

Lebanon started feeling the effects of a heavy storm on Sunday 6 January 2019. Heavy rain, high winds and colder temperatures were reported all over Lebanon. Some regions were affected by either floodings, erosions or heavy snow. This situation reports highlights the impact of the storm on Syrian refugees and response that followed.

AFFECTED POPULATION



150
Sites affected



8,000
People affected



850
Settlements at risk of flooding¹



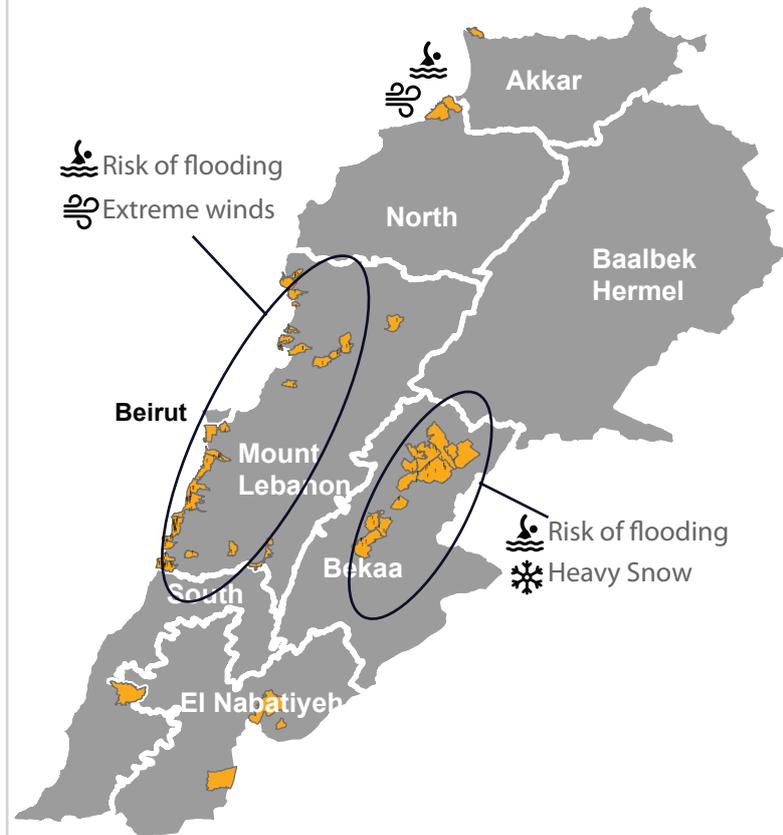
50,000
People at risk

50,000 refugees living in around 850 informal settlements could be affected by floodings¹.

The impact of the storm 'Norma' has necessitated the activation of an extreme weather response over the weekend following referrals received and forecast indicating a drop in temperatures, with snowfall at lower altitudes. Assessment of damage is underway and response has started to affected areas. Extreme weather response is being coordinated by MoSA and UNHCR through the Inter-Agency coordination mechanism.

At minimum 66 informal settlements have been found heavily impacted by the flooding, 15 of which have been completely flooded or collapsed. Around 300 refugees have been relocated so far in the North and the Bekaa. No injuries or casualties have been reported to date.

AREAS MOST AFFECTED



- In Semmaqiye, from one of the completely flooded sites, 173 refugees were temporarily relocated to a nearby school, to a mosque and other housing.
- Distribution of Core Relief Items (CRI), including blankets and mattresses, were provided to 45 refugees from Minieh and Bhanine informal settlements who were relocated due to flash floods. Mattresses and blankets were provided to 203 individuals from Semmaqiye who have temporarily relocated to the nearby school.
- Individual referrals for shelter support are being coordinated.

Partners involved in the response: UNHCR, UNICEF, NRC, Concern WW, PU-AMI, Solidarites international, Lebanese Red Cross and Leb-relief council are continuing assessments and response to affected sites.

NORTH & AKKAR

SITUATION UPDATE - Monday 7 Jan - 16:30

Assessment and response ongoing.

- In total, 22 informal settlements are affected by heavy rain; with 4 informal settlement completely flooded, and 18 affected by flash floods.
- 77 tents were damaged due to high winds and heavy rainfall; sector partners are assessing the damage and needs.
- 211 refugees have relocated to alternative locations, mainly joining other relatives in adjacent areas. 45 refugees were provided with temporary shelter from the emergency unoccupied shelters.

BEKAA / BAALBEK - HERMEL

SITUATION UPDATE - Monday 7 Jan - 17:00

Assessment and response underway by multi-functional teams.

- In Central and West Bekaa, efforts to pump out water accumulating in informal tented settlements are ongoing but challenged by water pouring back in because of them being located below the level of the road and continuous rainfall.
- Sites have been identified to accommodate individuals in need but refugees initially preferred to wait and see what would happen with the water levels and with some fearing they will not be able to return if they move. However, some relocation was noted later in the day. Other refugees have moved in with friends and relatives, while 17 families in Bar Elias relocated to Sawa's prefab school.

1) Inter-Agency Mapping Project (IAMP): sites affected by flooding in winter 2017/2018



- Distribution of Core Relief Items (CRI), including 100 mattresses, 200 blankets and 3 drainage kits have been distributed. Rubber boots will be distributed to adults and children today. Shelter kits will be distributed but mainly after flood water has receded, except for 7 tent destroyed by stormy conditions which have been replaced.

Partners involved in the response: MoSA, MOIM, UNHCR, Medair, SCI, UNICEF, WVI, ACF, RI, NRC, GVC, mayors/MSAs, SAWA and refugee volunteers.



SOUTH

SITUATION UPDATE - Monday 7 Jan - 17:00

Continuous monitoring. Minor flooding reported in Meiss Ej-Jabal Municipality, Marjaayoun District and Zrariye Municipality, Nabatieh District but no assistance has been needed at this point.



BEIRUT / MOUNT LEBANON

SITUATION UPDATE - Monday 7 Jan - 17:00

Assessment and response underway.

- Of the 169 sites assessed, 91 sites are in urgent need of plastic sheeting (heavy leakages), 99 sites are in need of sealing off kits, 148 sites are in need of core relief items.
- 3 sites collapsed and 5 sites were fully flooded and they need urgent intervention.

Shelter partners are working to provide emergency plastic sheeting/sealing off kits distribution. In addition work is ongoing to provide WASH kits and winter clothes.

Partners involved in the response: UNHCR, UNICEF, INTERSOS.

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

Emergency Inter-Agency Coordination meetings are being organized in Zahle on Tuesday 8 January, 2019 and in Mount Lebanon on the 9th of January. Extreme weather response mechanism has been activated in the North and teams are continuously being dispatched to affected locations.

Daily Situation reports will be issued.

Emergency stockpiles were placed in municipalities as part of the winter campaign and agency specific stockpiles are ready for use to respond to affected areas.

FOCAL POINTS FOR EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE AND REFERRALS

North

Mariam El Chaer - elchaer@unhcr.org

Bekaa

Fawad Aamir - aamir@unhcr.org

Beirut/ Mount Lebanon

Maguelone Arsac - arsac@unhcr.org

South

Felicia Byrne - byrne@unhcr.org