2024 Q2 Sector Dashboard

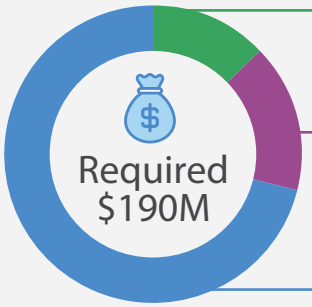
WaSH

The second quarter of 2024 WaSH sector dashboard summarizes the progress made by WaSH sector partners involved in the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP), identifies key challenges and priorities, and highlights trends affecting people in need. The WaSH sector in Lebanon is working to: Outcome 1: Strengthen national, regional and local public institutions' capacities to deliver improved public policies, goods and services (water and sanitation). Outcome 2: 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.

The Lebanon Response Plan is pending endorsement by the LRP Steering Committee. This dashboard is based on information reported by WaSH sector partners operating under the sector strategy discussed with and endorsed by the Ministry of Energy and Water.

2024 Sector Funding Status

As of June 30th



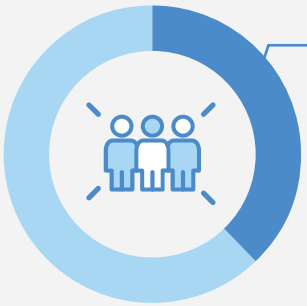
13% $25.2M
Total received
(since Jan-24)

16% $30.1M
Total carry over
(from 2022)

71%
Required
(ref. 2024 appeal)

2024 Population Reached

2,582,109
People in Need



617,480 37.8%
Reached

1,635,000
Targeted
Male 797,930
Female 837,070

2024 Population Figures by Cohort

1,270,752
Lebanese
individuals in need

300,705 33%
Reached

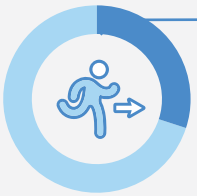
900,000
Targeted
Male 432,000
Female 468,000

1,121,176
Displaced
Syrians in need

309,273 47%
Reached

660,000
Targeted
Male 330,000
Female 330,000

23,026
Palestinian
Refugees from Syria
(individuals)



4506 30%
Reached

15,000
Targeted
Male 7,230
Female 7,770

75,503
Palestine
Refugees in
Lebanon
(individuals)

1806 3.6%
Reached

50,000
Targeted
Male 25,200
Female 24,800

97,408
Migrants
(individuals)

1190 12%
Reached

10,000
Targeted
Male 3,500
Female 6,500

For more information, please contact: washsectorlebanon@gmail.com

Analysis of Achievements of the Sector at the Output Level

The National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS) has been updated for 2024-2035. The main strategy document embeds the priority projects for each Water Establishment and the five-year water sector recovery plan. In terms of supporting water institutions' operations and building their capacity [Output 1.2], the sector partners continued to second 8 technical staff based in Water Establishments.

The WaSH sector partners provided temporary access to safe water for drinking and domestic use (output 2.1) to about 204,419 individuals, 95 per cent of whom were displaced Syrians in informal settlements. Approximately 363,968 cubic meters of water were provided through the water trucking modality. The support, however, fell short of the agreed minimum standard of 35 litres per capita per day, averaging at only 15 litres per capita per day in Q2. This is primarily attributed to the funding constraints affecting the sector's programs in temporary locations. In addition, more than 10,000 Lebanese in collective sites affected by the cross-border conflict escalation in the south of Lebanon have been supported with temporary access to water.
For permanent locations under Output 2.1, stabilization projects continue to benefit all population groups. Under the 2024 Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) framework, five sector partners reported ongoing or completed solarization activities at 16 water stations, benefiting approximately 350,782 people (229,476 Lebanese and 115,355 Syrians). In total, more than 2,850 kW of photovoltaic panels have been installed. Water infrastructure repair and maintenance support to Water Establishments, the EU-funded UNICEF program, resumed in June 2024. Prior to that, from the beginning of the year, it was very limited and focused mainly on emergency support to the South Lebanon Water Establishment linked to the ongoing cross-border conflict escalation.
Under Output 2.2, which aims to improve access to sanitation and safely managed wastewater services for the most vulnerable, 171,094 individuals in informal settlements received assistance through, desludging, toilet rehabilitation and maintenance of sanitation facilities. More than 126,000 cubic meters of sludge have been removed from informal settlements and safely disposed of in wastewater treatment plants.
For permanent locations (Output 2.2), the EU-funded UNICEF program continued to support the operation of five wastewater treatment systems that handle the wastewater flow of around 194,000 individuals. Efforts are ongoing to restore the operation of seven additional wastewater systems, which should commence wastewater treatment by Q3. DAI funded by USAID solarized two wastewater stations that handle the wastewater flow of more than 40,000 beneficiaries.
In the area of access to hygiene items and WaSH behaviour change (Output 2.3), 129,408 individuals were supported (55% Lebanese). Of these, 104,600 benefited from hygiene items distributions, including 5,829 with menstrual hygiene, while 126,976 have participated in behaviour change and awareness-raising sessions. This represents about 32 per cent of the sector's target. The hygiene item distribution activities in the South, which reached out to more than 70,000 (62% in collective shelters) in 2024 include raising awareness of unexploded ordnance, landmines, and white phosphorus by including LMAC-approved flyers in the hygiene item distributions.

Mainstreaming activities:

Activation of The Advocacy Thematic Group: The WaSh sector has recognized advocacy as a crucial approach to tackling the major obstacles it is currently experiencing, especially the decreasing funding trend opposed to the increasing needs among the different population groups. This approach was thoroughly highlighted in the recent sector alert paper, through the detailed maps we developed, and the comprehensive presentation delivered at the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meeting.
Furthermore, the Advocacy Thematic Group has been activated with a thorough integration of cross-cutting themes embedded in the LRP. These include disability inclusion, protection, conflict sensitivity, energy, and environment, all of which are directly related to the current challenges such as access limitations faced by displaced Syrians and the ongoing hostilities in South Lebanon.This group comprises participants representing each of the cross-cutting themes, in addition to WaSH experts, and is tasked with the development of advocacy papers aiming to support the sector in overcoming the current challenges, ensuring that our advocacy efforts are holistic and inclusive.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA): As part of the sector's commitment to mainstreaming PSEA across all activities, the sector elected two PSEA Resource Persons to cover all regions of Lebanon. Their key responsibilities include engaging with and supporting affected populations by facilitating community-based awareness initiatives, emphasizing that assistance is never conditional upon sexual favours, and collaborating with NGO focal points to enhance awareness campaigns. The Resource Persons will ensure the visibility of the NGO Focal Points' identities, disseminate contact information for SEA reporting, and develop prevention strategies based on risk analysis. Their capacity-building efforts involve creating and implementing PSEA training programs for sector partners and collaborating with external organizations to bolster sector-wide capacity in addressing SEA. In terms of coordination and partnerships, the Resource Persons will actively engage with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and other relevant bodies to share information, best practices, and challenges. They will also foster collaboration with other PSEA focal points to create a cohesive approach. Their documentation and reporting duties include maintaining accurate records of PSEA activities and analyzing lessons learned to inform ongoing strategy improvements.

Conflict Sensitivity: The sector coordinated directly with the conflict sensitivity focal point and developed two maps:
1. Cadastre Prioritization Tool - Affected by IDP: This tool is designed to assist WaSH Sector partners in prioritizing cadastres affected by internal displacement. Its objective is to categorize these cadastres to provide insights for prioritizing WaSH interventions at the system level, including water/sanitation network maintenance and public water points.
2. WaSH Sector Tension Alert - ISs: This map presents the shift in tension dynamics, comparing conditions before and after the exclusion of specific cadastres from targeting. It provides an overview of the conditions of cadastres that may potentially face inter- and intra-communal tension due to budget cuts in WaSH services in Informal Settlements (ISs).

Gender and GBV Risk Mitigation: The sector has developed an annex to the recent one-pager sector alert, focusing on the challenges faced by women. This annex highlights the critical struggles women face in accessing Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) services in informal settlements in Lebanon. These challenges have been exacerbated by significant funding cuts over the past four years. The declining financial support has directly impacted the availability and quality of WaSH services, disproportionately affecting women and girls who already face substantial barriers in these areas. Continuous defunding is expected to further exacerbate the challenges faced by vulnerable population groups in accessing basic services.

