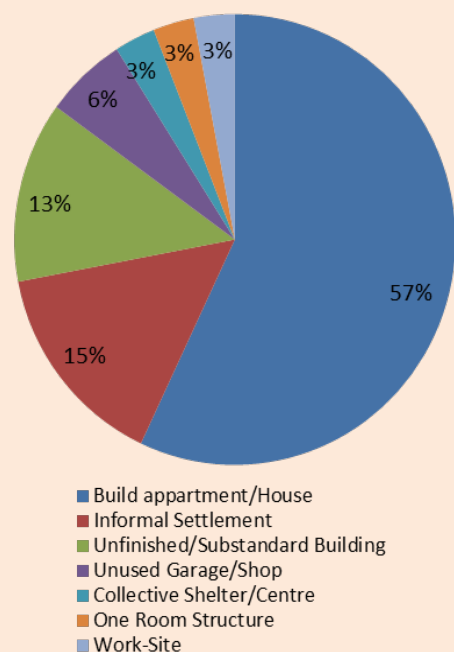


Key Figures

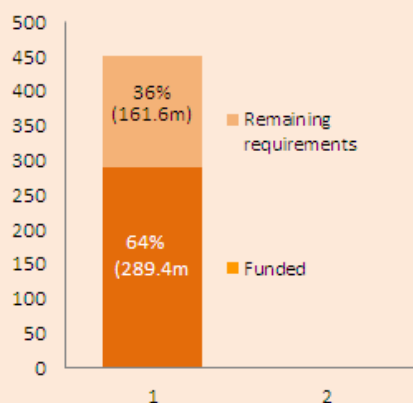


December developments




- UNHCR winterization activities continued unabated to help refugees through the winter season. In December, 3,661 vulnerable families living in informal settlements and unfinished houses were provided with kits to protect their shelters against the elements and to better isolate them from cold and wet grounds. This brings to almost 28,000 the total number of kits distributed in 2014, to help about 145,000 refugees through winter seasons.
- Cash for shelter assistance was provided to 105 vulnerable families living in Tripoli and southern Lebanon in December. This activity, conducted in partnership with Solidar Suisse and DRC, brings to a total of 7,724 the number of families assisted in 2014.
- In 2014, around 4,046 vulnerable families benefited from site improvement activities, undertaken in partnership with MEDAIR, CISP and PU-AMI in 50 informal settlements in the Bekaa, Akkar and the South.
- In December, 32 families were provided with accommodations in collective shelters rehabilitated by UNHCR - in partnership with CISP, CHF, and DRC - in the South, Mont Lebanon, and Tripoli.
- 278 families benefited from the rehabilitation of small shelter units in Mount Lebanon, South and Tripoli.
- Rehabilitation works were completed in 22 public schools as planned.
- Overall, more than 40,005 families (200,027 individuals) benefited from shelter assistance in 2014. Shelter interventions were prioritized in informal settlements to reach the most vulnerable refugees. Funding constraints, shelter partners' capacity and other restrictions in some areas limited achievement of some targets set for 2014.

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 451 m



Achievements: January – December

Activity	 Reached January-December	 Reached January-December	 Target by end of 2014
Total beneficiaries from shelter support	40,005	200,027	382,731
Informal settlements weatherproofed	16,164	80,818	73,584
Site improvement	4,046	20,231	41,250
Unfinished houses weatherproofed	7,685	38,423	112,580
Cash-for-rent	7,724	38,622	47,330
Apart/Houses rehabilitated	2,854	14,269	41,234
Collective shelters renovated	1,463	7,314	9,979
Formal tented settlements	70	350	38,250

Needs

Shelter remains an urgent concern, especially as refugees run out of resources to pay rent. Eighty-one per cent of refugees rent their accommodation, with the average rent being USD 200 per month. Some 57 per cent of all rentals are for apartments, generally small basic lodgings shared with other refugee families in overcrowded conditions. 41 per cent of refugees live in fragile environments with limited privacy and protection from the elements. This includes tents in informal settlements and substandard dwellings including garages, worksites and unfinished buildings. Finding appropriate accommodation is a constant concern, and as their resources decrease, incidences of eviction rise.

Refugee needs include:

- Adequate shelter and dignified living conditions for everyone;
- Improvements to existing dwellings, in particular, materials (and tools) to seal off shelters from cold weather;
- Support to the most vulnerable who rent accommodation.

Challenges

Lack of wide-scale shelter options: In the absence of facilities capable of receiving large numbers of refugees, the demand for affordable and decent shelter greatly exceeds availability. The dispersion of the refugee population in over 1,750 locations requires a multi-faceted shelter strategy and close coordination with host communities, local authorities and civil society.

Increased resort to informal settlements: The growth of informal settlements, currently home to over 193,000 refugees, presents risks to refugees and increases tensions with surrounding communities. Identifying alternatives with municipalities and local actors is an on-going challenge.

Evictions: With a saturated and housing market, and growing tensions between host communities and refugees leading to tensions in many municipalities, refugees increasingly face the threat of eviction.

Strategy

UNHCR will prioritize the provision of temporary (emergency) shelter especially for those in insecure dwellings such as informal settlements, garages, warehouses and unfinished buildings. At the same time, it will continue to support longer-term options where available by:

- Providing safe emergency shelter to newly arriving families including through establishment and management of temporary shelter sites in West Bekaa and Akkar;
- Weatherproofing and improving informal settlements;
- Assisting vulnerable families through cash for renting accommodation;
- Rehabilitating and weatherproofing substandard shelters;
- Expanding collective shelter capacity through rehabilitation of private and public buildings
- Ensuring preparedness for sudden mass influx by stocking sufficient emergency shelter solutions (sealing-off kits, materials to improve shelters and temporary shelters including UNHCR family tents); and
- Including Lebanese host communities in shelter assistance schemes such as cash-for-rent or rehabilitation of host's property.



UNHCR implementing partners

Agence d'aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Concern, Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Islamic Relief (IR), MEDAIR, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), PCPM (Polish Centre for International Aid), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD) and UN-HABITAT.