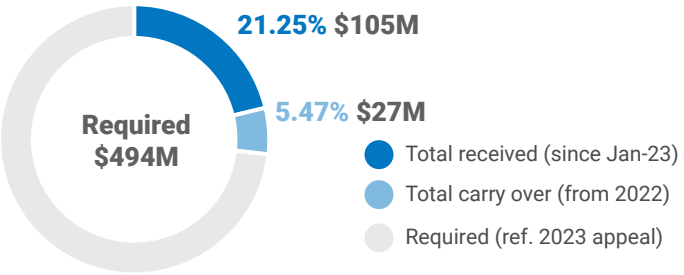
2023 3rd QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD
Basic Assistance

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

2023 Q3 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 September



2023 population reached

3,036,400 People in need

58%
1,348,785 reached
2,338,900 targeted

2023 population figures by cohort

1,460,000 Lebanese individuals in need

49%
375,105 reached
762,500 targeted

1,365,000 Displaced Syrian individuals in need

67%
911,140 reached
1,365,000 targeted

31,400 Palestinian Refugees from Syria individuals in need

27%
26,926 reached
31,400 targeted

180,000 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon individuals in need

8%
14,426 reached
180,000 targeted

Progress against targets

Key Achievements

of households reached with regular cash assistance for basic needs (Syr, Leb, Pal)
292,522 / 398,086

# of Syrian households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs
182,228 / 270,000

# of Lebanese households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs
75,021 / 77,000

# of Palestinian households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs
41,352 / 51,086

# of individuals with specific vulnerabilities receive social assistance
20,769 / 24,455

Total USD amount disbursed as regular cash transfer (includes regular and seasonal cash assistance)
$33,084,141

# of households reached with in-kind assistance (mattresses, blankets, winter clothing, heaters, jerry cans and other essential non-food items)
8,834

# of Syrian households and individuals reached with thermal blankets
1,079 households / 7,448 individuals

# of Lebanese households and individuals reached with thermal blankets
90 households / 342 individuals

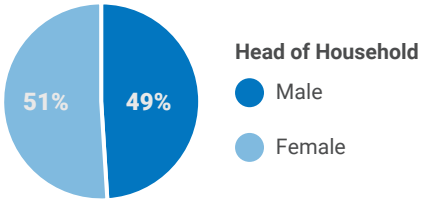
# of Palestinian households and individuals reached with thermal blankets
413 households / 1.043 individuals

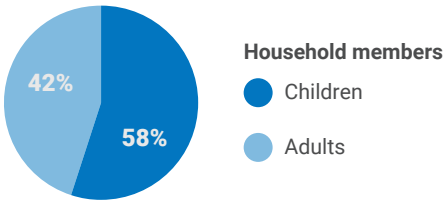
# of Syrian households and individuals reached with mattresses
1,471 households / 4,975 individuals

