

# Shelter Sectoral Note

Beirut, 15 January 2013



## Numbers

- As of 15 January: 206,666 refugees (registered and awaiting registration)
- Planning figure by 30 June 2013: at least 300,000 refugees

## General Shelter Needs

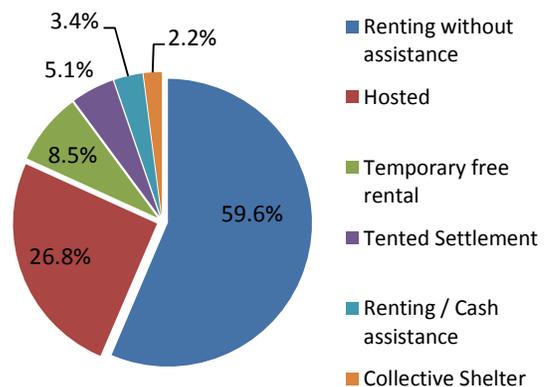
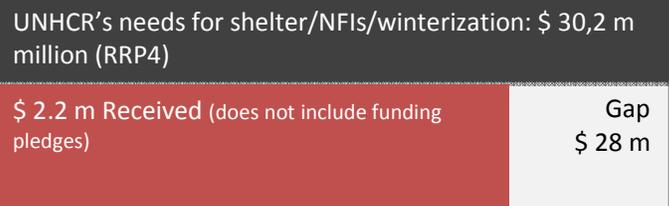
### Current shelter situation

Refugees in Lebanon are scattered across the country with the largest concentrations of refugees living in north Lebanon (42%) and the Bekaa valley (32%). Since registration has begun in south Lebanon, refugee concentrations there, and including Beirut, have increased to approximately 26% of total refugee population.

At the beginning of the influx, most refugees resided with host families, however, this dynamic has shifted as the length of displacement extends and the numbers increase.

Currently, 60% of the registered population rent accommodation, for relatively high rent. This accommodation is often in poor or sub-standard condition. Approximately 27% percent of refugees live with host families. A growing number of refugees, currently 8.5% percent, are accommodated in unfinished private houses which have been upgraded by sealing off interventions or basic rehabilitation. In exchange, the owners have provided free rent accommodation to refugees. A further 5% of Syrian refugees stay in tented settlements and 2% are accommodated in collective shelters.

The availability of shelter in general, and particularly adequate shelter, is a persistent concern. The ability of agencies to quickly address shelter needs is constrained by a number of factors including: the increasing rate of new arrivals and registered populations; the dispersed nature of settlement (across 700 municipalities); the



economically and socially depressed condition of the areas and consequent limits of local support; the scarcity of available rental accommodation and the fact that a coordinated central government response on shelter has only recently been engaged.

While this paints a pessimistic picture, it does not tell the whole story. Despite the challenges, the manner in which Lebanese communities have welcomed their Syrian neighbours in distress is remarkable. There has also been a high degree of local cooperation and facilitation of the shelter options that international agencies have supported over the previous months, which includes an emphasis on providing benefits to host families and communities. Lebanese communities continue to generously welcome their Syrian neighbours, but that generosity alone cannot meet all the needs as the refugee population grows and winter has started, severely aggravating the living conditions of Syrian refugees in the country.

## RRP 4 Shelter strategy (January-June 2013)

The RRP 4 shelter strategy consists of the following three main components:

1. Providing and supporting accommodation
2. Ensuring accommodation is safe and secure against the elements
3. Provision of needed non-food items for the winter

### 1. Providing and supporting accommodation

Achievements and plans by UNHCR and implementing and operational partners

	Achieved		Ongoing		Planned RRP 4	
	HH	Indivi.	HH	Indiv.	HH	Indivi.
<b>Temporary shelter (emergency)</b>	55	275	38	190	1,280	6,400
<b>Rehabilitation of houses</b>	1,138	5,690	3,277	16,385	5,954	29,770
<b>Running of collective shelters</b>	150	750	94	470	400	2,000
<b>Identification and rehabilitation of public buildings for collective centres</b>			1,300	6,500	2,000	10,000
<b>Cash for shelter</b>	175	875	285	1,425	3,850	19,250
<b>Cash for hosting families</b>	364	1,820	36	180	350	1,750
<b>Unconditional cash assistance</b>	0	0	100	500	18,200	91,000
<b>Establishment of 2 transit centres</b>	0	0	0	0	2,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,083</b>	<b>20,415</b>	<b>7,591</b>	<b>37,955</b>	<b>37,984</b>	<b>189,920</b>

**Partners:** Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Swiss Development and Cooperation (SDC), Polish Aid (PCPM), Premiere Urgence (PU-AMI), Caritas, Handicap International (HI), Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Shield and Makhzoumi Foundation.

