

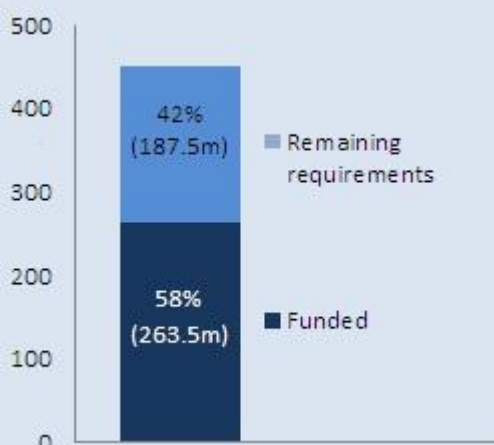
### Key Figures

**1,164,004** individuals registered or pending registration

**39%** persons with specific needs

### Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD **451 m**



### September developments

#### Access to territory and timely registration

- Admissions at the borders continued to be increasingly restrictive, including rumors of an official border closure at the end of the month, which did not occur. The basis for admission or rejection has not been published, but indications are that Syrians with proof of onward travel, professional qualifications, embassy appointments, Lebanese sponsors or, in some cases, those seeking medical treatment unavailable in Syria, are being permitted entry.
- The General Directorate of General Security (GSO) issued a series of circulars during September implementing the Council of Minister's decision of waiving overstay fines. All Syrian refugees who entered Lebanon through official border crossings and overstayed their residency have until December 31, 2014 to regularize their residency without paying the fee. Those who regularize their residency before December 31, 2014, will receive a new residency permit valid for an initial period of 6 months, renewable for an additional period of 6 months free of charge. Syrian refugees who entered Lebanon through unofficial border crossings can also regularize without paying the fee, provided they have identity documentation. Those who regularize their residency will receive a residency permit for 6 months, which is non-renewable. This new policy will benefit refugees without a valid residency (approximately 30% of the total refugee population).
- Approximately 27,000 individuals were newly registered in September, a 16% decrease from the total number of persons registered in August (around 32,000). The number of persons awaiting registration also decreased from approximately 34,000 in August to approximately 24,500 in September, down 28%. The decrease is mainly due to border restrictions.

#### Protection violations prevented, monitored and addressed

- Largely due to increased security measures, evictions increased from 1,864 persons evicted in August to more than 4,800 in September. 21 evictions from collective sites, mainly informal settlements, were reported in September. At least 17 of these evictions took place in Bekaa and north Lebanon affecting over 2,000 refugees. In Bekaa, evictions were conducted by the Lebanese Armed Forces on the account that refugees were living near military facilities. UNHCR and partners worked to respond through mediation with landlords, municipalities and other stakeholders and, in some cases, provided financial assistance and relocation for vulnerable families.
- IRC, Mercy Corps and Intersos visited over 6,000 refugees in over 700 locations and referred 350 persons with specific needs for assistance in shelter, WASH and school placement. This month, partners focused on monitoring the implementation of the regularization policy, obstacles to access to territory, as well as the increase in security raids in informal settlements and evictions.

#### Access to legal services and civil status documentation enhanced

- UNHCR received referrals of 1,111 Syrians arrested for questioning over the course of September, including some 730 Syrians who were arrested in Aarsal between 19 and 25 September and released after questioning.
- There are currently 393 Syrian refugees in detention across Lebanon, an 8% increase from August. Of these, 73 Syrians were detained solely on the basis of their irregular status. 57 detention visits were carried out by UNHCR and partners, reaching out to 238 individuals. Of these, 180 individuals received legal counseling and 156 received medical assistance.





Syrian refugee family inside their collective shelter accommodation @ UNHCR

- UNHCR and partners provided legal counseling to 4,093 persons on regularization of legal status, birth registration, housing, land and property rights as well as general security concerns. 96 cases were provided with legal representation before the courts on matters of personal status, including custody documents and marriage registration. 6,508 individuals took part in legal awareness sessions mainly on the regularization process, as well as marriage and birth registration, labor and housing, land and property related issues.

#### Durable solutions made available

- A total of 1,570 persons were submitted for resettlement in September, bringing the total submissions in 2014 to 7,170 persons (81% of the annual target).
- 520 persons departed Lebanon, bringing the total departure numbers for 2014 to 5,030 persons (85% of annual target).
- This month also saw the last departure to Germany for the 2013 HAP programme.

## Achievements: January - September

Activity	 reached January-September	 2014 Target
Persons interviewed at the border	8,154	8,000
Persons registered (or pending registration)	380,626	600,000
Monitoring visits	28,549	50,000
Legal counseling	12,408	11,400
Detention visits	2,453	3,000
Persons submitted for HAP and resettlement*	7,170	8,400
Departures (HAP and resettlement)*	5,030	5,900

\*Includes Syrian and other nationalities

have entered through official crossings have difficulties meeting the residency renewal fees. UNHCR continues to advocate for the waiver of such fees.

**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 a myriad of vulnerabilities.

**Lack of civil status documentation:** Many refugees lack civil status documentation. Worn out documentation can cause delays or rejections at the border, and sometimes, separation of family members. 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. The inability to register births may put refugees at a heightened risk of statelessness and increase vulnerability of individuals to exploitation and trafficking.

**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 of violence. Solutions remain limited due to the lack of shelter or 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 Social Affairs (MOSA), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Oxfam, and Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention For Local Development (SHEILD).

## Needs

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 nor to 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