

## Situation Overview

Renewed hostilities since early March 2026 have significantly aggravated humanitarian needs across Lebanon, triggering mass internal displacement now affecting more than one million people. Against this backdrop, the 2026 Flash Appeal (March–May) seeks USD 308.3 million to address urgent needs, yet funding levels remain critically insufficient, with overall coverage below 40 per cent. Cash-based responses, particularly MPCA, are among the most underfunded components, limiting the response’s ability to keep pace with the scale, diversity, and geographic spread of needs.

Despite access and security constraints, local markets continue to operate in most displacement-affected areas, including major IDP-hosting locations. This reality reinforces the operational relevance of cash assistance, which the Cash Working Group (CWG) continues to prioritize as the most appropriate response modality where markets are functional, supporting choice, flexibility, and efficient delivery at scale.

For displaced households living outside shelters, cash assistance plays a critical role in covering a wide range of essential expenditures, including housing, food, healthcare, transport, and disability-related needs, while also reducing exposure to high-risk coping strategies. These needs are particularly acute in hard-to-reach and high-risk areas, including parts of southern Lebanon. However, the persistent under-resourcing of cash assistance highlights the need for greater financing flexibility, improved alignment across sectors, and stronger collective prioritization to ensure assistance reaches those most in need in a timely and predictable manner.

## Emergency Response Highlights


As of mid-May, 618,000 people have received emergency multipurpose cash assistance through the Government-led Shock Responsive Safety Net (SRSN) and humanitarian EMPCA channels, with conflict-affected Lebanese nationals accounting close to 80 per cent of assisted recipients. Emergency cash disbursements are ongoing alongside intensified resource-mobilization efforts, with additional payments planned through the end of May to sustain minimum consumption and mitigate the immediate economic impacts of displacement and income loss.

Following completion of the initial payment round, the response is transitioning from blanket assistance toward more targeted support, prioritizing households with the highest levels of vulnerability. A final SRSN targeting framework is expected within the month and will guide subsequent phases of assistance, supporting alignment across government and humanitarian cash pathways.

### To date, emergency cash assistance delivered across the response includes:

- **618,000** people reached with Emergency MPCA for one month
- **54,534** people reached through the Emergency Disability Benefit of the National Disability Allowance
- **6,686** people supported through Emergency Protection Cash Assistance
- **1,355** people reached with unrestricted cash-based food assistance
- **941** Pregnant & Breastfeeding Women and Children (in 878 families) received cash for nutrition assistance

### Regular Programmes




**698,000**  
 People reached with recurrent MPCA across all population groups, approx. 168,000 families



**USD 48 million**  
 disbursed since January 2026 for recurrent MPCA



**8 partner Organizations**  
 delivering recurrent MPCA



**Priority areas**  
 Akkar, Mount Lebanon, Baalbek-EI Hermel and Bekaa

### Other Key Developments

#### Market Functionality

According to the IPC analysis published on 29 April 2026, food security conditions in Lebanon have deteriorated sharply following renewed hostilities and widespread displacement. While markets remain functional at the national level and food remains available, acute food insecurity is driven primarily by economic access constraints, including rising food and fuel prices, increased transport and import costs, and widespread income losses that have significantly eroded household purchasing power. The analysis also points to localized market disruptions in conflict-affected areas, particularly in southern districts, compounded by broader inflationary pressures linked to regional instability and disrupted trade routes. In this context, affordability rather than availability remains the principal constraint to food access, reinforcing the importance of cash-based assistance to enable market access for affected households.

#### Complementarity with Sectoral Cash

During the reporting period, the CWG focused on strengthening complementarity between multipurpose cash assistance, MPCA, and sectoral cash. Updated guidance, particularly for Shelter and Protection, was aligned with agreed standards and endorsed by MoSA for implementation to conflict affected Lebanese populations, ensuring closer alignment with government led systems. MPCA was reaffirmed as the primary modality for meeting basic needs, while sectoral cash is positioned to complement it in a targeted and non duplicative manner. Two approaches were clarified: sectoral top ups to address gaps where MPCA is insufficient, including for seasonal or shelter related needs, and standalone sectoral cash for specific risks or objectives, often linked to services. With current MPCA transfer levels covering less than one third of basic needs, SMEB, well targeted top ups remain essential to ensure adequate coverage of critical needs.

#### Task Team Modality - Lessons Learned

A subsequent lessons-learned review confirmed the Task Team model as an effective and inclusive technical coordination mechanism, enabling focused discussions, strengthened ownership, and timely outputs in an emergency context. Key lessons emphasized the importance of early clarity on scope, timelines, governance arrangements, and participation expectations, as well as strong linkages with CWG leadership. Overall, while progress was made toward harmonized emergency MPCA guidance, data and system constraints highlighted the need for a phased harmonization approach, anchored in agreed core principles and strengthened over time.

### 'Regular' Programming

Regular multipurpose cash assistance continues to be delivered at scale, supporting approximately 698,000 people (around 168,000 families), with a total of about USD 48 million disbursed through 8 partner organizations, reflecting strong collective capacity and sustained donor support. Assistance is strategically focused on high-need areas, particularly Akkar, Mount Lebanon, Baalbek–El Hermel, and Bekaa, where the largest concentrations of vulnerable families are located. Overall, the programme ensures nationwide coverage while prioritizing regions with the greatest needs, helping to maximize impact and ensure that resources reach the most vulnerable households in a coordinated and accountable manner.

### Funding Status

While funding for the Flash Appeal has improved since the previous SitRep, shortfalls persist for ongoing programmes supporting similarly vulnerable populations, underscoring the need to ensure these groups are not overlooked as emergency responses scale up.



MPCA requirement:  
**USD 382 million**



Flash Appeal Funding secured: **55%**



LRP MPCA funding: **6%**

\*Sectoral top-ups are additional cash transfers provided on top of MPCA to households already receiving MPCA, with the purpose of addressing specific sectoral needs or vulnerabilities that are not sufficiently covered by the MPCA transfer value.

\*\* Standalone sectoral cash is provided independently of MPCA, targets households based on sector-specific objectives or risks, and is designed to achieve outcomes distinct from basic needs support.