Lebanon Cash Working Group Situation Report #3

Reporting period: 16 May to 30 June 2026

838,685
People reached with Emergency MPCA at least once since March 2026

71,000
People Reached with the Emergency Disability Benefit

3,017
Families reached with one-off Emergency Cash for Shelter

12,139
People Reached with Emergency Protection Cash

Situation Overview

During the reporting period, displacement declined as returns accelerated, although conditions remained volatile and uneven. OCHA reported that the number of internally displaced people in collective shelters fell from approximately 131,200 people across 644 shelters on 15 June to 59,700 people by 25 June, while more than 523,000 people had begun returning. Many households remained displaced outside collective shelters, including with host families or in rented accommodation. Insecurity, unexploded ordnance, damaged housing, disrupted services and limited livelihoods continued to constrain safe and sustainable returns, with some families moving between displacement and return locations.

The Revised Flash Appeal, launched on 5 June 2026, extended the response through August and sought USD 639.9 million to assist 1.4 million people. The MPCA target increased to 727,000 people, while requirements increased to USD 134 million.

Cash remained appropriate where markets continued to function, but household access to essential goods weakened because of inflation, income losses and displacement-related costs. Nationally, 88 per cent of monitored markets remained operational, although conflict-affected areas continued to face supply, access and infrastructure disruptions. Displaced and returning households also faced additional costs linked to rent, transport, repairs, utilities and replacing lost or damaged items, reinforcing the need for flexible and adequately funded cash assistance.

Emergency Response Highlights

During June, 18 partners delivered emergency MPCA through the Government-led Shock-Responsive Safety Nets targeting conflict affected Lebanese (also referred to as Batch C). Support for non-Lebanese also continued in May and June targeting displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees and Migrants. Subsequent cycles were moving from blanket assistance toward prioritized support incorporating geographical and vulnerability criteria. The SRSN approach expected to commence in the next report period combines vulnerability-based, categorical and geographic criteria, using household vulnerability, real-time monitoring, conflict-impact and self-registration data.

The LCWG core team continued refining the emergency basket in light of rising costs. Funding constraints, however, limited the scope for increasing transfer values or sustaining multiple rounds. Partners were also requested to strengthen ActivityInfo reporting through the separate regular and emergency reporting forms.

To date, cash and voucher assistance delivered across the response to all nationalities through the Cash Working Group, Protection, Food Security, Nutrition and Shelter Sectors are as follows:

To date, emergency cash assistance delivered across the response includes:

- **838,685** people received at least one month of Emergency Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)
- **71,000** people benefited from the Emergency Disability Benefit.
- **12,139** people received Emergency Protection Cash Assistance.
- **7,937** people were reached with unrestricted cash assistance to meet food needs.
- **3,017** displaced families received a one-off emergency shelter cash grant.
- **941** Pregnant & Breastfeeding Women and Children (in 878 families) received cash for nutrition assistance

Regular Programmes

698,591

People reached with recurrent MPCA across all population groups.

USD 53.9

million disbursed since January 2026

8 partner Organizations

delivering regular MPCA

25,235 people reached with social disability grants

across all population groups

Other Key Developments

Market Functionality

WFP monitoring confirmed that cash remained broadly feasible, although market functionality varied significantly in conflict-affected areas. Around 80 per cent of contracted shops in Nabatieh, half in the South and nearly 70 per cent in Beirut's southern suburbs were not fully operational. Baalbek-Hermel showed stronger recovery, with 98 per cent of shops functional in April–May. Nationally, 14 per cent of retail markets had sustained conflict-related damage, while food shortages and supply constraints were concentrated in the South and Nabatieh. Access to financial services remained high, with only 3 per cent of surveyed households reporting no access to banks, ATMs or money-transfer providers.

SRSN Targeting Approach

Following the conclusion of the initial blanket-targeting phase, the Shock-Responsive Safety Net (SRSN) will transition to targeted assistance using a combination of vulnerability, categorical, and geographic criteria. Household eligibility will be determined using MoSA self-registration data, vulnerability information, WFP monitoring data, and conflict-impact analysis, with higher coverage allocated to the most affected areas. Priority categories include single-parent households, households headed by older persons, and households affected by disability. Registrations are subject to data quality checks, deduplication, and verification against AMAN/DAEM records, municipal databases, and other humanitarian assistance datasets to minimize duplication and ensure assistance reaches those most in need. In parallel, MoSA is developing an Integrated Beneficiary Registry to consolidate household profiles and assistance histories, further strengthening coordination, targeting, and duplication controls.

