

# UNHCR Lebanon

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Update

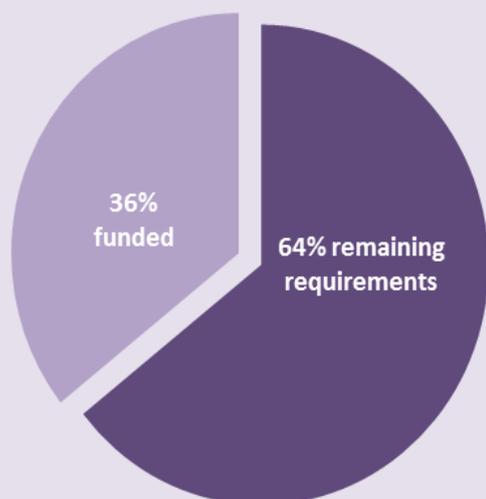
June 2014

### Key figures

1,087,814	Individuals registered or pending registration
27%	Lack access to potable water
29%	Need improved sanitation facilities (latrine and solid waste facilities)
70%	Need assistance adapting to hygienic conditions in displacement

### Funding

UNHCR total requirements: **USD 468 m**



UNHCR WASH requirements: **USD 59 m**

### June developments

- More than 1,200 refugees in North Lebanon will benefit from improved quality water through 30 water storage tanks installed by Oxfam. An additional 60 families will receive water through restored water points.
- 800 refugees in Waha and Barghoun collective centres, Tripoli will benefit from better external drainage pipes that were improved by Oxfam. They also organized 19 community health volunteers, 36 hygiene promoters and 17 committees in North Lebanon.
- Oxfam tested water quality in North Lebanon and 95% of the results were acceptable. They then cleaned tanks and treated water with chlorine where the quality was below standard.
- 880 people at a collective centre in Qobayat have benefited from Concern Worldwide's provision of water supply, de-sludging, solid waste collection and hygiene promotion.
- 74,400 families received a final round of distribution of hygiene and baby kits from UNHCR.
- 99,300 refugees attended hygiene promotion sessions.
- INTERSORS installed 11 solar water heating systems to benefit over 100 refugees in Marjeyoun in the South.

### Achievements: January - June

Activity	 reached January - June	 Target 2014
Hygiene items	309,517	400,938
Hygiene promotion sessions	142,812	593,700
Water supply	201,082	227,800
Water quality improvement	5,828	695,100
Solid waste management	56,163	383,550
Repair/construction of sanitation facilities	45,053	384,550

## Needs

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

**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.

## Challenges

**Strained infrastructure in host communities:** Water scarcity continues to remain big challenge. Following a comprehensive mapping of communities facing water scarcity and current status of water supply managed by local and humanitarian agencies, an inter-agency WASH appeal was launched to reduce the impact of water scarcity on vulnerable communities across Lebanon. Water supply and waste management in areas hosting Syrian refugees has deteriorated, and UNHCR is working with water establishments and municipalities to ensure continuous access to safe water at a household level and basic sanitation facilities. The lack of adequate sewage treatment facilities in the entire country creates a significant risk for the spreading of diseases, should there be an outbreak in one area. Moreover, clean drinking water takes four hours to filter. With soaring temperatures and scarce water supply in the summer, many people have taken to drinking unfiltered water which puts them at risk on many water-borne diseases.



**Dispersed refugee population:** Refugees are living in more than 1750 locations in the country. Each geographical area has specific needs. For example, in some areas water shortages can only be addressed through infrastructure projects which need significant funding. Others such as Tripoli and surrounding districts that are hosting a dense refugee population are at risk of facing interruption in WASH services as some implementing partners have pulled out due to lack of sufficient funds.

**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, CHF, Makzhouni, Action contre la Faim (ACF), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC), World Vision (WVI), Concern Worldwide, Oxfam, INTERSOS, Agence d'aide a la Cooperation Technique Et au Développement (ACTED).