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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 \$)



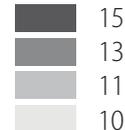
PEOPLE
In Need/Target



PARTNERS

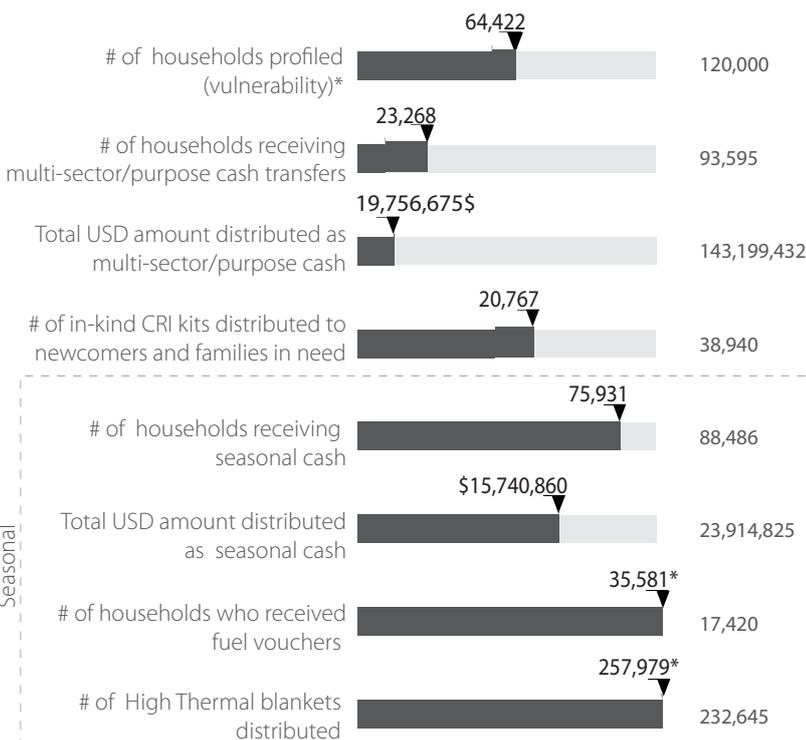
33 in Lebanon

count of partners per area of operation



PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

January - June progress

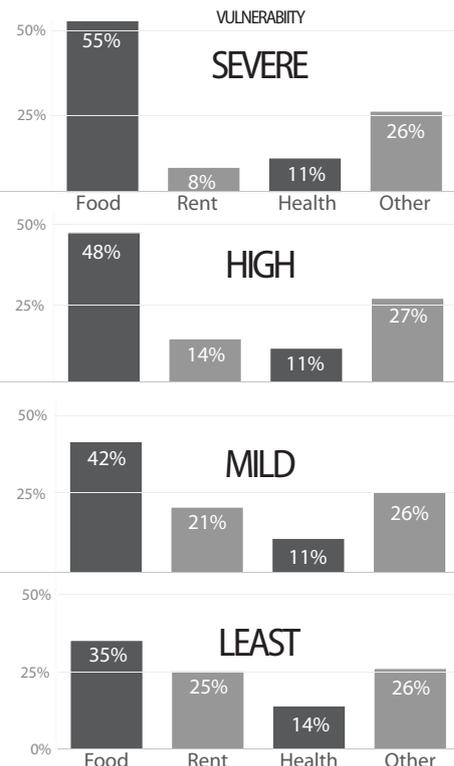


* target revised from 46,607 to 120,000

* 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.