



KEY NOTE OF THE MONTH

Alarming land rentals for construction of "substandard" tented settlements

HIGHLIGHTS:

Some 84,082 refugees benefited from shelter assistance, including 49,912 PRS who received cash-for-rent from UNRWA.

In the absence of a formal site identified to accommodate the new influx of refugees in Arsa'al, several independent agencies rented land and set up their own sites. These sites lacked minimum standards to assure protection and good health of the refugees and UNHCR and its partners worked to help provide advice and support to ensure safer living conditions. The number of informal settlements in and around Arsa'al has now reached 38 and house over 15,000 refugees.

UNHCR, DRC, and Dar El Fatwa have boosted their efforts to identify additional plots for formal tented settlements. In total, 16 newly identified sites (in Akkar – Beka'a – Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon) are currently undergoing technical assessment. If technically sound and government approved, the new sites would provide shelter to nearly 1,403 HH (7,015 individuals).



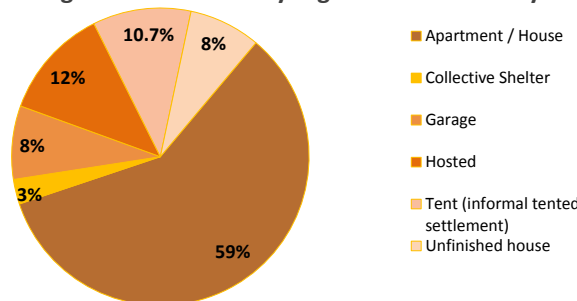
Arsaal - Formal Tented Settlements - Shelter Sector Working Group

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Primarily happening in Arsa'al with a few cases elsewhere in Beka'a and Akkar, the phenomenon of renting private land to construct tented settlements for refugees is on the increase. Implemented by independent associations, and without MOSA authorization, the new settlements have major shortcomings in standards regarding site planning, shelters, WASH and site management. If occurring on a wider scale, this would threaten the wellbeing, safety, and protection of refugees.

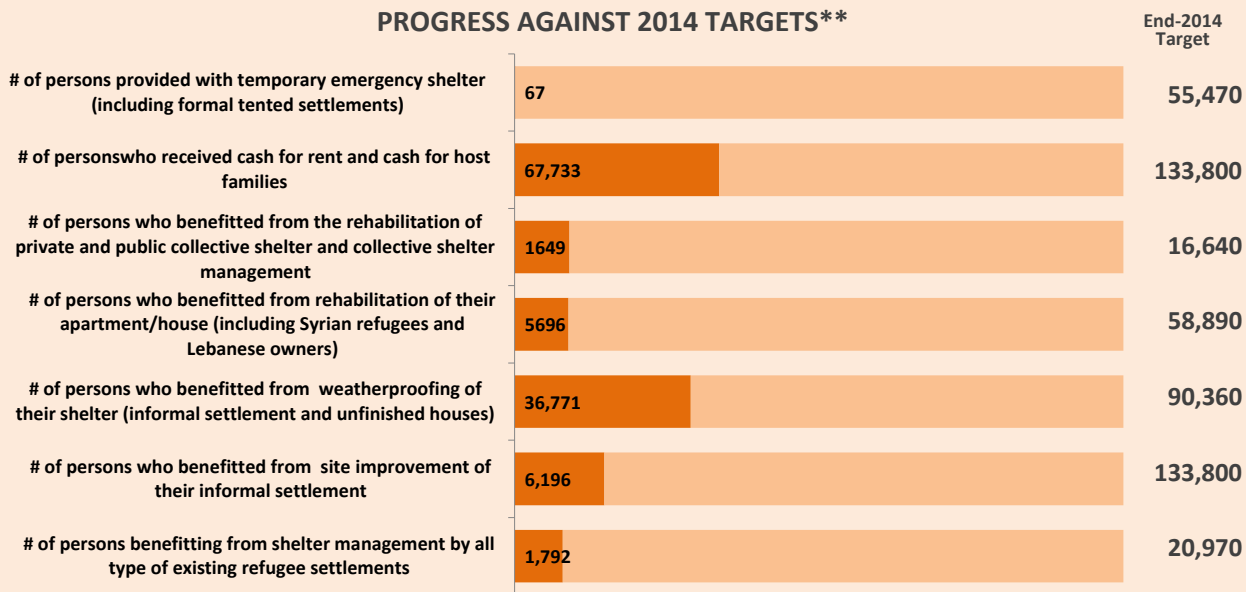
In tandem with on-going efforts to identify more sites for formal settlements as the most practical shelter alternative, there is a need to boost efforts to identify more houses and collective centres and shelters for rehabilitation and refugee use.

Living condition of newly registered in February *



*The questionnaire was conducted for 1,318 newly registered Syrian Households in February 2014 by UNHCR registration team

PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS**



**Reductions in cumulative numbers from January figures due to some mistakes in reporting from agencies new to Activity Info.

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