

More than 21,000 households received shelter assistance across the region so far this year

HIGHLIGHTS:

In Lebanon, by the end of March around 35,000 refugees have received kits to weatherproof or insulate their temporary shelters in informal settlements, and more than 100 sites where almost 5,000 refugees reside were improved against floods or other risks. Some types of assistance that were used to respond to the high influx in the first years of the crisis are now limited, like the costly management of the remaining 1,500 Collective Centres in environments that are challenged by reactions of the host communities. Also 1,100 vulnerable refugees benefited from Cash for Rent to cover exceptional short term rent costs.

Whilst the assistance of the shelter needs in the Informal Settlements is quite likely to reach the targets set for 2016 (as in 2015), the quantity of substandard buildings has not been equally supported. A total number of 14,000 refugees received support enabling them to weatherproof their shelters, and around 16,500 benefited from shelter rehabilitation, reflecting 11 per cent of the targets.

In Jordan, the restructuring of Zaatari camp is now complete in all districts, as well as the asphalt road construction is now finalized, outside of camps, a total of 3,299 Syrian refugees benefited from conditional cash for rent assistance during the first three months of 2016, and a total of 100 housing units were completed in unfinished buildings and a further 66 shelters were upgraded.

In Iraq, the total shelter capacity of Syrian refugee camps is now 19,968 shelter units, of which 15,777 (81 per cent) are now finalized (provided with concrete slab, kitchen, family latrine and shower) and more than 14,000 occupied (about 69,000 individuals).

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The large majority of Syrian refugees live in urban, peri-urban and rural settings. The high demand for shelter, to which the local and national housing markets have not been able to adjust, has led to housing shortages and an increase in rental prices, affecting host communities and refugees alike.

With vulnerability levels on the rise, many refugees cannot pay for adequate accommodation and live in substandard shelter conditions, in informal settlements or unfinished structures. These include homes with leaking roofs or plastic sheets in place of windows or with no running water or toilet.

Refugees living in camps need protection against the elements, sufficient housing space for families and a sense of privacy and security. More durable shelter options continue to be required to adjust to the protracted nature of the displacement.

The Shelter Sector, which is active in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, aims at ensuring sustainable and appropriate access to shelter and infrastructure for refugees and host community members. Sector partners will focus on the availability, affordability and quality of shelter and on improving security of tenure in a holistic manner, addressing both the short- and long-term shelter needs of the most vulnerable refugees and members of the host communities.



Haneen, 16 yrs old in the doorway of her family caravan, Zaatari.

UNHCR/Christopher Herwig

Sector Response Summary:



2,238,600 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016
106,200 assisted in 2016



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,687,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016
4,765,000 currently registered



Shelter Sector Funding status:



USD 152 million required in 2016
USD 79 million received in 2016



ANALYSIS: SHELTER SITUATION IN LEBANON

The geographical distribution of the displaced population in Lebanon was tracked through updated mapping and Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS). It underlined the relevance of the LCRP targeting priorities. The eviction movements and the relocation of displaced people in informal settlements (IS) led to a remarkable 30 per cent increase in the number of IS for the same total figures, as the displaced population tends now to live in smaller sites believing that this might decrease eviction risks.

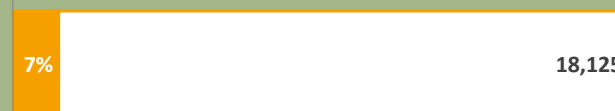
This increased number of scattered vulnerable and flood prone sites, challenges logistics and increases the costs of the shelter assistance to the displaced Syrians living in IS. The Shelter Working Groups in the Bekaa and the North assessed the needs to improve the access, drainage and infrastructure in these IS. The Shelter Sector's technical guidelines for site improvement were amended to cover such needs both in the larger, and the smaller settlements with less than 20 families per site. Technical guidelines to reduce the risk and respond better to fires were drafted in collaboration with Collective Site Management and Coordination (CSMC) partners and civil defence.

Whilst the number of registered Syrian refugees continues to hover around 1.1 million, RAIS shows an increase of the socio-economically severely or highly vulnerable families, which in turn impacts the shelter conditions of fragile families with diminishing abilities to cover their shelter needs. Therefore, and even taking account of the ongoing shelter assistance, the actual data show that the total number of displaced Syrians living in substandard or overcrowded shelters, and in poor urban neighbourhoods has increased, especially in areas where the refugees now move in search for income opportunities (increasingly in Mount Lebanon). Shelter needs are now further stretching to urban areas in and around the major cities. In reference to the latest RAIS data, now more than 9 per cent of the refugee population live in extremely overcrowded shelters, mostly in urban areas where home-owners increase the rent costs by splitting apartments to small units shared by several families who are forced to jointly contribute to cover the high rent costs, even for substandard buildings.

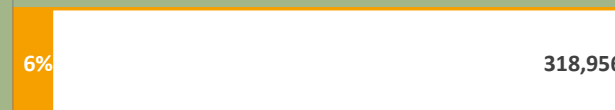
REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - MARCH 2016

Progress Planned Response, by end-2016

1,332 HHs in camps receiving assistance for shelter and shelter upgrades



19,907 HHs outside of camps receiving assistance for shelter and shelter upgrades



These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Progress and targets may change in line with data revisions. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 31 March 2016.