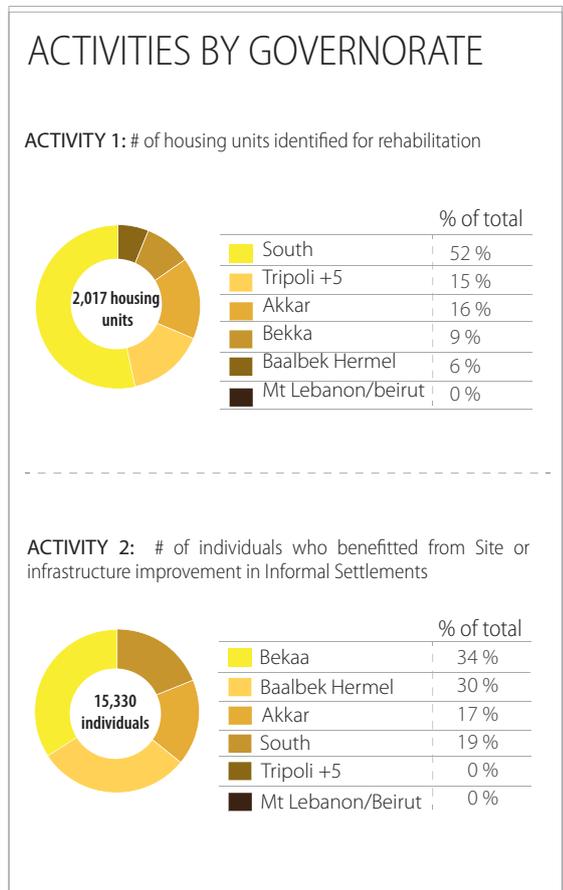
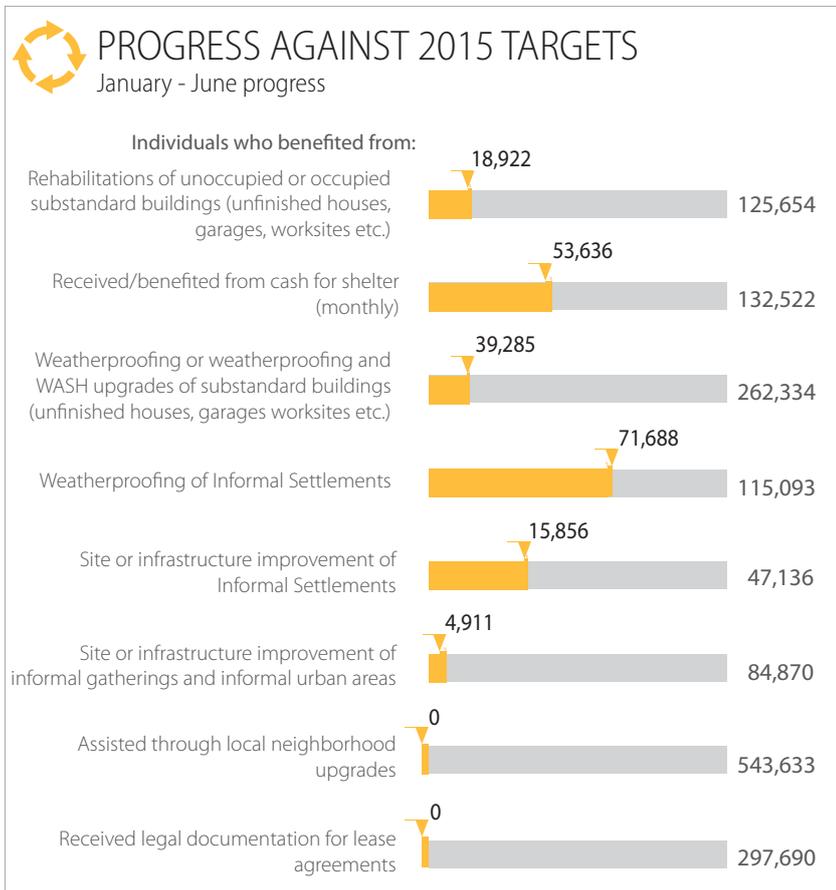
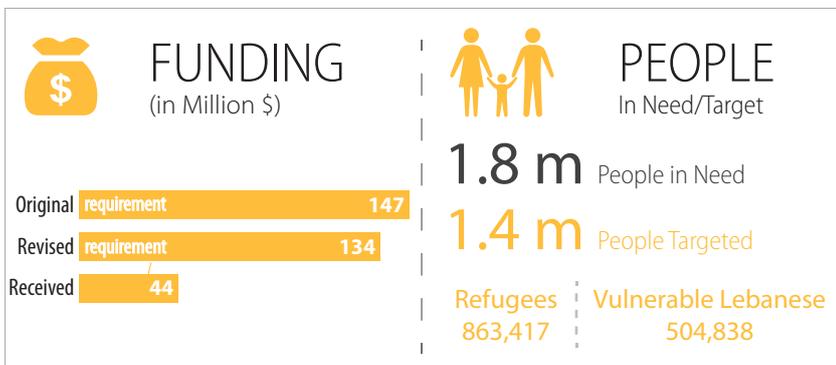


