

UNHCR Lebanon

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Update

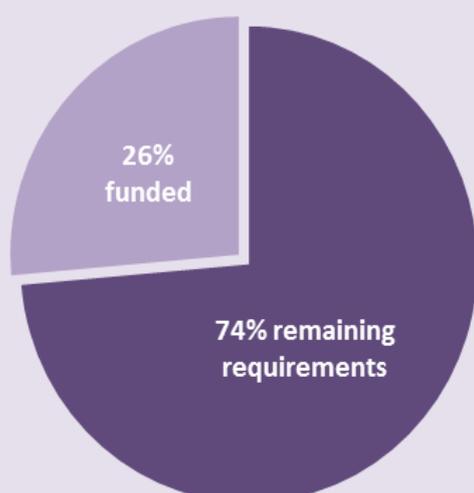
March 2014

Key figures

993,689	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 Requirements 2014: USD 468 m



WASH requirements: USD 59m

March developments

- 3000 people in collective centres in Khirbet Daoud (Akkar), received better water supplies through Concern Worldwide. Refugees and surrounding host communities benefited. In addition, 500 refugees in Mashta Hassan (Qobayat) benefited from piping networks that Concern Worldwide supplied to provide access to safe drinking water.
- CISP installed two pumps for Batroun thus providing water to 70,000 people (67,000 are host communities and 3,000 Syrian refugees).
- 260 refugees can access safe water after PU-AMI has set up a portable water network in Darb El-Sim in South Lebanon
- Following heavy rains, ACF and Concern Worldwide improved drainage and sanitary conditions for 1500 refugees living in informal tented settlements in El Mouhajirin in Arsal and Qobayat.
- In Mount Lebanon, CHF carried out water quality testing to ensure clean drinking water for children in 46 schools, and distributed water filters to 200 families to be able to access clean drinking water.
- 32,200 people received UNHCR distributed hygiene and baby kits, water tanks, water filters and other sanitation facilities.

Achievements: January- March

Activities	 reached January- March	 2014 Target
Hygiene items	190,646	400,938
Hygiene promotion sessions	18,857	593,700
Water supply	95,829	227,800
Water quality improvement	5,828	695,100
Solid waste management	38,471	383,550
Repair/construction of sanitation facilities	24,776	384,550

Needs

Water: Sufficient safe drinking water is a critical, on-going need. This is increasingly difficult in areas where large numbers of refugees have settled. Improvements to infrastructure and support to the municipalities to address water shortages faced by both refugees and host communities are required.

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.

Hygiene: As refugees arrive with few possessions, many lack basic items for personal and household hygiene. Without regular supplies, refugees face deterioration in their wellbeing and dignity. UNHCR provides hygiene kits to newcomers and monthly hygiene kit distributions to targeted refugees.



Little girl drinking water in transit site, Aرسال
@UNHCR/ L. Abou Khaled

Challenges

Dispersed refugee population: Different solutions are needed in different areas given the dispersion of refugees over a wide geographical area. This makes interventions logistically challenging and resource intensive. In some areas water shortages are best addressed through infrastructure projects which require significant funding.

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 entire country creates a significant risk for the spreading of diseases, should there be an outbreak in one area. The problem can only be resolved through urgent action by the government.

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:** through the rehabilitation of the water network and provision of means for safe water storage;
- **Improving basic sanitation:** 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:** through the provision of basic hygiene items and outreach to refugees and hosting communities.

UNHCR implementing partners

Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), CISP, Makzhouni, Action contre la Faim (ACF), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC), World Vision (WVI), Concern Worldwide, Oxfam, INTERSOS, CHF (Cooperative Housing Foundation).