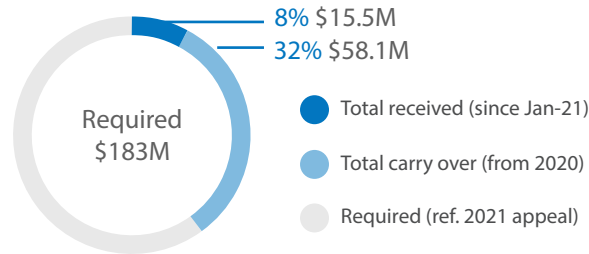




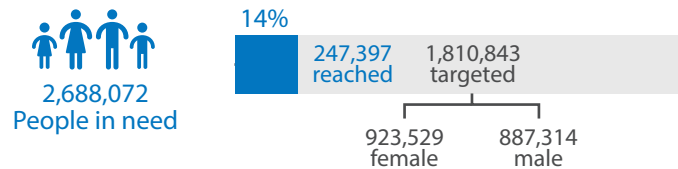
The Q1 year dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Water sector in Lebanon is working towards its expected outcome: by 2021, more vulnerable people in Lebanon are accessing sufficient, safe water for drinking and domestic use with reduced health and environmental impacts from unsafe wastewater management.

2021 Sector Funding Status

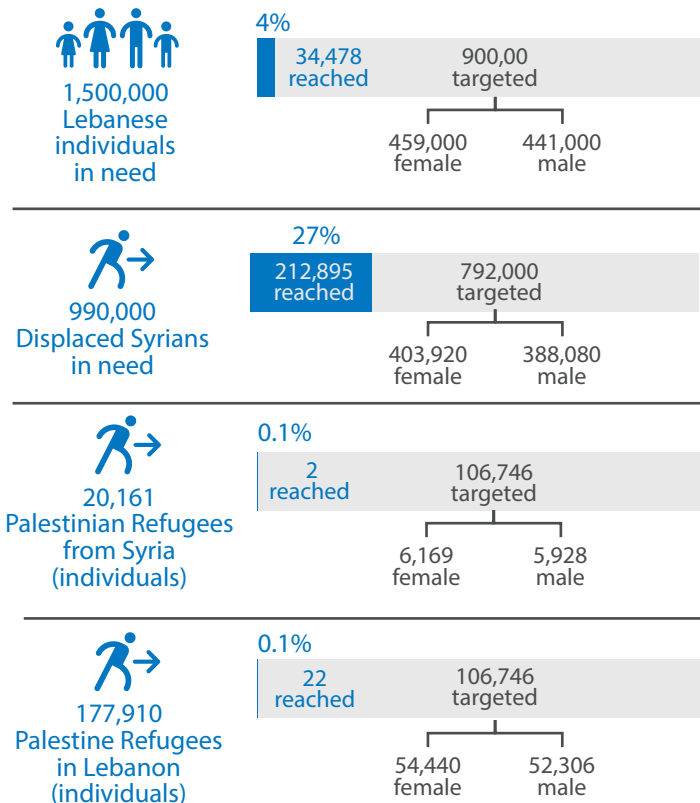
As of 31 March



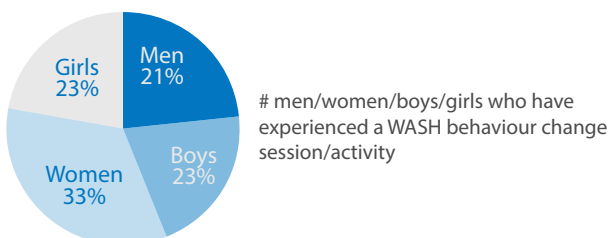
2021 population reached



2021 population figures by cohort

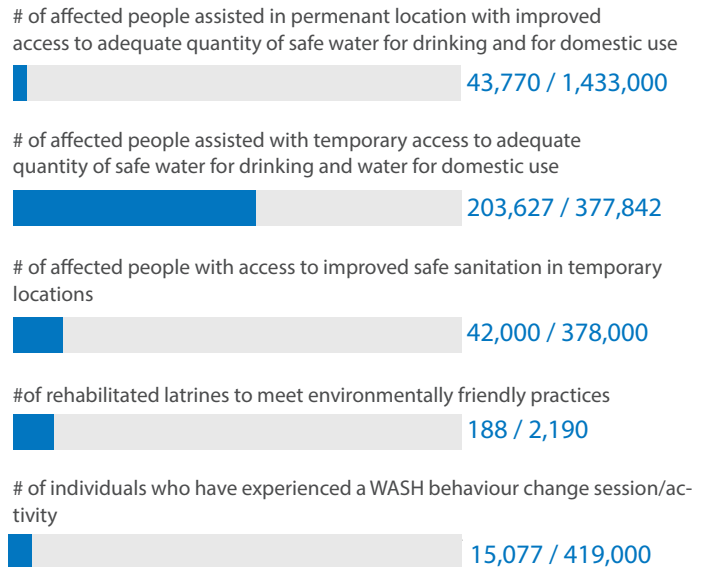


Age/Gender Breakdown

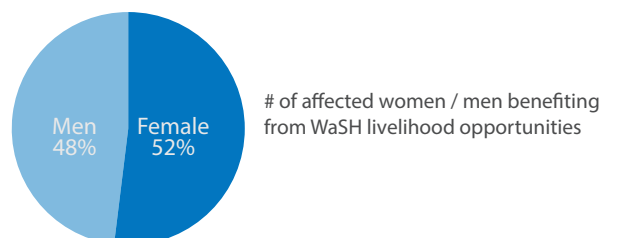
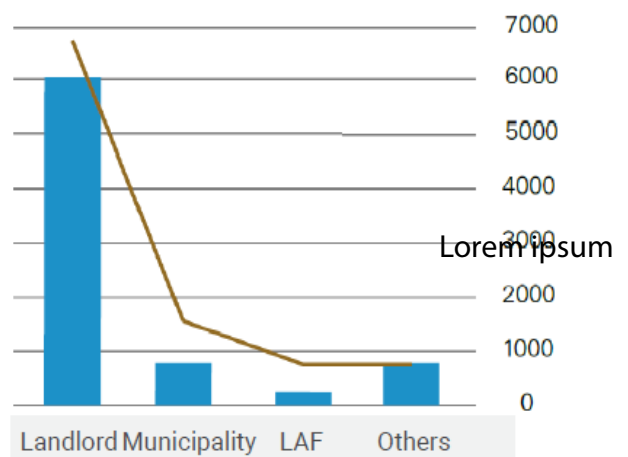


Progress against targets

Key Achievements



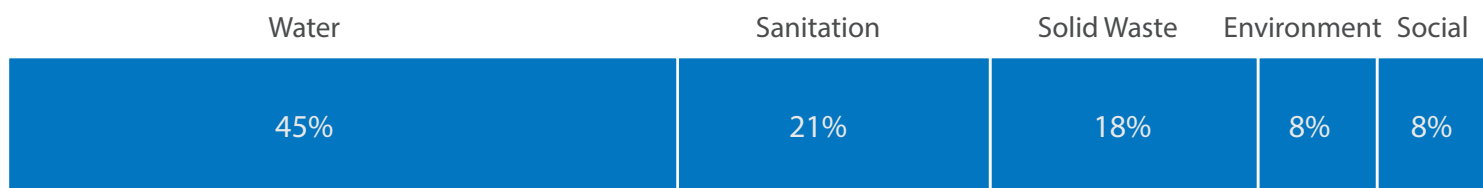
One hundred fifty-eight sites (2.8 percent of the total number of locations) hosting 3 percent of the total population living in ITs (9,640 people) have received an eviction status. The governorates of Bekaa, Baalbek-Hermel, and Akkar are accounting for 70 percent of the eviction notice. (Source: WAP 2020)





Analysis

Contribution from WAP sections to overall wash vulnerability score of assessed sites*



* Source: WAP 2020

1. Key achievements of the sector at the output level

Amidst the challenges from the present socioeconomic situation and the pandemic, considerable efforts have been made to ensure that more vulnerable people in Lebanon are using safely managed drinking water and sanitation services whilst reducing health and environmental risks and improving water quality by increasing the proportion of wastewater that is safely treated.

Specifically, under Output 1.1, efforts have been made to support the Lebanese water institutions in Q1. To support the four Water Establishments (WEs) in facing the current economic crisis, WEs were provided with consumables supplies on regular base to ensure maintenance of existing water systems.

In the first six month of 2021, as a contribution to the sector's second Output (The most vulnerable in host and displaced communities have access to a sufficient quantity of quality, reliable and equitable water and wastewater services). Some 43,770 individuals (3% of sector target), were provided access to safe water in permanent locations through implementation of a water supply and rehabilitation project in the North Lebanon Water Establishment (NLWE). Further, a wastewater rehabilitation project was completed in Qubayat, North Lebanon, serving 38,250 Lebanese and 3,750 displaced Syrians (11% of the sector target).

In terms of emergency assistance in temporary location, the Water sector finalized the prioritization list of informal settlements to move into cost-effective and environmentally friendly WASH services, and currently is finalizing the implementation strategy with the partners.

