



Contact Information:

Khalil Dagher - dagherk@unhcr.org ; Hadi Haddad - hadi_haddad@live.com
Dalia Sbeih - sbeih@careliban.org

HIGHLIGHTS

- \$75 million out of a requested \$95 million were secured for winter assistance (January-March 2015).
- 180,000 households received fuel vouchers, blankets, stoves or cash support to stay warm over the winter months.
- 64,422 families were profiled through household visits to assess their socio-economic vulnerabilities. Of those, 25,243 families were deemed to require income support
- In June 20,070 families received multi-purpose cash assistance.



FUNDING
(in Million \$)

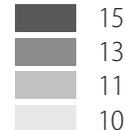


PEOPLE
In Need/Target



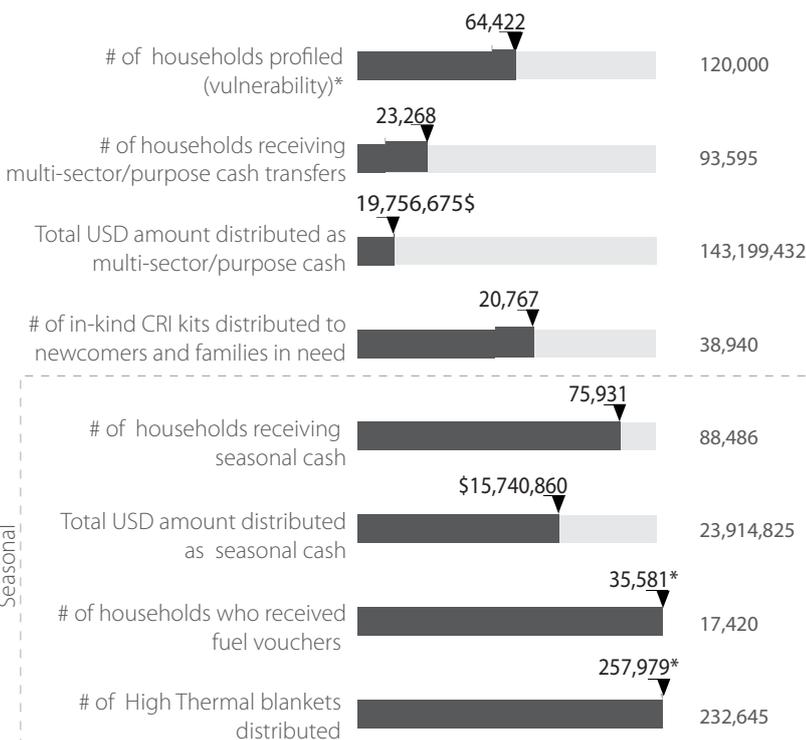
PARTNERS
33 in Lebanon

count of partners per area of operation



PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

January - June progress

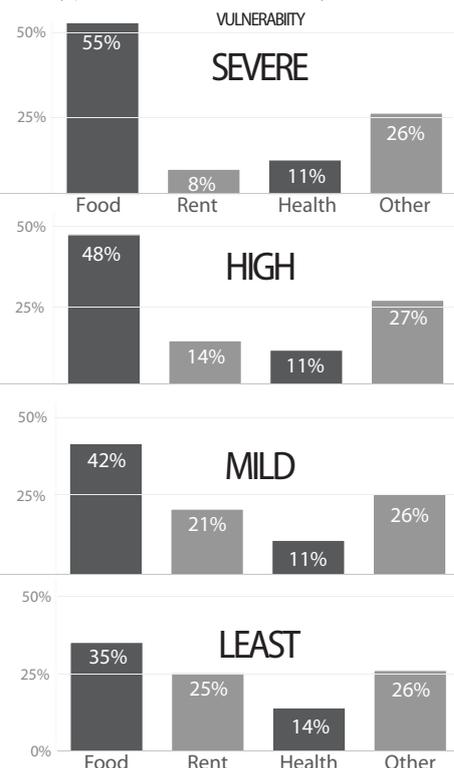


* target revised from 46,607 to 120,000

* Including distributions of non-LCRP reporting agencies during winter

EXPENDITURES PER VULNERABILITY LEVEL

The household visits show that all refugees spend their money mainly on food, rent and health. Patterns of expenditures however vary significantly per socio-economic vulnerability:





Situation analysis and change in context

The food security and basic assistance sectors continue to coordinate closely together to ensure that food and cash assistance are linked to each other as one package. The basis of the vulnerability definition is an expenditure basket that looks at how much a family spends on food, hygiene items, cooking fuel, basic clothes, transport, communication, rent, water, and debt repayment. It is assumed that a family can make up a portion of these costs on their own, while receiving US\$175 in cash assistance and \$150 in food assistance.

Due to funding shortfalls, the food assistance basket value has been decreasing. This is one of the major challenges of the basic assistance sector at the moment, since food and cash assistance are inherently linked to each other as one package. If cash is not provided alongside food, there are risks that households will sell food or e-vouchers to meet non-food needs such as shelter or health. A reduction in food assistance will mean that cash intended for non-food needs will be spent on food.

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Progress to date

During the winter, 180,000 vulnerable families (75% Syrian; 14% Lebanese; 10% Palestinian) living in cold areas received clothes, fuel, stoves, or cash assistance. Substandard shelters were equipped with materials to insulate against the cold and the settlement sites were drained to avoid flooding. The 45 partners who provided winter assistance gathered in May to draw lessons learned from the response and start planning for the coming winter. Participants stressed the importance of designing a harmonized package of assistance based on needs as well as extending support to local authorities and institutions to increase preparedness for storms. Predictability of funding throughout the winter was raised as a challenge for partners. While USD 70 million was secured out of USD 95 million requested, the money was received through irregular installments hampering the ability to plan ahead.

Out of the 64,422 refugee families that have had their economic vulnerability assessed, 25,243 were identified to require financial support. A total of 20,070 families are currently receiving cash assistance. The remaining 5,173 families are in the process of being referred to cash partners for assistance. Families who are assessed as eligible for cash but not yet receiving support are recorded in the Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) as eligible to be referred to partners as funding becomes available.

The process of defining the vulnerability of a household is harmonized so that all cash and food security actors use the same targeting methodology to find the most vulnerable refugees. Through the use of an inter-sectoral questionnaire, 25 different partners, each assigned to different geographical regions, collect information about the household's financial status, access to services and family's coping mechanisms. The findings from the questionnaire are then scored with one common formula that determines if a family is to be included in cash assistance and another formula, which determines if they are to be excluded from food assistance. The aim for cash actors is to determine which households are eligible for cash assistance. The aim for food actors is to determine which households continue to be eligible for food assistance, the food sector is reducing their target population from 70% to 55%.

According to the shelter survey from March 2015, 55% of the total refugee population lives in sub-standard shelters. The household visits confirm that the majority of poor refugee families are among these 55% (of households assessed live in substandard shelters)-spread throughout the country, with the highest number living in the Bekka (37%) and Akkar (25%).The families assessed are made up of more than 270,000 individuals, among whom 19% are adult males, 26% are adult females, and 55% are children.

The data from the visits also shows that poor families have resorted to different coping mechanisms. Out of the families visited, 89% of visited households borrowed money in the last 30 days to purchase food making them fall further into debt traps. In addition to this, 77% of families reported that they had recently reduced their food expenditure and that they reduced their daily meal consumption on average three days per week. Out of the families assessed, 16% had withdrawn their children from schools to assist in income generation for the family.

Within the context of the LCRP, the basic assistance sector focuses on the major objectives: (1) to enable severely economically vulnerable households to address critical priorities and meet basic needs; (2) to ensure access to basic goods and services related to the adverse effects of seasonal hazards; and (3) to strengthen existing social safety nets mechanisms in the country and prevent



BASIC ASSISTANCE SECTOR

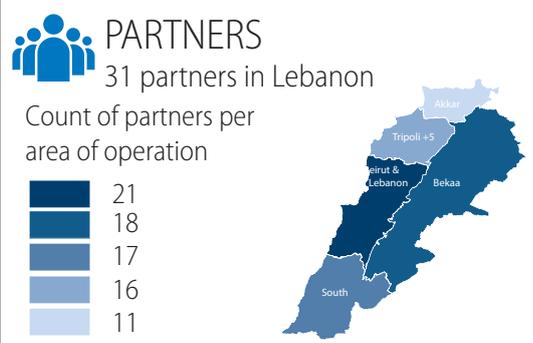
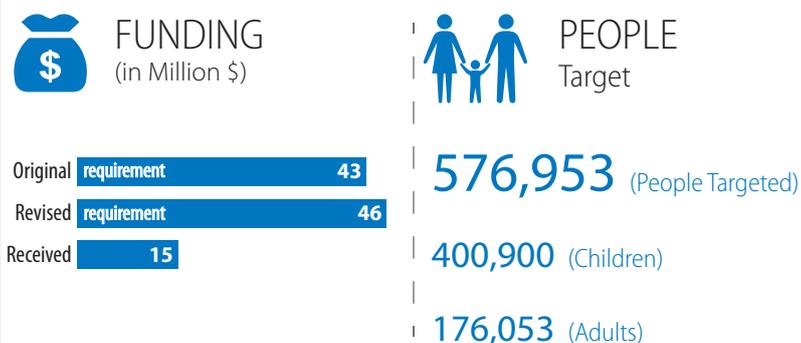


**Inter-Agency
Coordination**
Lebanon

further hardship for severely economically vulnerable households. To date, progress towards the first two objectives is being considerably achieved through the ongoing economic profiling of refugee households, the provision of market based interventions support, and well as through seasonal and winter support activities. The third objective related to strengthening social safety nets through existing mechanisms (stabilization component within the sector) did not start yet. Discussions with MoSA and NPTP should kick off soon to draw a roadmap and take necessary steps.

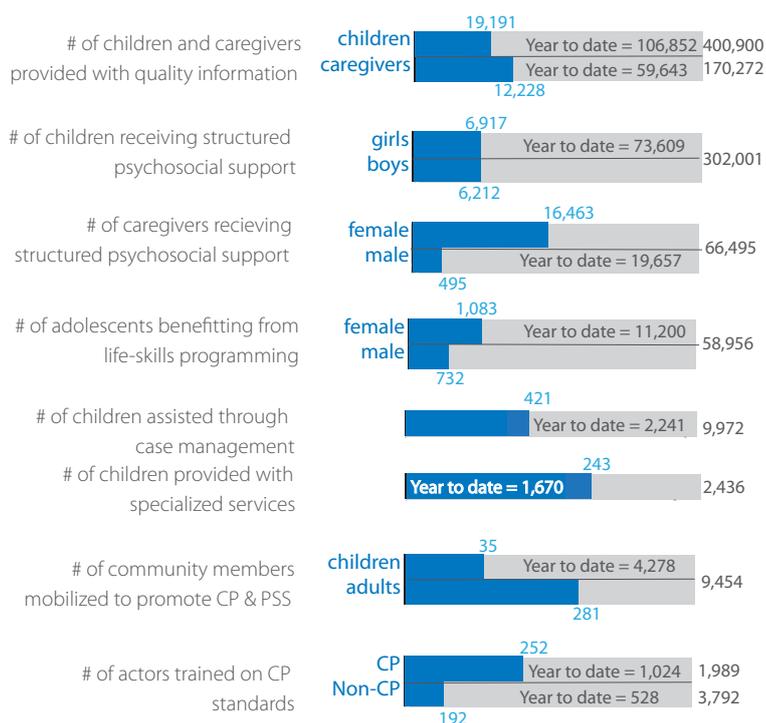
HIGHLIGHTS

- National ownership of government through development and implementation of MoSA National Plan for Children and Women, which delivers multiple child protection services through Social Development Centres, and provides greater investment into community-level hubs and structures to strengthen referral mechanisms.
- Development and endorsement of standardized tools for psychosocial support programmes (PSS) to reduce duplication and ensure similar and consistent approaches and delivery of quality programming across Lebanon. Tools include: Focus group discussion guides for use with children, caregivers, and animators; checklists to ensure safety and quality of activity sites; standardized job descriptions for animators; and memoranda of understanding for property use.
- Agreement and endorsement by all sector members to use internationally validated tool (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire) to measure improvements in psychosocial wellbeing in children participating in structured PSS programmes.
 - To date, over 73,000 girls and boys have participated in structured psychosocial activities: those are programmes with a regular, recurring interval over a period of time that engage the children in a structure curriculum or programme.
- Coordinated approach to systems-building, linking emergency response and longer-term development programming from an early stage.
 - For example, 'emergency' alternative care work will be the first steps to a multi-pronged approach to developing a long-term alternative care system for Lebanon.
- Strong capacity building programmes open to all organizations have resulted in high-quality case management coaching programmes available to all case workers, providing consistent and shared learning. The practical guidance for case management and the capacity building of actors has been developed in line with the national law and will be fully integrated and factored in the national standards operations procedures and its case management tool.
- Sector agreement and initiation of the process to contextualize the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.



