



Syrian refugee collecting winter assistance in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon/UNHCR/S. Hoibak

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- **Shelter**
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- **Health**
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Syria Refugee Response - UNHCR's Achievements at a Glance

January - December 2014



Numbers indicate the cumulative number of individuals reached or benefiting from the given activity, service, or distributed item.



Protection and Outreach

Persons registered (or pending registration)	1,158,995
Specific needs cases referred	73,500
Individuals receiving info on birth registration	38,929
Legal counseling	18,135
Applications submitted (HAP + resettlement)	9,181
Persons at risk identified and supported	7,597
Persons departed (HAP + resettlement)	6,289
Identified children at risk referred and assisted	3,212
Detention visits (persons reached)	4,009



Education

Primary education (2014/15)*	41,800
Primary education (2013/14)	64,273
Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP)	17,500
Remedial classes after school	3,513
Children with special needs accessing education	62

*awaiting final data from MEHE



Core Relief Items

Cash-for-hygiene and baby kits	213,935
Fuel Voucher	137,160
High Thermal blankets	126,610
Unconditional cash assistance	51,995
CRIs for newcomers and others in need	43,020
Cash for winter	204,800
Cash-for-shelter	38,165
Unconditional cash assistance (winter support)	34,890
Diesel stoves	6,970
Emergency cash-for-protection	3,082



KEY FIGURES 2014

1,158,995
(registered + pending registration)

Refugees

451m

UNHCR funding requirement RRP6 (USD)

64%

Funding level

42

of Implementing Partners



Funding for the Syria Regional Response Plan is also received through private donations from Canada, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, and United Arab Emirates



Shelter

Informal settlements weatherproofed	80,818
Cash-for-rent	38,622
Unfinished houses weatherproofed	38,423
Site improvement	20,231
Apartments and houses rehabilitated	14,269
Collective shelters renovated	7,314
Formal tented settlements	350



WASH

Hygiene items	616,116
Water supply	294,778
Hygiene promotion sessions	178,095
Solid waste management	85,352
Repair/construction of sanitation facilities	55,345
Water quality improvement	14,540



Health

Health education	535,000
Primary health care	317,650
Life-saving referral healthcare	57,960



Institutional and Community Support

Total number of locations benefiting*	203
Total number of projects*	151
Community infrastructure and services*	122
Recreational, sporting and community facilities*	19
Livelihoods activities*	10

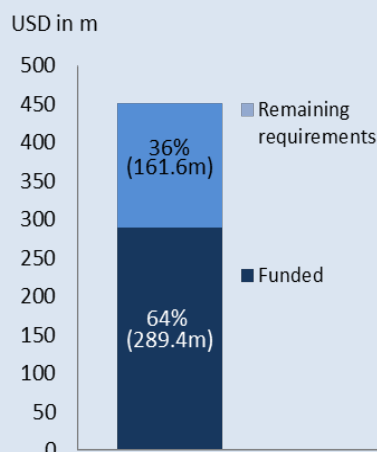
* Number of schools, projects or locations, not number of beneficiaries

Key Figures

1,158,995	individuals registered or pending registration
39%	persons with specific needs

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 451 m



December developments

Access to territory and timely registration

- Following a tightening of entry restriction since summer 2014 onwards, a reduction of refugee admissions has been observed leading to a decrease of requests for registration appointments and consequently to lower numbers of registrations of Syrian refugees. Requests for new registration appointments were at 66,700 per month in January and had decreased to 18,600 by December 2014. The number of Syrians registered per month decreased from an average of 52,300 in January to 13,400 in December. Nonetheless, throughout the year, the number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Lebanon increased by 42 per cent reaching above 1.1 million by the end of December 2014. Registration of Iraqi refugees increased in the second half of the year, with over five times as many refugee registered per month in December than in January 2014 as a result of increased violence in Iraq. The total number of registered Iraqi refugees in Lebanon reached 14,550 by end December.



Protection needs identified and addressed

- The regularization scheme allowing all Syrian refugees without legal stay to regularize their residency without paying the usual fines and fees ended on 31 December 2014. In view of the approaching deadline, Syrians continued to approach General Security Offices (GSO) in great numbers. Together with protection partners, Refugee Outreach Volunteers (ROVs) and Protection Monitors, UNHCR informed and assisted refugees in regularizing their status through awareness raising sessions and individual counselling, reaching some 35,000 by year end. The benefits of regularization include greater freedom of movement, access to services and recourse to administrative procedures such as birth registration.
- A total of 2,566 refugees were reached through protection monitoring visits in December, out of which 206 persons with specific needs for assistance in winterization, shelter and unconditional cash were identified and referred to partners to receive the required support. Protection monitoring visits allow UNHCR and partners to identify vulnerable refugees and gaps in assistance which are then followed up on a local or central level. In 2014, the total number of refugees reached through protection monitoring visits reached 54,839.
- 58 detention visits were conducted by UNHCR and AJEM during December, bringing the annual total to 4,009. This corresponds to an average of 360 Persons of Concern per month who are being registered, and provided with legal, medical and psychosocial assistance in detention.

Durable solutions made available

- UNHCR met the overall submission and departure targets for 2014 with a total of 9,181 submitted and 6,289 departed.
- 333 non-Syrians were submitted in December, bringing the annual total to 1,866 persons for 2014.
- 57 Syrians were submitted in December, bringing the annual total to 7,315 for 2014.
- At the end of 2014, pledges have been received for the resettlement of approximately 2,500 Syrians.

Achievements: January – December Needs

Activity	 reached Jan-Dec	 2014 Target
Persons interviewed at the border	11,118	8,000
Persons registered (and pending registration)	441,677	467,500 ¹
Monitoring visits	54,839	50,000
Legal counseling	18,135	11,400
Detention visits	4,009	3,000
Persons submitted for HAP and resettlement*	9,181	8,900
Departures (HAP and resettlement)*	6,289	5,900

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

Challenges

Lack of legal or administrative refugee framework: Lebanon is not a state party to the 1951 Convention or its 1967 Protocol and it does not have specific legislation or administrative practices for refugees and asylum-seekers. As such, refugees lack domestic legal safeguards beyond those applying to foreigners.

Irregular legal status: An average of 13% of registered refugees

have entered through unofficial border crossings and are not able to pay the prohibitive regularization fees. In addition, those who have entered through official crossings have difficulties meeting the residency renewal fees. UNHCR continues to advocate for the waiver of such fees.²

Dispersed refugee population: Refugees live in over 1,750 different locations in Lebanon making protection monitoring and information dissemination challenging. Compounded upon this, restrictions on freedom of movement due to security checkpoints, curfews and lack of identification expose refugees to myriad vulnerabilities.

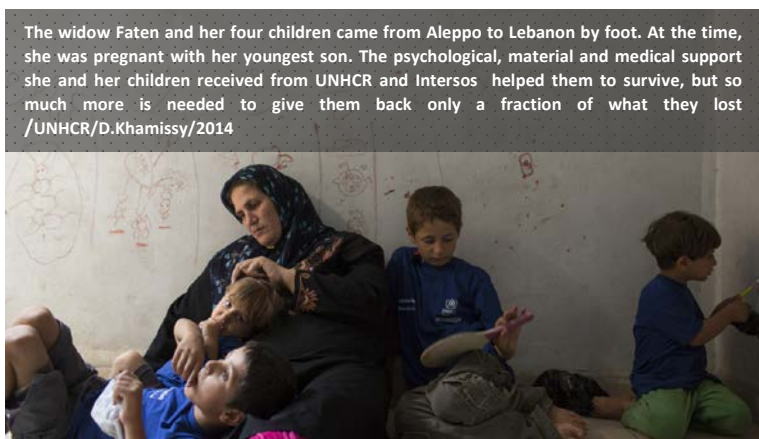
Lack of civil status documentation: Many refugees lack civil status documentation. Lack of documents can create obstacles for refugees in accessing basic services like healthcare and education, and in obtaining other critical documentation, such as birth registration.

