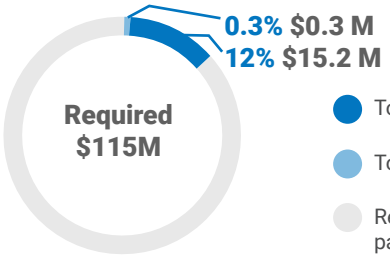
2023 3rd Quarter SECTOR DASHBOARD
Shelter

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

This dashboard summarizes activity reported by shelter partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) between January and September 2023 and highlights trends affecting people in need. Shelter partners in Lebanon aim to achieve the following: OUTCOME 1: Reduce immediate protection-related shelter needs of most vulnerable households; OUTCOME 2: Improve access to adequate shelter as part of a multi-sectoral approach in disadvantaged areas for enhanced stability; OUTCOME 3: Enhance the contribution of national institutions and organizations to the housing situation in Lebanon.

2023 Sector Funding Status
As of 30 Sep



2023 population reached

1,993,390 People in need

17% — **113,267** reached — **681,311** targeted

348,664 female — **332,647** male

2023 population figures by cohort

911,990 Lebanese individuals in need

9% — **7,349** reached — **81,651** targeted

42,458 female — **39,193** male

870,000 Displaced Syrians in need

19% — **104,871** reached — **561,660** targeted

286,446 female — **275,214** male

31,400 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (individuals)

1% — **210** reached — **19,000** targeted

9,880 female — **9,120** male

180,000 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (individuals)

4% — **837** reached — **19,000** targeted

9,880 female — **9,120** male

Progress against targets

Key Achievements

of displaced people assisted in keeping their temporary shelters weatherproofed, repaired or otherwise maintained.

23% — **81,654 / 362,235**

# of individuals benefitted from site improvments in informal settlements

24% — **11,884 / 40,000**

# of areas that benefitted from multi-sectoral profiling

15% — **6 / 40**

# of shelter units upgraded to minimum standards

1% — **374 / 45,817**

# of vulnerable individuals benefitted from cash for rent

24% — **29,744 / 124,270**

Outcomes

of most vulnerable households whose shelters in informal settlements or in substandard residential and non-residential buildings have improved privacy, safety and security

22,377 / 101,585

# of households in substandard buildings living in disadvantaged areas benefitting from shelter upgrades to minimum standards

1% — **276 / 33,299**

# of 332 most vulnerable localities containing a multi-sectorally assessed or profiled area

2% — **6 / 332**

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1. Multi-sectoral situation update

The economic situation in Lebanon remains dire in the third quarter of 2023, resulting in significant challenges for individuals and families. In August 2023, the annual inflation rate recorded a 229.8 per cent increase compared to August 2022, the 38th consecutive month of hyperinflation since the beginning of the crisis. The cost of living, as measured by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which includes expenses for food, essential goods, and services, reached LBP 30,472,087 in July 2023, a slight increase from June and up by 142 per cent compared to the SMEB cost in January 2023. The average price of bottled water in Lebanon up to September 2023 has witnessed a remarkable 16 per cent increase in USD value and a 2598 per cent increase in Lebanese pound (LBP) value compared to the prices in January 2021. Similarly, water trucking costs have soared dramatically, with a significant 297 per cent increase in USD value and 1665 per cent increase in LBP value over the same period. These soaring prices highlight the acute economic challenges faced by the population. In August 2023 alone, there was a significant price spike, with bottled water prices rising by 54 per cent in USD value and 57 per cent in Lebanese pound value, and water trucking prices increasing by 26 per cent in USD value and 29 per cent in Lebanese pound value. These steep price increases pose substantial challenges to access clean water in Lebanon.

At the beginning of Q3, a temporary decrease in raids undertaken by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) targeting displaced Syrians in informal settlements was witnessed compared to Q2. However, a shrinking protection space was observed in August and September with an increase in raids in Bekaa, movement restrictions and an uptick in border pushbacks. On 12 September, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM) addressed another circular to all Governors in Lebanon, to be further disseminated to municipalities and Mokhtars, regarding the presence of displaced Syrians. The circular included instructions to, inter-alia, conduct a data survey of displaced Syrians, report suspicious movements and gatherings of displaced Syrians and to request from all organizations, especially foreign ones, to coordinate their activities with the ministries, municipalities, and military and security agencies. Restrictions of movements including through curfews and searches at check points as well as confiscation of items such as internet routers, solar panels, and motorbikes were reported significantly impacting the feeling of safety and security and psychological wellbeing of displaced Syrians. The fear of deportation because of lacking legal residency was particularly reported by men, resulting in their limitations of movement and an increase of engagement of women and children in labour activities, accumulation of debts and other harmful coping mechanisms. In Q3, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) partners continued to observe rising trends in women and girls being exploited and exposed to sexual harassment and assault when working in farms and as domestic workers or in the streets. A spike in anti-gender rhetoric was observed resulting in a shrinking space to advocate for women's rights, diversity, and gender-based violence prevention and response programs.

As of July, inter-communal relations in Lebanon eased slightly after having experienced a peak in negative sentiments in the first and second quarter of 2023. Some 34 per cent of respondents now report negative inter-communal relations as compared to 46 per cent in March 2023 as per the UNDP-ARK Perception Survey. The main tension drivers continue to be economic such as competition for lower-skilled jobs and services such as electricity, healthcare, and waste management. Relations between Lebanese on the other hand have slightly deteriorated with 34 per cent rating intra-Lebanese relations as negative, compared to 21 per cent in March 2023. For the first time ever, economic competition was quoted as the main tension driver among Lebanese (58%), followed by political and sectarian conflict (51%).

2. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Output 1.1: Temporary shelters (informal settlements and non-residential buildings) and residential shelters (for protection/referral cases) hosting vulnerable populations are maintained at liveable and safe conditions. All activities under Output 1.1 have a strong focus on protection and specifically target households that are living in the most severely degraded shelter conditions.

By the third quarter of 2023, support was provided to 111,398 individuals (54,584 males and 56,814females), representing 21.6 per cent of the annual target of 515,593 individuals. This aligns with the progress made in the same quarter in 2022, where 22 per cent of the target was reached. However, the overall reach of weatherproofing assistance decreased by 11.7 per cent compared to the third quarter of 2022, primarily due to a decrease in the number of emergencies in 2023 and the milder winter in comparison to the previous year. Regarding regular weatherproofing activities, despite some delays in completing assessments, there was a 21 per cent increase in achievement compared to the third quarter of 2022.

By the third quarter, a total of 79,202 individuals (38,812 males and 40,397 females) living in informal settlements received weatherproofing assistance in the form of shelter kits[1] that included plastic sheeting, timber, and toolkits[2]. These kits enabled families to cover and fortify their shelters in preparation for the winter season. Emergency weatherproofing assistance was provided to 7,335 individuals, comprising 7,234 displaced Syrians and 101 vulnerable Lebanese (3,594 males and 3,741 females) who received shelter materials to either rebuild fully damaged shelters or reinforce partially damaged ones in the aftermath of emergencies such as fires, floods, or eviction. The largest emergency response occurred in the Baalbek El Hermel governorate, assisting 4,403 individuals (2,113 males and 2,290 females), and the highest number of individuals affected by emergencies was in the first quarter of 2023, primarily due to severe weather conditions in that area. Regular weatherproofing assistance also extended to 71,871 individuals (35,218 males and 36,656 females) of which 80 per cent are located in the Bekaa governorate. By September, 95 per cent of the shelter kits for regular weatherproofing were distributed following a comprehensive assessment of the condition of each tent in informal settlements across the country. The distribution of kits is expected to increase in the last quarter of the year to prepare for the upcoming winter season.

Fires present a significant hazard in informal settlements due to the use of highly flammable materials like timber and plastic sheeting. Furthermore, the close proximity of shelters resulting from the ad-hoc planning of these settlements heightens the susceptibility to fire incidents. To tackle this issue, fire safety kits were distributed, and comprehensive awareness training was conducted for a total of 124,832 individuals spanning all age groups (61,167 males and 63,665 females). This intervention plays a vital role in arming families with the skills needed to respond to fires effectively and swiftly, thereby improving their capacity to safeguard themselves and their communities from potential disasters.

