

Briefing Note: Winterization Programme for Shelter and NFIs Winter of 2013/2014 – Final Figures

Beirut, 30 April 2014



Background

- Rain, snow, and cold winter weather in Lebanon start in November and extend through March.
- North Lebanon and Bekaa valley experience particularly harsh conditions with even colder temperatures and snow in the mountains and at higher elevations. (The entire Bekaa Valley sits above 500 meters).
- At the time of planning, refugees were dispersed in over 1,500 locations throughout Lebanon, with the majority (over 64%) in North Lebanon and the Bekaa.
- Many lived in accommodation that was not properly sealed off from the elements (informal settlements, unfinished buildings, garages, worksites and warehouses).
- UNHCR had two main objectives in its winterization programme: shelter assistance and provision of necessary non-food items blankets, stoves, and money for fuel.

Shelter assistance

Refugees living in substandard dwellings including **unfinished buildings** and **informal settlements** needed emergency assistance to improve their shelter so that families could remain warm and dry during the cold and wet winter months.

- **What kind of assistance have UNHCR and partners provided?** Materials (and tools) to seal off their shelters for the winter. These included: plastic sheeting, timber, external doors and/or door coverings, associated ironmongery and tools.
- **Was assistance provided only for registered refugees?** Assistance targeted refugees, both registered and those awaiting registration. Other groups, including members of the host community in need of assistance (i.e. Lebanese living in the same building), were also targeted.
- **Cost?** The cost of winterization assistance for UNHCR was approximately \$200 USD per household.
- **Challenges?** They lied primarily with finding sufficient warehousing space, as well as with proper identification of beneficiaries in over 400 informal settlements across the country.

Target	Households	Refugees
Target	10,017	50,085
Completed	16,378	82,004
Ongoing	0	0
Percentage completed	163.50 %	

Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- **What kind of assistance has UNHCR provided?** Assistance to selected vulnerable refugee households included high thermal blankets (one per person), a stove (provided in kind or with cash), and money for five months of fuel accessible by ATM cash withdrawal monthly from November to March.
- **Who has UNHCR assisted, and based upon what criteria?**
 - All registered refugee households defined as vulnerable (according to the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees - VASyR) **and** who lived in a cadastral area above 500 meters;
 - All occupants of informal settlements (irrespective of registration status, vulnerability, nationality or elevation); and
 - Other persons who did not fit into the above categories who UNHCR and partners had identified as having specific needs or particular vulnerability.
- **Cost?** The cost of the winter NFI package for one refugee family of five persons for five months was approximately \$670 USD per household.
- **A complementary winterization in-kind assistance** consisting of: blankets, mattresses, plastic sheets, heating stoves, hygiene kits, Jerry cans and vouchers for heating fuel (200 litres per family) was distributed to 21,038 refugee households who were not covered by the regular distribution.

Winter 2013/2014 NFI target	Households	Refugees
Target for the entire winter	62,000	310,000
Number completed	80,500	402,500
Percentage completed	130 %	