WaSH - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

KEY SECTOR DATA (as of 31 December 2025)

Funding Status (as of 31 Dec 2025)	
Total received (Jan-Dec-25):	US$63.88 M
Total carry-over from 2024:	US$41.82 M
Required (ref. 2025 appeal):	US$285 M

Populations Figures (as of 30 Jun 2025)						
Cohort	**in need***	**Targeted***	**Targeted Female***	**Targeted Male***	**Reached**	**Reached vs targeted (%)**
Lebanese	2,146,366	1,693,666	880,706	812,960	539,398	31.8%
Displaced Syrians	1,021,786	570,000	296,400	273,600	253,481	44.5%
PRL	68,810	40,000	21,000	19,000	2,773	6.9%
PRS	15,739	12,000	6,250	5,750	1,645	13.7%
Migrants	88,773	10,000	5,200	4,800	2,972	29.7%
Total	3,341,474	2,325,666	1,209,346	1,116,320	800,269	**34.5%**

**Population In need and targeted should be similar to the figures from the LRP 2025 annual update.*

Indicator (selection)	**LEB**	**SYR**	**PRL**	**PRS**	**MIG**
# of people assisted with permanent improved access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and for domestic use	142,370	32,198	0	0	0
# of people assisted with temporary access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and water for domestic use	276,828	168,765	1,757	1,645	2,972
# of people assisted with temporary access to adequate quantity of safe water **through water trucking**	45,884	131,675	0	0	0
# of affected people with temporary access to improved safe sanitation	62,946	158,332	0	5	0
# of individuals who have experienced a WaSH behaviour change session/activity	397,028	221,283	1016	9	2,274
# of people reached through distribution of critical hygiene items	267446	339570	1236	125	1417

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & RESULTS

Outcome 1: Strengthen national, regional and local public institutions' capacities to deliver improved public policies, goods and services (water and sanitation).

Output 1.1: Strengthening institutional governance to adopt key water strategies.
Output 1.2: Support water institutions operations and building their capacity.

The updated National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS) for 2024–2035 includes key priority projects for each Water Establishment and outlines a five-year recovery plan for the sector. In May/June 2025, MoEW and Water Establishments developed an emergency response plan to address the 2025 drought, detailing essential activities to be implemented over a five-month period and beyond to mitigate future shocks. To further support the operations and capacity building of water institutions, sector partners have continued their efforts by seconding eight technical staff to work directly within the Water Establishments. Several Task forces were reactivated under the lead of the MoEW including but not limited to sanitation and water quality.

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.

Output 2.1: The most vulnerable people have secured access to a sufficient quantity of quality, reliable and equitable Water services

In 2025, WaSH sector partners provided temporary access to safe water for drinking and domestic use to nearly 451,967 individuals. While such support was previously focused on displaced Syrians living in informal settlements, the scope expanded following the 2024 conflict escalation and the fall of the regime in Syria and displaced population through water trucking to public drinking water points. The activation of new collective shelters for recent arrivals from Syria in Akkar, North and Baalbek-Hermel, along with remaining IDP collective shelters in South, Nabatieh, and Beirut/Mount Lebanon from the 2024 conflict, led to a significant increase in demand. Additionally, such support was also provided to people living in areas with non-functional water supply infrastructure damaged by the 2023-2025 hostilities. In total, nearly 468,425 cubic meters of water were delivered via water trucking to both informal settlements and collective shelters. Despite the efforts, water supply in informal settlements remained below the agreed minimum standard of 35 litres per capita per day, averaging only 15-20 litres in the first half of 2025. This shortfall is primarily due to funding constraints affecting the sector's programming in temporary locations.

In permanent locations, projects supporting water infrastructure have continued to benefit all population groups. Under the 2025 Lebanon Response Plan (LRP), sector partners reported that solarization activities were completed at 5 water stations with a total of 250kW of photovoltaic capacity, providing improved services to approximately 9,380 people, out of which 6,439 are Lebanese and 2442 are Syrians. In addition more than 5 projects include construction of a water network with a total of 27000 meters of pipes improving access to water to more than 44700 individuals.

In the aftermath of the 2024 conflict, large-scale support for water infrastructure repair and maintenance remains critical. However, current activities are limited and primarily focused on emergency interventions, particularly for the South Lebanon Water Establishment, as well as addressing emerging drought-related needs in other regions. By the end of 2025, with the support of

the EU-funded UNICEF program, more than 700 repair interventions had been completed nationwide, for water systems, ensuring the delivery of more than 468,400 cubic meters of water per day to nearly 4.5 million people. In addition, under the Swiss funds, UNICEF repaired 26 chlorination and water treatment systems and supplied around 140 tons of chlorine and other consumables necessary for water treatment for almost all water treatment systems operated by the 4 water establishments across the country.

Output 2.2: The most vulnerable people have secured access to sufficient quantity of quality, reliable and equitable Sanitation services

As of Q4 2025, a total of 221,283 individuals residing in informal settlements, as well as collective shelters for Syrian arriving post December 2024, received sanitation assistance, including desludging services, installation of emergency toilets and showers, toilet rehabilitation, and maintenance of sanitation facilities. Approximately 112,380 cubic meters of sludge were safely removed from these sites and disposed of at wastewater treatment plants. Reported sanitation services have decreased compared to last year during the same time.

As for the permanent locations, partners were finalizing activities for ongoing infrastructure reaching 174,568 individuals and ongoing projects that will be finalized by next year. Also, a total of 16 WWTPs have been rehabilitated to an agreed level of treatment which has improved access to over 1.8 million people to safe sanitation practices. This has reduced the risk of public health outbreaks and environmental degradation.

Output 2.3: People in need have secured access to critical hygiene items and adopt sustainable and socially responsible WaSH behavior.

More than 600,000 individuals were supported with improved access to hygiene services. This included the distribution of various WaSH non-food items, such as 360,000 emergency family hygiene kits, over 57,900 consumables kits, and more than 125,000 other kits, including menstrual hygiene kits, baby kits, elderly/incontinence kits, and cleaning kits for communal centres. The main reason for this increase was the support provided to returnees following the ceasefire and the subsequent return of displaced populations, as well as the distributions to the post-2024 displaced people from Syria. Number of individuals was significant high comparing to last year because of the intensive awareness campaign that was done by the WASH sector on the drought mid-2025 as well as materials on unexploded ordnance, landmines, and white phosphorus early 2025 using content approved by the Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC).

Gender Analysis

The deterioration of WaSH services in Lebanon continues to disproportionately impact women and girls, especially among newly arrived Syrians in shelters, returnees in war-affected areas, and residents of informal settlements. In shelters, inadequate private sanitation, limited hygiene supplies -including menstrual items- and overcrowding heighten risks of gender-based violence, particularly for adolescent girls and female-headed households. In informal settlements, declining infrastructure, irregular desludging, and scarce chlorinated water force women to rely on unsafe alternatives, increasing health risks and social exclusion. For Syrians arriving post December, returnees and IDPs, the absence of rehabilitated systems limits safe access, while women's caregiving and water collection responsibilities intensify their safety, health, and time burdens. With growing funding gaps, the WaSH sector stresses the urgency of gender-sensitive planning to ensure safety, dignity, and equitable access.

Environment

The sector prioritized renewable energy—especially solarizing pumping and wastewater systems—to reduce fuel reliance and enhance climate resilience. Environmental markers guided project design to mitigate pollution and resource depletion, strengthening long-term sustainability.

PSEA

Protection was reinforced through community feedback systems and gender-balanced teams. PSEA Resource Persons coordinate awareness, training, reporting channels, and sector-wide capacity building while engaging in Gender Working Groups to share practices and risks.

Conflict Sensitivity

Aligned with the Social Stability sector, WaSH interventions systematically applied Do-No-Harm principles and were informed by analysis from the Tensions Monitoring System (TMS) to mitigate water-related tensions and promote equitable, conflict-sensitive service delivery. This included integrating conflict sensitivity considerations throughout the project cycle, from design to implementation, particularly in high-risk and displacement-affected areas. In this context, a dedicated [1]Water Tensions Note was jointly developed and published in coordination with TMS, providing evidence-based analysis of water-related tension hotspots and practical programmatic recommendations to support partners in prioritizing interventions that reduce risks of social friction and conflict escalation.

PRIORITIZATION

A prioritization exercise classified WASH sector activities by urgency and relevance across emergencies and population groups. Activities under Hygiene, Water, and Sanitation were rated High, Medium, Least Priority, Not Applicable, or Not Recommended. The process considered IDPs, returnees, Syrians arriving post December, pre-existing Syrian refugees, Lebanese, Palestinian refugees (PRL, PRS), and migrants, alongside contexts such as the Lebanon War, the Syrian crisis, regime change, and non-emergency settings. Input was gathered from national and subnational members, with regional ratings in Beirut/Mount Lebanon, South/Nabatiyeh, Bekaa/Baalbek-Hermel, and North/Akkar, giving greater weight to local feedback. Findings showed priorities vary by context and population: for example, hygiene kits for new Syrian arrivals and water trucking in shelters were high priorities, while the same support for returnees and IDPs was rated lower.

In parallel, a Drought Vulnerability Index was developed, combining climate, hydro-geological, demographic, and land-use factors. In addition, a water-borne disease risk map and a water-related tension risk map were produced, integrating public health, service coverage, population pressure, and conflict-sensitivity indicators. Together, these analytical products enable early warning, targeted resource allocation, and informed cross-sectoral planning, supporting timely, evidence-based interventions to strengthen resilience and mitigate health and social risks in vulnerable communities.

LOCALIZATION

[1] Sector Packages | TMS

In the WaSH sector, we are actively advancing localization by strengthening the leadership of national actors and institutions. All WaSH activities in collective shelters for internally displaced persons (IDPs) are now fully implemented by national NGOs. In South Lebanon, we co-lead the response to damaged water infrastructure alongside the Water Establishment. In Beirut's southern suburbs, we closely coordinate with the Union of Municipalities to jointly lead the WaSH infrastructure response, ensuring services reflect local priorities. Additionally, in North Lebanon and Akkar, a national NGO co-leads the WaSH sector, further embedding local ownership. We also collaborate with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) actors at subnational levels to enhance preparedness and resilience. These partnerships, combined with direct support, capacity building, and shared planning, reflect our commitment to the Grand Bargain on localization. By placing national actors at the centre, we ensure that WaSH responses are more sustainable, accountable, and responsive to community needs.
This is also relevant for the sector transition plan which will see the increase of responsibility on local actors especially in sub national coordination.

CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The WaSH sector continues to face substantial challenges due to a deteriorating funding landscape, escalating operational needs, access constraints in conflict-affected areas, and the progressing 2025 drought. High-priority interventions, especially those supporting public water and sanitation infrastructure in the South, Nabatiyeh, Baalbek-Hermel, and informal settlements, remain underfunded. This compromises service continuity for more than 1.5 million people and risks widespread reliance on unsafe water sources.

Key risks include:

- **Disruption of critical public services** due to insufficient funding for fuel, spare parts, and chlorine, leading to potential water cuts and untreated wastewater discharge.
- **Public health crises**, particularly in collective shelters and informal settlements, stem from inadequate desludging, hygiene item distribution, and sanitation facilities.
- **Protection and dignity concerns** for women, children, and elderly populations due to unmet hygiene and water needs, especially in overcrowded shelters.
- **Operational delays and access issues** in high-risk or conflict-affected zones due to insecurity and administrative hurdles.
- **Inter- and intra-communal tensions** driven by unequal access to water and sanitation services which can fuel grievances and exacerbate social instability in vulnerable communities.

- **Innovative WASH technologies** such as household filters, community filtration, and decentralized wastewater systems have been implemented, ensuring consistent long-term operation and maintenance remains a challenge influencing sustained performance and value for money.

To mitigate these risks, the sector will:

- Advocate for **predictable, multi-year funding**, especially for high-severity activities, ensuring uninterrupted support for Water Establishments and service delivery.
- Strengthen **prepositioning and contingency planning**, including stockpiling chlorine, generators, pumps, and hygiene kits to ensure rapid emergency response.

- Foster **enhanced coordination** with local authorities, Water Establishments, and health actors to align efforts, prevent duplication, and fast-track repairs.
- Invest in **capacity building** and remote monitoring tools to improve system sustainability and responsiveness in underserved areas.
- Promote **community-based hygiene promotion** and behavior change activities to maintain safe practices even amid gaps in physical service delivery.
- Prioritize **conflict-sensitive programming**, ensuring equitable service delivery across population groups to reduce the risk of social tension and exclusion.

- **Ensure community level committees are trained** in the operational maintenance of all technologies that have been installed.

A failure to address these risks could lead to cascading effects, including disease outbreaks, increased displacement, breakdown of social cohesion, and erosion of public trust in humanitarian response mechanisms.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT YEAR

Looking ahead to 2026, the WaSH sector will focus on consolidating service continuity, safeguarding public health gains, and strengthening system resilience amid protracted socio-economic pressures, climate variability, and constrained operational capacity. Building on lessons learned, the sector will move from short-term crisis management toward risk-informed, transitional approaches that balance immediate life-saving needs with longer-term sustainability, in line with the Water Sector Transition Plan (2025–2027) and the evolving coordination architecture.

Priority will be placed on sustaining critical water and wastewater services in affected and underserved areas under overlapped emergencies, including the South, Nabatiyeh, North and Akkar Baalbek-Hermel, and informal settlements, where service fragility and public health risks remain acute. In informal settlements, WaSH interventions will continue to address urgent needs—such as water access, desludging, and sanitation upgrades.

To support anticipatory action and targeted investments, the sector will expand the use of risk analysis and monitoring tools, including the Drought Vulnerability Index, water-borne disease risk mapping, and water-related tension risk analysis. These tools will guide prioritization, enable early warning, and inform conflict-sensitive programming, helping to mitigate health risks and prevent localized tensions linked to inequitable service provision or resource scarcity.

Operational preparedness will remain a core pillar in 2026, with systematic prepositioning of chlorine, fuel, and critical spare parts, alongside the institutionalization of rapid-response and contingency frameworks to manage climate shocks, supply disruptions, and infrastructure failures. Remote monitoring and system diagnostics will be further scaled to detect early signs of failure, optimize maintenance, and support evidence-based decision-making in high-risk locations.

Strengthening coordination, localization, and national capacity will underpin all sector efforts. The WaSH sector will deepen collaboration and increase empowerment with Water Establishments, municipalities, health actors, and humanitarian partners to enhance data sharing, resource efficiency, and incident response. Localization efforts will prioritize increased leadership of national and local actors, supported through targeted technical assistance, institutional accompaniment, and on-the-job capacity building in operations and maintenance, data management, risk-informed planning, and conflict-sensitive service delivery.

Through these integrated priorities, the WaSH sector aims in 2026 to stabilize essential services, reduce public health and protection risks, support a government-led transition, and contribute to social cohesion in an increasingly complex and resource-constrained environment.

