

# UNHCR Monthly Update

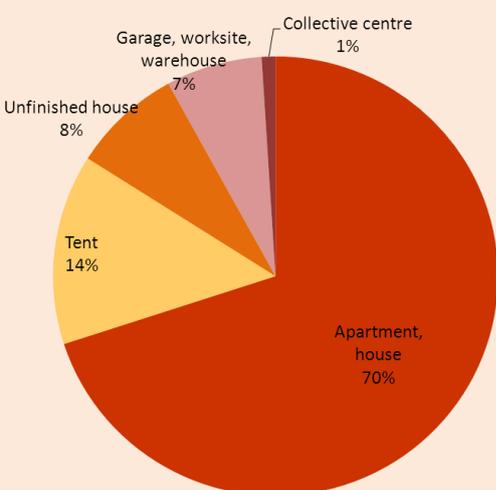
## Shelter

## September 2013

### Key figures

**826,000** refugees will need shelter assistance (projected end of 2013)

### Breakdown of current refugee accommodation



### Funding

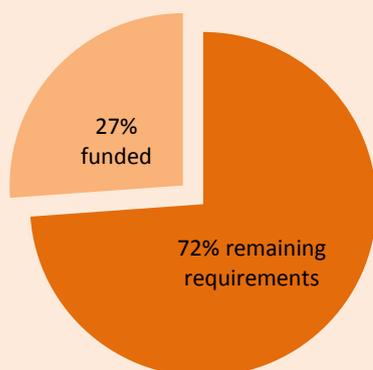
UNHCR shelter requirements:

**USD 79.4 m**

Percentage funded: **27%**

■ Remaining UNHCR requirements (RRP5)

■ Funding received as of September



### September developments

- Over 1,040 families (approximately 5,200 individuals) benefited from UNHCR-implemented shelter activities including weather proofing, rehabilitation of unfinished buildings, and cash grants.
- Distribution of winterization kits in informal settlements and unfinished buildings is on-going.
- With the support of Dar Al Fatwa, eight plots suitable for the establishment of Formal Tented Settlements (FTS) for at least 160 families have been identified in Akkar and approved by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). The development of the sites will be carried out in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Concern, in close cooperation with local authorities.
- UN-HABITAT, a new implementing partner of UNHCR, identified 89 houses out of a total of 400 for rehabilitation under this agreement. Rehabilitation works will be completed by early November, offering proper accommodation to 125 families (625 individuals).
- At Masnaa Border Crossing, UNHCR with the support of the Ministry of Interior, MoSA and the Ministry of Finance (Customs Department) set up a second waiting area which will protect refugees and others entering Lebanon from sun, wind, rain, and snow while waiting to be processed by the General Security.
- In Akkar, six farms are currently being rehabilitated through Concern and DRC. These farms will provide collective shelter to some 210 families.
- As part of contingency planning, UNHCR has prepositioned 10,000 additional winterization kits, which can be distributed in informal settlements or used to seal off unfinished buildings.

### Achievements January – September

Total target # of beneficiaries: 194,500

Activity	 reached Jan - Sep	 reached Jan - Sep
<b>Total beneficiaries from shelter support</b>	<b>8,911</b>	<b>45,358</b>
Weatherproofing in Informal settlements	3,976	19,987
Weather proofing of unfinished houses	1,800	9,058
Cash grants (both for shelter & unconditional grants)	1,478	7,940
Collective shelters renovated	807	4,022
House rehabilitation	654	3,361
Temporary shelter	196	990

## Needs

Shelter is an urgent concern, especially as refugees run out of resources to pay their rent and as the winter months and colder weather approach. With constantly increasing numbers of refugees in Lebanon, more and more live in substandard dwellings, with limited privacy and protection from the elements. A phone survey conducted in September confirms that some 14% of refugees live in makeshift shelters in informal settlements.

Refugee needs include:

- Adequate shelter and dignified living conditions for individuals in informal settlements, flood-prone areas or facing eviction
- Improvements to existing dwellings (in particular, winterization)
- Cash assistance for rent

## Challenges

### Lack of wide-scale shelter options:

In absence of facilities capable of receiving large numbers of refugees, the availability of affordable and decent accommodation greatly exceeds demand. The dispersion of the refugee population (in over 1,400 locations) requires a multi-faceted shelter strategy and close coordination with host communities, local authorities and religious entities.

### Winter risks:

Some 8,000 individuals living in informal flood-prone areas urgently require alternative accommodation as winter draws in. Vulnerable families living at high altitudes will also need support to prevent deterioration in their wellbeing.

### Increased resort to informal settlements:

The unmanaged growth of informal settlements, currently home to some 80,000 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 is not in favour of setting up large FTS, UNHCR has received permission to establish small FTS for 20HH each as well as to set up 15 tents (max) in the vicinity of collective centres with proper fencing.

## 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 FTS 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, incl. 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 incl. UNHCR family tents).
- Inclusion of Lebanese host communities in shelter assistance schemes: i.e. cash for rent or rehabilitation and improvements to property for those hosting refugee families.

## UNHCR implementing partners

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); Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC); Secours Islamique France; Makhzoumi Foundation; UN-HABITAT, Concern.

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