Challenges

Fragile national child protection system: The national child protection system is struggling to provide appropriate care and services to refugee children at risks of abuse and exploitation and children survivors of violence. The Union for the Protection of Children is the only organization mandated by the Ministry of Justice to investigate cases involving child abuse and violence. UNHCR works together with implementing partners to provide support to both refugee children and national institutions providing services to refugees.

Protracted displacement: With limited access to livelihood opportunities, and dwindling resources, some families resort to child labour and other negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage. As their time in displacement prolongs, the lack of educational opportunities for the majority of school-aged Syrian children presents a significant challenge. Currently, there are over 200,000 school-aged refugee children who lack access to age-appropriate education due to the fact that the capacity of the public education system is overstretched.

Dispersed refugee population: Since refugees live in over 1,750 different locations in Lebanon, outreach to refugee children to identify and respond to their needs is both a challenge and priority. Outreach is crucial to ensuring that refugee children are registered with UNHCR and have access to basic services. It is also important in ensuring that parents register the birth of newborns, and that school-aged children living in remote areas and those with specific protection risks have access to education, health care and other services.

Strategy

UNHCR works to ensure that refugee children at risk and/or victims of violence have timely access to appropriate services by:

- Improving outreach to ensure identification and safe referral of children at risks and victims of violence through training of refugee outreach volunteers, frontline workers and others providing services to refugee children;
- Building capacity of child protection actors to better prevent and respond to child protection needs particularly through the establishment of a coaching mechanism for social workers;
- Strengthening national child protection system to ensure emergency referral and provision of adequate care for children at high risks, and reinforce to existing services such as psychosocial support and legal counselling;
- Mainstreaming child protection into all activities carried out within refugee and host communities especially within the health, education and shelter sectors;
- Advocating for expanding access to services for both refugee and Lebanese children;
- Contributing to the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave child rights violations committed in Syria;

UNHCR co-leads the inter-agency working group on child protection together with the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNICEF, and works to ensure the complementarity of interventions benefiting refugee children.

UNHCR implementing partners

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

Achievements: January – September

| Activity |  reached January- September |  2014 Target |
|--|--|--|
| Identified children at risk referred and assisted | 2,306 | 1,515 |
| Training for persons working with refugee children (# individuals trained) | 646 | 600 |

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Update

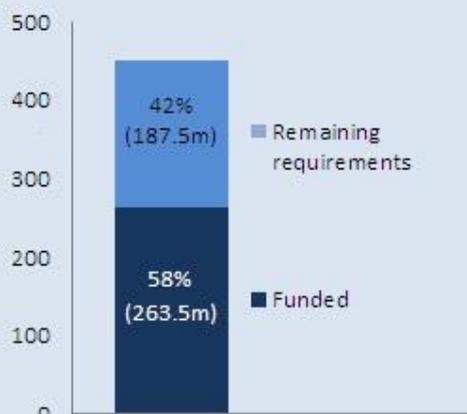
September 2014

Key Figures

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 1,164,004 | individuals registered or pending registration |
| 80% | of refugees are women and children |
| 39% | of women and girl refugees have specific needs |
| 30% | of refugee households are female headed |

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 451 m



September developments

- In Akkar, UNHCR conducted training for Concern Worldwide staff members and refugee volunteers working in collective shelters on SGBV basic concepts, survivor-centered approaches, and safe referral to specialised service providers.
- In collaboration with GlobeMed Lebanon, UNHCR supported the roll-out of special procedures for medical care, referrals and medical coverage of SGBV survivors through contracted health facilities across Lebanon. The new procedures will improve access to medical care in a timely manner for SGBV survivors.
- Over 2,830 community members, including Syrian refugees and Lebanese, attended information sessions on SGBV organised by UNHCR implementing partners through community-based outreach and women's resource centres.
- 308 survivors and individuals at risk of being exposed to SGBV accessed support services, including psychosocial, medical care, legal and life skills programmes through on-site and mobile outreach by UNHCR implementing partners.
- In Mount Lebanon, 596 community members attended information sessions on SGBV basic principles, early marriage, reproductive health, communication and conflict resolution topics organised by INTERSOS during the reporting period.

Achievements: January - September

| Activity | reached January- September | 2014 Target |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Provision of assistance for identified survivors | 100% | 100% |
| Persons at risk identified and supported* | 5,980 | - |
| Safe spaces established for women/girls | 13 | 13 |
| Mid-way houses maintained | 2 | 2 |
| Individuals trained and sensitized on SGBV prevention and response | 14,783 | 15,000 |
| Men and boys mobilized on SGBV | 33 | 330 |

*Individuals identified as at protection risk who benefitted from psychosocial support and counselling services.

Needs

Refugee women and children are disproportionately affected by SGBV. Unaccompanied girls and adolescents, single heads of households, child mothers and spouses, and women and girls living with disabilities are among the most at risk. 25% of survivors of reported SGBV cases are under 18 years of age.

As local and institutional capacities to address SGBV-related issues are overstretched, refugees need support both for SGBV prevention and response. Due to the negative social stigma associated with SGBV and risks to personal security, survivors are often reluctant to seek assistance. In order to encourage SGBV survivors to seek assistance, the availability of specialized services and safe spaces is essential. Survivors also need emergency and life-saving services including medical services, which are often inadequate or lacking. Psycho-social and legal support services need systematic and institutional support to strengthen their capacity. Above all, these services need to be available and accessible to refugees.



Syrian refugee girl returns home briefly from her morning shift in a vineyard near Kafrayashe. She lives in an informal settlement, in the Bekaa @UNHCR / A. McConnell

Refugee women and girls are in need of safe spaces, such as the twelve centres, including the Women's Resource Centres, which provide life skills activities and help women establish support networks. Community mediation initiatives, including the engagement of men and boys remain critical to address the root causes of violence.

Challenges

Dispersed refugee population: Due to the dispersal of refugees in over 1,750 locations, community outreach efforts require significant allocation of resources and time. Yet, community outreach is a priority, in particular to provide access to services for women and girls at risk, whose mobility is restricted due to security concerns and cultural values, coupled with lack of documentation among refugees and growing tensions with host communities. Additionally, weak legal framework, limited resources and risk to personal security prevent survivors to come forward and seek services.

Lack of accommodation: With the numbers of refugees increasing, overcrowding and lack of privacy in shared accommodation, such as collective shelters and tented settlements, places refugees at heightened risk for SGBV.

Lack of income-generation opportunities: Scarce economic opportunities coupled with the high costs of accommodation and associated living expenses causes some families to resort to negative coping mechanisms which place refugees at heightened risk of SGBV. These include: early marriage, child labour and survival sex.

Strategy

SGBV prevention and response activities are being pursued in close cooperation with UN agencies and NGO partners. UNHCR also works closely with the Government in the areas of social services, security, and the judiciary. UNHCR works to improve access to quality of services related to SGBV prevention and response, including:

- Providing safe environments for women and girls through mass communication, community mobilization, and establishment of Women Resource Centres and listening and counseling centres;
- Improving outreach to refugees, including through mobile activities to ensure identification and safe referral of SGBV survivors and those at risk;
- Strengthening existing specialized services for SGBV survivors, such as psychosocial, medical and legal services.
- Promoting engagement of men and boys in SGBV prevention and response;
- Strengthening key partnerships with UN agencies, NGOs, Government, and local communities to reinforce SGBV prevention, response and coordination mechanism.
- Using integrated programming to mainstream SGBV prevention and response into all sectors, in particular: shelter, WASH and child protection.

UNHCR implementing partners

Amel Association, Caritas Lebanon Migrants Centre (CMLC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC); INTERSOS, International Medical Corps (IMC); Internal Relief and Development (IRD), Makhzoumi Foundation, Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), Oxfam, Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Save the Children, and Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHIELD).

Contact: Katie Ogwang (ogwangk@unhcr.org)

Key Figures

- 36,871** Syrian newborns registered (March 2011-September 2014)
- 70%** Syrian newborns lack official birth certificates*
- 40%** Syrian newborns lack official birth certificates because their parents lack documentation required by civil registries*

* This is based on a survey of 7,731 newborns registered with UNHCR between 1 August 2013 and 31 March 2014.

Excerpt from information leaflet on birth registration



Animated film on birth registration available at:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=AX0j243WnTk

September developments

- UNHCR held three capacity building workshops on civil registration in Tripoli, Zahle and Tyr with participants from five different ministries. Discussions involved how to improve communication between hospitals and civil registries, and simplify procedures. These meetings are part of a series of workshops undertaken in partnership with the local NGO Frontiers Ruwad Association with a goal to strengthen civil registration in Lebanon, in order to protect children and prevent statelessness.
- UNHCR produced a storytelling video on statelessness and civil registration, available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5V0i07w1oM&feature=youtu.be. In the video, Layal explains how the failure of her Lebanese grandfather to register the birth of his children resulted in her statelessness and the impact this has had on her life. The storytelling video will be used for training sessions with the authorities. In addition, Layal's story will be featured in a global video for the launch of the Global Statelessness Campaign on 4 November.
- Six delegates from Lebanon attended the Global Forum on Statelessness held in The Hague. A representative from the Ministry of Justice gave a presentation on birth registration and statelessness for persons of Lebanese origins during a thematic panel. Interest in developing a network on statelessness in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region was expressed by MENA participants.

Achievements: January – September

| Activity |  reached January-September |  2014 Target |
|---|---|---|
| Individuals receiving information on birth registration | 28,330 | 22,000 |
| Families of newborns provided with individual counselling on birth registration | 8,323 | 9,000 |
| Training on birth registration with officials and front-liners | 462 | 600 |
| Individuals provided with legal assistance for civil registration/nationality cases | 584 | 1,000 |

Needs

There are estimated to be tens of thousands of stateless persons in Lebanon. The exact number is difficult to ascertain. Two significant reasons for this are that there has not been an official census since 1932 and many stateless persons do not have civil registration records. There are a number of different profiles of stateless persons in Lebanon, as well as individuals who are at risk of statelessness. Stateless persons in Lebanon face obstacles in accessing healthcare, education, social services, as well as the labour market. They are unable to move freely and face risks of detention and arrest.



Challenges

Influx of Syrians: With the continued arrival of refugees from Syria, the number of stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness has risen. Stateless refugees in Lebanon include Syrian Kurds who were denaturalised in Syria in 1962. Since March 2011, 36,871 Syrian refugees have been born in Lebanon and, according to a UNHCR survey of 7,731 Syrian newborns, 70% do not possess an official birth certificate.

Gaps in legislative framework: Lebanon is not a signatory to either the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons or the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The Lebanese nationality law contains gender-discriminatory provisions, which only allow a Lebanese woman to confer her nationality to her children in exceptional circumstances. Provisions for naturalisation are highly politicised and at the discretion of the Lebanese State. Safeguards against statelessness at birth are interpreted very narrowly by the courts.

Gaps in administrative framework: Not all children are registered at birth in Lebanon. This is despite the fact that Lebanon is a State Party to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child which requires the registration of the birth of every child and reaffirms a child's right to a nationality. Barriers to birth registration include a complex procedure with onerous requirements for documentation.

Strategy

UNHCR has a global mandate to work on the identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness, and the protection of stateless persons. In Lebanon, UNHCR is working to respond to statelessness through three strategic actions.

