2024 Q2 Sector Dashboard

Basic Assistance

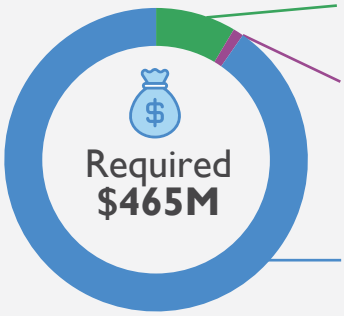
LEBANON Response Plan

The second quarter of 2024 Basic Assistance sector dashboard summarizes the progress made by Basic Assistance sector partners involved in the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP), Identifies key challenges and priorities, and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Basic Assistance sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Strengthen the ability of poor and vulnerable households and individuals, including female-headed HHs, persons with disabilities and children, to meet their basic needs ; OUTCOME 2) strengthen the ability of populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies to secure additional basic needs; OUTCOME 3) Technical assistance to the national social assistance system is provided;

The Lebanon Response Plan is pending endorsement by the LRP Steering Committee. This dashboard is based on information reported by Basic Assistance sector partners operating under the sector strategy.

2024 Sector Funding Status

As of 30 June



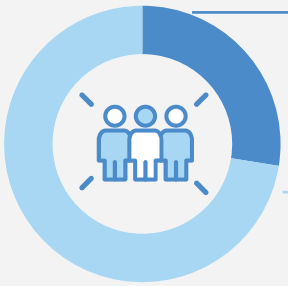
10% $45.7M
Total received
(since Jan-24)

1% $6.2M
Total carry over
(from 2023)

89%
Required
(ref. 2024 appeal)

2024 Population Reached

2,732,284
People in Need



985,210 41%
Reached

2,421,078
Targeted
Male **1,197,000**
Female **1,224,078**

2024 Population Figures by Cohort

1,159,289
Lebanese
individuals in need

313,032 34%
Reached

927,431
Targeted
Male **445,167**
Female **482,264**

1,350,000
Displaced
Syrians in need

580,355 46%
Reached

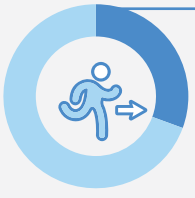
1,275,000
Targeted
Male **637,500**
Female **637,500**

23,026
Palestinian Refugees from Syria (individuals)

22,993 100%
Reached

23,026
Targeted
Male **11,099**
Female **11,927**

149,000
Palestine Refugees in Lebanon
(individuals)



63,940 44%
Reached

145,000
Targeted
Male **73,080**
Female **71,920**

50,969
Migrants
(individuals)

0 0%
Reached

50,969
Targeted
Male **30,503**
Female **20,466**

For more information, please contact: Hadi Haddad at ***haddadh@unhcr.org***

LEBANON Response Plan

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Basic Assistance

Progress Against Targets

OUTCOME 1: Strengthen the ability of poor and vulnerable households and individuals, including female-headed HHs, persons with disabilities and children, to meet their basic needs

# of households reached with regular cash assistance for basic needs (Syr, Leb, Pal)

220,439 / 549,281

# of Syrian households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs

116,071 / 255,000

# of Lebanese households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs

78,008 / 231,858

# of Palestinians from Syria households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs

9,197

# of Palestinians from Lebanon households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs

15,985 / 36,250

# of Other households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs

1,178

# of individuals with specific vulnerabilities receiving cash assistance through focused programmes (Small Scale)

89,101

# of PWDs receiving social grants (National Disability Allowance)

26,668 / 32,000

17,260,638

Total USD amount disbursed as regular cash transfer (Syr, Leb, Pal, Mig, Oth)

OUTCOME 2: STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY OF POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL HAZARDS AND EMERGENCIES TO SECURE ADDITIONAL BASIC NEEDS

# of vulnerable households receiving seasonal cash assistance

4,243 / 123,964

USD Disbursed in seasonal assistance

356,880

# of affected households receiving in-kind seasonal assistance

22,858 / 123,964

# of vulnerable households receiving emergency cash assistance for basic needs

26,494 / 56,839

USD Disbursed in Emergency cash assistance

1,728,360

# of affected households receiving in-kind Emergency assistance

21,655

*For more information, please contact: Hadi Haddad at **haddadh@unhcr.org***

LEBANON Response Plan

2024 Q2 Sector Dashboard

Basic Assistance

1. Analysis of Achievements of the Sector at the Output Level

As of June 2024, the regular unrestricted and unconditional cash grants strengthened 220,439 households' ability to meet basic needs[1] (non-food), achieving 41 per cent of the sector target for 2024. This represents a significant decrease compared to the second quarter of 2023, when 56.4 per cent of the target was reached. Among the targeted population groups, 116,071 displaced Syrian households (46% of those targeted), 78,008 vulnerable Lebanese households (34% of those targeted), 9,197 PRS families (blanket coverage) and 15,985 PRL families (44% of those targeted) received cash for basic needs.

The National Disability Allowance Programme (NDA)[2] has expanded its age eligibility to cover around 27,000 children and youth with a disability (67% boys, 33% girls) aged 15-30 years old (born in 1994-2009) including Lebanese and non-Lebanese with monthly social grants of USD 40. The National Child Grant as part of the National Social Protection Strategy is one of the main indicators under the first Outcome of the sector that did not start yet due to funding constraints.

Additionally, social assistance focused programmes provided monthly cash grants to 89,101 individuals with specific vulnerabilities[3] . This assistance included 1,201 displaced Syrians, 423 Lebanese, 290 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS), and 87,187 Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL).

The overall value of the cash disbursed as regular assistance (including cash for basic needs, social grants targeting specific vulnerabilities and the National Disability Allowance) as of June 2024 totalled USD 19,345,878 across all Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) population cohorts. All the assistance continued to be disbursed to beneficiaries in US Dollars.

As of Q2 2024, 22,858 households were able to meet their additional seasonal needs through seasonal in-kind assistance under Output 2.2. Among the beneficiaries were 20,020 displaced Syrian households, 1,670 vulnerable Lebanese households, 5 PRS households, 343 PRL households, 414 Migrant households and 406 households from other nationalities. After the discontinuation of major winter assistance in 2023[4] , the gap persists regarding the inability to support households with winter specific cash assistance due to lack of funding (4,243 HHs only received seasonal cash assistance). The seasonal cash assistance provided as of June 2024 totalled to USD 356,880.

During the second quarter of 2024, a total of 1,652 referrals were made to partners who offer support under the Basic Assistance Sector, with only 55.7 per cent of those referrals were accepted (865 cases). It is significantly declined when compared to the second quarter of 2023 where 1,363 referrals were done but with only 41.2 per cent of those were accepted (562 cases). Despite this progress, the uptake of referrals in the Basic Assistance Sector remains challenging due to the sector's targeting methods and the inability of key partners to consistently accommodate referred individuals. To address these challenges, briefings were held with key sectors to clarify issues and explain the obstacles faced. The change in referral acceptance is not due to a decrease in need but can be seen because of these briefings, which aimed to raise awareness of the sector's limitations in accepting referrals.

Escalation of Hostilities in the South:

As of June 2024, concerted efforts were made to enhance coordination among sector partners responding to the escalating hostilities at the southern Lebanese borders. These efforts aimed to align interventions with a unified guidance note, focusing on prioritizing Basic Assistance (BA) activities and facilitating timely and efficient distribution of core relief items and emergency multipurpose cash assistance to families affected by the ongoing conflict, in both border areas and urban settings, encompassing both inside and outside collective shelters. As this approach is newly incorporated in the LRP, and under the BA sector strategy by embedding the emergency response under outputs 2.1 for emergency cash assistance, and 2.2 for emergency in-kind assistance; it aims to address the emerging basic needs arising from the conflict and to provide support to vulnerable families dealing with additional expenses or livelihood losses.

In response to the escalation of hostilities in the South, the Basic Assistance sector partners have responded by distributing emergency core relief items to 21,655 households in Bekaa, South, and Nabatiyeh governorates, while also providing a one-time emergency cash transfer to over 18,600 vulnerable Lebanese households (approximately 84,000 individuals) registered in the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) social safety net databases but not presently receiving assistance, across all seven districts of South and Nabatieh governorates.

As of June 2024, 9,450 households benefited from emergency cash grants to cover basic needs (non-food), in Nabatieh, South, Beirut and Mount Lebanon, and 5,093 refugee families residing in Tyre, Nabatieh, Marjaayoun, Hasbaya and Bint Jbeil districts and not already benefiting from existing cash programs were provided with multi-purpose cash assistance to meet their food and non-food needs.

