

Mid-Year Funding Update



MAY HIGHLIGHTS:

In Iraq, 1,500 more refugees benefited from the construction of 300 new or replacement tents in **camps** across the Kurdistan Region this month. On 26 May, relocation of refugees from the transit site to a permanent site started in Gawilan, Duhok Governorate. An arrangement has also been agreed with the Department of Electricity in Qushtapa, in Erbil Governorate, which will provide electricity to each family in the new permanent site there. The work on this has already begun.

In Lebanon, in the **absence of managed collective sites**, agencies continue to respond to evolving emergencies. In Arsaal, plastic sheets and other materials were provided for weatherproofing to 1,275 refugees living in informal settlements to repair shelters damaged in heavy rains. In Mount Lebanon, 12 refugee families (75 refugees) were provided sealing off kits in response to the recent fire in Choueifat informal settlement and were also assisted to rebuild their shelters. Altogether, a total of 103,599 individual refugees received shelter assistance in Lebanon in May, including some 50,000 Palestine Refugees from Syria.

The Shelter Working Group in Jordan has established a taskforce to develop guidelines for the agencies with **cash-for-rent** assistance in May. In the first taskforce meeting, agencies presented their activities and discussed best practices, challenges and achievement of this intervention. The Working Group also aims to harmonize the objectives and principles of Jordan’s shelter strategy along with UNHCR’s global shelter strategy (draft version). It will contribute to the sector’s transition to a ‘development-focused response intervention’ from a ‘short term emergency response intervention’.



UNHCR Jordan / Aerial view of t-shelters in Azraq refugee camp

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:



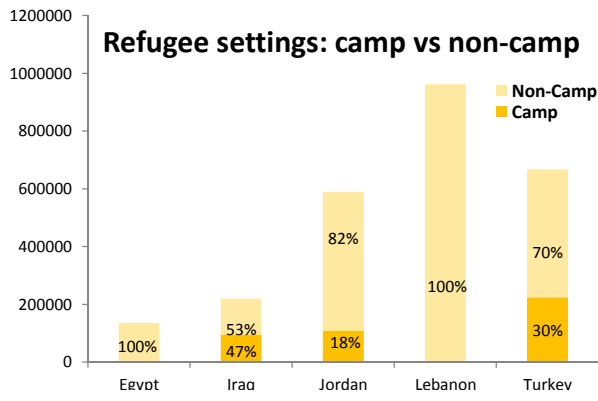
This Dashboard was published after the release of the RRP6 Mid-Year Update and reflects the revised Syrian refugee population planning figure, RRP budget and response indicators/targets. The Mid-Year Update is available at <http://www.unhcr.org/syriarrp6/midyear/>

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Out of 3.59 million UNHCR registered Syrians expected by December 2014, around 540,000 will be accommodated in camps. Shelter solutions in camps vary and include tents, caravans and transitional T-shelters, generally meeting minimum international standards. Continued efforts are required (and underway) to improve infrastructure (roads, drainage), provide safety, ensure weather-proofing and maintenance, inclusion of water and sanitation facilities. Camps are relatively expensive on a per-capita basis and at present, have little prospect for self-sustainability. Shelter remains a significant concern in the contingency plan, given the scarcity of land to accommodate large numbers of people. Throughout the region, there are pre-identified sites to accommodate up to 200,000 additional people.

Among refugees living outside camps, 95 percent of them live in a rented accommodation. Access to affordable and adequate shelter remains a major issue, combined with increasing rental prices and national shortage of affordable housing units in the market. In Jordan, for example, rental prices have reportedly increased by 100-200 per cent in some areas, with extremes of 300 per cent, compared to pre-crisis values. Moreover, across the region, approximately 860,000 refugees are estimated to live in sub-standard shelters, including informal settlements with inadequate water and sewage facilities.

Winter cold and seasonal precipitation pose yet another challenge to the most shelter insecure - it is estimated that nearly 100,000 dwellings will be in need of weather-proofing or assistance with heating during the winter months.



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:

