LEBANON Response Plan

2024 Q1 Sector Dashboard

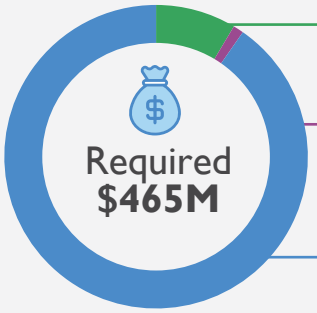
Basic Assistance

The first quarter of 2024 Basic Assistance sector dashboard summarizes the progress made by Basic Assistance sector partners involved in the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP), Identifies key challenges and priorities, and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Basic Assistance sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Strengthen the ability of poor and vulnerable households and individuals, including female-headed HHs, persons with disabilities and children, to meet their basic needs ; OUTCOME 2) strengthen the ability of populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies to secure additional basic needs; OUTCOME 3) Technical assistance to the national social assistance system is provided;

The Lebanon Response Plan is pending endorsement by the LRP Steering Committee. This dashboard is based on information reported by Basic Assistance sector partners operating under the sector strategy.

2024 Sector Funding Status

As of March 31st



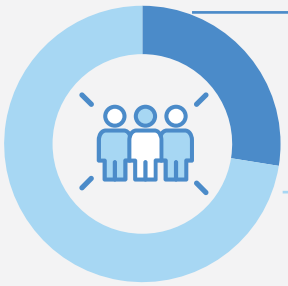
9% $40M
Total received
(since Jan-24)

1% $5M
Total carry over
(from 2023)

90%
Required
(ref. 2024 appeal)

2024 Population Reached

2,732,284
People in Need

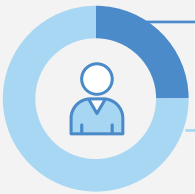


920,078 38%
Reached

2,421,426
Targeted
Male **1,197,000**
Female **1,224,078**

2024 Population Figures by Cohort

1,159,289
Lebanese
individuals in need



308,044 33%
Reached

927,431
Targeted
Male **445,167**
Female **482,264**

1,350,000
Displaced
Syrians in need

1,275,000
Targeted
Male **637,500**
Female **637,500**

580,355 46%
Reached

23,026
Palestinian Refugees from Syria (individuals)

22,993 100%
Reached

23,026
Targeted
Male **11,099**
Female **11,927**

149,000
Palestine Refugees in Lebanon
(individuals)

2,796 2%
Reached

145,000
Targeted
Male **73,080**
Female **71,920**

50,969
Migrants
(individuals)

0 0%
Reached

50,969
Targeted
Male **30,503**
Female **20,466**

*For more information, please contact: Hadi Haddad at **haddadh@unhcr.org***

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Progress Against Targets

OUTCOME 1: Strengthen the ability of poor and vulnerable households and individuals, including female-headed HHs, persons with disabilities and children, to meet their basic needs

# of households reached with regular cash assistance for basic needs (Syr, Leb, Pal)

203,290 | 549,281

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

116,071 | 255,000

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

76,151 | 231,858

# of Palestinians from Syria households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs

9,197

# of Palestinians from Lebanon households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs

693 | 36,250

# of Other households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs

1,178

# of individuals with specific vulnerabilities receiving cash assistance through focused programmes (Small Scale)

4,105 | 4,500

# of PWDs receiving social grants (National Disability Allowance)

24,387 | 32,000

10,895,750

Total USD amount disbursed as regular cash transfer (Syr, Leb, Pal)

OUTCOME 2: STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY OF POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL HAZARDS AND EMERGENCIES TO SECURE ADDITIONAL BASIC NEEDS

# of vulnerable households receiving seasonal cash assistance

985 | 123,964

USD Disbursed in seasonal assistance

86,040

# of affected households receiving in-kind seasonal assistance

12,905 | 123,964

# of vulnerable households receiving emergency cash assistance for basic needs

13,858 | 56,839

USD Disbursed in Emergency cash assistance

486,895

# of affected households receiving in-kind Emergency assistance

6,466 | 11,666

*For more information, please contact: Hadi Haddad at **haddadh@unhcr.org***

LEBANON Response Plan

2024 Q1 Sector Dashboard

Basic Assistance

1. Analysis of Achievements of the Sector at the Output Level

During the first quarter of 2024, regular unrestricted and unconditional cash grants strengthened 203,290 households' ability to meet basic needs (non-food), achieving 38 per cent of the sector target for 2024. This represents a significant decrease compared to the first quarter of 2023, when 63% of the target was reached. Among the targeted population groups, 116,071 displaced Syrian households (46% of those targeted), 76,151 vulnerable Lebanese households (33% of those targeted) and 9,890 Palestinian families (54% females, 46% males) received cash for basic needs.

The National Disability Allowance Programme (NDA) has expanded its age eligibility to cover around 27,000 children and youth with a disability (67% males, 33% females) aged 15-30 years old (born in 1994-2009) including Lebanese and non-Lebanese population with monthly social grants of USD 40. The National Child Grant as part of the National Social Protection Strategy is one of the main indicators under the first Outcome of the sector that did not start yet due to funding constraints.

Additionally, social assistance focused programmes provided monthly cash grants to 4,100 individuals with specific vulnerabilities. This assistance included 1,201 displaced Syrians, 423 Lebanese, 290 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS), and 2,191 Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL).

The overall value of the cash disbursed as regular assistance (including cash for basic needs, social grants targeting specific vulnerabilities and the National Disability Allowance) in the first quarter of 2024 totalled USD 10,895,750 across all Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) population cohorts. All the assistance continued to be disbursed to beneficiaries in US Dollars (USD).

In Q1 of 2024, only 985 households were able to meet their additional seasonal needs through seasonal cash grants under Output 2.1, as the winter season came to an end. Among the beneficiaries were 119 displaced Syrian households, 860 vulnerable Lebanese households and 6 PRL households. After the discontinuation of major winter assistance in 2023 , the gap persists regarding the inability to support households with winter specific cash assistance due to lack of funding. The seasonal cash assistance provided in quarter one totalled to USD 86,040.

Escalation of Hostilities in the South:

During quarter one, concerted efforts were made to enhance coordination among sector partners responding to the escalating hostilities at the southern Lebanese borders. These efforts aimed to align interventions with a unified guidance note, focusing on prioritizing Basic Assistance (BA) activities and facilitating timely and efficient distribution of core relief items and emergency multipurpose cash assistance to families affected by the ongoing conflict, in both border areas and urban settings, encompassing both inside and outside collective shelters. As this approach is newly incorporated in the LRP, and under the BA sector strategy by Embedding the emergency response under outputs 2.1 for Emergency cash assistance, and 2.2 for emergency in-kind assistance; it aims to address the emerging basic needs arising from the conflict and to provide support to vulnerable families dealing with additional expenses or livelihood losses.

In response to the escalation of hostilities in the South, the Basic Assistance sector partners have responded by distributing emergency core relief items to 6,466 households in Bekaa, South, and Nabatiyeh governorates, while also providing a one-time emergency cash transfer to over 18,600 vulnerable Lebanese households (approximately 84,000 individuals) registered in the MoSA social safety net databases but not presently receiving assistance, across all seven districts of South and Nabatieh governorates.

In addition, sector partners provided 5,315 vulnerable non-Lebanese households with children in Southern Lebanon, who were not receiving multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), with USD 100 per household, plus an additional USD 50 per child with disabilities. However, the effectiveness of this response relies on the capacities, budgets, and resource reallocations of partnering organizations. Existing funding gaps and constraints pose significant risks of leaving the affected population without crucial support for survival and well-being.

Urgent attention and additional resources are imperative to address these pressing needs and vulnerabilities, especially considering the potential for escalation at the southern borders or the prolonged current conflict situation, which may further exacerbate the needs.

In addition, 12,905 households were able to cover their additional needs with in-kind seasonal assistance, including mattresses, blankets, winter clothing, heaters, jerry cans and other essential non-food items. The distribution included 34,959 blankets, 3,312 solar lamps, 393 heaters, 10,051 clothing kits 18,407 mattresses and 21,381 other types of non-food items.

[1] The National Disability Allowance Programme (NDA) is implemented by MOSA with financial and technical support from UNICEF and ILO for its implementation. It relies on existing databases from UNHCR and UNRWA for the non-Lebanese.

[2] This was due to the absence of winter cash assistance which UNHCR had been providing in previous years, due to limited funds and resulting in a significant gap in overall winter coverage

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Prioritization and Localization:

The sector's efforts are focused on supporting emergency response in the south and border areas by prioritizing humanitarian needs identified by the Disaster Risk Management and Disaster Risk Reduction Units (DRM/DRR). Sector partners are responding by distributing core relief items to people affected by the conflict both inside and outside collective shelters. In border areas, there is an increasing demand on cash assistance.

