

Almost 19,000 households received shelter assistance across the region in February

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

During the month of February in Lebanon, no major shelter damages in informal settlements were witnessed. In 130 sites in Bekaa, technical assessments identified needed interventions to prevent flooding and ensure safe access of the refugees to their shelters. The risk of fire shall be reduced through measures identified by experts from Lebanon and abroad, who will report to an inter-sectorial task force initiated by the Shelter Sector.

Also in Lebanon, four Temporary Technical Committees (TTC) are currently elaborating guidelines for the implementation of some main shelter activities. TTCs have been initiated for: Site Improvement, Rehabilitation of Substandard Buildings, Cash for Rent and Neighbourhood Upgrading. These guidelines, which are coordinated with the other sectors, are expected during the next month.

In Azraq camp in Jordan, as at the end of February a total of 4,650 shelters are currently allocated. A comprehensive energy plan to connect electricity to every household is ongoing with the installation of low voltage poles currently taking place. Once the project is completed, each shelter will have an allowance of 1kWh/day, enough power to operate lights, a refrigerator, a television, fan, and charge phones. A solar power plant will also be installed in the camp in early 2016 to reduce the cost of electricity bills. In the meantime, UNHCR has installed 472 solar street lights and distributed average of 4 solar lanterns per household.

In Iraq, the total shelter capacity of Syrian refugee camps is now 19,060 shelter units, of which 15,861 (83 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.

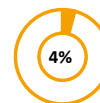


A young Syrian coming out of his tent, Lebanon. UNHCR/Haidar Darwish

Sector Response Summary:



2,238,600 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016
93,430 assisted in 2016



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,687,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016
4,745,400 currently registered



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.55 billion required in 2016
USD 220 million received in 2016



CASH FOR RENT IN JORDAN - TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

Jordan hosts more than 633,000 registered Syrian refugees, the equivalent of approximately 10 per cent of its population. As of January 2016 some 85 per cent (or 538,000 refugees) were living in host communities throughout the country in urban and rural areas: 25 per cent of these individuals are severely shelter vulnerable and 50 per cent are highly shelter vulnerable. They report shelter as their single most pressing need, and the search for shelter is now one of the key sources of tension between Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities. For refugees that have been able to secure a roof over their heads it is often at relatively high rental prices. High rental prices increase vulnerability and contribute to insecurity of tenure. One in five Syrian refugee families in host communities do not have any form of rental contract.

The Shelter Sector in Jordan has released guidelines on Cash for Rent programming. The objective of these guidelines is to inform shelter sector partners of best practices for implementing conditional cash-for-rent assistance targeting vulnerable Syrian refugees and host communities. These guidelines have been developed by a taskforce of the Shelter working group (WG).

The aim of the cash-for-rent intervention is two-fold:

- 1) to provide secure tenancy without risk of eviction;
- 2) to ensure access to shelter in non-camp settings for Syrian refugees.

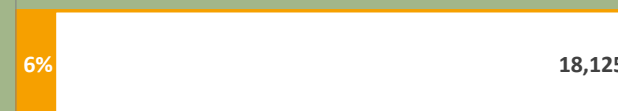
Both aim to tackle protection and security concerns for Syrian refugees in urban and rural settings.

For more information please visit: <http://data.unhcr.org>, where there is also available other technical guidelines (e.g. Completion of Housing Units in Unfinished Buildings, Increased Awareness about Housing, Land & Property Rights, Upgrading of Sub-standard Shelters and Sealing-Off Kits).

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2016

Progress Planned Response, by end-2016

1,130 HHs in camps receiving assistance for shelter and shelter upgrades



17,556 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 29 February 2016.