LCRP partners are working together to monitor and analyse the impact of the current operational environment in Lebanon and its effect on service delivery and protection risks. This analysis is used by LCRP partners at national and field level to continuously adapt existing interventions based on needs and to put in place sector-specific mitigation and preparedness measures.

By the end of the 4th quarter, the LCRP remained underfunded, leaving major gaps in vulnerable populations’ access to basic survival needs and services and making it increasingly difficult to mitigate tensions within communities.

**AVAILABLE***

$1.69B

$1.45 billion received in 2020 plus $246 million carry over/ funding received in 2019

**APPEAL**

$2.67B

The LCRP $2.67 billion appeal was calculated based on needs. LCRP partners appealed for a total of $2.2 billion in 2020

**TOTAL APPEAL**

$2.67B

63% received in 2020 for 2020 projects
37% carry-over/
9% received in 2019
54% gap
5% available
$1.69B

Syrian families are becoming more economically vulnerable, with 91 per cent living in some form of poverty. Many Lebanese families are also struggling to survive and being pushed deeper into poverty. Meanwhile, livelihoods support faces a nearly 70 per cent funding gap, which makes transitioning people from cash assistance to more sustainable livelihoods opportunities impossible and the reduction of aid dependency in the short term unlikely. The situation also presents an unprecedented setback to the health system and population health with a 53 per cent funding gap for the Health Sector, compounded by higher demand for supported public healthcare services considering the increased headcount poverty and household vulnerability.

**EXAMPLES OF URGENT FUNDING NEEDS**

USD $52.6 million to support 171,000 extremely vulnerable Syrian families to meet their basic needs with regular multi-purpose cash.

USD $45 million to support 3,000 Micro, Small and Medium Size Enterprises (MSMEs) in Lebanon as they are the main source of income for vulnerable Syrians and Lebanese.

USD $0.5 million to cover dialysis and blood diseases support for refugees.

USD $50 million to cover the food needs of 464,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees living under the SMEB.

*Preliminary funding results are based on partner reporting, and are pending verification with donor disbursement reports.

**DEEPENING SOCIO-ECONOMIC VULNERABILITIES**

Extreme poverty has increased by nearly half across all regions. An estimated 9 out of 10, or nearly all Syrian refugees are living in extreme poverty and poverty levels have risen amongst vulnerable Lebanese.

**Percentage of households under the SMEB**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akkar</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baabek-El Hermel</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beirut</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bekaa</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Nabatieh</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Lebanon</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 VASyR preliminary findings, September 2020
2 VASyR preliminary findings, September 2020
3 The Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) is the expression of the monthly cost per capita, which is the minimum needed for physical survival and implies the deprivation of a series of rights. Living under the SMEB is used as a proxy for extreme poverty. In 2020, the SMEB is estimated to have increased to LBP 308,722 per capita, a 137 per cent increased from 2019 (LBP 130,500)
Some 89 per cent of Syrian refugee households are spending less than 10,291 LBP per person/per day, and only 35 per cent of eligible Syrian families have been assisted with regular multi-purpose cash to meet their basic needs. Between September and November, the consumer price index increased by 4.4 per cent, with an overall increase of nearly 134 per cent compared to November 2019. Extreme headcount poverty among the Lebanese population is estimated at 23 per cent, up from 8 per cent in 2019. Poverty in Lebanon is likely to continue to worsen, and it is expected to surpass half of the population by 2021. Households living in extreme poverty tend to have similar characteristics that contribute to their increased vulnerability risk and living in poverty affects access to services, particularly education and health.

The impact of the economic crisis and the COVID-19 outbreak continue to aggravate the loss of jobs and livelihoods amongst refugees and host communities. Some 30 per cent of Lebanese households reported losing their job due to COVID-19 and related containment measures, and 20 per cent had seen a reduction in their salaries. Among Syrian households, 34 per cent report having lost a job. In November, 4 per cent of surveyed households reported having at least one child engaged in child labour, with the majority of these children having to do so to supplement household income to meet their family’s basic needs.

Food insecurity and malnutrition risk are on the rise.