The number of Basic Assistance actors in the South region has been limited, with only few partners operating. Despite this limitation, the BA sector on both the national and field level especially in the South, has maintained regular coordination with partners including local NGOs through monthly and ad-hoc Basic Assistance Working Group (BAWG) meetings. These meetings ensure coordinated activities, facilitate open communication, and provide necessary updates and guidance to all actors regularly.
Since the onset of the conflict in the South, many local and international NGOs have sought guidance and support from the sector to address emerging needs. In response, the BA sector, at both national and regional levels, has kept partners informed about key developments through bilateral consultations and regional working groups. This approach ensures that all partners receive the necessary information and support to effectively respond to the crisis.

CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The coverage of regular multi-purpose cash assistance to displaced Syrians significantly declined in the first quarter of 2024, reaching 116,071 households, compared to 159,943 households in the first quarter of 2023. This coverage is expected to further decrease due to reduced funding linked to the ongoing global context and prioritization. Based on confirmed funding among partners, the expected coverage of vulnerable Syrian households throughout the year is not expected to exceed 65 percent, the same as in 2023. This decline in coverage is coupled with inadequate transfer values, leading to a deteriorating impact of cash programs under the Sector.

With the continuous rise in prices of goods and services in the market, the challenge of maintaining meaningful transfer values continues to remain one of the largest challenges facing the sector and partners. It has become difficult for partners to maintain their caseloads and to regularly update and increase transfer values. The latest recommendations from the sector included USD 100 to cover non-food needs for a family of five. The majority of assisted families under the sector were only receiving around 40 per cent of the recommended amount, which is not sufficient to address the increasing vulnerabilities among targeted population. Meanwhile, needs continue to rise amid the fluctuation of purchasing power of beneficiaries who receive cash assistance on a monthly basis. Furthermore, the escalation of hostilities in the south has triggered significant economic repercussions, especially in commodity markets, leading to a noticeable increase in prices and impacting the overall cost of living.

Escalation of Hostilities in the South:

The conflict at the Lebanese southern border has generated profound challenges, affecting both displaced individuals and those unable to move from high-risk areas, resulting in significant economic repercussions for vulnerable individuals and groups, particularly within commodity markets and causing a notable rise in prices, thereby impacting the overall cost of living. Urgent requirements for essential relief items, including pillows, mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, heaters/stoves, and mats, have been identified by local authorities in Tyr, Zahrani, Nabatiyeh, and South.
The conflict has placed immense pressure on partners to respond with limited resources, exacerbating the challenges of reallocating budgets and prioritizing responses in the South amid escalating needs.

The BA sector, through collaboration with stakeholders including DRR and DRM units, has largely stabilized the situation regarding Core Relief Items (CRIs) in the South, although some specific items like pillows were not widely distributed. Demand remains for items such as kitchen sets and solar lamps, with new summer needs identified (cover sheets, rechargeable fans). Despite challenges in accurately identifying vulnerable individuals, especially in border areas and urban settings where many have lost their livelihoods, particularly in agriculture, there's a growing demand for cash assistance. This demand stems from its ability to cover basic needs including for rent, food, and healthcare. Despite limited resources, efforts are underway to prioritize assistance to those most in need, including female heads of households and underage children.

During the first quarter of 2024, a total of 338 referrals were made to partners who offer support under the Basic Assistance Sector, with only 40.5 per cent of those referrals were accepted (137 cases). It is significantly declined when compared to the first quarter of 2023 where 1,083 referrals were done but with only 37% of those were accepted (400 cases). 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. This decline 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.

During quarter one, a gender and GBV risk mitigation tip sheet and gender brief analysis for the sector was endorsed. A gender action plan for the sector was also endorsed and integrated into the Annual Work Plan.

*For more information, please contact: Hadi Haddad at **haddadh@unhcr.org***

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

During the second quarter, following the emergency response guidelines developed by the sector to guide partners responding to the escalating hostilities at the Lebanese southern borders, and after several rounds of consultations among field and core group colleagues, as well as various sectors, the sector will finalize an updated version to be disseminated to partners in early May 2024, ensuring alignment and coherence in response efforts.

Along with continuing to regularly monitor prices and markets as they impact the Survival/Minimum Expenditure Basket, the sector will continue to work on strengthening data and methods used to define and recommend transfer values for multi-purpose cash assistance. This includes strengthening the use of the ECMEN (economic capacity to meet basic needs) which was incorporated to replace the income indicator as part of transfer value calculations. To facilitate this, the sector, through work done with the Core Group has developed a Multi-purpose Cash Guidance note to guide partners aiming to have multi-purpose cash interventions. Recognizing that Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) under the Basic Assistance sector covers non-food needs exclusively, efforts will be prioritized to collaborate closely with the Food Security sector to further direct cash actors implementing under both BA and FS sector, ensuring coherence and synergy in response efforts.

Under the Outcome 3, the BA sector will work closely with the Ministry of Social Affairs to strengthen the referral and deduplication protocols between the BA cash actors aiming to support Vulnerable Lebanese and social assistance systems.

As a follow up on the efforts to mainstream gender and GBV, the sector will tackle related priority areas included in the annual work plan in close coordination with the inter-sector mainstreaming focal point.

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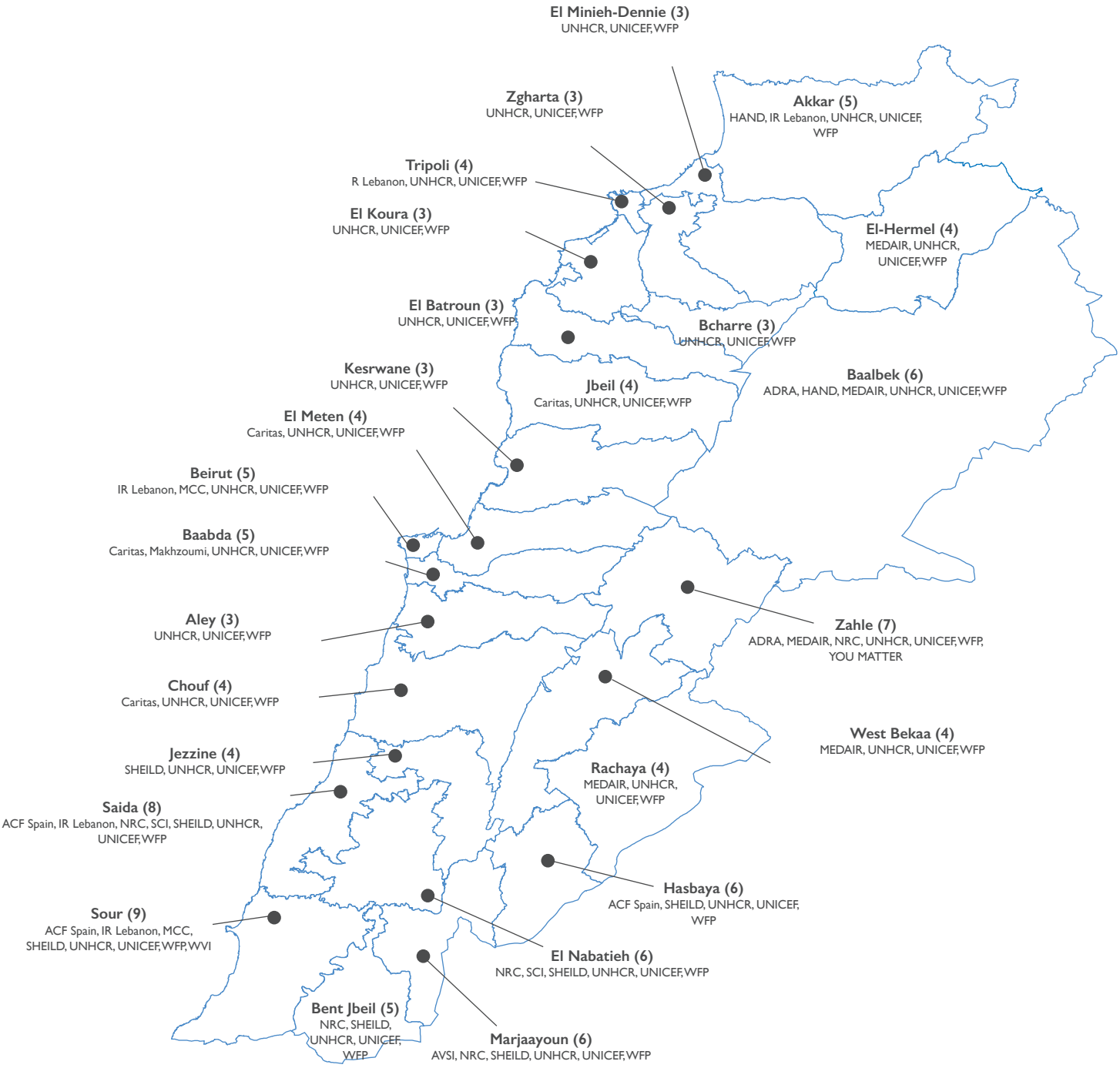

All 18 organizations mentioned below are contributing to the achievement of Health Outcomes prioritized under the LRP and reporting under ActivityInfo:

ACF Spain, ADRA, AVSI, Caritas, HAND, IR Lebanon, Makhzoumi, MCC, MEDAIR, NRC, Organization, SCI, SHEILD, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WVI, YOU MATTER

For more information, please contact: Hadi Haddad at ***haddadh@unhcr.org***