In June 2024, 11,884 poor and vulnerable Lebanese households registered within the MoSA social safety net databases received emergency cash assistance across the seven districts of the South and Nabatieh governorates, and 5,599 refugee families residing in Tyre, Nabatieh, Marjaayoun, Hasbaya and Bint Jbeil districts not already benefiting from existing cash programs were provided with

[1]Basic non-food component composing the S/MEB and include clothing and foot ware, communication, rent, water, transportation, electricity, health, and education services.
[2]The National Disability Allowance Programme (NDA) is implemented by MOSA with financial and technical support from UNICEF and ILO for its implementation. It relies on existing databases from UNHCR and UNRWA for the non-Lebanese.
[3]This includes specifically targeting and supporting children, older persons, and persons with disabilities or other medical conditions
[4]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 gap in overall winter coverage.

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multi-purpose cash assistance to meet their food and non-food needs. Moreover, 1,059 refugee households residing in Tyre, Nabatieh, Marjaayoun, Hasbaya, and Bint Jbeil districts who receive cash assistance for food only were provided $40 (per household) to cover their non-food needs.

However, the effectiveness of this response relies on the capacities, budgets, and resource reallocations of partnering organizations. Existing funding gaps and constraints pose significant risks of leaving the affected population without crucial support for survival and well-being.

Urgent attention and additional resources are imperative to address these pressing needs and vulnerabilities, especially considering the potential for escalation at the southern borders or the prolonged current conflict situation, which may further exacerbate the needs.

In addition, 21,655 households were able to cover their additional needs with in-kind non-seasonal assistance, including mattresses, blankets, winter clothing, heaters, jerry cans and other essential non-food items. The distribution included 50,530 blankets, 7,868 solar lamps, 29,883 mats, 264 heaters, 31,690 clothing kits, 49,285 mattresses and 27,937 other types of non-food items.

Prioritization and Localization:

The sector's efforts are focused on supporting emergency response in the south and border areas by prioritizing humanitarian needs identified by the Disaster Risk Management and Disaster Risk Reduction Units (DRM/DRR). Sector partners are responding by distributing core relief items to people affected by the conflict both inside and outside collective shelters. In border areas, there is an increasing demand on cash assistance.

The number of Basic Assistance actors in the South region has been limited, with only few partners operating. Despite this limitation, the BA sector on both the national and field level especially in the South, has maintained regular coordination with partners including local NGOs through monthly and ad-hoc Basic Assistance Working Group (BAWG) meetings. These meetings ensure coordinated activities, facilitate open communication, and provide necessary updates and guidance to all actors regularly.

Since the onset of the conflict in the South, many local and international NGOs have sought guidance and support from the sector to address emerging needs. In response, the BA sector, at both national and regional levels, has kept partners informed about key developments through bilateral consultations and regional working groups. This approach ensures that all partners receive the necessary information and support to effectively respond to the crisis.

The sector collaborated closely with the Food Security and Agriculture sector on the LHF allocations, focusing on geo-splitting border areas and refining targeting methodologies for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). This collaboration aimed to optimize the use of existing resources, prioritize activities, and address coverage gaps more effectively.

CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The coverage of regular multi-purpose cash assistance to displaced Syrians significantly declined in the first half of 2024, reaching 116,071 households, compared to 181,596 households in the first half of 2023. This coverage is expected to further decrease due to reduced funding linked to the ongoing global context and prioritization. Based on confirmed funding among partners, the expected coverage of vulnerable Syrian households throughout the year is not expected to exceed 65 per cent, the same as in 2023. This decline in coverage is coupled with inadequate transfer values, leading to a deteriorating impact of cash programs under the sector.

Although the year-on-year inflation rates have gradually decreased over the past 12 months[5] (food yearly inflation decreased from 304 percent in May 2023 to 32 percent by May 2024, General inflation decreased from 260 percent to 52 percent, energy inflation from 164 percent to 6 percent), the challenge of maintaining meaningful transfer values continues to remain one of the largest challenges facing the sector and partners due to shortage of funding and conflict sensitivity considerations.

The latest recommendations from the sector included USD 100 to cover non-food needs for a family of five while the majority of assisted families under the sector were only receiving around 40 per cent of the recommended amount, which is not sufficient to address the increasing vulnerabilities among targeted population, noting that in May 2024, the non-food SMEB (Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket) and MEB (Minimum Expenditure Basket) reached $241.5 and $284.7, respectively, representing a yearly increase of 84% for the SMEB and 96% for the MEB.

The variation of the non-food baskets is largely due to variation in the prices of non-food services and items, mostly in the price of rent, cost of residency renewaland cooking gas prices which is following global trends.

Furthermore, the escalation of hostilities in the south has triggered significant economic repercussions, especially in commodity markets impacting the overall cost of living.
Additionally, limited funding for relief efforts in the south has created a coverage gap, hindering the response to the increasing vulnerabilities.

