

Shelter Programme - Lebanon

December 2021

Lebanon remains the country hosting **the largest number of refugees per capita**, with the government estimation of **1.5 m Syrian refugees** + some 14,815 refugees of other nationalities.

The socio-economic downturn coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic and Beirut blast have all contributed to **nine out of ten Syrian refugees living in extreme poverty**.

The current crisis has contributed to **57%** of households living in dangerous, substandard, or overcrowded shelters with **5.4% under an eviction notice¹**.

2021 Shelter Achievements

1,235 HHs	6,396 Individuals	•have their shelters upgraded
1,736 HHs	8,610 Individuals	•received cash for rent
5,349 HHs	29,537 Individuals	•benefited from site improvement

9,780 HHs	57,152 Individuals	•received fire extinguishers
293 HHs	1,349 Individuals	•have rehabilitated common areas
60 HHs	182 Individuals	•have their shelters structurally rehabilitated

Working with Partners

- UNHCR is co-leading the National Shelter Working Group that includes 15 organizations between international and local organizations, aiming to maintain proper coordination and harmonize shelter approaches between different organizations.
- In 2021, UNHCR has had partnership agreements with four international implementing partners; INTERSOS in Beirut Mount Lebanon (BML) and the South, Medair and Save the Children in the Bekaa, and CONCERN in the North. In addition, UNHCR supports governmental institutions to provide sustainable shelter solutions and respond to emergencies.

Main Activities

UNHCR shelter sector aims to protect vulnerable populations and contribute to social stability by mitigating the deteriorating shelter and economic conditions and improving access to physically adequate shelter while ensuring the security of tenure. Focus is given on lifesaving interventions addressing the shelter needs in informal settlements and disadvantaged urban/peri-urban areas.

Rehabilitation of Substandard Shelters

Rehabilitation activities aim to improve living conditions, dignity, protection, and security of the most vulnerable refugee and Lebanese families residing within substandard and residential buildings. UNHCR supported 1,325 families (refugees and Lebanese) to upgrade their shelters to adequate standards. The families also have benefitted from secure tenure through written lease agreements and occupancy free of charge for one year.

Rehabilitation of Common Areas

UNHCR supported the upgrade of 22 common areas across the country to improve safety, security, and accessibility for 293 families residing in the buildings and addressed the protection and needs of people with

¹ According to the findings of the 2021 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR), refugees are living in different shelter categories, 69% in residential shelters, 22% in non-permanent shelters, and 10% in non-residential shelters.

special needs (PwSN) by rehabilitating common bathrooms and kitchens, staircases, roofs, and other building common areas.

Cash for Rent (CfR) Assistance

In 2021, CfR assistance was adopted to target general and specific protection referral cases and defined as the provision of periodic conditional cash grants to cover part/all the rent. In total, 1,730 families benefitted from enhanced tenure security in shelters with adequate standards, offsetting the risk of eviction and secondary displacement and allowing the targeted families to adjust to deteriorating economic situations.

Weatherproofing/ Emergency Response

In Informal Tented Settlements (ITSs), refugees receive shelter kits to reinforce or rebuild their shelters following flooding, evictions, or fire incidents. The shelter kits also help them withstand extreme weather conditions. In 2021, more than 40,000 families received shelter kits as part of winterization response or following an emergency preparedness against floods and fire prevention.

Site Improvement

UNHCR prioritizes the most critical ITSs for site improvement works, allowing enhanced preparedness against extreme weather conditions and fire prevention. In 2021, 88 ITSs were considered for the site improvements, and 5,350 families benefitted from enhanced preparedness against emergencies (floods and fires), improved quality of life, and reduced health risks.



Shelter kit distribution by UNHCR partner Medair, Bekaa, Deir Al Ahmar

Fire Mitigation Services

In 2021, UNHCR conducted a Fire Mitigation Gap Analysis in informal settlements and collective shelters. Based on the findings, 3,890 fire extinguishers were distributed in collective shelters, informal settlements, and vulnerable shelter units benefitting 9,780 families. In addition, around 3,000 fire mitigation and prevention awareness sessions were provided across the country to enhance fire preparedness and minimize fire risks.

Beirut Blast Response

In response to the Beirut blast, UNHCR allocated USD 19,5 million to address the shelter needs of about 73,335 individuals in areas impacted by the explosion. Accordingly, UNHCR supported:

- Six damaged buildings were structurally rehabilitated, hosting 60 Lebanese families/182 individuals
- 6,562 shelter emergency kits were distributed to the impacted families benefitting 24,280 individuals
- 3,022 shelter units and 133 building's common areas were rehabilitated benefitting 11,356 individuals
- 123 heritage units and 27 building's common areas were rehabilitated benefitting 465 individuals

Other Support

In 2021, UNHCR also supported the rehabilitation of eight general security premises, 14 Community Development Centers (CDCs) in preparation for the installment of Khadamti (self-service) desks for refugees as well as rehabilitation and expansion of three Intensive Care Units (ICU) in governmental hospitals.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to the Shelter programme as well as major donors of flexible and unearmarked funds in 2021:

Belgium | Canada | Croatia | Czech | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Luxembourg | Monaco | Netherlands | Norway | Qatar Charity | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

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Highlights from the Field

In the small town of Sarafand in Tyre, Aliyah, a Lebanese single mother of four, felt powerless as the stable life she once knew crumbled around her – literally, in the case of her dilapidated home. Aliyah became the family’s sole provider after her husband died four years ago, selling small bracelets and necklaces that she made herself to survive. But amid a crippling economic crisis in Lebanon, Aliyah lost even this small lifeline and the only income was the meagre wages her eldest son Ali, a delivery boy until he recently lost his job. “I rely on the help of my neighbors, who provide me with medicines, food and money to survive,” Aliyah said. “My son Ali was the only provider in the family, but his income alone was not enough to make it.”



A medical condition affecting her circulation recently resulted in Aliyah having one leg amputated. Confined to a wheelchair, her mobility was severely restricted in the house, which – with no money for renovations – was hard to get around. Her despair was further increased by the damages to the ceiling and the wall caused by leaks and dampness. “It is hard enough to struggle to put food on the table, but it is even harder when you don’t feel safe in your own home,” Aliyah said. “The house we live in is in a dire condition with water leakages. Nothing in the house is a source of comfort.”

UNHCR is working to rehabilitate sub-standard homes in partnership with INTERSOS In the South. The scheme supports landlords to fix roofs and walls to prevent leaks, repair plumbing and electrical systems, and – in the case of Aliyah’s home – make accessibility improvements to help her move around and be more independent. As well as making families safer in their homes, the project is based on free-of-charge shelter improvements to landlords in return for one-year rent-free guarantees for tenants such as Aliyah.

“After the rehabilitation of my house, everything is different, everything is better now,” said a relieved Aliyah. Simple tasks such as washing her hands have been made easier thanks to being able to access the bathroom sink with her wheelchair.

IMPLEMENTED WORKS

- Handicap grab bars
- PWSN WASH facilities
- New external and internal doors
- New external windows
- Electrical works
- Roof Weatherproofing
- Sanitary Improvements