



Jordan's Azraq camp for Syrian refugees opened in April, with an eventual capacity of up to 130,000 residents

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS:

On 30 April, the Jordanian Government formally opened **Azraq refugee camp**. There are currently 1,459 completed family T-shelters in Azraq and 5,233 under construction which will be able to house up to 25,000 refugees. The T-shelter solution was specifically designed to mitigate Azraq's harsh desert environment, to be quickly assembled on-site from factory manufactured kits, and to be less costly than emergency tents.

In Iraq, some 1,650 refugees benefited from the construction of 330 tent foundations and cooking areas in camps across the Kurdistan Region this month. Other **camp structures and facilities** are completed or nearing completion, including a reception centre, primary health clinic and football field in Domiz, sanitation units and cesspools in Gawilan, pre-fabricated office spaces in Qushtapa, and a distribution area, warehouse and youth and women's centre in Basirma.

In Jordan, guidelines for shelter interventions, including upgrading substandard housing units and increasing housing units available in unfinished buildings, for **refugees living outside of camps** have been endorsed. A taskforce has also been established to develop guidelines for 'cash for rent' programmes. In Lebanon, where all refugees live outside of camp settings, agencies report assistance reaching more than 200,000 individuals this year. This assistance takes the form of cash for shelter, rehabilitation of houses and apartments, weatherproofing, and site improvements in informal settlements. Also in Lebanon, Syrian families are continuing to arrive in Arsaal, where agencies provided over 70 needy families with full shelter kits.



Children play in one of the new T-shelters in Azraq refugee camp, Jordan.

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

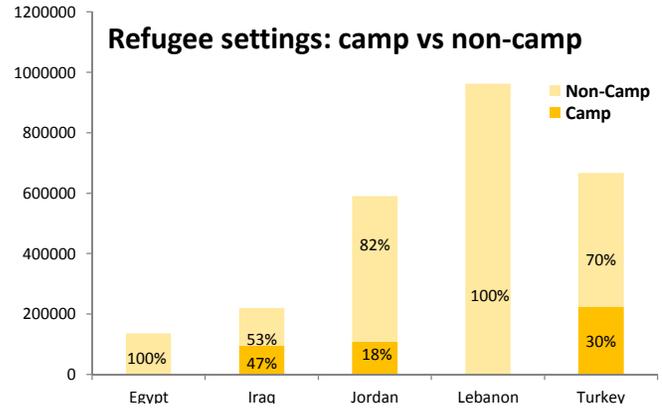


NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Over 420,000 Syrians refugees are living in tented, non-permanent accommodation and more than 105,000 people are sheltered in sub-standard informal settlements. Shelter solutions ranging from container-like accommodation to plastic tarpaulins spread across makeshift frames provide limited protection from harsh weather conditions. The winter is particularly challenging for people residing in tented accommodation. It is estimated that nearly 540,000 Syrians in tented non-permanent accommodation will require shelter support during 2014 in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

More than 80 per cent of refugees in the region live outside camps, including about 8,000 in collective centres. Shelter conditions in collective centres and unfinished buildings offer limited privacy and may be structurally unsafe. In Turkey, for example, 62 per cent of non-camp refugees live with more than seven family members in over-crowded conditions. A March 2014 survey in Lebanon found that 40 per cent of Syrian refugees are now living in sub-standard shelters including unfinished buildings, worksites, garages and informal settlements.

Though accommodation in homes and apartments may be the preferred shelter solution for most refugees, it comes at a price, usually a monthly rent, which combined with economic hardship may increase the risks of communities having to resort to negative coping mechanisms.



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:

