

Key figures

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

January developments

Community mobilization

- Over 1,525 persons (305 families) referred by 116 refugee outreach volunteers (ROVs) to UNHCR and partners. 43% required immediate attention.
- ROVs cited the main community concerns this month as difficulties to renew residency permits, delays in winterization, increased school drop-outs, slow food assistance appeal process, and numerous challenges with GlobeMed. UNHCR and its partners are working to find solutions.
- Strategy for nationwide roll-out of 600 specialized ROVs developed with sector specialists (education, health and child protection). Funding capacity remains limited.

Livelihoods and self-reliance

- 1,500 individuals, 40% Lebanese and mostly women, engaged in vocational and life-skill activities through community centers.
- 1 livelihood center established in Baysour, Mount Lebanon bringing the total to 3 livelihood centers in Lebanon. The centers offer job matching, targeted trainings and referrals to micro-finance.
- 25 persons, 40% Lebanese, accessed group lending (micro-credit) services.
- Increasing employment opportunities was identified as a priority theme for discussion and elaboration within the livelihoods working group.

Social cohesion and conflict mitigation activities

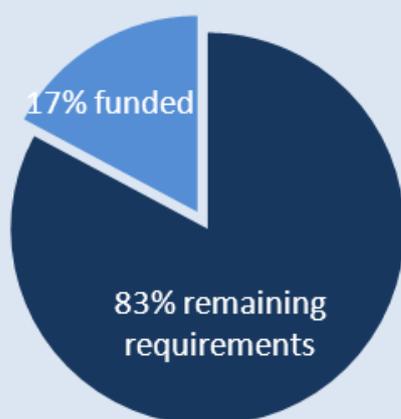
- Conflict dynamic studies done in 11 risk communities to prepare for local conflict mitigation mechanisms to be established in the North (El Nabatieh) and in the South.

Achievements: January

Activity	Reached January	2014 Target
Specific needs cases referred	6,200	75,000
Vocational training	1,500	30,030
Refugee outreach volunteers	116	1000
Community centres established	26	50
Conflict resolution trainings	-	400

Funding

UNHCR Requirements 2014: USD 468 m



Protection requirements: USD 106 m

Needs

According to the 2013 UN Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VASyR), 72% of refugees are unable to meet their basic needs. During assessments conducted in 2013, refugees expressed a need for support in accessing scarce resources, in particular overstretched social services and job opportunities. Newly disabled refugees expressed difficulties adjusting to their situation, providing for their families, and being accepted by their communities. Older persons and female headed households faced challenges to access available services. Many are unable to leave their homes due to poor health, family situation and lack of financial means. Given the widespread dispersal of refugees throughout Lebanon, information dissemination and outreach on available services is critical. Scarcity of resources and competition has caused violence and tension to escalate between refugee and local communities, requiring additional attention to conflict reduction and host community support.

Challenges

Dispersed refugee population: Refugees now make up over one fifth of Lebanon's population. With the widespread dispersal of refugees in over 1,600 locations throughout Lebanon, there is a need to build upon existing outreach and support initiatives to prevent and respond to the immense scale of protection risks.

Overstretched social services and limited job opportunities: With the escalating number of refugees in Lebanon, public services have become overstretched, job opportunities have diminished, and the prices of basic goods have risen sharply due to inflation. Increasingly, refugees are adopting negative coping mechanisms to survive. National health, legal and social systems need additional support to expand services, especially for the specific needs of women and children.

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



Strategy

To effectively address vulnerabilities and safeguard protection space for refugees, UNHCR's strategic priorities are:

- Assist refugees in accessing basic services;
- Strengthen outreach with refugees and host communities;
- Empower and promote self-management in communities;
- Increase livelihood opportunities, as well as promote social cohesion among Lebanese and Syrians through dialogue and community support projects
- Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Development Centres

UNHCR implementing partners

Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (CMLC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Amel Association-Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Makhzoumi Foundation, Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Social, Right to Play, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), Search for Common Ground, International Alert, UNDP, Al Majmoua, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA).