



Permanent water supply systems reduce need for water trucking to Iraq camps

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

In April, WASH partners continued to provide safe drinking water and improve sanitation and hygiene promotion in nine permanent camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and Al Obaidi camp in Anbar Governorate, reaching about 93,000 refugees. With the establishment of permanent water supply systems in most of the camps, water trucking was only targeted to those who cannot access water from the main pipe line network. Regular repairs and maintenance of the water system were carried out to ensure uninterrupted supply of safe water to the camp residents. During the month, refugee families relocating from old camp sites to their new shelter plots in camps in Erbil Governorate were provided with keys to their sanitation facilities as they arrived. In Arbat camp, Sulaymaniyah Governorate, three boreholes were connected to four reservoirs with a total capacity of 340m³. The operation of the water networks will drastically reduce costs in Iraq, promote the equitable use of WASH services for refugees and conserve the environment by reducing water trucking.

With the increasing population and rising temperatures in Azraq camp in Jordan this month, there has been a significant increase in water consumption (72 per cent), whilst the volumes of wastewater are also rising. WASH sector partners are currently finalizing the WASH services in two new villages in the camp and as of end-April, only one WASH block needs to be completed.

Rehabilitation of water networks and safer water supply mechanisms in Lebanon helped in significantly decreasing the number of refugees and host community residents contracting water-borne and sanitation-related diseases in April.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Large refugee numbers add pressure on existing water, sanitation and hygiene services in host countries. Even before the emergency, Jordan was the fourth most water scarce country in the world, while Lebanon is already using two-thirds of its available water resources. In Iraq, the pressure on services in impacted communities is acute because of the overlapping refugee and IDP crises.

Region-wide, the majority of refugees are living in local communities, and public WASH services are under stress. Authorities require support to improve and run public water, sewage, wastewater treatment, and solid waste collection and disposal systems. National WASH systems required investment even before the influx of refugees, with piped systems leaking up to 70 per cent of water in some areas.

As of the end of 2014, all of the refugees living in camps in Iraq and Jordan require WASH support, while in Lebanon - where all refugees live outside of camps - 28 per cent stated that they do not have access to safe water and 39 per cent said they don't have access to sanitation facilities. There are competing demands for safe drinking water and wastewater services from both local communities and the refugees living in impacted areas, exacerbating an already volatile social, economic and political environment.



Qushtapa camp latrine cleaning, Erbil, Iraq. DRC/Oday Salah

Sector Response Summary:



3,686,617 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
637,915 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
3,978,825 currently registered or awaiting registration



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.5 billion required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 881.73 million received in 2015



WASH PROJECTS IN JORDAN TO BENEFIT BOTH REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES

Water scarcity is a national challenge in Jordan and profoundly affects both Syrian refugees residing in camps and in urban settings, as well as host communities. In northern Jordan, which hosts over half of the Syrian refugee population, water shortages have spiked. WASH sector partners are working to address this issue, implementing new projects and initiatives which will ease the strain on local water networks, reduce costs and offer long-term investment to national WASH systems.

This month, the Al-Mahasi water pumping station in Ramtha, Irbid Governorate, was inaugurated. The pumping station is part of a major water rehabilitation project to improve the efficiency and infrastructure of five water stations in northern Jordan and will directly benefit 200,000 Syrian refugees and members of the host community in Irbid and Mafraq with quality water supply.

To increase the access to appropriate water and sanitation facilities in identified vulnerable households in urban areas, work has been completed in 850 of the households to date, with work in the remaining 200 households underway. Final works in the 12 schools in Mafraq and Irbid are underway. Works to improve the water and sanitation facilities in 36 Informal Tented Settlements are underway.

In Zaatari camp, with the Ministry of Health granting permission for Borehole 3 to be used for public consumption in April, the water needs of the camp will be now met by the three boreholes. There will be no need for external tankering of water in the camp (except during peak demand periods) which will substantially reduce the costs and ensure consistent water supply.

The final design for the Zaatari wastewater network will be completed by the first week of May. A Task Force on Community Mobilization was established to inform refugees and key camp stakeholders of the planned works. Focus Group discussions with community representatives and those who will be affected by the movement of the caravans have commenced.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - APRIL 2015



These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Progress and targets may change in line with data revisions. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 30 April 2015.