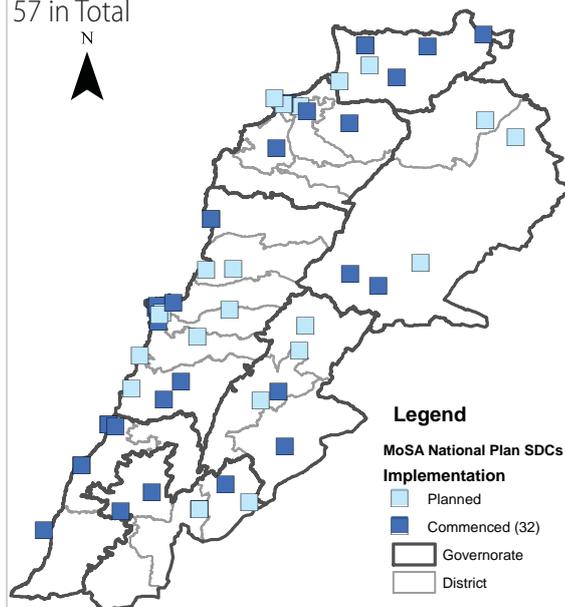
PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

January - June progress



MoSA National Plan Social Development Centres (SDCs)

57 in Total



Commenced: Tarik El Jdideh , Mazraa, Msaytbeh, Borj el Barajineh, Borj Hammoud, Baakleen, Anout, Choueifat, Bab el Tebbeneh, Donniyeh, Bakhoun, Qobbah, Wadi Khaled, Bireh, Rahbeh, Hissa, Qob Elias (sub-center), Rafid (sub-center), Rachaya el Wadi, Talia, Chmestar, Kfarsir, Hasbaya, Bint Jbeil , Nabatiyyeh, Marjeyoun, Saïda, Sarafand, Beysarieh, Tyr , Shehabyeh, Haret Saïda
Planned: Chiyah, Ghobeiry , Salima, Achkout, Aley, Barja, Haret ElNehmeh, Hay ElSellom, Jbeil, Jounieh, Sahit el Nejmeh, Mina, Minieh, Halba, Bebnin, Hermel, Zahle (Howh el Oumara), Jeb Jennine, Baalbak, Marj, Qaa, Khiam, Shebaa, Mays El Jabal



Situation analysis and change in context

There have been several notable shifts in 2015 to the protection context within Lebanon that are having significant impacts on children and the ability of families, communities, and child protection actors alike to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

The change in regulations for admission for Syrians introduced in January 2015, and similar to those in place for Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) since May 2014, have reportedly contributed to an increased number of unaccompanied children – that is children living on their own, having been separated from their parents and other relatives who would normally care for them. Separations are resulting from children in Syria being unable to join their parents already in Lebanon, unaccompanied children unable to seek protection in Lebanon, or parents who are in Syria – either because they initially remained or they returned briefly – who are now unable to re-enter Lebanon. Unaccompanied children are especially vulnerable and at increasing risk of abuse and exploitation.

In addition, changes in the registration policy and renewal status of Syrians and PRS alike are negatively impacting children. The lack of legal status, including for the majority of Palestinians, has resulted in reduced mobility for fear of being stopped and receiving deportation orders. This impacts the ability of children and their families to access essential services, like health and mental health programmes. For newborn infants, it prevents their parents from registering their births, which impacts their ability to access services in the near-term, and has long-term consequences on their life outcomes. There is an increased need for mobile services and outreach, particularly those in the most vulnerable and hard to reach communities.

The limited mobility of parents is restricting their ability to work and access livelihoods opportunities. Consequently, parents are reduced to sending their children to work instead, placing on them the burden of taking on the role of primary breadwinners. With renewals for Syrians being tied to signing a pledge not to work for anyone over age 15, child protection actors report that younger and younger children are being sent to work to support their families.

The need to send children to work is in some cases contributing to secondary separations as children commute long distances to urban areas in order to work. These issues are increasing and the ability of child protection actors to address them comprehensively is limited without greater availability of livelihood opportunities for parents, and social protection programmes to support vulnerable families. Reduced funding for humanitarian assistance that considers the specific needs of children will only exacerbate these issues.

Changes in the security sector, including raids, arbitrary arrests, and evictions on informal settlements, are increasing distress on children and creating new risks for adolescents in particular. Families are experiencing multiple displacements, and children are losing the fragile stability and consistency of surroundings, place, and people that provides them a sense of safety and security. All these compounded changes have created new operational challenges for child protection actors, making children harder to reach, more vulnerable to specific, acute risks, and weakening the overall protective environment.

Progress to date

Child protection actors are progressing on implementation of the LCRP, noting the major constraints of a diminishing protection space and funding availability. The MoSA National Plan, which plans to provide health and child protection services for children and women in 57 Social Development Centers (SDCs), is currently being implemented in 32 SDCs across Lebanon. Of these, 23 SDCs have child protection case management and specialized services. For the remaining 25 SDCs, Local Action Plans are under development that include capacity building plans for the SDC and its staff.

Child protection actors continue to provide services available to all vulnerable children in need in Lebanon. Since January, 1,427 children have accessed specialized services through case management, of whom 57% are Syrian, 26% are Lebanese, and 17% are Palestinian. Over 59,000 children have participated in structured psychosocial support programmes. Of these, 75% of children are Syrian, 8% are Lebanese, and 8% and 9% are Palestine Refugees from Syria and Lebanon, respectively. However, there are geographical disparities between these.



Both adolescent boys and girls are participating in structured PSS and life-skills programmes, with slightly more girls than boys in each: of 12,709 adolescents in structured PSS programmes, 55% are girls and 45% boys. Similarly, of the 9,946 adolescents participating in life-skills programmes, 59% are girls and 41% boys.

In support of capacity building and systems strengthening initiatives, highly technical trainings focused on skills needed to work with complex case management cases have been undertaken with 198 social workers, of whom 82% are Lebanese. In addition, 692 child protection actors and 327 non-child protection actors have received training in areas such as how to do safe identification and referral of children and other technical areas..



HIGHLIGHTS

- 106,735 refugee children enrolled in formal public education... - 12,865 children participated in the roll-out of the placement test for the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) pilot... - Education partners continued to provide other non-formal education (NFE) programs for children that are not yet attending school... - The RACE Program Management Unit (PMU) is up and running and is moving in the right direction... - A draft advocacy strategy was formulated by the education sector that will enable the sector to advocate on specific education priorities with different partners... - The education sector, with IM and data analysis support of the UNICEF and UNHCR, started a mapping of out-of-school children based on available data... - As in previous years, the Council of Ministers approved a waiver for refugee children without ID documents to sit for exams... - During the Education Conference in Washington mid-April 2015, the Education Minister agreed for the upcoming 2015/2016 school year to provide a total of 200,000 spaces in public schools for the first and second shift for refugee children.



FUNDING (in Million \$)

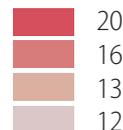


PEOPLE (In Need/Target)

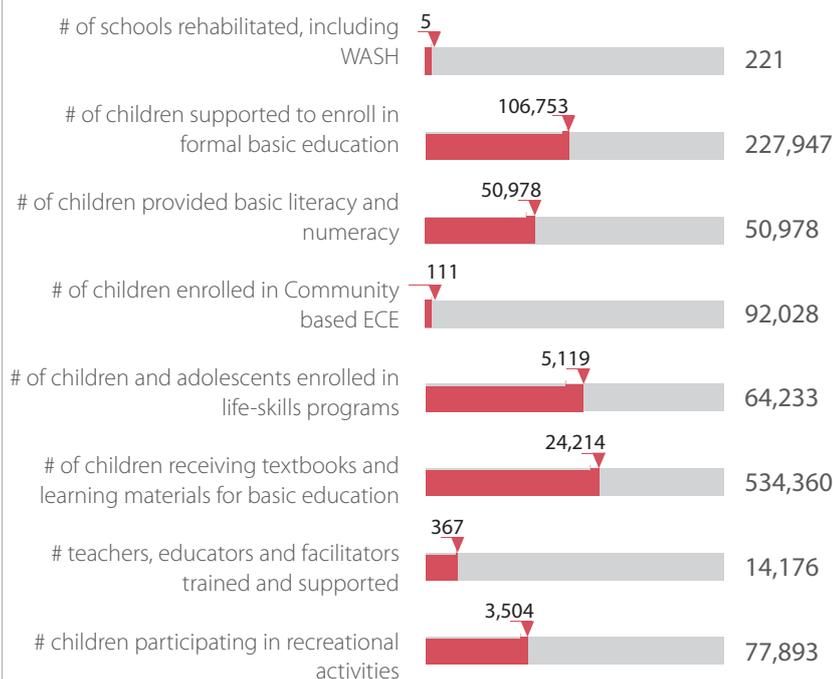


PARTNERS 32 in Lebanon

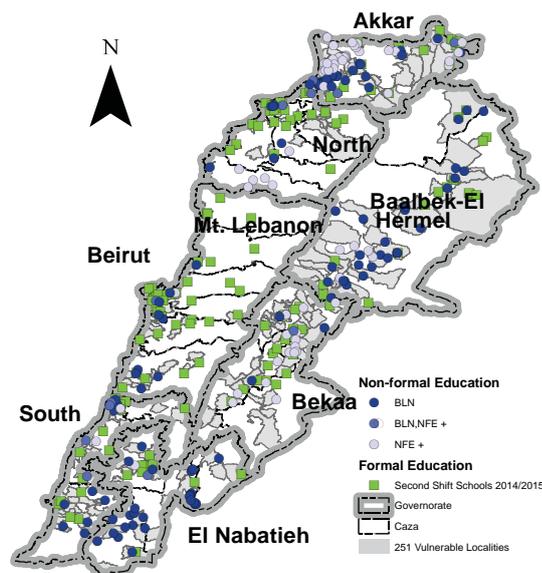
count of partners per area of operation



PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS January - June progress



2nd Shift Schools & Non-formal Education 2014/2015 School Year



BLN - Basic Literacy/Numeracy NFE+ - Non-formal Education

Reporting Agencies





Situation analysis and change in context

The Government of Lebanon has shown strong commitment to providing refugee children in Lebanon with access to education through committing to the RACE strategy. To support an effective implementation of the strategy, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) established a Project Management Unit (PMU) early 2015. In the first six months of 2015, the UN and education partners have forged a strong working relationship with the PMU that will contribute to a coherent and effective education sector response to the Syria crisis.

A lack of comprehensive data on the situation, needs and number of children outside formal and non-formal education supported by partners within the sector has been acknowledged as a serious issue and steps are being taken to put in place a system to gather and regularly update this information. Evidence is emerging that refugee children are confronted with a number of barriers to access formal learning: increased vulnerabilities, poor coping mechanisms of families resulting in drop out, lack of places in schools close to their homes; financial constraints leading families to withdraw their children to engage in income generation; delays in the start of the school year (second shift started in January 2015); transportation had to be arranged for some first and most second shift children.

In addition it has become clear that implementation of programmes targeting youth should be a focal area (less than 3,000 reportedly access formal secondary and vocational education).

The Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) introduced by MEHE will provide a pathway for children who have missed some formal learning to enter school. However, more targeted programmes are needed for children who have missed many years of education, children with specific needs and children at risk, such as street children and working children who remain the hardest to reach. MEHE intends to provide a regulatory framework for other alternative education programmes during the second half of 2015. This will provide education opportunities for those out of schools and not yet ready for formal education. Subject to donor commitments for the new school year 2015/2016, MEHE has committed to open schools for up to 200,000 children of non-Lebanese origin affected by the Syria crisis. In addition, MEHE is aiming for 100,000 children to be enrolled in non-formal education programs (ALP and Basic Literacy and Numeracy BNL).

Progress to date

The RACE Executive Committee, chaired by H.E. the Minister has met regularly and has proven to be an essential forum for exchange of ideas and the resolution of strategic challenges as well as a number of operational issues.

In the school year 2014 - 2015, Lebanese public schools were supported to absorb children affected by the Syrian crisis in the first shift. In addition 145 public schools were identified to open for second shift (compared to some 90 in 2013-14). The total number of refugee children supported in public schools so far is 106,735 Syrian, a 20% increase on last year. However, regional differences in school enrollment are large, with the highest number out of school in Bekaa (85%) (the lowest is Beirut (7%), a significant reason being the proximity of schools, which is much higher in Beirut.

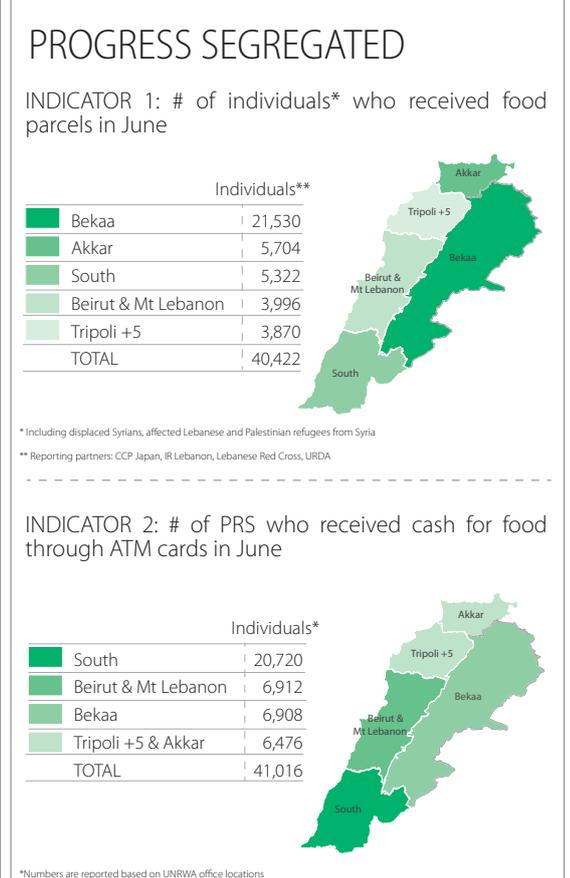
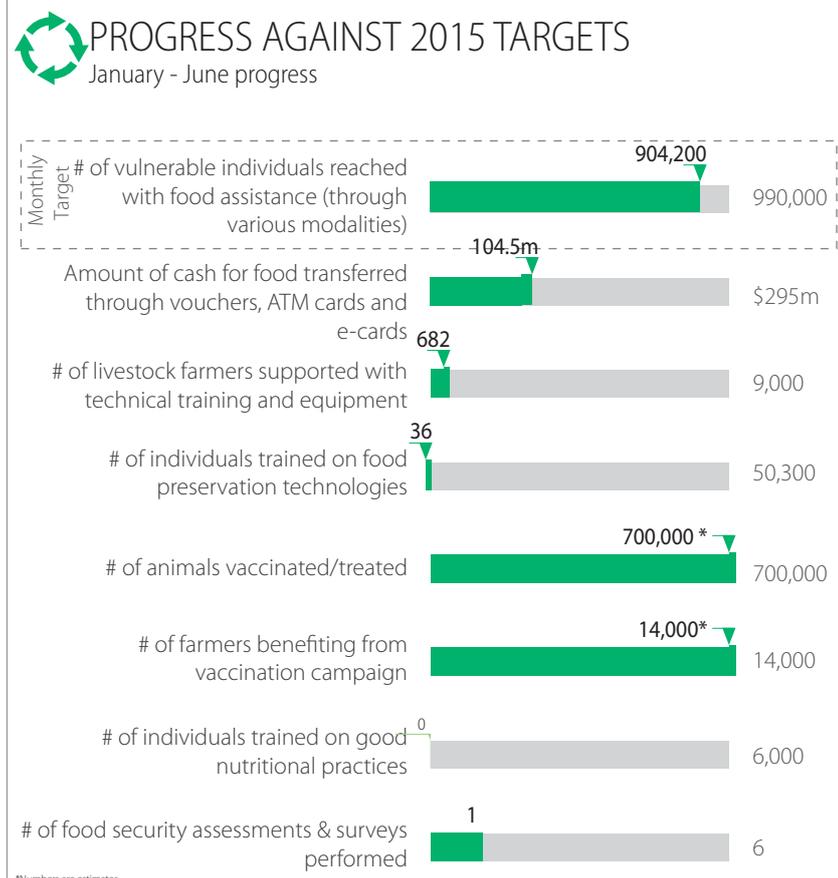
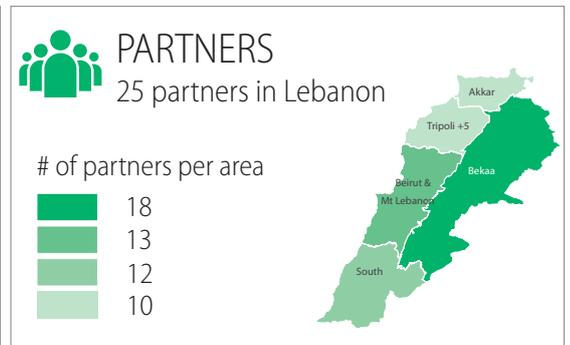
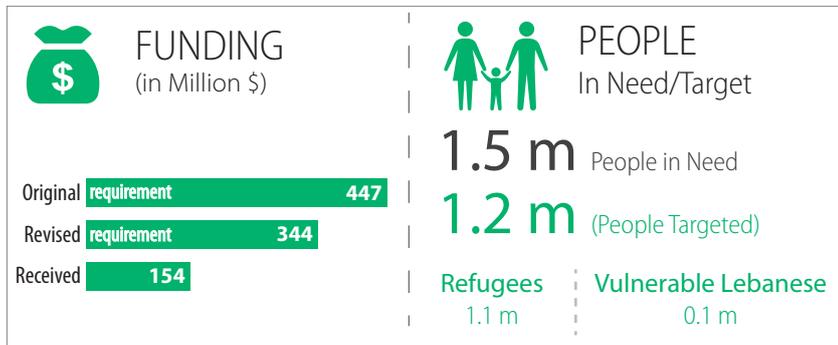
The ALP program has been developed by CERD and is being piloted. 12,000 students sat the placement test in April and May. The pilot program will be reviewed and then can be rolled out nationwide assuming sufficient funding for the ALP and the subsequent enrolment in formal education.

Education partners continued to provide other non-formal education (NFE) programs for children who are not yet attending school in order to prepare them to enter formal education. By the end of May 2015, a total of 31,172 children were enrolled in non-formal education programmes. Of this number, 19,483 children were enrolled in Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN) (39% of target). The sector is awaiting the MEHE guidance on a standardised and regulated BLN program. So far only 1,048 children enrolled in community-based ECE (1% of target). The low achievements are due to the lack of funding for community ECE programmes. 34,349 children and adolescents were enrolled in life-skills programs at the end of May, which is around 54% of target.

Currently education partners with MEHE are conducting a mapping of out-of-school children at district level, which will provide a more complete overview of the number of children currently enrolled in the formal education system. The mapping will also systematically map the different barriers for children not attending formal schools.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Limited funding forced food assistance activities to be scaled down.
- Due to funding shortfalls, refugees are facing a further reduction of the e-card value from US\$19 to US\$ 13.5 for July.
- The impact of the reduction of assistance was captured by WFP and its partners during April focus group discussions with families reporting various negative coping strategies such as begging, borrowing cash and child labour.
- WFP with UNICEF, UNHCR and partners completed the collection of data for the 2015 VASyR in June and preliminary results indicate a clear deterioration of the food security situation of Syrian refugees: households applying severe and crisis coping strategies have increased from 28% to 67% whilst the number of food secure households have decreased from 25% to 7%.
- Following the e-card validation and the targeting exercise, 153,682 persons no longer receive food assistance.
- As part of the sector's objective in enhancing effective coordination, FAO and MoA, in partnership with REACH published the Food Security and Livelihoods assessment on Lebanese host communities. Based on the assessment results, 89% of Lebanese have an acceptable food consumption score and 5% rely heavily on coping strategies.
- While 39% of Lebanon's population can be considered to have agriculture as a source of livelihoods, very limited funds have been allocated to promote food availability.





Situation analysis and change in context

During the first half of 2015, limited funding forced food assistance activities to be scaled down while the needs remain the same or are worsening according to preliminary VASyR 2015 findings. From January to June, WFP had to reduce the voucher value distributed to targeted Syrian refugees from US\$27 to US\$19. Due to funding shortfalls, WFP is facing a further reduction of the e-card value from US\$19 to US\$ 13.5 for July. The food security sector is engaged in contingency planning efforts to work to fill gaps where possible. The impact of the reduction of assistance was captured by WFP and its partners during April focus group discussions, families reported various negative coping strategies, including reducing the number of daily meals, limiting meal sizes, buying food on credit, withdrawing children from school or relying on children to generate additional incomes. Without adequate funding, these negative coping strategies will become worse.

At the end of April, WFP concluded an e-card validation exercise for households that received their e-cards before end of October, 2014 as a mechanism for responsible programming. This resulted in 139,229 households (703,774 individuals) successfully validating their e-cards and 8,816 households (34,841 individuals) remaining with a pending status, the majority of whom are located in Aarsal. The household targeting exercise of displaced Syrians undertaken by WFP, UNHCR and the Lebanese Cash Consortium will continue throughout 2015 to identify families that are food insecure and those most at risk of food insecurity. As a result of this exercise, by the end of June, WFP will have removed 50,291 individuals through the ongoing process. Following the e-card validation and the targeting exercise, 153,682 persons no longer receive food assistance.

It is becoming more difficult for Syrian labors to obtain work permits in Lebanon due to the strict implementation of the government procedures related to foreign labor force. In order to be allowed to enter the country Syrian labors are now required to obtain from their potential employers certified legal and financial guarantees, which many employers are reluctant to provide especially small-scale employers such as farmers and SMEs. Furthermore, agriculture activities contributing to improving food security are restricted to Lebanese, resulting in the inability of displaced populations to grow their own food. Agriculture is suffering from insufficient funds to improve food security in the long term therefore there is a need to shift to mid-term to long-term activities to promote food availability, utilization, safety and sustainable food production.

Progress to date

The food security sector strategy focuses on responding to the Syria crisis in Lebanon through directing activities towards the four food security pillars.

During the first half of 2015, the sector provided food assistance (outcome 1) to 994,000 at most (March) Syrian refugees, affected Lebanese, Palestine refugees from Syria and Lebanese Returnees, reaching some 930,000 Syrian refugees with e-card assistance (distribution figure), 48,500 Syrian refugees with food parcels (22.5% through WFP partners and the rest through local and international NGOs) and 6,800 with food vouchers, 5,200 affected Lebanese with food parcels, and 43,500 Palestine refugees from Syria with cash. WFP is providing technical support to the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) for managing the NPTP cards via the WFP platform. In May, WFP contributed US\$1 million to NPTP for food assistance to 27,209 vulnerable Lebanese, through UN CERF funding whereas UNHCR supported the programme in January and February. WFP has negotiated the NPTP agreement with the Government of Lebanon, which was finalized in June, allowing for the release of World Bank funds to cover food assistance for vulnerable Lebanese for four months. The Food security sector has provided capacity building for NPTP/MoSA staff with WFP having trained 176 MoSA staff members on distribution, monitoring and evaluation.

