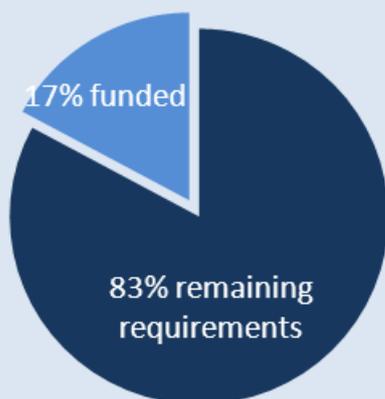


### Key figures

903,695	individuals registered or pending registration
78%	women and children
36%	persons with specific needs
24%	children at risk

### Funding

UNHCR Requirements 2014: USD 468 m



Protection requirements: USD 106 m

### January developments

#### Access to territory and timely registration

- Arrivals at the border increased in January after lower-than-usual levels in December.
- Delays at the border due to temporary problems with the GSO telecommunications systems caused increased waiting times for some refugees.
- 52,000 Syrian refugees were registered in January, a 13% increase from December.
- The waiting time for registration decreased to 23 days, the lowest average in more than a year.
- Requests for registration appointments increased by 22% in January.
- 23,000 refugees underwent verification and had their documents renewed in January.

#### Protection violations prevented, monitored and addressed

- 111 protection monitoring visits conducted by IRC to 52 different villages across Lebanon revealed a heightened risk of eviction for refugees in January as compared to December. These risks are linked to increased and exploitative rents and dwindling refugee resources. The majority of refugees in Akkar monitored in January reported problems with legal status (irregular status in Lebanon).
- The joint UNHCR-UN-Habitat assessment on Housing, Land and Property continued with visits to urban slums, collective shelters and informal tented settlements.

#### Access to legal services and civil status documentation enhanced

- As compared to December, there was a 175% increase in referrals of Syrians to UNHCR who were arrested solely for illegal entry/stay. UNHCR and partners conducted 43 visits to 73 persons in detention centres in January and 38 persons were released from detention.
- 265 persons were provided legal counselling by UNHCR and partners. The most priority issue continued to be regularization of legal status. In addition, 400 persons were counseled on birth registration procedures.
- 14 refugees were provided legal representation in court related to matters involving their personal status.
- During a raid on a collective shelter near Tripoli, 11 Syrians (including one minor) were arrested for illegal entry/stay. All were released following UNHCR's intervention.

#### Durable and humanitarian solutions made available

- UNHCR completed submissions of 320 Syrians for resettlement in Norway in January. They will be interviewed by the Norwegian selection mission at the end of February.
- In January, 100 cases and 391 persons were submitted to resettlement countries, the highest number since the start of enhanced resettlement activities for Syrian refugees.
- The seventh departure flight under the German HAP programme for Syrian refugees departed on 30 January with 290 people on board.
- Five refugee status determination missions were conducted in Tyre, Tripoli and Zahle, interviewing 180 persons.

## Achievements: January

Activity	 reached January	 2014 Target
Persons interviewed at the border	462	8,000
Persons registered (or pending registration)	52,000	600,000
Protection monitoring visits	111	2,400
Legal counseling	195	4,500
Detention visits	73	700
Applications submitted for HAP and resettlement	391	6,250
Departures (HAP and resettlement)	587	2,700

communities affected at times by shelling or shootings from Syria. Refugees and members of the host community have been exposed to threats, physical mistreatment retaliatory actions, evictions, secondary displacements and other protection incidents. Lack of legal representation, awareness and irregular legal status complicate access to justice and remedies for these and other rights violations.

## Challenges

### **Lack of legal or administrative refugee framework:**

Lebanon is not a state party to the 1951 Convention or its 1967 Protocol and does not have specific legislation or administrative practices for refugees and asylum-seekers. As such, refugees lack safeguards beyond the domestic law applying to other foreigners.

### **Irregular legal status:**

An average of 12% of registered refugees enter through unofficial border crossings and are not recognized as legally present in Lebanon. In addition, the vast majority of refugees are unable to afford residency renewal fees at the expiry of 12 months. Without a policy change, the number of refugees in an irregular legal status may grow exponentially into the hundreds of thousands in 2014.

### **Dispersed refugee population:**

Refugees live in over 1,600 different locations, in Lebanon making protection monitoring and information dissemination critical to address protection incidents and ensure access to registration and essential services. Restrictions on freedom of movement due to security checkpoints, curfews, distance and lack of documentation also present serious challenges.

### **Lack of civil status documentation:**

Many refugees lack civil status documentation which can result in obstacles to accessing basic services and to obtaining other critical documentation, in particular birth registration but also healthcare and education. The inability to register births may put refugees at a heightened risk of statelessness and create protection risks around 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 villages throughout Lebanon have exposed refugees to risk of violence and physical safety. 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
- Ensuring durable and humanitarian solutions are made available.

## UNHCR implementing partners

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

## Needs

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

Refugees who entered through unofficial border crossings or who are unable to renew their residency are not recognized as legally present in Lebanon. The consequences of irregular legal status can be vast, not least relating to risks of arrest and detention, severe limitations on freedom of movement, limited access to livelihoods/employment, risks of exploitation, civil registration and problematic access to essential services, including birth registration.

Physical safety remains an issue of concern, particularly in