



# 2023 End Year Sector Dashboard

## Basic Assistance

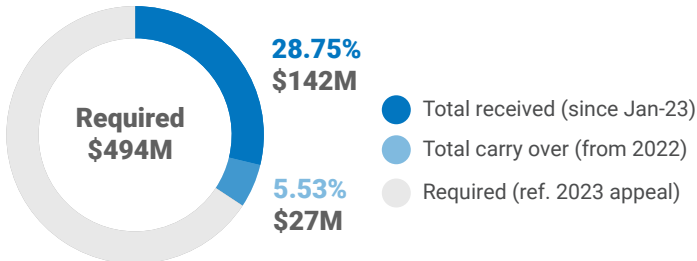


Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Lebanon

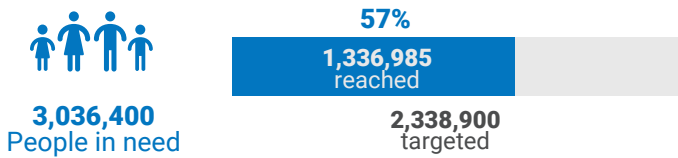
The end of year dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Basic Assistance Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Strengthen the ability of vulnerable households and individuals, including female-headed 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

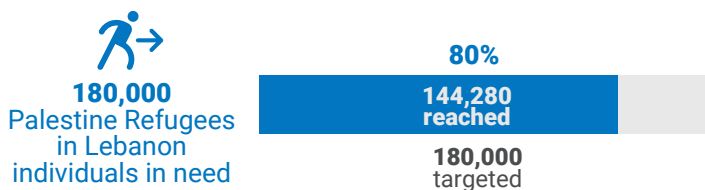
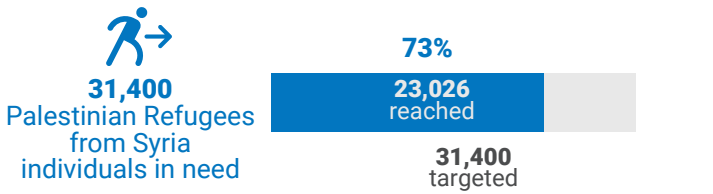
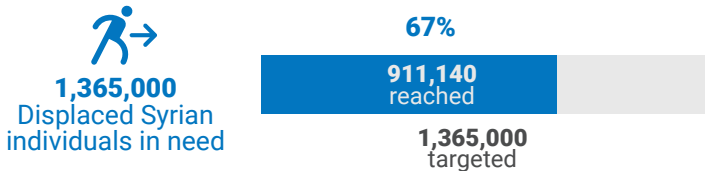
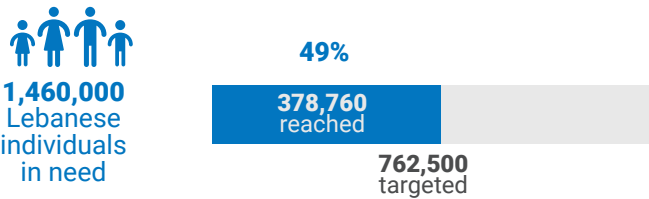
As of 31 December



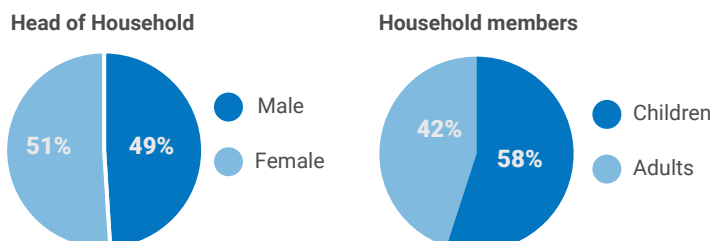
### 2023 population reached



### 2023 population figures by cohort

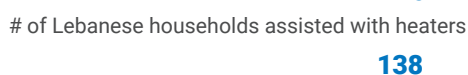
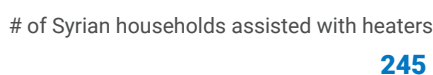
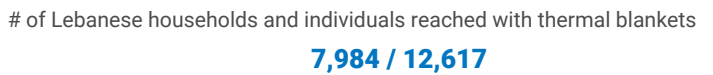
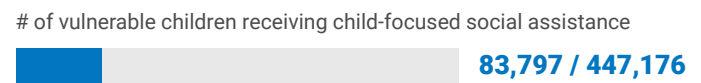
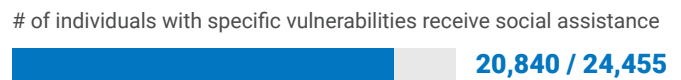
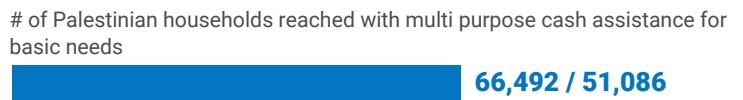
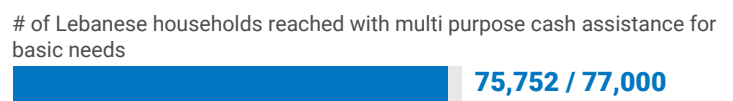
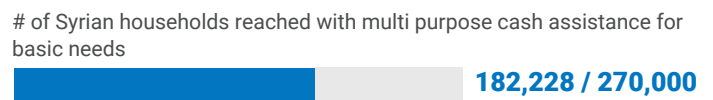
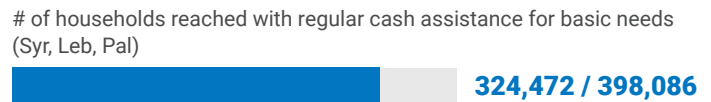


### Age/Gender Breakdown of MPCA SYR Beneficiaries



### Progress against targets

#### Key Achievements





## Multi-sectoral situation update:

Lebanon finds itself ensnared in a complex web of crises, primarily rooted in prolonged economic and financial instability that has persisted for five consecutive years. This has triggered a governance crisis across public institutions, resulting in a breakdown of basic services and a surge in social and economic vulnerabilities. The absence of a comprehensive crisis resolution plan further hampers long-term investment prospects, exacerbating the deterioration of physical, human, social, and natural resources.

The ongoing conflict in Gaza has further destabilized the region, presenting diverse challenges and needs, particularly at the Lebanese southern border. This has affected a substantial population, including displaced individuals and those trapped in unsafe areas. The economic repercussions are severe, impacting commodity markets and causing a sharp increase in Lebanon's Consumer Price Index (CPI). In October 2023 alone, the CPI surged by almost 1000 points due to the conflict, significantly affecting the cost of living. Local authorities in various regions have identified urgent requirements, including essential items for around 78,000 individuals. However, the effectiveness of the response is contingent upon the capacities, budgets, and resource reallocations of partnering organizations. Existing funding gaps pose a considerable risk, leaving the affected population without essential items crucial for survival.

Beyond the immediate challenges posed by the conflict, there is a high likelihood of further economic contraction, exacerbated by the postponement of a comprehensive reform agenda. Between 2019 and 2023, Lebanon's economy contracted by 60 percent, dropping from US\$55 billion to US\$23 billion. The World Bank downgraded Lebanon to a lower middle-income country in July 2022 for the first time in 27 years. The economic downturn, coupled with a 98 percent loss in the value of the local currency, triple-digit inflation, and increased financial barriers, impedes the country's recovery.

The economic crisis is reflected in soaring Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures, with Lebanon experiencing the highest nominal and real food price inflation globally. The social implications of the crises are profound, impacting vulnerable groups such as Lebanese, displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees, and migrants. Vulnerability assessments reveal a significant portion of the population struggling to meet essential needs, with economic capacity disparities evident across different groups.

Gender disparities in Lebanon have been exacerbated by the crises, with women facing challenges in assets, employment, wages, and access to resources. Job losses have widened the gender gap in labor force participation and employment rates. The employment-to-population ratios highlight stark differences, with only 15 percent of women employed compared to 47 percent of men. The unemployment rate for women stands at 33 percent, higher than the 28 percent rate for men.

In summary, Lebanon faces a complex crisis involving economic, financial, governance, and regional instability. Urgent attention, additional resources, and comprehensive strategies are essential to address immediate needs, prevent further economic decline, and mitigate the social impact on vulnerable groups, particularly women.

