



Sheltering Vulnerable Displaced Populations in Syria

More than three years into the armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, it is estimated that over 10.8 million individuals inside Syria now require humanitarian assistance and over 6.4 million are internally displaced, in addition to nearly 3 million Syrians who have fled across the border into neighbouring countries. The crisis has now reached most parts of the country, and civilians across Syria are bearing the brunt of the ongoing violence, with rising numbers of people killed, injured or displaced. Many of those displaced have lost property and their sources of livelihood. A large proportion of the displaced population is living with host families, renting rooms in private buildings, or living in improvised shelters, such as unfinished buildings, making for often inadequate accommodation. In addition, an estimated 4 per cent of the displaced population are living in collective or public shelters, typically buildings that previously functioned as schools, community centres, or other public institutions.



Two displaced children live in unfinished building in Rural Damascus. IOM installs shelter upgrade kit to create privacy and provide protection against weather condition.

To alleviate the difficult living conditions affecting Syria's displaced population, IOM started a new shelter programme in July 2014. Since then IOM has reached more than 14,700 individuals in the governorates of Dará, Hama, Rural Damascus and Deir-ez-Zor through the provision of 2,615 emergency shelter kits which include plastic sheets, wooden boards and essential fixing tools. Thanks to negotiations with local non-governmental organizations on the ground and in coordination with the authorities, IOM was able to gain access to civilians even in areas hard to reach due to the ongoing fighting.

IOM's shelter intervention in Syria encompasses: repair and rehabilitation of public shelters, shelter upgrade

works for the benefit of displaced populations living in unfinished buildings, and distribution of shelter kits that provide emergency shelter solutions to protect vulnerable displaced populations. Due to the prolonged nature of the crisis, IOM and UN/humanitarian partners are seeking suitable shelter solutions, in particular for the urban setting in which many of the people concerned find themselves. Solutions may include building and supplying temporary shelters and accommodation units, using for example pre-fabricated units and converted shipping containers.

IOM shelter assistance programme started in December 2012. Since then, 57,806 displaced individuals have been

able to improve their living conditions in their temporary displacement sites in nine governorates (Aleppo, As Sweida, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Deir –ez-Zor, Dará, and Rural Damascus). IOM Syria's shelter programme continues to grow and diversify in response to the emerging needs of vulnerable displaced populations in Syria.



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