In Q1, the Water sector partners also succeeded to provide access to safe water to 203,627 displaced Syrians (54% of the sector target). Furthermore, 203,597 displaced Syrians had access to improved safe

sanitation in temporary locations (reaching 91% of the sector target). Due to the current economic crisis, the partners reported an increase in requests for water trucking and desludging services in temporary locations.

Concurrently, a strategy to increase the efficiency and reduce the costs of the water supply in temporary location have been drafted by UNICEF and is under revision with the sector.

Some 357 latrines have been connected to 22 decentralized wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) piloted in informal settlements. Two of these pilot WWTPs (connected to 48 latrines) have been tested and are showing BOD₅¹ discharge levels within the Lebanese standards. To evaluate the pilot and select possible technical solutions for upscaling these interventions, partners will conduct a cost benefits analysis (treatment efficiency against costs) for all 22 pilots in Q2.

Under the sector's third Output (Displaced and host communities adopt sustainable and responsible social and WASH behaviour), 15,077 beneficiaries (women 5102, girls 3327, men 3540 and boys 3108) experienced WASH behavior change activity during quarter 1 of 2021, reaching 4% of 2021 sector target. The limited progress is due to the COVID-19 movement restrictions of the first months of 2021 that prevented the partners to conduct community mobilization activities as those were not exempted.

The same applies to the WASH-livelihood opportunities. During the first quarter, only 25 affected people (12 male and 13 female) were reached with livelihoods opportunities, corresponding to 2% of the sector's target.

¹5 days -Biochemical Oxygen Demand

2. Key challenges of the sector

The socio-economic crisis and COVID-19 pandemic have introduced many challenges and have affected water service delivery in communities and informal settlements. At the institutional level, due to the devaluation of the Lebanese Pound, the WEs are facing difficulties in accessing spare parts and fuel for the pumping stations. At the same time, WEs are receiving limited revenues from the subscription's fees, due to public distrust and civil unrest. The Water sector partly addressed these challenges in Q1 though the provision of consumables supplies on regular base and is currently revising its contingency plan in coordination with the Partners. xx In informal settlements, lockdown periods have delayed the implementation of WASH infrastructural and community mobilization activities as these were not considered as critical activities. The Water sector will continue to advocate that such activities are exempted during protracted

lockdown periods as delays and suspension of such activities will likely have a negative medium-term impact on communities. Further, there are other rising concerns deriving from the current situation related to service delivery at municipal level. In the Bekaa, some of the municipalities are precluding the access of partners to the informal settlements to provide services such as desludging. Partners have also been asked to, assign the service provision to local contractors, "selected" by/within the municipal area. Another rising concern is the increase of the rent price applied by the landowners as this has delayed implementation timeframes for water and sanitary interventions as well as water infrastructure construction and rehabilitation.



3. Key priorities for the following quarter

The key priorities for Q2 2021 are similar to the previous quarter. The sector aims to go beyond traditional community mobilization and awareness raising activities and increase the quality of its community-based behavior change initiative, emphasizing public health, environmental protection, and water demand and water resource management in informal settlements and collective shelters. The field verification of almost 3000 prioritized informal settlements remains a high priority to move into cost effective and environmentally friendly sanitation systems where technically feasible. Another priority is to maintain the support for WEs and to build the trust with the community, either through communication and community engagement campaign or capacity building for WEs staff. This will

ensure a more sustainable approach to water services in the medium-term. Special attention and support will be provided to WEs to maintain the monitoring of water quality, coupled with the provision of essential materials and consumables to maintain services throughout 2021. Furthermore, a list of critical small-scale activities (shared by MoEW) will be prioritized as to maintain the operation of the water and wastewater stations. Moreover, identifying the WASH vulnerabilities outside informal settlements is essential to ensure provision of equitable service for the most vulnerable people in Lebanon affected by the impact of the Syria crisis.

4. Mainstreaming of COVID-19

During Q1, the sector mainstreamed the COVID-19 mainstreaming and response interventions reaching 71,990 households (294,860) individuals through three groups of activities:

- Awareness: 62,836 awareness sessions, were provided by sector partners in permanent and temporary locations. The awareness sessions, aimed at sharing knowledge and awareness on COVID-19 infection and prevention, were performed using of hybrid modality that combines field visits and online follow-up.

- Infection Prevention and Control: A total of 45,010 (28,500 IPC kits and 16,726 disinfection kits, 757 patient kits for isolation centers), have

been distributed in temporary and permanent locations. Post distribution monitoring (PDM) has been conducted through survey interviews. The tools adopted by the partners are under revision by the community mobilization working group to standardize future PDMs.

- Increased water supply: Finally, 14,901 displaced Syrians in informal settlements in Baalbek El-Hermel and Bekaa has benefitted from increased water trucking to comply with COVID-19 prevention measures.