## 1. ANALYSIS OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL OF 2023

Throughout 2023, 324,472 economically vulnerable households increased their ability to meet their basic survival needs through regular, unconditional, and unrestricted cash grants. The highest coverage of monthly multi-purpose cash assistance for basic non-food needs in 2023 reached 182,228 Syrian households, 75,752 vulnerable Lebanese households<sup>1</sup>, 9,184 Palestine refugee families from Syria and 57,308 Palestinian refugee families in Lebanon.

Among displaced Syrians, 67 per cent of households deemed to be socio-economically vulnerable in 2023 were assisted with regular cash for basic needs<sup>2</sup>. This coverage is slightly less than in 2022, where around 71 per cent of socio-economically vulnerable households received assistance. This is due to a discontinuation of regular multi-purpose cash for around 100,000 HHs starting December 2023, due to shortage of funding.

Coverage of assistance through the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP) has been slightly increasing since 2022. Together with NGO-led programs that aim to support vulnerable Lebanese to meet their basic needs, the sector targeted 75,752 vulnerable Lebanese households in 2023.

Concerning child-specific grants, 83,797 children (52,818 Syrian children, 557 Palestinian Refugees from Syria, 6,821 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon and 24,601 Lebanese children) benefited from child-focused social assistance.

In response to the multiple crises affecting Lebanon, the National Disability Allowance (NDA) - jointly led by the Ministry of Social Affairs, UNICEF, and ILO - is a social assistance program that aims at supporting persons with disabilities in facing the extra cost of disability, providing a basic level of income support and facilitating their access to existing services, through the provision of USD 40 per individual between the age groups 18 to 28, and which had reached 22000 beneficiaries by December 2023.

The value of regular cash assistance provided in 2023 under the Basic Assistance Sector totalled US \$107,890,793 across all population cohorts<sup>3</sup>. Despite the challenges outlined in section 3, monthly redemption rates remained high (97-98 per cent) throughout the year, indicating that cash beneficiaries were able to redeem assistance in a timely manner<sup>4</sup>.

In addition to regularly disbursed assistance, only 370,324 vulnerable households were supported to meet additional basic survival needs caused by seasonal hazards, through seasonal cash assistance contributing to heating and other costs<sup>5</sup>. For the 2023/2024 winter season, the

<sup>1</sup> This does not include Lebanese families targeting through the Emergency Social Safety Net Program.

<sup>2</sup> Proportion of families reached reflects the highest reach throughout the year in a given month.

<sup>3</sup> The assistance was provided in dual currency.

<sup>4</sup> Based on redemption rates from UNHCR and WFP

<sup>5</sup> Figure includes families support at the beginning of 2023 as part of the 2022/2023 winter season and at the end of 2023 as part of the 2023/2024 winter season.



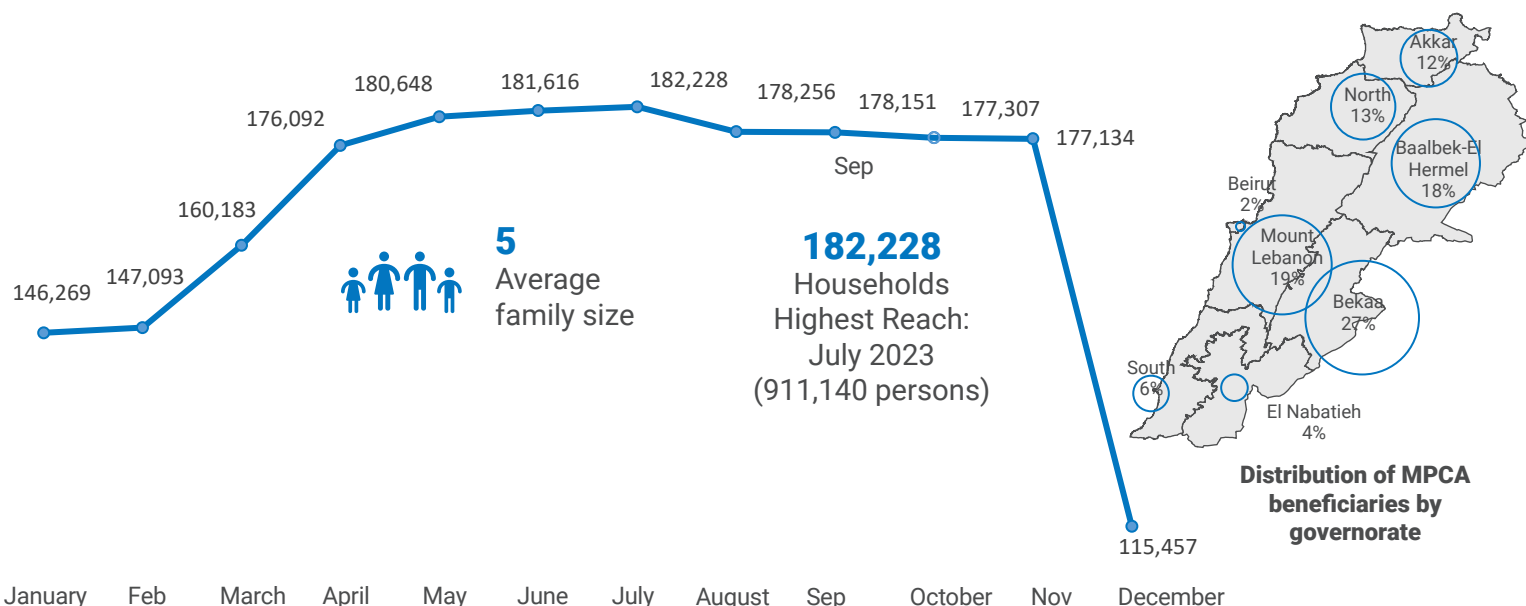
total households who received seasonal cash assistance is only 2,963 for the duration between October 2023 and December 2023 and mainly provided by IOM and the Lebanese Red Cross. This was due to the absence of winter cash assistance which UNHCR had been providing in previous years, due to limited funds and resulting in a significant drop in overall winter coverage. The value of seasonal cash assistance amounted to US \$23,139,119 in 2023, of which 98% was disbursed in Q1 of 2023.

Additionally, 24,972 households affected by seasonal or emergency shocks were supported through in-kind assistance, which included in-kind distribution of blankets, mattresses, heaters, clothing kits and other essential items. In-kind assistance is about half of what had been distributed during the last winter season, due to re-allocation of funds and prepositioning to respond to the escalation of hostilities in the South. This included 16,781 Syrian, 7,320 Lebanese, 375 PRS and 496 PRL families. Around 50,000 items were distributed in the South & Nabatiyeh governorates - responding to the Emergency context - in addition to around 28,000 clothing items.

The total value of cash assistance disbursed under the sector in 2023, including regular and seasonal support, amounted to US \$131,029.912.

## Analysis

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



## 2. KEY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SECTOR TO LCRP OUTCOME AND IMPACTS:

Outcome 1 and 2 under the Basic Assistance sector directly contribute to the LCRP Strategic Objective: “Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations”. This is undertaken through the provision of regular cash assistance to address socio-economic vulnerability and life cycle vulnerabilities (including for children, disabled persons and the elderly) in addition to targeted interventions (cash and in-kind) to address emerging needs during the winter and in response to evictions, floods, fires and other emergencies.

Under Outcome 1, the provision of regular, unconditional, and unrestricted cash assistance represents the primary source of income for vulnerable households in Lebanon to support families to meet their basic survival needs. These regular cash programs either follow a poverty-driven targeting approach to support the most socio-economically vulnerable families or follow a lifecycle targeting approach to address specific needs of groups most at risk (including children, persons with disabilities and the elderly). For multiple years in a row, the VASyR has demonstrated that cash assistance, whether through unrestricted cash or vouchers, was the most reported primary source of income among displaced Syrians<sup>6</sup>. Post distribution monitoring results showed that families who receive cash assistance continue to prioritize spending on rent, food, and healthcare<sup>7,8</sup>.

Findings from monitoring activities of UNHCR’s and WFP’s large scale poverty targeted cash programs for basic needs show that while the situation of Syrian displaced people continued to deteriorate considering the on-going financial and economic crisis in the country, cash assistance still played an important role in alleviating the financial burden on families. Most households, including those assisted, continued to have expenditure below the survival threshold and families had maintained reliance on both food and livelihood coping strategies<sup>9</sup>. While most families reported that assistance improved their living conditions (67%) and reduced financial burdens and stress to some degree, most stated that it only slightly or moderately impacted these aspects<sup>10</sup>. With continued inflation and rising prices of basic goods and services in the country, coupled with rising inter-communal tensions specifically linked to cash assistance and limited funds, and the need to maintain wide coverage of

6 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, 2019-2022

7 Post Distribution Monitoring Q3 2023 UNRWA

8 Post Distribution and Outcome Monitoring for Multi-purpose Cash Assistance in Lebanon, 2023 endline results, UNHCR

9 Basic Needs Outcome Monitoring for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, June 2023, WFP

10 Post Distribution and Outcome Monitoring for Multi-purpose Cash Assistance in Lebanon, 2023 endline results, UNHCR



families, transfer values for UNHCR and WFP cash programs (representing over 95 per cent of the Sector's reach in terms of beneficiary numbers) have remained well below the Sector recommended value, leading to a diluted impact and weaker positive outcome level results.

Outcome 2 strives to support families to meet additional needs when faced with seasonal hazards and/or emergencies. Annually, the sector develops a winter expenditure basket to estimate winter specific costs and determine accurate transfer values for seasonal cash assistance that would support families to meet these additional needs, such as complementary fuel for heating, heaters, blankets, and clothes without compromising basic survival needs. Like regular cash assistance, the winter cash assistance played a role in supporting households to partially meet their needs such as buying fuel for heating, paying winter related debt, paying rent etc. Winter 2022-2023 post distribution and outcome monitoring results showed that winter cash assistance prevented families from resorting to further negative coping strategies.

In-kind support during the winter, but also in response to ad-hoc emergencies (including fires, evictions, and re-locations) is also a component of direct service provision to vulnerable families. While cash assistance allows families the flexibility to determine their own need and priorities, responding with in-kind assistance allows families to have access to basic items that have been either lost or damaged without compromising their already limited budgets used to secure food and access essential services.

Outcome 3 under the basic assistance sector contributes to LCRP strategic objective and impact 3: "Strategic Support service provision through national systems" and "vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national systems". As mentioned above, regular assistance to vulnerable Lebanese households has been scaled up gradually through Government-led National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP) and reached 75,752 poor Lebanese families. The sector has been working towards strengthening linkages between humanitarian interventions provided by NGOs under the sector and government-led programs. This included facilitating referrals from the NPTP to partners and supporting by information sharing across the two work streams.

On the policy context, the Government of Lebanon approved and adopted the National Social Protection Strategy on November 1, 2023, which sets a unified vision for social protection across five pillars, including Social Assistance, Social Insurance, Social Welfare, Financial Access to Basic Services, and Economic Inclusion and Active Labor Market Policies. The National Social Protection Strategy represents Lebanon's first ever vision for the sector developed with technical assistance from UNICEF and ILO to the Ministry of Social Affairs and through an extensive consultative process that included government, donor, UN agencies, civil society, and NGOs. Under the social assistance pillar, the NSPS lays out Lebanon's vision for expanding coverage, articulating the need to expand social assistance through a twin-track approach: that of targeting poverty in parallel to social grants to address lifecycle vulnerabilities.

### 3. CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Over the past few years, the challenges faced by the sector to support vulnerable people across Lebanon have largely been driven by the ongoing financial and economic crisis. Reduced funding availability has been one of the main challenges faced by the BA sector, impacting the proper and effective implementation of its strategy. 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 34 percent of its required budget funded, compelling partners to scale down their response (e.g. UNHCR/WFP winter assistance discontinuation) and to stretch the limited available resources, therefore leaving little room to continue providing regular multi-purpose cash assistance to vulnerable groups at previous levels.

Similarly, the funding decline and lack of confirmed funding for winter assistance, combined with an increasing level of needs across populations, inevitably pose further challenges and barriers to the delivery of basic assistance and restrict partners in strengthening the ability of populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies to secure additional basic survival needs. In addition, the Emergency in the South significantly increased the gap in addressing emerging needs, thus challenges in securing and re-allocating funding remains a key challenge for partners.

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. 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).

The Consumer Price Index data from the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) showed that monthly inflation restabilized at 2.6 percent in November after reaching 17 percent in October 2023 due to the adjustment of the education price index for the year ahead, in addition, the prices of all goods and commodities have increased due to an inflation in non-food and non-energy goods (41 per cent contribution), and services contributed to 12 percent of inflationary variation. With a stable exchange rate on the informal market since April 2023, softening global inflation, and an almost complete dollarization of the economy, November 2023 saw the least monthly variation in the cost of all SMEB baskets since January 2020. The cost of the SMEB for a family of five reached USD378, with the food basket per person reaching USD34.8 and the non-food basket per household USD204.4. However, the non-food portion of the value of Cash assistance was sufficient to cover only 12 percent of the non-food SMEB in November down from 22 percent and 19 percent in March 2023, and 18 percent in November 2022 for both Lebanese and Syrian refugees respectively<sup>11</sup>.

In addition to the above, almost all partners under the sector continue allowing redemption through money transfer agents, not just for cash over the counter services but also as e-card cash out points. This has allowed for an expansion of redemption points and shorter travel distances to redeem assistance.

With regards to support for Lebanese specifically, challenges in coordination continued mainly due to a lack of a centralized national system and database. Without an accessible social registry for multiple stakeholders, automated deduplication and crosschecking of assistance to Lebanese in a systematic way has not been feasible. To combat this, bilateral coordination between partners operating in the same regions has

<sup>11</sup> Market Monitor as of December 2023, WFP RAM





been encouraged. Moving forward, the sector recommended processes where NGO partners can coordinate more closely with government-led programs (namely the NPTP and ESSN), to receive referrals of vulnerable Lebanese families in need of support or to crosscheck existing beneficiary lists.

As of December 2023, at least 12 NGOs 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 NGOs 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, formalized collaboration with MoSA, towards the aim and objective of the program, may prove useful. Despite the agreement and collaboration, partners still need to conduct their own verification of the referred families.

## 4. Case Study

The WARM V project aimed to reduce vulnerability to harsh winter conditions and address emergency needs of vulnerable households in Lebanon's Bekaa and Baalbek-Hermel Governorates. Implemented by ADRA, the project provided winterization support to 500 households through fuel vouchers, heating stoves, and blankets. Fuel vouchers of \$100 were distributed monthly from February to April 2023, benefiting economically disadvantaged families, government employees, female-headed households, widowed or disabled individuals, and families with five or more children. Additionally, 3,000 students in five schools received \$1,500 worth of fuel for two months. The project, supporting 40% Syrian refugees and 60% vulnerable Lebanese, prioritized those not receiving assistance from other humanitarian partners. The fuel, blankets, and stoves ensured heating in homes and schools, enabling savings for essential expenses like rent, food, clothing, healthcare, and school-related costs. The cost savings from fuel assistance helped alleviate financial burdens on families, especially regarding transportation expenses for children's schooling.