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 some villages, places the physical safety of refugees at risk. Solutions remain limited due to the lack of 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, and
- Ensuring durable and humanitarian solutions are made available.



UNHCR implementing partners

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

¹ 2014 projections were revised in October and decreased from the original estimate of 630,000 to 467,500 based on actual registrations to date and changes in the operational context, mainly the restrictions at the border since August.

² This applies to those whose status became irregular after 21 August 2014, either as a result of entering through unofficial border crossings or of the expiry of their residency.

UNHCR Lebanon

Child Protection Update

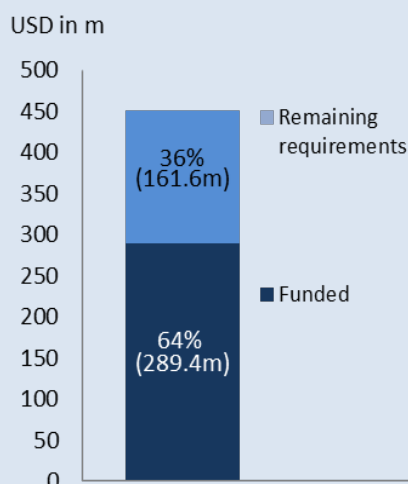
December 2014

Key Figures

619,172	registered refugee children
77%	of registered children are under 11
25%	of registered refugees are children at risk

Funding

UNHCR total requirements:
USD **451 m**



December developments

Outreach

- A five month youth outreach initiative was successfully completed through the establishment of a youth club where refugees and locals organize and participate in activities including sport and photography classes as well as information sessions on topics such as conflict resolution, leadership and communication skills. Beneficiaries reported that the project had a positive impact on their self-confidence and increased their awareness of the importance of connecting with the host community. Many expressed the wish to share what they learned with others and UNHCR is planning to scale up this the youth initiative in three other locations, Mount Lebanon, Qobayat and Tyre in 2015.



Training/coaching

- 20 staff from NGOs, the Ministry of Social Affairs and UPEL (Ministry of Justice) participated in a two-day training, where they learned about UNHCR's Best Interest Determination process and its linkages with the national child protection system. In order to reinforce participants' ability to assess and analyze complex cases, practical training sessions were integrated in the two-day programme. The training was part of the national child protection coaching programme to enhance the capacity of local actors.

Identification and referral of children-at-risk

- Throughout the year, UNHCR has increased its efforts to identify and assist children at risk. During the month of December, 323 children at high risk, including unaccompanied minors and separated children, were identified and provided with support, including psychosocial counseling by specialized case workers of UNHCR's implementing partners. Child labour remains a major challenge which UNHCR will continue to address through both advocacy and direct interventions whenever possible. Feedback received from caregivers revealed that children who benefited from case management services have gained self-confidence and self-esteem and became more interested in participating in recreational activities offered by NGOs. In addition to providing direct assistance to children at risk, throughout 2014, UNHCR and partners sought to increase the capacity of local actors and to harmonize the response activities.

Achievements: January - December

Activity	 reached Jan-Dec	 2014 Target
Identified children at risk referred and assisted	3,212	1,515
Training for persons working with refugee children (# individuals trained)	739	600

Needs

Many refugee children are in need of psychosocial support due to their exposure to violence and other forms of traumatic events. Refugee children who need assistance require proper identification and safe referral. Their needs include prevention and response to physical violence, verbal harassment, exploitation or pressure, particularly among adolescent boys to return to Syria to fight. Refugee children subject to sexual violence, child labour and early marriage also require proper identification and referral for appropriate assistance by trained professionals. Separated or unaccompanied children need safe living arrangements and assistance to help trace and reunite them with their families, whenever possible.

Educational opportunities, support to parents, activities targeting adolescents and youth can contribute to protecting refugee children against negative coping mechanisms and a wide range of child-specific protection risks.

Challenges

Fragile national child protection system: The national child protection system is struggling to provide appropriate care and services to refugee children at risk of abuse and exploitation and child survivors of violence. The Union for the Protection of Children is the only organization mandated by the Ministry of Justice to investigate cases involving child abuse and violence. UNHCR works together with implementing partners to provide support to both refugee children and national institutions providing services to refugees.

Protracted displacement: With limited access to livelihood opportunities, and dwindling resources, some families resort to child labour and other negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage. As their time in displacement prolongs, the lack of educational opportunities for the majority of school-aged Syrian children presents a significant challenge. Currently, there are over 200,000 school-aged refugee children who lack access to age-appropriate education due to the fact that the capacity of the public education system is overstretched.

Dispersed refugee population: Since refugees live in over 1,750 different locations in Lebanon, outreach to refugee children to identify and respond to their needs is both a challenge and a priority. Outreach is crucial to ensuring that refugee children are registered with UNHCR and have access to basic services. It is also important in ensuring that parents register the birth of newborns, and that school-aged children living in remote areas and those with specific protection risks have access to education, health care and other services.

Strategy

UNHCR works to ensure that refugee children at risk and/or victims of violence have timely access to appropriate services by:

- Improving outreach to ensure identification and safe referral of children at risk and victims of violence through training of refugee outreach volunteers, frontline workers and others providing services to refugee children;
- Building capacity of child protection actors to better prevent and respond to child protection needs particularly through the establishment of a coaching mechanism for social workers;
- Strengthening national child protection system to ensure emergency referral and provision of adequate care for children at high risk, and reinforce existing services such as psychosocial support and legal counselling;
- Mainstreaming child protection into all activities carried out within refugee and host communities especially within the health, education and shelter sectors;
- Advocating for expanding access to services for both refugee and Lebanese children;
- Contributing to the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave child rights violations committed in Syria.

UNHCR co-leads the inter-agency working group on child protection together with the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNICEF, and works to ensure the complementarity of interventions benefiting refugee children.



Abdallah, 17 from Damascus teaches other children how to grow plants in a community centre in Mount Lebanon.
UNHCR/D.Khamissy/2014

UNHCR implementing partners

Amel Association-Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (CMLC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Relief and Development (IRD), International Rescue Committee (IRC), INTERSOS, Makhzoumi Foundation, Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA).

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Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Update

December 2014

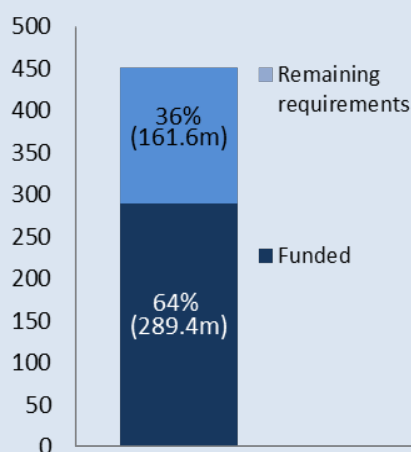
Key Figures

1,158,995	individuals registered or pending registration
80%	of refugees are women and children
39%	of women and girl refugees have specific needs
34%	of refugee households are female headed

Funding

UNHCR total requirements:
USD 451 m

USD in m



December developments

- In north Lebanon, a life-skills curriculum under the name of “My Safety, My Wellbeing” was developed and commenced in the Women and Girls Counseling Center (WGCC) in Batroun. The curriculum aims at equipping girls between 11 and 18 years with the knowledge and skills to identify and protect themselves from risks of SGBV. Sessions addressing the negative consequences of early marriage and on reproductive health were held with 358 caregivers (family members, close friends, neighbours etc.). Beneficiaries reported that the activities helped them to re-build their self-confidence, strengthen their relationships with their families, but also respond to and prevent risks of gender based violence. Over the course of December, 189 girls at acute risk of early marriage accessed case management services including psychosocial counseling at the WGCC.
- Despite increased efforts to reduce the risk of SGBV throughout the country, protracted displacement and increasing vulnerabilities exacerbate the risk of SGBV incidences, which was confirmed during focus group discussions conducted in Tripoli this month. Issues raised included relations with parents, peer to peer violence and personal security. Over 620 survivors and individuals at risk of SGBV were assisted to access specialized services, including psychosocial and medical care, as well as legal and life skills programmes carried out by UNHCR’s partners in December alone.
- UNHCR in collaboration with IRC conducted mapping exercises in Tripoli, safety audits and focus group discussions with over 300 refugee women from different communities to identify gaps in available services, protection risks such as insecure sanitation facilities, and capacities among the community members to address these issues. Together with social workers, the women identified risks of SGBV in their communities including the lack street lighting in public places and toilets and started devising response strategies to complement ongoing interventions including information sessions on reproductive health and women’s rights. During the discussions, beneficiaries also learned about practical response mechanisms such as reporting SGBV incidents at health facilities and to legal partners as well as about specialized service providers in their areas.

In 2014, UNHCR together with its implementing partners scaled up SGBV prevention and response programmes with a focus of strengthening the capacities on local actors and institutions. As the risk of SGBV incidents increases with the length of displacement and a deterioration of socio-economic vulnerability, further efforts will be made in 2015 to strengthen prevention, increase coverage and improve the quality of the response.

Achievements: January – December

Activity	 reached Jan-Dec	 2014 Target
Provision of assistance for identified survivors	100%	100%
Persons at risk identified and supported	7,597	-
Safe spaces established for women/girls	13	13
Mid-way houses maintained	2	2
Individuals trained and sensitized on SGBV prevention & response	19,758	15,000
Men and boys mobilized on SGBV	130	330

Needs

Refugee women and children are disproportionately affected by SGBV. Unaccompanied girls and adolescents, single heads of households, child mothers and spouses, and women and girls living with disabilities are among those most at risk. 25% of survivors of reported SGBV cases are under 18 years of age.

As local and institutional capacities to address SGBV-related issues are overstretched, refugees need support both for SGBV prevention and response. Due to the negative social stigma associated with SGBV and risks to personal security, survivors are often reluctant to seek assistance. In order to encourage SGBV survivors to seek assistance, the availability of specialized services and safe spaces is essential. Survivors also need emergency and life-saving services including medical services, which are often inadequate or lacking. Psychosocial and legal support services need systematic and institutional support to strengthen their capacity. Above all, these services need to be available and accessible to refugees.

Refugee women and girls are in need of safe spaces, such as the twelve centres, including the Women's Resource Centres, which provide life skills activities and help women establish support networks. Community mediation initiatives, including the engagement of men and boys remain critical to address the root causes of violence.

Challenges

Dispersed refugee population: Due to the dispersal of refugees in over 1,750 locations, community outreach efforts require significant allocation of resources and time. Yet, community outreach is a priority, in particular to provide access to services for women and girls at risk, whose mobility is restricted due to security concerns and cultural values, coupled with lack of documentation among refugees and growing tensions with host communities. Additionally, a weak legal framework, limited resources and risk to personal security prevent survivors to come forward and seek assistance.

Lack of accommodation: With the numbers of refugees increasing, overcrowding and lack of privacy in shared accommodation, such as collective shelters and tented settlements, places refugees at heightened risk for SGBV.

Lack of income-generation opportunities: Scarce economic opportunities coupled with the high costs of accommodation and associated living expenses causes some families to resort to negative coping mechanisms which place refugees at heightened risk of SGBV. These include: early marriage, child labour and survival sex.

Strategy

SGBV prevention and response activities are being pursued in close cooperation with UN agencies and NGO partners. UNHCR also works closely with the Government in the areas of social services, security, and the judiciary. UNHCR works to improve access to quality of services related to SGBV prevention and response, including:

- Providing safe environments for women and girls through mass communication, community mobilization, and establishment of Women Resource Centres and listening and counseling centres;
- Improving outreach to refugees, including through mobile activities to ensure identification and safe referral of SGBV survivors and those at risk;
- Strengthening existing specialized services for SGBV survivors, such as psychosocial, medical and legal services.
- Promoting engagement of men and boys in SGBV prevention and response;
- Strengthening key partnerships with UN agencies, NGOs, Government, and local communities to reinforce SGBV prevention, response and coordination mechanism.
- Using integrated programming to mainstream SGBV prevention and response into all sectors, in particular: shelter, WASH and child protection.



UNHCR implementing partners

Amel Association, Caritas Lebanon Migrants Centre (CMLC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC); INTERSOS, International Medical Corps (IMC); Internal Relief and Development (IRD), Makhzoumi Foundation, Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), Oxfam, Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Save the Children, and Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD).

UNHCR Lebanon

Statelessness Update

December 2014

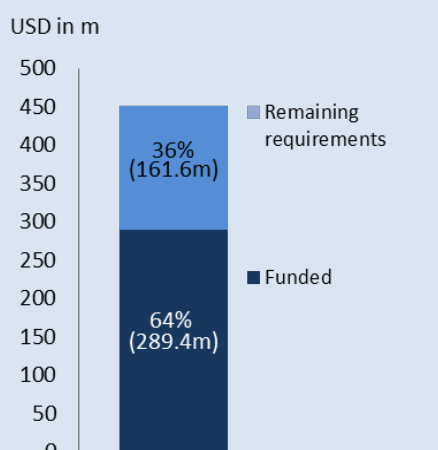
Key Figures

44,927	Syrian newborns registered with UNHCR (March 2011-December 2014)
69%	Syrian newborns lack official birth certificates*
39%	Syrian newborns lack official birth certificates because their parents lack documentation required by civil registries*

* This is based on a survey of 8,673 newborns registered with UNHCR between 1 August 2013 and 30 April 2014.

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD **451 m**



December developments

- UNHCR's implementing partner Frontiers Ruwad Association, facilitated two full-day outreach awareness sessions in Akkar reaching 37 stateless persons. Participants were sensitized about legal solutions to statelessness, the importance of obtaining and keeping records of identity documentation, as well as rights when engaging legal representation for nationality lawsuits.
- As part of its legal aid programme on statelessness, UNHCR through Frontiers Ruwad Association and eight Lebanese lawyers, initiated proceedings to assist over 90 individuals of Lebanese origin with confirmation of nationality through courts. While court proceedings in Lebanon are lengthy, it is expected that some decisions will be issued in 2015. In addition, around 20 individuals continued to be supported with confirmation of Lebanese nationality via the judicial late registration of births and marriages.
- Throughout the year, UNHCR Lebanon worked to raise public awareness about statelessness. UNHCR produced a storytelling video on civil registration and statelessness for persons of Lebanese origins, which can be seen at <http://youtu.be/XG0BRvulTAo>.

In addition, a regional TV spot on statelessness with the slogan 'if they don't belong, they don't exist' was produced and will be disseminated in the Middle East and North Africa region in 2015. The TV spot highlights the issue of access to rights for stateless persons.



- In 2014, extensive work was done by UNHCR Lebanon and its partners to raise the awareness of Syrian refugees on the importance of birth registration. Over 45,000 individuals received information, counselling and legal assistance and over 500 humanitarian workers were trained. A mid-year Government decision allowing all Syrian refugees without legal stay to regularize their residency without paying the usual fines and fees until 31 December 2014 also improved access to birth registration for those parents without legal stay, as legal status is required to register births. UNHCR's birth registration survey indicates that there has been an increase in monthly birth registration rates from 23 to 40 per cent in 2014.

'When I grew up, when I turned 12 years old I learned what it meant not to have ID documents,' Leal tells her story on <http://youtu.be/XG0BRvulTAo>

Achievements: January – December

Activity	Reached Jan-Dec	2014 Target
Individuals receiving information on birth registration through awareness sessions	38,929	22,000
Families of newborns provided with individual counselling on birth registration	9,694	9,000
Training on birth registration with officials & front-liners	575	600

Needs

There are estimated to be tens of thousands of stateless persons in Lebanon. The exact number is difficult to ascertain. Two significant reasons for this are that there has not been an official census since 1932 and many stateless persons do not have civil registration records. There are a number of different profiles of stateless persons in Lebanon, as well as individuals who are at risk of statelessness. Stateless persons in Lebanon face obstacles in accessing healthcare, education, social services, as well as the labour market. They are unable to move freely and face risks of detention and arrest.

Challenges

Influx of Syrians: With the continued arrival of refugees from Syria, the number of stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness has risen. Stateless refugees in Lebanon include Syrian Kurds who were denaturalized in Syria in 1962. Since March 2011, 44,927 Syrian refugees have been born in Lebanon and, according to a UNHCR survey of 7,731 Syrian newborns, 70% do not possess an official birth certificate.

Gaps in legislative framework: Lebanon is not a signatory to either the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons or the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The Lebanese nationality law contains gender-discriminatory provisions, which only allow a Lebanese woman to confer her nationality to her children in exceptional circumstances. Provisions for naturalization are highly politicized and at the discretion of the Lebanese State. Safeguards against statelessness at birth are interpreted very narrowly by the courts.

Gaps in administrative framework: Not all children are registered at birth in Lebanon. This is despite the fact that Lebanon is a State Party to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child which requires the registration of the birth of every child and reaffirms a child's right to a nationality. Barriers to birth registration include a complex procedure with onerous requirements for documentation.

Strategy

UNHCR has a global mandate to work on the identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness, and the protection of stateless persons. In Lebanon, UNHCR is working to respond to statelessness through three strategic actions:

- **Identification of the population:** The advancement of rights and protection for stateless persons in Lebanon is constrained by the lack of data on persons concerned. UNHCR is supporting a survey on statelessness in Lebanon being undertaken by a local NGO called Frontiers Ruwad Association. UNHCR is also undertaking qualitative research on statelessness through individual casework and participatory assessment. This information is contributing to the strategy for the prevention and reduction of statelessness as well as the protection of stateless persons.
- **Advocacy for legislative changes:** UNHCR works with the Lebanese government for improvements to the Lebanese nationality law, access to civil registration, as well as the protection of stateless persons. The Lebanese Ministries of Interior, Justice, Health, Education and Social Affairs have appointed statelessness focal points who are engaged with UNHCR bilaterally and are also participating in working groups on statelessness and civil registration.
- **Direct assistance:** UNHCR is assisting Syrian refugees to access civil registration procedures in Lebanon. UNHCR has implemented a legal aid project on statelessness which focuses on assisting unregistered persons of Lebanese origin to access Lebanese nationality. UNHCR has initiated a national campaign on birth registration in partnership with Frontiers Ruwad Association and with the support of the Ministries of Interior, Social Affairs, Public Health, Education and Justice.

Excerpt from information leaflet on birth registration



Animated film on birth registration available at:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=AX0j243WnTk

UNHCR implementing partners

Caritas, International Relief and Development (IRD), Frontiers Ruwad Association, and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

UNHCR Lebanon

Community Development Update December 2014

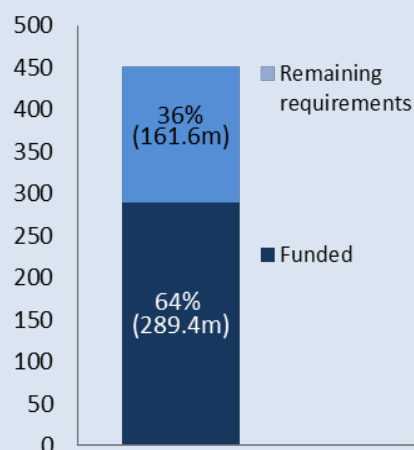
Key Figures

1,158,995	individuals registered or pending registration
80%	of refugees are women and children
39%	of women and girl refugees have specific needs
25%	of registered refugees children are at risk

Funding

UNHCR total requirements 2014: USD 451m

USD in m





December developments

- A total of 1,500 families with urgent protection and assistance needs were identified by Refugee Outreach Volunteers (ROVs) and referred to UNHCR and partners for follow-up and provision of assistance. The majority of referrals in December involved persons requiring medical assistance. During home visits and other contact with refugees, health ROVs provided information on health risks and conditions and guidance on services and procedures. For urgent medical cases, ROVs worked together with UNHCR and partners to ensure that patients could access hospitals and the required treatment.
- As part of the participatory assessment (PA) conducted during the last quarter of 2014, multi-functional teams comprised of humanitarian workers from 23 agencies held 140 focus group discussions and interviews with 1,000 refugees. Based on the findings, a multi-sectoral community action plan will be developed in early 2015 to better address the identified concerns and mitigate their impact in the coming months. The major concerns reported were:
 - Health:** High costs, limited availability of chronic medication and specialized services;
 - Shelter/WASH:** High costs of rent and heating and lack of safe drinking water;
 - Education:** Lack of clear and updated information, preference for schools with Syrian curriculum;
 - Protection:** Isolation of women for cultural and traditional reasons, violence against women and girls, street children and child labour, access to services for older persons, sense of marginalization, access to information, in particular for persons with disabilities also suffering from lack of access to livelihood opportunities.

Follow-up on the identified issues will start in early January 2015.

- This month, UNHCR supported five NGOs to run psychosocial and learning activities for 25,000 refugees and Lebanese at the 28 Community Development Centres. Starting January 2015, an assessment will be conducted with participants to measure the relevance, quality and socio-economic impact at 3 and 6 months following completion of each skills training activity.
- By the end of December, Al Majmoua, a local NGO specialized in livelihoods, concluded its implementation of livelihood programmes in Tripoli, Mount Lebanon and the Bekaa. By year end, 9,372 individuals, (38% Lebanese, 75% female) had benefited from vocational training, job counseling, job placement and loans. An evaluation of the programme showed that limited work opportunities, a tight legal framework and a high rate of informal economic activity in Lebanon posed challenges to linking skilled beneficiaries to jobs.
- Under the patronage of the Ministry of Social Affairs, an end of year art, photo exhibit and artisanal fair was jointly organized by UNIDO and UNHCR from 4th- 6th of December, bringing together Lebanese and Syrian communities to celebrate the long tradition of handicrafts in Lebanon. The fair hosted ten stalls run by a range of cooperatives, NGOs and individuals and offered culinary and artisan wares including metal and glass work, block printing and embroidery. Each stall was able to make between 1,000 and 1,500 USD, directly benefiting around 100 persons from the proceeds.

Achievements: January – December

Activity	 Reached Jan - Dec	 2014 Target
Specific needs cases referred through volunteers	73,500	75,000
Refugee outreach volunteers mobilized	443	750
Community centres established	28	50
Persons registered and benefitting from Community center activities	177,000	240,000

Needs

Refugees in Lebanon face myriad protection challenges – increasingly complex in nature, as a result of the ever-evolving protection context.

Many of these challenges are exacerbated by an individuals' age, gender, background and living situation amongst other factors. For instance, according to UNHCR's 2014 Women Alone Report, many of the challenges faced by female-headed households stem from their increasing economic vulnerability. Similarly, a UNFPA assessment on Syrian youth (15-24 year-olds) reported that 89% described themselves as depressed, anxious or afraid. Youth considered unemployment and security conditions as negatively affecting their psychological status and their propensity for violence, as well as their gender relations within households. In view of these findings, UNHCR is exploring innovative ways to reach out to vulnerable persons including the women at risk, the elderly and disabled persons to tailor remedies to meet their needs and to mitigate vulnerabilities. Throughout, UNHCR engages refugees in finding solutions to the challenges they face through regular participatory assessments including focus group discussions, self-managed structured refugee committees and center-based committees. These structures are way for UNHCR to understand refugees, needs and expectations and concerns and are important forums in which refugees are able to take part in decision making and build their own initiatives.



Selection of beauty products Alia is selling during her home visits to locals. She received a micro-loan to start her small business and manages to add to the income of her Lebanese husband /UNHCR/D.Kattan/2014

Challenges

Dispersed refugee population: Given refugees are dispersed across over 1,700 locations there is a need to build on existing outreach and support initiatives to respond to and to prevent protection risks.