- **Identification of the population:** The advancement of rights and protection for stateless persons in Lebanon is constrained by the lack of data on persons concerned. UNHCR is supporting a survey on statelessness in Lebanon being undertaken by a local NGO called Frontiers Ruwad Association. UNHCR is also undertaking qualitative research on statelessness through individual casework and participatory assessment. This information is contributing to the strategy for the prevention and reduction of statelessness as well as the protection of stateless persons.
- **Advocacy for legislative changes:** UNHCR works with the Lebanese government for improvements to the Lebanese nationality law, access to civil registration, as well as the protection of stateless persons. The Lebanese Ministries of Interior, Justice, Health, Education and Social Affairs have appointed statelessness focal points who are engaged with UNHCR bilaterally and are also participating in working groups on statelessness and civil registration.
- **Direct assistance:** UNHCR is assisting Syrian refugees to access civil registration procedures in Lebanon. UNHCR has implemented a legal aid project on statelessness which focuses on assisting unregistered persons of Lebanese origin to access Lebanese nationality. UNHCR has initiated a national campaign on birth registration in partnership with Frontiers Ruwad Association and with the support of the Ministries of Interior, Social Affairs, Public Health, Education and Justice.

UNHCR implementing partners

Caritas, International Relief and Development (IRD), Frontiers Ruwad Association, and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Contact: Ana Pollard (pollard@unhcr.org)

Community Development Update September 2014

Key Figures

1,164,004 individuals registered or pending registration

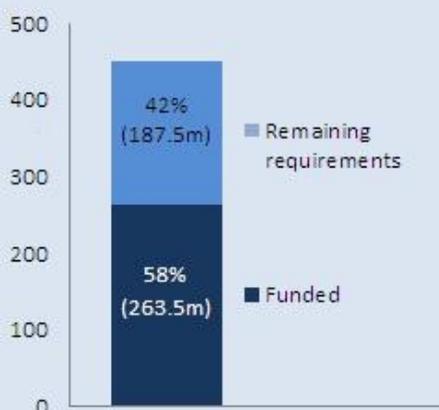
80% of refugees are women and children

39% of women and girl refugees have specific needs

25% of children are at risk

Funding

UNHCR total requirements 2014: USD 451m



September developments

Community empowerment

- Over 2,300 families were referred this month by 396 Refugee Outreach Volunteers (ROVs) to UNHCR and partners for assessment and support.
- Refugee concerns and questions received by ROVs this month related to the recent regularization of legal status and border restrictions. Increased numbers of evictions of refugees in the Bekaa and the North were also reported.
- Countrywide, 28,000 refugees and Lebanese participated in educational, recreational and life-skills development activities or benefitted from psychosocial support offered by UNHCR and partners.
- More than 12,000 individuals received basic counselling and referral to existing services through MOSA Social Development Centres (SDCs).
- A countrywide assessment of 28 UNHCR-supported community centres was conducted, indicating high levels of satisfaction among beneficiaries regarding centre activities and programmes for refugees and Lebanese host-communities. UNHCR is addressing gaps noted at the level of management committees, refugee structures, and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.

Case management

- 284 refugees received one-time cash assistance this month for urgent protection-related needs. 183 of them are living in the South, 30 in Qobayat, 53 in Beirut / Mount Lebanon, and 18 in the Bekaa. 2,367 persons have received such assistance since beginning 2014.

Self-reliance

- 325 persons (30% Lebanese) benefitted from vocational trainings, and entrepreneurship training, such as business development training.
- 101 persons (30% Lebanese) received training on wage-earning employment.

Achievements: January – September

| Activity | Reached January - September | 2014 Target |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Specific needs cases referred through volunteers | 46,500 | 75,000 |
| Life-skills and vocational training provided | 43,629 | 30,030 |
| Refugee outreach volunteers mobilized | 396 | 750 |
| Community centres established | 28 | 50 |

Needs

Shelter, healthcare, education and self-reliance are among the main needs voiced by Syrian refugees. At the same time, each sub-group of the refugee population faces different protection risks related to their specific needs. Various assessments to date indicate a strong correlation between protection risks and limited self-reliance opportunities e.g. working children, survival sex, early marriage, etc. According to UNHCR's *Women Alone* report issued in July 2014, many of the challenges faced by female-headed households stem from their increasing economic distress. The report further highlighted the need to build on refugee women's skills and to counter isolation by expanding the network of community centers and safe spaces. A UNFPA assessment on Syrian youth (15-24 year-olds) showed that 89% described themselves as depressed, anxious or afraid most of the time. Youth considered unemployment and security conditions as negatively affecting their psychological status and their propensity to violence, as well as their gender relations within households.

Persons living with disabilities have low self-esteem, feel unproductive and are finding it difficult to integrate in their communities. Older persons expressed feelings of isolation, neglect and of being a burden on their families. With a dispersed Syrian population and limited capacities, UNHCR is exploring innovative ways to reach out and timely identify needs, risks and priorities, as well as to engage and support refugees in offering solutions.



Challenges

Dispersed refugee population: With the widespread dispersal of refugees in over 1,750 locations throughout Lebanon, there is a need to build on existing outreach and support initiatives to prevent and respond to the immense scale of protection risks.

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 livelihood programmes for Syrians. The imposition 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.

Overstretched social services and limited job opportunities: According to a livelihood assessment of the ILO, 30% of the refugees are unemployed and 88% of the employed are unskilled or semi-skilled labourers, paid 40% less than the minimum wage in Lebanon, with an average salary of 277 USD per month. Female Syrian workers earn 30% less than male workers, with an average salary of 165 USD per month.

Strategy

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

- Assist refugees at risk to access basic services;
- Strengthen outreach to refugees and host communities;
- Empower and promote self-management in communities;
- Increase self-reliance opportunities;
- Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Development Centres.

UNHCR implementing partners

Amel Association, Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (CMLC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), INTERSOS, International Alert, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Makhzoumi Foundation, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Right to Play, Search for Common Ground (SFCG), Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

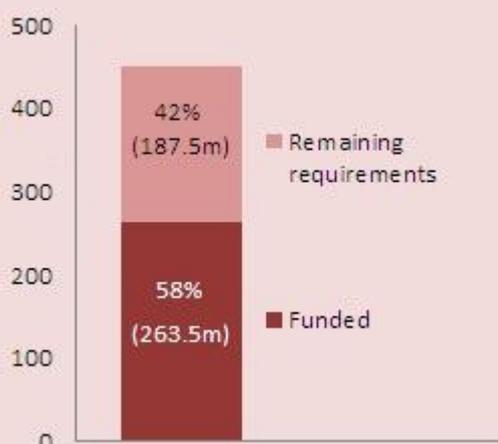
Key Figures

395,761 School aged Syrian refugee children (5-17 years old) currently registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR

90,000 Syrian refugee children enrolled in public schools in 2013/2014 (5 – 17 years old), both first and second shift.