2024 Q2 Sector Dashboard

WaSH

Escalation of Hostilities in the South:

WaSH sector partners support individuals displaced in temporary collective shelters, those hosted by other households, and those residing in border areas. They also help in maintaining water and wastewater systems. During the first three months of 2024, almost 20,500 hygiene kits and cleaning items were distributed. This includes 18,698 family hygiene kits, 727 menstrual hygiene kits and 983 baby kits. Over 157,000 litres of bottled water were distributed, mainly in collective shelters, with some provided in the border areas and hosted IDPs, while 340 m^3 of water was delivered to collective shelters via water trucking modality. Most of the collective shelters have been equipped with potable water treatment systems (reverse osmosis or UV based). The total number of beneficiaries reached through the above-mentioned modalities is 48,181.

Shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WaSH) partners have finished assessing potential new collective shelters. The data is being analysed to categorise each shelter based on the type of improvements needed to meet minimum standards.

WaSH sector partners support individuals displaced in temporary collective shelters, those hosted by other households, and those residing in border areas. They also help in maintaining water and wastewater systems. During the first six months of 2024, almost 31,739 hygiene kits and cleaning items were distributed. This includes 29,456 family hygiene kits, 935 menstrual hygiene kits and 1,232 baby kits. Over 207,500 litres of bottled water were distributed, mainly in collective shelters, with some provided in the border areas and hosted IDPs, while 1,376 m^3 of water was delivered to collective shelters via water trucking modality. Most of the collective shelters have been equipped with potable water treatment systems (reverse osmosis or UV based). The total number of beneficiaries reached through the above-mentioned modalities is 70,091 (51% Females and 49% males)

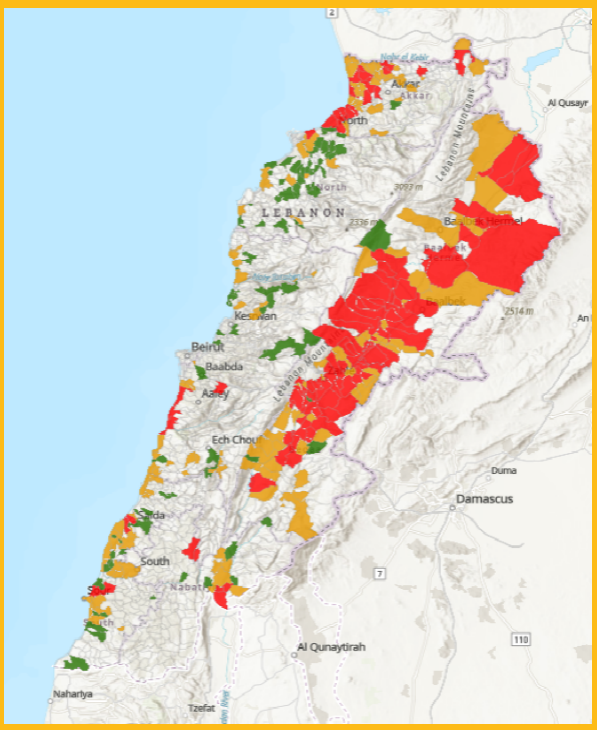
Shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WaSH) partners have finished assessing potential new collective shelters. The data is being analysed to categorise each shelter based on the type of improvements needed to meet minimum standards.

At the water and sanitation infrastructure level, the sector partners managed to access the main water station that was damaged due to hostilities and partially restored its functionality (e.g., Maisat station). South Lebanon Water Establishment has been supported with seven backup generators (e.g., Haret Saida pumping station), more than 500,000 litres of fuel for different stations in the South and Nabatieh governorates, spare parts and other consumables, as well as ad hoc emergency repairs to several stations. Total number of people reached through the system-level support has been estimated at 350,000.

