

LEBANON CRISIS RESPONSE PLAN

QUATERLY DASHBOARD

January - March 2015



PLANNING FIGURES



1.5 m
Vulnerable Lebanese
1.5 m
Syrian de facto refugees
313,000
Palestine refugees

3.3 m
People in Need

2.2 million
Targeted for protection and direct assistance

2.9 million
Targeted for service delivery, economic recovery and community vices in 242 most vulnerable communities



\$2.14 billion
Funding required



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Winterisation assistance was completed in March with the final round of distribution of cash assistance and winter clothes. Shelter improvements and WASH interventions continue with for example, just over 24,000 vulnerable individuals living in informal settlements and substandard buildings assisted with the replacement, improvement, and protection of their shelters from the elements and winter conditions. In addition, 32 communal water reservoirs have been completed and 39 chlorination systems for water treatment were installed in the north and south of Lebanon. Food security continued to remain a concern with a reduced food voucher value for the third month in a row to 70% of the entitled ration for targeted Syrian refugees. Overall, 950,000 individuals received food assistance. In addition, over 16,000 households were surveyed for targeting with some 64 percent found to be eligible for food assistance. The number of children in public schools has not changed since February's announcement from the Ministry, with currently 106,795 – mostly – Syrian children in first and second shifts public schools, or around 25% of Syrian children who need access to formal education. Activities aiming specifically at capacitating communities to mitigate tensions have increased, with seven new community mechanisms set up to defuse tension at the local level, engaging 354 new change agents. Also, over \$1m was invested in municipal and community support projects for social stability. Reports from March re-affirmed certain trends in the child protection sector, including the identification of child labour, out-of-school children, birth registration, and child marriage as major child protection concerns. In health, MediVisa is the new third party administrator to facilitate access to hospital care for displaced Syrians.



HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER



\$54.7m cash for food transferred through vouchers, ATM cards and e-cards



66,641 households receiving seasonal cash



244,192 children received textbooks and learning materials for basic education



343,257 individuals benefited from a primary healthcare consultation



372,846 individuals received improved access to water supply.



1,002 individuals, 94% of whom were women, benefiting from market-based skills training



165 municipalities, unions, SDCs benefited from capacity building programmes



42,040 individuals benefitted from weatherproofing of Informal Settlements



3,975 persons with specific needs identified & supported through case management



23,243 children received structured psychosocial support



16,819 community members were sensitized on GBV and referral pathways



NUMBER OF PARTNERS

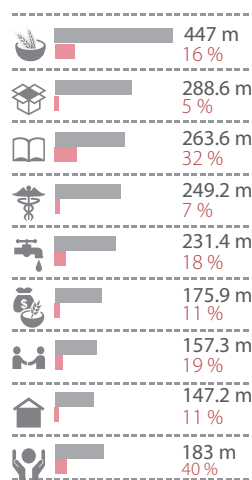
of partners per governorate by sector

GOVERNORATE	TOTAL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Akkar	47	11	7	17	4	10	5	3	6	8											
North (T5)	50	5	7	16	2	13	7	5	5	8											
Bekka	45	9	11	19	4	11	6	4	8	11											
Baalbek/Hermel	36	12	7	14	4	11	5	4	5	4											
Mt Lebanon & Beirut	56	18	7	17	2	13	3	5	4	8											
South	51	14	8	14	3	17	6	3	4	10											
El Nabatieh	30	4	6	12	3	5	5	4	3	6											

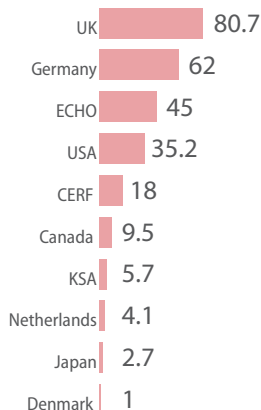


2015 FUNDING SITUATION

Required/Received



Top ten donors contribution to the LCRP (in US\$ millions)

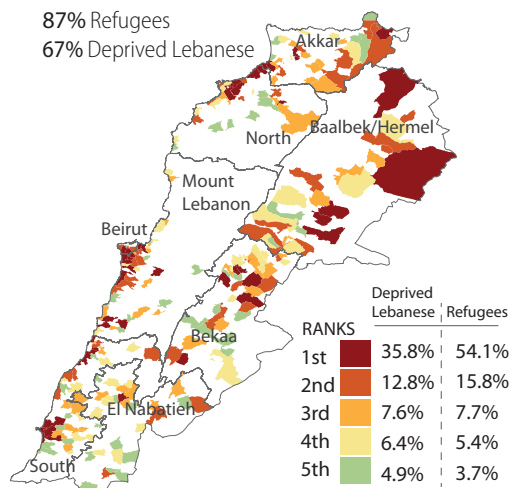


NEW MOST VULNERABLE CADASTRES MAP

251 Cadastres

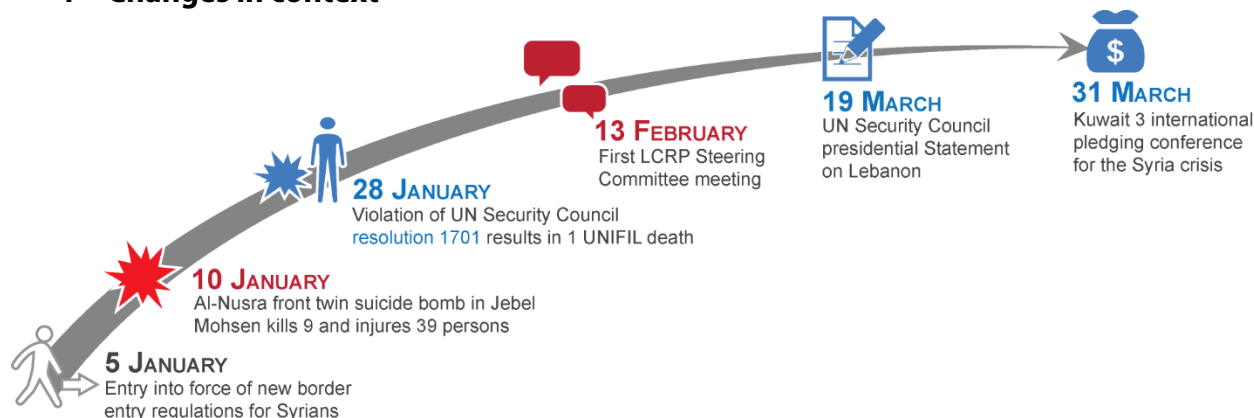
87% Refugees

67% Deprived Lebanese



LCRP Quarterly analysis – January to March 2015

1- Changes in context



a. Security context

The overall security situation in Lebanon during the reporting period continued to be volatile and challenging. Several hotspots in the country remained of serious concern, such as Aarsal in Bekaa, and Tripoli/Akkar in the North. Continued sporadic armed clashes and targeting of security forces continued and included repeated utilization of explosive devices – although with a lesser frequency compared to the end of 2014

Despite the major security plan that was launched by LAF in the North in June 2014, and the significant number of raids and arrests that were made since then; two simultaneous explosions went off at a coffee shop in the Alawite-majority area of Jabal Mohsen in Tripoli on 10 January 2015. As a result, nine civilians were killed and more than 39 others were injured. On the following day, al-Nusra Front issued a statement claiming responsibility for the twin suicide attack. Additionally, infiltration attempts and targeting of LAF positions repeatedly took place in Bekaa and along the border, and LAF intercepted a large quantity of explosive material on the outskirts of Aarsal in Bekaa.

Following the relatively successful implementation of the security plan in Tripoli and by extension Northern Lebanon, the Government launched a major security plan in the Bekaa in mid-February. The stated aim of the plan was mainly to “consolidate security and stability in the Bekaa region, combat organized crime and pursue suspects and fugitives”. Such activities in Bekaa include smuggling, drug production, car theft and kidnapping for ransom by families engaged in organised crime. Crime-related incidents however, continued to be reported in various parts of the country during the reporting period. Most of these incidents involved petty thefts, robberies, and murder.

