

UNHCR Lebanon

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Update



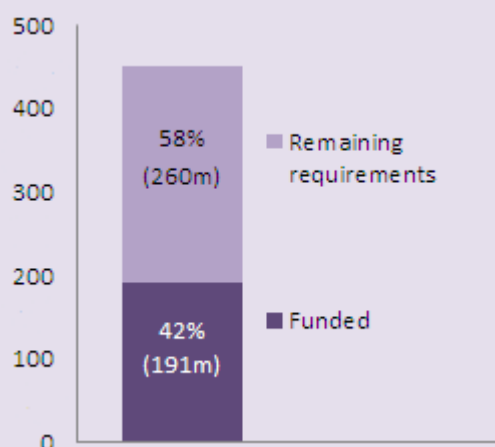
August 2014

Key Figures

1,176,971	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 **451m**



August developments

- The construction of six water storage reservoirs by ACF and CHF in Iklim Al Kharoub, Mount Lebanon is moving ahead of schedule and planned to be completed in November. It is expected that projects will benefit 50,000 persons (20% of whom are refugees).
- ACF established five WASH Committees in informal settlements located in Saida to serve 302 refugees' needs.
- 275 refugees benefitted from the distribution of a water tank by ACF and CISP in an IS, Bableyyeh, Saida. In addition, 73 hand washing stations were distributed and installed in informal settlements in Saida, Tyre and Marjeyoun districts.
- 210 refugees benefitted from the installation of 21 latrines by ACF in informal settlements located in Saida District.
- 4,400 people (3,100 Lebanese & 1,300 Syrians) benefitted from the provision of 20 steel garbage containers by CISP in Burj Elshemali, Tyre.
- 1,310 refugees benefitted from hygiene promotion sessions on topics related to the use of water, hand washing practices, maintenance and cleaning water filters in Tyre, Saida and Marjeyoun Districts. These activities were implemented by CISP and ACF.
- 4,403 refugees in Aarsal can access clean water and better sanitation after INTERSOS and ACF set up water trucking and desludging of septic tanks.

Achievements: January - August

Activity	reached Jan -August	Target 2014
Hygiene items	604,490	400,938
Hygiene promotion sessions	153,692	593,700
Water supply	225,633	227,800
Water quality improvement	8,307	695,100
Solid waste management	64,270	383,550
Repair/construction of sanitation facilities	50,709	384,550

Needs

Water: Sufficient access to safe drinking water is a critical on-going need. Improvements to infrastructure and support to the municipalities are 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: 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 water establishments 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 country creates a significant risk for the spread 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 water networks 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:** provision of basic hygiene items to new comers as well as being part of an outreach activity to refugees and host communities during hygiene promotion activities.

UNHCR implementing partners

Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), CISP, CHF, Makzhoumi Foundation, 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).