



Nearly 61,000 refugees living in urban, peri-urban and rural communities have received shelter assistance so far this year

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

The majority of the refugees in the region live outside of camps - in urban, peri-urban and rural locations - often in overcrowded and sub-standard accommodation. In July, Shelter partners implemented a range of programmes to assist this group, and also exploring options on how to make the activities more sustainable.

In Lebanon, 55 per cent of the refugee population live in poor shelters in informal settlements and sub-standard buildings. As per the standard shelter guideline developed by the 3RP partners, rehabilitation of sub-standard buildings and weatherproofing continued to be carried out during the month of July, with these activities having now benefitted over 122,000 refugees and 5,000 Lebanese across the country during 2015.

The suspension of shelter projects in urban areas in Jordan has been lifted for several of Shelter partners, and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation has again started reviewing applications for shelter activities. Although this is positive development, progress in the sector has been significantly delayed and the collective response is unlikely to meet the targets for assistance to households outside of camps. Conditional cash for rent, and upgrades and repairs of existing buildings are some of the activities planned under the urban shelter programme. Partners are also committed to responding to environmental issues through the provision of solar water heating, energy-efficient lightening and water saving kits.

In Iraq, over 62 per cent of the Syrian refugees are living in urban locations and it is estimated that around 9,000 refugees are at risk of eviction as they are running out of resources to pay rent. Since January, over 500 households (nearly 2,500 people) have received shelter assistance so far this year.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The 3RP's overall strategy for the Shelter Sector is to improve private dwellings and local neighbourhood facilities to help build the resilience of refugee hosting communities, while also maintaining and promoting a healthy living environment and investing in more sustainable infrastructure in camps.

While most refugee camps in the region meet SPHERE minimum standards, refugee camps have inherent challenges in relation to aid dependency, security, high running costs and continued isolation from normal life. The 3RP emphasizes the need to improve living conditions and promote a healthy environment for all residents, as well as protecting the sustainability of camps through investments in camp infrastructure.

For those people living outside camps, an increasing number are now living in sub-standard shelters, including nearly 300,000 refugees in 1,800 informal settlements in Lebanon and Jordan. Overall, it is estimated that more than half of all refugees live in sub-standard shelters, with challenges related to tenure, privacy, over-crowding, and risks of sexual exploitation. The shortage of shelter solutions is driving up rents and family indebtedness. These pressures especially affect lower income housing areas, as well as host communities and the wider housing market.

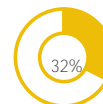


Zaatari camp, UNHCR

Sector Response Summary:



1,267,996 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
412,985 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



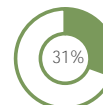
4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
4,006,382 currently registered or awaiting registration



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.5 billion required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 1.384 billion received in 2015



THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF JORDAN'S ZAATARI CAMP

On 29 July, the third anniversary of the establishment of the largest refugee camp in the Middle East, Zaatari camp in Jordan, was marked. The camp was established on 29 July 2012 (it was set up in nine days amid huge inflows of refugees from Syria), and has since grown to now house around 81,000 Syrian refugees.

In line with the 3RP shelter strategy, more sustainable investment has been made in infrastructure in the camp. Lines of tents that housed the first refugees to arrive in the camp have now been replaced by prefabricated shelters.

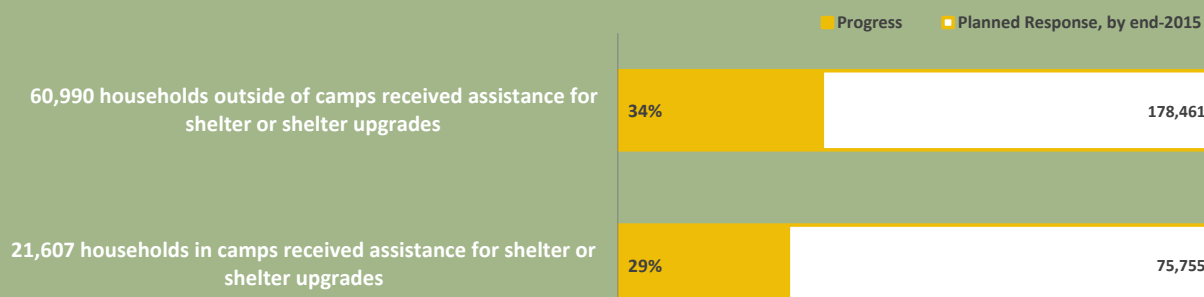
An integrated piped water supply system to the household level is currently under construction and will be fully operational in the first quarter of 2016. To reduce the environmental impact and costs, an interim wastewater collection system is being established to collect wastewater from households, with a subsequent phased connection of tanks to the network through a piped sewage system connected to the wastewater treatment plant.

For sustainable source of energy in the camp, an increase in the use of renewable energy is underway following the provision of solar lanterns, and a wider construction of a solar power plant is planned in 2016.

With Zaatari at capacity, the number of refugees seeking shelter in Jordan's second camp, Azraq, increased fourfold in the first six months of this year with 3,658 people returning there from urban, peri-urban and rural areas, compared to just 738 in the second half of 2014.

This trend is driven by increasing vulnerability of urban refugees in Jordan whose savings are depleted after years in exile, and who are unable to find secure legal livelihoods. Those living in Amman, in particular, are trying to survive in one of the most expensive cities in the Middle East.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - JULY 2015



These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Progress and targets may change in line with data revisions. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 31 July 2015.