The situation deteriorated in Aarsal area at the end of March with an intensification of military operations related to the on-going al-Zabadani and Qalamoun battles in Syria. The multiple clashes and highly volatile situation along the border towards Qalamoun region, the Lebanese security personnel remaining held by Non-State Armed Groups in Aarsal outskirts and the increase of tensions within and between the host community and refugees are all factors making the security context extremely fragile.

The Lebanon Support conflict map recorded 347 instances of conflict, an equivalent number compared to end of 2014. Most incidents reportedly took place near border areas and large urban areas such as Tripoli and Aarsal.

Contact Information:

Kirstin Karlstrom: karlstro@unhcr.org - Afke Bootsman: afke.bootsman@undp.org - Yannick Martin: martiny@un.org

b. Humanitarian / stabilization context

The first quarter of 2015 was characterized by increased UN-GoL engagement on the implementation of the LCRP, while the overall humanitarian and protection space has reduced. This is illustrated by the new border entry and residency regulations for Syrians which have resulted in heightened protection risks, the risk of having thousands of Syrians considered illegal in Lebanon, the low enrolment rate of school-aged children and the lack of framework for non-formal education limiting abilities to provide alternative opportunities to children, which leaves hundreds of thousands out of school, the reduction in food assistance due to reduced funding, increased cases of evictions and difficulties for international NGOs to obtain residency and work permits, and multi-entry visas.

On 5 January, new border entry procedures were introduced, following the previously announced policy in October 2014 to manage the displacement situation. These regulations provide that Syrian nationals (Palestinian refugees from Syria are not included) wishing to enter Lebanon will be admitted if for an approved reason upon presentation of valid identity and specific documents to support the purpose of the stay in Lebanon. A list of categories for which admission would be granted was provided, as well as the duration of the authorized stay in Lebanon. There is currently no category for refugees who are fleeing conflict or persecution and seeking safety in Lebanon. As for PRS, on 21 February, the General Security issued an internal memo to General Security offices throughout Lebanon which made provision for the issuance of a one-off 3 month residency permit upon payment of outstanding annual fees (\$200/person/year), on the condition that the concerned PRS had entered into Lebanon regularly. The validity of this internal memo, which was not made public, was for 1 month (i.e. until 21 March 2015). UNRWA monitoring revealed that the interpretation and implementation of this memo in the various General Security offices around the country was very inconsistent, and PRS reported being issued with departure orders on attempting to renew, despite apparently meeting the necessary criteria. Following the expiry of the memo on 21 March there was a hiatus before the issuance of a new internal memo on 2 April, with similar terms to the memo issued on 21 February 2015.

Furthermore, on an exceptional basis, at the discretion of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), Syrian nationals may enter Lebanon under criteria which have been outlined by the Ministry of Social Affairs but are yet to be finalized. Syrian nationals already in country prior to 5 January 2015 may renew their residency visa provided they comply with a new set of onerous and highly complex documentation requirements including providing a housing certificate, an attestation by the Muktar, a pledge not to work; and proof of financial self-sufficiency. The new regulations make a distinction between Syrians registered with UNHCR and those who are not.

While there is no country-wide systematic mechanism in place to track humanitarian access, the intensification of military operations in the Aarsal region continued to prevent access for UN and international NGOs which have been persistently discouraged by LAF to go to Aarsal, and some have been denied access. Recent reports of LAF distribution of food parcels to beneficiaries in Aarsal is a possible source of concern given LAF's ongoing involvement in fighting with armed actors. Safe and predictable access is a fundamental pre-requisite for effective humanitarian action.

Curfews remain in some municipalities. For example in south Lebanon, curfews have been imposed by municipality, shawish and/or non-state actors in 73 municipalities. Elsewhere, violations of curfews have resulted in short-term detention, eviction from the municipality and municipal-imposed fines, which are not within the authority of the municipality. Some municipalities are reportedly confiscated IDs, UNHCR certificates and/or entry cards from refugees while they remain in the municipality. Protection actors discussed their concerns with municipalities to find alternatives to these practices.

At the same time, support to public institutions has expanded with partners supporting 165 municipalities, union of municipalities and Social Development Centers. The Ministry of Social Affairs has also increased its field presence and now actively leads inter-agency coordination. Governmental consultation processes are ongoing

Contact Information:

Kirstin Karlstrom: karlstro@unhcr.org - Afke Bootsman: afke.bootsman@undp.org - Yannick Martin: martiny@un.org

in the livelihoods and WASH sectors and the shelter sector strategy has been updated. A Steering Committee led by the Directorate General has been established in the health sector and the RACE (Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon, a three year Government plan) executive committee is working with education partners. However, both coordination bodies do not include representation from NGOs.

c. Needs analysis

The main drivers of the protracted crisis in Lebanon remain a disproportionate socio-economic and demographic impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanon, with increased vulnerability.

The overall population in need has remained the same throughout the first quarter. At the end of March, there were just over 1.19 million Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR, including over 33,000 elderly. Over 33 per cent of the registered refugees are female headed households. The average numbers being registered have dropped from over 10,000 a week at the beginning of 2014 to less than 3,000 a week in the first quarter, mostly due to the new border policies. A total of 2,283 Syrians have been submitted for resettlement for the first quarter of the year. The number of Palestinian refugees from Syria remains stable at around 45,150 persons and the number of Lebanese returnees officially registered remains at 17,510. A second round of registration for Lebanese returnees will be completed from 20 April -31 May 2015 to update information on their situation and needs.

The conclusions of the 2014 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) on Syrian refugees across Lebanon revealed that their living conditions has deteriorated over the previous year, despite on-going assistance.

A new map has been released showing the 251 most vulnerable cadastres in Lebanon which include 67 percent of the deprived Lebanese and host 87 percent of all refugees. The map displays the vulnerable cadastres according to a composite index based on deprivation level scoring of households in five critical dimensions: access to health; income levels; access to education; access to water and sanitation; and housing conditions. It then overlays this with the Lebanese population dataset from 2002 and the refugee population figures including all registered refugees and Palestine Refugees in Lebanon. In addition, the map outlines the ratio of refugees to local Lebanese measured by cadastre to highlight the potential degree of population pressure on services and resources. According to the map, 37 cadastres are currently under high pressure while 77 others belong to the substantial pressure category.

d. Response capacity

At the end of the first quarter, there were 92 partners reporting in the LCRP, compared to 77 at the end of December 2014. The highest concentration of agencies can be found in Mount Lebanon and South governorates where 55 and 50 agencies respectively operate. The education and WASH sectors have the highest number of partners with 32 agencies contributing to that sector response.

The response capacity of some international NGOs has been impacted by delays in obtaining work permits and entry visas, although the actual impact on service delivery would need to be measured.

2- Strategic and sector objectives: Achievements to date

a- Overview of sectoral outcome indicators

The table below illustrates modest progress against the 8 monthly and quarterly targets monitored by all sectors. The majority of sectors show some gaps against targets, while only 51 % of the projected targets are currently on track. Reasons for this can be attributed to seasonal activities, delay in starting activities, and funding gaps.

Contact Information:

Kirstin Karlstrom: karlstro@unhcr.org - Afke Bootsman: afke.bootsman@undp.org - Yannick Martin: martiny@un.org



	Food sec	Protec- tion	SGBV	Child Prot	Liveli- hoods	Social Stabilit y	Health	Educa- tion	Shelter	Basic Assist	Wash	Total
On track	2	6	1	5	-	6	5	5	3	7	5	45
Major gaps	3	2	7	3	6	2	2	3	2	1	3	34
No progress	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3	-		8

Despite these challenges, there were important achievements. For instance, a total of \$15m was distributed as season cash. The number of households who received fuel vouchers and high thermal blankets exceeded the initial target. Close to 190,000 animals were vaccinated/treated. Weatherproofing and WASH upgrades of substandard buildings reached over 27,400 individual and weatherproofing of Informal Settlements already reached 36 per cent of its target (42,040 individuals benefitted from weatherproofing activities in informal settlements). Support was provided to 88 local institutions, sometimes pre-existing from 2014 but expanding, primarily through capacity building and community outreach and increasingly through support to basic services.

b- Progress towards strategic objective

Progress towards the three strategic objectives of the LCRP was uneven in the first quarter.

