

UNHCR Lebanon

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Update



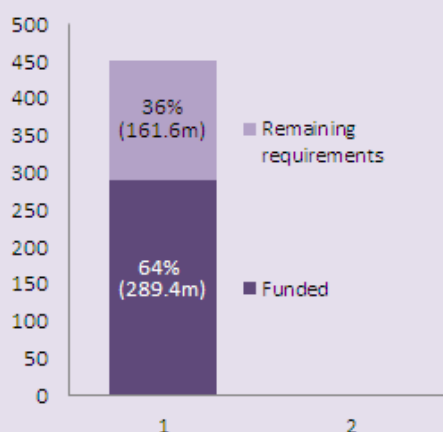
December 2014

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

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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, Makzhouni Foundation, Oxfam, Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD), World Vision (WVI)