Food prices have increased by 189 per cent between October 2019 and December 2020. Nearly 50 per cent of refugee households report “poor” or “borderline” food consumption, up from 25 per cent in 2019. In 2020, with the worst food consumption scores reported in Bekaa, the South and the North. Nearly half of the Syrian population in Lebanon is now food insecure, up from 29% in 2019. The majority of all service referrals (68 per cent) in Q3 were directed to the Food Security Sector, following from beneficiary requests for food support. Primary healthcare centres have reported that the number of children under five years of age screened and identified for acute malnutrition is increasing. Communities are becoming more susceptible to malnutrition due to increased food insecurity, rising food prices and reduced access to health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. Nutrition support for children under five and pregnant and lactating women is becoming increasingly critical.

This loss of income has increased reliance on LCRP assistance in 2020. More families need multi-purpose cash and food assistance to survive, and all families living below the survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB) line, or in extreme poverty, should be receiving monthly food assistance at minimum to mitigate risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. As of October, some 36 per cent of households surveyed reported having faced difficulties in accessing food and other basic needs in the last 14 days. Among households unable to make ends meet, 56 per cent reported insufficient income as the main reason (up from 49 per cent in July-August), while another 15 per cent stated high prices are hindering their access to goods. Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese families are increasingly turning to negative coping strategies in absence of available assistance. Household debt for refugees has increased by 19 per cent (or an additional 288,446 LBP) to cover household food needs, rent and medicine.

Some 34 per cent of households are unable to access health care services (up from 25 per cent in July - August), with a lack of money reported as the main challenge faced.

Half of Lebanese households and 75 per cent of Syrian household surveyed in June by WFP were worried about a lack of food. Those who have lost their jobs – either since or prior to the COVID-19 outbreak – have shown to be more distressed than others. Lebanese residents in Akkar have reported to be more worried than those living in other governorates.

Issue of concern: Increased food insecurity

Some 22 per cent of Lebanese households report consuming inadequate diets between September and October, up from 19 per cent between July and August of this year. There is a risk that prices continue to rise due to the ongoing economic and political crises and supply chain disruptions, as well as the potential removal/modification of the current subsidization mechanism for wheat, combustible fuel, medicine and the basket of essential food items. Those most at risk are children and elderly people, who report increased difficulty to access food. The lack of nutrition surveillance data will continue to limit the capacity of partners to respond in a targeted and effective way. Additional data is needed to confirm the extent of the risk to malnutrition, not only for children under 5 years of age, but also for pregnant and lactating women and other at-risk groups, such as adolescents and older people. 5 years of age.

Food insecurity trends 2016-2020

![Food insecurity trends 2016-2020](image_url)

![Half of the Syrian population is now food insecure](image_url)

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1. VASYr preliminary findings, September 2020
7. UNHCR Protection Monitoring, November 2020
8. UNHCR Communicating with Communities (CwC) Report (October 2020)
10. VASYr Preliminary Findings, September 2020
13. VASYr Preliminary Findings, September 2020
15. VASYr Preliminary Findings, September 2020
Perspectives from the field: Small-scale farmers are at greatest risk of being pushed into food insecurity and poverty

Most farmers work on a part-time basis and face high input costs and low output prices. Partners surveyed in the South indicated increases in production costs by some 50 per cent. Farmers also report difficulties accessing traditional forms of credit and sales reductions due to lower purchasing power. The cultivated area has reduced by up to 80 per cent in some areas, with some relying on lower quality inputs. Many farmers lack liquidity to purchase inputs in adequate amounts and have started to substitute inputs where possible. The agricultural sector has moved to a low input system, which will likely result in a decline in yields and marketable production. The value of agricultural production by the end of 2020 is estimated to decrease by about 38 per cent (including a projected 47 per cent reduction in plant production and 26 per cent in animal production). Furthermore, COVID-19 lockdown measures led many partners to suspend agricultural interventions and many farmers reported being unable to get their produce to market due to movement restrictions.

INCREASING PROTECTION RISKS

Loss of livelihoods and income have led to a rise in individual evictions and eviction threats. Some 8 per cent of refugee families report living with an eviction notice, with nearly all eviction notices issued due to inability to pay rent. An estimated 41,293 Syrian individuals have been evicted in the last 12 months August 2019.

Per cent of Syrian refugees evicted in Lebanon (between Aug 2019 and Aug 2020) 22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Evicted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Lebanon</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bekaa</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Bataineh</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beirut</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akkar</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baalbek-El Hermel</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1,494 est. persons evicted)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

41,293 Estimate of Syrian refugees evicted

The issue is affecting all population groups, with similar causes (however most data available is on Syrian refugees).

Data presented are only indicative.

Some 73 per cent of refugees reported difficulty in paying rent, with 88 per cent citing assistance to cover rent as among their top priorities, particularly in urban areas of Beirut/Mount Lebanon and the North. One-time cash interventions and legal mediation with landlords are necessary interventions but are becoming increasingly insufficient to address the issue due to accumulation of rental fees, inflation and loss of income. Accumulation of rent arrears is a key contributor to refugees’ rise in debt. It is also leading to increased exposure to violence and exploitation as well as tensions between communities. While eviction is reported as a major concern by all population groups under the LCRP, this is particularly concerning for those most at risk, including displaced persons and including those with specific needs.

Persons with specific needs (PWSNs) are increasingly vulnerable as the COVID-19 outbreak has increased their isolation, further impacting their capacity to cope and reducing their access to community support. Protection Sector partners report that lack of food, medicines shortages and the inability to cover health care costs are among the main problems that elderly people, persons with disabilities and persons with critical medical conditions face, with access to soap and hygiene items closely following.

LCRP partners have observed an increased need for mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) across all populations due to the rapidly deteriorating situation and consecutive major shocks. Families are prioritizing other pressing needs, such as shelter, food and medicine over access to MHPSS. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test requirements to access MHPSS services in some institutions is a major barrier to referrals and COVID-19 movement restrictions makes physical access challenging. Homeless refugees and those with pre-existing mental health conditions are particularly vulnerable to access gaps. Children, women and older persons are also increasingly displaying worrying symptoms, while reports of suicide attempts and threats to harm self or relatives are rising. The need for protection cash and emergency cash assistance has also increased, with referrals largely received from PWSNs, especially female-headed households and persons with chronic medical conditions. Increased need among Lebanese families has also been reported, especially for those with members presenting disabilities and other specific needs.

Access to legal residency, birth registration, marriage registration and other types of civil documentation remains difficult. Refugees’ ability to renew legal residency or obtain civil documents is impacted by the accelerated economic downturn that is leaving most of those in need unable to cover the associated fees due to the restrictive scope of the fee waiver criteria for legal residency. Other specific barriers related to the renewal of legal residency are linked to the inability to secure a sponsor or to renew sponsorship (when refugees cannot renew their legal residency based on having a UNHCR certificate), or in situations where refugees have entered Lebanon through unofficial border crossing, as well as to fears about approaching the General Security Office (GSO). Families are also increasingly unable to cover transportation costs to get to the GSO and also fear arrest and detention should they be caught without documentation on the way there. Partners report that refugee men cite their main safety concerns as arrest and detention, despite men and boys being more likely to hold legal residency across all age cohorts.

20Centre de Recherches et d'Etudes Agricoles Libanais (CREAL), January 2020
21An estimated 41,293 families report living with an eviction notice, with nearly all eviction notices issued due to inability to pay rent.}

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3
Closures of schools and child protection centres has hampered the identification of the most vulnerable children, while the deterioration of the economic situation has increased the risks of child labour, including the worst forms of child labour. Children aged 5-11 years are reportedly more often working in dangerous conditions (e.g., on the street) than older children. More than one-third of working children surveyed aged 5-11 years are not attending school. This increases to 72 per cent of working older children (aged 15-17 years) are not attending school.26

Issue of concern: Gender-based violence

A continuous increase in violence against children and women is reported, including online and verbal harassment and sexual violence targeting children, especially in Palestinian refugee camps. Women are also increasingly reporting feeling insecure in informal settlements. Partners have reported an increase in suicide threats and attempts, especially among refugees, linked to people’s inability to meet their family’s basic needs or to repay debt. Lockdown situations present an increased risk for domestic violence, especially against women and children across all population groups as they are often confined with the perpetrator and lack access to services to seek help and safer spaces, including school.

INCREASING SOCIAL TENSIONS

Perspectives from the field: Competition over jobs driving tensions

Competition over jobs is increasingly driving tensions between Lebanese communities and Syrian refugees, especially in rural areas where Lebanese people are now seeking out less conventional jobs in sectors that refugees are allowed to work in, including agriculture, construction, handcraft and solid waste collection, especially in the Bekaa and Beirut-Mount Lebanon (BML). In the South and Nabatiyeh, refugees report rising tensions with Lebanese communities over competition over local jobs, and physical confrontations over jobs have been reported in the North and Akkar, with Syrian businesses reportedly vandalized in Tripoli.27

Aid perception bias is driving tensions between Syrians and Lebanese communities, especially related to access to cash, in-kind assistance and targeting. Refugees’ perceived access to cash or USD is a key driver of tensions reported across all regions.27 Positive inter-communal relations are at their lowest since 2017.28 Relations are reported to be particularly negative in North, Baalbek-Hermel and the Bekaa.
Increased stigmatization of refugees has also been observed, including about refugees’ perceived susceptibility to COVID-19. While misinformation and fake news have been key drivers of this, reports indicate that some municipalities in the North, Bekaa and South have gone so far as to publicly share the names of positive cases among both Syrians and Lebanese, which fuels fear and tensions. Refugee movements to informal settlements or communal shelters are also driving fears of COVID-19 risk with high mistrust of ‘newcomers’. In the last quarter of 2020, there has been a renewed surge of disproportionately stricter COVID-19 measures on refugees with full lockdown of specific informal settlements and special measures, primarily in parts of the South and the North.

**Issue of concern: Increasing tensions**

Tensions are likely to rise due to perceived aid bias, competition for jobs and the general deterioration of the security situation, with LCRP partners reporting more incidences of scapegoating and crimes targeting Syrian and Palestinian refugees. One overarching risk persistent in all regions is that depleted community security is now increasingly materializing in increased thefts, crime and direct physical confrontations.

**REDUCED ACCESS TO SERVICES**

**Health**

Access to healthcare services has decreased in 2020. Acute and chronic disease medication and medical supply shortages remain an ongoing challenge, as well as persistent gaps in mental health, nutrition and disability services across all population groups, as well as dialysis and blood diseases support for Syrian refugees. Understaffing and reduced working hours remain an issue in most health facilities, due to the economic situation and funding cuts, and this has been further aggravated by COVID-19 health response needs and restrictive prevention measures. The main barrier for accessing both primary and secondary healthcare services among vulnerable Lebanese and displaced populations is the direct and indirect cost of treatments aggravated by families’ reduced financial capacity and increased economic vulnerability, alongside COVID-19 restrictions and fears of infection.31

Perspectives from the field: Reduced access to health services

Syrian refugees are struggling to pay their patient share to access primary and secondary health care even when the services are subsidized, largely due to decreased household financial capacity. In the Bekaa, partners have observed decreased access to preventative care and vaccination services among Syrians, with health facilities prioritizing only essential health services. In BML, health facility damages from the Beirut port explosions have further reduced healthcare access for vulnerable populations living in affected zones, and has led to additional pressure on healthcare facilities in the Bekaa and South, which are among the worst affected by understaffing.

**Shelter**

Across all regions, households continue to relocate from residential shelters (e.g. houses and apartments) to non-residential shelters and informal settlements to decrease rental costs. The majority of relocations are among women-headed households. The North currently has the highest percentage of Syrian households living in non-residential shelters, such as garages, shop spaces and farms.32 Families in the North report being reluctant to move into shared or communal shelters due to fear of COVID-19 infection and are more likely to turn to non-residential options. However, conditions are considered substandard and will require substantial funding to upgrade these shelter options to meet minimum humanitarian standards. In the South and Bekaa, movements of Syrian refugees are largely from residential to informal settlements. In BML, an increased number of people have been observed living in overcrowding settings. A critical lack of funding for shelter interventions has limited partners’ capacity to respond to the increasing number of families in need of shelter support.