Increasing tensions: In light of scarce resources, diminishing salaries and job opportunities have led to an increase in tension among refugees and local communities as well as increasingly restrictive government policies on livelihood programmes for Syrians.

Overstretched social services and limited job opportunities: According to an ILO livelihood assessment, 30% of refugees are unemployed. 88% of those who are employed are unskilled or semi-skilled labourers, paid 40% less than the minimum national wage, with an average salary of 277 USD per month. Female Syrian workers earn 30% less than male workers, with an average salary of 165 USD per month.

Strategy

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

- Assist refugees at risk to access basic services;
- Strengthen outreach to refugees and host communities;
- Empower and promote self-management in communities;
- Increase self-reliance opportunities;
- Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Development Centres.

UNHCR implementing partners

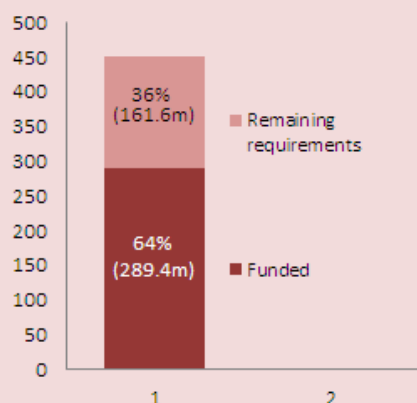
Amel Association, Caritas Lebanon Migrants Center (CMLC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), INTERSOS, International Alert, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Makhzoumi Foundation, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Right to Play, Search for Common Ground (SFCG), Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Key Figures

387,250	School aged Syrian refugee children (5-17 years old) currently registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR
88,000	Syrian refugee children enrolled in public schools in 2014/2015 (morning and afternoon shift) as per MEHE's estimates
6,300	Syrian children enrolled in the morning shift in 2014/2015 school year with UNHCR's support
35,500	Syrian children that will be enrolled in the afternoon shift in 2014/2015 school year with UNHCR's support

Funding



UNHCR total requirements: USD **451 m**



December developments

- Collation of data on school enrollment in the **morning shift** started in December by UN volunteers, deployed to regional offices of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE). While data are still being processed, the number of Syrian refugee children enrolled in the morning shift for the school year 2014/2015 appears to be lower than the 60,000 enrolled in the past school year, despite MEHE's will and joint UN funding commitments to accommodate more children. UNHCR's targets for the current school year are being revised to support more children in second shift.
- In December, MEHE provided a list of 147 schools across Lebanon where the **afternoon shift** could be open. The afternoon shift will start in January 2015, targeting 57,000 children with UN agencies' support. This represents a clear increase from the 2013/2014 school year, when 32,000 children were enrolled in 80 schools supported by UNHCR.
- Discussions with MEHE over monitoring and oversight of enrolment, as well as on modalities to transfer funds for the supported children are ongoing.
- Close to 1,000 Syrian and Lebanese youth were supported by UNHCR in **vocational public schools** in the 2014/15 school year.
- UNHCR and partners completed the rehabilitation of eight public schools, bringing to 22 the total number of schools rehabilitated in 2014.
- In 2014, education partners supported **non-formal education** programmes for more than 100,000 children. Of these, close to 20,000 were supported by UNHCR. Their transition to school is currently being monitored.

Achievements: January - December

Activity	 Reached January-December	 2014 Target
Total number of children supported for primary education in school year 2014/2015:		
- Morning shift	6,200*	10,000
- Afternoon shift	35,500*	32,000
Total number of children supported for vocation education in school year 2014/2015:	950	1,000
Syrian refugee children enrolled in Accelerated Learning Programmes (ended in September 2014)	17,500	15,000
Syrian refugee children enrolled in remedial classes after school (ended in September 2014)	3,513	2,100
Total children supported in school year 2013/2014		
- Formal education	64,000	52,000
- Children with special needs	62	500

*Awaiting final data from MEHE

Needs

Refugee children need to continue their education in Lebanon after being uprooted from their homes and schools in Syria. Local public schools in Lebanon do not currently have the capacity and resources to accommodate the large increase in the number of school-aged children. The Ministry of Education launched the R.A.C.E. initiative to enhance resources and build capacity of schools to receive these children. While exact numbers are not available, it is estimated that more than 50% of Syrian refugee children aged 5 to 17 are excluded from any form of education (some children might be enrolled in private and Syrian schools). Among these, adolescents are the most affected, due to discontinuity in schooling and inability to catch up in class, high drop-out rates and widespread pressure to financially support their families.

Challenges

Based on assessments and profiling of out-of-school children, Syrian children face the following obstacles to learning: financial difficulties compelling families to recourse to child labour, differences between the Lebanese and Syrian curriculum, language barriers, lack of school readiness, lack of transportation to schools, and other incurred costs such as uniforms. Access to education and inclusion for children with specific needs remains a challenge. Assessments highlight the importance of mobilizing and building awareness among parents to overcome some of these difficulties. Several means are used to ensure refugees receive appropriate and timely information on education opportunities, thanks to SMS, public information campaigns on the radio, dissemination of information in community centres, registration centres and through Refugee Outreach Volunteers.

Ensuring that the quality of education is not compromised by expanding access to education is both a challenge and a priority. Overstretched school resources not only negatively affect learning outcomes; they also have the potential to fuel discriminatory attitudes, frustration and occasional violence. To help mitigate these tensions, UNHCR and partners distribute school materials and equipment to all students, both Syrians and Lebanese. The Government plan R.A.C.E. also calls for support to improve teacher training and learning environments.

Monitoring school retention rates and learning outcomes for both refugee and Lebanese children remains a key challenge for 2014-2015. Real-time monitoring of attendance will help inform response measures to prevent drop-out and sustain learning progress. System strengthening, especially with the Department of Counselling and Guidance, is also planned with the support of UNICEF.

Strategy

UNHCR has a three-fold strategy for education of school-aged children:

- **Formal Education**

Support resources mobilization for the Ministry of Education to ensure quality access to first and second shift schooling for refugee children, provide access to secondary and vocational education, create space for children in the public system and build social cohesion in and around schools. Scholarships for higher education are also provided.

- **Non-Formal Education**

Increase other educational opportunities for school-aged children including through better identification of out-of-school children, Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP) and other ways to prepare children for access to certified and quality education.

- **Support to the Ministry of Education**

The Ministry of Education launched the three year strategy, *Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon (R.A.C.E.)* in May 2014 aiming to enrol more than 400,000 children in education by 2016. UNHCR supports the initiative through coordination, secondment of staff to central and regional offices to ensure information-management and monitoring, and provides equipment and material support to schools and regional offices.



UNHCR implementing partners

Agence d'aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC), Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children (SCI), Terre des Hommes (TdH), War Child Holland (WCH)

Contact: Audrey Nirrengarten (nirrenga@unhcr.org)

Cash Assistance and Core Relief Items Update

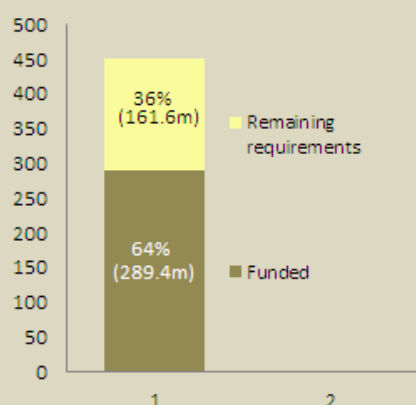
December 2014

Key Figures

1,158,985	individuals registered or pending registration
17,377	registered refugee households reached with unconditional cash assistance via ATM cards
40,960	refugee households received cash for winter assistance
126,610	vulnerable refugees received high-thermal blankets

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD **451m**



December developments:



Unconditional cash assistance

- About 10,400 families were reached with unconditional cash assistance in the month of December. Since the programme was rolled out last August, it has progressively incorporated an increasing number of refugees, who receive an amount of LBP 260,000 per month via ATM cards.
- An additional 8,500 families extremely vulnerable families living above 500 meters were initially identified for inclusion into the unconditional cash programme for the winter months. Despite a higher no-show rate than expected, over 82 per cent of these families were reached by end of December. Through household visits, partners' support, referral from other agencies and other complimentary measures, UNHCR expects to increase the number of beneficiaries to around 9,000 families.

Winter Support

- 40,960 vulnerable refugee families received cash for winter support via ATM cards, covering the months of November and December 2014, as well as January 2015. As part of UNHCR's winterization plan, a total of 50,120 families living between 500 and 1,100 meters will receive LBP 120,000 per month during the winter season.
- Fuel vouchers were distributed to approximately 137,160 vulnerable refugees, and another 126,610 received high-thermal blankets.

Achievements: January – December 2014

Activity	 Reached January-December 2014	 2014 Target
Unconditional cash assistance	51,995	55,000
Unconditional cash assistance (winter)	34,890	42,770
Cash-for-shelter	38,165	31,170
Emergency cash-for-protection	3,082	16,500
Cash-for-hygiene and baby kits	213,935	203,000
Core Relief Items (CRIs) for newcomers and others in need	43,020	96,780
Winter Support	Reached December 2014	Target winter 2014-2015*
Cash-for-winter	204,800	250,760
Fuel vouchers	137,160	180,000
Diesel stoves	6,970	17,000
High thermal blankets	126,610	226,000

*Winter 2014-2015: November 2014 to February 2015

Needs

Refugee households throughout Lebanon are struggling to meet their basic needs, particularly during winter season, as they lack access to income generating opportunities and as family resources and savings are dwindling. With most households relying on market provided goods and services and accommodation, financial support is critical for the survival of vulnerable families. As an alternative to in-kind assistance and distribution of core relief items, refugees frequently express a preference for financial assistance which enables them to prioritize their needs and saves time and costs of travelling to distribution sites.

Challenges

High cost of living: The high cost of living in Lebanon has forced many households to move into substandard accommodation to reduce costs. The monthly cash assistance via ATM transfer is a contribution to the most vulnerable households to meet their essential needs to survive, particularly during winter season.

Poor infrastructure, weather and insecurity: Given the dispersed refugee population and the large number of refugees, distribution of CRIs requires coordinated procurement, transportation, storage and distribution. Moreover, ATM machines are not available in Wadi Khaled and Aarsal. UNHCR is therefore providing assistance via fuel vouchers and in-kind stoves in these areas.

Strategy

In response to increased needs during the winter season, UNHCR distributes both in-kind CRI and cash for winter using a targeting strategy based on economic vulnerability and exposure to cold. While UNHCR maintains an emergency stock of CRI's and provides a small amount of items for newcomers and persons in need, UNHCR places an emphasis on monthly cash grants with the objective of targeting the most vulnerable refugees. In August 2014, UNHCR shifted from sector-specific cash assistance to unconditional cash assistance through ATM cards, which is designed to supplement protection services, food, health and education and other *ad hoc* emergency interventions.

The use of ATM cards has a several key advantages based on several assessments, research and monitoring reports related to cash-based interventions in Lebanon



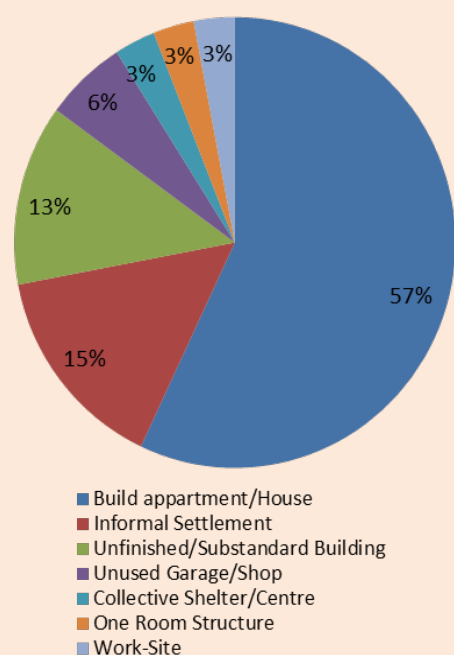
Distribution of ATM cards for cash for winter at Zahle registration center, Bekaa, Lebanon @UNHCR/S.Hoibak

- Given that refugees live in more than 1,750 locations across Lebanon, ATM cards provide a practical means for prompt delivery of cash assistance to refugees in the country.
- ATM cards empower refugees by providing a dignified means of receiving cash, saving time spent at or travelling to distribution sites.
- Cash cards enable UNHCR and partners to make the best use of available funds. They eliminate costs related to procurement, storage, and distribution of in-kind assistance.
- Monitoring of electronically recorded transactions allows partners to better assess refugee needs.

UNHCR implementing partners

Action Contre La Faim; Agence d'aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED); Caritas, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP); Concern Worldwide, Ghirass, Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI); Relief and Humanitarian Aid Organisation (Dar Al Fatwa); Save the Children; SAWA Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD); Solidar Suisse; Terre des Hommes -Italy, World Vision (WVI), and UTOPIA.




Key Figures



December developments

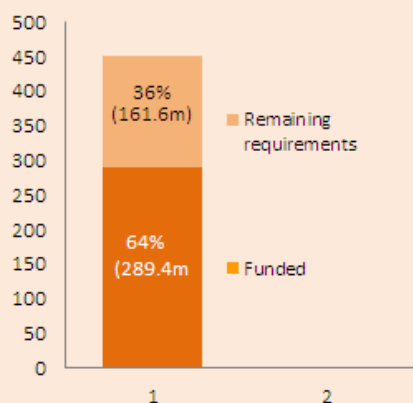
- UNHCR winterization activities continued unabated to help refugees through the winter season. In December, 3,661 vulnerable families living in informal settlements and unfinished houses were provided with kits to protect their shelters against the elements and to better isolate them from cold and wet grounds. This brings to almost 28,000 the total number of kits distributed in 2014, to help about 145,000 refugees through winter seasons.
- Cash for shelter assistance was provided to 105 vulnerable families living in Tripoli and southern Lebanon in December. This activity, conducted in partnership with Solidar Suisse and DRC, brings to a total of 7,724 the number of families assisted in 2014.
- In 2014, around 4,046 vulnerable families benefited from site improvement activities, undertaken in partnership with MEDAIR, CISP and PU-AMI in 50 informal settlements in the Bekaa, Akkar and the South.
- In December, 32 families were provided with accommodations in collective shelters rehabilitated by UNHCR - in partnership with CISP, CHF, and DRC - in the South, Mont Lebanon, and Tripoli.
- 278 families benefited from the rehabilitation of small shelter units in Mount Lebanon, South and Tripoli.
- Rehabilitation works were completed in 22 public schools as planned.
- Overall, more than 40,005 families (200,027 individuals) benefited from shelter assistance in 2014. Shelter interventions were prioritized in informal settlements to reach the most vulnerable refugees. Funding constraints, shelter partners' capacity and other restrictions in some areas limited achievement of some targets set for 2014.

Achievements: January – December

Activity	 Reached January-December	 Reached January-December	 Target by end of 2014
Total beneficiaries from shelter support	40,005	200,027	382,731
Informal settlements weatherproofed	16,164	80,818	73,584
Site improvement	4,046	20,231	41,250
Unfinished houses weatherproofed	7,685	38,423	112,580
Cash-for-rent	7,724	38,622	47,330
Apart/Houses rehabilitated	2,854	14,269	41,234
Collective shelters renovated	1,463	7,314	9,979
Formal tented settlements	70	350	38,250

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 451 m



Needs

Shelter remains an urgent concern, especially as refugees run out of resources to pay rent. Eighty-one per cent of refugees rent their accommodation, with the average rent being USD 200 per month. Some 57 per cent of all rentals are for apartments, generally small basic lodgings shared with other refugee families in overcrowded conditions. 41 per cent of refugees live in fragile environments with limited privacy and protection from the elements. This includes tents in informal settlements and substandard dwellings including garages, worksites and unfinished buildings. Finding appropriate accommodation is a constant concern, and as their resources decrease, incidences of eviction rise.

