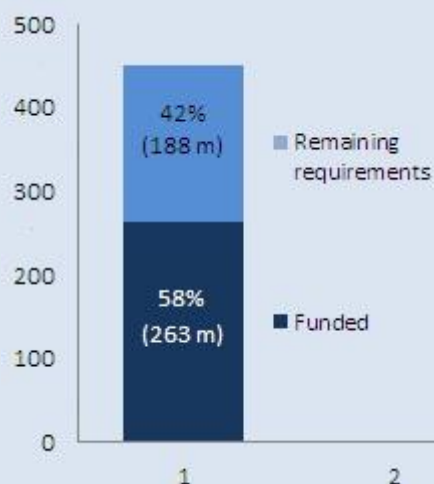


Key Figures

1,132,849	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**



October developments

Community empowerment

- UNHCR is reaching out and responding to refugees most in need through outreach volunteers. This month over 2,400 families at risk were referred by 396 Refugee Outreach Volunteers (ROVs) to UNHCR and partners. Most of the families referred faced financial difficulties leading to threat of evictions and inability to cover the 25% balance to access secondary health care. Refugees were also informed about on-going regularization procedures. After assessment of their situation, concerned refugees received social and legal counselling and other basic services, including financial assistance and 100% health care coverage.
- Over 26,000 persons (75% women and children) participated in psychosocial, educational and recreational activities in UNHCR's network of 28 community centers. A recent assessment of these centers showed that refugees considered them safe to access and requested more psychosocial support and vocational training activities. Community centers so far have proven to remove isolation and prevent protection risks. Centers continue to ensure that persons with disabilities, women headed-households and other groups at risk are benefiting from the activities, equally as others.
- More than 11,000 refugees received basic counselling and referrals to existing services at the Social Development Centers (SDCs) of the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- UNHCR is supporting MOSA to run social activities in seven SDCs targeting persons with disabilities and older persons. The focus group discussions will be conducted to determine the needs of persons with disability, followed by activities. The project entails providing easier access the SDCs through transportation assistance and ramps installation.



Syrian refugee women in a handicraft lesson in Halba community centre, Lebanon@UNHCR/ S. Hoibak



Case management

- 305 refugees received one-time protection cash assistance; 102 of them are living in the South, 10 in Qobayat, 150 in Bekaa and 43 in Beirut/ Mount Lebanon. 2,672 persons have received such assistance to date. Most of this assistance is used to cover rent (eviction threats) and health care.

Self-reliance

- 457 persons (50% Lebanese) benefitted from vocational trainings, entrepreneurship training, e.g., business development training, provided at three livelihood centers in line with MOSA's agreement.
- 71 persons (37% Lebanese) were trained on interview techniques.

Achievements: January – October

Activity	 Reached January - October	 2014 Target
Specific needs cases referred through refugee outreach volunteers	49,700	75,000
Life-skills and vocational training provided at livelihood centers	4,592	5,000
Refugee outreach volunteers mobilized	396	750
Community centres established	28	50
Persons registered and benefitting from Community Center activities	114,000	240,000

Needs

In addition to basic needs such as shelter, health care and education, protection and legal assistance are becoming a major need for the Syrian refugees. During the past period, refugees reported being subject to evictions, rising rent costs, and to harm as a result of increased tension. They noted being unable to report to the local authorities, mainly for fear of retaliation from host communities. In effort to better understand the protection needs and priorities, UNHCR launched nationwide consultations this month with refugees of ranging ages and diverse backgrounds. The results will feed into programme

design and delivery. 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 to refugees to identify needs, risks and priorities in a timely manner, as well as to engage and support refugees in finding solutions to the challenges they face.

Challenges

Political developments and security concerns: Restrictive and unclear government policies *vis-à-vis* the Syrian refugees including restriction of movement, access to livelihood opportunities, enhanced security measures, etc. make it difficult to run effective development programmes.

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

Dispersed nature of the refugee population: Refugees are spread out over 1,750 locations. This creates challenges when it comes to identifying and responding to individual and community protection concerns.

Strategy

UNHCR is directing its interventions to provide comprehensive support to persons at heightened. Greater emphasis is being placed on community-based protection platforms in terms of identification and response to the majority of protection needs. For that, UNHCR's strategic priorities are:

- Assist refugees at risk to access basic services and comprehensive protection support;
- Strengthen mobilization and outreach to refugees and host communities;
- Empower and promote self-management in communities;
- Strengthen community-based activities and coordination with local NGOs;
- Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs' Social Development Centres.

UNHCR implementing partners

Amel Association-Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (CMLC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), INTERSOS, International Rescue Committee (IRC), 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).