**Percentage of Syrian households able to access healthcare**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary healthcare</th>
<th>Secondary healthcare</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March: 46%</td>
<td>March: 54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May: 49%</td>
<td>May: 55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September: 43%</td>
<td>September: 51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percentage of Syrian households living in informal settlements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Issue of concern: Overcrowding**

Quarantining suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases has been challenging in informal settlements despite the relatively low numbers of positive cases. Partners report concerns of increased COVID-19 risk due to a lack of testing of newly arrived households in settlements and overcrowded conditions. In the North and Bekaa, a key challenge for Syrian families to set up tents in informal settlements is getting approval from the Lebanese Armed Forces and municipalities. In the South, decreased funding to assist Syrian families living in substandard residential shelters has increased protection and health risks especially for persons with specific needs, women-headed households and other marginalized households. This is also a concern in the Bekaa, where women, older people and PWSN in overcrowded conditions face protection risks, including increased risk of gender-based violence.

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31 VASyR preliminary findings, September 2020
33 VASyR preliminary findings, September 2020
### Education

As of May, over 25,000 children needed some form of learning support within the approximately 10,000 households surveyed. Due to the economic crisis, families will have less money for electricity and internet and distance learning requires increased internet usage. Some 11 per cent of children in need do not have a literate parent or another family member that can support them in the distance learning classes. In all regions, children with disabilities are reportedly most in need, and no alternative system has been developed to support access online. Teachers and administrators also reportedly lack technical skills to manage online learning modalities and provide support to students. These challenges are likely to persist in the 2020/2021 school year.

### WASH

A lack of municipal and local support for Water Establishments has reduced their capacity to generate funds in order to sustain service provision. Communities are increasingly unwilling to pay water service fees due to a lack of trust and limited financial capacity. Water Establishments are in urgent need of support to sustain operations of water stations and to repair water networks.

In all regions, electricity cuts in informal settlements limit Syrians’ access to private wells to refill water supply, with well access reduced to 1 hour per day in some areas. Some 16 per cent of refugees have access to water services for less than 2 hours per day. Nearly half of all refugee sites are dependent on water trucking services and COVID-19 lockdowns and movement restrictions have led to delivery delays. Water quantities have been increased from 40L to 60L per person per day to cover COVID-19 prevention needs; however, funding gaps make this unsustainable in the longer term.

Regular WASH activities, such as latrine installation, water storage and upgrading activities and waste management activities, especially desludging, have been delayed or cancelled due to COVID-19 measures, lack of funding and a lack of materials on local markets and/or changes to procurement processes. Across all regions, women-headed households, older people and children are most at risk of adverse impacts from water supply and sanitation gaps, including increased risk of water-borne illness. There has been a scale-up of the distribution of hygiene items, IPC kits and PPE to address this, along with expanded coverage of awareness raising sessions. While distributions are being done door-to-door to avoid overcrowding at distribution points, this has also led to delays and limited access in some areas.

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34 UNHCR Communicating with Communities (CwC) Report, December 2020
36 WAP 2019-2020
37 VASyR preliminary results, September 2020
38 WaSH Assessment Platform 2019-2020

"I have been in Lebanon since 2016, I live in Tripoli and I suffer from a medical issue, so I cannot work. I have 7 children. I live in a warehouse because I cannot afford to rent an apartment. The people in this area are helping because sometimes we cannot get assistance."

Refugee living in Tripoli.

Perspectives from the field: Deteriorating water and sanitation situation

The need WASH service support in informal settlements in Bekaa is increasing due to increased movements of refugee households from BML to informal settlements in the Bekaa region reportedly due to families’ inability to pay rent, threat of eviction and displacement following the Beirut port explosions. At the same time, partners have faced challenges reaching sites due to movement restrictions, especially in Baqaa and Martj; however, some special approvals were life-saving water activities to continue in informal settlements during the lockdown. Water trucking and desludging have been delayed due to lockdowns and price increases. Landlords have been unwilling to construct new latrines due to transmission fears.

In the North, no special approvals were provided by municipalities to continue water treatment plant activities, and NGOs have been denied access to sites due to pressure from local communities. In the South, partners have been able to extend WASH assistance to cover both informal settlements and communal shelters (including water trucking and desludging) to mitigate COVID-19 risk, with older refugees and those living with chronic conditions prioritized for support.