# of Lebanese households and individuals reached with mattresses
191 households / 494 individuals

# of Palestinian households and individuals reached with mattresses
124 households / 522 individuals

Age/Gender Breakdown of MPCA SYR Beneficiaries





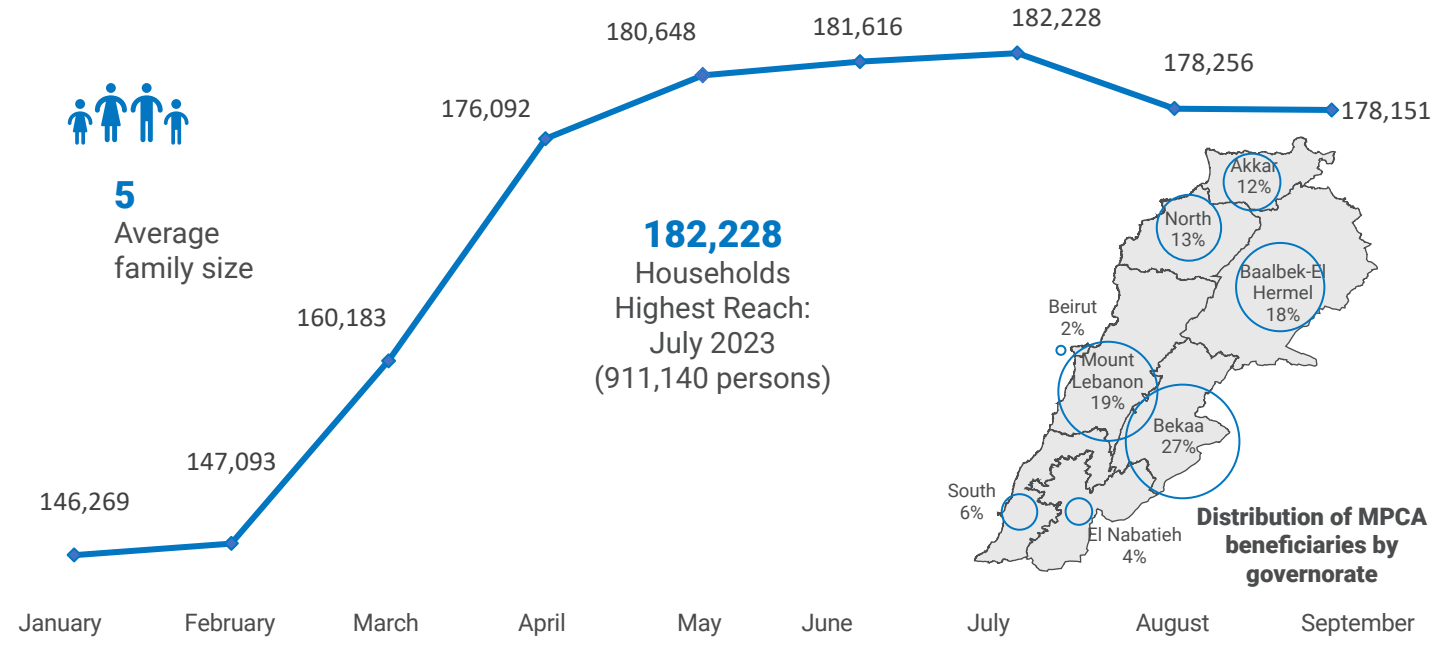
* Does not include funding received in 2022 for seasonal cash assistance

2023 3rd QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD
Basic Assistance

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

Analysis

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



Multi-sectoral situation update:

The economic situation in Lebanon remains dire in the third quarter of 2023, resulting in significant challenges for individuals and families. In August 2023, the annual inflation rate recorded a 229.8 per cent increase compared to August 2022, the 38th consecutive month of hyperinflation since the beginning of the crisis. The cost of living, as measured by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which includes expenses for food, essential goods, and services, reached LBP 30,472,087 in July 2023, a slight increase from June and up by 142 per cent compared to the SMEB cost in January 2023. The average price of bottled water in Lebanon up to September 2023 has witnessed a remarkable 16 per cent increase in USD value and a 2598 per cent increase in Lebanese pound (LBP) value compared to the prices in January 2021. Similarly, water trucking costs have soared dramatically, with a significant 297 per cent increase in USD value and 1665 per cent increase in LBP value over the same period. These soaring prices highlight the acute economic challenges faced by the population. In August 2023 alone, there was a significant price spike, with bottled water prices rising by 54 per cent in USD value and 57 per cent in Lebanese pound value, and water trucking prices increasing by 26 per cent in USD value and 29 per cent in Lebanese pound value. These steep price increases pose substantial challenges to access clean water in Lebanon.

At the beginning of Q3, a temporary decrease in raids undertaken by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) targeting displaced Syrians in informal settlements was witnessed compared to Q2. However, a shrinking protection space was observed in August and September with an increase in raids in Bekaa, movement restrictions and an uptick in border pushbacks. On 12 September, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM) addressed another circular to all Governors in Lebanon, to be further disseminated to municipalities and Mokhtars, regarding the presence of displaced Syrians. The circular included instructions to, inter-alia, conduct a data survey of displaced Syrians, report suspicious movements and gatherings of displaced Syrians and to request from all organizations, especially foreign ones, to coordinate their activities with the ministries, municipalities, and military and security agencies. Restrictions of movements including through curfews and searches at check points as well as confiscation of items such as internet routers, solar panels, and motorbikes were reported significantly impacting the feeling of safety and security and psychological wellbeing of displaced Syrians. The fear of deportation because of lacking legal residency was particularly reported by men, resulting in their limitations of movement and an increase of engagement of women and children in labour activities, accumulation of debts and other harmful coping mechanisms. In Q3, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) partners continued to observe rising trends in women and girls being exploited and exposed to sexual harassment and assault when working in farms and as domestic workers or in the streets. A spike in anti-gender rhetoric was observed resulting in a shrinking space to advocate for women's rights, diversity, and gender-based violence prevention and response programs.

As of July, inter-communal relations in Lebanon eased slightly after having experienced a peak in negative sentiments in the first and second quarter of 2023. Some 34 per cent of respondents now report negative inter-communal relations as compared to 46 per cent in March 2023 as per the UNDP-ARK Perception Survey. The main tension drivers continue to be economic such as competition for lower-skilled jobs and services such as electricity, healthcare, and waste management. Relations between Lebanese on the other hand have slightly deteriorated with 34 per cent rating intra-Lebanese relations as negative, compared to 21 per cent in March 2023. For the first time ever, economic competition was quoted.

