

## HIGHLIGHTS

The 2015 household profiling visits indicated so far that out of 55% of refugees living in substandard shelters, 40% suffer from vulnerable shelter conditions. The refugee population with high shelter needs is obviously found in informal settlements, substandard buildings and overcrowded apartments.

More than 50% of vulnerable refugees living in informal settlements and targeted for support have already received assistance this year. The distribution of weatherproofing kits is ongoing on regular basis, and site improvements to limit the risk of fires, flooding and other hazards and to ease circulation within upgraded paths are prioritized.

Only 12,000 households living in substandard dwellings of the 60,000 identified as in need of assistance have been assisted this year through distribution of sealing off kits and minor rehabilitation of dwellings or rehabilitation in exchange of free/reduced rent.

UNHCR started to test the use of insulation kits composed of compressed foam foiled fixed on the inner façade wall. This will help regulating the indoor temperature, reduce heat loss, and raise the resistance against cold especially during winter season, mainly of substandard buildings.

The rehabilitation of substandard buildings is certainly the most expensive shelter activity but is also considered to provide the most adequate and dignified shelter option for refugees, coupled with a direct positive impact on Lebanese communities and their acceptance of the refugees.

More and more vulnerable refugees are seeking for shelters in poor urban neighborhoods where the access to basic urban services is already under strain. While assisting the population living in these deteriorating neighborhoods remains a challenge, neighborhood upgrade interventions will play a major role in decreasing the stress on these specific spots and their different communities, Syrian refugees and Lebanese communities as well.