Emergency Basket

A draft proposal for a temporary emergency displacement top-up was shared with the LCWG Core Group and sector coordinators. The analysis confirmed that the SMEB remained an appropriate benchmark but proposed an additional USD 61 per household for six months to cover displacement-related costs, including basic household items and an inflation-adjusted rent component. This would raise the April 2026 reference value from USD 563 to USD 624 per household. The proposal will be shared with the wider LCWG during the next reporting period.

Sustaining Regular MPCA

As the response continues, it is essential to sustain both emergency cash assistance and regular MPCA under the 2026 Lebanon Response Plan. The two modalities serve distinct but complementary purposes. Emergency MPCA addresses immediate needs arising from conflict, displacement and sudden loss of income or assets, while regular MPCA provides predictable support to households facing chronic poverty, protection risks, persistent expenditure gaps and limited prospects for self-reliance. To prevent duplication, a household cannot receive regular MPCA and Emergency MPCA for the same period and basic-needs gap.

Continued donor support is therefore critical to maintain recurrent assistance for the most vulnerable refugees, and other population groups. Transfer values are informed by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket, market trends and household expenditure gaps. Regular MPCA is provided monthly at USD 20 per person, capped at five household members, plus USD 45 per household, for a maximum of USD 145 per household per month. Assistance is planned for up to six months and may be renewed based on continued vulnerability, evolving needs and available resources.

Eight partners currently report the delivery of regular MPCA: WFP, UNHCR, UNRWA, UNICEF, Mercy Corps, Caritas, Banin Association and Solidarités International. Despite its central role in preventing further deterioration in household welfare and reducing harmful coping strategies, regular MPCA remains severely underfunded well into the third quarter of 2026, with the Lebanon Aid Tracking system reporting funding coverage of only 6 per cent.

Building Evidence on CVA

Emergency Rapid Needs Assessment: Outside Collective Shelters

An Emergency Rapid Needs Assessment (ERNA) covering 399 cadastres and 1,694 key informant interviews identified significant humanitarian needs among an estimated 582,529 displaced persons residing outside collective shelters. Findings indicate that financial constraints are a primary driver of vulnerability, with rent support or cash for rent emerging as the most frequently reported priority need (84 per cent), followed by food (71 per cent), general cash assistance (56 per cent), household items (54 per cent), and health care (48 per cent). Markets and financial service providers remain largely accessible, with widespread availability of digital payment and cash-out services, supporting the continued feasibility of cash-based interventions. However, rising living costs, liquidity shortages, transportation expenses, and distance to financial service providers continue to constrain access to assistance. The assessment further highlights strong demand for temporary cash assistance and cash-for-work opportunities, alongside a clear preference for cash or mixed cash and in-kind modalities, underscoring the critical role of cash assistance in enabling displaced households to meet their basic needs while preserving choice and dignity. Results reflect cadaster-level reporting and should not be interpreted as household-level prevalence.

Digital Needs Assessment: Through the Eyes of the Community

Oxfam's April–May 2026 Digital Needs Assessment, covering 885 households (4,616 individuals) across Lebanon, highlights a widespread affordability crisis affecting displaced, returned and host-community households alike. Livelihoods and food emerged as the primary needs across all population groups, with 74.8 per cent of households reporting a need for cash assistance. Respondents identified cash support as critical to meeting essential expenditures including rent, food, transportation, medication, cooking gas and other household costs. The assessment further found that 32.3 per cent of households were relying on debt to meet basic needs, while more than two-thirds of returnee households also required cash support, indicating that return does not necessarily correspond to economic recovery. Findings underscore the continued importance of flexible cash assistance, complemented by protection and referral services, while highlighting the need to strengthen accountability mechanisms, as 69.3 per cent of surveyed households were unaware of available complaints channels.

Post Distribution Monitoring

UNHCR published its 2025 Post Distribution Monitoring Report which finds that UNHCR's Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance Programme (MCAP) continues to play a critical role in helping vulnerable Syrian refugee households in Lebanon meet their essential needs and mitigate protection risks. Based on post-distribution monitoring of assistance delivered between April and October 2025, nearly all assisted households reported improved living conditions (99 per cent) and reduced stress levels (98 per cent). Cash assistance was primarily used to cover food, rent, health care, water, and hygiene expenses, enabling households to prioritize their most urgent needs while preserving dignity and choice. The report also highlights a reduction in harmful coping strategies among assisted families, including lower reliance on debt, child labour, and other negative coping mechanisms. Despite these positive outcomes, rising living costs and limited funding meant that the monthly transfer value covered only around 28 per cent of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) for an average household, underscoring the continued vulnerability of refugee families and the importance of sustained cash assistance.