• 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.

2023 3rd QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD
Basic Assistance

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

1. Key achievements of the sector at the output level

During Q3 of 2023, regular, unrestricted cash assistance strengthened 292,255 households' ability to meet basic needs (58% of the sector target for 2023). Among the targeted population groups, **182,228** displaced Syrian households (67% of those targeted), **75,021** vulnerable Lebanese households (49% of those targeted), and **35,273** Palestinian families received cash for basic needs.

The value of regular assistance (including cash for basic needs and child focused social assistance) in the third quarter of 2023 totaled USD 33,084,141 across all LCRP population cohorts. Most of the assistance is provided in USD or dual currency. The USD value of assistance disbursed in LBP is calculated using agency-specific exchange rates with their financial service providers.
Under the National Disability Allowance, which is a social grant targeting people with disabilities of all nationalities aged 18 to 28, jointly led by the Ministry of Social Affairs, UNICEF, and ILO, 17,327 individuals received support during Q3.
As of September 2023, at least 12 HNGOs signed data sharing agreements with the Ministry of Social Affairs or received referrals from the NPTP database, to increase coordination between humanitarian basic assistance partners outside government-led programmes and the national social protection strategy. These agreements allowed HNGOs to crosscheck their lists of Lebanese beneficiaries with the NPTP database, identifying which families are currently receiving cash support through the NPTP thus avoiding duplication and gaps of services. Partners also received referrals from the NPTP database to support vulnerable Lebanese families not covered by the government-led programme. 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. Despite this agreement and collaboration partners are still to conduct their own verification of the referred families.

Referrals
In the third quarter of 2023, 2,826 referrals were made to the Basic Assistance Sector through collaborative efforts involving 30 partners. Notably, 26 percent of these referrals to the Basic Assistance sector were successfully accepted. The majority of referrals were concentrated in Mount Lebanon, North, Baalbek Hermel, Bekaa, and Akkar, respectively. The primary factor contributing to the non-acceptance of referrals was the unavailability of services, primarily attributed to resource constraints.

2. KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

Reduced funding availability has been one of the main challenges faced by the BA sector, impacting the proper and effective implementation of its strategy in Q3. As funds allocated to Lebanon have been continuously decreasing due to global chronic underfunding and record levels of humanitarian needs reported around the world, the sector currently faces a critical funding shortfall with only 27 percent of its required budget funded, compelling partners to scale down their response (UNHCR/WFP winter assistance dis-continuation) and to stretch the limited available resources, therefore leaving them with little room to continue providing regular multi-purpose cash assistance to vulnerable groups as previous levels.

Similarly, the expected decline and no confirmed funding for winter assistance under the sector combined with an increasing level of needs across populations will inevitably pose further challenges and barriers to the delivery of basic assistance and will restrict partners in strengthening the ability of populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies to secure additional basic survival needs (in Q4?).
To limit further funding reductions and constraints and therefore hinder their impacts and consequences on the sector's activities, partners enhanced their efforts to warn and alert donors about the lack of funds, notably by participating in consultations with ECHO. In addition to this advocacy work, the BA sector also cooperated and collaborated with the Food Security sector by participating in a WFP-led joint exercise to review the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB).