HIGHLIGHTS

- The rehabilitation of sub-standard buildings and weatherproofing kits have improved the living conditions of over 135,000 refugees and 8,000 Lebanese. The shelter sector is currently exploring options on how to make these two key shelter activities more sustainable.
- The rehabilitation of unoccupied or occupied buildings is time consuming, which makes landlords hesitant to allocate their buildings rent-free to refugees.
- Several fires took place in informal settlements, which resulted in loss of human life and the destruction of makeshift shelters. As a consequence, the shelter sector has decided to revise its emergency shelter response and improve coordination mechanism between partners.
- Refugees are increasingly moving from large informal settlements to smaller encampments, due to fear of being evicted. These smaller sites are difficult to identify and hard to reach. Thus, it significantly complicates the delivery of services to these individuals. Up to the present day, 1,200 small sites (with less than 4 shelters each) have been mapped, with numbers expected to increase.





Situation analysis and change in context

The March 2015 shelter survey highlighted that 55 per cent of the refugees live in substandard housing conditions that in particular lack appropriate sanitation. Some 82 per cent of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon pay rent (average of USD 200 per month), and thus rely on acquiring affordable housing through market channels. Available and affordable housing is however becoming increasingly scarce and continuous evictions force refugees in moving to over-crowded shelters and inappropriate dwellings such as unfinished buildings and garages, as well as informal settlements.

The numbers of informal settlements has drastically increased and the last mapping exercise, after massive eviction, recorded the establishment of more than 1,200 small and scattered IS in addition to some 1,800 sites, all hosting around 200,000 people spread across the country, with a specific stress on Bekaa and Akkar.

The 82% of Syrian refugees residing outside Informal Settlements, in addition to 43,000 Palestine refugees from Syria follow to a large extent the Lebanese urbanization pattern (87% urbanized), and live in poverty stricken dense urban neighborhoods amongst an already poor Lebanese and Palestine host population. Currently a mapping and profiling exercise of the largest cities and congested poor neighborhoods are being undertaken. The first Tripoli city profile will be completed by July, and followed Sour city profile by September.

Building on the lessons learned, the shelter partners continue exploring more durable emergency shelter approaches in informal settlements, as this would reduce the repetitive costs and overheads of the weather proofing interventions.

The Shelter and WASH sectors are jointly implementing unified site improvement guidelines on a range of upgraded interventions including decongesting settlements where feasible, drainage, leveling, improving access and pathways, upgrading water points and soak away pits, as well as decommissioning of old latrines.

Temporary technical committees within the shelter sector are by end of June finalizing the revision of the technical standards of both rehabilitation and weatherproofing activities, with the aim of improving the protection from cold, privacy and security of tenure, hygiene and access to water.

Progress to date

82,000 vulnerable refugees living in informal settlements were protected from cold during the harsh winter. The distribution of plastic sheeting, timber and tools helped weather proof their shelters. In addition, the sites of dozens of informal settlements were improved through leveling, drainage, to minimize flooding.

42,000 refugees living in substandard buildings were also assisted through various shelter activities, including weatherproofing of garages and worksites, and rehabilitation of unfinished and damaged houses through the provision of better waterproofing of roofs, better sealing off of openings (doors, windows), better insulation, and upgraded WASH facilities.

More than 5,000 Lebanese benefitted from an increased value of their property after their rehabilitation. The rehabilitation of houses and flats are considered to bring out the most adequate and dignified shelter for refugees with a direct positive impact on the host communities and their acceptance of the refugees.

The Shelter Sector estimated a requirement of 147,2 million for shelter activities for 2015, to meet the critical shelter needs. To date 41million has been funded. With the continuous shortage in funding, the provision of low-cost activities, weatherproofing in informal settlements and substandard buildings, are prioritized based on the type and condition of individual shelters, the eviction risks, and socio-economic vulnerability of the refugee households.

Discontinuing weatherproofing /winterization assistance in informal settlements and substandard buildings will be dire on the safety and dignity of refugees mainly for the preparation to winter 2015-2016. This will be compounded by a multiplier effect on the health and protection of those vulnerable refugees.

In congested and poor urban neighborhoods interventions so far has been scarce, despite influx of thousands of refugees amongst poor host populations. This will eventually lead to the breakdown of service provision systems, as well as the sensitive cohabitation/acceptance between refugees and the host communities.



The overall stabilization element including the legal component of distributing legal documents and awareness aiming at improving security of tenure to all refugees and host communities will not be attained.

The UNRWA termination of Cash for Shelter support for PRS from July, due to funding shortfalls, will make this group further vulnerable (already assessed to be amongst the most vulnerable) and without means to secure tenure. This will result in adverse impact on the Palestinian refugee camps and Palestinian gatherings, already subject to overcrowding and critically substandard shelter conditions. Also other Cash for Shelter support is decreasing for the same reason.