

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

## November 2013

### Key figures

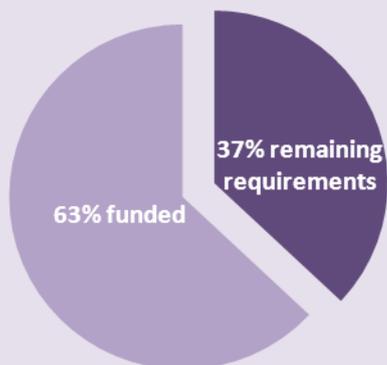
**729,928** individuals in need of WASH support

### Funding

UNHCR WASH requirements: **55.5 m**

Percentage of funding **63%**

- Remaining UNHCR requirements (RRP5)
- Funding received as of November



### November developments

- 54,825 liters of fuel were distributed to 31 pumping stations in Hasbaya, Nabatieh and Sour.
- With the cold weather drawing in, UNHCR and partners worked to ensure preparations for winter and rainy season were in place in informal settlements throughout the country. Improvements include construction of drainage channels to prevent against flooding and providing adequate barriers for tents against flood water.
- In response to the emergency in Aarsal, with over 18,000 refugees arriving in the second half of the month, UNHCR and partners responded swiftly to address WASH needs of refugees and the host community, working to improve substandard water, sanitation and hygiene conditions and provide access to clean water.
- ATM cash grants were introduced instead of in-kind distribution for the purchase of hygiene and baby items for some refugees, increasing their flexibility in using assistance and reducing distribution costs. In total, 52,625 hygiene kits and 15,679 baby kits were distributed in November (both in-kind and ATM cash deposit).

### Achievements January - November

| Activity                          | reached<br>Jan – Nov | 2013 target |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Hygiene kits                      | 548,295              | 500,000     |
| Baby kits                         | 56,942               | 52,920      |
| Water storage tanks               | 14,621               | 23,390      |
| Household water filters           | 11,832               | 21,490      |
| Repair/construction of sanitation | 10,566               | 21,270      |



Members of the community work together to prepare the ground and materials for the installation of a new toilet and clean running water @UNHCR/E.Dorfman

## Needs

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

**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.

**Hygiene:** As refugees arrive with few possessions, many lack basic items for personal and household hygiene. Without regular supplies, refugees face deterioration in their wellbeing and dignity.

## 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 the Water Establishment 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 whole of Lebanon creates a significant risk for the spreading 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 the water network and providing the means for safe water storage;
- **Improving basic sanitation:** including 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:** including through the provision of basic hygiene items and outreach to refugees and hosting communities

## UNHCR implementing partners

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