#### Consequences

Lack of sufficient resources to ensure adequate accommodation means that more people live in substandard dwellings and/or resort to desperate measures to secure shelter. Incidence of preventable diseases increases and the health of the population deteriorates, which also impacts local communities.

<sup>1</sup> Financial year 2012, implementation continues in 2013.

Without adequate resources, UNHCR and partners prioritize maintaining the existing cash-for-rent programme (to prevent evictions), finishing construction of buildings and providing temporary measures such as temporary shelters and tents when absolutely necessary.

## 2. Ensuring accommodation is safe and secure against the elements

Achievements and plans by UNHCR and implementing and operational partners

	Achieved		Ongoing 2012 2013 <sup>2</sup>		Planned RRP 4	
	HH	Indivi.	HH	Indiv.	HH	Indivi.
<b>Weatherproofing</b>	2,201	11,005	3,761	18,805	5,950	29,750

**Partners:** Caritas Lebanon, Premiere Urgence (PU-AMI), NRC, CISP.

Needs assessment for shelter: on-going identification of beneficiaries through field visits and meetings with local authorities and/or local charities

## 3. Provision of Non-Food Items

Achievements to date under 2011 and 2012 funding by UNHCR and implementing partners

NFIs distributed	Quantity
<b>Hygiene kits</b>	217,996
<b>Fuel vouchers</b>	110,930
<b>Heating fuel for schools</b>	89 schools
<b>Clothes (vouchers)</b>	30,419
<b>Mattresses</b>	55,775
<b>Blankets</b>	15,769

**Partners:** DRC, NRC, Caritas, HI, Shield, PU, CISP

Winter NFI activities of UNHCR, implementing and operational partners include

- Fuel vouchers
- Heating fuel for schools
- Blankets
- Clothes (vouchers)
- Mattresses
- Hygiene kits
- Oil stoves

### Consequences

Lack of sufficient resources to ensure refugees receive the required NFIs (non-food items) will lead to a reduced number of these items provided per refugee family. The lack of a sufficient quantity of NFIs such as blankets, clothes, cooking stoves and fuel will negatively impact the health of refugees, especially during the cold of the winter months and will also reduce the possibility for refugees to live in safety and dignity.

<sup>2</sup> Financial year 2012, implementation continues in 2013.

## Coordination

Working with the Minister of Social Affairs for the:

- Identification of needs and response design at field level in the framework of existing working groups in the North, Bekaa and South
- Coordination at Beirut level to promote harmonisation of standards (e.g. cash for shelter, NFI kits) and consistency with overall strategy
- Identification of vacant public buildings for accommodation of refugees and contingency preparedness

## Contingency Response Strategy January-March 2013

With the ongoing pace of arrivals, and the constraints noted above, the need to move towards other shelter options is now apparent.

Specifically, UNHCR and partners are finding that the ability to quickly identify an appropriate shelter option for newly arrived refugees is outstripped by the pace of arrivals.

Additional UNHCR needs 2013 for emergency response and contingency planning \$ **33** million

\$ 3 Received

Gap  
\$ 30 million

Accordingly, UNHCR is working with the government to identify shelter sites. At these sites, refugees would be received upon arrival and their most urgent needs addressed until relocation. Under the current circumstances the emergency response includes the following components:

### 1. Increasing stock of immediately deployable equipment

Growing numbers of refugees and escalating violence in Syria have increased the need for immediately deployable equipment as a contingency measure.

- Emergency sanitation units
- Water stand and connection tanks
- Non-Food Items

### 2. Setting up shelter sites

Shelter sites will help to absorb high numbers of new arrivals and provide them with basic assistance. Shelter sites require approval by the government as well as material and human resources.

- Installation of tents/prefabs and facilities
- Provision of non-food items
- Site management and security
- Provision of electricity