

Host Community Support Update

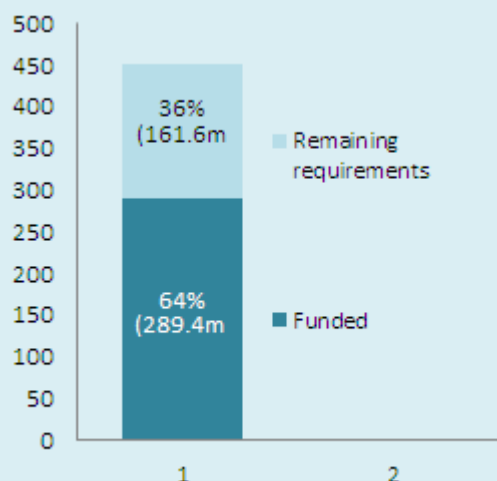
December 2014



A woman shows the NPTP e-card she received at a Social Development Centre in December @WFP

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 451m



December developments

Support to the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)

- 5,011 extremely vulnerable Lebanese households were supported through the “electronic food card component” of the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP), launched in November under the leadership of MoSA. Through the WFP e-card system, each household member received an amount of USD 30 that can be used to buy food items in the shops participating in the programme.

Support to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)

- The rehabilitation of eight public schools was completed in December, bringing to 22 the total number of schools rehabilitated in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in 2014.

Support to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)

- As part of the Instrument for Stability (IFS) project, funded by the European Union, MoPH offices were provided with IT and office equipment in December, mainly for MoPH newly recruited staff. This action will contribute to strengthen the capacity of the Communicable Disease Surveillance units, allowing a prompter response to public health threats.
- The technical assessments of three water laboratories were completed in December, bringing to eight the total number of laboratories assessed within governmental hospitals in 2014. Rehabilitation works have already started in five of these laboratories.
- As of end of December, a total of 78 MoPH staff were recruited and supported through the IFS project. These include 27 nurses and midwives that have been deployed at primary health care centres to respond to the increased workload deriving from the large refugee influx.

Community Support Programme (CSP)

- 20 projects in support of the host communities were completed in December. These included: the construction of six ground water reservoirs in Mount Lebanon; the provision of water, sanitation and electrical equipment to municipalities in the North; the establishment of a public garden in Tripoli; and the provision of training and equipment to local milk producers in Akkar.
- Overall in 2014, a total of 145 projects were completed benefiting 203 host communities in the sectors of water, sanitation, social cohesion, health, and education. About 32 per cent of these projects started in 2014.

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

Contact: Loyal Abu Darwich (abudarwi@unhcr.org)

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 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.

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.

Challenges

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, new water supply 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.

- Host Community Support: Rehabilitating schools, hospitals and laboratories and new water projects are helping host communities. In addition, 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.
- Partnerships with Development Actors: Through host community and 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. Building partnerships in this endeavour with development actors is a key element of UNHCR's strategy.



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	50.5
Community based projects (Health, education, livelihoods, WASH, road & communities facilities)	13.5	9.7
Total USD	21 million	60.2 million

*Expenditures for 2014 will be available in the course of 2015 following the liquidation period.

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).