



QUOTE

55% of all Syrian refugees will live in substandard shelters by end of the year

HIGHLIGHTS:

By end of June 2014, all agencies reported shelter assistance reaching 279,254 individuals this year. This includes 193,394 Syrian refugees - 55,929 Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) - 2,338 Lebanese returnees - 27,630 affected Lebanese. A total of 99,391 individual refugees received Shelter assistance in May alone, this includes 50,000 PRS.

Rehabilitation of houses and collective shelters continues to be a strategic priority activity benefiting both refugees, through additional shelter space, and local communities by improving properties.

In June, 3,718 refugees were provided with rehabilitated shelters, with benefit to 1,700 individual from local communities. Furthermore, shelter agencies continue to address the continuous weatherproofing needs of refugees in substandard shelters whereby 8,852 refugees in substandard buildings and informal settlements received weatherproofing assistance in June. Increased site improvement works were reported in June as 6,024 refugees were assisted through site improvements of their informal settlements.

To protect refugees from the excessive summer heat, NRC distributed 1,128 shade nets to benefit 5,390 refugees. Distributions took place in Akkar Al Atika, Aydamoun, Aamar al Baykat, Bayno, Bireh, and Borj al arab, and Wadi Khaled. All in North Lebanon.

Ouzai Collective Center - Saida - South Lebanon.

© UNHCR/ Shawn Baldwin



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Projections based on UNHCR shelter surveys suggest that 55% of Syrian refugees will be living in unfinished houses, worksites, and informal settlements by December. Results of the multi-sectoral assessment of informal settlements in Bekaa show congestions, low quality drainage systems and great needs for shelter repair. However, it should be noted that shelter conditions and winter needs are often more acute in substandard buildings than in informal settlements.

Recognizing the difficulties in assisting all the refugee caseload in vulnerable shelters, the sector is compiling all available contingency stocks as well general stocks to assess current and future needs, and to strategize, and prioritize the response for the upcoming winter. The sector will also be reassessing the weatherproofing material used to ensure the most cost effective approach is implemented.

In the absence of large transit sites for refugees, additional options to increase shelter space are critically needed on a continuous basis. The sector is, and will be, dwelling on options including the payment of municipal taxes which could be promising to provide more houses for rehabilitation, the integrated approach with the communities through multiple interventions in refugee affected areas, and in studying the option of targeting of buildings in worse conditions of completion or disrepair.

PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS



Leading Agencies: UNHCR - MOSA - Mohamad Mukalled mukalled@unhcr.org; Ahmad Kassem - Kassema@unhcr.org

Reporting Agencies:

