

SITUATION ANALYSIS

According to the results of the shelter survey conducted in March, 55% of the refugee population (approx. 660,000 individuals) live in poor shelters, namely informal settlement and sub-standard buildings. They are exposed to harsh weather such as wind and rain, which is compounded by a lack of appropriate sanitation. The top three needs expressed by this vulnerable group are: a) better waterproofing of roofs, b) better sealing of openings (doors, windows), and c) better insulation.

Shelter needs differ across the country. In the Bekaa and Akkar, refugees living in informal settlements are being prioritized. In Beirut, Tripoli, Saida and Tyr, the focus is on poor urban areas. Assisting those living in substandard buildings will remain a nation-wide priority given that they are amongst the most vulnerable in terms of their shelter requirements. These local priorities are currently being integrated into operational strategies specific to each field location.

The shelter needs identified in the March survey are being addressed. The housing of 172,059 individuals (Syrian refugees, PRS, PRL, Lebanese returnees and vulnerable Lebanese families) has been improved through rehabilitation of buildings, including electrical work, plumbing, and masonry. There have also been upgrades of temporary shelters through weatherproofing and reinforcement of shelter structures. More durable shelter improvements than those previously accepted as temporary by landlords and municipalities are being designed within the shelter sector to be reviewed with the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The number of refugees living in informal settlements continues to grow. The settlements are subject to flooding, resulting in safety concerns and health risks. Jointly, the Shelter and WASH sectors are implementing unified site improvement guideline on a range of new interventions, including decongesting settlements where feasible, drainage, leveling, improving access and pathways, upgrading water points and soak away pits, as well as decommissioning of old latrines.