Prioritization and Localization:

WaSH in Informal Settlements: Given the unexpected and unprecedented funding reduction by several donors for WaSH in Informal Settlements, the sector must prioritise the provision of life-saving services, determine Informal Settlements' eligibility for WaSH assistance, and address impacts on service quality. The quantity of water provided via trucking should not fall below the absolute minimum of 15 litres/capita/day (l/c/d); instead, partners should use the WaSH Assessment Platform (WAP) vulnerability scoring (developed and agreed upon in 2017/2018) to prioritize sites for water trucking services, supplemented with secondary data such as epidemiological data from the MoPH Emergency Surveillance Unit, WaSH-related tensions, and local field knowledge. On-demand desludging should be prioritised, especially for sites near rivers and lakes, areas with a history of wastewater-related tensions, and regions with high groundwater vulnerability. Community engagement activities should be enhanced for sites that will be deprioritized from service provision before these activities are suspended by following the guidance for the phase-out period developed by the WaSH sector community engagement thematic group and outlining the key steps to ensure the involvement of the community and other relevant actors in the transition phase. In addition to that, the sector developed tension map, in collaboration with the Conflict Sensitivity team, might guide partners in targeting specific cadastres. This map illustrates the changes in tension dynamics, contrasting situations before and after certain cadastres' exclusion from service provision. It also offers insight into the status of cadastres that could potentially experience tensions within and between communities due to WaSH services reductions in Informal Settlements.

https://uniceflebanon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/bf738d17edf84d8dad7622ff3e5888c7



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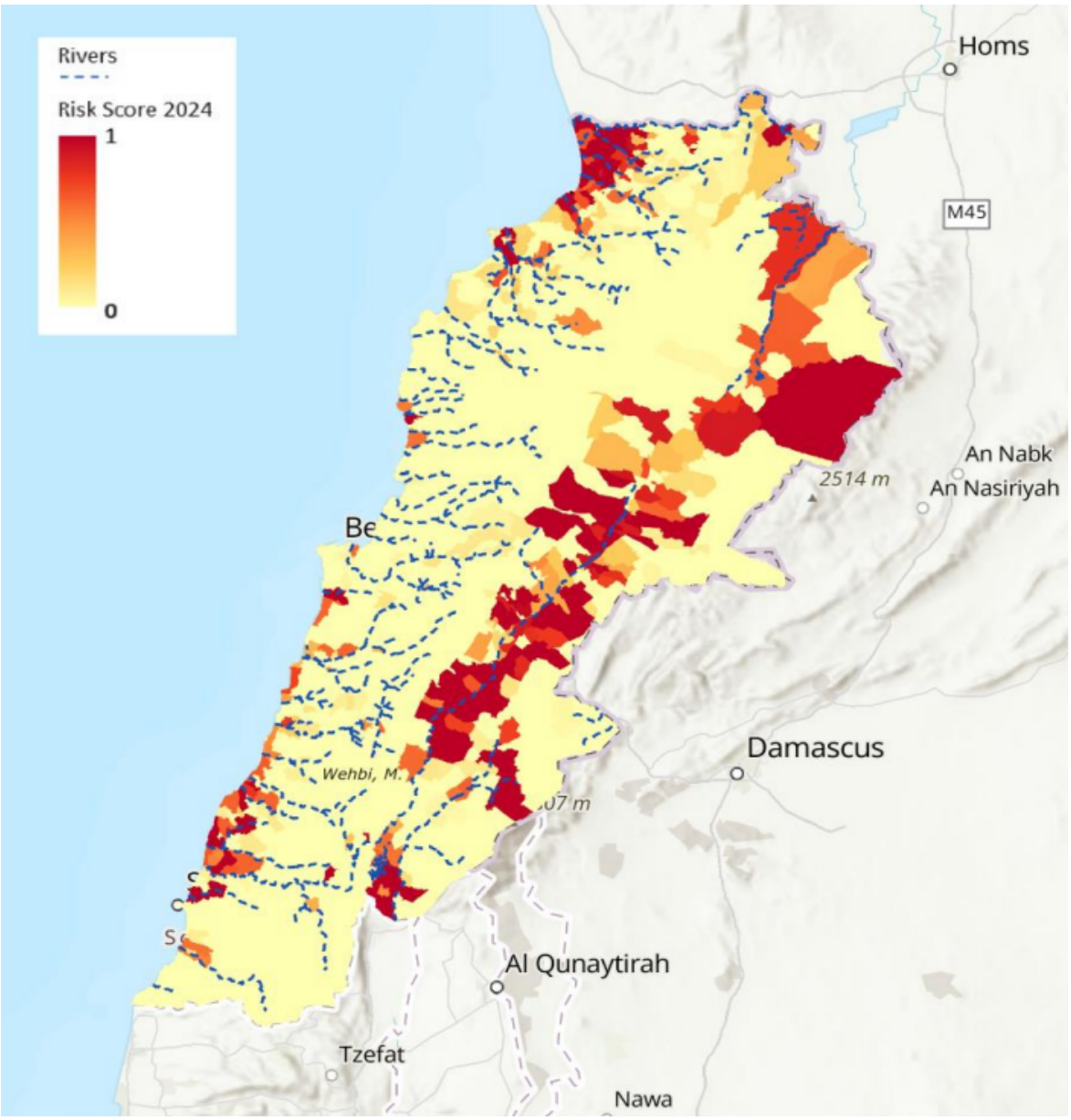
Water borne Diseases (WBD) Risk Map:

The cholera risk map that was developed in 2022 has served as a crucial tool for identifying high-risk areas and guiding emergency interventions. Building upon this framework, an updated WBD risk map for 2024 has been developed, incorporating a comprehensive set of indicators to assess the vulnerability of different cadastres to waterborne diseases. This updated map highlights areas with dense populations, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to safe water and sanitation facilities, providing valuable insights for targeted intervention strategies. This map serves as a visual representation of the areas at highest risk for water-borne diseases, providing stake-holders with a clear understanding of the areas that require immediate attention and action.
High-risk areas identified on the map should be prioritized for targeted interventions, including:

- Vaccination campaigns: High-risk areas should be prioritized for vaccination campaigns to mitigate the risk of outbreaks.
- Water quality monitoring: Enhanced water quality monitoring should be conducted in high-risk areas to detect and promptly address contamination.
- Sanitation improvements: Infrastructure upgrades and sanitation services should be prioritized in areas with inadequate facilities to reduce the risk of disease transmission.
- Community education: Public awareness campaigns should be tailored to high-risk areas, focusing on hygiene practices, safe water consumption, and disease prevention measures

Reference: Wehbi, M., Pajak, J., & Younes, H. (2024). Update of water-borne diseases risk map as a warning for new threats in Lebanon. ***https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109156***