Refugee needs include:

- Adequate shelter and dignified living conditions for everyone;
- Improvements to existing dwellings, in particular, materials (and tools) to seal off shelters from cold weather;
- Support to the most vulnerable who rent accommodation.

Challenges

Lack of wide-scale shelter options: In the absence of facilities capable of receiving large numbers of refugees, the demand for affordable and decent shelter greatly exceeds availability. The dispersion of the refugee population in over 1,750 locations requires a multi-faceted shelter strategy and close coordination with host communities, local authorities and civil society.

Increased resort to informal settlements: The growth of informal settlements, currently home to over 193,000 refugees, presents risks to refugees and increases tensions with surrounding communities. Identifying alternatives with municipalities and local actors is an on-going challenge.

Evictions: With a saturated and housing market, and growing tensions between host communities and refugees leading to tensions in many municipalities, refugees increasingly face the threat of eviction.

Strategy

UNHCR will prioritize the provision of temporary (emergency) shelter especially for those in insecure dwellings such as informal settlements, garages, warehouses and unfinished buildings. At the same time, it will continue to support longer-term options where available by:

- Providing safe emergency shelter to newly arriving families including through establishment and management of temporary shelter sites in West Bekaa and Akkar;
- Weatherproofing and improving informal settlements;
- Assisting vulnerable families through cash for renting accommodation;
- Rehabilitating and weatherproofing substandard shelters;
- Expanding collective shelter capacity through rehabilitation of private and public buildings
- Ensuring preparedness for sudden mass influx by stocking sufficient emergency shelter solutions (sealing-off kits, materials to improve shelters and temporary shelters including UNHCR family tents); and
- Including Lebanese host communities in shelter assistance schemes such as cash-for-rent or rehabilitation of host's property.



UNHCR implementing partners

Agence d'aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Concern, Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Islamic Relief (IR), MEDAIR, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), PCPM (Polish Centre for International Aid), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD) and UN-HABITAT.

UNHCR Lebanon

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Update



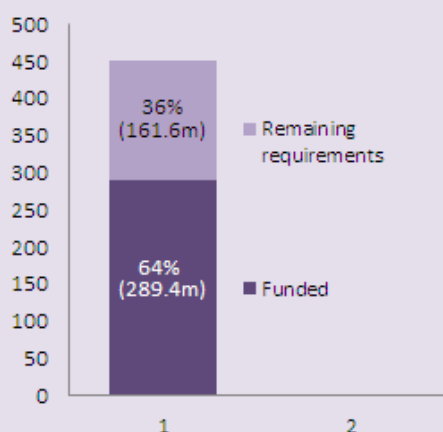
December 2014

Key Figures

1,158,995	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



December developments

In 2014, UNHCR and partners continued their effort to improve access to water and sanitation and promote hygiene practises for Syrian refugees and their host communities. Despite robust donor support, available resources were not sufficient to achieve some of the targets for 2014. UNHCR has therefore prioritized interventions aimed at increasing access to water supply, reaching over 295,000 people.

Water

- Over 47,000 people, including over 9,000 refugees, are benefiting from the construction of six water reservoirs, completed by ACTED in Mount Lebanon in December.
- About 3,500 resident Lebanese and 500 refugees gained access to clean water, following the completion of a water supply project in Kfartoun, Akkar. The intervention, conducted by Concern Worldwide, included the construction of a borehole, a pump room and a 1.4 km transmission line.
- 258 refugees benefited from 39 aqua filters that were distributed by CISP in the informal settlements of Marjeyoun, Tyre, in south Lebanon.

Sanitation

- More than 1,300 refugees living in collective centers benefited from the desludging of sewage conducted by Concern Worldwide in Akkar.
- Solid waste disposal bins were installed in Zgharta and Danniyeh, north Lebanon. About 8,420 people are benefiting from this intervention, implemented by UNDP in support of the host communities.

Hygiene

- 141 refugees benefited from 26 cleaning kits distributed by ACF and Intersos in the informal settlements located in Saida and Tyre, south Lebanon.

Achievements: January – December

Activity	Reached January - December	Target 2014
Hygiene items	616,116	400,938
Hygiene promotion sessions	178,095	593,700
Water supply	294,778	227,800
Water quality improvement	14,540	695,100
Solid waste management	85,352	383,550
Repair/construction of sanitation facilities	55,345	384,550

Contact: LOKUJU Peter (peterl@unhcr.org)

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 on-going 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 improving the capacity of local communities to collect and dispose of solid waste;
- **Promotion of good hygiene practices**, provision of basic hygiene items to newcomers as well as participation in outreach activities to refugees and host communities during hygiene promotion activities.



UNHCR implementing partners

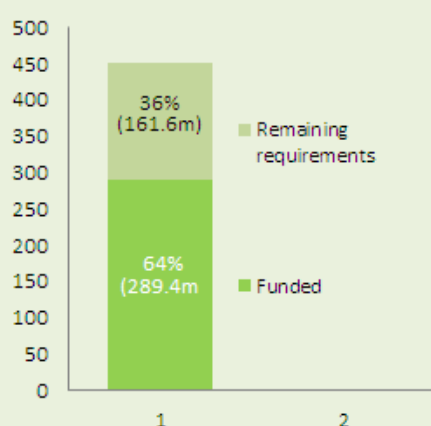
Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Agence d'aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC), Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF), Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Concern Worldwide, INTERSOS, Makzhoumi Foundation, Oxfam, Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD), World Vision (WVI)

Key Figures

1,158,995	Individuals registered or pending registration
26,500	refugee patients received primary health care (PHC)
35	# UNHCR supported primary health centers
5	# UNHCR supported mobile clinics
65	# UNHCR supported hospitals

Funding

UNHCR total requirements 2014: USD **451m**



December developments

- About 26,500 primary health care (PHC) consultations were provided to refugees in the month of December with UNHCR's support. This brings to 317,650 the total number of consultations provided to refugees in 2014, which exceeds UNHCR's annual target by 32 per cent.
- Over 4,820 refugees received life-saving hospital care with UNHCR's support. Deliveries represented more than 57 per cent of the hospitalizations. Overall, UNHCR contributed for the hospitalization of 57,650 refugees throughout the year, reaching 97 per cent of the estimated target for 2014.
- In the course of the year, health education was provided to a total of 535,000 refugees, which represents 77 per cent of UNHCR's target for 2014.
- As part of the Instrument for Stability (IfS) project, funded by the European Union, IT and office equipment was provided to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in December. In addition, technical assessments of three water laboratories were completed, bringing to eight the total number of laboratories assessed in 2014. Additionally, a total of 78 MoPH staff were recruited and supported through the IfS project by the end of the year, including 27 nurses and midwives working at PHC centres.

Achievements: January - December

Activity	reached January- December	2014 Target
Primary health care (including reproductive and mental health)	317,650	240,000
Life-saving referral healthcare	57,960	60,000
Health education	535,000	700,000

Needs

As a consequence of the violence in Syria and the destruction of public infrastructure, many refugees arrive with health conditions that require immediate attention. Others have developed health problems during displacement related to trauma and substandard living conditions. Common health care needs of refugees include: reproductive health care and family planning, child health care (i.e. vaccinations), treatment for acute illnesses (respiratory infections, gastrointestinal diseases), chronic diseases (hypertension, diabetes) and mental health. In light of their limited financial resources, refugees need support in accessing primary, secondary and tertiary health care within the public and private health care systems.

Challenges

Needs for health care exceed available resources: With the daily increase in the number of refugees, UNHCR resources are not able to meet all health care needs. Even for prioritized life-saving interventions financial resources are severely stretched. Lifesaving interventions in the area of maternal and infant health (surgical deliveries by caesarean section and care of premature infants) are extremely costly.

Difficulties in accessing health care services: Physical access to health care centers is a challenge for some refugees in remote locations. Access is also limited by short working hours and lack of trained health personnel. Visits of mobile medical units are in place to address this obstacle, but providing coverage in all areas remains a challenge. UNHCR's network of 35 PHC centers needs strengthening to offer comprehensive services and adequate follow-up for chronic conditions.

High cost of health care: Refugees are charged the same medical fees as the Lebanese. Despite contributions by UNHCR and other partners in health centres supported by the humanitarian community, many refugees still find it difficult to cover the remaining costs of medical treatment. In addition, medications and diagnostic tests are frequently overprescribed thereby increasing costs borne by both the refugees and UNHCR. Moreover, some providers require upfront payment of costs that are not covered by UNHCR.

Strategy

The role of UNHCR vis-à-vis refugee health is to facilitate, monitor, and advocate for refugee access to health care services in Lebanon.

- **Primary Health Care:**

UNHCR supports a network of PHC centres, which serve as an entry point for medical care. Through its partners, UNHCR covers most of the consultation fees for all refugees and 85% of the cost of diagnostic procedures for selected groups (including pregnant women, children under 5 and adults over 65 years). UNHCR is also working to expand the existing network of mobile medical units to ensure access free of charge for the most vulnerable refugees and those living in remote locations. UNHCR prioritizes essential services for those most in need, especially reproductive healthcare, services for infants and young children, and mental health care services. By improving access to appropriate PHC services, UNHCR aims to minimize the need for secondary health care.

- **Secondary and Tertiary Health Care:**

UNHCR supports SHC and THC in life-saving and emergency situations only. 75% of all emergency life-saving care and cost of delivery are covered. Moreover, UNHCR has established an exceptional care committee to review exceptional cases and decides based on prognosis, treatment plan and cost criteria.

UNHCR implementing partners

Association Justice et Misericorde (AJEM), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC), International Alert, International Medical Corps (IMC), International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), International Relief and Development (IRD) Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Makhzoumi Foundation, Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Restart Center, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).



Health awareness session at a collective shelter in Kerbet Daoud, Akkar @ UNHCR/R. Vicentini

Host Community Support Update

December 2014



December developments

Support to the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)

- 5,011 extremely vulnerable Lebanese households were supported through the “electronic food card component” of the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP), launched in November under the leadership of MoSA. Through the WFP e-card system, each household member received an amount of USD 30 that can be used to buy food items in the shops participating in the programme.

Support to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)

- The rehabilitation of eight public schools was completed in December, bringing to 22 the total number of schools rehabilitated in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in 2014.

Support to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)

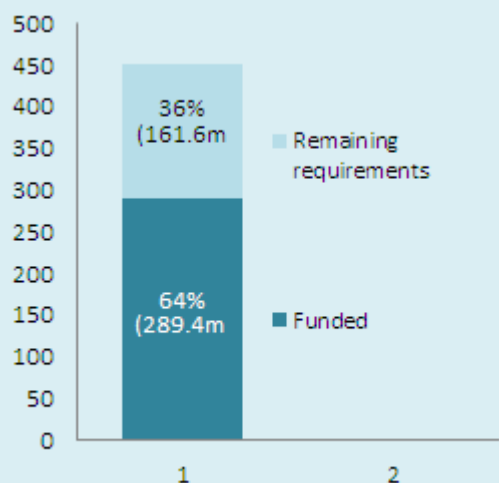
- As part of the Instrument for Stability (IFS) project, funded by the European Union, MoPH offices were provided with IT and office equipment in December, mainly for MoPH newly recruited staff. This action will contribute to strengthen the capacity of the Communicable Disease Surveillance units, allowing a prompter response to public health threats.
- The technical assessments of three water laboratories were completed in December, bringing to eight the total number of laboratories assessed within governmental hospitals in 2014. Rehabilitation works have already started in five of these laboratories.
- As of end of December, a total of 78 MoPH staff were recruited and supported through the IFS project. These include 27 nurses and midwives that have been deployed at primary health care centres to respond to the increased workload deriving from the large refugee influx.

Community Support Programme (CSP)

- 20 projects in support of the host communities were completed in December. These included: the construction of six ground water reservoirs in Mount Lebanon; the provision of water, sanitation and electrical equipment to municipalities in the North; the establishment of a public garden in Tripoli; and the provision of training and equipment to local milk producers in Akkar.
- Overall in 2014, a total of 145 projects were completed benefiting 203 host communities in the sectors of water, sanitation, social cohesion, health, and education. About 32 per cent of these projects started in 2014.

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 451m



Needs

The Lebanese people have made tremendous efforts to host and meet the needs of Syrian refugees over the last three years. Currently, over one million registered Syrian refugees are living in more than 1,750 locations, and some towns have more refugees than resident Lebanese. Substantial and prolonged refugee influx invariably place increased

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political, social, economic and environmental pressures on hosting communities. This is the case in Lebanon where infrastructure that was fragile prior to the Syrian crisis is now under severe strain. The effects of this are visible across the country. Insufficient waste management and sanitation facilities, insufficient water supply and increased demand for basic public services such as health are all outcomes of a spike in population. Communities and municipalities are struggling to cope with the pace of the crisis and resultant surge of needs.

Support to public institutions, municipalities and hosting communities is critical to mitigate some of the impacts of refugees' presence, to promote social cohesion so that Syrians in need of protection continue to be welcome in Lebanon and to help government respond to increased demand for public services.

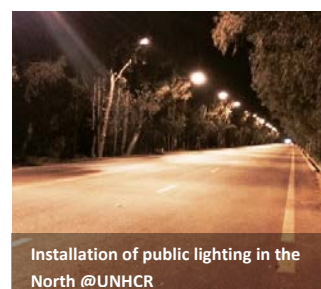
Challenges

Strengthening institutional capacities at both central and municipal level and well as direct support to local communities in various sectors has begun. Hundreds of community support projects have been initiated in areas where poverty levels, refugee numbers and tensions are high. Villages are benefiting from waste management facilities, community centres, school and medical facility improvements, new water supply and livelihood projects. UNHCR is supporting five government ministries to increase service delivery in health, education, social services, protection and security and water supply. Yet these projects are only the beginning of a much needed scaled up effort to support Lebanon deal with the socio-economic impact of the Syrian crisis and refugee influx.

Strategy

UNHCR reserves 15 per cent of its humanitarian budget for support to public institutions and projects that bring services to local communities providing assistance to refugees.

- Host Community Support: Rehabilitating schools, hospitals and laboratories and new water projects are helping host communities. In addition, the CSP Program is designed to fund quick impact and short-term community projects that meet priority needs of the community and improve the living conditions of both refugees and Lebanese communities.
- Support for government institutions that are providing services to refugees: the Ministries of Public Health (MOPH), Education and Higher Education (MEHE), Social Affairs (MOSA), Interior and Municipalities (MOIM) and Water Establishments within the Ministry of Water and Energy. From the outset of the crisis, UNHCR's strategy has been to anchor its support to refugees in national systems which could, to the extent possible, also benefit Lebanese.
- Partnerships with Development Actors: Through host community and institutional support for public services, UNHCR strives to ensure that humanitarian interventions are linked with national and municipal plans and structures that are supported by development actors. Building partnerships in this endeavour with development actors is a key element of UNHCR's strategy.



2013 Expenditures and 2014 budget

UNHCR institutional and community support	2013 Expenditures	2014 Budget*
Institutional support (Rehabilitation of infrastructure, staffing and training, equipment, supplies, medications and vaccines)	7.5	50.5
Community based projects (Health, education, livelihoods, WASH, road & communities facilities)	13.5	9.7
Total USD	21 million	60.2 million

*Expenditures for 2014 will be available in the course of 2015 following the liquidation period.

UNHCR implementing partners

Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement. (ACTED), Caritas, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Concern Worldwide, Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Alert, International Medical Corps (IMC), International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC-USA), International Relief and Development (IRD), Oxfam GB, Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Right to Play, Save the Children International, Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD), Terre Des Hommes Italy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN-HABITAT, War Child Holland (WCH) and World Health Organization (WHO).