Under objective 1; 'Ensure humanitarian assistance and protection for the most vulnerable among the displaced from Syria and poorest Lebanese', good progress was noted in the number of individuals reached through legal awareness session with 22 per cent of the target reached.

Under objective 2; 'Strengthen the capacity of national and local service delivery systems to expand access to and quality of basic public services', good progress was noted for the number of vulnerable population accessing safe and equitable water, primary health care services and number of boys and girls accessing learning, each reaching 15 per cent, 14 per cent and 20 per cent of its annual target respectively.

The third objective of 'Reinforcing Lebanon's economic, social, environmental and institutional stability', has shown the most progress among the three objectives in three of its seven indicators; two-thirds of the target number of municipalities/local institutions benefitted from capacity building programmes to promote social stability and to address host community needs; over 50 per cent of the target number of communities with functioning conflict mitigation mechanism have been reached and 84 out of a target of 300 local institutions (municipalities, unions of municipalities, SDCs) have engaged in host community-led participatory processes to build social stability. However, the important indicator of vulnerable persons enrolled in rapid income generating activities that would compensate a deteriorating socio-economic vulnerability status of people in need, barely shows any progress with only 1 per cent of the target of 171,231 persons reached.

Contact Information:

Kirstin Karlstrom: karlstro@unhcr.org - Afke Bootsman: afke.bootsman@undp.org - Yannick Martin: martiny@un.org



3- Analysis

a. Inter-Sector trends on needs, risks, challenges

The reduction in protection space, and the infinitive imposition of regulations for refugees has consequences across sectors and on access to assistance. Firstly, the requirement of a “housing pledge/commitment” for shelter beneficiaries could lead to possible exploitation by landlords and an increased number of evictions. Already, the latest shelter survey conducted in February – March, showed an increase of refugees in informal settlements (now over 2,000 informal settlements) and a sharp increase of overcrowding in apartment and houses. 25 per cent of refugees reportedly moved in the past month from area to another to a less expensive shelter. Geographical disparity are important, with the Bekaa for example having half of all informal settlements in its governorate. Around 55 per cent of Syrians refugees are living in poor shelter conditions compared to 31.5 per cent in 2013. Already, only 25 per cent of Syrian children have access to public formal quality education. Thirdly, 30,000 of the 50,000 babies born in Lebanon and registered by UNHCR lack birth certificates, which renders them stateless and may impede returns or access to services. In addition, lack of documentation could limit people’s freedom of movement including through self-imposed restrictions, which might negatively impact access to services. Lack of documentation may also limit abilities to sit for national exams and discourage children from attending school or increase child labour. Lastly, and as a combination of the above, there is a risk of having people in underground/informal economy with a corresponding increase in negative coping mechanisms.

Although the rate of evictions reportedly abated in April, the situation during the first quarter was of concern. Forced evictions affected more than 6,700 persons in 39 collective sites, mostly by LAF. These compound the vulnerabilities of residents of informal settlements, generally the most destitute with no other shelter alternative, and perpetuate and increase the number of informal settlements when evicted residents are forced to search for housing elsewhere, usually erecting tents once again. UNHCR has urged that MOIM and MOSA work with UNHCR through the creation of a task force which could help to ensure appropriate notice and alternatives for refugees who are served with eviction notices.

On the economic side, a refugee family –registered with UNHCR- of five with children above 15 years of age face expenditures up to \$1,375 to renew its residency in Lebanon for one year. This could increase refugees’ economic vulnerability, in a context where households spend US\$762 per month on average to cover their basic needs (the estimated minimum survival needs of a household is \$435 per month), 77 per cent of which is spent on food, rent and health care and where

Increased vulnerability and reduced financial means to sustain one’s living is not being matched with increased access to livelihoods or agricultural opportunities. According to the VASyR, food assistance constitutes the most important livelihood source for Syrian refugees and an increasingly important primary livelihood source – 40 per cent of all households rely on the food voucher as first livelihood source, compared to the 24 per cent found in 2013. Furthermore and as an illustration, only two partners have livelihoods activities in Tripoli despite a high concentration of vulnerable cadasters in this governorate. Lack of funding in the livelihood sector (less than 11 per cent secured) –attributed to the internal governmental consultation on livelihoods and the lack of clarity on the Right to Work framework for Syrian refugees- and the more stringent policy on residency including the ‘pledge not to work’ that Syrian refugees need to sign, are obstacles to reduce vulnerability and offer self-sufficiency opportunities to refugees to reduce their reliance on food assistance.

The reduction in food assistance in Q1 remains a concern for 900,000 Syrian refugees who received on average \$120 less than planned in the first quarter in absolute value - \$19 instead of \$27/person/month. This reduction occurs in a context where, according to VASyR, one third of households spent more than half of their monthly income on food. However, the VASyR also informed that 13 per cent of households showed moderate or severe signs of food insecurity, a situation that remains similar to 2013. It is too early to know whether there is a

Contact Information:

Kirstin Karlstrom: karlstro@unhcr.org - Afke Bootsman: afke.bootsman@undp.org - Yannick Martin: martiny@un.org



correlation between reduced food assistance and increased food insecurity, or whether the impact is mostly on refugees' economic vulnerability. An e-card validation exercise conducted from January- March 2015 demonstrated that only 74 percent of households (131,495) who received their e-cards before 31 October 2014 successfully completed the process in the first round of validation. Food security partners will conduct a final validation round in April and are working closely with UNHCR to reach out to the no show cases and prioritize protection cases. Reasons for the 'no shows' are unclear following approximately three months of the validation exercise. However, concerns were raised that among some of the cases suspended in the northern and Akkar governorates were children, which could, among others, lead to higher school dropout and increased child labour as families continue to need resources to meet their needs.

At the same time, 24,000 households were assessed to define their vulnerability and their entitlements to MultiPurpose Cash assistance or Food Assistance. Results thus far indicate that, according to the eligibility criteria to determine cash assistance, two-thirds of households visited were considered mildly or moderately vulnerable while 10 per cent were considered severely vulnerable.

The overall changing environment and increased socio-economic vulnerability of many people in need could lead to an overall reduction in access to basic services.

b. Funding analysis and challenges

The LCRP seeks \$2.14 billion for 2015. As of 31 March, an estimated \$316 million were committed against the LCRP requirements with an additional \$58m already pledged. In January, the ERF allocated \$1.7m for winterization programmes and in March, the CERF allocated \$18m to the health, WASH and food security sectors. The overall level of funding in March is equivalent to what was received at the same time in 2014, although the overall appeal in 2014 was lower than what is requested this year. The most underfunded sectors include basic assistance and health which have received less than seven per cent of their requirements, while the best funded sector is protection with 40 per cent (or \$44.7m) of its requirements received.

The Kuwait 3 pledging conference took place in Kuwait on 31 March, where donors generously pledged \$3.6billion to respond to needs inside Syria and in the region. A detailed breakdown per country and sector is not yet available.

Donor support has been generous, but more is needed to reach the most vulnerable communities. Increased development funding is needed -along humanitarian funding - to engage in sustainable and more cost-effective interventions to help Lebanon cope with the crisis.

c. Contingency / preparedness plans

Country-wide contingency planning is being revisited at the Inter Agency/Sector level to reflect the changing nature of the humanitarian and stabilization efforts in Lebanon. Efforts are being made to better understand the various contingency mechanisms that exist for refugee response, complex emergency, and natural disaster, and in finding ways to ensure there are regional and scenario based synergies in line with Government response/contingency plans. Recent contingency measures include winter storm and flooding response during the 2014-2015 winter. Humanitarian partners came together at the regional level to determine needs and coordinate appropriate emergency responses in line with existing stocks and response capacities. Though winterization efforts were deemed successful, there were some shortfalls in the provision of weatherproofing kits, cash for winter, and site improvements for informal settlements. The shortfall can be attributed to both \$20m funding gap as well as changes in needs including a drop in the number of expected new arrivals. There were also delays in providing fuel to schools due to late identification of recipient schools, however the consequences, such as on school attendance for example, could not be assessed.

