NRC Lebanon’s shelter programmes have supported thousands of families with rent-free housing, invested resources in local communities, stimulated economic activity in many host communities and increased the availability of affordable housing in vulnerable neighbourhoods and communities.

Unlike in neighbouring countries hosting large numbers of refugees, government policy does not permit the establishment of formal camps for Syrian refugees. As a result, Syrian refugees in Lebanon have had to arrange their own accommodation through private landlords. Over 80% of refugees from Syria have sought refuge in urban and semi-urban areas, frequently in substandard and unsafe and unhealthy conditions, many lacking adequate water, sewage, and/or electricity services.

The socio-economic situation of many refugees continues to worsen. Six years into the crisis, refugees regularly state that the biggest challenge they face is securing adequate accommodation for their families. This is exacerbated by the substantial restrictions and prohibitions on refugees’ abilities to earn a livelihood. 70% of Syrian refugee households and the 98% of Palestine Refugees from Syria are severely or highly economically vulnerable. Syrian refugees frequently end up seeking accommodation in urban Lebanese communities that are themselves economically vulnerable and already straining to maintain basic public services.

In addition to suffering from widespread poverty, Palestinian Refugees from Syria face unique challenges in securing adequate shelter. These refugees have relocated to pre-existing communities of Palestine Refugees living in Lebanon in decades-old refugee camps that are already severely congested.

**SHELTER PROGRAMME REACH IN 2016**

- **3,201** Housing units provided
- **11,681** Individuals benefited
- **3** Lebanese Schools Rehabilitated
- **262** Properties upgraded/repaired in Palestinian camps
- **6** Totally destroyed buildings rebuilt in Palestinian communities
- **21,649** Individuals benefitted from emergency shelter kits in Arsal
- **5,295** Emergency shelter kits distributed
- **1,409** Individuals benefited

**NRC’S SHELTER RESPONSE INCLUDES:**

- Transitional shelter through the Occupancy Free of Charge Programme.
- Shelter renovations and upgrades for Palestine Refugees.
- Emergency shelter interventions in Arsal.
- Infrastructure support to Lebanese host communities, including schools and learning environments.
OCCUPANCY FREE OF CHARGE

NRC works with property owners in Lebanese communities to upgrade unfinished houses and apartments to a habitable condition in exchange for hosting Syrian families rent-free for a period of 12 months. This initiative provides vulnerable Syrian families with safe housing while also stimulating local economic activity and potentially increasing the stock of habitable housing. Upgrades can include finishing floors, plastering walls, installing windows, toilets and kitchen facilities, as well as providing electricity and water connections. Shelter projects are further enhanced by ensuring appropriate water and sanitation facilities.

As the refugee crisis continues, NRC has modified the programme to allow the most vulnerable families to stay beyond the initial 12-months through providing additional renovations and upgrades to the host property, thereby providing rent-free accommodation for an additional year.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

NRC assists households living in vulnerable environments with shelter and WASH upgrades to better protect them from extreme seasonal temperatures, floods and snow. Since 2014 NRC has been providing emergency seasonal shelter supplies in Arsal, a highly vulnerable isolated municipality in the Bekaa Valley with limited access to humanitarian aid and exposure to extreme winter weather.

HOUSING SUPPORT FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES

NRC funds house and roof repairs in Palestine Refugee camps for buildings that have been completely destroyed and for houses that require small-scale upgrades. Many houses in the overcrowded camps are in a state of severe disrepair reflecting decades of poverty, overcrowding, and intermittent conflict. NRC’s shelter programme works to identify vulnerable households in need of support for upgrades and repairs and works with owners on specific renovations and repairs.

SCHOOL REHABILITATION

In Lebanon, one third of the public schools do not meet the Ministry of Education and Higher Education minimum Effective School Standards. NRC’s Shelter team is working to build and/or rehabilitate school facilities which host a high number of Syrian students, in close coordination with NRC’s Education and WASH teams and the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education. This process includes a community-led participatory process to facilitate community and student input.