[5] WFP market monitor – Consumer Price Index (CPI) – Central Administration of Statistics (CAS)

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A gender and GBV risk mitigation tip sheet and gender brief analysis for the sector was endorsed during the quarter one, and a gender action plan for the sector was also endorsed and integrated into the Annual Work Plan, where partners are advised to increase collection and analysis of gender and GBV data while ensure gender disaggregation in reporting.

In its effort to advance Conflict Sensitivity mainstreaming, the Basic Assistance sector dedicated a joint consultation session with the Conflict Sensitivity focal point to discuss recent trends and challenges in cash assistance in Lebanon. The session included analysis and recommendations to feed the update of the "Conflict Sensitive Cash Assistance in Lebanon" toolbox. Insights captured by the sector allowed for highlighting best practices that ensure the integration of conflict-sensitive cash provision. The updated toolbox will be made available to all cash partners including basic assistance actors in both English and Arabic.

Escalation of Hostilities in the South:
As hostilities have intensified in the South, BA sector, which provides non-food items and cash assistance to displaced populations and those remaining near the conflict zone, has faced diverse challenges. The conflict has restricted movement, making it difficult for aid workers to reach the affected areas specifically at the border. Safety concerns have become paramount, often halting or delaying operations.

In response, the sector has made strategic adjustments to ensure that the continuity of delivering critical assistance. The sector has established enhanced coordination mechanisms with local authorities, other NGOs, and UN agencies to maintain a coordinated response.

To address the increased risks, the BA sector has divided the response between the border areas where operations are the most unsafe and urban settings where most of the displaced population is. The approach is dynamic, allowing sector partners to continuously adapt their operations to the changing security landscape. Cash assistance has been prioritized in unsafe areas where it is challenging to deliver goods. This approach allows beneficiaries to purchase what they need locally where markets are functioning, reducing the risk and complexity of transporting physical items through dangerous zones. In hosting areas, where displaced populations have sought refuge, in-kind assistance has been prioritized. Providing non-food items directly ensured that beneficiaries received the critical items they needed more effectively and in a timely manner, right after the conflict on-set.

Operationally, the sector has decentralized coordination, setting up local hubs closer to affected areas. Partners have prepositioned essential non-food items and cash reserves in strategic locations to ensure a rapid response when needed.

Recognizing the need for resource reallocation, partners have redirected funds from less critical projects to emergency response efforts. Engaging with donors has been crucial in mobilizing additional resources specifically for these emergencies.

In reprogramming funds, partners have prioritized immediate life-saving interventions over the regular response plan. The sector has advocated for flexible funding models with donors, allowing to quickly reprogram funds based on emerging needs.

Through these strategic adjustments, resource reallocations, and adaptive measures, the BA sector has enhanced its responsiveness and effectiveness in providing critical support to displaced populations and those remaining in conflict zones, despite the significant challenges posed by the increased hostilities.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

During the third quarter, following the update and dissemination of emergency response guidelines, the sector will collaborate closely with the sector co-leads and with the Food Security & Agriculture sector, to finalize the targeting methodology for IDPs. This effort will facilitate the targeting and prioritization of activities by sector partners. Additionally, the sector will address the Geo-split for border areas, focusing on covering gaps and prioritizing "resilient" villages.

Along with continuing to regularly monitor prices and markets as they impact the Survival/Minimum Expenditure Basket, the sector will continue to work on strengthening data and methods used to define and recommend transfer values for multi-purpose cash assistance. This includes strengthening the use of the ECMEN (economic capacity to meet basic needs) which was incorporated to replace the income indicator as part of transfer value calculations. To facilitate this, the sector, through work done with the Core Group has developed a Multi-purpose Cash Guidance note to guide partners aiming to have multi-purpose cash interventions. Recognizing that Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) under the Basic Assistance sector covers non-food needs exclusively, efforts will be prioritized to collaborate closely with the Food Security sector to further direct cash actors implementing under both BA and FS sector, ensuring coherence and synergy in response efforts.

Under the Outcome 3, the BA sector will work closely with the Ministry of Social Affairs to strengthen the referral and deduplication protocols between the BA cash actors aiming to support Vulnerable Lebanese and social assistance systems.

As a follow up on the efforts to mainstream gender and GBV, the sector will tackle related priority areas included in the annual work plan in close coordination with the inter-sector mainstreaming focal point.

The Protection risk analysis matrix is to be updated by the sector, heavily relying on the field consultation sessions to identify new protection risks related to the implementation of cash programs and recommend relevant mitigation measures.

The BA sector will update the winter guidance note to address specific winter needs and their associated market costs. This update will aid partners in planning their winter interventions effectively.

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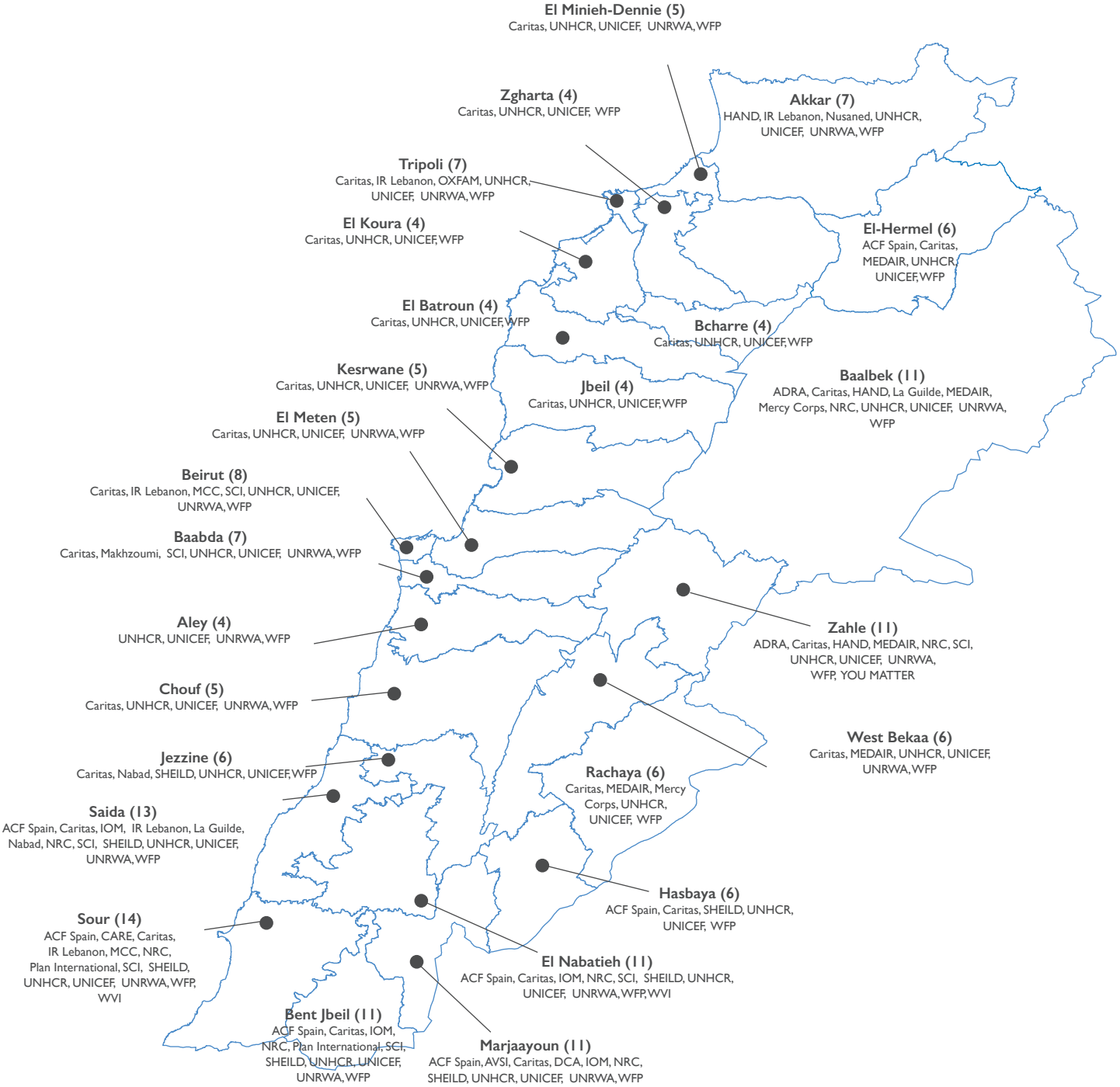

All 25 organizations mentioned below are contributing to the achievement of Health Outcomes prioritized under the LRP and reporting under ActivityInfo:

ACF Spain, ADRA, AVSI, CARE, Caritas, HAND, IOM, IR Lebanon, La Guilde, Makhzoumi, MCC, MEDAIR, NRC, Nabad, Nusaned, OXFAM, Plan International, SCI, SHEILD, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, WVI, YOU MATTER

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