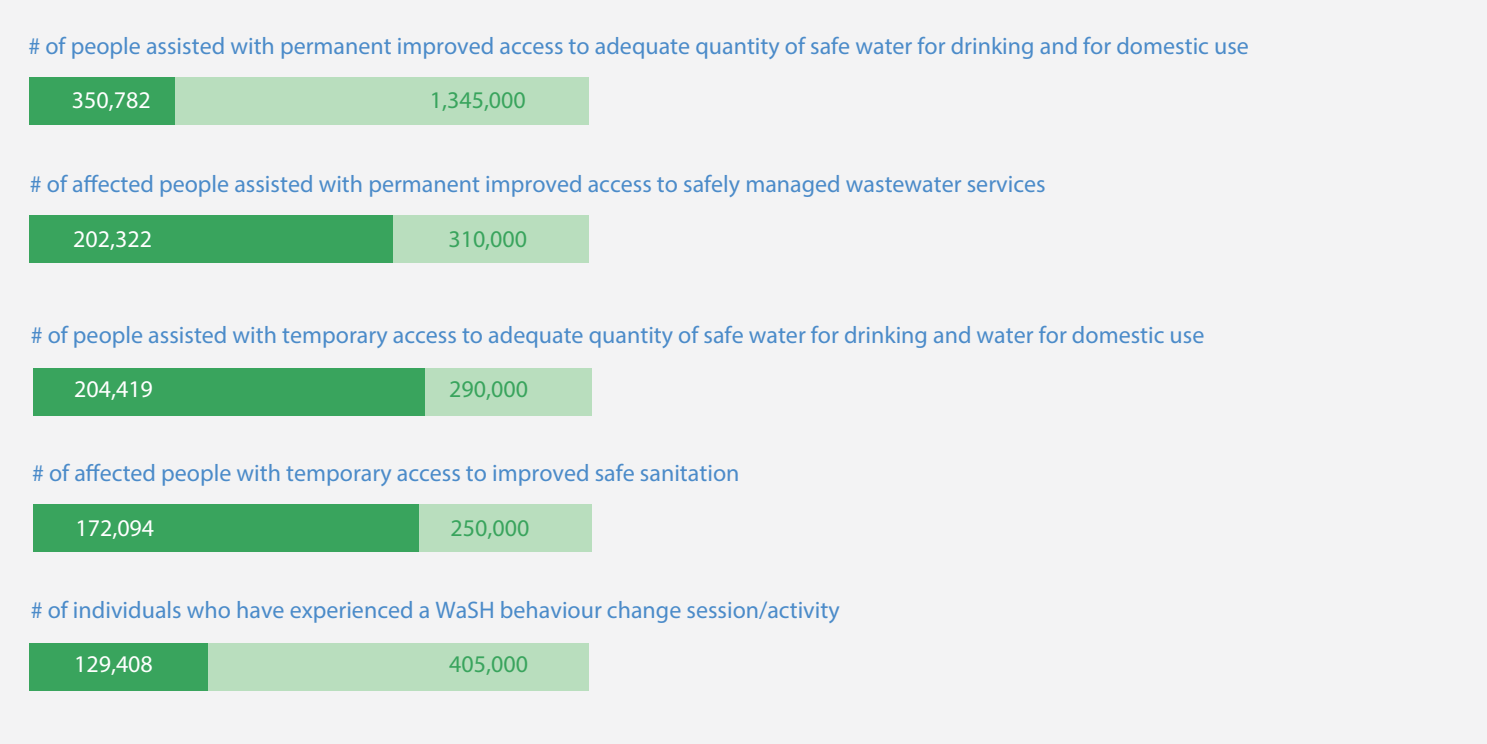


LEBANON Response Plan

2024 Q2Sector Dashboard

WaSH

Progress Against Targets



Challenges, Risks and Mitigation Measures

The significant decrease in funding puts the vital WaSH services provision for informal settlements at risk, which may result in suspending water trucking and desludging services for some informal settlements. This will further exacerbate public health and tensions risks.

Between September 2023 and June 2024, no broader repair and maintenance support to Water Establishments has taken place and it was mainly limited to emergency support to the South Lebanon Water Establishment linked to the ongoing cross-border conflict escalation.

Escalation of Hostilities in the South:
To date, at least 13 water infrastructures have been damaged due to cross-border hostilities, impacting the water supply for almost 200,000 residents in the South and Nabatiyeh.
The sector has no funds to replenish hygiene consumables for people displaced outside of collective shelters with a regular, more blanket distribution modality approach.
In light of the ongoing emergency in the southern region, the Wash Sector has identified the urgent need to preposition essential resources to ensure a prompt and effective response. A critical focus is on securing emergency fuel supplies, as they are vital for maintaining water provision from water stations and ensuring uninterrupted access to safe water in collective shelters. Without adequate fuel, the operation of water pumps, treatment facilities, and distribution systems would be severely compromised, putting vulnerable populations at risk. Additionally, strategically positioning water storage tanks, bottled drinking water, and hygiene kits across key locations is necessary to address immediate needs and maintain continuity of essential services. Highlighting these needs underscores the importance of proactive preparedness to mitigate the crisis's impact and safeguard public health and safety.
With the current gap in funding requested for the emergency response, it is crucial to prioritize the distribution of key services effectively. However, our ability to do so is hindered by the lack of household-level assessment data, which is essential for accurately identifying and prioritizing the most vulnerable populations. Without this data, our efforts to allocate resources may not reach those in greatest need, potentially compromising the overall effectiveness of our response. Addressing this data gap is critical to ensure that our distribution efforts are both targeted and impactful.

Key Priorities for Next Quarter

USD 15M is urgently required to bridge the WaSH gap in informal settlements. Funds currently available to the sector partners can only maintain limited WaSH services provision till August 2024.

In addition, enhancing the sector capacities to the emergency response to the cross-border conflict related needs, as well as the repair and maintenance capacities of the Water Establishments, are the sector top priorities.

