



This month Shelter Partners continue to make improvements to shelter facilities within camps and host communities

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

There has been an increase this month in improved shelters in Iraq, compared to February. The shelters in camps now have a concrete slab, kitchen, latrine and shower and around 25 per cent of the improvements are made by the refugees themselves. Also this month, 400 families were relocated from a transit area to the permanent area in Kawergosk camp, with improved shelter facilities. In total throughout March, 1,615 households in camps received assistance and shelter upgrades.

In Lebanon, some 24,053 vulnerable individuals living in informal settlements and substandard buildings in the North, Akkar and Bekaa were assisted with replacement, physical improvement, and protection of their shelters from the elements and winter conditions. During the month, 100 per cent of the targeted most vulnerable people living in informal settlements were assisted. Due to funding constraints and access difficulties, only 38 per cent of the needs of people living in substandard buildings were met. Shelter sector partners have now started mapping the locations of substandard buildings in Bekaa and Akkar to enable them to plan for assistance and advocate for more funds.

In Turkey, the population of Suruc camp continued to increase this month, with more than 16,000 people now residing there. During the first quarter of 2015 more than 5,000 households were supported with shelter solutions. Meanwhile, in Jordan, 1,985 Syrian refugees were provided with semi-permanent shelters and 3,960 people benefitted from existing shelter and facilities being upgraded by partners throughout March.

In Jordan, all 50 market vendor stalls have been constructed in village 6, with the technical team following up on finishing works and handing over of all 100 completed stalls (village 3 and 6) from the implementing partner.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

It is expected that up to 500,000 people will be accommodated in 35 refugee camps in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey in 2015. While most refugee camps in the region meet SPHERE international standards, refugee camps have inherent challenges in relation to aid dependency, security, high running costs and continued isolation from normal life.

For those people living outside camps, an increasing number are now living in substandard 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.

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.



Qushstapa Refugee Camp, Erbil. UNHCR/M. Al-Nkshbandi

Sector Response Summary:



1,267,996 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
257,240 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
3,966,702 currently registered or awaiting registration



Shelter Sector Funding Status:



USD 396 million required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 35 million received in 2015



SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT STRATEGY FOR JORDAN SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS RELEASED

The influx of Syrian refugees in Jordan has led to a shortfall of housing and the need for an additional 12,000 housing units to accommodate refugees. The increased demand has led to increased rental prices, sub-division of existing units, and conversion of outbuildings into rental accommodation. With the majority of refugees living in host communities, competition for affordable housing has become a source of community tension.

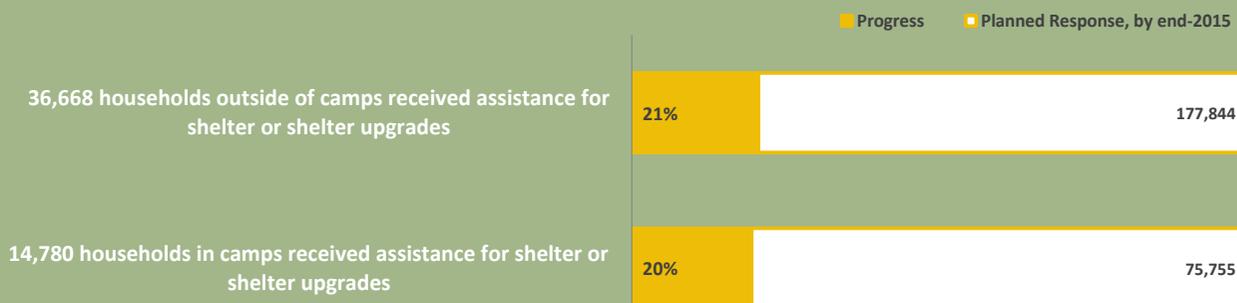
This month, the Shelter and Settlement Strategy for Jordan was endorsed by the Sector Working Group, and aims to tackle the major challenges in the context of the Syrian refugee influx. The application of the guidance by sector partners will harmonize and standardize shelter and settlement interventions and achieve the most effective results for the affected population.

Outside of camps, 3RP shelter partners will renovate sub-standard shelters and provide sealing-off kits to beneficiary families, enabling them to undertake basic work to insulate their own shelters. This month, 1,390 people benefitted from the completion of housing units in unfinished buildings and during the first quarter of 2015, 3,074 sealing-off kits were distributed. These interventions not only provide adequate and secure shelter to refugees, but is also of benefit to Jordanian landlords.

Direct contributions to bolstering the Jordanian economy will come from using local resources to meet needs of developing, refurbishing, repairing and maintaining shelters and settlements. Communication with host communities will be integrated into shelter activities and where possible, vulnerable Jordanian families included in shelter solutions.

A range of activities are also planned for camp-based populations. For example, in Zaatari camp it is planned to replace the emergency tent shelters with prefabricated caravans. As part of the 2015 strategy, new prefab caravans now contain a latrine and kitchenette. During March, 397 caravans were distributed. There will be a continued need to invest in additional camp extension works for up to 70,000 refugees in Azraq. This would need to include investments in land development, infrastructure works, and construction of new basic service facilities.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - MARCH 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 March 2015.