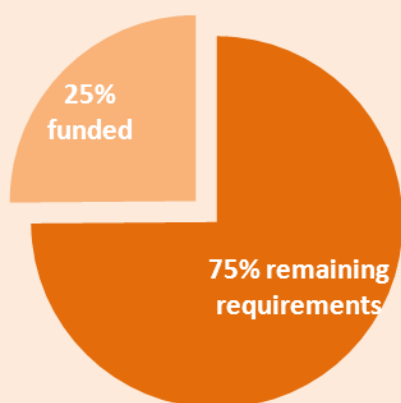


Key figures

945,461	individuals registered or pending registration
67%	apartment house
13%	informal tented settlements
13%	unfinished houses and garages
1%	worksites, warehouses
1%	collective shelter

Funding

UNHCR requirements 2014: **USD 468 m**






Shelter requirements: **USD 75 m**

February developments

- Over 6,027 families (30,134 individuals) benefited from shelter assistance. This included the distribution of materials to help make shelters weatherproof, the rehabilitation of unfinished buildings, and provision of cash-for-rent, among others.
- Following the influx of refugees in Aarsal in February, several new and spontaneous tented sites were assessed. UNHCR is advising those responsible to improve the living conditions of refugees and bring them in line with international standards.
- UNHCR together with DRC, and Dar El Fatwa has identified 16 sites within Akkar, the Bekaa and Mount Lebanon with a capacity to provide shelter to approximately 1,400 families. The sites are under technical assessment, and UNHCR is working on obtaining MOSA's approval.
- In Akkar UNHCR is planning to rehabilitate unfinished buildings with adjacent plots of land and establish temporary shelters on them. This allows for cost efficiencies and increases shelter options.

Achievements: January - February

Activity	 reached January-February	 reached January-February	 Target by end of 2014
Total beneficiaries from shelter support	6,027	30,134	309,851
Informal settlements weatherproofed	1,723	8,618	63,463
Unfinished houses weatherproofed	751	3,751	82,901
Cash-for-rent and unconditional grants	2,470	12,350	31,170
Houses rehabilitated	542	2,712	29,847
Collective shelters renovated	463	2,313	13,959
Formal tented settlements	78	390	51,146

Needs

Shelter remains an urgent concern, especially as refugees run out of resources to pay their rent. With constantly increasing numbers of refugees in Lebanon, more and more live in substandard dwellings, with limited privacy and protection from the elements.

Refugee needs include:

- Adequate shelter and dignified living conditions for individuals, including those in informal settlements, flood-prone areas or facing eviction;
- Improvements to existing dwellings, in particular, materials (and tools) to seal off shelters from cold weather. These include: plastic sheeting, timber, external doors and/or door coverings, associated ironmongery and tools;
- 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 availability of affordable and decent shelter greatly exceeds demand. The dispersion of the refugee population in over 1,600 locations requires a multi-faceted shelter strategy and close coordination with host communities, local authorities and religious entities.

Eviction:

With an increase refugee population, a saturated and fluctuating housing market, and growing tensions between host communities and refugees, the number of evictions is growing every month.

Increased resort to informal settlements:

The unmanaged growth of informal settlements, currently home to over 100,000 refugees, presents risks to refugees and increases tensions with host communities. Identifying alternatives with municipalities and local actors is an on-going challenge. Dialogue with some municipalities, especially in the Bekaa, has become increasingly strained. While the Government has not been keen to set up tented temporary shelter sites, in November, UNHCR received permission to establish the first such sites in Aarsal (Bekka).

Strategy

UNHCR will prioritize the provision of temporary (emergency) shelter while continuing to support longer-term options where available by:

- Providing safe emergency shelter to newly arriving households including through establishment and management of temporary shelter sites in West Bekaa and Akkar;
- Weatherproofing and site improvement in informal settlements in line with minimum standards;
- Cash assistance for shelter to vulnerable households in rented accommodation, who would otherwise be at risk of eviction;
- Improving substandard shelters through rehabilitation and weatherproofing of houses that can provide adequate longer-term shelter, and provision of semi-permanent shelter;
- Expanding collective shelter capacity through rehabilitation of private and public buildings, including private houses.
- Ensuring preparedness for sudden mass influx by prepositioning sufficient stock of emergency shelter solutions (sealing-off kits for weatherproofing, materials to improve shelters in informal tented settlements, temporary shelters including UNHCR family tents); and
- Inclusion of Lebanese host communities in shelter assistance schemes such as cash-for-rent or rehabilitation and improvements to property for those hosting refugee families.

UNHCR implementing partners

ACTED, Danish Refugee Council (DRC); Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI); Norwegian Refugee Council(NRC); Social Humanitarian Economical Intervention for Local Development (SHEILD); Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF); MEDAIR; Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP); Islamic Relief (IR); Secours Islamique France; UN-HABITAT, Concern, Save the Children UK.