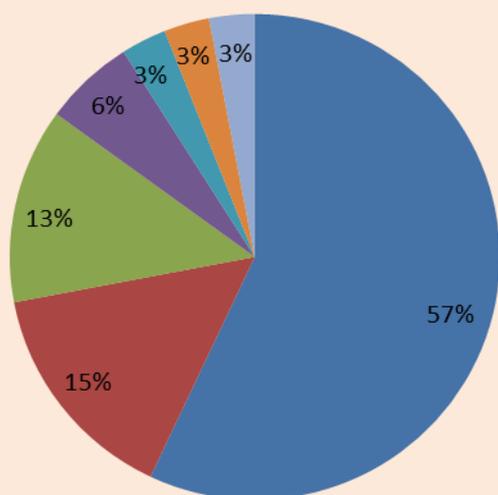


Key figures



- Build apartment/House
- Informal Settlement
- Unfinished/Substandard Building
- Unused Garage/Shop
- Collective Shelter/Centre
- One Room Structure
- Work-Site

May developments

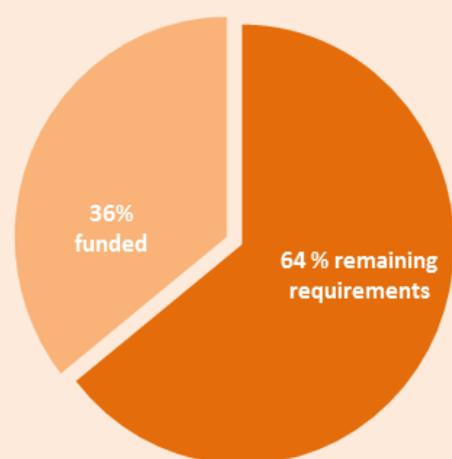
Over 15,220 families (76,921 individuals) benefited from shelter assistance.

- UNHCR Mt Lebanon office provided emergency sealing off kits to 15 families affected by fire in informal settlements in Chouiefat.
- NRC signed contracts with landlords for rehabilitating 234 small shelters in a bid to improve the living conditions of refugee families in Qubayat.
- UNHCR in partnership with DRC, COOPI and SCI is restoring 40 small shelters to accommodate almost 50 families in Tripoli. This project has met with resistance mainly due to difficulty in acceptance by local authorities and a trend towards increasing rents by local landlords.
- UNHCR provided cash for shelter in Tyr reaching out to 260 families. Another 137 refugees benefitted from weatherproofing interventions.
- UNHCR funding requirements for shelters have slightly increased from USD 75m to USD 77m, following a revision of RRP6 targets.
- UNHCR along with sector partners (Wash, Shelter and Protection) has started a multi-sectoral assessment of informal settlements in the Bekaa. So far, the study identified a critical need for weatherproofing before the coming winter as two-thirds of shelters surveyed are not weatherproofed.
- Medair carried out a mapping exercise to show that there are now 712 informal settlements in Bekaa, housing over 100,000 people living in 18,212 tents thus bringing the average to 6 people living in each shelter.

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: **USD 468 m**

Achievements: January - May



Shelter requirements: **USD 77 m**

Activity	reached January-May	reached January-May	Target by end of 2014
Total beneficiaries from shelter support	15,220	76,921	382,731
Informal settlements weatherproofed	3,406	17,855	73,584
Site improvement	1,185	5,923	41,250
Unfinished houses weatherproofed	2,206	11,028	112,580
Cash-for-rent	5,907	29,535	47,330
Apart/Houses rehabilitated	1,303	6,517	41,234
Collective shelters renovated	898	4,488	9,979
Formal tented settlements	78	390	38,250

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.
- Support to the most vulnerable who rent accommodation.



Syrian refugee showing the key to her room at a new collective shelter in Kherbet Dawood in northern Lebanon.
@UNHCR / S. Baldwin

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 1,700 locations requires a multi-faceted shelter strategy and close coordination with host communities, local authorities and civil society.

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 144,000 refugees, presents risks to refugees and increases tensions with host communities. Identifying alternatives with municipalities and local actors is an ongoing 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 (Bekaa).

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;
- Cash assistance for shelter to vulnerable households renting accommodation, who may be at risk of eviction;
- Improving substandard shelters through rehabilitating and weatherproofing;
- Expanding collective shelter capacity through rehabilitation of private and public buildings, including private houses.
- Ensuring preparedness for sudden mass influx by stocking sufficient emergency shelter solutions (sealing-off kits for weatherproofing, 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 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.