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD **451 m**



September developments

- Accelerated learning programmes are being completed. Catch-up programmes in public schools ended on 22 September at the Ministry's request allowing the formal school year to start.
- In line with the Government strategic plan R.A.C.E. (Reaching All Children with Education) UNHCR is ready to support the enrolment of 10,000 children in the first shift and 32,000 in second shift as well as supporting improvements in the quality of education along with its partners.
- The Ministry has adopted a gradual approach, opening enrolment first for Lebanese children, and then for non-Lebanese students who had been registered in public schools for at least three years. The Ministry however announced a major shift of policy to open enrolment for up to 100,000 children in the first shift (until 1st November) and 57,000 in the second shift (modalities for this second shift are still awaited).
- Outreach and monitoring with refugee parents is on-going to ensure information on enrolment in schools is disseminated to parents.
- 60 refugees will benefit from DAFI, a UNHCR global scholarship programme for selected candidates to start or resume their tertiary education in Lebanese universities. The scholarships will cover registration fees and subsistence allowance costs enabling young motivated refugees to achieve academic success while being of inspiration for their community fellows.

Achievements: January - September

| Activity | Reached January-September | 2014 Target |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|
| Total number of children supported for primary education in the "first shift" (school year 2014/2015) | 0* | 15,000 |
| Syrian refugee children supported for primary education in the "second shift" (school year 2014/2015) | 0* | 32,000 |
| Syrian refugee children enrolled in accelerated learning programmes | 17,500 | 15,000 |
| Syrian refugee children enrolled in remedial classes after school | 3,513 | 2,100 |
| Total children supported in school year 2013/2014 | | |
| Formal education | 64,000 | 52,000 |
| Children with special needs | 62 | 500 |

*Awaiting Ministry's decision to start enrolling refugee children

Contact: Audrey Nirrengarten (nirrenga@unhcr.org)

Needs

Refugee children need to continue their education in Lebanon after being uprooted from their homes and schools in Syria. Local public schools in Lebanon do not currently have the capacity and resources to accommodate the large increase in the number of school-aged children. The Ministry of Education launched the R.A.C.E. initiative to enhance resources and build capacity of schools to receive these children. While exact numbers are not available, it is estimated that more than 50% of Syrian refugee children aged 5 to 17 are excluded from any form of education (some children might be enrolled in private and Syrian schools). Among these, adolescents are the most affected, due to discontinuity in schooling and inability to catch up in class, high drop-out rates and widespread pressure to financially support their families.

Challenges

Based on assessments and profiling of out-of-school children, Syrian children face the following obstacles to learning: financial difficulties compelling families to recourse to child labour, differences between the Lebanese and Syrian curriculum, language barriers, lack of school readiness, lack of transportation to schools, and other incurred costs such as uniforms. Access to education and inclusion for children with specific needs remains a challenge. Assessments highlight the importance of mobilizing and building awareness among parents to overcome some of these difficulties, and UNHCR's 70 education refugee outreach volunteers play a critical role in this respect.

Ensuring that the quality of education is not compromised by expanding access to education is both a challenge and a priority. Overstretched school resources not only negatively affect learning outcomes; they also have the potential to fuel discriminatory attitudes, frustration and occasional violence. To help mitigate these tensions, UNHCR and partners distribute school materials and equipment to all students, both Syrians and Lebanese. The Government plan R.A.C.E. also calls for support to improve teacher training and learning environments.

Monitoring school retention rates and learning outcomes for both refugee and Lebanese children remains a key challenge for 2014-2015. Real-time monitoring of attendance would help inform response measures to prevent drop-out and sustain learning progress. System strengthening, especially with the Department of Counselling and Guidance, is also planned with the support of UNICEF.

Strategy

UNHCR has a three-fold strategy for education of school-aged children:

- **Formal Education**

Support resources mobilization for the Ministry of Education to ensure quality access to first and second shift schooling for refugee children, provide access to secondary and vocational education, create space for children in the public system and build social cohesion in and around schools. Scholarships for higher education are also provided.

- **Non-Formal Education**

Increase other educational opportunities for school-aged children including through better identification of out-of-school children, Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP) and other ways to prepare children for access to certified and quality education.

- **Support to the Ministry of Education**

The Ministry of Education launched the three year strategy, *Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon (R.A.C.E.)* in May 2014 aiming to enrol more than 400,000 children in education by 2016. UNHCR supports the initiative through coordination, secondment of staff to central and regional offices to ensure information-management and monitoring, and provides equipment and material support to schools and regional offices.



UNHCR implementing partners

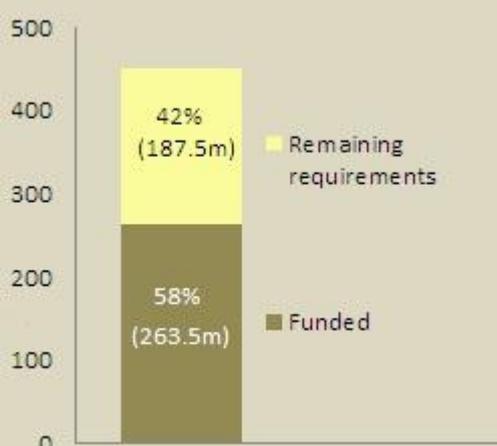
ACTED, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC), Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children (SCI), Terre des Hommes (TdH), War Child Holland (WCH).

