

Overview

Lebanon faces another challenging winter amid prolonged economic decline, fragile security conditions, and weakened coping capacities across all population groups. While returns of both displaced Syrians and internally displaced Lebanese have increased since late 2024, many vulnerable households remain unable to meet their basic needs.

For 2025-2026, Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) partners maintain a multi-sectoral and protection-sensitive approach, combining institutional preparedness and direct household assistance.

 Projected cost of winter preparedness and response for the 2025-2026 winter season: **\$31.63 million**
A 62% decrease compared to last year due to reduced needs and prioritization.

Key Objectives

- Prioritize early preparedness at national, sub-national, and community levels to enable timely interventions.
- Provide winter support to the most vulnerable households, particularly in high-altitude areas and substandard shelters.
- Reinforce shelter and infrastructure in collective sites and flood-prone communities.
- Coordinate closely with authorities to strengthen national and local response mechanisms.
- Integrate return dynamics by addressing the needs of both those remaining and those returning.

Sectoral Emergency Preparedness and Response

Response	Focus Areas	Estimated Budget
 Shelter	4,000 shelter kits pre-positioned; emergency site improvements; rehabilitation in collective and substandard shelters; distribution of Core Relief Items (CRIs) including blankets, mattresses, and heaters.	\$1.3 M
 WaSH	Maintain access to safe water; flood preparedness (desludging, drainage); hygiene kit stock; flood-prone site mapping.	\$0.25 M
 Food Security & Agriculture	Food assistance for those not covered by regular response; hot meals in shelters; food rations for affected populations outside shelters.	\$2.3 M
 Social Stability	Support to ~53 municipalities; maintenance of stormwater channels and river cleaning; equipment and infrastructure upgrades.	\$5 M
 Winter Cash Assistance	Provided to vulnerable households as standalone grant or seasonal top-up to existing Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA).	\$22.78 M

Cross-Sectoral Considerations

-  **Education:** Winterize schools in high-altitude areas; ensure safe, heated, and accessible learning environments.
-  **Health:** Prevent disease outbreaks (cholera, respiratory infections) through safe water access, sanitation, and hygiene promotion.
-  **Protection:** Prioritize safety and heating in shelters; ensure Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and referral pathways; focus on women and children in informal settlements.
-  **Conflict Sensitivity:** Apply Do-No-Harm principles; ensure equitable targeting and transparent resource distribution to mitigate social tensions.

Area Based Winter Preparedness & Response

North and Akkar

Focus on regular caseload and new arrivals; prioritize flood-prone areas along Ostouwan and Al-Kabir Rivers; limited coverage for collective shelters; gaps in cash and minor shelter repairs; coordination with municipalities critical to manage tension risks.

Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel

Severe snowfall and flooding expected; early prepositioning of supplies; coordination with MoSA and MoIM; advocacy for new arrivals' inclusion; focus on fuel vouchers and essential non-food items; drainage improvement and fire prevention awareness.

Beirut and Mount Lebanon (BML)

Urban focus with cash as main modality; coordination for electricity and heating support; targeted flood-prone areas (Damour, Naameh, Khaldeh); collaboration with DRM and governorate authorities for contingency planning and service continuity.

South and Nabatieh

Prioritize returnees and remaining displaced families in damaged shelters; preposition CRIs; limited capacity for cash support; focus on road and drainage rehabilitation; cash-for-work and vocational initiatives to enhance local preparedness.

Challenges & Gaps

-  **Funding Shortfall:** Limits coverage and prepositioning of supplies.
-  **Fuel Prices:** High cost affects heating and energy provision.
-  **Capacity of Local Authorities:** Municipalities and Civil Defense need training, equipment, and coordination support.
-  **Infrastructure Damage:** Roads and riverbanks require urgent repair and longer-term resilient solutions.
-  **Limited Partner Capacity:** Few partners can meet widespread needs.
-  **Access to Remote and Border Areas:** Harsh terrain and weather restrict delivery.
-  **Protection Space:** Balancing safety and socio-political dynamics is complex.

Recommendations

-  **Bridge Funding Gaps:** Mobilize multi-year, flexible funding and pooled mechanisms.
-  **Reduce Fuel Dependency:** Promote energy-efficient and solar-powered heating.
-  **Strengthen Capacity Building:** Support municipalities and Civil Defense units; enhance DRM and DRR coordination.
-  **Prioritize Infrastructure Rehabilitation:** Repair and upgrade roads, riverbanks, and resilient structures.
-  **Expand Partner Capacity:** Engage additional partners and provide capacity-building support.
-  **Improve Access to Remote and Boarder Areas:** Preposition supplies and leverage local networks.
-  **Strengthen Protection and Social Cohesion:** Integrate protection, conflict sensitivity, and community engagement.