Storm Situation Update:
March 2026

LEBANON Response Plan

GENERAL SITURATION

The winter season in Lebanon has been relatively long yet mild overall, with limited severe weather conditions recorded during the early months of 2026. However, towards the end of March, the country was affected by a prolonged period of unstable weather conditions associated with successive low-pressure systems. This resulted in several days of rainfall, thunderstorms, active winds, snowfall at higher elevations, and sustained cold temperatures. These conditions increased the risk of localized flooding, ice formation on mountainous and inland roads, particularly in vulnerable areas.

This occurred against the backdrop of renewed escalation of hostilities, which triggered displacement and increased humanitarian needs across the country. Although the storm's impact remained localized and relatively limited, associated weather-related risks further exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities and operational challenges for both affected populations and humanitarian actors.

The storm's impact was most notable in the North and Akkar. By the end of March, 80 households, composed of 400 individuals, were estimated to be affected in 18 sites, while 8 additional sites remain pending assessment. In the Bekaa, 6 households were assisted, primarily with Core Relief Items (CRIs) and shelter kits. In the Beirut and Mount Lebanon (BML) and South regions no referrals were received.

Early preparedness efforts at household and community levels, especially in high-altitude areas, contributed to mitigating the impact of the storm.

Figure 1. © Medair

PREPAREDNESS

The 2025–2026 winter response maintains a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach, combining institutional preparedness and direct household assistance particularly in high-altitude areas prone to snow, and sub-zero temperatures, and shelters at risk of damage and to flooding. Drawing on lessons learned and best practices from previous winter seasons, there is a continued focus on preventing duplication through adherence to the geo-split model, mapping of informal settlements, and ensuring accurate partner alignment.

Building on previous winter responses, partners are prioritizing early preparedness at national, sub-national, and community levels, with targeted support for households in high-altitude areas, informal settlements, and substandard shelters where winter hazards are most acute. Partners are also coordinating closely with local authorities and institutions to strengthen capacity building, national response mechanisms, and ensure coherence. Interventions include winter cash and in-kind assistance, implementing municipal support projects, enhancing site infrastructure, conducting winter shelter repairs, and distributing essential winter items and clothing.

These comprehensive efforts are part of a wider inter-sectoral response documented in the Overview of Lebanon Winter Preparedness & Response for 2025-2026, along with the summary At a Glance, aiming to enhance preparedness and response in anticipation of the challenges posed by winter.

In addition, region-specific preparedness measures were adopted:

- **North and Akkar**: Updating the RNA geo-split and providing refresher trainings for partners, distributing shelter kits in informal settlements, conducting site improvements, and cleaning of river channels in flood-prone areas to mitigate flood risks.
- **Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel**: Prepositioning of emergency shelter kits and Core Relief Items (CRIs), early winter distributions, and reinforcement of drainage channels in high-altitude and flood-prone areas to ensure timely response during severe weather.
- **BML:** Winter cash assistance for vulnerable households, localized flood and landslide risk mapping, and coordination with DRM units to ensure readiness for power, fuel, and access disruptions.
- **South and Nabatieh**: Prepositioning of CRIs and winterization support for returnees and remaining displaced families in damaged shelters, alongside coordination with municipalities on drainage maintenance, and road rehabilitation.

Figures 2. © World Vision

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IMPACT OF CURRENT STORM ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

	Affected	Assisted
Sites confirmed	37*	37*
Estimated households	180**	180**
Estimated individuals	900***	900***

Figures are cumulative to date.

* *Including 1 Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Site in North & Akkar.*
** *Including 1 IDP Household in North & Akkar.*
*** *Including 13 IDPs in North & Akkar.*

RESPONSE

North
As of 16 March, the North region experienced impacts from the March storm, with harsh weather conditions primarily affecting Sahel Akkar. In response, partners provided CRIs and shelter kits, including transportation support.

However, shelter kits and CRIs are not sufficient in cases of fully flooded sites, where more comprehensive interventions are required. Significant funding gaps continue to constrain the winter emergency response, including site improvements, shelter/CRI assistance, and WaSH activities (e.g. dewatering, desludging, waste removal).

Overall, in Northern Lebanon, 50 sites were referred, 34 sites were confirmed as affected and 174 households/ 871 individuals were assisted with CRIs and Shelter Kits, inclusive of 1 household comprised of 13 IDPs. In total, 551 mattresses, 506 blankets, 428 sleeping mats, 68 solar lamps, 16 kitchen sets, and 96 shelter kits were distributed.

Beirut & Mount Lebanon
As no significant storm-related impacts were identified in the Beirut and Mount Lebanon governorates, the Weather RNA was not activated.

Bekaa
Through ongoing monitoring and individual referrals in the Bekaa, six households comprised of 29 individuals in 3 sites were supported with CRIs, 20 shelter kits, and three floor raising kits in Taanayel, Temnine, and Houch Tel Safieyh. These households were affected by strong winds and heavy rainfall; however, since no significant impacts were unidentified the Weather RNA was not activated.

South
There was also no significant impact or flooding reported in the South and Nabatiyeh governorates therefore the Weather RNA was not activated.

KEY CHALLENGES

Winter preparedness and response efforts this year face a complex range of challenges, shaped by the prolonged economic crisis, renewed escalation of hostilities, and increased internal displacement. The situation remains highly resource constrained with a large contingency stock of winter support including CRIs repurposed for responding to the large displacement. Increasing fuel and persistently high food prices, deteriorating infrastructure, and limited household coping capacities have left many communities at risk, particularly in high-altitude, collective shelters, and flood-prone areas.

Moreover, significant funding gaps persist for emergency preparedness and response activities, including site improvements, shelter and CRI assistance, and WaSH services. Reduced financial resources also hinder the prepositioning of essential supplies, restrict cash and in-kind assistance, and limit support to municipalities and civil defense units. Although municipal capacity has improved following recent elections, local authorities remain overstretched and under-resourced, particularly in relation to drainage maintenance, waste management, and emergency response. Infrastructure damage, especially in the South, Bekaa, and parts of Beirut's suburbs, further complicates access and continuity of assistance, underscoring the need for both immediate repairs and longer-term, resilience-focused investments.

Figure 3. © UNHCR

PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE RESPONSE

CARE International in Lebanon, DRC, HAND, I'MPOSSIBLE, IRC, Medair, MoSA, MoIM, NRC, RMF, UNHCR, UTOPIA, WeWorld.

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