

UNHCR Monthly Update

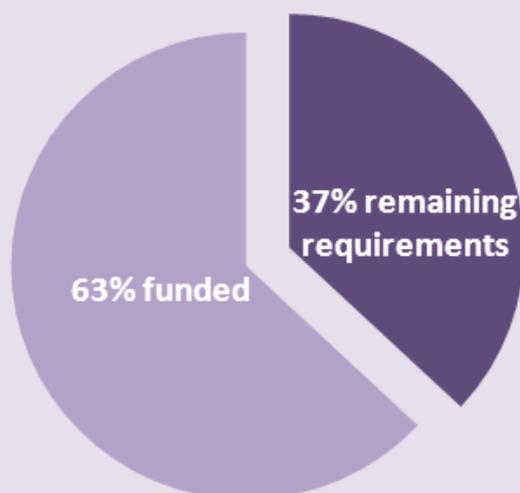
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Key figures

729,928 individuals in need of WASH support

Funding

UNHCR WASH requirements: **55.5 m**



December developments

- In total, 37,851 hygiene kits and 41,263 baby kits were distributed in December (including both in kind and cash assistance).
- Over 4,200 refugees living around the Marjaayoun district in the South received new toilets, water tanks and hygiene kits through CISP projects this month. Water network expansion and testing has started, and the pilot project of fuel for water is up and running. Over 50 m³ of fuel was distributed to the South Lebanon Water Establishment.
- 638 refugees living in collective shelters around Saida received baby kits and hygiene promotion sessions this month through PU-AMI. Four shelters received rehabilitation or installation of sanitation facilities.
- Oxfam distributed 2,241m³ of water to Baalbeck and El Koura which will directly benefit 1,195 people.
- Water system upgrades, benefiting 1,500 individuals with rehabilitated water distribution in Mashta Hamoud, Akkar, were completed by PU-AMI.

Achievements January - December

Activities	reached Jan – Dec	2013 target
Hygiene kits	586,146	500,000
Baby kits	98,205	52,920
Water storage tanks	17,286	23,390
Household water filters	13,062	21,490
Repair/construction of sanitation	13,486	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.