LEBANON
CASH WORKING GROUP

# Lebanon Cash Working Group Situation Report #5

Reporting period: as of August 2026

**905,386**
People Targeted with Emergency MPCA at least once since March 2026

**66,471**
People Reached with NDA Emergency Top-Ups

**3,342**
Families reached with one-off Emergency Cash for Shelter

**16,101**
Cases Reached with Emergency Protection Cash

## Situation Overview

During August, humanitarian needs in Lebanon remained substantial despite a continued decline in overall displacement and further population returns. As of 26 August, IOM DTM recorded 334,353 internally displaced people, a 4% decrease compared with 19 August, while 823,337 people had begun returning to their communities, representing a 1% increase over the same period. A further 19,543 people remained registered across 196 collective sites, down 10% from the previous round. Displacement nevertheless remains highly concentrated, with Beirut, Saida, Sour, Chouf and Aley hosting 77% of all IDPs, while 94% of displaced people originate from just five districts, primarily Bent Jbeil, El Nabatieh and Sour. Population movements also remain geographically complex: 79% of IDPs are displaced outside their governorate of origin, reflecting continued differences in security, accessibility and conditions for return across affected areas.

While the overall trajectory remains towards return, the reduction in displacement should not be interpreted as a corresponding reduction in humanitarian needs. Returns are concentrated in a limited number of areas, with 87% of returned IDPs arriving in Sour, El Nabatieh, Baabda, Saida and Baalbek. At the same time, the majority of remaining displaced households continue to carry substantial accommodation and living costs: 74% of IDPs are living in rental housing, 11% in host settings, 9% in second homes, around 5% in collective sites and 1% in at-risk shelter conditions. These patterns reinforce the increasingly fluid nature of displacement and return, with households navigating insecurity, damaged or inaccessible housing, disrupted services, livelihood constraints and the costs associated with prolonged displacement. Humanitarian priorities therefore continue to span both displaced and returning populations, including cash assistance, shelter rehabilitation, restoration of basic services, health care, protection and livelihoods support.

Against this backdrop, the Cash Working Group (LCWG) continued to support the transition from broad emergency assistance towards more targeted interventions under the Shock Responsive Safety Net (SRSN), while advancing planning for assistance beyond the Flash Appeal through the 2026 LRP Addendum. The latest mobility trends reinforce the need for targeting approaches that consider vulnerability and household circumstances rather than displacement status alone, particularly as return does not necessarily signal recovery or reduced need.

## Emergency Response Highlights

- **905,386** people received at least one month of Emergency Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)
- **16,790** families including a person with a disability, representing approximately 66,471 individuals, including 23,265 children, had received a one-time emergency cash transfer as part of the shock responsive National Disability Allowance.
- **16,101** cases (4,667 households) received Emergency Protection Cash Assistance
- **8,367** people were reached with unrestricted cash assistance to meet food needs
- **3,342** displaced families received a one-off emergency shelter cash grant
- **1,077** Pregnant & Breastfeeding Women and Children (in 981 families) received cash for nutrition assistance

## LRP Regular Programmes

**700,475**

People reached with recurrent MPCA across all population groups.

**USD 75.8 million**

USD disbursed since January 2026

**8 partner Organizations**

delivering regular MPCA

**39,980 people reached with social disability grants**

across all population groups

## FSP Mapping Exercise

The Cash Working Group's August 2026 Financial Service Provider (FSP) Mapping, based on 26 submissions from 24 member organizations, indicates a well-established payment infrastructure for cash assistance in Lebanon, with 96% of reported FSP engagements operating under active contracts or framework agreements.

Money-transfer companies account for 85% of mapped arrangements, and over-the-counter cash remains the dominant delivery mechanism, covered by 85% of responses. Geographic coverage is comparatively strong, with 73% of responses indicating nationwide delivery and agent networks and dedicated FSP branches forming the main service-point infrastructure. However, operational constraints remain, particularly for recipients lacking valid documentation or facing mobility and connectivity barriers; missing or invalid documentation and mobile-network problems were the most frequently cited causes of unsuccessful or delayed payments. While 65% of responses indicate that providers can scale up during emergencies, additional liquidity or service points may be required to do so effectively. Building on the mapping findings, the CWG will activate a dedicated task team to further review operational and contractual arrangements, identify opportunities to improve efficiency, and promote greater harmonization of FSP-related practices across cash actors.

## Markets

WFP's August 2026 market update points to continued pressure on household purchasing power despite some short-term stabilization in prices. The World Bank projects Lebanon's GDP to contract by 6.4% in 2026, compared with a pre-war forecast of 4% growth, while projected annual inflation has been revised upward from 8.7% to 17.5%. Although monthly inflation was broadly stable in July, with general inflation at -0.03%, food inflation at -0.73% and energy inflation at -2.82%, annual price pressures remain substantial at 16%, 14% and 38%, respectively. The cost of the full Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) declined by 1.2% in USD terms between June and July, but remained 11% higher than a year earlier, with the food component 13% higher and non-food costs 10% higher. These trends suggest that recent month-on-month easing has not offset the significant cumulative increase in basic living costs. The CWG will continue to monitor market and price developments closely, in coordination with WFP and other partners, to assess implications for transfer values and the adequacy of cash assistance.