Contact Information:

Kirstin Karlstrom: karlstro@unhcr.org - Afke Bootsman: afke.bootsman@undp.org - Yannick Martin: martiny@un.org

SITUATION ANALYSIS

In March, the sector provided food assistance to around 950,000 individuals: 900,000 Syrian refugees with e-card assistance (redemption figure), 8,000 Syrian refugees and Lebanese returnees with food parcels, and 43,000 Palestine refugees from Syria with cash. WFP e-cards were loaded with US\$19 in March. Some 41 focus group discussions on the impact of reductions on the beneficiaries were conducted throughout Lebanon. The discussions confirmed that families had already been forced to prioritize their needs and adopt various negative coping strategies, notably reducing the frequency and quantity of meals, prioritizing children's food needs and increasingly relying on debt.

WFP led an e-card validation exercise with 74 percent of households (131,495) successfully completing the process. The non-validated e-cards (30,696 households) and pending e-cards (6,489 households) will not be uploaded on 5 April and will be called to the last round of validation in mid-April.

WFP and its cooperating partners continued household surveys to identify the most vulnerable households which require assistance. By the end of March, over 16,000 households were surveyed for targeting with some 64 percent found to be eligible for food assistance. Multi-functional teams in the last week of March reviewed and endorsed the results of the vulnerability scoring analysis of the households. As a result of vulnerability analysis, 3,017 households (15,291 individuals) have been informed that they will no longer be receiving assistance starting May 2015.

Technical trainings of 500 farmers and handling of materials and equipment to carry out poultry activities are ongoing across Lebanon. Farm field school groups received all necessary material to build 25 chicken houses in Akkar, Baalbek-Hermel, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, Nabatiye and South governorates, each to be used by 20 farmers in the same region to practice poultry farming. In addition, the yearly livestock vaccination campaign that was initiated in mid-February is still ongoing across Lebanon with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture. Overall, more than 171,500 animals (including cattle and small ruminants) were vaccinated by the end of March.



FUNDING

Required/Received

447 m (required)

Received



During the initial months of the year some partners may use un-earmarked global funds to ensure programmes can begin in the absence of funding earmarked specifically for the sector



PEOPLE

In Need/Target

1.5 m People in Need

1.2 m (People Targeted)

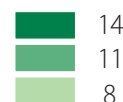
Refugees 1.1 m Vulnerable Lebanese 0.1 m



PARTNERS

20 partners in Lebanon

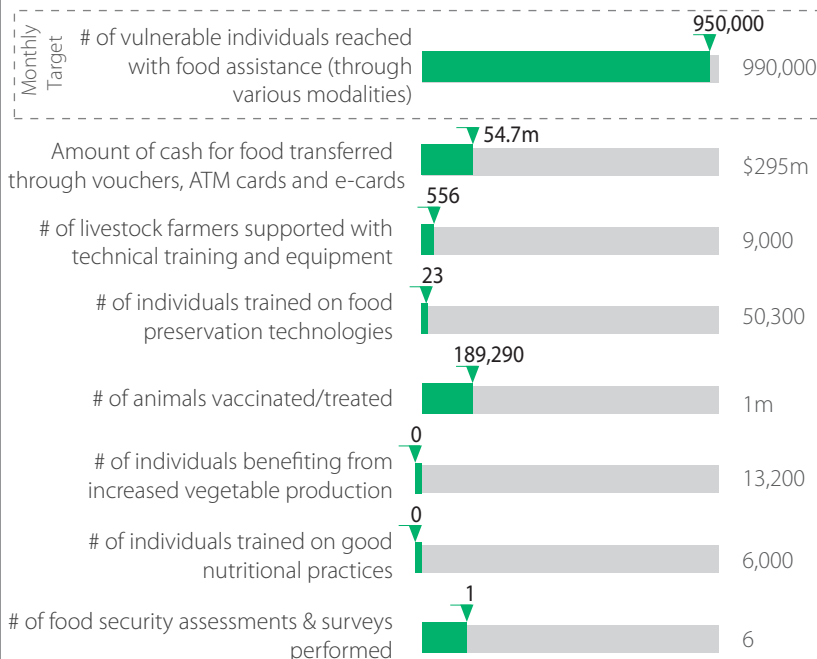
Count of partners per area of operation



PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

1st Quarter progress

Progress
Jan - Mar



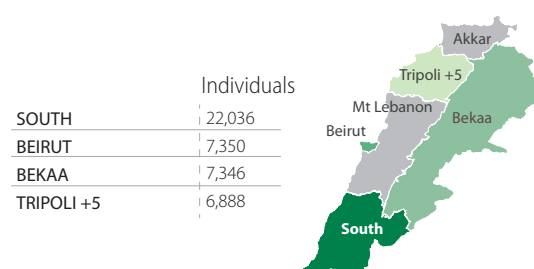
SUPPORT TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

INDICATOR : Number MoSA staff trained on monitoring and evaluation

Aaley	2
Baabda	2
Beirut	4
Sin El-Fil	2

PROGRESS BY COHORTS

INDICATOR : Number of PRS who received cash for food through ATM cards in the month of March





Progress towards sector Outcomes and Outputs in Quarter 1

The Food Security sector strategy focuses on responding to the Syria crisis in Lebanon through directing activities towards the four food security pillars. In the first quarter of 2015, the sector provided food assistance to over 950,000 Syrian refugees, Palestine refugees from Syria and Lebanese Returnees, reaching 97% of the target set. Beneficiaries were reached through various types of assistance modalities, including in-kind food parcels, e-cards to use in any of 410 designated shops, and ATM cards. In addition, 27,209 vulnerable Lebanese individuals received monthly food assistance under the government's emergency National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) through the e-cards, reaching 42% of its target in 2015. The NPTP is a social safety net programme to assist vulnerable Lebanese affected by the Syria crisis and managed by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and the Presidency of Council of Ministers. The Food Security sector provides technical support to the NPTP and this includes capacity building to MoSA staff. In the first quarter of 2015, ten MoSA staff members were trained on monitoring and evaluation.

The food security sector trained more than 600 farmers aimed at promoting food availability and supporting sustainable agricultural production. In support of family scale farming, 560 livestock farmers were provided with material, equipment, and technical trainings aiming at improving productivity and livelihoods. In addition, 32 farmers were trained on valorization processing and adopted by-product transformation technologies. In addition, more than 171,500 animals (cattle and small ruminants) were vaccinated across Lebanon, reaching in the first quarter 17.2% of target.

In order to improve information and targeting of food security activities, FAO provided its technical support services to MoA, partnered with REACH, to conduct an assessment of food security and livelihoods targeting the host community. The assessment included two phases; the secondary data review and the Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA). The main objective of the assessment is to provide baseline information on food security and livelihoods on the host community, to assist in future interventions.

Changes in context in Quarter 1

During the first quarter of 2015, continued funding shortfalls resulted in a reduced food voucher value to 70% of the entitled ration for targeted Syrian refugees. E-cards were loaded with US\$ 19 instead of \$ 27 per person per month.

Focus group discussions on the impact of reductions on the beneficiaries were conducted throughout Lebanon. The discussion confirmed that families have already been forced to prioritize their needs and adopt various negative coping strategies, notably reducing the frequency and quantity of meals, prioritizing children's food needs and increasingly relying on debt.

