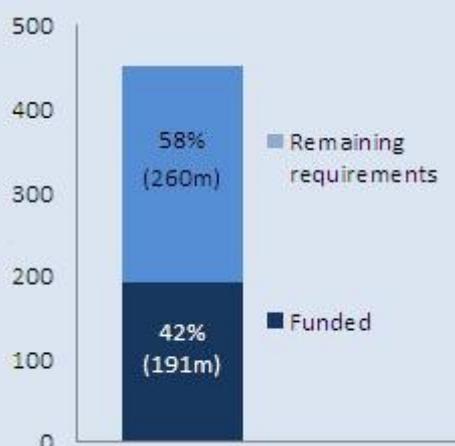


Key Figures

1,176,971	individuals registered or pending registration
79%	of refugees are women and children
39%	of women and girl refugees have specific needs
30%	of refugee households are female headed

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 451 m



August developments

- In Tripoli, the Women and Girls' Counseling and Listening Centre (WGCC) was inaugurated to offer a free, safe and supportive community space for women and girls to benefit from recreational and learning activities, peer support, psychosocial or legal assistance, and sensitization and other messages on women's rights conducted by trained women's groups within the community.
- Around 2,300 community members, including Syrian refugees and Lebanese, attended information sessions on SGBV by UNHCR implementing partners through community-based outreach and women's resource centres.
- Nation-wide, over 1,950 survivors or individuals at risk of being exposed to SGBV, including 368 children under 18 years, accessed support services including psychosocial, medical care, legal and life skills programmes through on site and mobile outreach by UNHCR implementing partners.
- 44 NGO service providers, including frontline workers working in protection (legal), education, and shelter, were trained on SGBV principles, reproductive health and care for child survivors of SGBV.
- In Mount Lebanon, the existing four community-based committees working on SGBV prevention discussed, among other issues, key strategies to be adopted to enhance refugee community active participation and involvement in SGBV prevention. The groups are also working with refugee communities to develop a project for reducing SGBV incidence in their communities.

Achievements: January - August

Activity	reached January-August	2014 Target
Provision of assistance for identified survivors	100%	100%
Persons at risk identified and supported*	5,678	-
Safe spaces established for women/girls	13	13
Mid-way houses maintained	2	2
Individuals trained and sensitized on SGBV prevention and response	11,953	15,000
Men and boys mobilized on SGBV	33	330

*Individuals identified as at protection risk who benefitted from psycho-social support and counselling services.

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 the 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. Psycho-social and legal support services need systematic and institutional support to strengthen its 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

Due to the dispersal of refugees in over 1,700 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, growing tension between refugees and host communities. Additionally, weak legal framework, limited resources and risk to personal security prevent survivors to come forward and seek services.

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.

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 government ministries including those working 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 psycho-social, medical and legal services.
- Promoting engagement with men and boys in SGBV prevention and response;
- Strengthening key partnerships with UN agencies, NGOs, government, and local communities to strengthen 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); Makhzoumi Foundation, Internal Relief and Development (IRD); Save the Children; Mercy Corps; Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC); Oxfam; Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture; Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHIELD); Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA).

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