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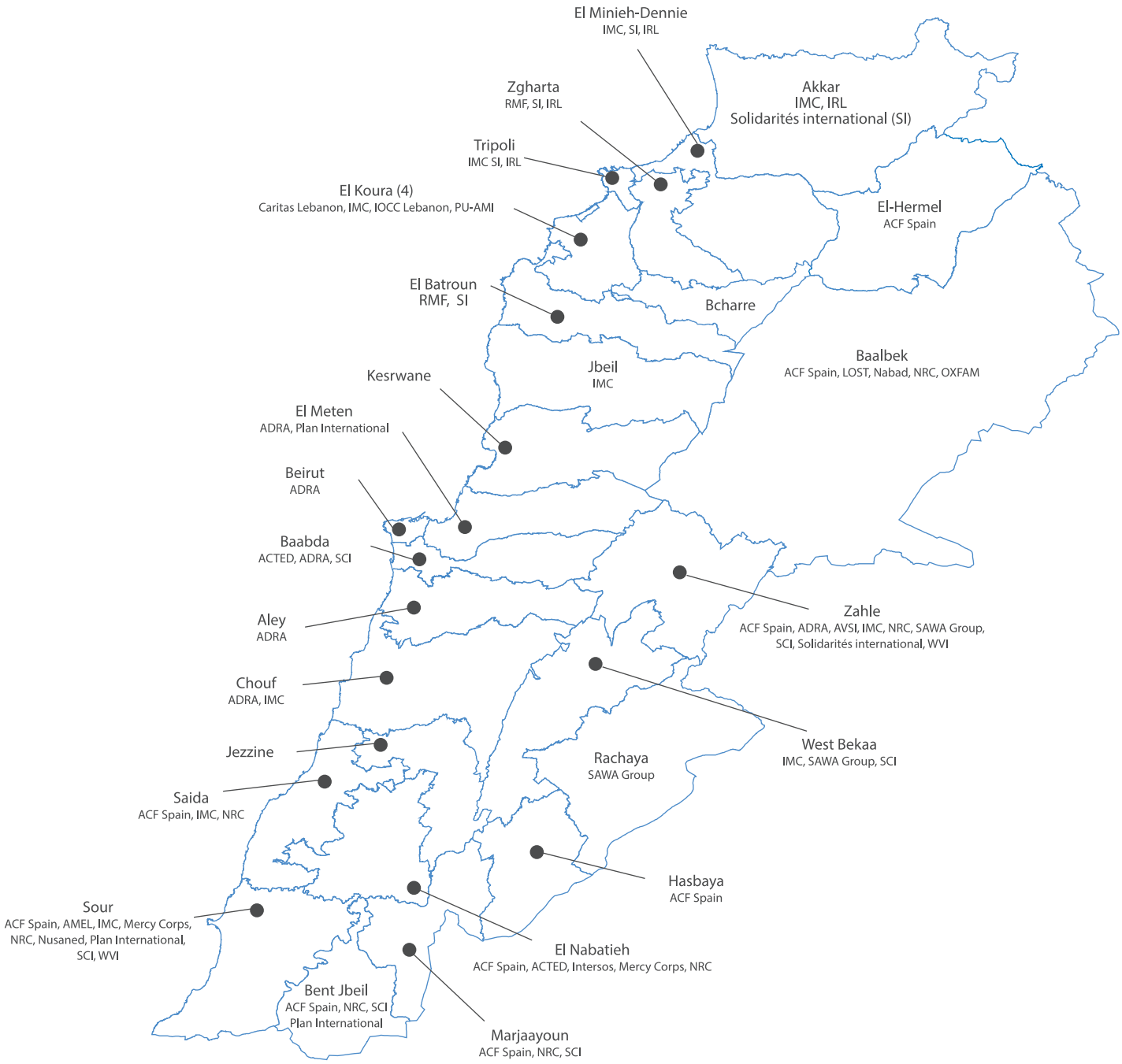
2024 Q2 Sector Dashboard

WaSH

19 organizations mentioned below are contributing to the achievement of WaSH Sector Outcomes prioritized under the LRP and reporting under ActivityInfo:
ACF Spain, ACTED, ADRA, AMEL, AVSI, IMC, Intersos, LOST, Mercy Corps, Nabad, NRC, Nusaned, OXFAM, Plan International, RMF, SAWA Group, SCI, Solidarités international, WVI, Islamic Relief Lebanon (IRL)



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