Key Figures

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1,164,004 | individuals registered or pending registration |
| 7,297 | registered refugee households with cash ATM cards for unconditional cash assistance |
| 407 | Newcomer and other families assisted with standard CRIs |

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 451m



September developments:

Cash Assistance

- The second round of the unconditional cash assistance programme has reached 7,297 families for the month of September. (6,086 families have been assisted since August and 1,211 are new this month). Each family received 260,000 LBP via ATM Cards.

Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- 407 families received CRI newcomer kits distributed by UNHCR along with Terre des Hommes, CISP, SHEILD, Solidar Suisse and ACTED.
- 500 families in the South and the Bekaa benefitted from hygiene kits, baby kits and sleeping mats distributed by UNHCR in collaboration with Action Contre La Faim and the Municipality of Fekha.

Achievements: January - September

| Activity | reached January-September | 2014 Target |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Unconditional cash assistance | 36,485 | 55,000 |
| Cash-for-shelter | 25,751 | 31,170 |
| Emergency cash-for-protection | 2,367 | 16,500 |
| Cash-for-hygiene and baby kits | 213,935 | 203,000 |
| CRIs for newcomers and others in need | 35,550 | 96,780 |

Needs

Refugee households throughout Lebanon are struggling to meet their basic needs as they lack access to income generating opportunities and as family resources and savings are dwindling. With most households relying on market provided goods and services and accommodation, financial support is critical for the survival of vulnerable families. As an alternative to in-kind assistance and distribution of core relief items, refugees frequently express a preference for financial assistance which enables them to prioritize their needs and saves time and costs of travelling to distribution sites.

Challenges

Reduced livelihood opportunities: The UNHCR winterization baseline survey showed that only 22 per cent of interviewed households were able to generate an income. From those completely dependent on others, over 90% cited lack of work as the main problem. Medical conditions or disability were mentioned rarely. Without cash assistance these families are at risk of resorting to negative coping mechanisms or suffering from a further worsening of their living conditions.

High cost of living: The high cost of living in Lebanon has forced many households to move into substandard accommodation to reduce costs. The monthly cash assistance via ATM transfer is a contribution to the most vulnerable households to meet their essential needs to survive.

Poor infrastructure, weather and insecurity: Given the dispersed refugee population and the large number of refugees, distribution of CRIs requires coordinated procurement, transportation, storage and distribution. Moreover, ATM machines are not available in Wadi Khaled and Aarsal. UNHCR is therefore providing assistance via fuel vouchers and in-kind stoves in these areas.

Dispersed refugee population: Refugees live in over 1,750 locations in Lebanon. This complicates conducting quality needs assessments and designing assistance according to requirements, gender and age household composition. It also hinders the distribution of in-kind CRIs and increases logistic costs.

Security concerns: In some parts of the country, refugees face movement restrictions and poor access to markets and ATMs. UNHCR and partner agencies are reviewing options to address the needs of this group.

Strategy

UNHCR is moving towards the increased use of ATM cards for cash assistance, a process that started with the winterization programme. The use of ATM cards has a several key advantages:

- Given that refugees live in more than 1,750 locations across Lebanon, ATM cards provide a practical means for prompt delivery of cash assistance to refugees in the country.
- ATM cards empower refugees by providing a dignified means of receiving cash, saving time spent at or travelling to distribution sites.
- Cash cards enable UNHCR and partners to make the best use of available funds. They eliminate costs related to procurement, storage, and distribution of in-kind assistance.
- Monitoring of electronically recorded transactions allows partners to better assess refugee needs.

In 2014, UNHCR shifted from sector-specific cash assistance to a more comprehensive 'unconditional' strategy to administer monthly cash grants with the objective of targeting the most vulnerable refugees. The refugee population at large will continue to benefit from protection services, food, health and education and other *ad hoc* emergency interventions. In this way, cash assistance via ATM supplements, other forms of assistance.

Emergency Stocks: UNHCR maintains a capacity to respond to a sudden increase in new arrivals all through 2014 or in case of internal displacement.

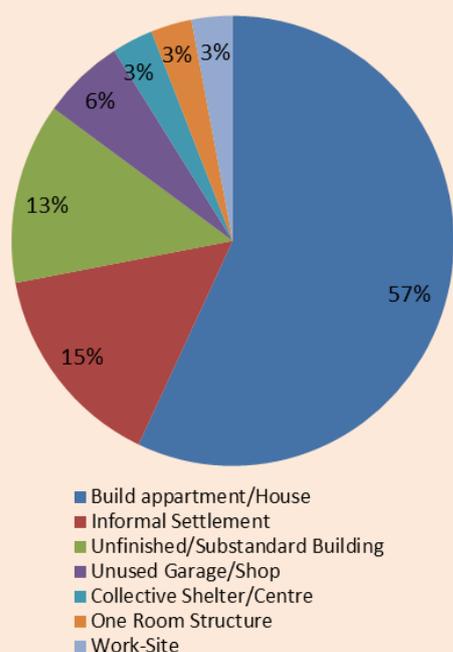
UNHCR implementing partners

Action Contre La Faim; Agence d'aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED); Caritas, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP); Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI); Save the Children; Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD); Solidar Suisse; Terre des Hommes -Italy, World Vision (WVI).