Aiming at promoting food availability and supporting sustainable agricultural production (outcome 2), the food security sector supported more than 700 farmers with equipment and material and trainings on different topics mainly to enhance small scale family farming production. Only 7% of the target set has been achieved to date. The sector has received additional funds under this outcome, which is expected to assist in reaching 20% of the target. The yearly vaccination campaign reaching 700,000 animals (estimated) benefiting 14,000 farmers (estimated) was initiated in mid-February and was successfully completed in June, achieving one of the main outputs of controlling trans-boundary animal diseases.

As for promoting utilization of diversified and quality foods (outcome 3), the sector is falling behind in achieving its targets, mainly due to lack of funding. A change in the progress is expected during the third quarter with expected new funding to be allocated



targeting expansion of community kitchen activities (distribution of diversified quality cooked meals) aiming at improving nutrition related practices and creation of gardens aiming at improving food diversity for landless households.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The average household monthly expenditure on health in 2014 was USD 90 month (UNHCR Health Access and Utilization survey).
- Recent outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases including measles and mumps have been reported.
- It is estimated that around 20% of displaced Syrians in need of hospital care are not able to access it translating to 20,000 persons per year.
- Over 800,000 doses of oral polio vaccinations were administered to children of all nationalities throughout Lebanon.
- The MoPH launched the National Strategy for Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention, Promotion and Treatment 2015-2020, which aims at advancing mental health in terms of leadership, governance, service provision and evidence-based knowledge.
- Five water testing laboratories and eight isolation rooms at public hospitals have been completed.
- Story from the North: A Health Refugee Outreach Volunteer (ROV) took the initiative to set up a group for blood donations. This came as a response to the difficulties faced while trying to find donors for emergency blood transfusions, whereby the process of contacting organizations for help was time consuming. Now, whenever there is an urgent need for blood, the ROV is able to contact those with the required blood type to donate. This initiative has not only decreased the time and effort to find blood donors, but it also demonstrates the capacity of refugees to find solutions to support each other.



FUNDING

(in Million \$)



PEOPLE

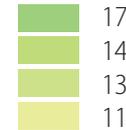
(In Need/Target)



PARTNERS

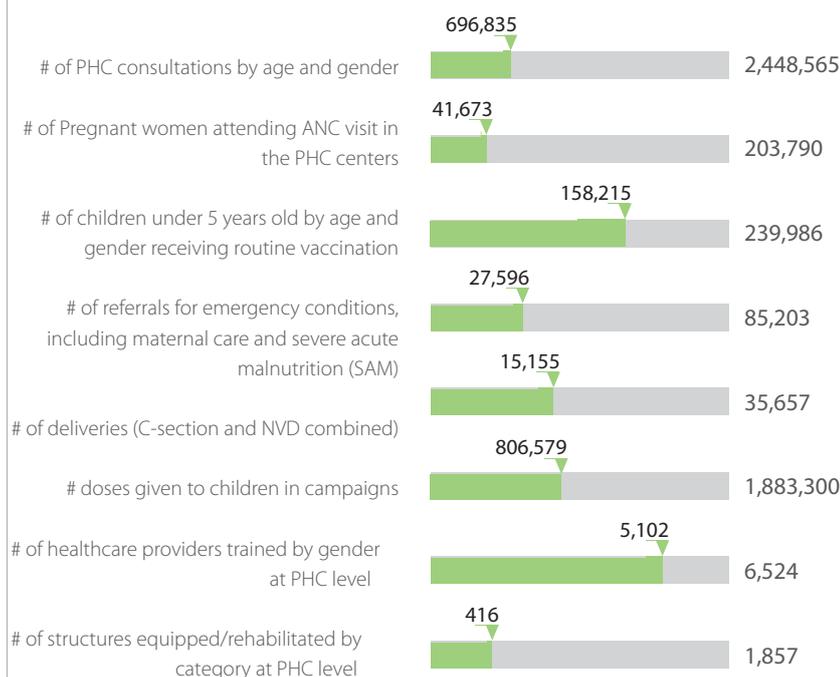
30 in Lebanon

count of partners per area of operation



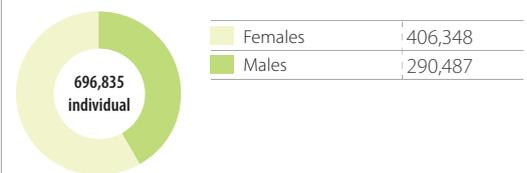
PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

January - June progress

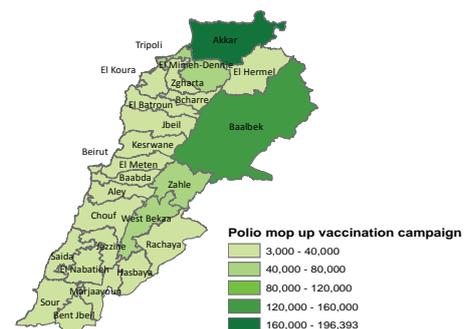


PROGRESS BY COHORTS

INDICATOR 1: Total Number of PHC consultations by Gender From January till June 2015



INDICATOR 2: Polio mop up vaccination campaign





Situation analysis and change in context

Refugees and vulnerable Lebanese have various health care needs that need to be supported within a highly privatized and costly health system. For refugees, these needs are compounded by the often traumatic experiences they faced in Syria during their flight as well as from complications arising from the extremely poor conditions in which most of them currently live.

The main objective of the Public Health sector is to ensure access to adequate health care. Since the beginning of the year, vulnerable populations have been accessing primary health care (PHC) services, with a total of 696,835 consultations supported between January and June 2015. The majority of beneficiaries who sought these consultations were Syrians (75 %), followed by Palestinian Refugees from Syria (18 %) and Lebanese (8 %). To date, 41,673 pregnant women sought antenatal care (ANC), which is 20% of the annual target. This is an improvement compared to the same period last year and partners continue to work on strategies that will increase awareness among pregnant women to seek preventive medical care.

As for secondary and tertiary healthcare (S/THC), access continues to be provided to Syrian refugees (27,596 hospitalizations from January- June 2015), with 55% covering women delivering babies. S/THC is only partially funded, meaning only beneficiaries who meet strict criteria for hospitalization, namely life-saving, obstetric and emergency care services, can access subsidized services, leaving out most of the chronic disease cases, including cancer.

The number of reported cases of Mumps and Hepatitis A has been decreasing. Preventing outbreak of disease is a continuous effort of the health partners and as such, routine vaccinations of children remain a priority. In an effort to keep Lebanon polio-free, two rounds of the mop-up campaign of oral polio vaccinations (OPV) took place around Lebanon, reaching 384,888 children of all nationalities under five years of age in March and 421,691 children in April. The total of 806,579 doses represents 43% of the annual target, which was set in 2014 when national campaigns were still being conducted. Since then, the Polio Review Committee recommended that Lebanon conducts only two mop-up campaigns and that OPV continues only as part of routine immunisation of children under five, a process that will prevent other outbreaks as well. Effectively, 158,215 children under five have received routine vaccination.

In parallel, support was provided to the MoPH to finalize and disseminate the revised guidelines and standard operating procedures and algorithms for the Early Warning and Response System for outbreak prevention and containment of 43 diseases. This was coupled with training of health staff at more than 500 PHC centers, all 143 hospitals, the central MoPH/ESU team and the Qada health units teams across the country.

With the increased burden on PHC centres, efforts to strengthen the existing PHC system are on-going. In an effort to ensure standard quality health care, a total of 5,102 health care providers have been trained on various topics, including clinical care of the most common health conditions, integrated management of childhood illnesses, management of medicines, mother and child health, mental health and food safety. In parallel, 54¹ PHC centres have been renovated and 180 were provided with improved IT , medical equipment, including ultrasound machines and cold chain equipment (solar fridges and regular fridges).

Through the EU-funded Instrument for Stability (IFS) project, 94 health personnel are being maintained within MOPH facilities since 2014 to ensure that services are more accessible. Five water testing laboratories have been renovated and three are on-going, to ensure adequate water testing and detection of possible water contamination. This has been accompanied by water testing trainings taking place around the country for water lab staff as well as environmental municipality staff. Also, eight isolation rooms were created at governmental hospitals to care for individuals with suspected communicable diseases.

.Progress to date

There are some concerns that fear of movement among Syrian refugees is increasing and this may be affecting health seeking behavior. The health and protection sectors are looking into these statements to verify the extent to which this may be true.

¹ The target of 1,857 for the "# of structures equipped/rehabilitated by category at PHC level" is incorrect, as it refers to the number of interventions and not PHC centers, and will be revised.



The National Health Steering Committee was launched in March 2015 under the leadership of the MoPH. It has been agreed to develop a three-year strategic plan for an optimized and more efficient response to the crisis. The objective is to create continuity over a three year period and to ensure that standards and guidelines are defined under government leadership in consultation with partners.

Health sector partners have continued to provide malnutrition prevention and treatment services to all populations in Lebanon. This is done through therapeutic feeding programmes and referrals in case of hospitalization needs, in parallel with strengthening the capacity of the MoPH. Malnutrition screening activities will also be fully integrated within the primary health care services offered at MoPH facilities.

The MoPH launched the National Strategy for Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention, Promotion and Treatment 2015-2020 which aims to strengthen effective leadership and governance for mental health. The strategy provides a framework for comprehensive, integrated and responsive mental health and social care services in community-based settings. It strives to meet the specific needs related to mental health and substance use, including for refugees.


HIGHLIGHTS

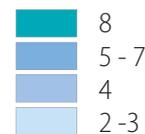
- Progress in the livelihoods sector remain slow and far of target – results reported varying between 2% and 10% of the targets, nearly halfway through the year.
- Over US\$ 600,000 additional income provided by the sector to 3,187 beneficiaries.
- New areas of work of the sector – support to Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises, Cooperatives, Business Training – remain underdeveloped but are starting to show results.
- Space to operate remains restrictive –the pledge-not-to-work that refugees are now required to sign coming in addition to a reluctance to grant work permits to Syrians: the total number of Syrians formally working in Lebanon was 1,568 as end of 2014.
- Stricter implementation of procedure related to foreign labour is leading to lack of labour in certain sectors traditionally relying on Syrian workforce, notably agriculture: the Agricultural Syndicates Exporters to petition General Security requesting the removal of the restrictions.
- The situation of Palestine Refugee from Syria is even direr, with less than 5% able to rely on work as source of income. The support provided by the sector to Palestine Refugees is extremely limited, with less than 100 individuals reached in total.
- The recent REACH-OCHA-UNICEF assessment on community vulnerability showing than 90% of Lebanese living in the most vulnerable areas reported increase of unemployment in the last 6 months.


FUNDING
(in Million \$)

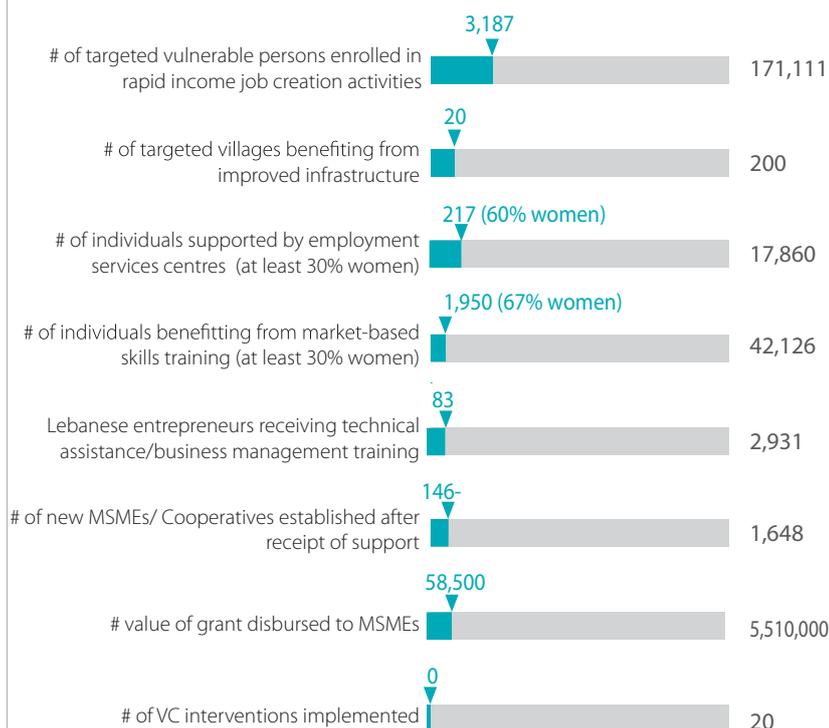
PEOPLE
(In Need/Target)

PARTNERS
16 in Lebanon

partner per area

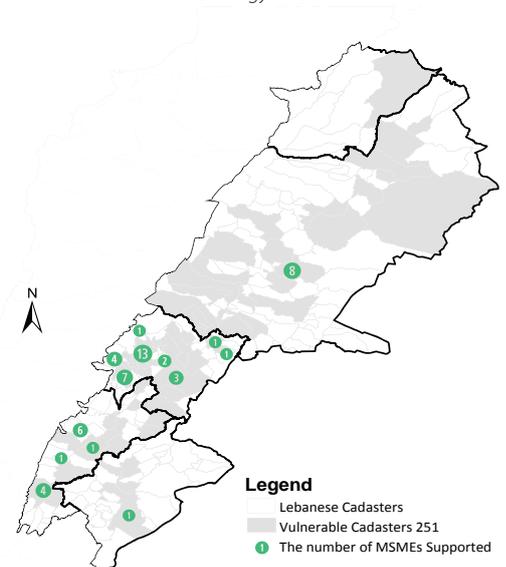

PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

January - June progress


Number of MSMEs Supported in Bekaa

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Supported Through:

- Increased access to financial services.
- Start up cash grant.
- Start up in-kind grant.
- Technology transfer.





Situation analysis and change in context

The operational context of the livelihoods sector has drastically changed in the first half of 2015 compared to last year, primarily when it comes to the possibility for displaced Syrians to access work, following the directive issued by the General Security Directorate prohibiting Syrians registered as refugees with UNHCR from working. Those coming to work must be sponsored by a Lebanese employer, who has to arrange a work permit for them. This comes in a context where Syrians working in Lebanon were largely working informally, due to the reluctance of employers to formalize their situation, and where very few work permits for Syrians were issued by the Ministry of Labour (1,568 permits granted or renewed in 2014).

As a consequence, Syrians registered as refugees are increasingly at risk of being either barred from accessing work opportunities or pushed towards even more informal and exploitative labour. This is degrading an already vulnerable situation for Syrians. Recent assessments such as the REACH-OCHA-UNICEF community vulnerability assessment show that only 17% of respondents rely on regular employment, which indicates that in vulnerable communities, Syrians rely on higher risk jobs that provide less sustainable sources of income. The situation of Palestine Refugees for Syria is even more dramatic, less than 5% of them relying on work as a primary source of income, the other being primarily dependent on a decreasing assistance. Child labour as a negative coping mechanisms of displaced partners is becoming an increasing concern, with partners reporting a higher prevalence of child labour than in previous years.

Due to lack of funding, the livelihoods sector has been unable to reach a sufficient scale to alleviate this deteriorating situation, or to support key sectors and national systems in creating more employment and income generating opportunities up to the scale foreseen in the LCRP. Activities already implemented under RRP6 –rapid income generation, skills training- continued at the same pace as last year, but have declined in the last couple of months as some partners face funding gaps. Yet, the impact of these activities should not be underestimated in a context where other forms of assistance are decreasing. These activities are also generally very useful to support services of local institutions, such as cleaning/waste collection. It is also noteworthy that partners are increasingly providing skills training based on market demands, and not on preferences of beneficiaries. The new areas of work remain underdeveloped but are starting to show results, with the month of May marking a clear peak in support to Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (84 supported in May-June compared to 62 in the first four months): 40 MSMEs have now accessed financial services, and 97 have been established after receiving a cash or in-kind grant. Business training for Lebanese entrepreneurs are also increasing up, while several value chains interventions are underway but will take more time to be concluded.

In terms of geographic coverage, livelihoods partners have continuously expanded their activities and are now working in 103 of the most vulnerable cadastres. However the Beirut Mount Lebanon area and more importantly the North governorate remain important gaps for the sector.

The sector is expecting more clarity on the government priorities for livelihoods from the inter-ministerial consultation process on livelihoods that has not yet been concluded. Other key challenges to address remain the outreach to Lebanese beneficiaries. Partners are using different approaches and methodology and the possibility to use government systems, notably through Social Development Centres and the National Poverty Targeting Programme, remain largely untapped due to lack of clear procedures to approach such institutions at local/national level. The sector is consolidating challenges faced by partners in order to solve this issue. This will also be crucial to providing short term income opportunities to Lebanese and alleviate the competition for jobs is the primary source of tensions between refugees and host communities.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Government of Lebanon (GOL) initiated a series of measures to restrict the flow of refugees into Lebanon. Refugees can only be admitted if falling within the Government of Lebanon’s exceptional humanitarian reasons, which are unaccompanied/separated children (under 16 years old) whose parents/legal guardians are confirmed to be displaced in Lebanon; persons with disabilities dependent on family/relatives confirmed to be displaced in Lebanon; persons needing life-saving medical treatment not usually available in Syria, or not available in a timely manner; and individuals pursuing resettlement or transitioning through Lebanon to a third country.
- On 24 April, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) requested that UNHCR deregister individuals who arrived in Lebanon as of 5 January 2015. This affected 2,626 Syrians.
- On 4 May, MOSA requested UNHCR to temporarily suspend new registration pending the establishment of a new mechanism that responds to the GOL’s concerns and respects UNHCR accountabilities towards persons in need of international protection.
- Partners provide legal assistance and counseling to Syrians in need of renewing their residency or obtaining birth certificates.
- UNRWA is suspending its cash for housing assistance for PRS due to shortage of funds. Refugees are becoming increasingly vulnerable due to lack of access to livelihoods opportunities and uncertain legal status.
- IOM and the Lebanese High Relief Commission launched a project to profile Lebanese returnees from Syria across the country, reaching a total of 5,245 households (28,574 individuals)

FUNDING

(in Million \$)

Original requirement	112
Revised requirement	89
Received	29

PEOPLE

In Need/Target

3.3m People in Need

2.2m People Targeted

Refugees	1,815,000
Vulnerable Lebanese	370,000

PARTNERS

19 partners in Lebanon

Count of partners per area of operation

Beirut & Mt Lebanon	12
Tripoli - 5	11
Akkar	9
Bekaa	
South	

PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

January - June progress

# individuals provided with individual legal counseling	19,059	40,000
# individuals participating in community center and community-based activities	77,094	214,090
# community-self management structures established in collective sites	329	608
# person with specific needs identified & supported through case management	6,458	57,771
PRS Recorded	526	1,000
# Lebanese returnees profiled (restarting in April)	28,574	53,800
# of individuals submitted for resettlement & Humanitarian Admission	4,765	9,000

PROGRESS BY DISAGGREGATION

INDICATOR 1: # individuals provided with individual legal counseling (By type)

Documentation	16,807
Housing/Land/Property	405
Detention	302
Other matters	1,545

INDICATOR 1: # individuals provided with individual legal counseling (Documentation: By type of documents)

Birth certificate	6,949
Legal stay	6,598
Other documents	3,260

INDICATOR 2: # individuals participating in community center and community-based activities

Age < 18	44,099
Age 18-25	11,075
Age 26-59	131,73
Age 60+	780
Age not recorded	7,967



Situation analysis and change in context

Since the last quarter of 2014, the Government of Lebanon (GOL) has initiated a series of measures which have gradually restricted the flow of refugees into Lebanon. On 31 December 2014, 13 January and 3 and 23 February 2015, GSO issued a new set of regulations aimed at managing the flow of Syrians into Lebanon. These regulations provide that Syrians wishing to enter Lebanon will be admitted only for an approved reason upon presentation of valid identity documents and proof of the purpose of their sojourn in Lebanon. A list of categories for which admission would be granted was provided, as well as the duration of the authorized stay in Lebanon.

Refugees are only admitted to Lebanon on the grounds of exceptional humanitarian reasons. These reasons are determined according to criteria established by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA). This includes unaccompanied/separated children whose parents/legal guardians are confirmed to be displaced in Lebanon; persons with disabilities dependent on family/relatives confirmed to be displaced in Lebanon; persons needing life-saving medical treatment not usually available in Syria, or not available in a timely manner; and individuals pursuing resettlement or transitioning through Lebanon to a third country. Pending the establishment of a regular presence at the border, MOSA has indicated it will assess individual cases based on referrals from protection partners. More than 50 cases have been referred to MOSA. To date, 13 cases of those referred by various protection partners have been approved.

The Government issued new regulations governing the renewal of residency permits which, due to onerous requirements and financial costs, have proven hard for refugees to meet. For those not registered with UNHCR, the main obstacle is finding a Lebanese sponsor. For those with UNHCR registration, the requirement to sign the pledge not to work and furnish proof of financial means to survive in Lebanon leaves refugees with an increased sense of insecurity and vulnerability.

In April 2015, the GOL directed UNHCR to deregister all refugees who entered Lebanon post January 5, which is when the restrictions at the border went into effect. UNHCR was duty bound to comply with the direction. A total of 2,626 refugees have been affected by the GOL decision. On May 4, 2015, the GOL directed UNHCR to suspend all new registrations until the GOL decides on a new registration mechanism, except for the add-on of newborns born in Lebanon to registered refugees.

Refugees are becoming increasingly isolated and restricted in their movements due to lack of residency documents. The presence of curfews and raids increases their apprehension and insecurity.

The population of Palestine refugees is increasingly vulnerable and more reliant on assistance. Restrictions at the border and arduous procedures to renew legal status have contributed to their hardship and many live in a precarious situation. Host communities with large numbers of refugees are facing increasing vulnerabilities and pressure in the face of resource constraints and reduced provision of services.

Progress to date

The sector is currently 25% funded of the appeal asked for. As a result, not all targets can be met. Refugees requiring support in understanding the legal requirements under the various new policies are being provided legal assistance and counselling by partners. Around 5 800 persons received individual counselling on legal stay, out of a target 34550 persons. Legal advice and support to register the births of the new-born children are available. Partners engage in awareness-raising and campaigns to highlight the importance of birth registration to reduce future risks of statelessness. However the number of babies not registered at birth remains high, mainly because of the complicated process required. Around 6000 persons received counselling on birth registration, out of a target of 53030 persons.

Highly vulnerable individuals, including female heads of household, unaccompanied minors, survivors of torture and violence and persons with disabilities, are provided social support through extensive well-placed networks of volunteers, local community representatives and partners who help link them with relevant service providers. Around 4,500 persons with disabilities have been assisted, reaching 17 percent of the target. Community and social development centres in some areas act as convenient one stop centres for services to enable easier access for people. Around 329 community self-managed structures have been established in collective sites, reaching about half of the target.



Syrians seeking to register with UNHCR are being counselled about the registration suspension and, where identified, life-saving needs are being addressed.

4,765 refugees have been submitted for resettlement to a third country, on track with the target.

From 20 April - 31 May 2015, IOM and the Lebanese High Relief Commission launched a project to profile Lebanese returnees from Syria across the country, reaching a total of 5,245 households (28,574 individuals) at 9 registration centers across the country, around half of the intended target. Around 45% of these households were of mixed nationality, mostly Syrian-Lebanese, with the majority living in the Bekaa and Akkar. About a quarter of them were unemployed. Asked about their future intentions, around 40% said they planned to return to Syria.

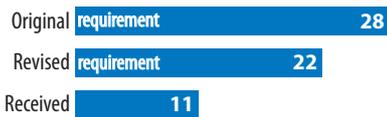


HIGHLIGHTS

- Sexual and Gender Based violence (SGBV) in Lebanon affects disproportionately women and children. Since 2014, in almost nine out of ten reported cases survivors have been women and girls. One in four reported cases of SGBV is from a child survivor. Over the past year, the most commonly reported types of violence are domestic violence, sexual violence, as well as forced marriage.
- Some new areas of work of the sector – such as mobile service provision and engagement of men and boys as allies in preventing and responding the SGBV – have started, though limited funding available has restricted geographical coverage initially planned
- 36 Social Development Centers out of the 76 planned are currently providing SGBV prevention and response services (47% of target reached so far).
- A Real Time Evaluation was conducted in June to assess the humanitarian system’s response to GBV in relation to the Syrian crisis as per the 2005 IASC Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings.
- Programming for adolescent has received good feedback in terms of protective impact from the participants: “We didn’t expect this activity to be as interesting as it is. It includes important information, it is fun, we made new friends and are surrounded by love and care from our girl group and the staff. It has raised our confidence”



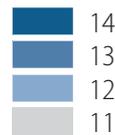
FUNDING (in Million \$)



PARTNERS

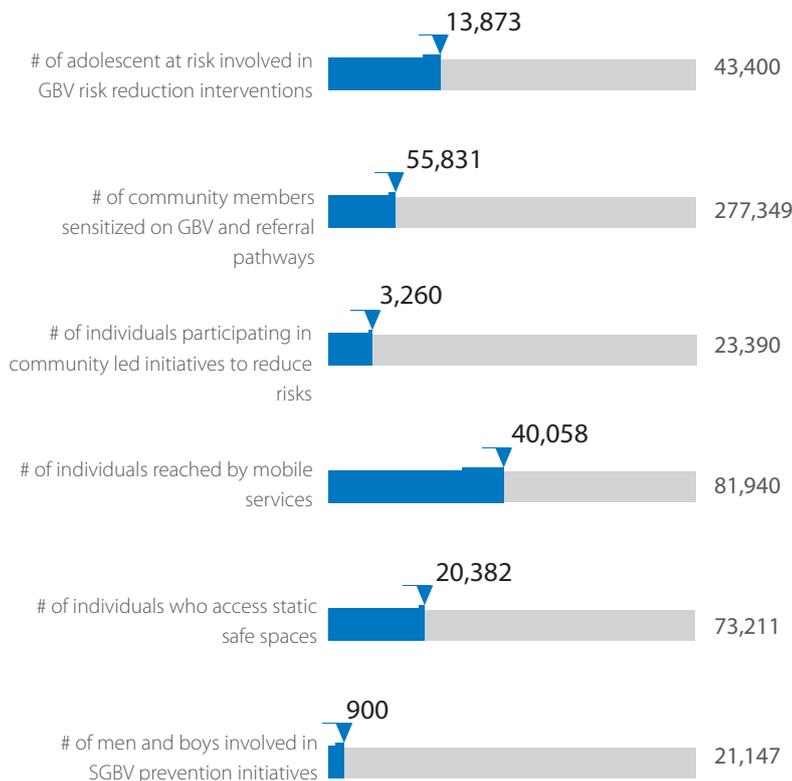
20 partners in Lebanon

Count of partners per area of operation



PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

January - June progress

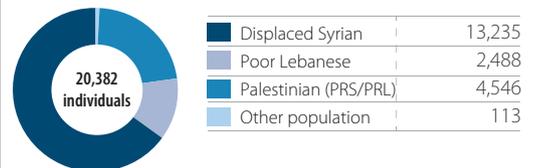


PROGRESS BY DISAGGREGATION

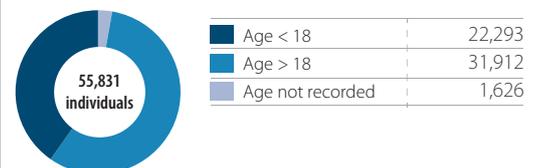
INDICATOR 1: # of adolescent at risk involved in GBV risk reduction interventions (By Gender)



INDICATOR 2: # of individuals who access static safe spaces (By Population Cohorts)



INDICATOR 3: # of community members sensitized on GBV and referral pathways (By Age Groups)



Reporting Agencies



Situation analysis and change in context

The risks of being exposed to violence are increasing with protracted displacement. Consultations with refugees indicate that the level of stress within households is increasing due to protracted displacement, exacerbated by reduced assistance, and greater financial pressure and, which in turn leads to increased risks of domestic violence. Overcrowding and lack of privacy in shared accommodation (collective shelters and tented settlements) also places refugees at increased risk of SGBV.

Review of SGBV incidents remains challenging due to fear of disclosure. Social stigma is high and survivors fear that reporting will lead to retaliation and further violence either from the perpetrator or from the survivor's own family. Under-reporting is also a result of limited access to services; survivors will not take the risks of reporting if they cannot count on getting the necessary support after.

In the first quarter of 2015, physical assault remained the most reported incident of SGBV (42%). In addition, 23% of reported cases are incidents of sexual violence, of which 8% are rape. Domestic violence, including violence perpetrated by either intimate partner and/or other family member, is linked to 73% of all reported incidents, among which 66% of the reported cases occurred inside the survivor's household.

Focus group discussions with adolescent girls confirm that forced marriage of young girls is increasingly used by families to alleviate financial burdens or to, in the views of families, protect their girls. During the first quarter of 2015, 97% of reported cases of forced marriages were girls under the age of 18.

Refugees report increased concerns about sexual exploitation linked to the residency renewal requirements that were recently passed. There is a fear within the refugee community that the pledge not to work, requirements of proof of housing agreements and the need of sponsorships all increase the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse. However, only limited anecdotal information is available on the occurrence of such incidents.

Progress to date

In Lebanon, women and children refugees are disproportionately affected by violence and abuse. Since 2014, in almost nine out of ten reported cases survivors have been women and girls. One in four reported cases of SGBV is from a child survivor. One in four reported cases is related to incidents of sexual violence with the highest number being incidents of rape.

54 facilities across Lebanon provide legal services, psycho-social and mental support to survivors and persons at risk. Approximately, 100 individuals (70% Syrian) access these services daily. Out of these, 33% of them are below 18. Mobile outreach has extended these services to persons in need living in more remote areas, mostly in the North and in Bekaa. As of May, progress level for access to static safe spaces is approximately 35% while progress level for static safe spaces is approximately 25%. The implementation level is linked to several factors, including the signature of partnership agreements at the beginning of the year, funding gaps as well as start up time required for some new programmes. Monthly trends show an increase in participation to these activities as of March 2015.

In Mount Lebanon, Akkar, and Bekaa, Syrian and Lebanese men and boys have received counseling and training on alternative ways to deal with the growing frustrations they face, and learn non-confrontational communication techniques. Through these sessions men and boys are able to identify areas with high protection risks and create community based solutions. In Akkar, for instance, men who had participated in the learning programme have decided to rent a bus to ensure safe transportation of girls and boys to school. From January to June 726 men have participated to these activities. Given the expertise required to conduct such specialized curricula and limited funding available, three pilot initiatives have been implemented since the beginning of the year.

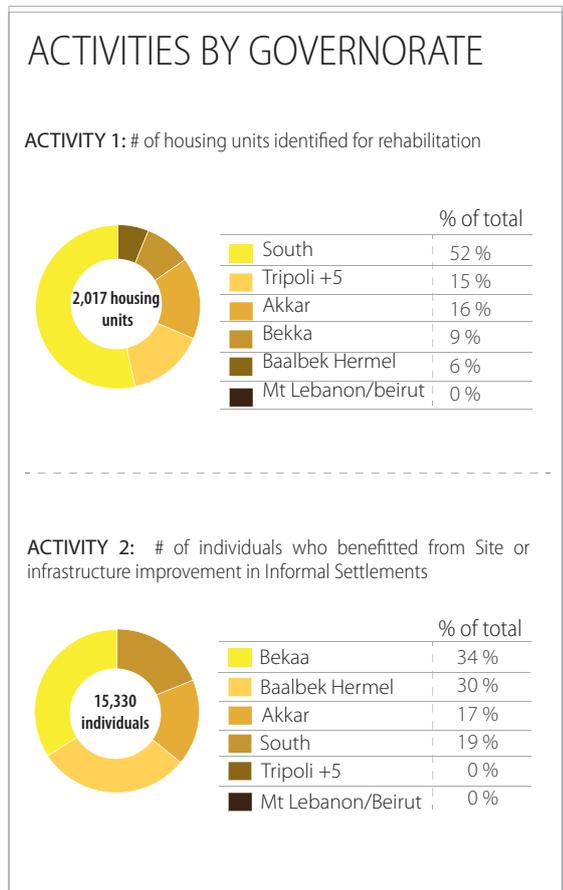
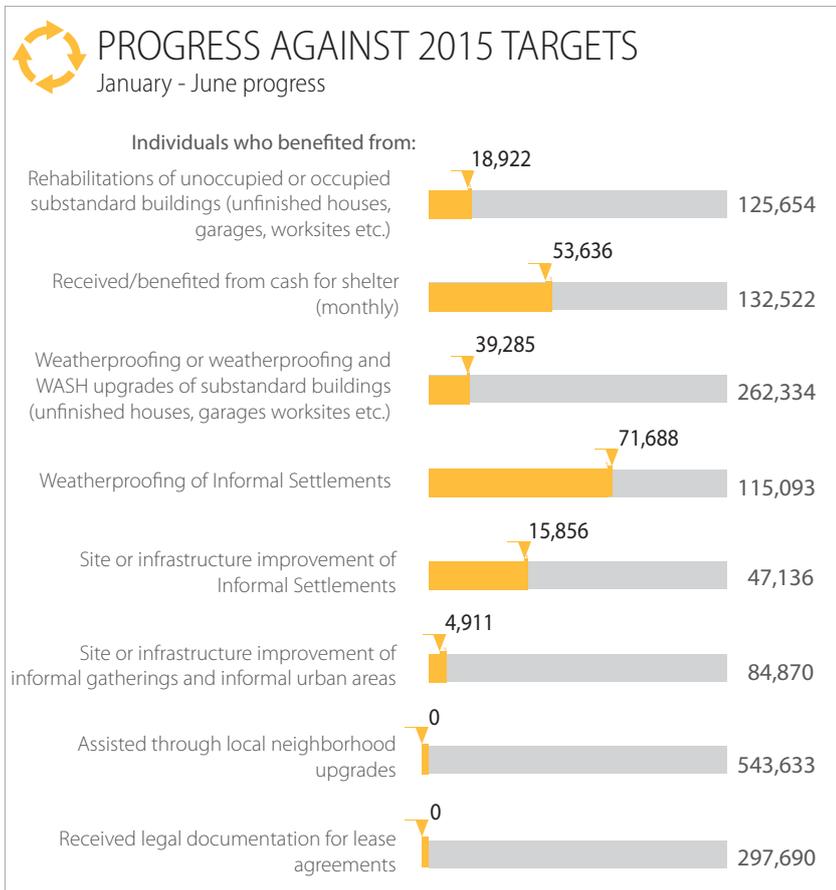
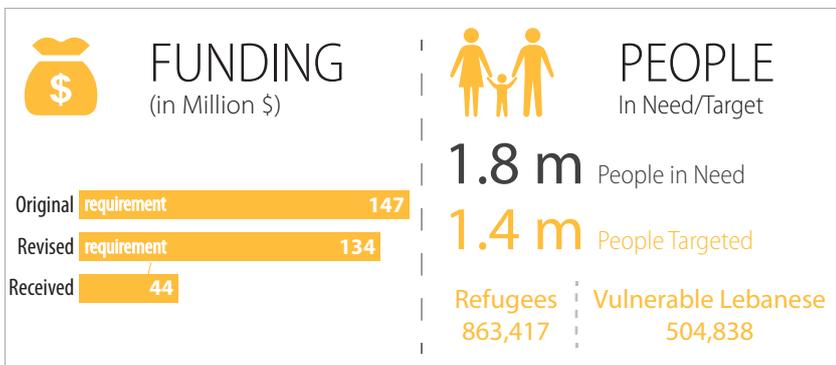
Given that adolescent refugee girls are most exposed to risks of SGBV, 11,330 adolescents participated in structured discussions on the various types of violence they may be at risk of, as well as how to protect themselves against these risks. These sessions helped them build their self-esteem, gain confidence and feel less isolated. In May, progress level is approximately 26%. An increase in participation to activities has been reported as of March. Since then participation seems to have stabilized around 2500 persons per month.

Awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns help to mobilize communities and to communicate widely on the harmful nature of gender-based violence. These activities target mostly women, allowing them to get information on the location of centers, hotlines and mobile services, should they be exposed to violence.

Within the framework of the MOSA's National Plan to Safeguard Children and Women in Lebanon, 57 Social Development Centers will provide a comprehensive and integrated package of Child Protection, SGBV, and health services through psychosocial support and life-skills education, socio-economic and recreational activities, information on how to access basic and specialized health, and education and protection services. Currently, 22 SDCs are providing SGBV prevention and response services, such as psychosocial activities, peer support groups and specialised services for women and children survivors..

HIGHLIGHTS

- The rehabilitation of sub-standard buildings and weatherproofing kits have improved the living conditions of over 135,000 refugees and 8,000 Lebanese. The shelter sector is currently exploring options on how to make these two key shelter activities more sustainable.
- The rehabilitation of unoccupied or occupied buildings is time consuming, which makes landlords hesitant to allocate their buildings rent-free to refugees.
- Several fires took place in informal settlements, which resulted in loss of human life and the destruction of makeshift shelters. As a consequence, the shelter sector has decided to revise its emergency shelter response and improve coordination mechanism between partners.
- Refugees are increasingly moving from large informal settlements to smaller encampments, due to fear of being evicted. These smaller sites are difficult to identify and hard to reach. Thus, it significantly complicates the delivery of services to these individuals. Up to the present day, 1,200 small sites (with less than 4 shelters each) have been mapped, with numbers expected to increase.





Situation analysis and change in context

The March 2015 shelter survey highlighted that 55 per cent of the refugees live in substandard housing conditions that in particular lack appropriate sanitation. Some 82 per cent of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon pay rent (average of USD 200 per month), and thus rely on acquiring affordable housing through market channels. Available and affordable housing is however becoming increasingly scarce and continuous evictions force refugees in moving to over-crowded shelters and inappropriate dwellings such as unfinished buildings and garages, as well as informal settlements.

The numbers of informal settlements has drastically increased and the last mapping exercise, after massive eviction, recorded the establishment of more than 1,200 small and scattered IS in addition to some 1,800 sites, all hosting around 200,000 people spread across the country, with a specific stress on Bekaa and Akkar.

The 82% of Syrian refugees residing outside Informal Settlements, in addition to 43,000 Palestine refugees from Syria follow to a large extent the Lebanese urbanization pattern (87% urbanized), and live in poverty stricken dense urban neighborhoods amongst an already poor Lebanese and Palestine host population. Currently a mapping and profiling exercise of the largest cities and congested poor neighborhoods are being undertaken. The first Tripoli city profile will be completed by July, and followed Sour city profile by September.

Building on the lessons learned, the shelter partners continue exploring more durable emergency shelter approaches in informal settlements, as this would reduce the repetitive costs and overheads of the weather proofing interventions.

The Shelter and WASH sectors are jointly implementing unified site improvement guidelines on a range of upgraded interventions including decongesting settlements where feasible, drainage, leveling, improving access and pathways, upgrading water points and soak away pits, as well as decommissioning of old latrines.

Temporary technical committees within the shelter sector are by end of June finalizing the revision of the technical standards of both rehabilitation and weatherproofing activities, with the aim of improving the protection from cold, privacy and security of tenure, hygiene and access to water.

Progress to date

82,000 vulnerable refugees living in informal settlements were protected from cold during the harsh winter. The distribution of plastic sheeting, timber and tools helped weather proof their shelters. In addition, the sites of dozens of informal settlements were improved through leveling, drainage, to minimize flooding.

42,000 refugees living in substandard buildings were also assisted through various shelter activities, including weatherproofing of garages and worksites, and rehabilitation of unfinished and damaged houses through the provision of better waterproofing of roofs, better sealing off of openings (doors, windows), better insulation, and upgraded WASH facilities.

More than 5,000 Lebanese benefitted from an increased value of their property after their rehabilitation. The rehabilitation of houses and flats are considered to bring out the most adequate and dignified shelter for refugees with a direct positive impact on the host communities and their acceptance of the refugees.

The Shelter Sector estimated a requirement of 147, 2 million for shelter activities for 2015, to meet the critical shelter needs. To date 41million has been funded. With the continuous shortage in funding, the provision of low-cost activities, weatherproofing in informal settlements and substandard buildings, are prioritized based on the type and condition of individual shelters, the eviction risks, and socio-economic vulnerability of the refugee households.

Discontinuing weatherproofing /winterization assistance in informal settlements and substandard buildings will be dire on the safety and dignity of refugees mainly for the preparation to winter 2015-2016. This will be compounded by a multiplier effect on the health and protection of those vulnerable refugees.

In congested and poor urban neighborhoods interventions so far has been scarce, despite influx of thousands of refugees amongst poor host populations. This will eventually lead to the breakdown of service provision systems, as well as the sensitive cohabitation/acceptance between refugees and the host communities.



The overall stabilization element including the legal component of distributing legal documents and awareness aiming at improving security of tenure to all refugees and host communities will not be attained.

The UNRWA termination of Cash for Shelter support for PRS from July, due to funding shortfalls, will make this group further vulnerable (already assessed to be amongst the most vulnerable) and without means to secure tenure. This will result in adverse impact on the Palestinian refugee camps and Palestinian gatherings, already subject to overcrowding and critically substandard shelter conditions. Also other Cash for Shelter support is decreasing for the same reason.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The sector is now working in 185 of the 251 cadasters identified as most vulnerable.
- The 36 conflict mitigation mechanisms established so far have engaged over 1,173 community representatives, with a good participation of women (40%), providing communities with a space and mechanisms to deal with tensions.
- Nearly 3,000 youth from all communities have been engaged through 138 initiatives promoting tolerance, civic engagement and peaceful conflict resolution.
- The sector has also successfully adapted its approach to supporting municipalities as the key local institutions able to maintain social stability at the community level.
- 1,778 host community members have been engaged in participatory processes to identify priority needs and source of tensions in 124 communities.
- 211 municipalities are receiving capacity building support, this is an increase of 71 municipalities since 2014.
- Inter-agency survey shows that while LCRP partners are generally well informed on tensions and conflicts, but that very few have a mechanism in place to ensure their programme is conflict sensitive.



FUNDING

(in Million \$)



PEOPLE

(In Need/Target)

251 (Communities in Need)

251 (Communities Targeted)



PARTNERS

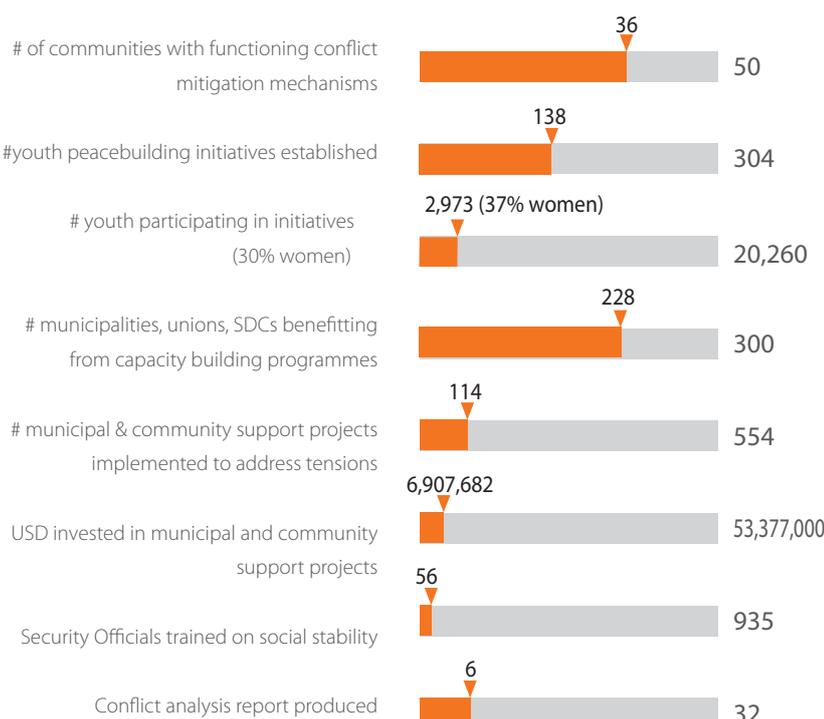
15 in Lebanon

count of partners per area of operation

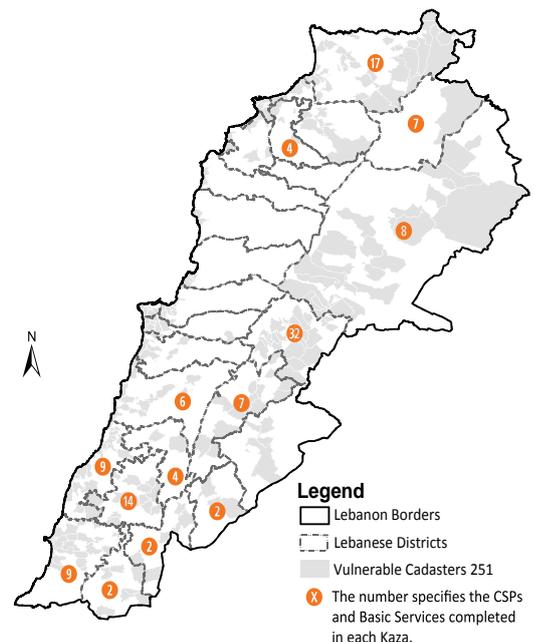


PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

January - June progress



Completed Community and Municipal Support Projects





Situation analysis and change in context

The context in terms of social stability and inter-community tensions has generally remained stable over the first five months of 2015. Recent assessments paint a complex picture of tensions. In a recent survey, up to 91% of host communities consider that the presence of Syrian refugees poses a security threat. However, they also do not necessarily report that this is a rising trend. An overwhelming majority of respondents consider the situation stable, and perceptions of the other communities remains 'neutral' or 'positive'. In the most affected communities, social fragmentation (multiple causes of division within and among communities) and lack of confidence in public institutions remain the primary potential source of tensions. Pressure on resources is affected by seasonal variations (access to water generating more tensions over the summer, access to shelter in the winter), but competition for jobs is of primary concern. This is exacerbated by high distrust and increased segregation of communities outside of daily economic interaction. Restrictions on the refugees remain common, with data collected suggesting that where such guidelines have been established for displaced populations, they have strong support from hosting communities.

The work of the social stability sector remains entirely dedicated to tackling both the cause and the expressions of tensions, and has a complementary role to other sectors. Evidence of the impact of the work of the sector is emerging. A recently concluded impact assessment by AKTIS strategy of DFID funded projects implemented by UNDP showed that support to municipal services have reduced the sense of conflict in targeted communities increased the sense of cooperation between residents, and enhanced perceptions of the capability of municipalities. A lessons learnt workshop also demonstrated that training and capacity building on conflict resolution provided to staff of public institutions such as health centres were also successful in changing attitudes and behaviour of individuals, relationship between community members, and institutional practices towards more tolerance, and a better ability to deal with tensions.