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

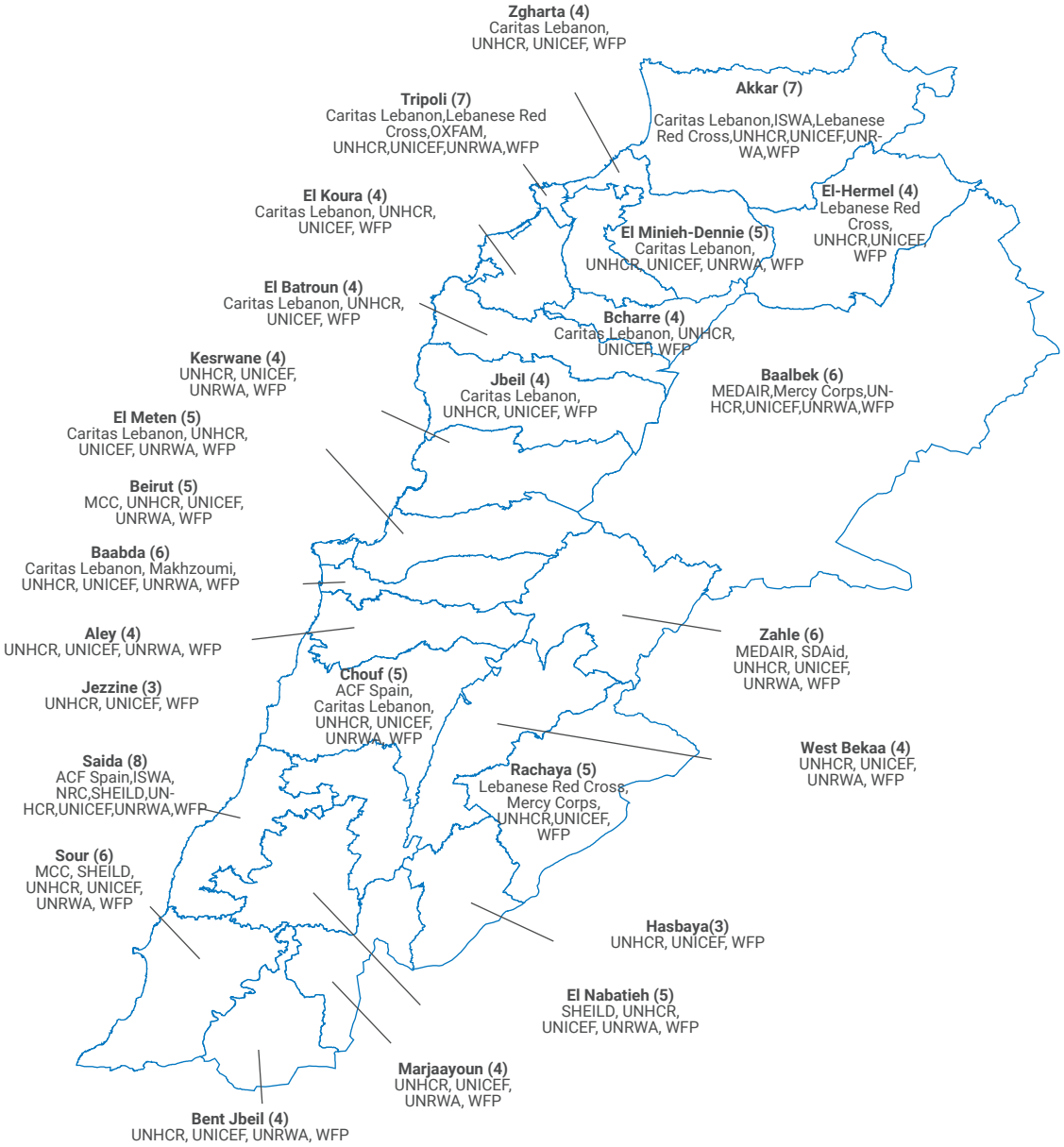
Noting the success in the efforts to enhance coordination between I/LNGOs supporting vulnerable Lebanese and government-led programs, particularly the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP), the sector will continue to strengthen these collaboration and work on resolving any emerging issues.
The sector and its partners will continue focusing on enhancing the data and methodologies used to determine and recommend transfer values for multi-purpose cash assistance and winter assistance as this and the aligned shift to dollar or dual currency disbursement which considers changes in the overall market, led to a noticeable reduction in tension and protection risks on the ground.
During the coming quarter, the sector is expecting the results of the SMEB for the Lebanese population and the analysis around the use of the ECMEN (economic capacity to meet basic needs) which will be incorporated to replace the income indicator in transfer value calculations.
In the upcoming quarter, further efforts to advocate for increased funding and access will be put in place, especially for winter assistance, as partners' reporting indicates the possibility of a major gap in assistance during the winter of 2023.
Finally, together with the Gender and GBV risk mitigation focal point, the sector will work on mainstreaming gender and addressing priority areas outlined in the BA sector work plan. Similar efforts will be prioritized and made with the inter-sector mainstreaming focal points notably the protection mainstreaming (Review and monitor the Protection risk assessment, identification of mitigation measures), prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (setting up PSEA taskforce, develop training package, guidance note for partners), conflict sensitivity mainstreaming (continuous coordination with social stability sector), and Gender mainstreaming through conducting trainings on practical implementation aspects of SGBV risk mitigation for partners under the sector and increase the efforts to provide disaggregated reporting.

For more information, please contact:
lebbeia@unhcr.org

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

4. Organizations per district

ACF Spain, Caritas Lebanon, DPNA, ISWA, Lebanese Red Cross, Makhzoumi, MCC, MEDAIR, Mercy Corps, NRC, OXFAM, 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.

For more information, please contact:
lebbeia@unhcr.org