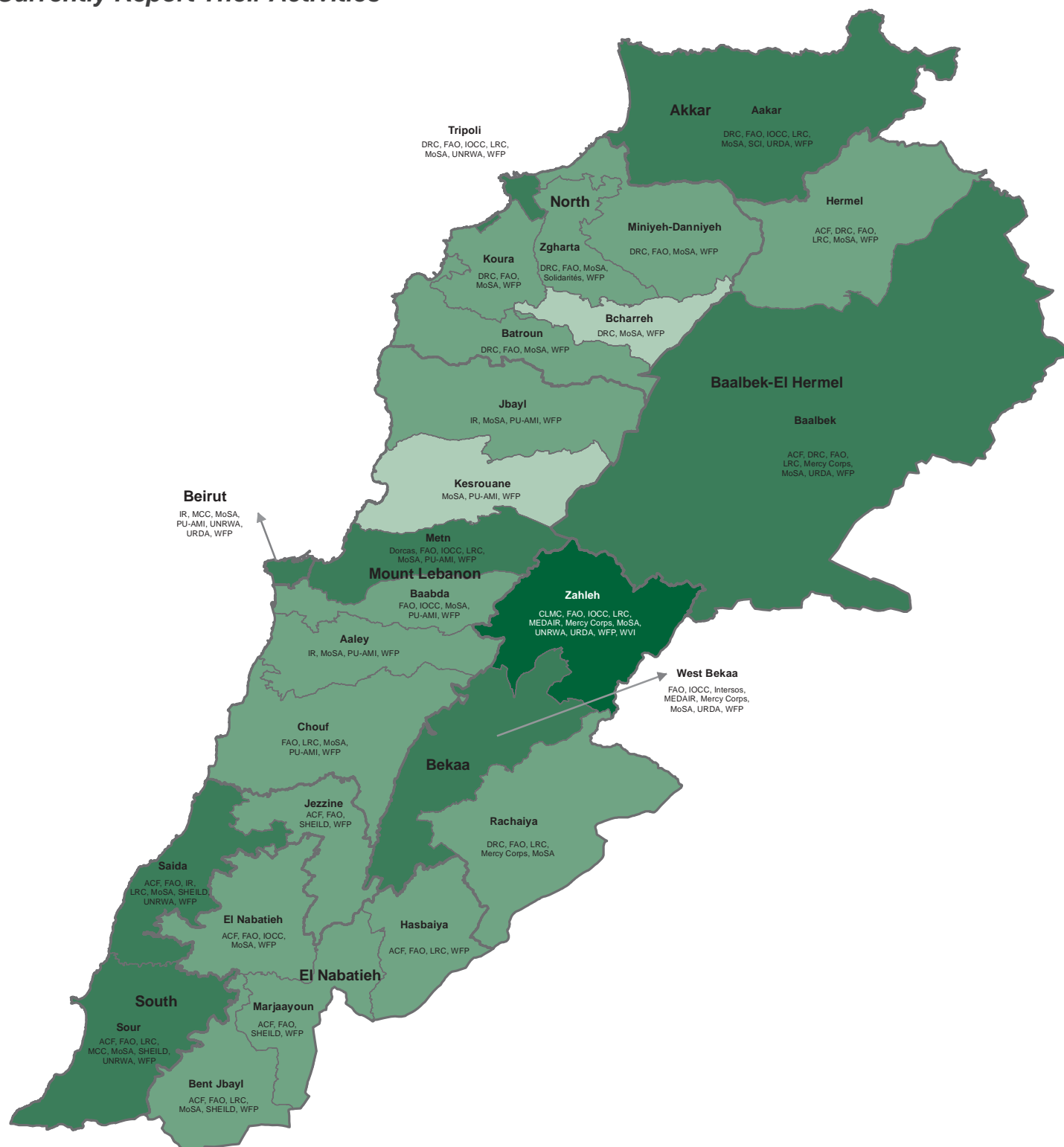
Food security partners continued household surveys to identify the most vulnerable households which require assistance. Based on visits, questionnaires and data analyses, individual households were assessed for their vulnerability and potential vulnerability. Multi-sectorial criteria were evaluated in the process, namely – food security, shelter, WASH, education, health, non-food items, protection and socio-economics. Over the coming weeks and months, partners will continue to assess individual households' vulnerability to ensure that the limited resources are directed towards the most food insecure and vulnerable families. The process will continue throughout 2015 or until the exercise is complete at a rate of 6,000 households per month.



Number of Partners per Caza/District

April 2015

*A Total Number of 21 Organizations
Currently Report Their Activities*



Contact Information:

For information about Food Security Sector, please contact:
Issa Sanogo at issa.sanogo@wfp.org or Brett Hanley at brett.hanley@wfp.org, or
Bruno Minjauw at bruno.minjauw@fao.org or Pardie Karamanoukian at pardie.karamanoukian@fao.org
or if you have any inquiry about the map, please contact:
Pardie Karamanoukian at pardie.karamanoukian@fao.org

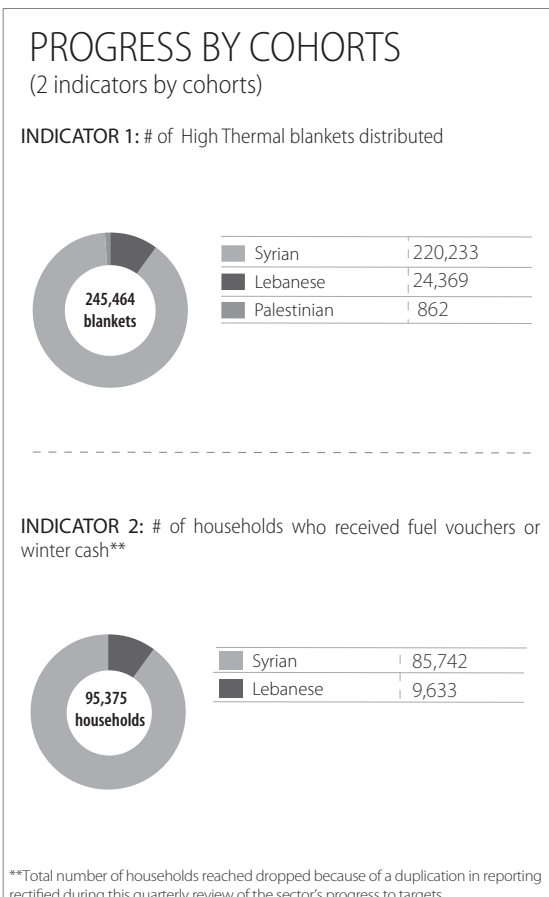
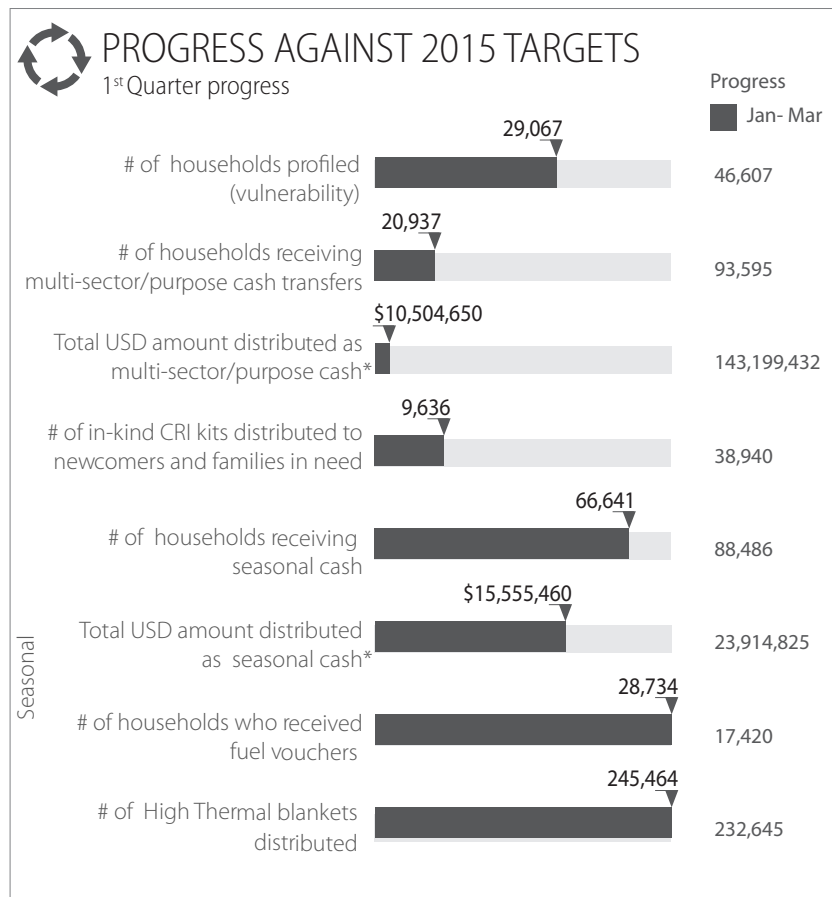
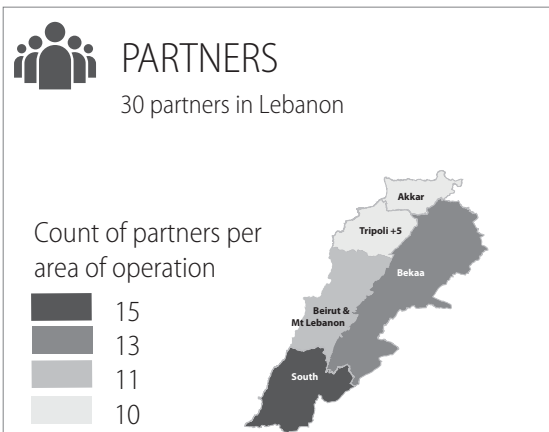
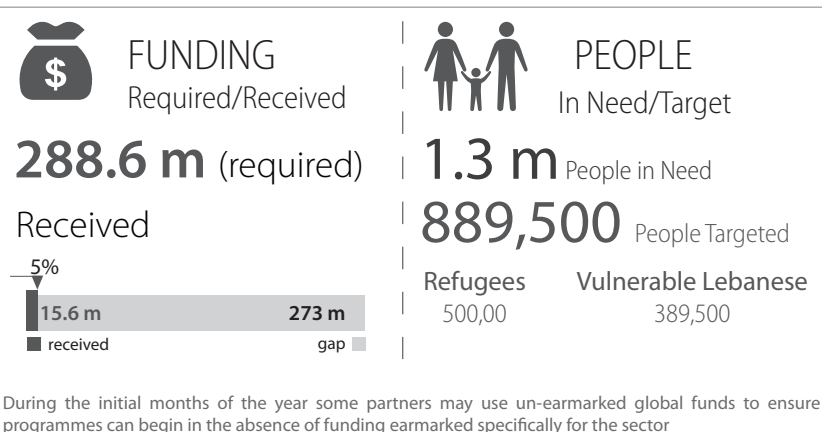
Disclaimer:

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Agencies implementing winter activities concluded distribution by the end of March. Cash assistance, distribution of winter clothes, and weatherproofing of shelters reached almost 550,000 Syrian refugees. A lesson learned workshop is planned for May 2015, including to review the impact of cash-for-winter activities.

By the end of March, 27,000 refugee households had been visited by 25 partners around the country to assess their vulnerability. Among these, 36 percent were found vulnerable and eligible for cash assistance. The household visits exercise aims to identify the 29 percent most vulnerable defined by the 2013 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees.





Progress towards sector Outcomes and Outputs in Quarter 1

The 2014/2015 inter-agency winter support programme came to an end on 31 March. The goal of the five-month programme was to support affected populations in coping with dropping temperatures and staying warm. With US \$75 million secured out of a requested US \$95 million, 180,000 vulnerable households and households at higher altitudes were prioritized. Seventy-six percent of the households were Syrian; 14 percent were Lebanese, and 10 percent were Palestinian.

In total, around 75,000 households received winter cash assistance.

Cash assistance was introduced on a pilot basis during last year's winter response. This year, partners built on the 2014 success. Refugees confirmed that cash was their preferred means of support as it enables them to prioritize their own needs and respond to their personal situations in a dignified and flexible manner. It is also a rapid and cost-effective method.

As winter drew to a close, the families included in the temporary cash programme were included in the targeting process used for identifying refugees eligible for multi-purpose cash assistance. If they qualify, they are incorporated into the long-term cash assistance programme. By the end of March, around 1,000 households had been transferred from winter to the multi-purpose cash scheme.

To better understand the vulnerability of refugees and identify those to be prioritized for cash assistance, 25 protection and assistance partners visited 24,000 refugee households in the first quarter of the year.

Households assessed were categorized into four groups:

- a) Severely vulnerable: household with expenditures below the estimated minimum survival needs of \$435 per household per month.
- b) Moderately vulnerable: household with expenditures between the survival needs and estimated minimum basic needs of \$435 and \$571 per household per month.
- c) Mildly vulnerable: household with expenditures between 100 percent and 125 percent of the minimum basic needs of \$571 per household per month.
- d) Least vulnerable: household with expenditures over 125 percent of the minimum basic needs of \$571 per household per month.

Assistance is primarily provided to those who fall within the severely vulnerable category. The visits confirmed that one-third of refugee households visited are in need of income support to meet their daily needs. Currently, however, resource constraints mean fewer than 10 percent of refugee households receive such support.

Changes in context in Quarter 1

As of 2015, the cash working group and the non-food items working group have been merged into the Basic Assistance sector. In the past three months, a national working group was established in Beirut, under the leadership of MoSA, with UNHCR and CARE co-leading. Within the context of the LCRP, the basic assistance focuses on three major objectives: (1) to enable severely economically vulnerable households to address critical priorities and meet basic needs; (2) to ensure access to basic goods and services related to the adverse effects of seasonal hazards; and (3) to strengthen existing social safety mechanisms in the country and prevent further hardships for severely economically vulnerable households. To date, progress towards the first two objectives is being achieved through the household visits and targeted cash assistance, as well as through seasonal / winter activities. Ongoing discussions have been taking place with MoSA and NPTF on how to support and strengthen existing mechanisms, extend assistance to vulnerable Lebanese and public institutions from a stabilization perspective.

