

At least 795,000 people have benefited from shelter assistance in camp and non-camp settings so far this year

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS:

In Iraq, 400 more refugees benefited from the construction of 80 new or replacement tents in camps across the Kurdistan Region this month. At Gawilan and Arbat Camps respectively, 1,632 and 2,040 tent foundations with kitchens were completed. Connection to the electricity grid is provided by the government. During June, 300 families relocated from the transit site to Gawilan and 500 relocated to Arbat.

In Lebanon, rehabilitation of houses and collective shelters continues to be a strategic priority activity benefitting refugees through additional shelter space and local communities through improving properties. 6,024 refugees were reported to benefit from the improvement of their informal settlements in June. Furthermore, shelter agencies continue to address the weatherproofing needs in sub standard building and informal settlements and provided weather proofing assistance to 8,852 refugees in June. 1,128 shade nets were also distributed among 5,390 refugees to protect from the excessive summer heat. Altogether, a total of 99,391 individual refugees received shelter assistance in Lebanon in June, including some 50,000 Palestine Refugees from Syria.

In Jordan, the taskforce established by Shelter Working Group has drafted a guideline for agencies involved with the provision of cash-for-rent assistance and is now waiting for recommendation and approval from the chair of the Cash working group. So far this year, some 4,500 T-shelters and 2,300 pre-fab caravans have been provided for refugee families in camps.



Ongoing construction for the completion of an unfinished building used for shelter in Jordan. UNHCR.

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

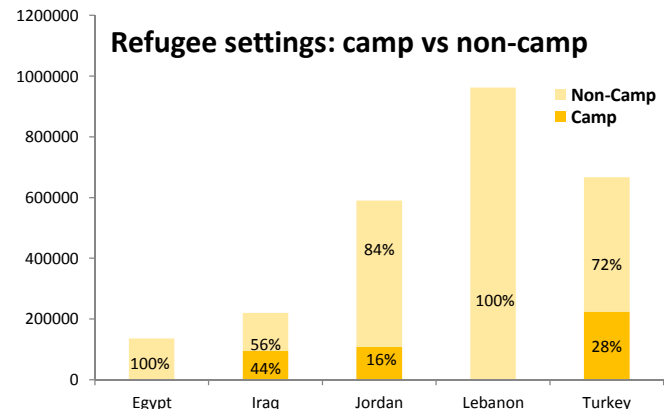
2,879,678	Current Refugee Population
3,590,000	Refugee Population Planning Figure, end-2014

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Out of 3.59 million UNHCR registered Syrians expected by December 2014, around 540,000 will be accommodated in camps. Shelter solutions in camps vary and include tents, caravans and transitional T-shelters, generally meeting minimum international standards. Continued efforts are required (and underway) to improve infrastructure (roads, drainage), provide safety, ensure weather-proofing and maintenance, inclusion of water and sanitation facilities. Camps are relatively expensive on a per-capita basis and at present, have little prospect for self-sustainability. Shelter remains a significant concern in the contingency plan, given the scarcity of land to accommodate large numbers of people. Throughout the region, there are pre-identified sites to accommodate up to 200,000 additional people.

Among refugees living outside camps, 95 percent of them live in a rented accommodation. Access to affordable and adequate shelter remains a major issue, combined with increasing rental prices and national shortage of affordable housing units in the market. In Jordan, for example, rental prices have reportedly increased by 100-200 per cent in some areas, with extremes of 300 per cent, compared to pre-crisis values. Moreover, across the region, approximately 860,000 refugees are estimated to live in sub-standard shelters, including informal settlements with inadequate water and sewage facilities.

Winter cold and seasonal precipitation pose yet another challenge to the most shelter insecure - it is estimated that nearly 100,000 dwellings will be in need of weather-proofing or assistance with heating during the winter months.



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:

