



Basic Assistance 2020 Quarter 3 Dashboard

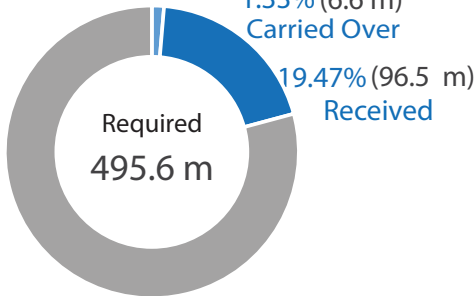


Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

The quarterly dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response 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) Ensure that In-kind assistance in support of populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies is provided; OUTCOME 3) Develop National Social Safety Net Strategy.



2020 Funding Status in USD as of 30 September 2020

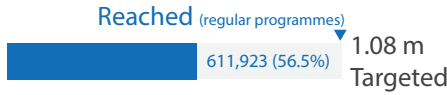


Programs are funded by a combination of flexible/unearmarked funds and funds specifically earmarked to the sector

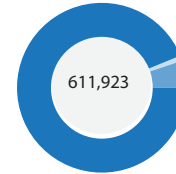


Targeted Population groups

1.53 m (People in Need)



Population reached by cohort



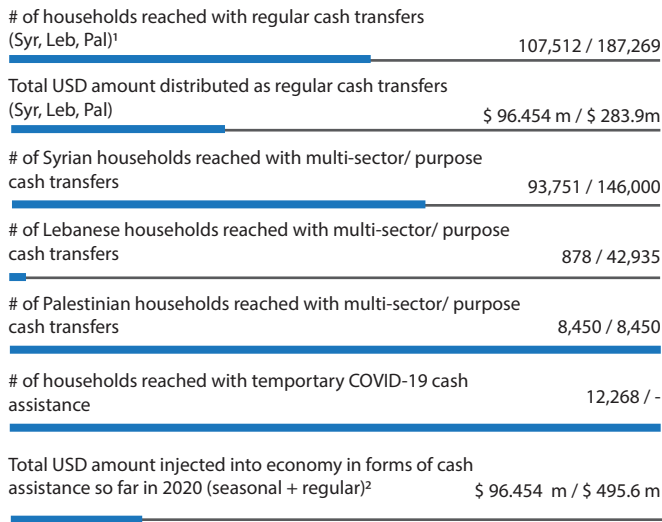
Syrian	91.4%
Palestine Refugees	7.8%
Lebanese	0.8%

Progress against targets



Key Achievements

reached / target



0%

100%

¹ Includes UNICEF child focused cash transfer

² COVID-19 cash assistance total USD amount is excluded



Outcomes

OUTCOME 1:
% population that is severely vulnerable²

% of assisted severely economically vulnerable households report being able to meet their basic survival needs³

OUTCOME 2:
% of assisted households affected by seasonal shocks who are able to meet their additional basic survival needs⁴

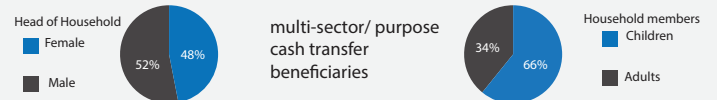
OUTCOME 3:
National Social Safety Net Strategy endorsed

	LCRP 2017/2020 Baseline				Sept. 2020 Current				2020 Target			
	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL
OUTCOME 1	53%	10%	89%	65%	75% 82%	-	-	-	50%	10%	89%	65%
OUTCOME 2	90%	-	90%	-	20%*	-	-	-	90%	-	90%	-
OUTCOME 3	90%	-	-	-	92%	-	-	-	100%	100%	100%	100%
	No				No				Yes			

* WFP July2020 Multi-Purpose Cash Outcome Monitoring. The figure represents the proportion of surveyed families that had expenditures equal to or above the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket



Age/Gender Breakdown of MPC (SYR) Beneficiaries



Analysis

Syrian Households Receiving Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) in 2020



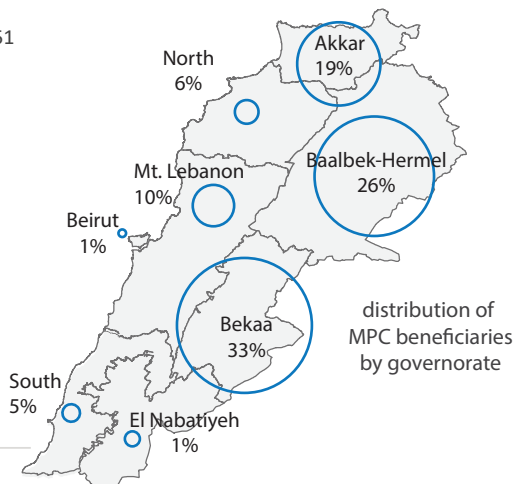
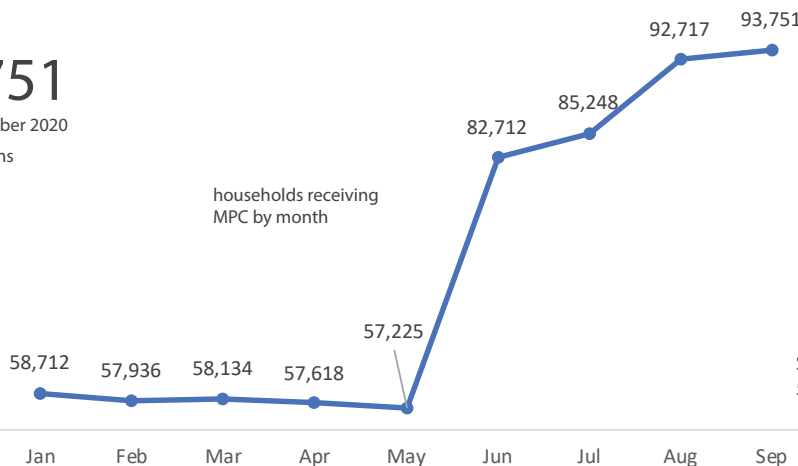
93,751

Highest Reach: September 2020
468,755 persons



6.4

Average family size





ANALYSIS OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT

During the third quarter of 2020, 118,615 families across the different population cohorts (109,742 Syrian, 4,390 Lebanese, 7,995 Palestinians from Syria and 40 Palestinians from Lebanon) benefited from interventions under the Basic Assistance Sector. This is an increase from the 95,613 families assisted by mid-year. Programmes aim to improve families' access to goods and services available in the local market to meet their basic needs. The interventions that contributed to this included regular monthly Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), child-focused cash grants and temporary cash assistance to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Economically vulnerable households receive a monthly cash grant through MPCA to help them meet their basic needs. In the third quarter of 2020, 93,751 displaced Syrian families, 878 Lebanese, 7,995 Palestinian Refugees from Syria and 40 Palestinian refugees from Lebanon received cash assistance through MPCA. For Syrians, this constituted 36 per cent of the economically vulnerable population, while for Lebanese most of the poor population remains unassisted through MPCA, with current assistance covering less than one per cent of those in need. MPCA for Palestinian refugees from Syria follows a blanket approach where all families are targeted and covered with MPCA.

Families that have specific vulnerabilities, specifically with regards to children, can benefit from child-focused cash grants, in addition to protection services, through UNICEF's Integrated Child Wellbeing Programme. A total of 3,723 families received cash grants through this programme.

Due to the increased needs and vulnerabilities brought upon by the COVID-19 outbreak, un-assisted vulnerable families were targeted for temporary cash assistance. In August 2020, around 12,000 displaced Syrian families (previously unassisted with regular cash assistance) were targeted by UNHCR to receive temporary (3 months) cash assistance due to increased vulnerability brought on by the pandemic.

Prior to October 2019, families were receiving 260,000LBP per month through MPCA. This value was based on a 2014 Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) which outlines the basic needs and related expenses for a refugees families' survival in Lebanon. To account for loss in purchasing power and inflation brought about by the country's economic deterioration and subsequent devaluation of the national currency, agencies have been able to increase MPCA transfer values to reach 400,000LBP/family/month¹.

Cash assistance through the Sector totaled to \$92,707,260 from January to September 2020, which was provided through direct cash transfers to vulnerable families for use in the local market and thus injected into the local economy. This includes all regular and temporary cash assistance.



CHALLENGES

The continuing worsening of the economic situation in the country has had inevitable consequences on the vulnerable populations that the Basic Assistance sector serves. This has led to challenges in both the overall context of the sector as well as on the operational and programmatic level.

The 2020 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian refugees (VASyR) estimates that 88% of Syrian families in Lebanon are living in extreme poverty, compared to 55% in 2019. While the needs of vulnerable people have increased, the response to these needs through regular multi-purpose cash grants could not be extended proportionally due to insufficient funding. In addition, observations from the field have shown that even with some agencies' expansion in caseloads since the beginning of the year, and the increase in transfer values, families still struggle to meet their basic needs without resorting to negative coping mechanisms. The need to assess the appropriateness of the current transfer value and provide recommendations for meaningful assistance relies on revising the SMEB to reflect current needs and prices of key commodities and services.

Gaps in information related to the needs and vulnerability levels of Lebanese at the household level remain, although many partners have undertaken specific research to provide more evidence. This is particularly concerning as rates of extreme poverty in Lebanon rise, reaching 22 per cent compared to eight per cent in 2019². With such a large portion of the host community in need, coupled with gaps in assistance, tensions between refugees and Lebanese are increasing.

These tensions have, for example, materialized at ATMs across the country as refugees redeem their assistance. Tensions at ATM were higher during the second quarter and decreased but still persisted in Q3. Strains on the banking sector and the deteriorating economic situation are exacerbating the already existing negative perceptions of assistance to refugees as access to jobs and cash remain key tension drivers. This places beneficiaries at risk of abuse and exploitation. Several partners have begun ensuring partner staff presence at specific ATMs in an effort to monitor but also control tensions and crowds. By having physical presence ATM, partner staff are not only able to monitor and record tensions, but also ensure that persons using ATMs are abiding by public health measures, including safe social distancing. This has been viewed, especially by the refugee community, as a very positive action and has helped beneficiaries feel safer while redeeming assistance. Additionally, agencies with large caseloads have been staggering the release of assistance and subsequent communication to refugees in an effort to minimize crowding at ATMs by spreading the disbursement of assistance over a longer period of time.

Specific local lockdown and movement restriction measures have continued to be in place in Q3 throughout the country in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak. These restrictive measures cause potential challenges for beneficiaries, making it more difficult and riskier to reach ATMs. Partners have adopted tailored communication messages when informing families of the assistance disbursement, particularly for families that reside in areas effected by specific movement restrictions in order to ensure families are aware of measures that are in place.

¹ The increase the MPCA transfer value was made possible through negotiations on preferential exchange rates with financial service providers.

² World Bank (April 2020), Targeting Poor Households in Lebanon, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/factsheet/2020/04/21/targeting-poor-households-in-lebanon>



While partners have scaled up cash programmes to meet increasing needs, gaps remain across the population cohorts with a large number of unassisted vulnerable families. Maintaining regular assistance through MPCA is a key priority to ensure that families continue to be supported during this difficult period. With the winter season coming up, already struggling and vulnerable families are expected to face even more hardship, as adverse weather may have potential negative consequences on living conditions and as job opportunities become even more scarce. Winter support through the Basic Assistance sector is provided through both cash and in-kind assistance. Mapping of planning winter activities is a key priority in the first month of Q4 as partners plan to roll out winter assistance throughout the remainder of the year. Economically vulnerable families that do not receive regular assistance throughout the year are usually prioritized to receive winter cash assistance. Distribution of in-kind assistance follows a needs-based approach where families living in specific geographic regions most effected by adverse weather are targeted.

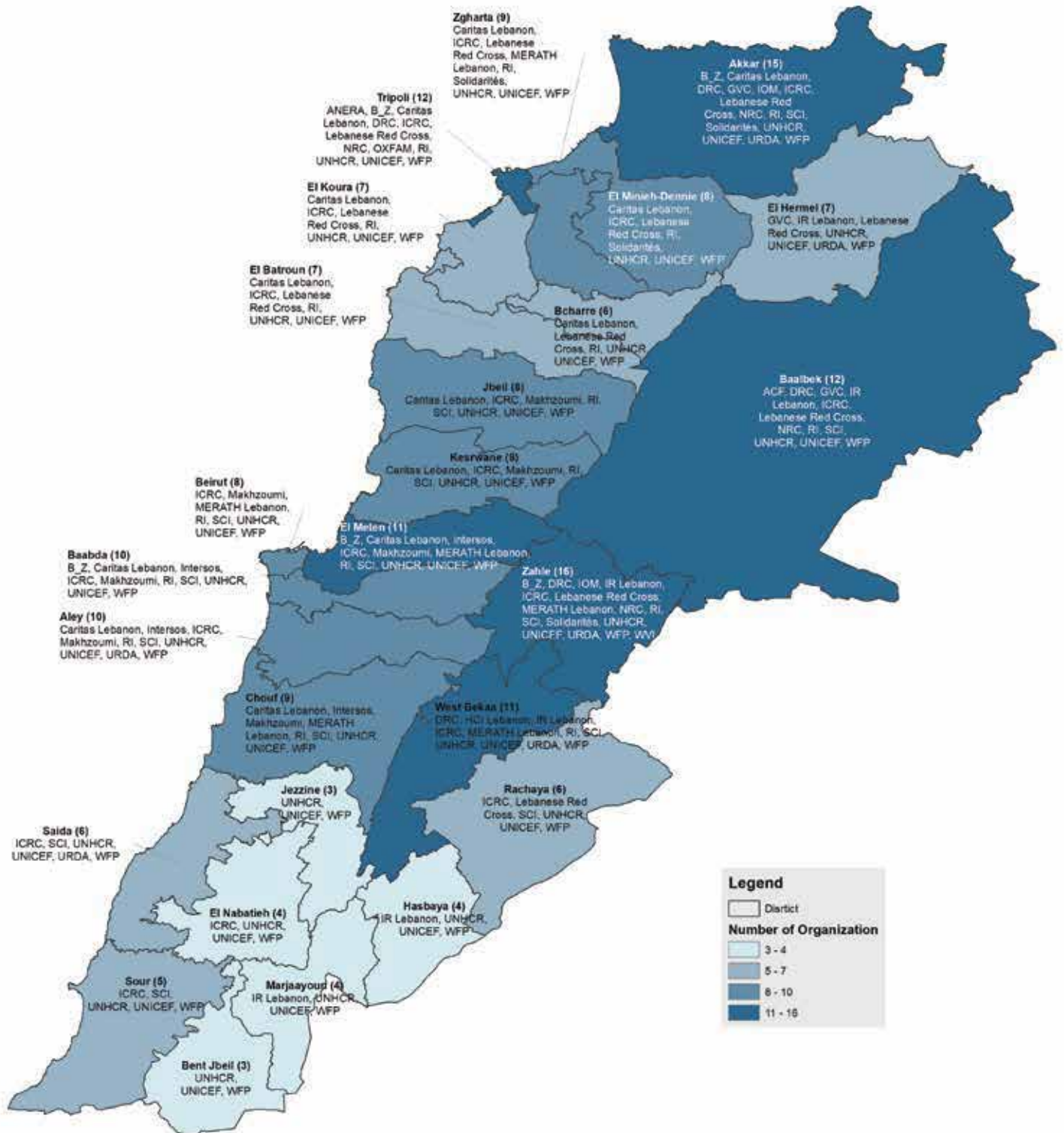
With the data collection from the 2020 VASyR completed in September, two priorities for the coming quarter emerge. Firstly, the Sector will pay close attention to results of this assessment to determine the population in need among the Syrian refugees as well as to better understand their overall socio-economic situation. The second priority linked to this assessment relates to targeting. The main targeting mechanism under the Sector is the econometric model used to predict expenditure and poverty levels for Syrian refugee families. Each year, this econometric model is re-calibrated using the data that comes in from the annual VASyR. Consultations with the Basic Assistance Working Group are planned for the next quarter as the results for the targeting exercise become available. Discussions will center around prioritization of the population in need and operationalization of the results of eligibility provided through the econometric model.

Throughout the second half of the third quarter, several consultations were held with Basic Assistance partners and stakeholders around the Sector strategy for the 2021 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan update. The next month will focus on finalizing the 2021 sector strategy, theory of change and log frame, taking into consideration lessons learned from 2020, field and national level priorities for 2021, and emerging trends identified in the current context.



Organizations per district

ACF, ANERA, B&Z, Caritas Lebanon, DRC, GVC, HCI Lebanon, ICRC, Intersos, IOM, IR Lebanon, Lebanese Red Cross, Makhzoumi, MERATH Lebanon, NRC, OXFAM, RI, SCI, Solidarités, 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.