## 2022 1st QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD Basic Assistance

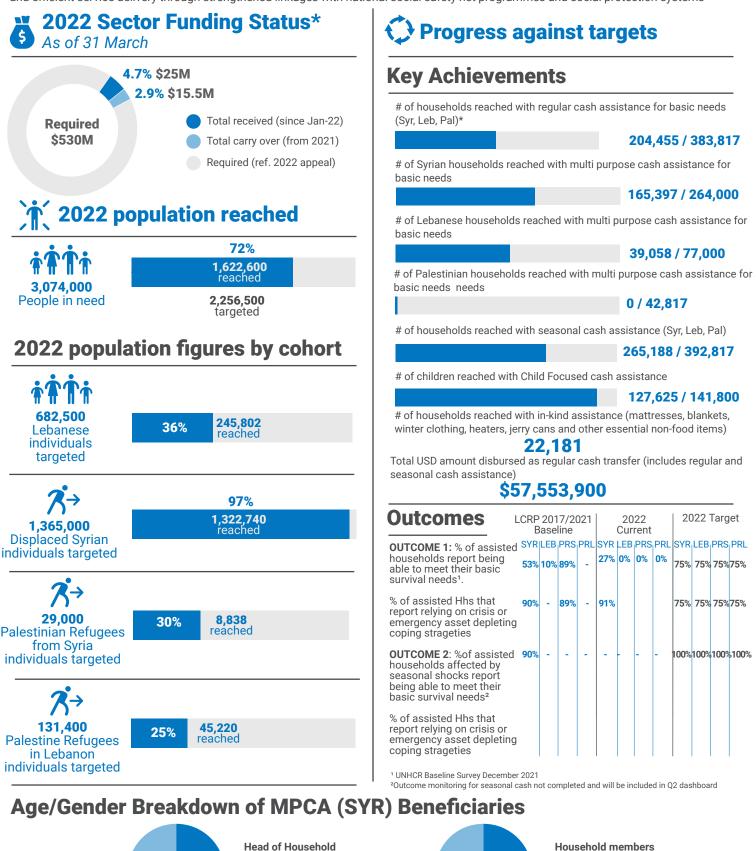


Children

Adults

55%

2022 Q1 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



57%

43%

Female

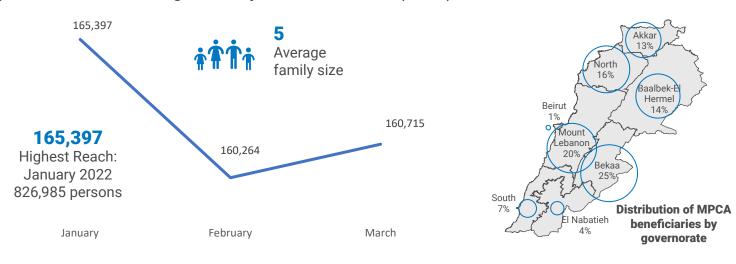
Male





# 🕡 Analysis

#### Syrian Households Receiving Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in 2022



### Multi-sectoral situation update:

The effects of the political, economic, and public health crises facing Lebanon continue to exacerbate the vulnerability of refugee and host populations supported under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP). People are falling deeper into poverty due to currency depreciation, rising prices and loss of income, making the purchase of staple food and other basic goods unaffordable. By March 2022, the cost of the revised food 'Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket' has risen eleven times since October 2019 (a 1,062% increase), while the non-food items basket rose by more than 14 times in the same period (a 1,315% increase). Further price hikes are expected following the Russian invasion of Ukraine given Lebanon's reliance on important wheat and other cereals from both countries. A governmental wheat subsidy remains in place for now, but the situation has sparked fears that bread may become unaffordable for many if the subsidy is discontinued, with a knock-on effect on social tensions which continue to be driven by socio-economic factors.

Protection monitoring demonstrates that economic vulnerability is contributing to a worsening rate of legal residency among refugees, which in turn inhibits freedom of movement and access to justice. Among vulnerable Lebanese households, a WFP and World Bank survey found that more than 60% of households were resorting to crisis coping strategies, including reducing expenditure on health and education, withdrawing children from school and selling productive assets. The operational context for LCRP partners remains constrained including for emergency response, with ongoing supply chain gaps, access challenges and the ongoing impact of COVID-19. While access to fuel supplies has eased somewhat in early 2022, state electricity provision remained low, averaging less than 5 hours of electricity supply per day around the country.

#### 1. Key achievements of the sector at the output level

Throughout Q1 of 2022, 295,358 households had a strengthened ability to meet their basic needs through the receipt of regular unrestricted cash assistance. This includes multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) and child focused social assistance.

A total of 204,455 vulnerable households received MPCA in Q1, constituting 47% of the Sector's target. Per population group, 165,397 displaced Syrian households (63% of those targeted) and 39,058<sup>1</sup> vulnerable Lebanese households (31% of those targeted) received regular MPCA. Due to funding constraints, the regular UNRWA MPCA program to Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) was halted since December 2021 and no families were reached with MPCA so far in 2022<sup>2</sup>.

Additionally, 127,625 children received monthly cash grants through child-focused social assistance programs (90% of the Sector target). This included 68,541 displaced Syrian households, 44,835 Lebanese households, 2,946 PRS households, and 11,303 households of Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL)<sup>3</sup>. The child-focused cash assistance provided by the Haddi progamme has successfully reached its objective of improving the wellbeing of children. Monitoring results from January 2022 showed that almost all beneficiaries reported that the cash assistance had a direct positive impact on the wellbeing of their children, with a specific focus on nutrition and health.

The value of regular assistance (including MPCA and child focused social assistance) in the first quarter of 2022 totalled US\$ 38,553,901 across all LCRP population cohorts. The majority of MPCA assistance is disbursed to beneficiaries in Lebanese Pounds (LBP), while child focused assistance is being provided in US Dollars (USD). The dollar value of assistance disbursed in LBP is calculated using agency specific exchange rates with their financial service providers.

The month of March marked the end of the winter season and under Output 2.1, 265,188 households were better able to meet additional seasonal needs through the receipt of seasonal cash grants in Q1 of 2022. This included 234,417 displaced Syrian, 30,760 vulnerable Lebanese, 3 PRS and 8 PRL households.

In total, throughout the winter season of October 2021 to March 2022, 264,548 displaced Syrians, 48,561 vulnerable Lebanese, 3 PRS and 8 PRL households benefited from seasonal cash grant to support families cover additional needs brought about by the winter season. 97% of targeted

- <sup>2</sup> Agencies that provided MPCA in Q1 2022: Action Against Hunger; Caritas; Islamic Relief; Nusaned; Oxfam; UNHCR and WFP.
- <sup>3</sup> Agencies that provided child focused social assistance: Save the children; UNICEF.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Of the total number of vulnerable Lebanese assisted with MPCA, 36,620 households received MPCA through the National Poverty Targeting Program, implemented by WFP. Additional households were reached through NGO programmes.





displaced Syrian families, and 65% of targeted vulnerable Lebanese families were reached. For PRS and PRL, less than one percent of families were reached with seasonal cash due to funding unavailability.

Seasonal cash assistance throughout the 2021-2022 winter season from October 2021 to March 2022 reached a total value of \$47,494,221, of which 40% was disbursed in Q1 of 2022.

Additionally, 22,181 households that faced seasonal and/or emergency shocks were able to cover their additional needs with in-kind assistance, including mattresses, blankets, winter clothing, heaters, jerry cans and other essential non-food items. A total of 7,462 households received blankets, 730 received heaters, 3,390 received clothing kits, 3,243 received mattresses and 12,843 received other types of non-food items.

