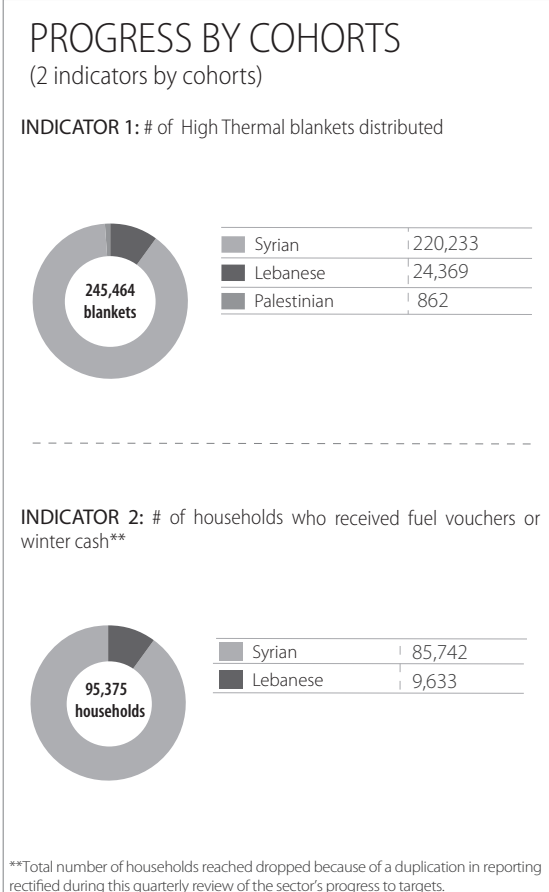
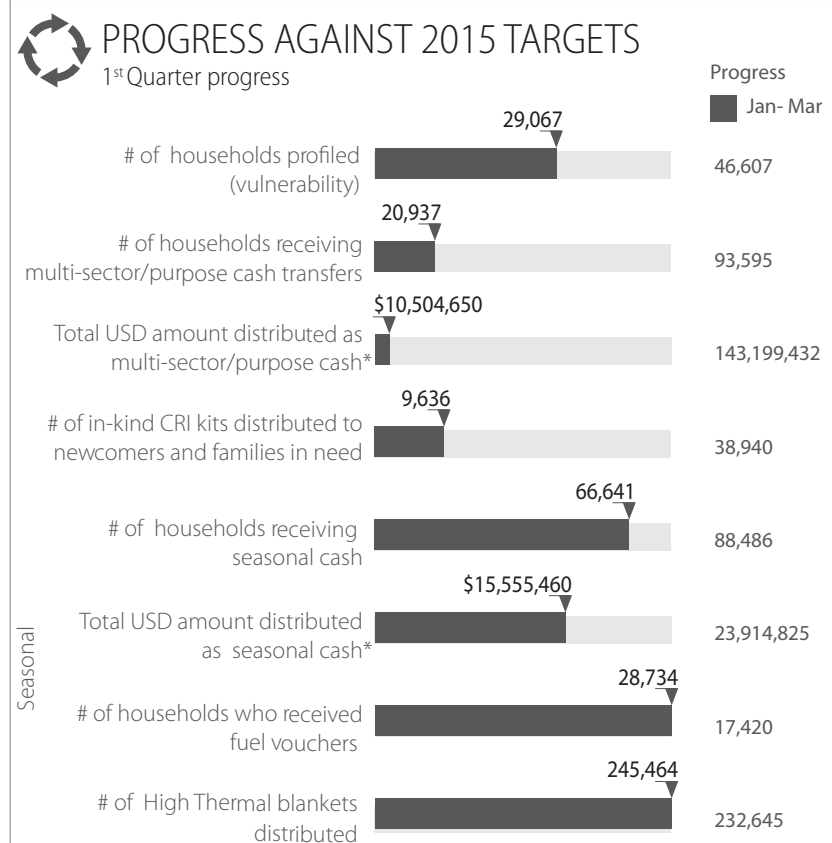
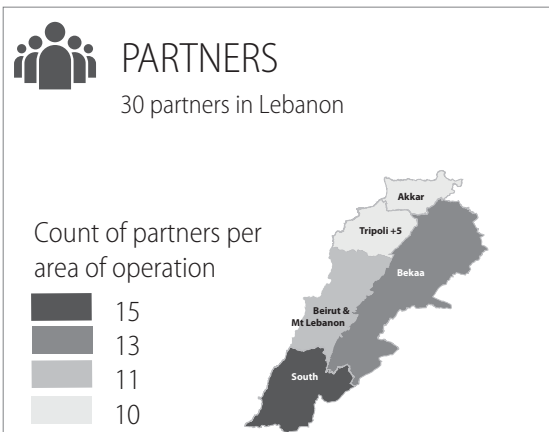
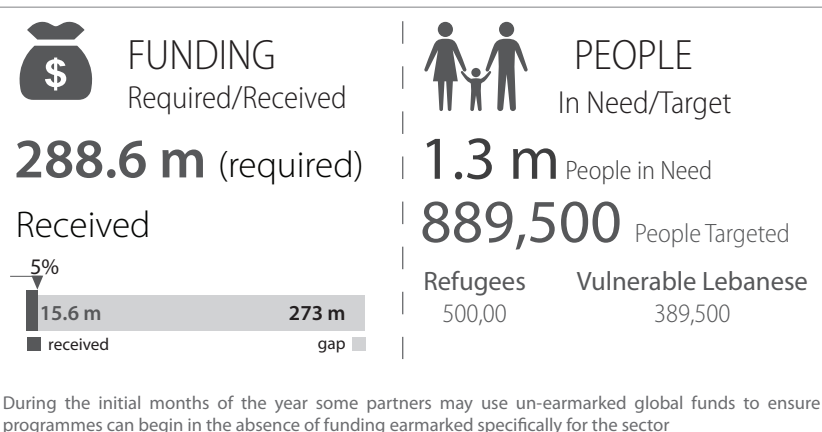


SITUATION ANALYSIS

Agencies implementing winter activities concluded distribution by the end of March. Cash assistance, distribution of winter clothes, and weatherproofing of shelters reached almost 550,000 Syrian refugees. A lesson learned workshop is planned for May 2015, including to review the impact of cash-for-winter activities.

By the end of March, 27,000 refugee households had been visited by 25 partners around the country to assess their vulnerability. Among these, 36 percent were found vulnerable and eligible for cash assistance. The household visits exercise aims to identify the 29 percent most vulnerable defined by the 2013 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees.





Progress towards sector Outcomes and Outputs in Quarter 1

The 2014/2015 inter-agency winter support programme came to an end on 31 March. The goal of the five-month programme was to support affected populations in coping with dropping temperatures and staying warm. With US \$75 million secured out of a requested US \$95 million, 180,000 vulnerable households and households at higher altitudes were prioritized. Seventy-six percent of the households were Syrian; 14 percent were Lebanese, and 10 percent were Palestinian.

In total, around 75,000 households received winter cash assistance.

Cash assistance was introduced on a pilot basis during last year's winter response. This year, partners built on the 2014 success. Refugees confirmed that cash was their preferred means of support as it enables them to prioritize their own needs and respond to their personal situations in a dignified and flexible manner. It is also a rapid and cost-effective method.

As winter drew to a close, the families included in the temporary cash programme were included in the targeting process used for identifying refugees eligible for multi-purpose cash assistance. If they qualify, they are incorporated into the long-term cash assistance programme. By the end of March, around 1,000 households had been transferred from winter to the multi-purpose cash scheme.

To better understand the vulnerability of refugees and identify those to be prioritized for cash assistance, 25 protection and assistance partners visited 24,000 refugee households in the first quarter of the year.

Households assessed were categorized into four groups:

- a) Severely vulnerable: household with expenditures below the estimated minimum survival needs of \$435 per household per month.
- b) Moderately vulnerable: household with expenditures between the survival needs and estimated minimum basic needs of \$435 and \$571 per household per month.
- c) Mildly vulnerable: household with expenditures between 100 percent and 125 percent of the minimum basic needs of \$571 per household per month.
- d) Least vulnerable: household with expenditures over 125 percent of the minimum basic needs of \$571 per household per month.

Assistance is primarily provided to those who fall within the severely vulnerable category. The visits confirmed that one-third of refugee households visited are in need of income support to meet their daily needs. Currently, however, resource constraints mean fewer than 10 percent of refugee households receive such support.

Changes in context in Quarter 1

As of 2015, the cash working group and the non-food items working group have been merged into the Basic Assistance sector. In the past three months, a national working group was established in Beirut, under the leadership of MoSA, with UNHCR and CARE co-leading. Within the context of the LCRP, the basic assistance focuses on three 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 mechanisms in the country and prevent further hardships for severely economically vulnerable households. To date, progress towards the first two objectives is being achieved through the household visits and targeted cash assistance, as well as through seasonal / winter activities. Ongoing discussions have been taking place with MoSA and NPTF on how to support and strengthen existing mechanisms, extend assistance to vulnerable Lebanese and public institutions from a stabilization perspective.

