

Shelter Update

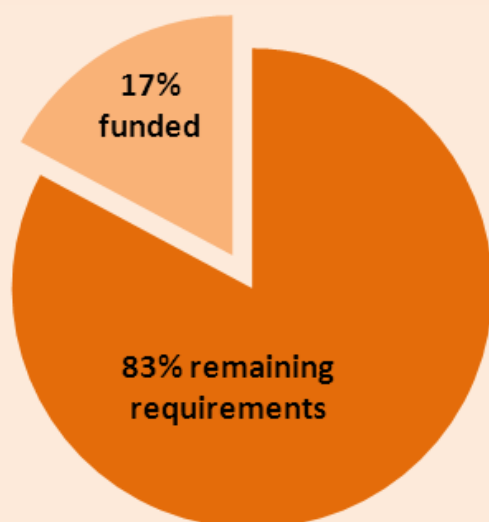
January 2014

Key figures

903,695	individuals registered or pending registration
67%	apartment house
14%	informal settlements
14%	garages, worksite and unfinished house
1.2%	collective shelter

Funding

UNHCR requirements 2014: **USD 468 m**






Shelter requirements: **USD 75 m**

January developments

- Over 3,363 families (16,815 refugees) benefited from shelter activities including weatherproofing, rehabilitation of unfinished buildings, cash-for-rent and temporary shelters.
- Over 1,940 families living in informal settlement and unfinished building benefited from UNHCR winterization kits mainly in Akkar and Bekka Valley. In total, UNHCR and partners has distributed winterization shelter kits this winter to more than 14,220 households.
- UNHCR is stockpiling an additional batch of 10,000 winterization kits to meet needs in 2014.
- In January UNHCR rolled out an updated shelter mapping tool designed to provide complete information that will assist in provision of assistance to refugees. The mapping started focusing on 349 informal settlements, home to more than 77,000 people in the Bekka. The mapping exercise will be duplicated in others regions in the coming month. The next phase of mapping will include collective centers, collective shelters, garages and individual houses.
- UNHCR is launching a third phone survey to assess the shelter situation of Syrian refugees. Results are expected in mid-March and will help to update the shelter strategy.
- Two large farms in Akkar have now been converted into decent and adequate shelter and provide accommodation for 92 refugee families, some 460 individuals.

Achievements: January

Activity	 reached January	 reached January	 2014 Target
Total beneficiaries from shelter support	3,363	16,815	309,851
Informal settlements weatherproofed	1,489	7,445	63,463
Unfinished houses weatherproofed	454	2,270	82,901
Cash-for-rent and unconditional grants	1,128	5,640	31,170
Houses rehabilitated	1,221	6,105	29,847
Collective shelters renovated	121	605	13,959
Formal Tented Settlement	78	390	51,146

Needs

Shelter remains an urgent concern, especially as refugees run out of resources to pay their rent and as the winter months and colder weather continues. With constantly increasing numbers of refugees in Lebanon, more and more live in substandard dwellings, with limited privacy and protection from the elements.

Refugee needs include:

- Adequate shelter and dignified living conditions for individuals in informal settlements, flood-prone areas or facing eviction;
- Improvements to existing dwellings, in particular, materials (and tools) to seal off shelters from cold weather. These include: plastic sheeting, timber, external doors and/or door coverings, associated ironmongery and tools;
- Support to the most vulnerable who rent accommodation.

Challenges

Lack of wide-scale shelter options:

In the absence of facilities capable of receiving large numbers of refugees, the availability of affordable and decent shelter greatly exceeds demand. The dispersion of the refugee population in close to 1,600 locations requires a multi-faceted shelter strategy and close coordination with host communities, local authorities and religious entities.

Eviction:

With an increase refugee population, a saturated and fluctuated housing market, and constant frustration between host communities and refugees, the number of evictions tends to significantly grow every month.

Increased resort to informal settlements:

The unmanaged growth of informal settlements, currently home to over 100,000 refugees, presents risks to refugees and increases tensions with host communities. Identifying alternatives with municipalities and local actors is an on-going challenge. Dialogue with some municipalities, especially in the Bekaa, has become increasingly strained. While the Government has not been keen to set up tented temporary shelter sites, in November, UNHCR received permission to establish the first such sites in Aarsal (Bekaa).

Strategy

UNHCR will prioritize the provision of temporary (emergency) shelter while continuing to support longer-term options where available by:

- Providing safe emergency shelter to newly arriving households including through establishment and management of temporary shelter sites in West Bekaa and Akkar;
- Weatherproofing and site improvement in informal settlements in line with minimum standards;
- Cash assistance for shelter to vulnerable households in rented accommodation, who would otherwise be at risk of eviction;
- Improving substandard shelters through rehabilitation and weatherproofing of houses that can provide adequate longer-term shelter, and provision of semi-permanent shelter;
- Expanding collective shelter capacity through rehabilitation of private and public buildings, including private houses.
- Ensuring preparedness for sudden mass influx by prepositioning sufficient stock of emergency shelter solutions (sealing-off kits for weatherproofing, materials to improve shelters in informal tented settlements, temporary shelters including UNHCR family tents); and
- Inclusion of Lebanese host communities in shelter assistance schemes such as cash-for-rent or rehabilitation and improvements to property for those hosting refugee families.

UNHCR implementing partners

ACTED, Danish Refugee Council (DRC); Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI); Norwegian Refugee Council(NRC); Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD); Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF); MEDAIR; Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP); Islamic Relief (IR); Secours Islamique France; UN-HABITAT, Concern, Save the Children UK.

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