#### 2. KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

- With the continuous rise in prices of goods and services in the market, it has been a challenge for partners to regularly update transfer values to reflect the increased prices. The main obstacles include: concerns around the perception of assistance, given growing needs across the population, leading to social tensions; programmatic challenges with regularly updating values; and funding constraints. Additionally, with some partners shifting to provide cash assistance in USD while others continue to disburse in LBP, a discrepancy has been created in the value of assistance in the different currencies. The majority (above 97%) of MPCA to Syrians is being disbursed in LBP through UNHCR and WFP, through the LOUISE platform. In Q1, families were receiving 800,000LBP per month to cover basic non-food needs. MPCA provided by NGO partners has shifted to USD with transfer values ranging between 50 and 100 USD per month.

- With increased assistance being channelled to vulnerable Lebanese outside governmentally led programs, deduplication amid rising needs, de-duplication between partners providing MPCA and analysis of assistance has become an increasing priority for the Sector. Without a solid government-led database or system which includes programmes that are not directly run by the Government for cross-checking and reporting at the individual or family level, the risk of duplication of assistance becomes a concern.

- Since January 2022, the MPCA program to Palestinian Refugees from Syria has been halted due to unavailability of funds. To continue life-saving assistance to 30,000 Palestinian Refugees from Syria and 129,000 Palestine refugees beyond June, \$17.1 M are needed.

#### **3. KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER**

- During the second quarter, the Sector will work towards defining processes to ensure minimum duplication of assistance provided by NGOs under the sector, including a detailed geographical mapping of disbursed assistance and steps to take when risk of duplication is high. Additionally, the Sector will work towards developing guidance for assessments and eligibility of vulnerable Lebanese (not targeted by national safety net programmes) in an effort to harmonize targeting criteria.

- Towards the end of Q2, the Sector, together with the Food Security and Agriculture Sector, will initiate a review of the components and methodology of defining the SMEB. In addition, the Sector will work towards developing guidance for in-kind assistance, including covering topics related to the types of items to be distributed depending on needs, assessments, and eligibility as well as referrals and related processes.

- With support from the Gender Based Violence Risk Mitigation Committee, SGBV task force and Protection Sector, the Sector will work towards defining Priority Risks and Mitigation Measures based on the Protection Risk Assessment, previously conducted in 2020 and 2021. Additionally, a Gender Training is planned to be held towards the end of May 2022 for Sector partners.

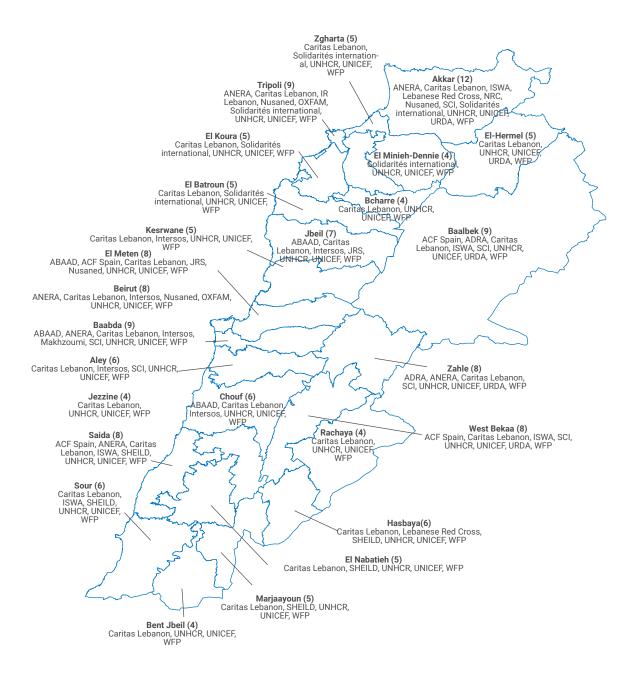
- With a number of assessments taking place to better define needs and vulnerability of Lebanese, the Sector will work towards re-assessing targets for vulnerable, which are currently based on planned interventions, rather than on a needs-basis.





#### 4. Organizations per district

ABAAD, ACFSpain, ADRA, ANERA, Caritas Lebanon, Intersos, IR Lebanon, ISWA, JRS, Lebanese Red Cross, Makhzoumi, NRC, Nusaned, OXFAM, SCI, SHEILD, Solidarités international, UNHCR, UNICEF, URDA, 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.