## SRSN Grievance and Redress Mechanism

Between 1 March and 25 August 2026, the SRSN grievance redress mechanism and call centre received 73,489 calls and logged 63,072 tickets, demonstrating significant demand for beneficiary information and case support. Of these, 12,261 tickets were escalated, with 65% resolved and 4,297 cases still pending as of 26 August. Ticket volumes increased steadily from March and peaked at 17,789 in July, largely linked to payment transfers and partner validation exercises. Information needs remain the primary driver of contact: 80% of calls were requests for information and entitlement-related queries alone accounted for 71% of all tickets. Around 9,700 tickets concerned data corrections, including names, alternate collectors, household members and telephone numbers, reflecting challenges associated with self-registration, while non-receipt of SMS notifications was also among the most common claims. The findings highlight the importance of strengthening proactive beneficiary communication, improving the accuracy of registration data and ensuring timely resolution of escalated cases to reduce repeat calls and facilitate smoother access to assistance.

## National Disability Allowance

UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Social Affairs to implement and expand the National Disability Allowance (NDA), Lebanon's flagship disability inclusive social protection programme. In January 2026, the programme expanded to include non-Lebanese children with disabilities, followed in May by the inclusion of non-Lebanese persons aged 65 years and above. This aligned age-based eligibility across all existing population cohorts. By the end of August 2026, 39,980 persons with disabilities, including 16 per cent who are non-Lebanese, were receiving monthly cash assistance to help meet disability related costs and improve access to essential services.

For further information on the Lebanon Cash Working Group, please visit: https://data.unhcr.org/en/working-group/15

## Cash for Work

Under the emergency response, the Livelihoods Sector is delivering Emergency Cash-for-Work through four national NGO partners under the LHF Third Reserve Allocation, covering Beirut, Aley, Jbeil, Chouf, Baabda, Baalbek, Saida, Jezzine and Sour, including hard-to-reach areas and works in and around collective shelters. Partners are currently in the coordination, outreach and enrolment phase, with worksites being identified together with municipalities. The programme targets approximately 6,000 participants with an estimated budget of USD 2M. Figures on individuals reached will be shared once payment cycles begin.

## Building Evidence on Cash (CESVI, OXFAM, Solidarités International, UNHCR, World Vision)

Recent cash delivery monitoring by UNHCR and PDMs from CESVI, Oxfam, World Vision and Solidarites International, conducted between July and August 2026, covered Lebanese, Syrian, migrant and other nationality groups receiving cash assistance. The findings provide a consolidated picture across different caseloads and methodologies. Agencies can be contacted separately for programme-specific results.

Overall, cash assistance continues to be delivered effectively and safely, with high beneficiary satisfaction. UNHCR pulse surveys found collection access improving from 92% for June payments to 98% for July payments, alongside strong communication on cash uploads. Partner PDMs similarly reported timely delivery, safe collection and respectful treatment. CESVI reported 100% timely distribution and over 98% of respondents experienced no difficulty reaching or collecting cash, while Oxfam reported high satisfaction (97%) and no threats or insecurity during collection.

Transfer adequacy and purchasing power remain the main programme-quality concern, although findings vary by caseload. Food was consistently a leading expenditure, alongside health, rent and WASH. World Vision found that, despite 99.1% satisfaction, 84.4% of respondents could meet only half or less of their additional basic needs. CESVI reported stronger adequacy outcomes, with 85.9% indicating that most urgent needs were met.

Accountability and the effective value received also warrant continued attention. Awareness of feedback mechanisms varied across surveys, but results are not directly comparable because agencies assessed different complaint and grievance channels. Isolated operational issues included liquidity constraints, unauthorized fees, payment in LBP instead of USD and small deductions; these were referred for follow-up. World Vision also found that 55.4% of respondents incurred transport costs, averaging USD 2.9 among those reporting a cost.

Overall, monitoring provides strong assurance on cash delivery performance while highlighting three priorities: reviewing transfer adequacy against prices and expenditure gaps; strengthening the responsiveness feedback mechanisms (beyond awareness); and maintaining close oversight of payment-provider performance, including currency, liquidity, deductions and access costs.

In the shelter sector, Solidarités International's post-distribution monitoring of its Cash-for-Shelter programme found that a one-off USD 250 cash transfer helped vulnerable displaced households living in rented or hosted accommodation in South Lebanon. Beneficiaries were selected through household-level assessments of shelter conditions, occupancy status, and vulnerability. Seven payment batches covering 837 households in Saida and Nabatieh were delivered through a contracted Financial Service Provider. Households reported using the assistance primarily for rent (59.7%), food (58.9%), and health and medicines (40.3%), followed by utilities (19.0%) and water (16.5%). Among the 173 households that identified their largest single expenditure, 75.7% reported rent as their main cost, followed by health (9.8%) and food (6.9%). These findings reinforce the CWG's position that shelter cash assistance is best delivered as a top-up to MPCA. While most households allocated the transfer to rent, beneficiaries also used the assistance to address other essential needs, highlighting how unrestricted cash can support shelter objectives while preserving household choice and flexibility.

**Note**: This situation report serves as the final update on the emergency response. With the transition from the emergency response framework to the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP), subsequent reporting will be integrated into the LRP quarterly reporting cycle.