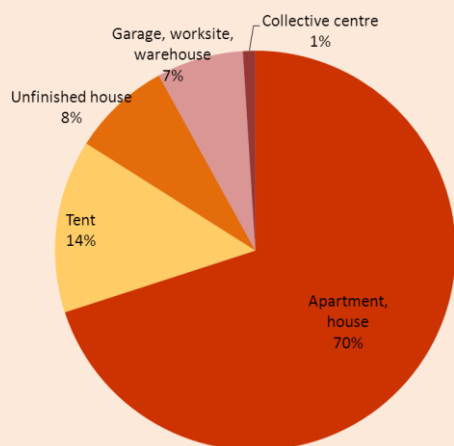


Breakdown of current refugee accommodation

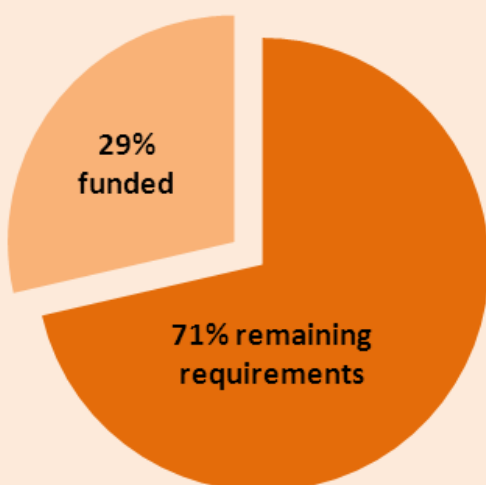


Statistics from September 2013 phone survey

Funding

UNHCR shelter requirements:

USD 79.4 m





December developments

- Over 5,284 families (26,420 refugees) benefited from shelter activities including weatherproofing, rehabilitation of unfinished buildings, cash-for-rent and temporary shelters.
- 4,143 families (20,715 refugees) living in unfinished buildings and in informal settlements benefitted from weatherproofing materials to improve protection from winter conditions. Distribution of these materials by UNHCR and partners was accelerated in response to storm Alexia, with the support of the Lebanese Army.
- Refugees living at the temporary shelter site in Aarsal had their tents replaced by 63 durable insulated steel-frame shelters (T-shelters) provided by NRC. The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) approved the creation of a second temporary shelter site with 150 T-shelters on land provided by Dar Al Fatwa in Aarsal.
- Rehabilitation works on three farms in Akkar reached 80%, and will soon provide collective accommodation for 135 families (675 refugees). In total 7 farms will soon provide accommodation for close to 1,600 individuals.
- This month, contracts signed with landlords for the rehabilitation of properties through UNHCR's partnership with UN-HABITAT will benefit 157 refugee families (785 refugees). In total 571 contracts have been signed, securing shelter for some 2,855 refugees in Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon through the rehabilitation of individual houses.

Achievements: January – December

Total target # of beneficiaries: 194,500

Activity	 reached Jan- Dec	 reached Jan - Dec
Total beneficiaries from shelter support	19,753	99,489
Informal settlements weatherproofed	8,238	41,190
Unfinished houses weatherproofed	4,320	21,692
Cash-for-rent and unconditional grants	4,477	22,935
Houses rehabilitated	1,485	7,522
Collective shelters renovated	876	4,355
Temporary shelter including new temporary shelter site in Aarsal	357	1,795

Needs

Shelter is an urgent concern, especially as refugees run out of resources to pay their rent and as the winter months and colder weather arrive. With constantly increasing numbers of refugees in Lebanon, more and more live in substandard dwellings, with limited privacy and protection from the elements. A phone survey conducted in September confirms that some 14% of refugees live in makeshift shelters in informal settlements.

Refugee needs include:

- Adequate shelter and dignified living conditions for individuals in informal settlements, flood-prone areas or facing eviction;
- Improvements to existing dwellings, in particular, materials (and tools) to seal off shelters from winter 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 availability of affordable and decent shelter greatly exceeds demand. The dispersion of the refugee population in close to 1,600 locations requires a multi-faceted shelter strategy and close coordination with host communities, local authorities and religious entities.

Winter risks:

Despite efforts to improve conditions in some informal settlements, 8,000 individuals living in flood-prone areas require alternative accommodation due to seasonal weather conditions. Vulnerable families living at high altitudes also need winter support to prevent deterioration in their wellbeing.

Increased resort to informal settlements:

The unmanaged growth of informal settlements, currently home to over 80,000 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).
- 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

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); Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre (CLMC); Secours Islamique France; Makhzoumi Foundation; UN-HABITAT, Concern, Save the Children UK.

Contact: Vincent Dupin (dupin@unhcr.org)