Ensuring adequate accessibility to shelters in informal settlements is crucial to improve the ability of people to live safely, especially in the winter season. Site improvement activities took place in four districts, Baalbek, Zahle, West Bekaa and Akkar targeting 11,884 individuals, all displaced Syrians (5,823 males and 6,061 females). Such assistance can help mitigate water inundation in winter, which can limit safe access to and circulation around shelters for service providers and individuals, with particular implications for those with compromised mobility.

In non-residential buildings, such as garages, shops, and warehouses, a total of 2,445 individuals including 1,431 displaced Syrians, 793 vulnerable Lebanese, 215 Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon, and 6 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (1,198 males and 1,247 females) have received minor repair assistance. This support aimed to enhance their shelter conditions, ensuring increased safety and privacy, and to upgrade water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities to mitigate health risks. However, it's important to highlight a 65 per cent decrease compared to the quarter three results of the previous year, primarily due to funding limitations.

Another intervention affected by the sector's limited funding is the upgrading of residential shelters to meet minimum standards. Only 489 individuals including 353 displaced Syrians and 136 vulnerable Lebanese (239 males and 250 females) were able to benefit from this effort. Despite the significance of this intervention in providing dignified living conditions for severely vulnerable households, including marginalized groups, female-headed households, older people, and Persons with Disabilities, restricted resources have hindered its broader implementation.

A total of 29,744 individuals received conditional cash support for rent to alleviate eviction risks. This assistance included 23,343 displaced Syrians, 5,713 vulnerable Lebanese, 488 Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRLs), and

1 The shelter sector identifies different types of shelter kits: Light Repair Kit (LRK), Medium Repair Kit (MRK), New Arrival Kit (NAK), Heavy Repair Kit (HRK), Timber Repair Kit (TRK) and Door Kit (DK). For detailed information about the kits, please refer to the guidance note "Weatherproofing in Informal Settlements"
2 The toolkit contains a carpentry hammer, wood saw, cutter, screwdriver and tape measure

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200 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS). These individuals, comprising 14,574 males and 15,170 females, represent 24 per cent of the annual target. The achievement for Cash for Rent (CfR) is notably higher than that of the previous year's quarter three, with a 139 per cent increase. This significant improvement is primarily attributed to the sector's efforts in advocating for funding and the rise in referrals and vulnerability cases. It's worth noting the positive increase in the population served and a slight increase in funding for this activity in 2023. However, it's important to highlight that funding for CfR still falls short compared to the high number of eviction referrals the sector receives on a monthly basis.

Output 2.1: Residential shelters for vulnerable communities in disadvantaged areas are upgraded. Under Output 2.1, 1,380 individuals, including 653 displaced Syrians, 589 vulnerable Lebanese and 134 Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and 4 Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) (675 males and 705 females) living in 276 housing units benefitted from **upgrading of their shelter conditions to minimum humanitarian standards as part of an area-based approach.** In addition, 431 individuals, including 304 displaced Syrians and 121 vulnerable Lebanese and 6 Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL) (211 males and 220 females) benefitted from the rehabilitation of the common areas in the buildings where they live. The alarmingly low achievement (0.83% of the set target of 33,299 shelter units and 4.3% of the target for the rehabilitation of common areas) is linked to the extremely low funding of upgrading residential shelters. As a result of the low available funding, the Shelter sector is taking an evidence-based approach to ensure assistance is delivered in a coordinated manner, thus advocating for the implementation of multi-sectoral area-based interventions.

Output 2.2: Multi-sectoral assessments are produced for areas of vulnerable populations to facilitate sector integrated response. Eight[3] multi-sectoral assessments were completed by the third quarter of the year, against a set target of 40 assessments.

Output 3.1: Capacity building support to national organizations and institutions contributing to shelter and housing situation in Lebanon. No progress was made under this output beyond what was reported in the second quarter of 2023 regarding one national NGO receiving funding from the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) First Standard Allocation with support from the Shelter sector.

Up until the end of September of 2023, the Shelter sector received 3,908 referrals, making 5.1 per cent of the total referrals made in Lebanon. 64.8 per cent of the referrals were received in the first quarter of 2023, reaching their peak in March 2023 before decreasing to 1,106 referrals in the second quarter (28.3% of all the total) and only 268 referrals in the third quarter (6.9%). The highest number of referrals received remains in the North (39.6%) followed by Akkar (26.6%). Unfortunately, 42.6 per cent of the received referrals remain pending due to the limited funding and the Shelter partners' inability to take on any new cases.

3. KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

By the third quarter of 2023, the available funding remains alarmingly low, covering a mere 14 per cent of the sector's Shelter needs. The decrease in funding has been an ongoing challenge forcing Shelter sector partners to implement a multi-layered approach to select beneficiaries, with a primary focus on protection cases, female-headed households, and individuals with specific needs. This critical shortage of funds has left severely vulnerable families unsupported, making them more susceptible to protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risks. Many households have resorted to negative coping mechanisms to secure their survival and afford rent.

The severity of the needs and the high number of referrals have driven Shelter sector partners to meet most of their targets by the third quarter of the year, particularly in the case of cash for rent assistance. This poses a significant challenge for the Shelter sector with gaps expected to emerge across the country in the last quarter of the year. It is expected that the Shelter sector's capacity to accept and respond to referrals in quarter four will be limited, causing a risk of increased evictions and heightened protection concerns among vulnerable households.

Based on the results of the monthly protection monitoring conducted by UNHCR, rental prices continued to increase in the third quarter of the year, reaching their highest values since 2020, despite the USD to LBP rate remaining somewhat stable. Higher rental amounts are observed in urban settings compared to rural settings and the highest values are reported in Beirut (LBP 13,239,420 or USD 148) and Mount Lebanon (LBP 10,111,951 or USD 113).

The country's persistent hyperinflation amid the severe economic crisis and political deadlock has further exacerbated the situation. Housing and utilities showed a moderation in price growth, with hyperinflation rates remaining at around 233 per cent in August. Since the start of the year, Shelter sector partners reported that rents are being dollarized. This is expected to continue given that property owners consider it an important and sometimes the only income stream that they have. Following the dollarization of the cash for rent assistance, Shelter sector partners didn't report any major challenges faced with this switch.
Throughout the last quarter of the year, the Shelter sector will continue to monitor the situation and evaluate the impact of dollarization on the supported households and on the rental market.

The clashes that erupted by the end of July in Ein El Helwe Palestinian Camp, situated in the South of the country, caused instability in the area and Shelter sector partners had to suspend all regular activities implemented in the area surrounding the camp, mainly Saida. The consequence of these events was a notable delay in the provision of regular services by the Shelter sector. This delay, in turn, raises concerns about potential operational risks and exerts additional pressure on organizations to meet their targets before the projects' scheduled completion.

4. KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER

In the final quarter of 2023, the Shelter sector will consult with the Shelter core group to develop a 2024 strategy based on findings from VASyR[4] and MSNA[5]. This strategy will comprise activities targeting the different population groups in the country.

Within informal settlements, the primary focus will be on two key interventions:

• Weatherproofing of tents to prepare families for the upcoming winter season and to ensure they live in shelters that protect them from natural elements. The sector has updated the existing guidance on weatherproofing and adjusted the eligibility criteria for shelter kit distribution to ensure assistance reaches the most vulnerable.

• Site improvement to decrease the risk of flooding and ensure continued accessibility to the sites. Priority will be given to sites that were flooded during the winter of 2022/2023. Many sites have already been improved but the activity will continue in the last quarter of the year.

In terms of urban shelter interventions, the sector has placed a specific emphasis on providing support to female-headed households, older persons, and cases requiring protection support. Regrettably, a substantial funding shortfall has resulted in minimal progress in quarter three when compared to the sector's identified needs. While the sector anticipates meeting its expected outcomes in informal settlements, it foresees reaching only seven per cent of its established target in urban shelters due to limited funding increases. As a result, the achievements for cash for rent assistance have been adversely impacted, with gaps emerging in various areas, as most Shelter sector partners have reached their capacity to provide this type of assistance.

[3] Mhammara, Mishmish, Sir Ed Danniye in North, Chhim in BML, Aain Baal and Baissariyeh in the South, Qab Elias and Aarsal in Bekaa.
[4] Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees.
[5] Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment

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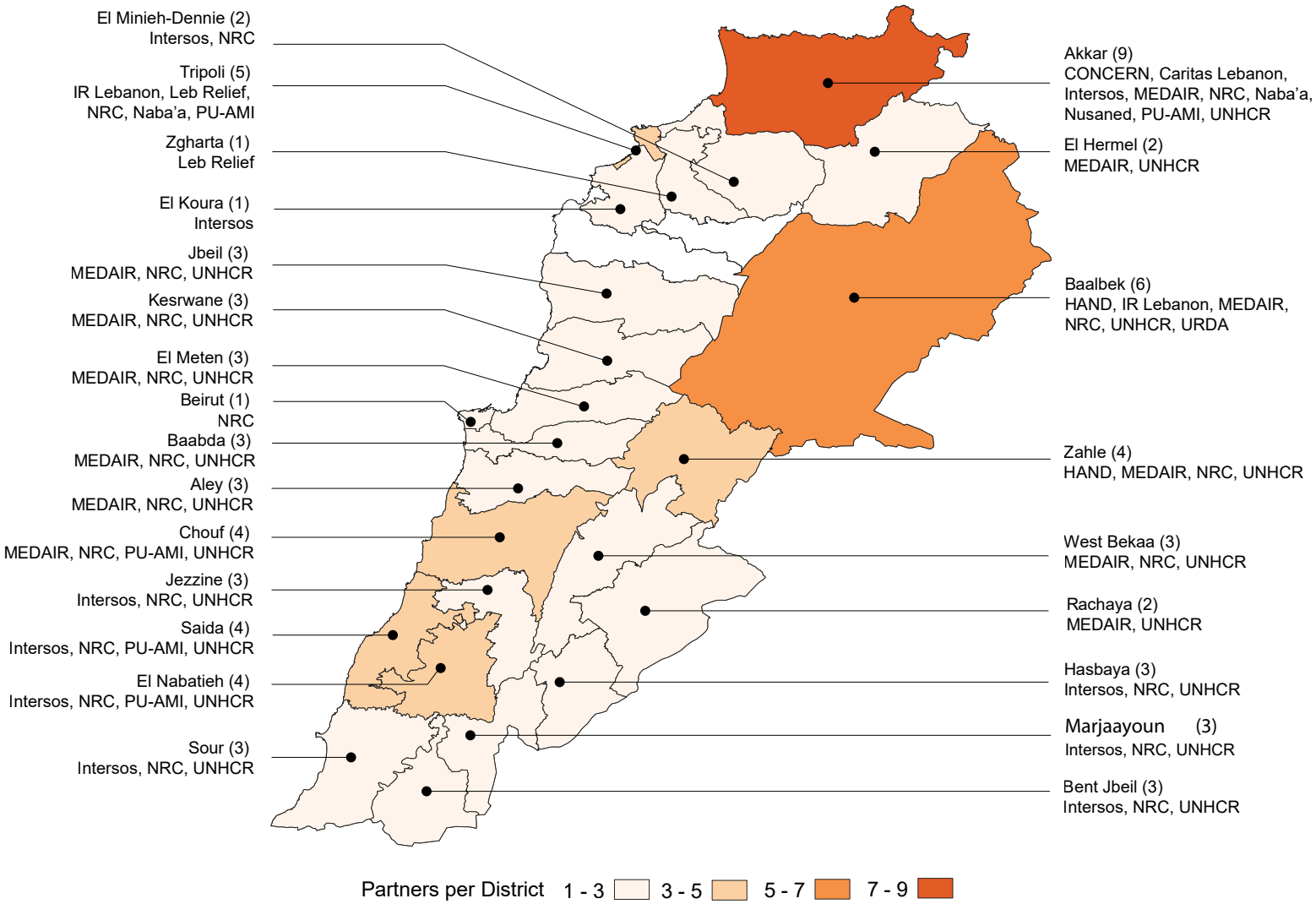
13 Partners reported shelter activities through ActivityInfo by September 2023

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following partners based on reporting on ActivityInfo:

Caritas Lebanon, CONCERN, HAND, Intersos, IR Lebanon, Leb Relief, MEDAIR, Naba'a, NRC, Nusaned, PU-AMI, UNHCR and URDA



Note: This map has been produced by UNHCR based on maps provided by the Government of Lebanon for UNHCR operational purposes. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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