



Syria Emergency Shelter Sector Factsheet 2016 June

MAJOR ACHIVEMENTS

In 2015
the shelter response reached
129,645 beneficiaries
using various shelter solutions.
These included:

- The upgrading of public and private collective shelters for **66,985 IDPs**
- The distribution of shelter kits and materials for **35,108 individuals**
- Supporting the management and maintenance of shelters which accommodate **12,797 Palestinian refugees**
- **2,860 people** covered via owner-oriented shelter support
- and **11,895** via the establishment and support of Operation and Maintenance units

In 2016,
so far the Sector has reached
43,706 individuals
using various shelter solutions.
These include:

- The upgrading of public and private collective shelters for **15,652 IDPs**
- Supporting the management and maintenance of shelters which accommodate **3,517 Palestinian refugees**
- The provision of emergency shelter kits for **20,533 people**

KEY FIGURES



An estimated **13.5 million** people in Syria, including **six million** children, require humanitarian assistance and protection



1.2 million housing units have been damaged and **400,000** completely destroyed



1.7 million IDPs are living in camps and collective centres



2.4 million people lack adequate shelter

Background

The protracted Syrian crisis has affected people's safety, assets and livelihoods and has also had a major impact on the ability of people to cope and adjust to the adverse circumstances of an increasingly weak and dismantled economy. First and foremost, the crisis has caused massive displacement of people across and within the borders of the country whereby a large number of persons experienced multiple displacement patterns. With the continuance of the crisis in Syria, the displacement of large parts of Syria's population has not only affected the situation of those displaced but also of those living in the host communities.

Since the onset of the crisis, it is estimated that more than 1.2 million houses in Syria are partially or severely damaged with 400,000 completely destroyed. In addition, the number of IDPs in Syria is estimated at 6.5 million with only 5% of the displaced living in collective shelters and the majority seeking shelter in rented houses, apartments or with family members. With over a quarter of the Syrian population being displaced since the beginning of the crisis, shelter as a basic form of physical protection is one of the main needs. Through five years of the crisis, shelter response in Syria has been developed collectively within the sector, and has evolved from distribution of shelter material as part of CRI package, to improvements of collective shelters, into upgrading of unfinished private buildings in various stages of completion (private shelter upgrade).

For 2016, the sector has increasingly focused on more durable solutions, without compromising on contingency planning and emergency response through tents and kits. More sustainability is foreseen through the support of owners and tenants to rehabilitate their premises to minimal liveable conditions. This approach targets houses with minor damage, in the places of beneficiaries' origin. Besides responding to families' shelter needs, this approach is also intended to address neighbourhoods/communities through assisting in the restoration of main services and utilities making neighbourhoods function again. As per the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan, the shelter sector this year is targeting to reach 320,213 beneficiaries.

Response

The shelter sector response is to enhance existing and potential shelter with the aim to decrease displacement and to ensure that IDPs are able to return to their homes and enjoy their rights according to international standards of HLP law. The response focuses on six core areas of responses:

- Responding to emergencies, providing life-saving, life-sustaining support.
- Rehabilitation of public structures as collective shelters.
- Upgrade of unfinished private buildings.
- Owner- / tenant oriented shelter assistance to repair their premises.
- Strengthening awareness of IDP's and host community on Housing Land Propriety Rights through awareness session by legal aid partners.
- Enforce ongoing capacity building efforts to enhance the governmental response to the IDP crisis.

Gaps & Challenges

At present, the most significant limiting factors for effective shelter response are:

- Security concerns for humanitarian personnel hindering both a country-wide needs assessment and the delivery of emergency assistance to those who are in need.
- Suddenness and unpredictability of displacements following tensions and conflict.
- Implementing partners' capacity, in terms of quantifiable resources, outreach, number of partners, but also in regards of technical, management and monitoring capacity.
- Complexity of formal requirements and administrative procedures: complex and cumbersome processes to obtain permissions and approvals from several bodies and authorities for each step of the shelter response process sequence impacts scale, scope, timeliness and effectiveness of response.
- Limited number of NGOs permitted to operate in Syria as well as their limited operational capacity. Durable access to planned intervention areas; taking into account that shelter response requires constant and stable access to sites over a longer time-frame, as well as sufficient security conditions for staff and programs. This constraint is much more essential for effectiveness of shelter response than it is for sectors with distribution - oriented humanitarian assistance programs.
- Reliable identification and verification of specific needs, vulnerabilities and beneficiary groups, and their alignment with suitable, effective response of sufficient scale. This requires continued advocacy to carry out targeted and structured assessments, as a joint exercise of all stakeholders involved, especially on field level in identified focal areas.
- Limited availability of sites and structures for implementation of transitional solutions, resp., for upgrading for temporary use by IDPs.

Human Interest

Rania and Her Family finally have some Privacy

Young Rania Al Zaher, 19 years old suffers from brain cancer. She loved school and was a brilliant student and when she was diagnosed she tried to continue school but eventually the excruciating pain prevented her from attending as she could no longer get out of bed.

After having been displaced three years ago from Sayidah Zaynab in Rural Damascus due to fighting, Rania's family of 13 ended up in a tiny room in Khiaarah, Rural Damascus. Rania's father works as a security guard in a local factory and pays three-quarters of his salary in rent.

Rania's four sisters and the six brothers as well as their parents all stay in this small cramped room and the lack of privacy was extremely disturbing because Rania's mother was forced to use adult diapers on her because of both her condition and the lack of a decent bathroom.

Rania's mother told field staff during a visit that "my only hope is to make it as easy and as comfortable as I can for my little Rania". After assessing the inadequate shelter, Secours Islamique France (SIF) supported by UNHCR implemented partition works for their room, so both Rania and the other children can have some privacy. In addition a new toilet-block was constructed as well as improving electricity and sanitation services, installing water heater and an electrical back up battery.

Rania and the other 12 family members were part of 7,378 IDPs which benefited from this project's activities, which implemented rehabilitation works for several unfinished building in the area.

Rania's mother was extremely grateful saying that "We deeply appreciate the generous involvement and support of SIF and UNHCR."



Sector Leader

Partners of the Shelter Sector



SHELTER SECTOR

June 2016

43,706 Beneficiaries