Case Study

Bany Hayane village, located in Marjaayoun District in Nabatieh Governorate, experienced severe disruptions to its water supply system in the aftermath of the war, which caused widespread damage to critical infrastructure and placed extraordinary pressure on already limited water resources. All 465 residential houses in the village were affected by the conflict, including 103 houses that were completely destroyed, significantly disrupting basic services and accelerating the deterioration of the water system. Following the war, 187 families resided in the village. The situation was further worsened by prolonged drought conditions, population movements, and increased demand from surrounding villages and institutions, including Rabb Tlatine, Markaba, the Lebanese Red Cross, and the Lebanese Army, that were partially relying on Bany Hayane for water access.

To address the root causes of the water crisis, Action Against Hunger (ACF) conducted a comprehensive technical assessment of the village's water system. The assessment revealed that approximately 30 solar panels had been damaged by nearby air strikes. In addition, minor damage was identified in the civil structures, mechanical components of the well system, and the pumping station room. While the system had originally been designed to operate using both generator and solar power, the solar system was only partially functional, and its original design capacity was insufficient to ensure reliable pumping solely on solar energy.

In parallel, by mid-2025, as families continued to return to their hometown, the village water system was no longer able to meet daily needs, creating an urgent risk to public health and basic living conditions. To respond to immediate needs, ACF initiated an emergency water trucking service program on 18 June 2025, initially providing 12 m^3 per day, later scaled up to 30 m^3 per day as demand increased. This approach aligned with WaSH Sector recommendations, ensuring continuity of access to safe water while long-term infrastructure solutions were under preparation and design. Throughout this phase, regular water quality monitoring and testing were conducted to ensure water remained suitable for safe drinking and domestic use.

While water trucking was essential as a short-term emergency response, it was recognized as an expensive, temporary, and non-sustainable intervention, reinforcing the need for a durable infrastructure solution.

By November 2025, ACF re-designed and upgraded the solar pumping system by replacing the 30 damaged solar panels and installing an additional 30 new panels, significantly increasing system capacity, efficiency, and solar-powered operating hours. This upgrade reduced dependency on fuel and generator use, contributing to a more sustainable and resilient water supply.

In parallel, ACF carried out major rehabilitation works, including full repair of the mechanical well system, restoration of electrical connections, completion of necessary civil structure repairs, and installation of a new chlorination dosing system to ensure water safety.

By December 2025, the rehabilitated and upgraded system became fully operational, enabling extended pumping hours on solar power and synchronized operation with the generator during cloudy conditions. Water quality continues to be routinely monitored to ensure compliance with safety standards. Test results are regularly shared with relevant stakeholders, and follow-up actions, guidance, and practical solutions are provided, particularly when any irregularities or non-compliance

are identified in the water quality results. As a result, water trucking was successfully phased out by the end of December 2025, restoring reliable and sustainable access to safe water for the community and significantly reducing the risk of future system failure and water loss.

“The system is now protected, the water is safe for use, and there is no longer water loss,” — Mayor of Bany Hayane

3W Map at Governorate level (to be added to the final product)

ACF Spain, AECID, AICA, AICS, AMEL, AND, ANERA, ARCS, Association Libanaise des chevaliers de Malte, AVSI, BHA, CARE, CDCS, CEI, CISP, Catholic Relief Service, Disasters Emergency Committee, DRC, Dutch Relief Alliance, ECHO, EUROPEAN UNION, France, GAC, Germany, GFFO, HAND, Handicap International, Human Appeal, Imam Sadr Foundation, IMC, Intersos, IOM, IRC, IRW, Islamic Relief Lebanon, ISWA, Key of Life, KfW, LDSC, Lebanese Red Cross, Lebanese Social Responsibility , LHF-OCHA, LOST, Luxembourg, MEDAIR, Mercy Corps, NCA, Netherlands, NMFA, Norway, NRC, Nusaned, Oxfam, PCPM, Plan International, SAWA Group, SCI, SHEILD, SIDA, Solidarités international, Sweden, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Tabitha-Dorcas, TdH-L, UNFPA-ECHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNITED KINGDOM, US - BPRM, We World GVC and World Vision