

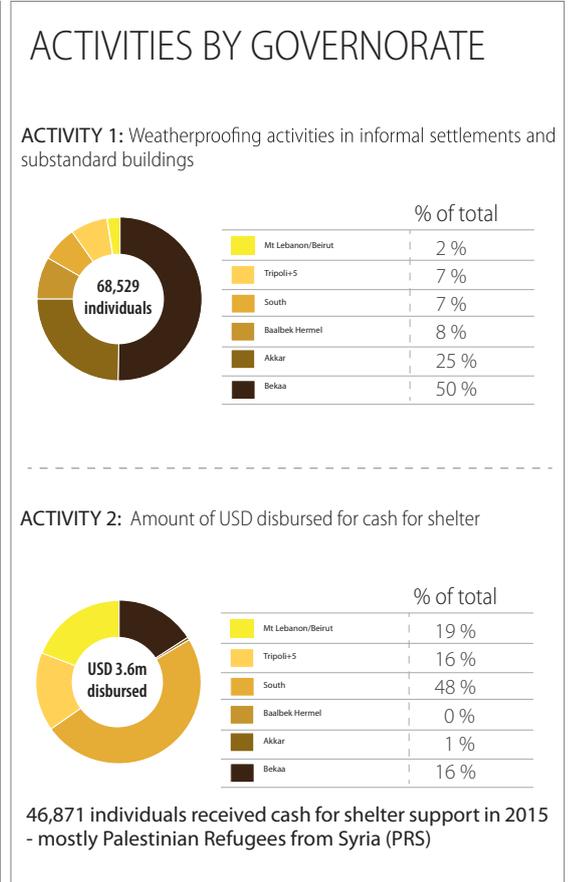
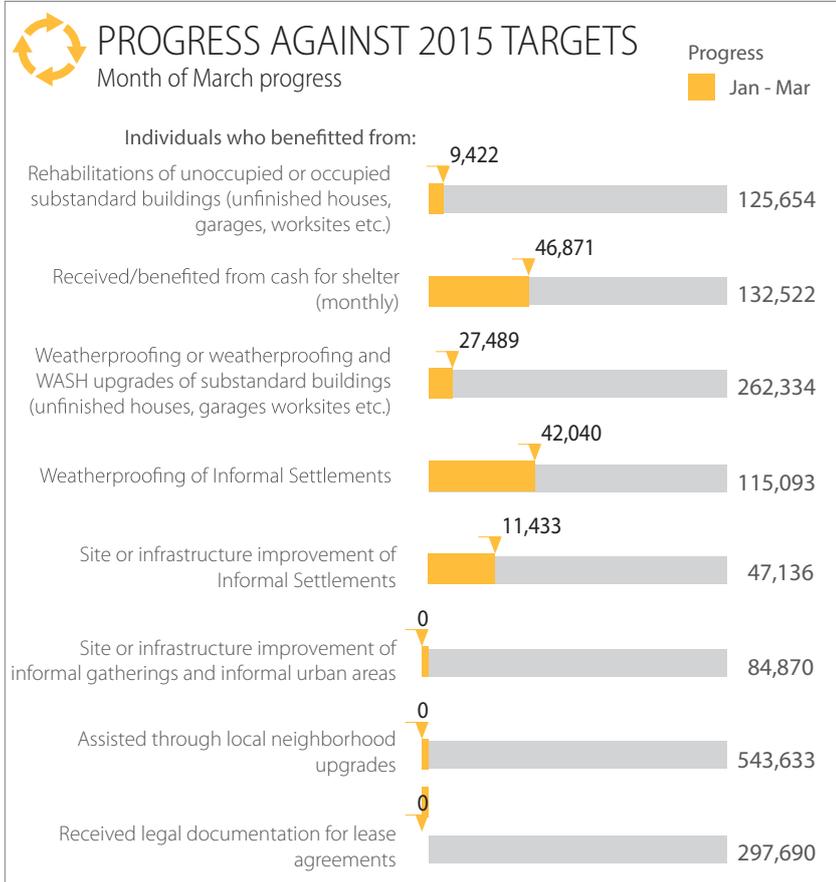
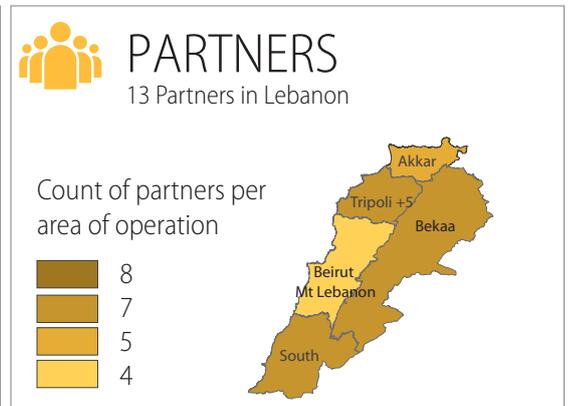
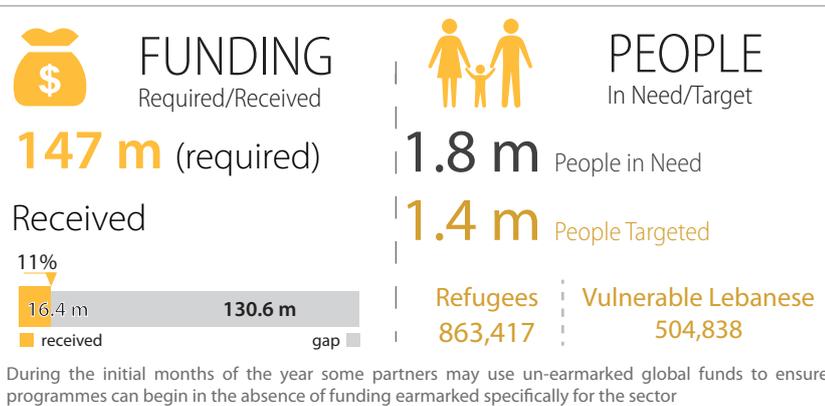
SITUATION ANALYSIS

The month of March witnessed the completion of the weatherproofing activities in North, Akkar, and Bekaa. Some 24,053 vulnerable individuals living in informal settlements and substandard buildings were assisted in March with the replacement, physical improvement, and protection of their shelters from the elements and winter conditions.

100% of the targeted most vulnerable population living in informal settlements were assisted. However, 38% of the needs of the people living in substandard buildings (unfinished houses, garages, worksites) were met. This is because of insufficient funding in addition to the difficulties to locate refugees living in the dispersed substandard buildings.

As a lesson learnt, the shelter sector started mapping the locations of substandard buildings in Bekaa, followed by Akkar. This will allow locating their needs, planning ahead for assistance, and advocating for support within the donor community.

Rehabilitation of substandard houses continues to be central to the shelter response. 3,256 individuals benefitted from rehabilitation of unfinished houses from various agencies across the country. This includes indirectly benefitting Lebanese and Palestinian landlords.





Progress towards sector Outcomes and Outputs in Quarter 1

At least 34,400 refugee families received weatherproofing kits during the first quarter under the winterization assistance programme and in the aftermath of two harsh storms. Most of the beneficiaries were in informal settlements in the North, Akkar and the Bekaa.

In addition, 18,260 refugees living in sub-standard buildings were assisted through distribution of sealing-off kits, protecting them against the elements. However, only 38 percent of the targeted population living in sub-standard buildings was covered during winter 2014-15 because of insufficient funding and difficulties in reaching such a dispersed population. Shelter partners are conducting assessments to gather detailed information on refugees cadastral location, level of vulnerability and shelter needs in the coming months.

In urban areas already pushed to the limit by overcrowding, deteriorating housing conditions and lack of basic services, poor neighborhoods are being assessed and mapped. Analysis of pre-crisis data and various sector reports on the current situation supported by field assessments will be compiled in City Profiles. These will provide a synopsis of the impact of the crisis on the poorest urban communities and on the living conditions of marginalized Lebanese and Palestinian communities. This holistic and cross-sectoral mapping will serve as important tools to develop comprehensive response plans for the neighborhoods to better address the needs of poor communities in general and the most vulnerable in particular.

Urban data collection and upgrading interventions, falling under the stabilization components of the shelter strategy, have so far received little funding. Response capacity thus remains limited.

Changes in context in Quarter 1

With a projected increase in shelter vulnerabilities among both refugees and host communities, the main objectives of the shelter strategy are a) increased focus on shelter rehabilitation to increase availability, b) improved infrastructure and public spaces in dense urban areas, and c) legal support to increase tenure security. A March 2015 survey shows that 55 per cent of vulnerable refugees are living in sub-standard shelters. This includes in informal settlements and overcrowded sub-standard buildings. A regularly conducted mapping exercise of Informal Settlements shows there has been a 48 per cent increase in the number of refugees living in such settlements. Altogether, some 18 percent of the entire registered refugee population live in informal settlements.

Shelter partners continue exploring emergency shelter approaches that have an increased lifespan as this would reduce the continuous weather proofing interventions. Advocacy with local authorities and private landlords that do not want to have semi-permanent structures on their land continues.

