



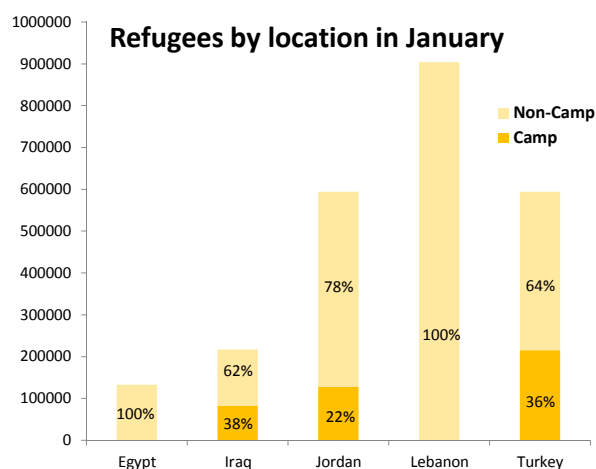
Around 50,000 people were assisted to adapt their homes and shelters to the harsh weather conditions in January

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

With average minimum temperatures dropping below zero in some parts of the region where refugees are hosted, assisting people to adapt their shelters to the **harsh winter conditions** continued to be a key focus of activities through the month of January. In Iraq's refugee camps, some 630 concrete tent foundations were laid in January to help with insulation against the wet and cold. In Lebanon around 30,000 people living in informal settlements and unfinished houses received assistance to weatherproof their shelters, while almost 4,000 households outside of camps in Jordan were adapted to overcome the harsh weather conditions.

With almost 2.5 million refugees now hosted in the five countries around the region, **increasing shelter space** remains a priority. In Jordan, there are now almost 2 million square metres of land allocated for infrastructure planning and development at the refugee camps and settlements. In Iraq, structural work on blocks to accommodate around 9,000 people has been completed at the new Arbat permanent camp, and construction work on administration and services areas is ongoing. In Lebanon, new shelter space within collective shelters and houses that can be rehabilitated are being identified in order to accommodate increasing numbers of refugees, including those who have been evicted.

Assessment, planning and strategy for the increased population is vital. A new study was released in January on the Impact of Syrian Refugees on Housing in Jordan which will help guide proposals for housing and shelter interventions under both the RRP6 and the National Resilience Plan.



REFUGEE POPULATION IN THE REGION:

2,441,507

Current Refugee Population

4,100,000

Expected Refugee Population by end-2014

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Over 420,000 Syrians refugees are living in tented, non-permanent accommodation and more than 105,000 people are sheltered in sub-standard informal settlements. Shelter solutions ranging from container-like accommodation to plastic tarpaulin spread across makeshift frames provide limited protection from harsh weather conditions. The winter is particularly challenging for people residing in tented accommodation. It is estimated that nearly 540,000 Syrians in tented non-permanent accommodation will require shelter support during 2014 in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

More than 80 per cent of refugees in the region live outside camps, including about 8,000 in collective centres. Shelter conditions in collective centres and unfinished buildings offer limited privacy and may be structurally unsafe. In Turkey, for example, 62 per cent of non-camp refugees live with more than seven family members in over-crowded conditions.

Though accommodation in homes and apartments may be the preferred shelter solution for most refugees, it comes at a price, usually a monthly rent, which combined with economic hardship may increase the risks of communities having to resort to negative coping mechanisms.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:

