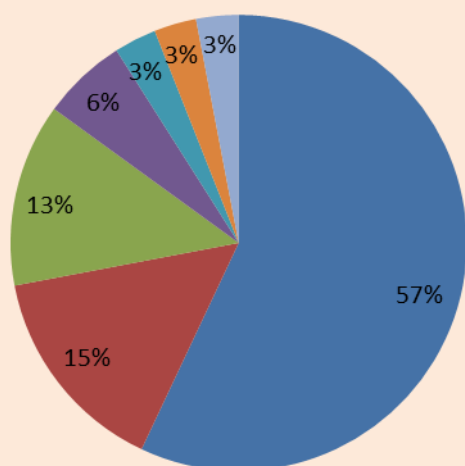


Key figures

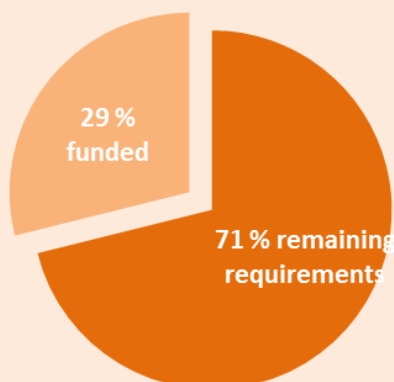
Results from a survey conducted in March 2014



- Apartment/house
- Informal settlement
- Unfinished/Substandard Building
- Unused Garage/Shop
- Collective Shelter/Centre
- One Room Structure
- Work-Site

Funding

UNHCR requirements 2014: **USD 468 m**






Shelter requirements: **USD 75 m**

April developments

- Over 11,151 families (55,730 individuals) benefited from shelter assistance.
- UNHCR provided fire safety training and equipment to tenants in all informal settlements consisting of more than ten tents. It identified two new informal settlements in Mount Lebanon bringing the total to 17.
- CONCERN and DRC rehabilitated three collective shelters to benefit 84 households in Akkar. UNHCR emphasized that they be situated in safe, centrally located areas, with possible job opportunities for refugees and with sustainable rents in the long run.
- UN-HABITAT assessed 44 vacant small shelter units to house almost 200 refugee families in Zahrani, Tyr. UNHCR has in turn referred them to NRC and PU-AMI for refurbishment.
- UNHCR requested MOSA's endorsement for carrying out essential WASH activities in a semi-fixed tented settlement developed by URDA (Union for Relief and Development Association), Bebnine, Akkar.
- Field offices reviewed the RRP6 targets based on actual trends of refugee population growth in order to better prioritise shelter activities defined in each region.

Achievements: January - April

Activity	 reached January-April	 reached January-April	 Target by end of 2014
Total beneficiaries from shelter support	11,151	55,730	353,389
Informal settlements weatherproofed	2,855	14,178	73,473
Site (IS) improvement	1,128	5,640	26,650
Unfinished houses weatherproofed	2,295	11,546	94,256
Cash-for-rent & host communities	3,042	15,210	42,475
Apart/Houses rehabilitated	847	4,236	39,450
Collective shelters renovated	224	1,118	14,119
Collective Center management	682	3,412	51,596
Formal tented settlements	78	390	73,473

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. These include: plastic sheeting, timber, external doors and/or door coverings, associated ironmongery and tools;
- Support to the most vulnerable who rent accommodation.

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 supply. 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 religious entities.

Eviction:

With an increase in 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 on-going 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 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, including 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 including UNHCR family tents); and
- Inclusion of Lebanese host communities in shelter assistance schemes such as cash-for-rent or rehabilitation and improvements to 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.

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