

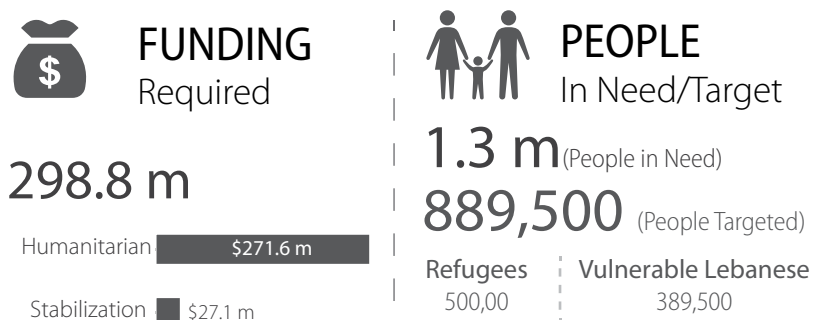
HIGHLIGHTS

The 2015 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) has highlighted an increase in vulnerabilities in comparison to last year. Syrian refugee households are exhibiting a higher dependency on external livelihood sources like food voucher, loans and credits. In addition, the percentage of households below the poverty line (3.84\$/person/day) has increased from 50% to 70% while those living under the SMEB increased from 29% to 50%.

Furthermore, households applying severe and crisis coping strategies have increased from 28% to 67%. Negative coping strategies include borrowing money, reducing food expenditure, and withdrawing children from school. The households' data from the ongoing economic profiling highlights the same issues as well. In light of the WFP food reduction due to funding shortfalls, and refugees' dependence on these voucher, vulnerabilities are expected to increase even further. The Basic Assistance sector, jointly with other sectors, therefore is looking across options to mitigate the impact of decreased food assistance, and to prioritize the identification of those most affected by these reductions.

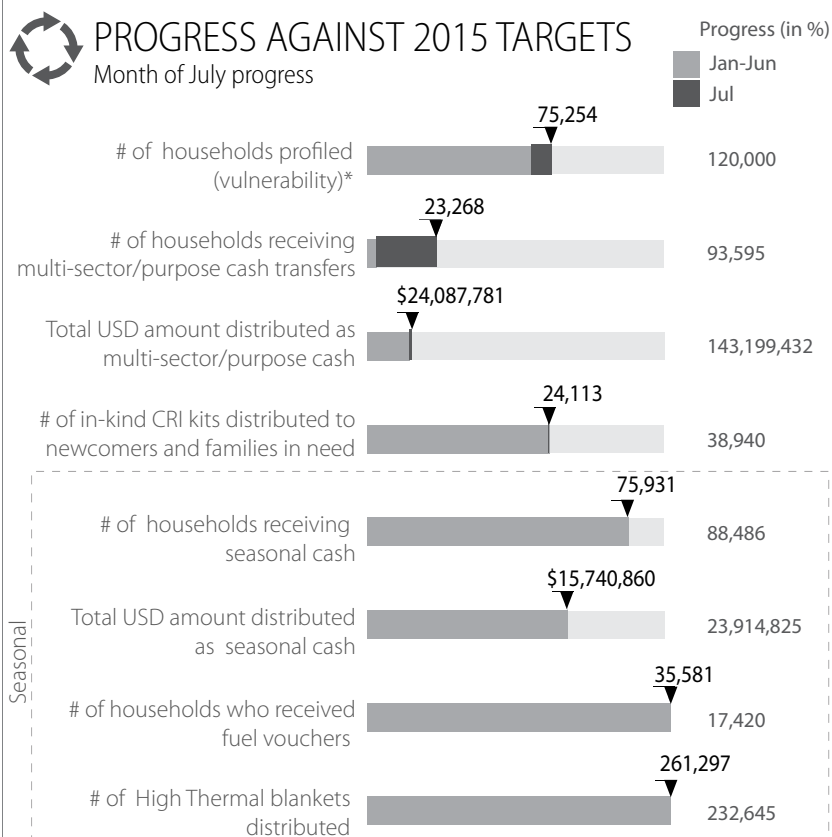
Amongst the mitigation activities is the 2015/2016 winter support. Analysis of the 2014/2015 winterization activities illustrated that cash is considered the most successful assistance modality for implementing partners and beneficiaries alike. According to post distribution monitoring exercises agencies conducted, Cash for Winter allowed families to prioritize their spending during winter, and hence meet part of their pressing needs. As a result, the 2015/2016 Basic Assistance winter strategy, which will be finalized by September 2015, will focus primarily on cash assistance packages and guidance on nonfood items. The criteria for the winter assistance will be based on socio-economic vulnerability and geographical location to insure a wide inclusion of vulnerable families exposed to cold temperatures.

Out of the 75,254 refugee families that have had their economic vulnerability assessed, 27,694 were identified to require financial support. A total of 15,122 families are currently receiving cash assistance. The remaining 12,647 families are in the process of being referred to cash partners for assistance. Families who are assessed as eligible for cash but not receiving support are recorded in the Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) as eligible to be referred to partners as funding becomes available.



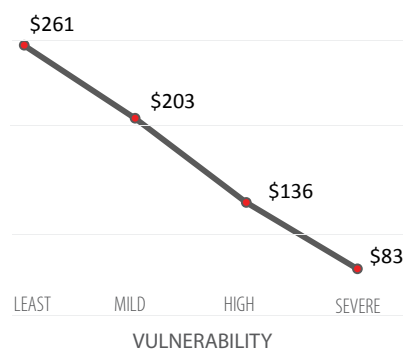
PARTNERS 33 in Lebanon

count of partners per
area of operation



EXPENDITURES ON RENT PER VULNERABILITY LEVEL

Average monthly expenditures on rent in USD. Based on the 75,254 household visits conducted between January and July 2015



% WITHOUT RESIDENCY STATUS

The more socio-economically vulnerable the less likely to have residency