Distribution of ATM cards in Mount Lebanon, Beirut @ UNHCR

Key Figures

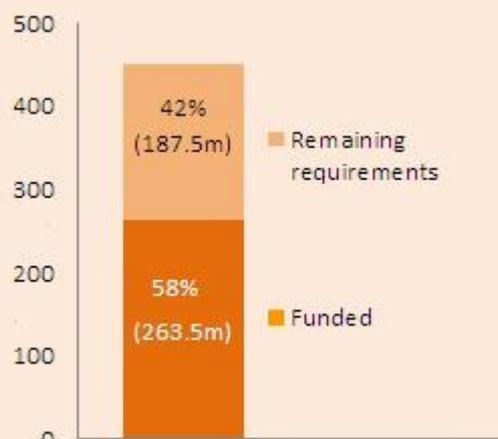


September developments

- Over 26,011 families (130,056 individuals) have benefitted from shelter assistance in 2014.
- 137 families received cash-for-shelter in Koura, Batroun, and Tyre, provided by UNHCR in partnership with COOPI and SHIELD.
- 3,624 refugee families living in informal settlements and unfinished houses in Bekaa, Hasbeya, Tyre, Saida, Jezzine, Chouf, and Aley were provided with weatherproofing kits.
- In response to fires that occurred in North Bekaa, 11 families received newcomer kits by Medair in collaboration with Ras-Baalback and Qaa municipalities. In addition, 55 families living in five informal settlements benefitted from the site improvement works conducted by Medair.
- UNHCR rehabilitated small shelter units for 250 families living in Bekaa, Tripoli, Mount Lebanon, and the South. Following events in Aarsal, partners are facing increased challenges when contracting housing units, as owners are less interested in renting accommodation for refugees and municipalities are imposing restrictions on the use of public services.
- UNHCR is managing 20 collective centers in Akkar, home to 383 refugee families. This month, UNHCR rehabilitated collective shelters for 204 vulnerable families living in Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, Tripoli, and the South.
- Out of 12 schools in Lebanon undergoing rehabilitation, two have already been completed in Mount Lebanon. In addition, rehabilitation works planned in three rented schools in Tripoli were put temporarily on hold after owners refused to sign rental agreements. UNHCR is working jointly with the Ministry of Education to solve the problem with both owners and school directors.

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 451 m



Achievements: January – September

| Activity | Reached January-September | Reached January-September | Target by end of 2014 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total beneficiaries from shelter support | 26,011 | 130,056 | 382,731 |
| Informal settlements weatherproofed | 7,400 | 36,999 | 73,584 |
| Site improvement | 1,193 | 5,964 | 41,250 |
| Unfinished houses weatherproofed | 5,591 | 27,956 | 112,580 |
| Cash-for-rent | 8,117 | 40,587 | 47,330 |
| Apart/Houses rehabilitated | 2,251 | 11,256 | 41,234 |
| Collective shelters renovated | 1,319 | 6,594 | 9,979 |
| Formal tented settlements | 70 | 350 | 38,250 |

Needs

Shelter remains an urgent concern, especially as refugees run out of resources to pay rent. With constantly increasing numbers of refugees in Lebanon, more and more live in substandard dwellings, with limited privacy and protection from the elements.

Refugee needs include:

- Adequate shelter and dignified living conditions for everyone;
- Improvements to existing dwellings, in particular, materials (and tools) to seal off shelters from cold weather;
- Support to the most vulnerable who rent accommodation

Challenges

Lack of wide-scale shelter options: In the absence of facilities capable of receiving large numbers of refugees, the demand for affordable and decent shelter greatly exceeds availability. The dispersion of the refugee population in over 1,750 locations requires a multi-faceted shelter strategy and close coordination with host communities, local authorities and civil society.

Evictions: With an increasing refugee population, a saturated and fluctuating housing market and growing tensions between host communities and refugees, the number of evictions is growing every month.

Increased resort to informal settlements: The growth of informal settlements, currently home to over 193,000 refugees, presents risks to refugees and increases tensions with surrounding communities. Identifying alternatives with municipalities and local actors is an on-going challenge.

Strategy

UNHCR will prioritize the provision of temporary (emergency) shelter while continuing to support longer-term options where available by:

- Providing safe emergency shelter to newly arriving families including through establishment and management of temporary shelter sites in West Bekaa and Akkar;
- Weatherproofing and improving informal settlements;
- Assisting vulnerable families through cash for renting accommodation;
- Rehabilitating and weatherproofing substandard shelters;
- Expanding collective shelter capacity through rehabilitation of private and public buildings
- Ensuring preparedness for sudden mass influx by stocking sufficient emergency shelter solutions (sealing-off kits, materials to improve shelters and temporary shelters including UNHCR family tents); and
- Including Lebanese host communities in shelter assistance schemes such as cash-for-rent or rehabilitation of host's property.



UNHCR implementing partners

Agence d'aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Concern, Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Islamic Relief (IR), MEDAIR, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), PCPM (Polish Centre for International Aid), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD) and UN-HABITAT.

Contact: Vincent Dupin (dupin@unhcr.org)

UNHCR Lebanon

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Update



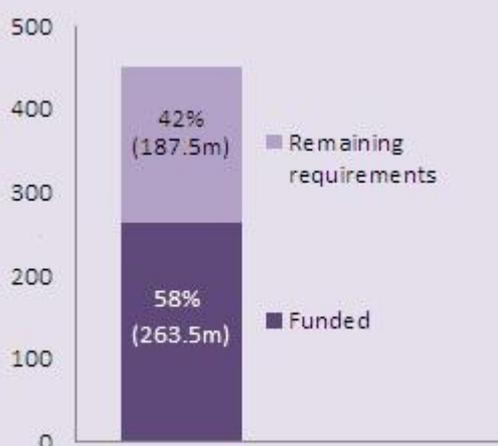
September 2014

Key Figures

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1,164,004 | 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 total requirements: USD 451m



September developments

- The municipality of Ardeh (North Lebanon) received from CISP a truck for collecting solid waste. This will ensure an increased capacity for the municipality to keep public spaces clean and the community of over 3,000 Lebanese and 500 Syrian refugees will benefit from improved sanitation conditions.
- 1,546 Syrian refugees living in collective centres in Kirbit Daoud, Miniyara, and Wadi El Jamous (Akkar) have benefitted from enhanced access to water and solid waste collection. They also attended hygiene promotion sessions carried out by Concern Worldwide.
- 193 Lebanese and Syrian students can now access safe water and toilets in a public school in Jbeil thanks to WASH works completed by CHF. Moreover, 1,965 refugees have benefitted from the installation of 131 latrines in the informal settlements of Dalhamiye, Taminine, Turbol, and Tamine El Fawka municipalities (Bekaa) by ACF.
- The 50,000-member community of Iklim Al Kharoub (Mount Lebanon) will have access to cleaner drinking water thanks to the six water reservoirs currently under construction by ACTED and CHF.
- In the Bekaa, 15,797 refugees benefitted from desludging and water trucking activities in Aarsal, Marj and Kefardinis, ensuring improved distribution of safe drinking water. Moreover, 248 water tanks and 77 water filters were distributed in Aarsal and other informal settlements in central Bekka, which will benefit from better quality drinking water.