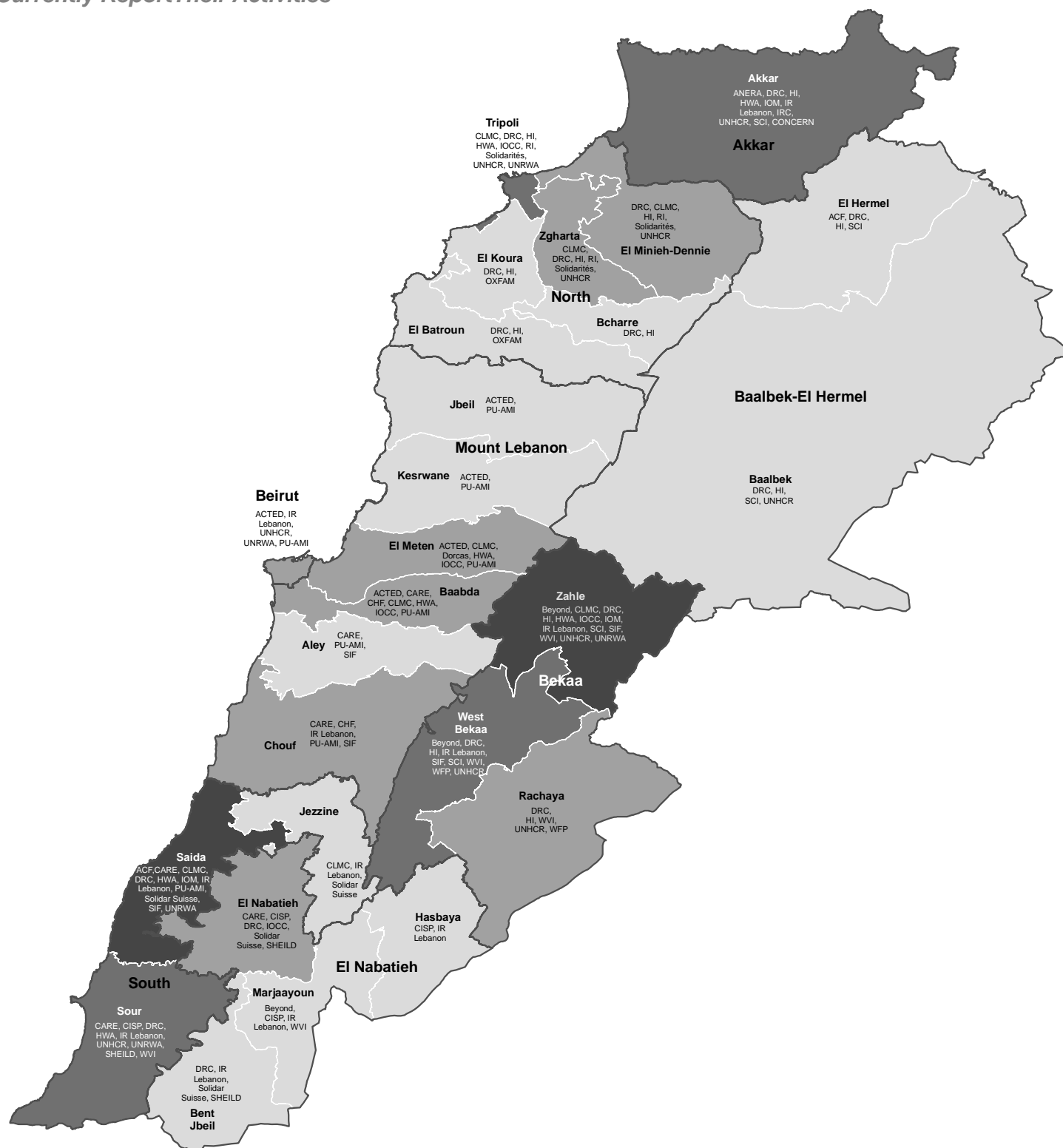
Multi-purpose cash raises the issue of targeting based on a refugee household financial gap. Cash has the potential to forge links between refugee and host communities, including by allowing refugees to interact with local markets, to control their own purchasing power, and to choose how to best meet their most pressing needs. Additional funding will enable support to more beneficiaries.



Number of Partners per Caza/District

January to March 2015

*A Total Number of 30 Organizations
Currently Report Their Activities*



Contact Information:

For information about Basic Assistance Sector, please contact:
Khalil Dagher at dagherk@unhcr.org
or if you have any enquiry about the map, please contact:
Jad Ghosn at ghosn@unhcr.org

Disclaimer:

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Legend

- Governorate
- District

Number of Partners per District

- 2 - 4
- 5 - 7
- 8 - 10
- 11 - 13

Reporting Partners:

ACF, ACTED, ANERA, Beyond, CARE, CHF, CISP, CLMC, CONCERN, Dorcas, DRC, HI, HWA, IOCC, IOM, IR Lebanon, IRC, OXFAM, PU-AMI, RI, SCI, SHEILD, SIF, Solidar Suisse, Solidarités, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, WVI

SITUATION ANALYSIS

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) convened a meeting with Ambassadors and Head of Agencies early March to provide an update on the implementation of RACE. The Ministry announced that there are now around 106,795 – mostly – Syrian children in public schools (44,507 in the first shift and 62,288 children in the second shift), which is around 25% of Syrian children who need access to a full, formal quality education. However, there are large regional variations, with enrolment rates in Beirut were far higher than in Bekaa where school location and transportation is a major issue. In order to monitor the achievements in second shift, MEHE and the UN started conducting joint monitoring visits to second shift schools. In addition, there is a total of 6,118 Palestine children from Syria (PRS) (2,918 males and 3,200 females) regularly attending 60 UNRWA schools throughout Lebanon. Non-formal education programs, focusing mostly on basic literacy and numeracy (BLN), were ongoing in March and 12,594 children were enrolled in non-formal education programs. The preparations for this new ALP programme have been finalized and planning for the implementation have started. The initial pilot target of 10,000 children.

To improve the learning environment, the UN is supporting the rehabilitation and renovation of schools. So far, nearly 300 schools were assessed, of which 68 will be rehabilitated and/or renovated. In addition, 39 public schools will have their WASH facilities improved in 2015 based on the standards adopted by MEHE. Education partners continued to distribute school supplies to all public schools. 985 primary public schools received school supplies covering the needs of all children enrolled in the first and second shift. As of the end of March 2015, UNICEF supplied over 458 primary public schools with an altitude higher than 500 meters with fuel to provide children in classrooms with proper heating.

Education partners trained a 77 facilitators and education in March on inclusive education, psychosocial support and positive discipline in non-formal education. The UN provided refreshing pedagogy courses through its partners for 134 (PRS) elementary teachers at UNRWA schools. Recreational support activities reached a total of 11,803 Syrian children, and recreational support activities targeting Palestinian children in UNRWA schools and partner centers reached more than 2,000 children in March. A small number of adolescents and youth (less than 2,000) continued to benefit from support to access secondary education and formal vocational education. Access to educational opportunities for youth remain a major gap.

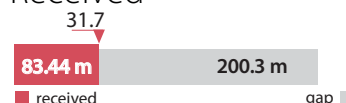
At national level, the RACE Executive Committee (REC) has met on a regular basis to coordinate the RACE plan and plans have been put in place for the establishment of a RACE Project Management Unit (PMU) composed of 24 staff members.



FUNDING

263.6 m (required)

Received



During the initial months of the year some partners may use un-earmarked global funds to ensure programmes can begin in the absence of funding earmarked specifically for the sector



PEOPLE

In Need/Target

750,000 People in Need

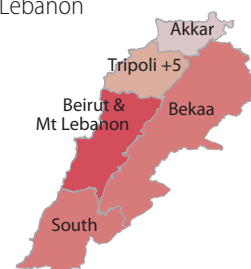
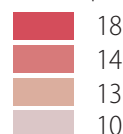
377,000 People Targeted



PARTNERS

31 partners in Lebanon

Count of partners per area of operation

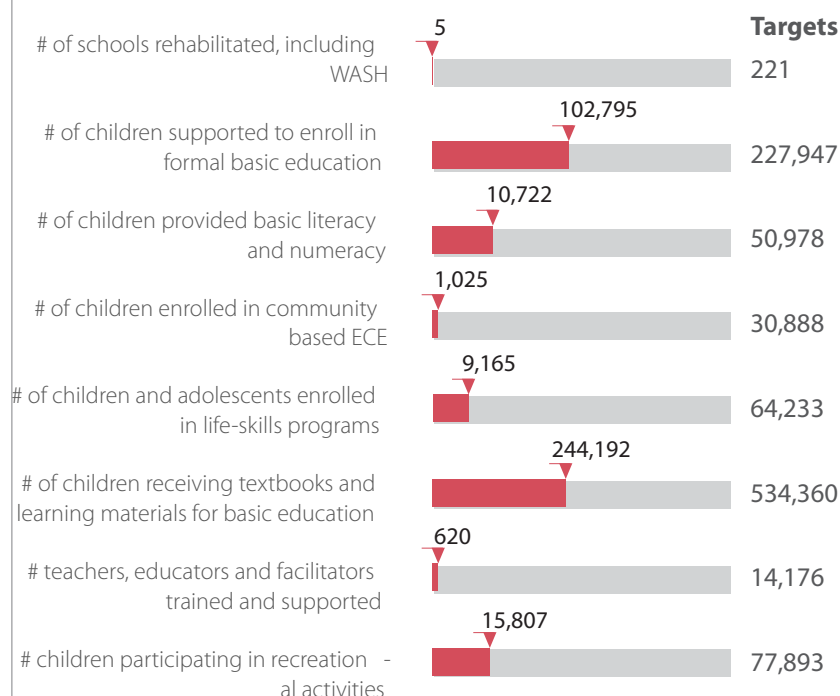


PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

1st Quarter progress

Progress

Jan - Mar

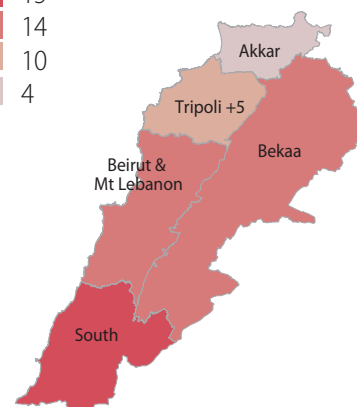
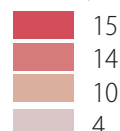