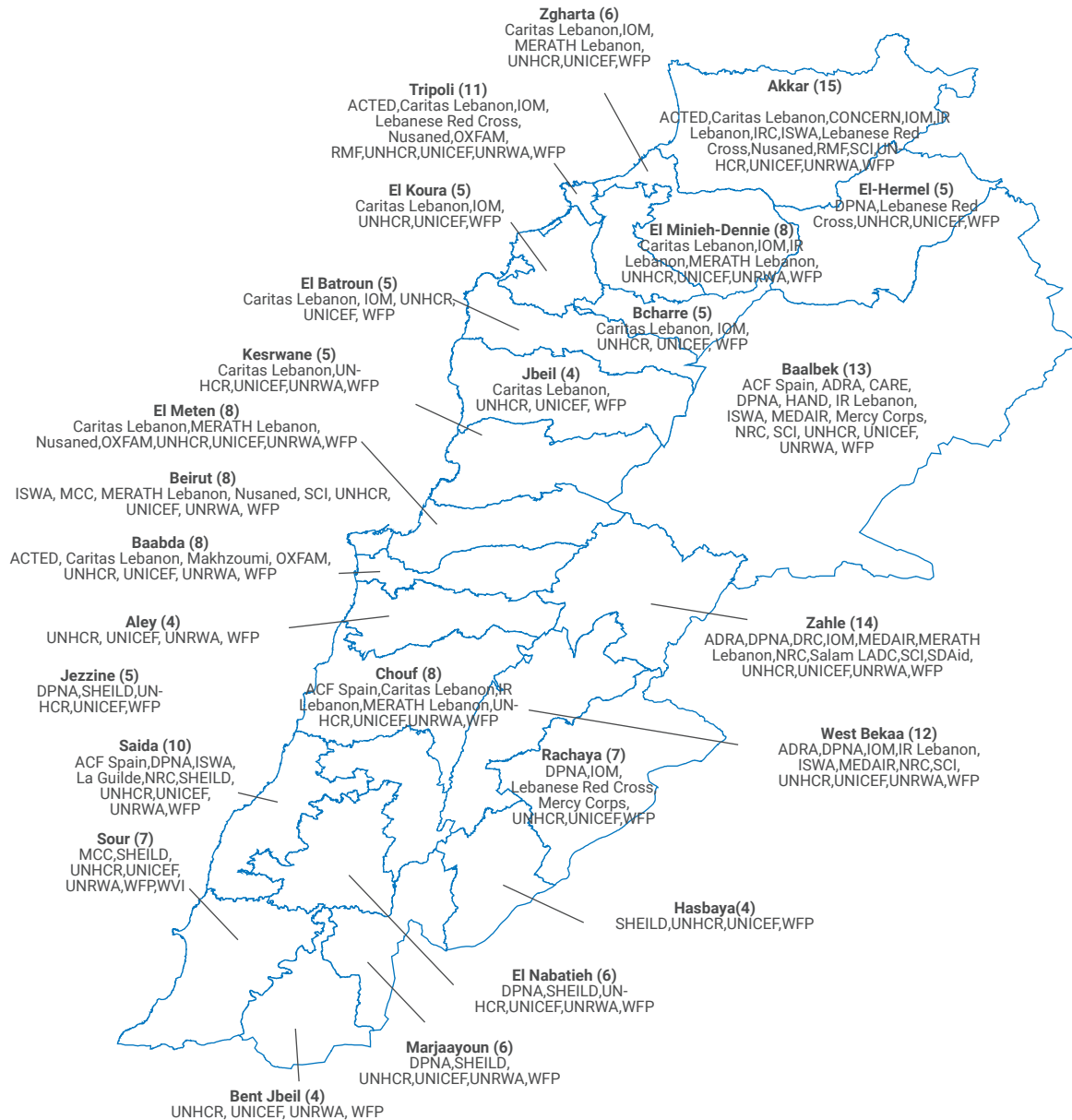
Aida Zammar, a Lebanese woman from Central Bekaa lives in a small house in Saadnayel. Aida is the only breadwinner of the family, as her husband is unemployed because of medical conditions. Being a mother of three children and having a husband in need of a medical care, Aida was anxious and concerned about the needs of the coming winter. Although she would earn by selling meals to her neighbors, she couldn't afford winter supplies with such little income. Aida and her family became ADRA's winterization project beneficiary. Together with 499 other families, they received the fuel for heating ADRA provided. "I am so satisfied and thankful that my family received the assistance from ADRA", she shared with ADRA team with a grateful smile during a monitoring interview. "I was really hopeless as the winter was approaching, finding no solution for our needs... Luckily, ADRA's help came on time, not only my children kept warm and safe during the winter, but also, we managed to meet school needs with the saved money."





### 5. Organizations per district

ACF Spain, ACTED, ADRA, Caritas Lebanon, CONCERN, DPNA, DRC, HAND, IOM, IR Lebanon, IRC, ISWA, La Guilde, Lebanese Red Cross, Makhzoumi, MCC, MEDAIR, MERATH Lebanon, Mercy Corps, NRC, Nusaned, OXFAM, RMF, Salam LADC, SCI, SDAid, SHEILD, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, WVI



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