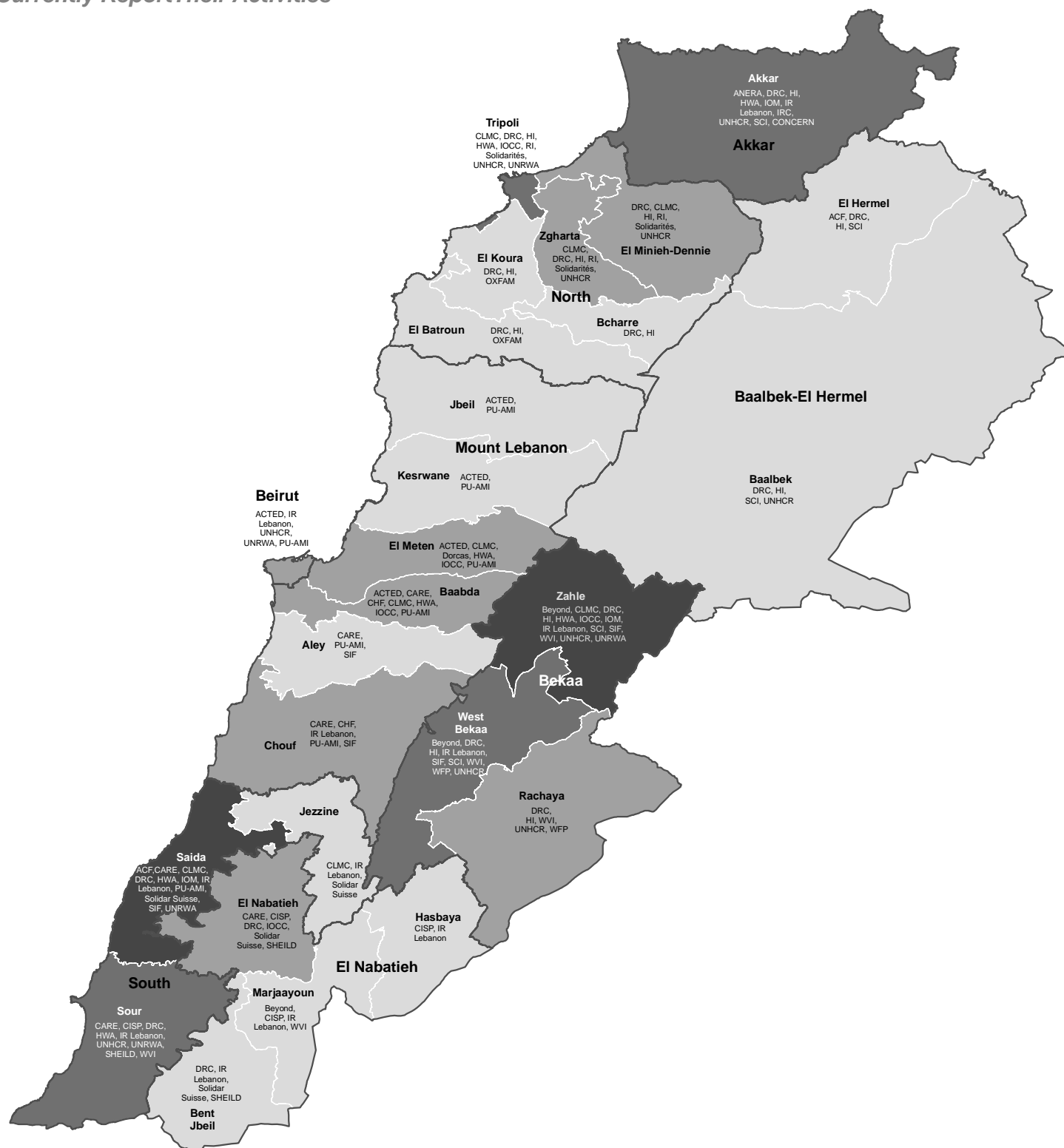
Multi-purpose cash raises the issue of targeting based on a refugee household financial gap. Cash has the potential to forge links between refugee and host communities, including by allowing refugees to interact with local markets, to control their own purchasing power, and to choose how to best meet their most pressing needs. Additional funding will enable support to more beneficiaries.



Number of Partners per Caza/District

January to March 2015

*A Total Number of 30 Organizations
Currently Report Their Activities*



Contact Information:

For information about Basic Assistance Sector, please contact:
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or if you have any enquiry about the map, please contact:
Jad Ghosn at ghosn@unhcr.org

Disclaimer:

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Legend

- Governorate
- District

Number of Partners per District

- 2 - 4
- 5 - 7
- 8 - 10
- 11 - 13

Reporting Partners:

ACF, ACTED, ANERA, Beyond, CARE, CHF, CISP, CLMC, CONCERN, Dorcas, DRC, HI, HWA, IOCC, IOM, IR Lebanon, IRC, OXFAM, PU-AMI, RI, SCI, SHEILD, SIF, Solidar Suisse, Solidarités, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, WVI