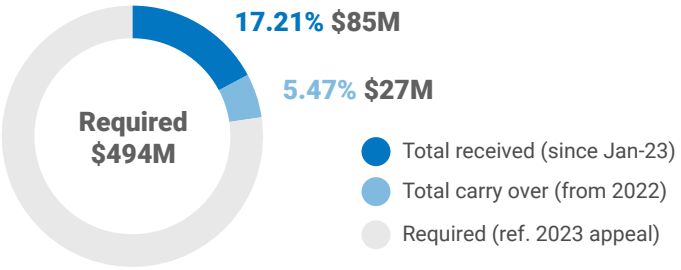
2023 2nd QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD
Basic Assistance

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

2023 Q2 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 and individuals, including female-headed HHs, persons with disabilities and children, 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): Effective and efficient service delivery through strengthened linkages with national social safety net programmes and social protection systems

2023 Sector Funding Status*
As of 30 June



2023 population reached

3,036,400 People in need

57%
1,327,927 reached
2,338,900 targeted

2023 population figures by cohort

1,460,000 Lebanese individuals in need

51%
387,959 reached
762,500 targeted

1,365,000 Displaced Syrian individuals in need

66%
907,980 reached
1,365,000 targeted

31,400 Palestinian Refugees from Syria individuals in need

96%
30,193 reached
31,400 targeted

180,000 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon individuals in need

1% **1,795** reached
180,000 targeted

Progress against targets

Key Achievements

of households reached with regular cash assistance for basic needs (Syr, Leb, Pal)
261,997/ 398,086

# of Syrian households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs
181,616 / 270,000

# of Lebanese households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs
70,538 / 77,000

# of Palestinian households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs
9,843 / 51,086

# of individuals with specific vulnerabilities receive social assistance
18,880 / 24,455

# of households reached with in-kind assistance (mattresses, blankets, winter clothing, heaters, jerry cans and other essential non-food items)
5,583

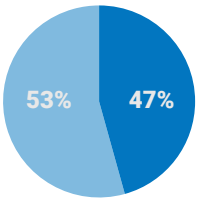
Total USD amount disbursed as regular cash transfer (includes regular and seasonal cash assistance)
$21,816,567

Outcomes

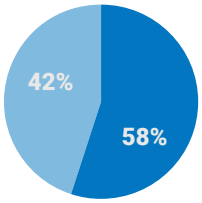
	LCRP 2017/2022 Baseline				2023 Current				2023 Target			
	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL
OUTCOME 1: % of assisted households report being able to meet their basic survival needs[1].	53%	10%	89%	-	0%	0%	0%	0%	75%	75%	75%	75%
% of assisted HHs that report relying on crisis or emergency asset depleting coping strageties	90%	-	89%	-	92%				75%	75%	75%	75%
OUTCOME 2: %of assisted households affected by seasonal shocks report being able to meet their basic survival needs[2]	90%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	100%	100%	100%
% of assisted Hhs that report relying on crisis or emergency asset depleting coping strageties												

[1] UNHCR Baseline Survey December 2021
[2]Outcome monitoring for seasonal cash not completed and will be included in Q2 dashboard

Age/Gender Breakdown of MPCA SYR Beneficiaries



Head of Household
- Female
- Male



Household members
- Children
- Adults

* Does not include funding received in 2022 for seasonal cash assistance

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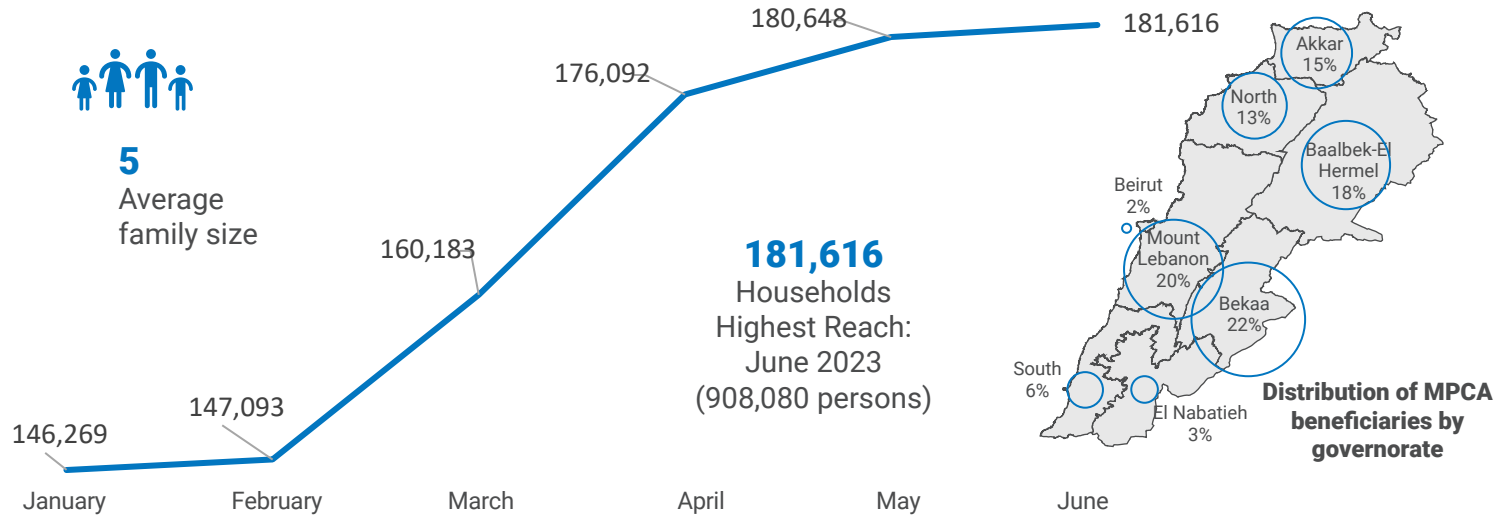
Analysis

Syrian Households Receiving Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in 2023



Multi-sectoral situation update:

During the second quarter of 2023, the economic situation in Lebanon continued to deteriorate, leading to a significant decline in purchasing power for families. The Lebanese Pound remained volatile, causing soaring inflation rates. In June 2023, the annual inflation rate reached a record high of 260 per cent compared to June 2022, the highest level since comparable records began in 2018. The cost of living, as measured by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), has been continuously rising until April 2023. The SMEB increased in the second quarter of the year in average as compared to the first quarter however it slightly decreased from LBP 27,214,894 in April to 24,925,064 in May. Since the beginning of 2023, food SMEB have increased by 94 per cent (between January and May 2023), and since the start of the crisis in October 2019 by around 4,600 per cent, or 467-fold. This is impacting the ability of vulnerable families to meet survival needs, resorting to harmful coping mechanisms. Moreover, the escalating prices of water and limited access to it further exacerbate the situation, particularly affecting the most underprivileged groups. Compared to January 2021, the overall increase in the price of bottled water in Lebanon during the first six months of 2023 amounts to over 1,400 per cent in Lebanese pound and 135 per cent in USD value. For trucked water, the overall increase is over 1,500 per cent (15-folds) in Lebanese pounds and over 350 per cent in USD value during the same period.

In April and May 2023, the Lebanese Armed Forces Military (LAF) conducted raids, arrests, and deportations targeting refugee communities. These actions significantly impacted the psychosocial well-being of refugees, creating an atmosphere of fear and anxiety. These incidents coincided with the implementation of various restrictive measures by municipalities. The cumulative effect resulted in a decrease in attendance in some group activities and an overall reduction in the protection space available to refugees in Lebanon, particularly in April and May 2023. Gender disparities persist in the labor market, with women and girls being underrepresented in cash-for-work opportunities and facing limited employment opportunities overall. Disturbingly, gender-based violence is on the rise across all areas of Lebanon. Reports indicate an increase in sexual violence and harassment, particularly in workplaces such as farms, agricultural sites, and domestic housework employment. Additionally, child marriage, a continuous violation of child rights, has seen a concerning shift in the age of forced marriages, with girls as young as 12-13 being subjected to early marriages. Inter-communal relations in Lebanon have reached their lowest point since 2017, with negative perceptions between Syrians and Lebanese becoming more prevalent. The main drivers of tension include competition for lower-skilled jobs and access to vital services such as electricity, healthcare, and waste management. The latest UNDP-ARK perception survey from March 2023 reveals that 46 per cent of respondents reported negative inter-communal relations, compared to 34 per cent in April 2022 and 21 per cent in July 2018. This indicates that community relationships remain strained, with resource scarcity increasingly perceived as a driving factor for tensions.

The overall situation in Lebanon in the second quarter of 2023 continues to be marked by economic distress, limited access to essential services, deteriorating living conditions, and strained inter-communal relations. While finical resources are decreasing, it is becoming crucial to further prioritize life-saving services. Urgent and comprehensive efforts are needed to address these complex challenges and mitigate their impact on vulnerable populations.

1. Key achievements of the sector at the output level

During Q2 of 2023, regular unrestricted cash assistance strengthened 261,997 households' ability to meet basic needs (56.7% of the sector target for 2023). Among the targeted population groups, 181,616 displaced Syrian households (67% of those targeted), 70,538 vulnerable Lebanese households (50.9% of those targeted) and 9,843 Palestinian families received cash for basic needs. Partners that provided cash for basic needs in quarter two included DRC, OXFAM, DPNA, IRC, CONCERN, ISWA, Lebanese Red Cross, NRC, Mercy Corps, UNRWA, WFP and UNHCR. Partners providing support as per the BA sector recommendations, reported that the cash assistance had a positive impact on the recipients, mainly reducing tensions and stress between households' members and improved access to health care (June 2023, IRC Post Distribution Monitoring exercise).

• In addition , outside the LCRP vulnerable Lebanese families are supported through the Governments Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) scheme, financed through a World Bank Loan.

The value of regular assistance (including cash for basic needs and child focused social assistance) in the second quarter of 2023 totalled USD 19,286,465 across all LCRP population cohorts. During the quarter, most programmes targeting refugees were finally transitioned from LBP-only disbursement to a 'dual currency approach' (both LBP and dollars), given changes in the overall market alongside continuing exchange rate challenges. Meanwhile, cash assistance to Lebanese was previously shifted from LBP to USD disbursement. The USD value of assistance disbursed in LBP is calculated using agency specific exchange rates with their financial service providers.

In April 2023, the National Disability Allowance , which is a social grant targeting people with disabilities of all nationalities aged 18 to 28, was launched. The programme is jointly led by the Ministry of Social Affairs, UNICEF and ILO. The first payment to eligible individuals was in April 2023 and it is the first Social Grant implemented as part of the National Social Protection Strategy to roll out social cash assistance to the most vulnerable individuals. 18,878 individuals received support through this social grant during Q2.

As of June 2023, at least 12 NGOs signed data sharing agreement with the Ministry of Social Affairs or received referrals from the NPTP database, in order to increase coordination between humanitarian basic assistance partners outside government-led programmes and national social protection strategy. These agreements allowed NGOs to crosscheck their lists of Lebanese beneficiaries with the NPTP database, identifying which families are currently receiving cash support through the NPTP. Partners also received referrals from the NPTP database to identify and support vulnerable Lebanese families not covered by the government-led programme. In order to initiate this process, a letter should be sent to MoSA, addressing H.E. Minister of Social Affairs outlining the aim and objective of the program. It is still advised that the partner conduct their own verification of the referred families.
The Environmental Task Force (ETF) work with the Basic Assistance sector leads on reviewing the "Environmental Marker" rating system according to each type of activities implemented in the sector for 2023. The Environment Task Force (ETF) provided the sector and implementing partners all required information and established links to the MoE/ETS.
Only about 23 % of the sectors funding was secured in Q2 of the year. With competing priorities globally, the sector is still observing a drop in funding for 2023 .

2. KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

Due to expected decrease in funding linked to the on-going global context and prioritization, the coverage of regular multi-purpose cash assistance to vulnerable groups is expected to decline. Expected coverage of vulnerable displaced Syrian households throughout the year, based on confirmed funding among partners is not expected to exceed 65 per cent as compared to 73 per cent in 2022.
With the continuous rise in prices of goods and services in the market, amidst fluctuating exchange rates, the challenge of maintaining meaningful transfer values continues to remain one of the largest challenges facing the sector and partners. Regardless of the currency for disbursement, it has become increasingly difficult for partners to regularly update and increase transfer values. The latest recommendations from the Sector included $100 to cover non-food needs for a family of five. The majority of assisted families under the sector were only receiving around 25 per cent of that. Additionally, if partners under the sector are able to continue increasing transfer values. More attention needs to be paid to harmonize or align transfer values with regular and government-led social protection programmes.

During the second quarter of 2023, a total of 1,363 referrals were made to partners who offer support under the Basic Assistance Sector, but only 42 per cent of those referrals were accepted. Uptake of referrals to the Basic Assistance Sector remains a challenge due to how the sector targets those in need and the inability of key partners to consistently include those who have been referred. To address this issue, previous briefings were held with key sectors to clarify the challenges and explain shortcomings. That being said, the number of referrals to the Basic assistance Sector declined from around 2070 in Q1 2023. This in not linked to a decrease in needs, but rather can be interpreted as an effect of the several briefings held to increase awareness on the inability of key partners under the sector to accept referrals noticing that more than 95 per cent of the referrals are created and sent to UNHCR.

One of the main key challenges under the BA sector is the Lack of unified comprehensive social registry for Lebanese, which is definitely complicating targeting and coverage (pending on-going engagement between MoSA and the World Bank to advance a social registry and support access to other partners).

3. MID-YEAR REVIEW - KEY PRIORITIES/ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE DURATION

In the second quarter, efforts to enhance coordination between NGOs supporting vulnerable Lebanese and government-led programs, particularly the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP), were continued and strengthened. These initiatives will be further explored and reinforced in the coming months. Notably, several NGOs have signed an MOU with the MoSA and have been successful in crosschecking families and individuals to ensure there is no duplication with the NPTP. Other NGOs also received referrals of vulnerable Lebanese individuals who are not currently receiving assistance, as they fall just above the eligibility threshold within the NPTP database. The Ministry of Social Affairs is also working together with UNICEF and ILO, on the development of a sustainable fiscal, institutional, and legal framework for the programme.

As of the second quarter, almost all cash programming has been shifted to dollar or dual currency disbursement given changes in the overall market, and it is expected that remaining programs under the sector will follow in the third quarter. Partners have reported on a smooth transition with a reduction in tension and protection risks noted on the ground. Close coordination with partners, other relevant sectors, and the Cash Working Group will be maintained to discuss the topic and prioritize relevant actions.

In addition to regular monitoring of prices and markets affecting the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket, the sector will continue to focus on enhancing data and methodologies used to determine and recommend transfer values for multi-purpose cash assistance. Whilst the Sector awaits the results of the LVAP, this includes the development of an SMEB for the Lebanese population and strengthening the use of the ECMEN (economic capacity to meet basic needs), which has been incorporated to replace the income indicator in transfer value calculations.

In the upcoming quarter, further efforts to mainstream gender and address priority areas outlined in the BA sector work plan will be done with the gender and GBV risk mitigation focal point. Similar efforts will be done with the inter-sector mainstreaming focal points, and will be given high priority.

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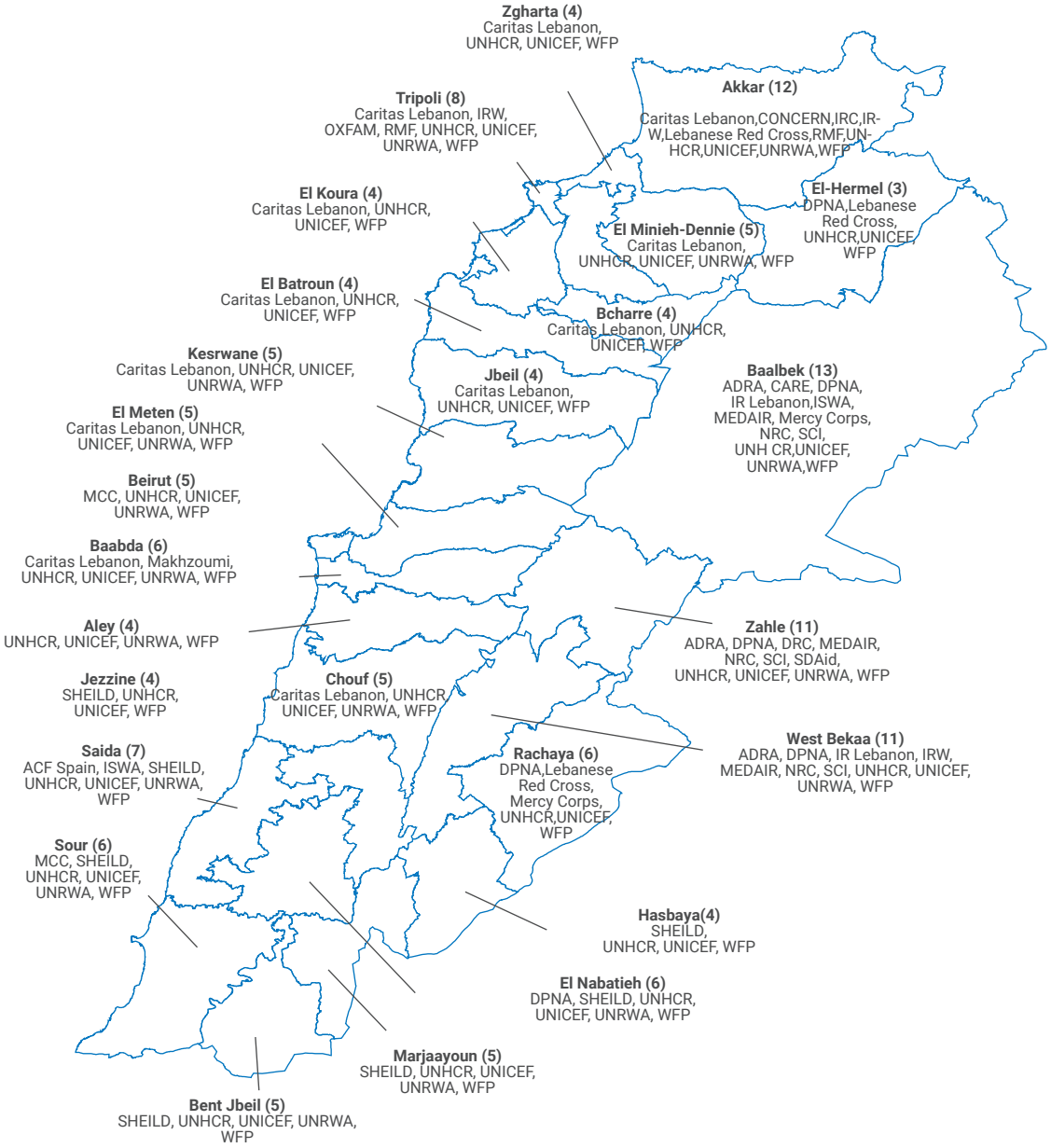
Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

4. Organizations per district

ACF Spain, ADRA, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, Chouf, CONCERN, DPNA, DRC, IR Lebanon, IRC, IRW, ISWA, Lebanese Red Cross, Makhzoumi, MCC, MEDAIR, Mercy Corps, NRC, OXFAM, RMF, SCI, SDAid, SHEILD, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP



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.

5. Case Study

Persons with disabilities are far more likely to be living in poverty than the rest of the population, with up to two-thirds of households with a person with disability living in the lowest-income quintile, compared with fewer than 3 percent of those in the two richest quintiles. In April 2023, the government together with ILO, and UNICEF announced the roll out of Lebanon's National Disability Allowance – Lebanon's first national programme that provides regular cash transfers for eligible persons with disabilities. As part of the National Disability Allowance, an estimated 20,000 youth aged 18–28 will now benefit from regular cash transfers of $40 a month for 12 months. The disability allowance is the first Social Grant to be implemented with EU funding to expand access to cash social assistance as part of the government's new National Social Protection Strategy, reaching recipients regardless of their nationality and complementing existing poverty-targeted social protection programmes.

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