



Syria Emergency Shelter Sector Factsheet 2016 January

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

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

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

Protraction and continued vitality of the Syrian crisis have increasingly forced large groups to experience displacement, and for some multiple displacements. As a consequence, not only the displaced are directly affected, but also host and host communities.

Through five years of the crisis, shelter response in Syria has been developed collectively within the Sector, and has evolved from the distribution of shelter materials as part of the 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 increasingly focuses on more durable solutions, without compromising on contingency planning and emergency response through tents and kits. More sustainability is foreseen through supporting owners and tenants to rehabilitate their premises to minimal livable conditions. This approach will target the houses with minor damages, in places of beneficiaries' origin. This approach besides responding to families' shelter needs, is intended to address neighborhoods/ communities through assisting in restoring main services and utilities making neighborhoods function again.

As per the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan, the current number of internally displaced is estimated at 6.5 Million, and people in need for shelter support at 2.4 Million, with Shelter Sector targeting 320,213 beneficiaries. Throughout the preparation of 2016 response plan, to shift from opportunity-driven assistance to IDPs as evident needs-group, to more targeted vulnerability-driven response to clearly identified needs groups was one main objective.

Response

The shelter response in Syria aims to design and implement adequate shelter solutions to various groups of beneficiaries by:

- Responding to emergencies, providing life-saving, life-sustaining support,
- Providing more durable, resilience oriented assistance in areas of displacement as well as areas of origin through legal owner and community - based approaches

Shelter response within Syria aligns with three strategic objectives of the Whole of Syria (WoS) Humanitarian Response Plan.

Sector Objective 1: Provide life-sustaining and life-saving shelter support.

This objective captures all emergency shelter response options focusing on survival of beneficiaries.

Sector Objective 2: Promote security of tenure.

This objective aims to promote, to the extent possible, assistance to documentation of ownership / right of tenure for specific beneficiary groups. It is closely linked to objectives of the Protection Sector, and complementary to its activities.

Sector Objective 3: Contribute towards resilience and cohesion of communities and households by improving housing and community/public infrastructure.

This objective captures assistance to owners, resp. legal tenants of houses / buildings within a defined neighbourhood / area, hence in their community embedment. It also comprises, as a complementary element for assistance to families, support of the respective communities through infrastructure rehabilitation activities aligned with shelter support.

Key elements for adequacy, timeliness and effectiveness of Syrian shelter response are to

- Maintain the principle of strategizing and planning of shelter response on national level, based on sub-national assessments and input,
- Decentralize operational response through establishment and operationalization of local SWGs in agencies' field office locations, reporting to central sector coordination,
- Simplify procedural requirements and administrative procedures while still ensuring full accountability.

This constitutes responsibilities for the Sector to deliver a range of quality-focused shelter solutions, to ensure sufficient scale of shelter response, and to constantly contribute to simplification of processes and procedures, while adhering to collectively adopted workflows and operating procedures.

Gaps & Challenges

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

- Security concerns for humanitarian personnel hindering 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

Mohammed and his family happy for the first time in three years

Mohammed and his family comprised of his mother, wife, his four little children and his two brothers and their families. fled from the ongoing armed conflict in Daraya three years ago. After moving from place to place they finally ended up in a tent in Al-Khiarah in Rural Damascus. After living in this tent for about a year, suffering from the bad weather and unhealthy environment they thought their luck was changing as they managed to move into an apartment in an unfinished building close by. However their happiness did not last very long as they were expelled from this apartment and forced to return back to the same tent, which was by then in very bad condition.



Mohammed's tent before the intervention



After the intervention

When our field teams met Mohammed and his family for the first time the rain was leaking from every corner of their, flooding the inside. 14 persons were crammed inside an area of 15 m² on a muddy floor. We asked him to tell us about his worst problems now. Laughing, he answered: "Should I start talking about having no roof, no wall, no electricity and no appropriate sanitation for my children? Or should I talk about the long winter that we spent with a muddy floor and leaky roofing? I honestly do not know where to start". He went on to say that "I wish I stayed in Daraya, even with the conflict it would be better than living in these conditions".

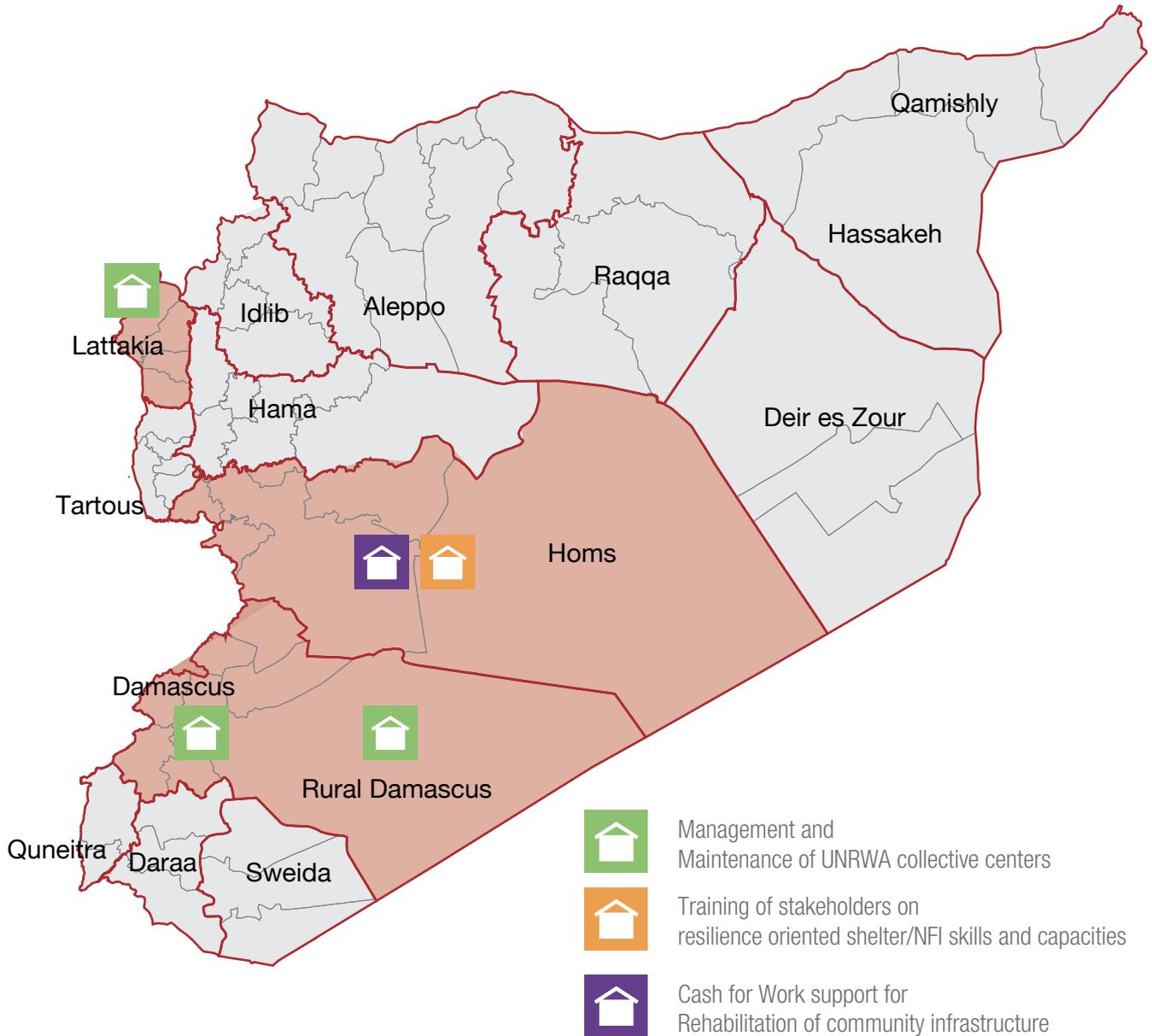
With UNHCR and its partner Secours Islamique-France (SIF) support Mohammed and his family's situation improved drastically. Firstly the floor was isolated with bitumen, a shower space and new toilet block was constructed and an electricity breaker with battery provided. A barricade was then constructed around the tent to solve the problem of flooding. After this shelter intervention was completed Mohammed expressed his gratitude to both SIF and UNHCR saying we had helped improve the lives of 14 people.

Sector Leader	Partners of the Shelter Sector
 <p>The UN Refugee Agency مفوضية الأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين</p>	

SHELTER SECTOR

Jan 2016

3,807 Beneficiaries



Activity	Total Individuals Reached
Collective Shelter Rehabilitation	-
Private Shelter upgrade	-
Re-Upgrade of Collective Shelters	-
Owner-oriented Shelter support - Cash Assistance	-
Cash for Work support for Rehabilitation of community infrastructure	100
Training of stakeholders on resilience oriented shelter/NFI skills and capacities	20
Management and Maintenance of UNRWA collective centers	3,687
Grand Total	3,807