



2021 End Year DASHBOARD

Basic Assistance

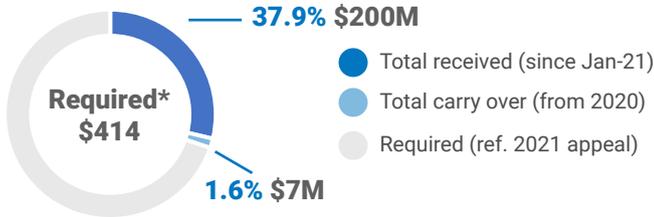


Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

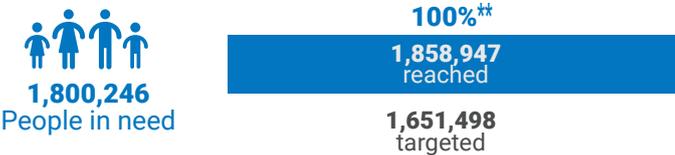
The end of year dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Basic Assistance Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Strengthen the ability of vulnerable households, including female-headed, to meet their basic survival needs; OUTCOME 2) Strengthen the ability of populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies to secure additional basic survival needs; OUTCOME 3): Support the National Poverty Targeting Programme.

2021 Sector Funding Status

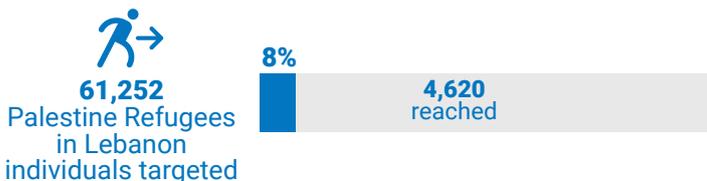
As of 31 December



2021 population reached



2021 population figures by cohort



Progress against targets

Key Achievements

of households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs (Syr, Leb, Pal)



of Syrian households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs



of Lebanese households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs



of Palestinian households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs



of households reached with seasonal cash assistance (Syr, Leb, Pal)



of households reached with UNICEF ICWBP/Haddi cash assistance



Total USD amount disbursed as cash transfers in Q4 (Syr, Leb, Pal)

\$70m

Total USD amount injected into economy in forms of cash assistance in 2021 (seasonal + regular)

\$166m

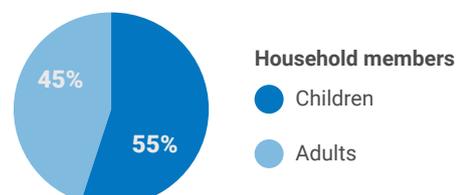
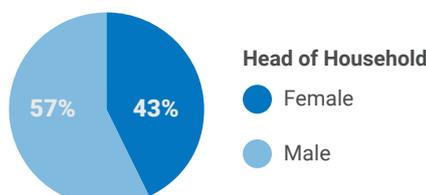
Outcomes

	LCRP 2017/2020 Baseline				2021 Current				2021 Target			
	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL
OUTCOME 1: % population that is severely vulnerable	53%	10%	89%	-	88%	22%	89%	73%	88%	10%	98%	65%
% of assisted severely economically vulnerable households report being able to meet their basic survival needs	90%	-	89%	-	51%	-	-	-	90%	-	89%	-
OUTCOME 2: % of assisted households affected by seasonal shocks who are able to meet their additional basic survival needs	90%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	100%	100%	100%

¹ VASyR 2021

² UNHCR Post Distribution Monitoring, May 2021

Age/Gender Breakdown of MPCA (SYR) Beneficiaries



* USD required was calculated in late 2019 at an MPCA transfer value of 400,000LBP and 3,900 LBP/USD rate (\$102) while by the end of 2021 the MPCA transfer value being provided by partners ranged from \$40-\$70

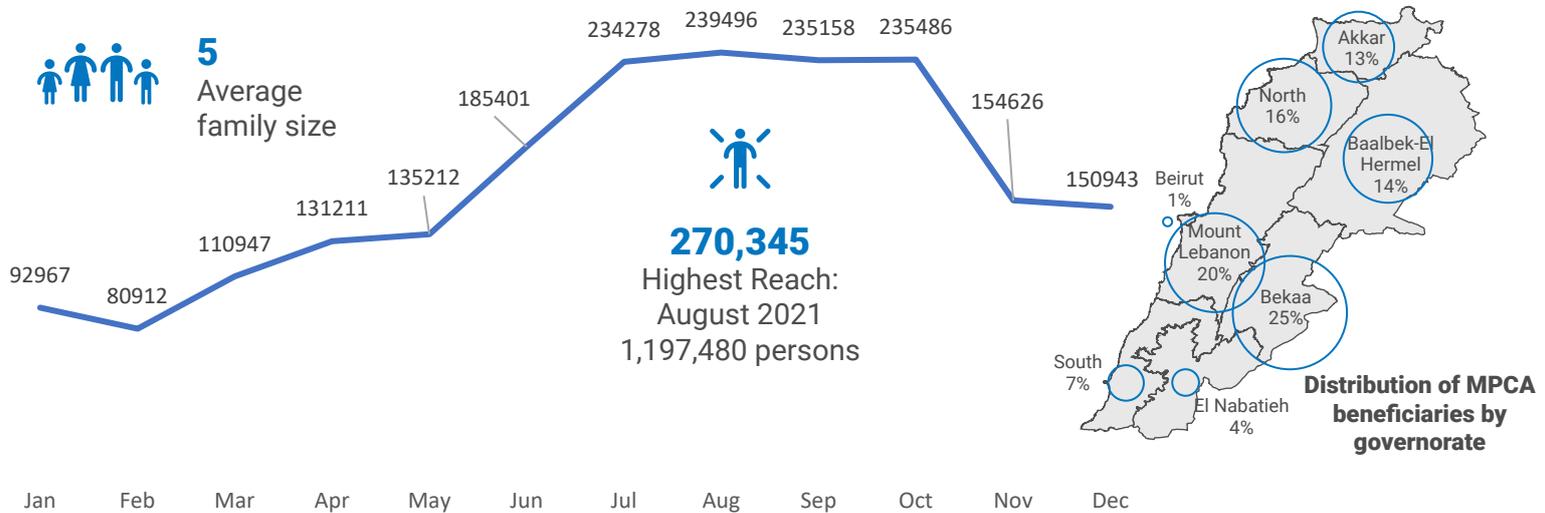
**Includes seasonal cash assistance, which is temporary in nature. Intervention-specific reach can be found in the narrative below

*** 179,000 assisted through the National Poverty Targeting Program



Analysis

Syrian Households Receiving Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in 2021



1. Key achievements of the sector at the output level

Throughout 2021, 293,509 economically vulnerable households (76% of the target) were supported to meet their basic survival needs through regular, unconditional and unrestricted cash grants, which can allow families to access basic goods and services available in the local market. The highest coverage of monthly multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) for basic needs in 2021 reached 239,496 Syrian households, 45,029 vulnerable Lebanese households¹, 8,886 Palestinian refugee families from Syria and 98 Palestine refugee families in Lebanon. Among displaced Syrians, 90 per cent of households assessed as socio-economically vulnerable in 2021 were assisted with MPCA². This coverage is similar to what was achieved in 2020, when 89 per cent of the sector target for displaced Syrians was reached.

The 2021 sector target for assistance to vulnerable Lebanese households was based on households registered and eligible for the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP) in Q4 of 2020 during the LCRP planning process. Starting September 2021, vulnerable Lebanese households under the NPTP began to receive a “cash for basic needs top-up” to the cash for food assistance³, which helped to increase coverage of the Lebanese population. Prior to this, assistance to Lebanese under the sector was consistently low, with less than 5 per cent of the target for regular assistance being achieved. Additionally, a number of agencies supported vulnerable Lebanese households through other targeting mechanisms; thus, the number of Lebanese households assisted by the end of the year exceeded the sector target (105% of the target for MPCA⁴).

Concerning child-specific grants, 62,048 households (39,113 Syrian families, 418 Palestine refugee families from Syria, 3,456 Palestinian refugee families in Lebanon and 19,061 Lebanese families) benefited from child-focused social assistance, exceeding the sectors initial target⁵. This is due to the significant expansion of coverage under the Haddi Program, launched in June 2021. The value of regular cash assistance in 2021 totalled US\$120,966,952 across all population cohorts⁶. Despite the challenges outlined in section 3 in more detail, monthly redemption rates remained high (97-98 per cent) throughout

the year, indicating that cash beneficiaries were able to redeem assistance in a timely manner.

During Q1, the sector completed an exhaustive review of the Protection Risk Assessment (PRA), initially conducted in 2019. Through this exercise, the sector was able to highlight priority risks in need of regular monitoring and/or adoption of mitigation measures. It is important that the sector continues to prioritize the PRA in 2022 and ensure linkages with other risk assessments, including at the Inter-sector level and across response frameworks. Additionally, towards the end of the year, surveys were conducted with sector partners on needs and priorities linked to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and gender-based violence (GBV). A series of recommendations were developed from the responses received, and these will be implemented in 2022. Recommendations include the development of PSEA and GBV resource material, training material and the roll-out of specific trainings for relevant staff.

In addition to regularly disbursed assistance, the capacity of 282,776 households to meet their additional basic survival needs caused by seasonal hazards was supported. This was achieved under Output 2.1 through seasonal cash assistance, constituting 83 per cent of those in need. In winter, families face additional strains and challenges in meeting their existing needs, as well as additional needs caused by the winter season (typically beginning in November and lasting through to March). From October to December, 258,207 Syrian and 24,559 Lebanese families benefited from seasonal cash grants that provided them increased cash liquidity to meet their winter needs. For displaced Syrians, this constitutes a 95 per cent coverage of vulnerable families. For vulnerable Lebanese families, the gap in seasonal cash assistance was larger, with 57 per cent of vulnerable households assisted; however, disbursement of seasonal cash is expected to continue throughout the first quarter of 2022. By the end of the winter season, around 46,000 vulnerable Lebanese households⁷ and 273,000 displaced Syrian households are expected to have received seasonal cash assistance (100 per cent of the

¹ 35,900 were assisted by WFP through the National Poverty Targeting Program

² Proportion of families reached reflects the highest reach throughout the year in a given month. Monthly figures are available in the graph below.

³ Provided by WFP

⁴ Agencies that provided MPCA in 2021 are listed within the 3W map below

⁵ Child Specific Grants were provided by UNICEF through both the Integrated Child Wellbeing Programme and Haddi Program

⁶ For partners that were disbursing cash assistance in Lebanese Pounds, the U.S. Dollar value is calculated based on the respective exchange rate for each agency with their financial service provider.

⁷ 15,000 Lebanese families that received seasonal cash were identified through the NPTP while the remaining were identified through field and partner outreach



sector target). The value of seasonal cash assistance amounted to US \$40,955,070 in 2021, which includes seasonal cash assistance disbursed as part of the 2020 winter campaign (January to March 2021).

Additionally, 35,683 households affected by seasonal, or emergency shocks were supported through in-kind assistance, which included in-kind distribution of blankets, mattresses, heaters, clothing kits and other essential items. In-kind assistance is scaled up during the winter season, in comparison to other times of the year when ad-hoc distributions support families dealing with emergencies, such as evictions or fires.

2. Key contribution of the sector to LCRP outcome and impacts

Outcomes 1 and 2 under the Basic Assistance sector directly contribute to the LCRP Strategic Objective and Impact 1: Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations; and Immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations are met. This is mainly done through the provision of regular cash assistance and more targeted interventions (both cash and in-kind) when additional basic needs are identified.

Under Outcome 1, the provision of regular cash assistance through multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) and child-specific social assistance represent primary sources of income for the most economically vulnerable households in Lebanon and aims to support families to meet their basic survival needs. Findings from the 2021 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian refugees (VASyR) showed that the rate of economic vulnerability among displaced Syrians has remained alarmingly high, with 88 per cent now living in extreme poverty. Accurate data on poverty rates among Lebanese households is still lacking; however, over half of the Lebanese population is estimated to be living in poverty by the end of 2021⁸. Throughout the year, the number of displaced Syrian and vulnerable Lebanese families assisted increased substantially compared to the coverage in 2020. Cash assistance, whether through unrestricted cash or vouchers, was the most reported primary source of income among displaced Syrians⁹. Syrian families that receive regular MPCA reported prioritizing spending on basic needs, most commonly on food, rent and healthcare, including medication¹⁰.

One of the main challenges that sector partners faced was their limited capacity to provide adequate cash assistance transfer values due to concerns in fueling tensions. The negative impact this has had on vulnerable families is evident from the findings of post distribution and outcome monitoring. In October 2021, UNHCR outcome monitoring, where over a third of interviewees were female, showed that only about half of surveyed and assisted families reported being able to meet all or most of their basic needs, even after an increase in the transfer value in the preceding month. In 2022, the sector will continue advocating for increased transfer values to ensure that the assistance provides meaningful support. This is done through monthly monitoring of prices of food and non-food items as well as essential services. The same monitoring findings show that while the assistance amounts provided were not ideal, almost all respondents (99%) agreed that the cash assistance improved their living conditions, reduced their financial burden, and reduced feelings of stress. While the proportion of households that reported having enough of all five basic assets (blankets, mattresses, cooking stove, heaters and winter clothes), most households (94%) reported that they had enough female hygiene products.

Outcome 2 strives to support families to meet additional needs when faced with seasonal hazards and/or emergencies. Transfer values for seasonal cash assistance were based on costs of heating and key non-food items, including clothing and blankets. Data on outcome indicators for the 2021/2022 winter season are not yet available as distributions are ongoing throughout January and February 2022; however, findings from previous seasons indicate that fuel or gas for heating is consistently among the top three spending priorities for how families spend seasonal cash assistance. It is important to note that throughout the first two months of the winter season, subsidies on fuels were gradually removed, which caused a stark increase in the cost of gas and diesel commonly used for household heating. UNHCR provides the largest coverage for seasonal cash and was able to begin providing top-ups to displaced Syrian households in January 2022, which helped to compensate for the price changes since the start of the winter season. As mentioned above, the MPCA transfer value was not adjusted despite ongoing price increases. This may have a significant effects on the potential impact of seasonal assistance, as families may have to resort to prioritizing other unmet needs (e.g., food, rent and health) before covering heating and other winter-related costs. The provision of in-kind assistance mainly during the winter but also throughout the year filled gaps in basic needs when cash assistance was not an ideal option. In-kind assistance allowed families to access specific basic goods (e.g., blankets, clothing, mattresses solar lamps, buckets and jerrycans) in a timely manner in response to storms, evictions, fires, and other emergency situations.

Outcome 3 contributed to LCRP strategic objective and impact 3: Strategic Support service provision through national systems; and vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national systems. Assistance to vulnerable Lebanese households was scaled up significantly towards the end of 2021. In September, WFP began providing a cash top-up to beneficiaries through the National Poverty Target-

3. Challenges and mitigation measures

Throughout the year, partners were faced with several challenges linked to the country's on-going economic crisis that influenced the delivery of assistance. Primarily, this included challenges linked to securing meaningful transfer values amidst fluctuating exchange rates coupled with a consistent increase in the price of goods and services. Concerns from authorities around tensions linked to increased transfer values, given that the majority of MPCA is provided to displaced persons, prevented key partners from regularly reviewing, adjusting, and scaling up transfer values to meet increasing market prices. In September 2021, the MPCA monthly transfer value was increased to 800,000 LBP from 400,000 LBP per family. While this was a well warranted increase, by December this value covered only half of the sector's recommended transfer value for non-food needs, based on the the Survival Minimum Expenditure basket (SMEB)¹¹ is a basket of basic goods, commodities and services,

⁸ World Bank (2021). Lebanon Economic Monitor, Spring 2021.

⁹ Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, 2021- Socio-Economic Vulnerability Chapter

¹⁰ UNHCR Outcome Monitoring for Multi-purpose Cash Assistance in Lebanon, October 2021

¹¹ Details on the evolution of prices of the SMEB can be found here: <https://ialebanon.unhcr.org/SMEB>

¹² The Lebanon One Unified Inter-Organisational System for E-card (LOUISE) is an innovative Operational Model set up with the intention of streamlining the operational coordination of sectoral and multi-sectoral Cash and Voucher Assistance in Lebanon. The model was born out of a formalised collaboration between UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF.



defined for a syrian family of five. this includes a minimum food basket and non-food basket. The food basket includes a list of basic hygiene items, including female hygiene items, as well as essential services such as transportation, communication, health, and others. Moreover, many partners continued to face challenges in securing adequate exchange rates with financial service providers. While advancements were made in this regard towards mid-year, when LOUISE agencies¹² were able to secure rates close to market value, many partners continued operating with sub-optimal rates, leading to a loss in the dollar value of received funds.

To compensate for discrepancies in exchange rates, some partners have shifted to providing cash assistance in USD. Coordination of the currency shift has been a challenge throughout the year. The sector developed a guidance note on the determination of transfer values in USD to support partners to rely on common resources for their planning and to ensure synchronization across cash partners. Additionally, the sector has attempted to foster a learning environment within the Basic Assistance Working Group (BAWG) to allow partners to share experiences, particularly among those who have already shifted currencies and those who plan to. Engaging in wider discussions around this topic will remain a priority for the sector in 2022.

Fuel and electricity shortages throughout the year added to the challenges that partners faced. In addition to affecting the efficiency of partner operations, ATM operational hours were also compromised, which led to overcrowding and long waiting times. Reports of challenges in securing transportation to redemption sites were also common. To mitigate some of these challenges and risks, partners coordinated staggered loading and disbursement dates to minimize the number of people going to ATMs at a given time. Additionally, several partners combined two months of cash assistance in one loading, to decrease the number of times beneficiaries would need to travel to the ATMs, partners were informed through SMS on this new procedure. Although several additional ATMs have been installed by LOUISE financial service provider, the gap in underserved areas persisted and overcrowding due to above reasons has been noted throughout the loading periods. Some BAWG

4. CASE STUDY

Lebanon is juggling multiple crises and a deteriorating humanitarian situation affecting all nationalities in the country. The ongoing economic crisis has led to dangerously high levels of inflation, job losses, and increased vulnerabilities and protection risks for children and families, especially the most marginalized groups, and has resulted in high levels of food insecurity and risk of malnutrition.

In 2021, Save the Children responded to the immediate needs of vulnerable households affected by this combination of crises by providing multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), integrated with other sectors of support. SCI reached over 30,000 people with MPCA, nutrition messaging, and hygiene and dignity kits when needed, to meet children and families' basic needs. SCI regularly ensures that referrals to protection services are also provided, and integrated MHPSS services whenever possible.

This program was implemented nationally, given the deteriorating economic conditions across the country, and reached an equal amount of Lebanese and refugee families, including Syrians and Palestinians. Baseline/end line surveys as well as PDMs were conducted to understand the outcome of the cash assistance and medium-term impact on families. When comparing the results between before and after receiving the cash assistance per household, 80% of cash recipients reduced their use of negative coping strategies. In particular, the impact assessment found that SCI's MPCA program significantly decreased child labor by 2%. In addition, adults restricting the number of meals consumed per day to allow their children to eat has also significantly decreased by around 22% due to the cash assistance. Finally, cash contributed to a significant decrease of 0.3% of risk of child marriage. SCI's MPCA program has had a significantly positive impact on children, particularly in mitigating the most severe forms of negative coping affecting children. Notably, the impact assessment also found that the projects where MPCA was integrated with other forms of assistance for longer periods of time were more successful in reducing negative coping.

Living in Akkar, Adam and his family speak of the toll of the crises and how Save the Children has supported them by providing them with multi-purpose cash assistance.

Adam* said, "Save the Children supported us financially. They gave me 2,300,000 LBP, which helped us immensely. Before we received the support, we had reached a point when we could not afford to buy rice, or lentil, or potato, or shampoo or cleaning products, until the cash assistance came through and I was able to buy the essentials. My children were overjoyed! Especially my youngest daughter. I gave her a daily allowance of 2,000 LBP."

Adam's daughter Layal expressed her appreciation, stating, "When we received the assistance from Save the Children, I was very happy. My father got me new shoes and we were able to save up for later."

Pictured Below: Adam's family, his wife Mariam and daughter Layal¹³.

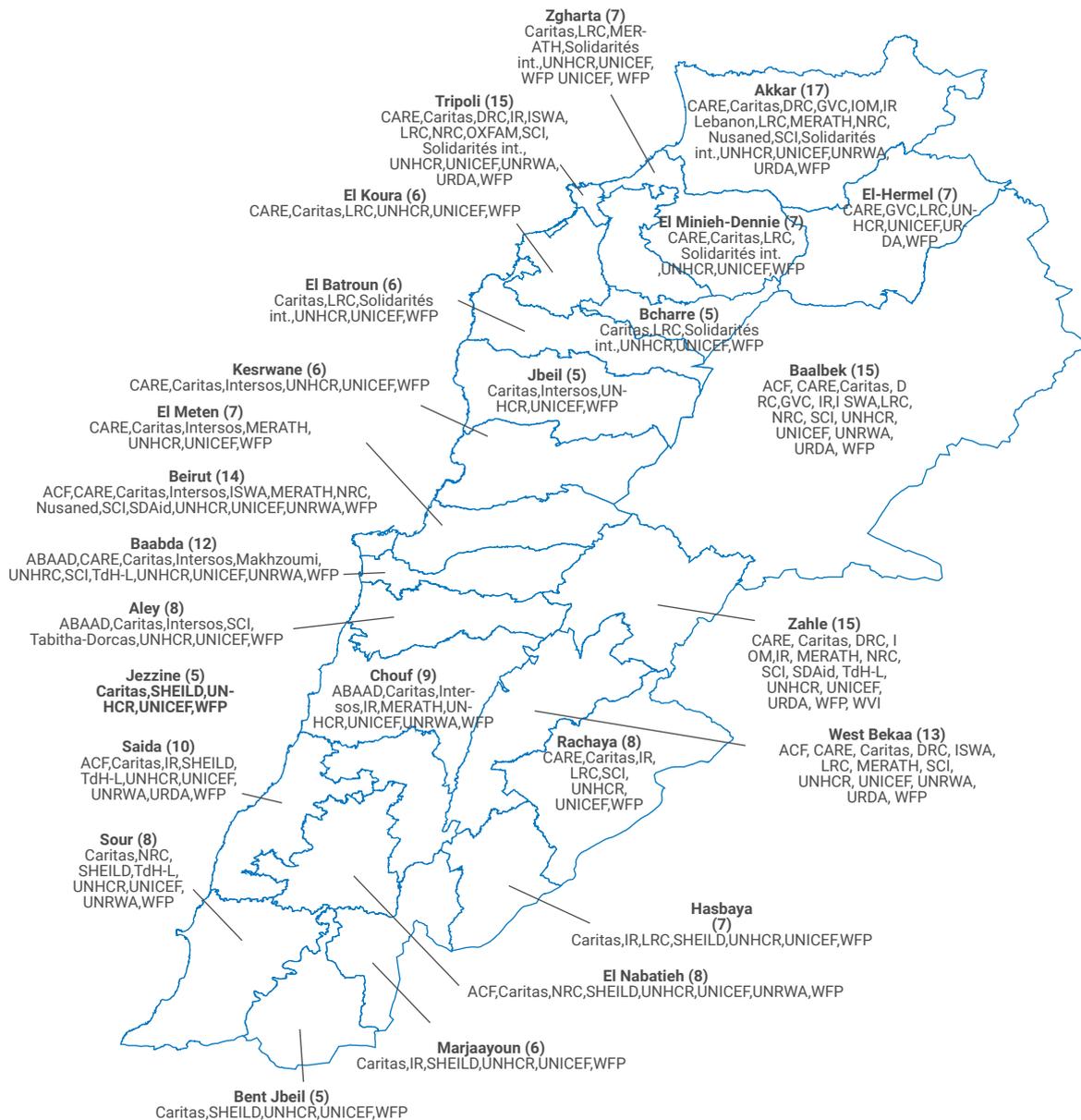


¹³Names have been changed to maintain confidentiality



5. Organizations per district

ABAAID, ACF, CARE, Caritas, DRC, GVC, Intersos, IOM, IR Lebanon, ISWA, LRC, Makhzoumi, MERATH, NRC, Nusaned, OXFAM, SCI, SDAid, SHEILD, Solidarités int., Tabitha-Dorcas, TdH-L, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, URDA, WFP, WVI



Note: This map has been produced by UNHCR based on maps and material provided by the Government of Lebanon for UNHCR operational purposes. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.