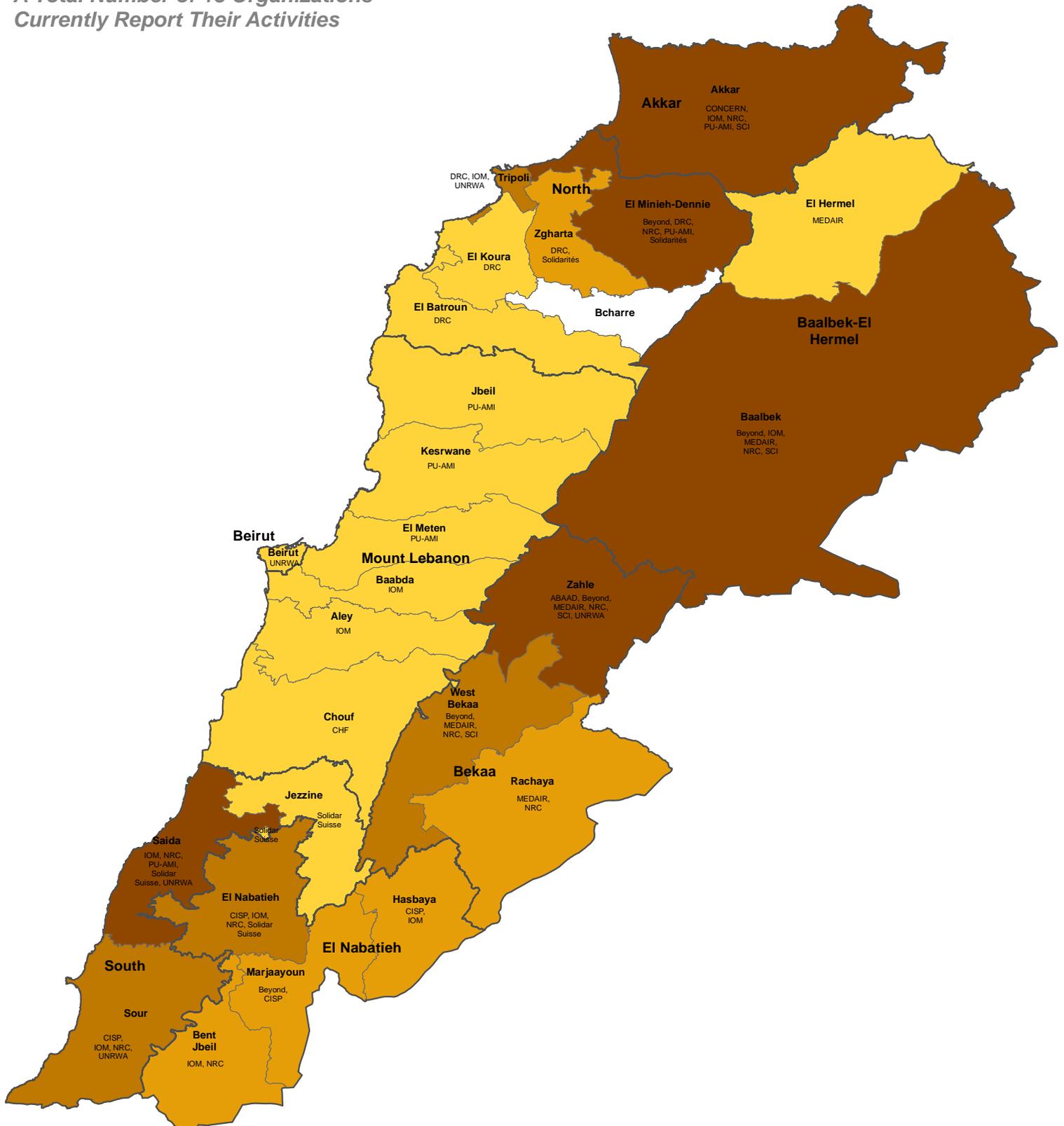
Finally, with available and affordable housing becoming increasingly scarce, coupled with an increase of overcrowding and eviction risks, solutions must be identified for the most vulnerable families. Shelter agencies have been boosting their search for alternative relocation sites. A sharp increase of overcrowded shelters reflects the decreased ability of refugees to pay rent. Work restrictions affect many. Securing tenure for refugees currently in adequate shelters will be key in avoiding a further increase in those who need shelter support.

Jointly with UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), UN HABITAT has offered to provide co-leadership of the shelter sector.

Number of Partners per Caza/District

March 2015

*A Total Number of 13 Organizations
Currently Report Their Activities*



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Legend

□ Governorate
□ District

Number of Partners per District

□ 0
□ 1
□ 2
□ 3 - 4
□ 5 - 6

Reporting Partners:

ABAAD, Beyond, CHF, CISP, CONCERN, DRC, IOM, MEDAIR, NRC, PU-AMI, SCI, Solidar Suisse, Solidarites International, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA