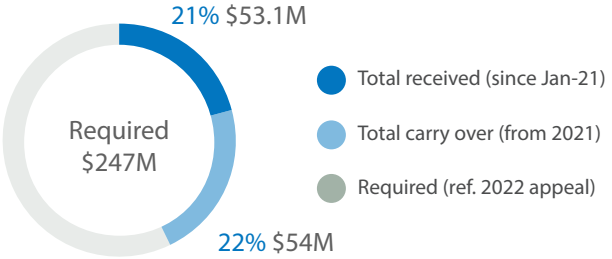
2022 Quarter 3 SECTOR DASHBOARD
Water

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

This dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Water Sector in Lebanon is working towards its expected outcome: by 2023, more vulnerable people in Lebanon are accessing sufficient, safe water for drinking and domestic use with reduced health and environmental impacts from unsafe wastewater management.

2022 Sector Funding Status
As of 30th of September 2022



2022 population reached

2,688,071 People in need

21% — 2,067,041 targeted (923,529 female, 887,314 male)

2022 population figures by cohort

1,500,000 Lebanese individuals in need

11% — 132,679 reached; 1,200,000 targeted (624,000 female, 576,000 male)

990,000 Displaced Syrians in need

40% — 298,264 reached; 754,000 targeted (384,540 female, 369,460 male)

20,161 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (individuals)

1% — 81 reached; 11,600 targeted (6,032 female, 5,568 male)

177,910 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (individuals)

0% — 4 reached; 101,441 targeted (52,749 female, 48,692 male)

Progress against targets

Key Achievements

of affected people assisted in permenant location with improved access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and for domestic use — 148,947 / 1,706,500

# of affected people assisted with temporary access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and water for domestic use — 282,081 / 360,541

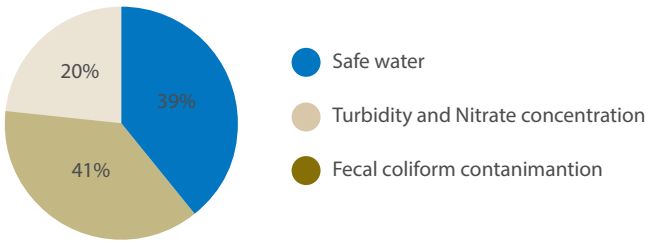
# of affected people with access to improved safe sanitation in temporary locations — 283,084/ 270,040

#of rehabilitated latrines to meet environmentally friendly practices — 162 / 2,220

# of individuals who have experienced a WASH behaviour change session/activity — 186,078 / 615,000

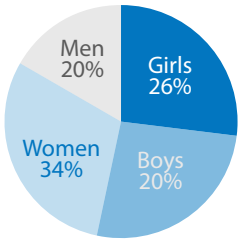
99% of the Water sources have been tested. 63% of the overall sites show that the main water source is safe for drinking based on based on the presence of fecal coliforms, turbidity and Nitrate concentration. None of the sites resorting to Water trucking paid for by residents has safe drinking water when Water trucking paid for by NGO is predominantly safe (83%) as the NGOs are ensuring chlorination of the tankers and monitors the source of the water used for trucking.

Many protected boreholes would need additional water treatment as 41% show contamination with Fecal Coliforms. 70% of sites connected to networks have access to safe drinking water.

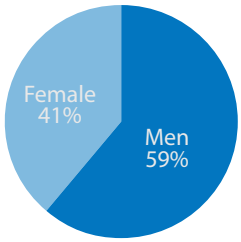


Quality of Water in Protected Boreholes used in Informal Settlements

Age/Gender Breakdown



men/women/boys/girls who have experienced a WASH behaviour change session/activity



# of affected women / men benefiting from WaSH livelihood opportunities

MULTI-SECTORAL SITUATION UPDATE

In the third quarter of 2022, families across Lebanon continued to face diminishing purchasing power, affecting vulnerable peoples' ability to meet basic needs. The Lebanese Pound continued to fluctuate, reaching average levels of LBP 36,346 to the dollar in the month of September. The Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) increased from LBP 844,000 in June to LBP 860,000 in July and is expected to continue to rise in the coming period. Since the beginning of 2022, food prices have increased by 30%. Since the beginning of 2022, food prices have increased by 37% and since the start of the crisis in October 2019 by more than 2,000%, or 21-fold. Families relying on bottled water for domestic use had to pay 5 to 6 times more than the prior year, and similar increases in the price of tucked water have been observed (July 2022, UNICEF). A price hike in telecommunications costs in July triggered a response across sectors, monitoring the development and reviewing mitigation measures to address the impact on contact between affected populations and response actors, including as a barrier to services and information. After a drop in beneficiary hotline call numbers in July, the numbers started to normalise in August and September as partners and beneficiaries identified alternative ways to maintain regular communication.

Protection monitoring continues to highlight that economic vulnerability is contributing to a worsening rate of legal residency among displaced people, which in turn inhibits freedom of movement and access to justice. Respondents identified difficulty accessing work opportunities and limitations on social interactions as ongoing challenges. According to the latest UNDP-ARK perception survey (July 2022), 37% of respondents reported negative inter-communal relations (compared to 36.1% in August 2021 and 21% in July 2018). This suggests that relationships remain strained, with pressure points ranging from access to services and job competition, to historical tensions between communities.

Women and girls reported an increased perception of insecurity. Female-headed housholds often live in sub-standard shelter conditions, and gender-based violence has increased, including child marriage. Syrian women in ITS struggle with menstrual hygiene manaement, with an estimated price increase on some menstrual hygiene items since 2019 of 234%.

Following the identification of cholera cases in Syria, a draft National Cholera Prevention, Preparedness and Response plan was developed for Lebanon. The plan is centred around interventions under the Joint Health Sector, Joint Water/WaSH Sector and Risk Communications and Community Engagement Taskforce (RCCE), with cross-sectoral coordination across the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and the Emergency Response Plan (ERP). Lebanon is considered a high-risk country due to the deterioration in water and sanitation standards across the country and limited access to hygiene among the most vulnerable populations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

The sector has recently published the advocacy document: "When water becomes a privilege: the consequences of shutting down the public water system in Lebanon" outlining the multi-layered crises the country is facing and their impact on the water and sanitation systems' functionality and consequent unaffordability and unavailability of adequate household access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

The sector also formalized the joining-up of coordination across the LCRP and ERP response frameworks and endorsed the joint WaSH sector's Terms of Reference with the Ministry of Energy and Water, UNICEF and the sector core group.

By Q3 2022, the sector reached nearly 282,000 individuals (mainly displaced Syrians) in temporary locations through the provision of adequate quantities of safe water for drinking and domestic use [Output 2.1]. Since the beginning of the year, 1,381,000 m3 of safe drinking water was delivered via water trucking services. Similarly, nearly 283,000 vulnerable people in temporary locations have been reached with improved access to sanitation and safely managed wastewater services [Output 2.1]. Since the beginning of the year, over 351,000 m3 of sludge was removed from the informal settlements and disposed of in wastewater treatment plants, while 489 latrines were rehabilitated or constructed to meet environmentally friendly practices (22% of the target).

In permanent locations, almost 150,000 people (mainly Lebanese) were assisted with improved access to adequate quantities of safe water for drinking and for domestic use through the rehabilitation of existing pumping stations and the drilling and equipping of one new well. The sector anticipates reporting a significant increase in the number of people reached in Q4-2022, as there are 45 ongoing water stabilization projects across the country that will be reported once finalized. So far, the solarization of 50 water supply systems across the country has been completed, while 10 more projects are ongoing and one further planned for solarization. The projects will contribute to lower reliance on fuel for water provision and will make an important contribution to a reduction of the carbon footprint. The projects are located in areas that align with the 322 cadastres hosting the most displaced and vulnerable Lebanese populations across the country (2022) as well as the Water Sector Vulnerability assessment (2021). In line with Conflict Sensitivity mainstreaming efforts, many of the locations are tension hotspots including Bekaa, Akkar and North Districts. Through the Stabilization Thematic group, the sector aims to increase the visibility of the stabilization component of the projects under LCRP, hoping to contribute to mitigating inter-communal tension on the rise around water in different areas of Lebanon.

Almost 640 people (258 women, 380 men, of which 327 Lebanese and 310 Syrian) benefitted from water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) livelihood opportunities, reaching 38% of the annual target.

Under Output 2.2, by the end of September 2022, over 188,500 individuals (46,800 girls, 42,000 boys, 45,082 women, and 25,791 men) had experienced a WaSH behaviour change session/activity. This represents 31% of the sector target. Low achievement might be linked to the declining COVID-19 preventive and response activities in 2022.

Referral trends: The Water sector received 1,979 referrals in 2022, representing 1.5% of the total referrals made in Lebanon. 43% of them have been accepted, 14.5% were acknowledged and 5.8% were rejected. For 36% there is no response recorded yet.

Mainstreaming activities (gender, protection, conflict sensitivity, if applicable). The sector has started updating its Protection Risk Analysis which will be broadly rolled out with the 2023 sector strategy.
Conflict Sensitivity: Standard Operating Procedures for dealing with issues of landlords, suppliers, and municipalities have been developed by the Sanitation and Community Engagement Thematic Groups of the Water sector. The UNDP/ARK tension monitoring dashboard is shared with Sector partners to be taken into consideration for prioritising interventions. The Sector also works to improve tensions mapping linked to unequal access to water, aiming to better support partners' prioritisation of interventions.

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KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

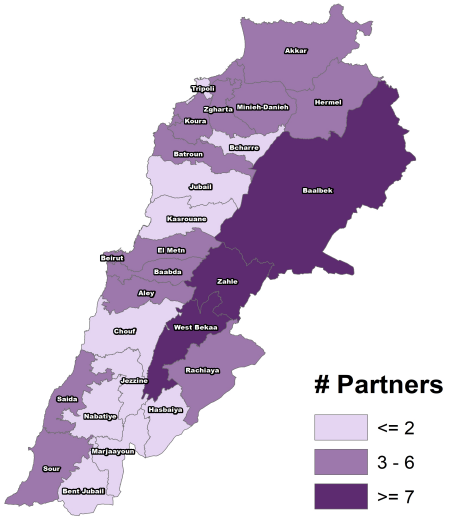
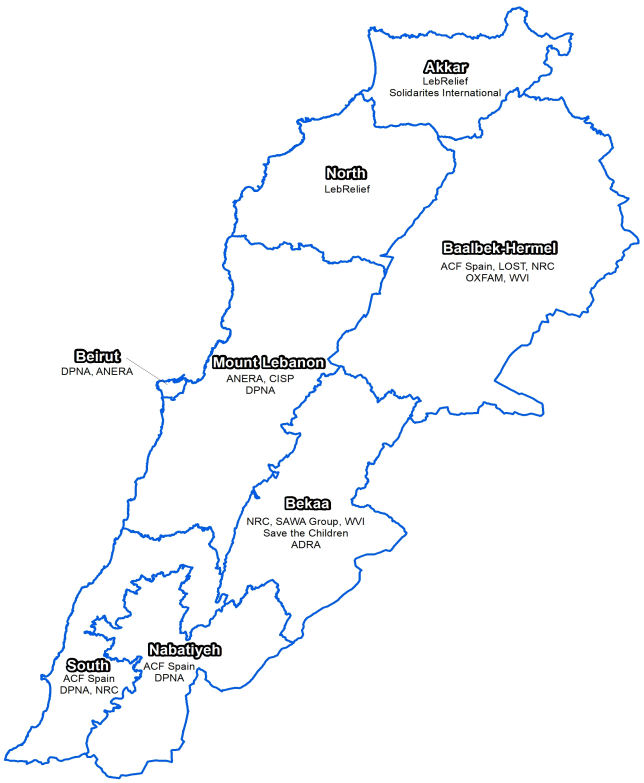
The recent outbreak of cholera poses currently the greatest challenge for the WaSH sector. Within one month, the number of suspected and confirmed cases has surpassed 2,700 cases across 17 out of 26 districts. The operational capacity of the Water Establishments and other institutions remains a major challenge for the sector, mainly due to the severe electricity shortages and spiralling inflation that disables the procurement of critical consumables and spare parts [LCRP Business Continuity Plan, Risk 4: Supply gaps]. With insufficient electricity from the national grid, the water pumping stations have to switch to backup generators, which run on costly fuel that is out of financial reach for the Water Establishments. Many water systems have been facing a total blackout from the public grid by the end of each month, which has been bridged by limited fuel distribution to sustain a minimal level of operation. For the past 2-3 months, there was nearly a total blackout across the country. There has also been an increased number of municipalities managing pumping stations, in some cases linked to May 2022 elections and politically driven funding. The Water Establishments are also facing a 'brain drain' of critical technical and managerial staff. Due to ongoing economic challenges, staff are unable to reach the workplace or are leaving positions, and in some instances leaving the country in search of a dignified life and to make ends meet. The same challenges face the organizations and personnel operating wastewater treatment plants. Another critical challenge the sector faced in September 2022 was the reduction of water and sanitation service provision in informal tented settlements. According to the standard agreed by the WaSH sector, people living in the informal settlements should access a minimum of 35 litres per person per day to cover drinking, cooking, hygiene and domestic needs. Given the difficulty in ensuring a sustainable approach to water and wastewater service provision, in over 45% of informal settlements water is trucked into the location to provide water to the residents. The cost of this expensive operation has been increasing due to the sharp rise in fuel costs. At the same time, the funding available to provide these services has decreased below the anticipated levels. As of September 2022, in some cases the amount of water supplied has been significantly reduced to cover only what is needed for drinking, basic hygiene practices and cooking, i.e. 7.5 litres per person per day. Similarly, the extent to which organizations have been able to remove sewage in informal settlements has also reduced in line with the reduced water provision. While at the beginning of October 2022 the temporary funds were mobilized to maintain essential services in line with the sector standards, the sector remains concerned about the sustainability of these interventions.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER

The most critical external need for the sector is the timely resolution of the power crisis by restoring the electricity supply through the national grid. In the meantime, the sector continues to advocate for fuel provision for standby generators at key water supply and wastewater treatment facilities. Without immediate action and with the prospect of even worse electricity blackouts across the country, the piped water provision is on the brink of total collapse, exposing millions of vulnerable Lebanese, Syrians, and Palestinians to harmful coping strategies and depriving their rights to safe, sufficient and affordable water. Fulfilling the Water sector energy needs has to be accompanied by a continuation of the essential repair and maintenance support to Water Establishments, which will keep the facilities operational to the extent possible. With the continued deterioration of the infrastructure, the repair and maintenance support needs to be extended to cover more advanced rehabilitation of non-functional equipment. Combating cholera will not be effective without radical systemic improvement of the water and sanitation systems' functionality, enhancing management and sector governance.

3W Map (# Partners per Caza)

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following organizations: UNICEF, ACF Spain, ACTED, ADRA, ANERA, ArcheNova and Tankamel Sawa, CISP, DPNA, Leb-Relief, LOST, NRC, OXFAM, SAWA Group, Save the Children, Solidarites International, Tabitha-dorcas and World Vision (WVI).



Partners directly reported in Activity Info in Quarter 3