

Turkey opens its biggest refugee camp to accommodate refugees who had fled fighting in the Syrian town of Kobane

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

Turkey opened its biggest refugee camp on 25 January. The new camp, located in the south-eastern border town of Suruc, will have the capacity to house up to 35,000 people. Turkey has some 24 camps housing 265,000 Syrian refugees with another one to open in Mardin in February.

In Iraq, installation of the sandwich panel partition walls in Akre camp was completed during January, along with 80 per cent of the sanitation work. Site expansion work, kitchen improvements, and the laying of concrete slabs for tents, kitchens and latrines is ongoing in camps across Iraq. In Sumel district, near Domiz camp, 235 houses were renovated and handed over, benefiting more than 1,600 people.

During January in Jordan, 8,029 temporary shelters were completed in Villages 3, 2, 5, and 6 of Azraq camp, of which 3,677 have reinforced concrete flooring. In Zaatari camp, 325 tents and 1,002 prefab caravans were distributed. The vast majority of the population of Zaatari are now living in prefabs, which are more winter appropriate shelters.

Winter-related shelter activities in Lebanon have been boosted in response to the snowstorm that hit the region at the start of the month. Almost 11,000 vulnerable individuals living in informal settlements and substandard buildings were assisted with weatherproofing kits so that they can become more resilient to the harsh climatic conditions. To address increasing evictions, mainly of informal settlements in the Bekaa, agencies have been boosting their search for alternative relocation sites, including discussions with local authorities. However, in the relative absence of those alternatives, cash for shelter appears to be the prominent solution for the most vulnerable families.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

It is expected that up to 500,000 people will be accommodated in 35 refugee camps in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey in 2015. While most refugee camps in the region meet SPHERE international standards, refugee camps have inherent challenges in relation to aid dependency, security, high running costs and continuing isolation from normal life.

For those people living outside camps, an increasing number are now living in sub-standard shelters, including nearly 300,000 refugees in 1,800 informal settlements in Lebanon and Jordan. Overall, it is estimated that more than half of all refugees live in sub-standard shelters, with challenges related to tenure, privacy, over-crowding, and risks of sexual exploitation. The shortage of shelter solutions is driving up rents and family indebtedness. These pressures especially affect lower income housing areas, as well as host communities and the wider housing market.

The 3RP emphasizes the need to improve living conditions and promote a healthy environment for all residents, as well as protecting the sustainability of camps through investments in camp infrastructure.

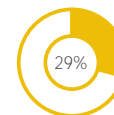


Domiz Refugee Camp, Duhok. UNHCR/T. Tool

Sector Response Summary:



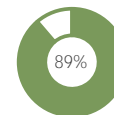
1,273,218 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted by end-2015
370,865 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
3,787,715 currently registered or awaiting



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.5 billion required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 212.26 million received in 2015



SHELTER FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN COMMUNITIES A FOCUS OF 3RP

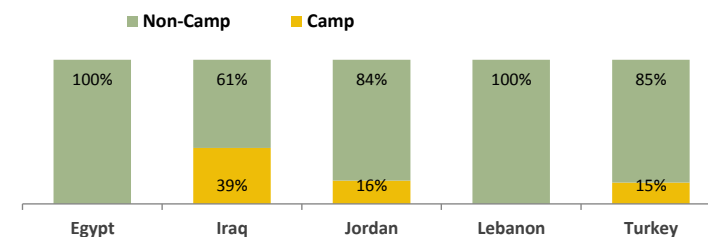
With around 90 per cent of refugees from Syria living in local communities, rather than in camp settings, activities to provide individual and community-level shelter and infrastructure upgrades to benefit both refugees and their host communities are a focus of the response across the region.

In Iraq, a monitoring of the non-camp shelter projects implemented in 2014 has revealed that there is a question of rental increase and threats of evictions by house owners. These are being addressed through the interventions and support of local authorities and 3RP partners.

In Jordan, a taskforce is in the process of developing its first draft of the standard Shelter WG M&E tool for Shelter Projects in Non-Camp Settings. It has also begun its review of the current shelter strategy and guidelines which will reflect the plans for 2015 and will link with the new M&E tool, work plan matrix, 3RP indicators, and all guidelines.

In Lebanon, the 'Four Cities Programme' is underway to address the impact on poor urban communities of the refugee crisis, and will be engaged in both neighbourhood upgrades as well as profiling the cities and poor neighbourhoods to provide more knowledge on the urban dimensions of the crisis.

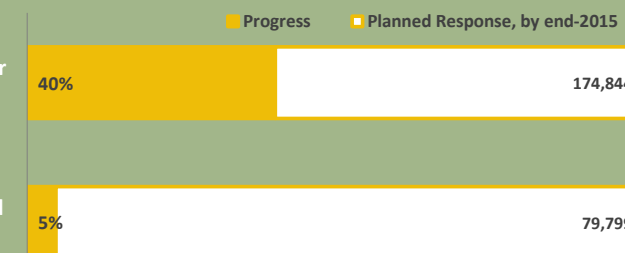
Refugees living in camp and non-camp settings



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY 2015

70,455 households outside of camps receiving assistance for shelter and shelter upgrades

3,718 households in 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. Targets are based on full funding of the 3RP and an expected 4.27 million refugees by end-2015.