Achievements: January – September

| Activity | Reached January -September | Target 2014 |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Hygiene items | 605,462 | 400,938 |
| Hygiene promotion sessions | 156,613 | 593,700 |
| Water supply | 228,696 | 227,800 |
| Water quality improvement | 8,384 | 695,100 |
| Solid waste management | 68,146 | 383,550 |
| Repair/construction of sanitation facilities | 51,800 | 384,550 |

Needs

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

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.



Challenges

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 country creates a significant risk for the spread of diseases, should there be an outbreak in one area. The Government's urgent action is needed to resolve the problem.

Dispersed refugee population: Different solutions are needed in different areas, given the dispersion of refugees over a wide geographical area. For example, in some areas water shortages can only be addressed through infrastructure projects which need 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 water networks and providing the means for safe water storage;
- **Improving basic sanitation**, including through the installation of emergency hygiene facilities and improving the capacity of local communities to collect and dispose of solid waste;
- **Promotion of good hygiene practices:** provision of basic hygiene items to newcomers as well as participation in outreach activities to refugees and host communities during hygiene promotion activities.

UNHCR implementing partners

Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Agence d'aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC), Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF), Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Concern Worldwide, INTERSOS, Makzhoumi Foundation, Oxfam, Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD), World Vision (WVI).

Key Figures

1,164,004 Individuals registered or pending registration

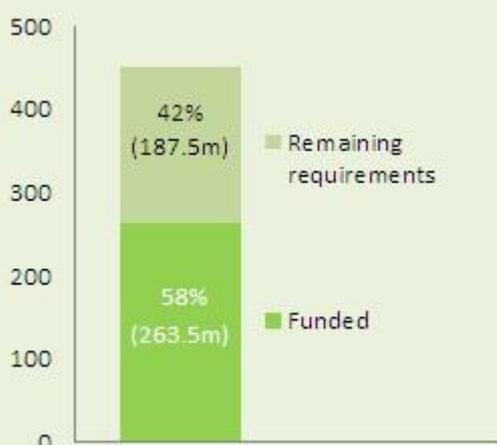
40 # UNHCR supported primary health centers

4 # UNHCR supported mobile clinics

66 # UNHCR supported hospitals

Funding

UNHCR total requirements 2014: USD **451m**



September developments

- 27,654 patients received primary health care (PHC) with UNHCR support this month and 4,654 people received life-saving hospital care and support. The most common reason for hospitalization remains maternal care.
- UNHCR and GlobeMed Lebanon held a workshop on referrals for secondary health care. The workshop was part of UNHCR's ongoing effort to streamline the referral process and review the selection of the 66 network referral hospitals to ensure an appropriate balance of coverage taking into account cost-efficiencies of UNHCR's support for emergency and lifesaving health care for refugees.
- The Ministry of Public Health's Mother and Child Health Care Initiative which provides quality primary healthcare services to mothers and children was expanded to four primary healthcare centres linked to the Rachaya Governmental Hospital. Chronic medication, tuberculosis drugs and insulin were provided to the Ministry of Public Health to be distributed through its network of 190 PHC's. In Beirut's Rafik Hariri University Hospital, the rehabilitation of the country's first negative pressure rooms for isolation of infectious patients has started and will be completed by the end of October.

Achievements: January - September

| Activity | reached January-September | 2014 Target |
|--|---------------------------|-------------|
| Primary health care (including reproductive and mental health) | 237,837 | 240,000 |
| Life-saving referral healthcare | 43,409 | 60,000 |
| Health education | 491,500 | 700,000 |

Needs

As a consequence of the violence in Syria and the destruction of public infrastructure, many refugees arrive with health conditions that require immediate attention. Others have developed health problems during displacement related to trauma and substandard living conditions. Common health care needs of refugees include: reproductive health care and family planning, child health care (i.e. vaccinations), treatment for acute illnesses (respiratory infections, gastrointestinal diseases), chronic diseases (hypertension, diabetes) and mental health. In light of their limited financial resources, refugees need support in accessing primary, secondary and tertiary health care within the public and private health care systems.



Dr. Salahdar, speaks with a patient at the El Iman Primary Health Care Clinic in Al Minah, Tripoli, Lebanon @ UNHCR/ S. Baldwin

Challenges

Needs for health care exceed available resources: With the daily increase in the number of refugees, UNHCR resources are not able to meet all health care needs. Even for prioritized life-saving interventions financial resources are severely stretched. Lifesaving interventions in the area of maternal and infant health (surgical deliveries by caesarean section and care of premature infants) are extremely costly.

Difficulties in accessing health care services: Physical access to health care centers is a challenge for some refugees in remote locations. Access is also limited by short working hours and lack of trained health personnel. Visits of mobile medical units are in place to address this obstacle, but providing coverage in all areas remains a challenge. UNHCR's network of 40 PHC centers needs strengthening to offer comprehensive services and adequate follow-up for chronic conditions.

High cost of health care: Refugees are charged the same medical fees as the Lebanese. Despite contributions by UNHCR and other partners in health centres supported by the humanitarian community, many refugees still find it difficult to cover the remaining costs of medical treatment. In addition, medications and diagnostic tests are frequently overprescribed thereby increasing costs borne by both the refugees and UNHCR. Moreover, some providers require upfront payment of costs that are not covered by UNHCR.

Strategy

The role of UNHCR vis-à-vis refugee health is to facilitate, monitor, and advocate for refugee access to health care services in Lebanon.

- **Primary Health Care:**

UNHCR supports a network of PHC centres, which serve as an entry point for medical care. Through its partners, UNHCR covers most of the consultation fees for all refugees and 85% of the cost of diagnostic procedures for selected groups (including pregnant women, children under 5 and adults over 65 years). UNHCR is also working to expand the existing network of mobile medical units to ensure access free of charge for the most vulnerable refugees and those living in remote locations. UNHCR prioritizes essential services for those most in need, especially reproductive healthcare, services for infants and young children, and mental health care services. By improving access to appropriate PHC services, UNHCR aims to minimize the need for secondary health care.

- **Secondary and Tertiary Health Care:**

UNHCR supports SHC and THC in life-saving and emergency situations only. 75% of all emergency life-saving care and cost of delivery are covered. Moreover, UNHCR has established an exceptional care committee to review exceptional cases and decides based on prognosis, treatment plan and cost criteria.

UNHCR implementing partners

Association Justice et Misericorde (AJEM), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Makhzoumi Foundation, - Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Restart Center, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Institutional and Community Support Update

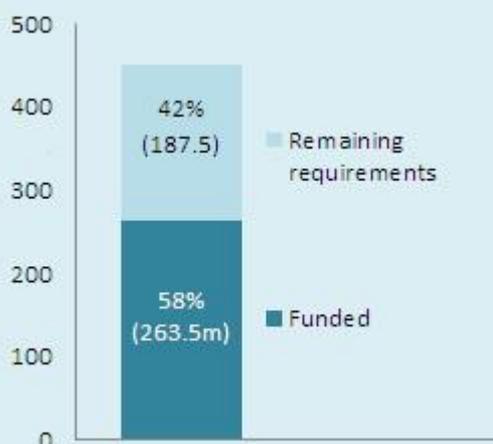
September 2014

Provision of medical equipment to the primary health care center in Chiyah, Mount Lebanon @ UNHCR/ D. Khamisy



Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD **451m**



September developments

Institutional support

- In cooperation with UNHCR and WHO, the Ministry of Public Health launched the Mother and Child Health Care initiative in Rachaya. The initiative capacitates primary health care centres in Rachaya and other locations in Lebanon with full healthcare services for non-insured pregnant women including antenatal and delivery services, in addition to child healthcare and vaccination for children up to two years of age.
- An MOU was signed with the Water Establishments of the Bekaa and North Lebanon for nine project sites for water supply infrastructure upgrades. Feasibility studies were completed and bids received for detailed design of the nine projects that are in line with the National Water Sector Strategy. UNHCR together with these Water Establishments are working with the private sector in Lebanon to meet the growing demand for water and to respond to the impact of the Syrian crisis through increased access to water and a more efficient water supply system.

Community support programme

- Two community support projects (CSPs) providing recreational summer activities to children in Miyeh Miyeh and Tyre ended this month. Attended by close to 400 Lebanese and Syrian children, and also involving the participation of their parents, these CSPs aimed to promote social cohesion and strengthen relationship between Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities.

Needs

The Lebanese people have made tremendous efforts to host and meet the needs of Syrian refugees over the last three years. Currently, over one million registered Syrian refugees are living in more than 1,750 locations, and some towns have more refugees than resident Lebanese. Substantial and prolonged refugee influx invariably place increased political, social, economic and environmental pressures on hosting communities. This is the case in Lebanon where infrastructure that was fragile prior to the Syrian crisis is now under severe strain. The effects of this are visible across the country. Insufficient waste management and sanitation facilities, insufficient water supply and increased demand for basic public services such as health as well as greater competition for jobs are all outcomes of a spike in population. Communities and

municipalities are struggling to cope with the pace of the crisis and resultant surge of needs.

Challenges

Support to public institutions, municipalities and hosting communities is critical to mitigate some of the impacts of refugees' presence, to promote social cohesion so that Syrians in need of protection continue to be welcome in Lebanon and to help government respond to increased demand for public services.

Strengthening institutional capacities at both central and municipal level and well as direct support to local communities in various sectors has begun. Hundreds of community support projects have been initiated in areas where poverty levels, refugee numbers and tensions are high. Villages are benefiting from waste management facilities, community centres, school and medical facility improvements and livelihood projects. UNHCR is supporting five government ministries to increase service delivery in health, education, social services, protection and security and water supply. Yet these projects are only the beginning of a much needed scaled up effort to support Lebanon deal with the socio-economic impact of the Syrian crisis and refugee influx.

Strategy

UNHCR reserves 15 per cent of its humanitarian budget for support to public institutions and projects that bring services to local communities providing assistance to refugees.

- The CSP Program is designed to fund quick impact and short-term community projects that meet priority needs of the community and improve the living conditions of both refugees and Lebanese communities.
- Support for government institutions that are providing services to refugees: the Ministries of Public Health (MOPH), Education and Higher Education (MEHE), Social Affairs (MOSA), Interior and Municipalities (MOIM) and Water Establishments within the Ministry of Water and Energy. From the outset of the crisis, UNHCR's strategy has been to anchor its support to refugees in national systems which could, to the extent possible, also benefit Lebanese.
- Through the CSP program and the institutional support for public services, UNHCR strives to ensure that humanitarian interventions are linked with national and municipal plans and structures that are supported by development actors.



2013 Expenditures and 2014 budget

| UNHCR institutional and community support | 2013 Expenditures | 2014 Budget |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Institutional support (Rehabilitation of infrastructure, staffing and training, equipment, supplies, medications and vaccines) | 7.5 | 35.7 |
| Community based projects (Health, education, livelihoods, WASH, road & communities facilities) | 13.5 | 10 |
| Total USD | 21 million | 45.7 million |

UNHCR implementing partners

Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Caritas, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Concern Worldwide, Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Alert, International Medical Corps (IMC), International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC-USA), International Relief and Development (IRD), Oxfam GB, Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Right to Play, Save the Children International, Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), Terre Des Hommes Italy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN-HABITAT, War Child Holland (WCH) and World Health Organization (WHO).