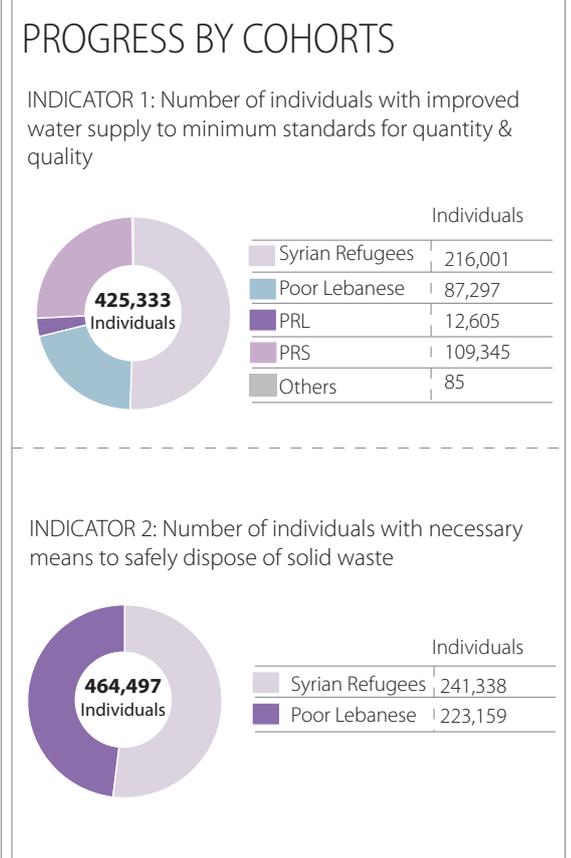
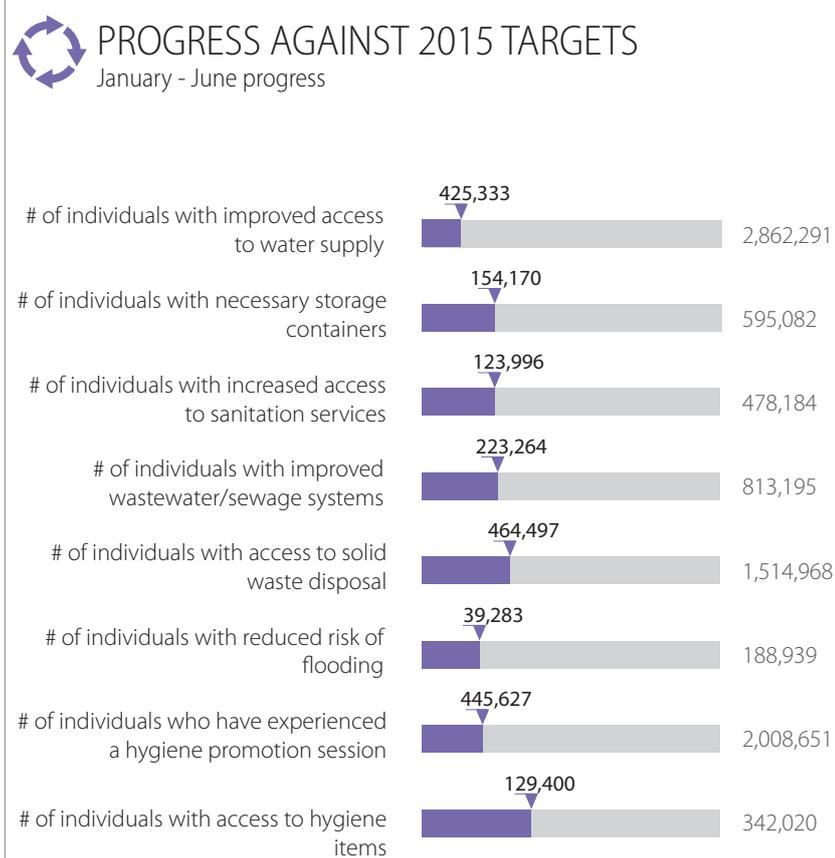
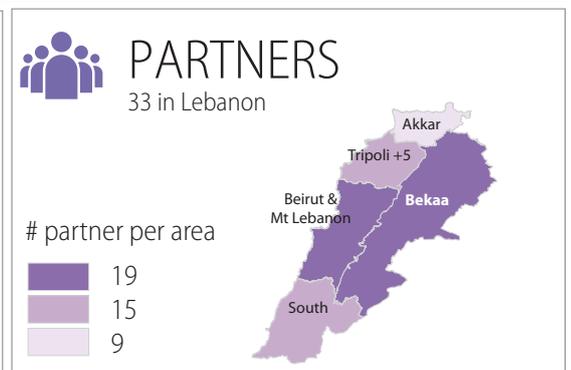
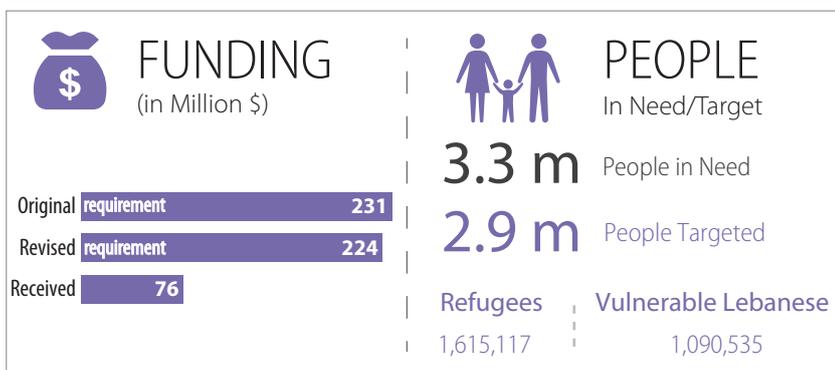
This provides solid ground for the work of the sector for the rest of the year. In the first half of 2015, partners have been particularly successful in community mobilization initiatives, bridging the gap between communities and between communities and institutions. The importance of the 111 participatory planning processes engaging 1,578 host community members to enhance the ability of municipalities to identify and respond to needs cannot be underestimated - in particular the 96 of these processes led by the ministry of social affairs. This is the first time that such activities happen on such scale in Lebanon and this is a crucial support to the decentralization of the country. 114 projects targeting sources of tensions identified through these processes have already been completed, complementing the work of other sectors notably by addressing needs around infrastructure repair (23 projects) or construction of recreational spaces (15 projects). However, there is a need to maintain this level of effort and complement them with capacity building programmes to sustain these gains. The sector has been struggling to expand existing capacity building and support programmes significantly compared to last year, with only 71 new municipalities receiving additional support on top of the 140 supported previously. Recent impact assessments have also shown the risk of raising residents' expectations through these project, which if not sustained through new projects might make the situation worse than it was prior to interventions. New needs are also continuously emerging – for example, the recent fires in Informal Settlements also illustrated the lack of fire response capacities by local municipalities.

The work of the sector to engage community members and in particular youth in peacebuilding initiatives remains globally on track. Other key areas of intervention such as working with municipal police is only being initiated and will take time to show results.

The sector has also remained active in supporting other sectors contribution to social stability. 6 new reports providing up to date and context specific analysis of particular hotspots were produced so far this year, highlighting structural and pre-existing challenges that partners need to take into account in their interventions to be conflict sensitive. Yet a recent inter-agency survey on social stability mainstreaming showed that if partners claimed having a good level of information on conflict trends and issues, only a third of them had a mechanism in place to ensure their programmes were conflict sensitive. The sector will organize trainings on conflict-sensitive programming to address this challenge and collect lessons learnt on promoting social stability to further guide partners' interventions.


HIGHLIGHTS

- Provision of WASH services has contributed to recent reduction in cases of water-borne diseases.
- Recent improved collaboration with the WASH related Government institutions to better reflect existing strategies, priorities and legal framework.
- Secondments for information coordinators and hydraulic engineers in the four regional water establishments have been initiated to fill much needed capacity gaps in the Government.
- Operational gap analysis by field areas has led to better coverage of vulnerable population with services, especially in the Bekaa.
- Lack of funding is severely reducing the capacity to adopt sustainable solutions, mainly with respect to wastewater and solid waste management.
- Risk of diseases outbreaks during summer and autumn period is elevated due potential water shortage in certain areas combined with inadequate solid waste and wastewater management.
- Bacteriological contamination of water sources remains widespread despite efforts of the WASH sector to address this problem.
- Innovative and sustainable wastewater treatment solutions have been piloted in the south. Their replication requires additional funding.
- In order to improve the household water treatment standards, a comparative study between ceramic and aqua-filters has been completed.





Situation analysis and change in context

Water

Ensuring sustainable and equitable access to safe water in sufficient quantities has progressed through the completion of various projects including: equipping and connection of wells in south Lebanon, benefitting around 67,000 Lebanese and 20,000 displaced Syrians; and the construction of a 200 m³ reservoir and the equipping of a well and its connection to the network in the Bekaa, benefitting an estimated 15,000 Lebanese and 13,000 displaced Syrians. Since January 425,333 people have benefited from water projects of which 21% are Lebanese and 50% are displaced Syrians. The sector is also focusing on improving monitoring of water quality and water resources; reducing dependence on expensive trucking water; and including cost recovery of water supply services in projects.

Sanitation

Sector partners have increased the access to sanitation services. Examples of completed projects include: the replacement of sewage-evacuation pumps in south Lebanon, benefitting 16,800 Lebanese and 5,000 displaced Syrians; construction of a sewage network in Kharayeb municipality benefitting 3,478 Lebanese and 1,351 displaced Syrians; procurement of 4,454 bins and 14 garbage trucks in support of municipalities across the country; and the construction of 2,595 toilets. As a result of targeted interventions 464,497 beneficiaries now have access to improved sanitary services. Whilst collection has improved, there remains a huge challenge to provide solutions for solid waste reduction, reuse, recycling and disposal. Even more difficult is finding safer and more environmentally friendly ways to collect, treat and dispose of wastewater in lieu of functioning wastewater treatment plants.

Hygiene

Fostering awareness of public health risks and adoption of good hygiene practices and measures to operate and maintain WASH facilities is the third key objective for the sector. Almost 450,000 people participated in 21,813 household/small group hygiene awareness sessions. Over 2,000 people have been trained in hygiene promotion, over 145,000 people have been given access to hygiene kits and over 900 training sessions have been held for establishment of beneficiary managed WASH committees.

Changes in operational context

Collaboration between WASH implementing agencies, donors and Government authorities has increased considerably in recent months. The Government of Lebanon is creating a WASH Steering Committee to be lead by the Ministry of Energy and Water, with proposed committee members from key Government ministries, UN agencies and donor representation.

According to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported cases of selected water-borne disease totalled 811 since the beginning of 2015, compared to 2,450 for the same period at the end of 2014. However, the risk of disease outbreak is ever-present and the health and WASH sectors have continued to improve the surveillance and referral systems as well as conducting training in preparedness and response for possible outbreaks.

Recent assessments, particularly in the North and Akkar reveal widespread bacteriological contamination leading to acute diarrhoea, in addition to high nitrate and phosphate contamination for water sources in agricultural areas. They highlight the need to increase water quality monitoring as well as efforts to protect and treat water sources.

Contingency planning process has commenced in preparation for the summer and autumn period to minimise the effect of potential water shortages. Precipitation during wintertime has not been enough to sufficiently recharge groundwater.

The Government's call for tenders for municipal solid waste management in Lebanon was first launched in February 2015 and received scant interest from the private sector. It was subsequently relaunched in May 2015 with bid opening in July. This is a setback for implementation of greatly needed facilities for treating and safely disposing waste and heightens the requirement for interim solutions. Major landfills (e.g. Naameh) are supposed to be closed in July. There is a high risk that, if no solution is found, municipal waste would pile up, causing impacts on human health.



A similar challenge exists for managing wastewater; existing operational wastewater treatment plants are few and it may take decades before the MoEW's plans can be realised. Solutions to ensure wastewater is sufficiently treated are desperately needed.

Informal Settlements are increasing in number since the start of the year (from 2,053 to 3,274 mapped sites) but shrinking in size (number of inhabitants remaining at over 190,000); this is requiring more resources to assist an increasingly scattered population.

Activities to ensure WASH services and increased coverage of basic urban services in poor urban neighbourhoods is far behind meeting the growing needs. This may have severe consequences in the most deprived settings in the largest cities, including informal settlements and Palestinian gatherings and camps, subject to a steep population increase of refugees in areas where the majority of the host population lives under the poverty line and with low coverage of networks prior to the crisis.