SUPPORT TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Public Schools Rehabilitation planned for 2015*

Total = 57

of Schools per area of operation



*data from UNICEF



Progress towards sector Outcomes and Outputs in Quarter 1

The education sector's main priority is enabling access to formal education for vulnerable Lebanese and refugee children. In the first quarter of 2015, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), with UN support, focused on the enrollment and support of Syrian children in second shift. A total of 156 public schools opened second shifts. Transportation has been identified as a major obstacle in attending second shift schools. The distances can be long. Three-quarters of the enrolled children receive support for transportation. During the quarter, more than 110,000 children were enrolled in public schools, including Palestinian children from Syria in UNRWA schools. A total of 106,795 of those enrolled in both first and second shifts were refugee children under UNHCR's mandate.

Since the start of the school year, education partners focused on referring children from previous non-formal education (NFE) programs to public schools. At the same time, non-formal education programs were provided for children who are not yet attending school to prepare them to enter the formal education system. NFE programs also provide additional support to refugee children who are in public schools but have difficulty keeping up with the curriculum.

The focus of education partners has been on outreach campaigns for formal education. It is expected that numbers will increase during the summer months to prepare children for the coming school year 2015/2016. MEHE is finalizing standard procedures for rolling out a new Accelerated Learning Program (ALP). The ALP will help out-of-school children catch up on the years of education that they missed, helping them to better integrate once they enter formal schooling. The preparations for the ALP were finalized in 2015. The pilot will roll out in the second quarter.

To improve the quality of the learning environment, assessments were conducted in schools that will be rehabilitated or renovated, including WASH facilities. School supplies, textbooks, and pens were distributed to all public schools. Schools also received fuel for heating in the first semester of the year.

Less than 3,000 refugee children aged 15 and above are currently enrolled in secondary and vocational schools.

Changes in context in Quarter 1

The education sector strategy is outlined in the 'Reaching All Children with Education' (RACE) plan launched by MEHE in June 2014. The strategy includes support to formal and non-formal education to meet growing educational needs through the strengthening of the public education system. The enrolment of Syrian children in the formal public education system remains a priority under this plan.

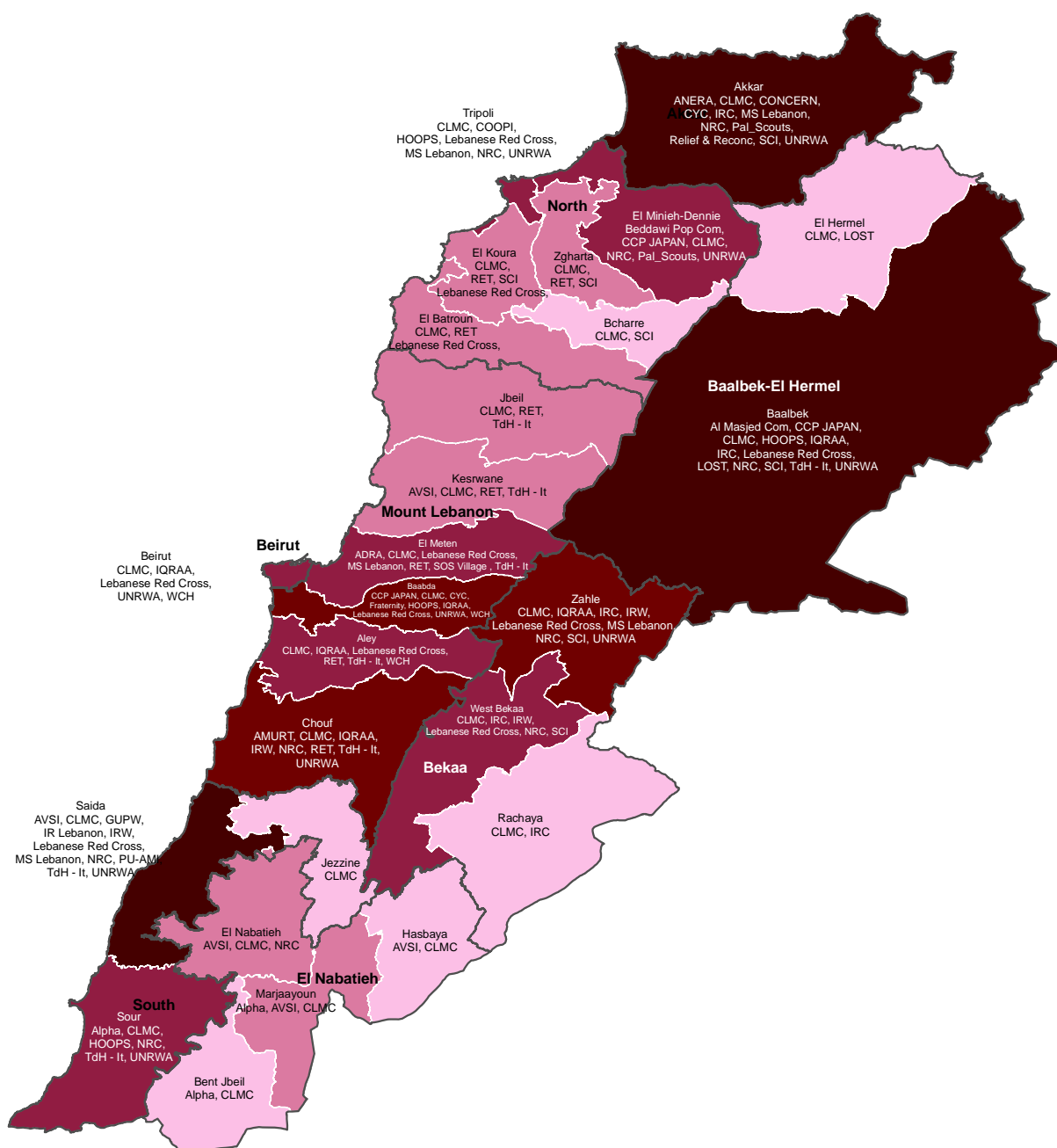
In the first quarter of 2015, MEHE established a Project Management Unit (PMU) composed of 24 staff members to coordinate the implementation of the RACE plan. MEHE has also launched a review of the RACE document with the aim to finalize a revision by end of June.

The priority of RACE is to strengthen the capacity of the public education system to absorb and retain more children affected by the Syria crisis. Barriers that will need continued attention are not just financial. They include, among others, language barriers, distance to schools, discrimination, fear, financial limitations of parents, and the fact that many refugee children have now missed out on several years of education, both in Syria and since arriving in Lebanon. Children unable to attend schools because they are too young, too old or live in areas where there are no schools require complementary non-formal education options. Standardization, recognition and certification of these non-formal alternatives are essential to ensure quality and relevance of programmes. Education partners will continue to advocate for more predictable funding in support of RACE to allow the opening of additional schools in 2015/16 and to ensure that children have access to complementary, non-formal alternatives where required.

Number of Partners per Caza/District

March 2015

**A Total Number of 31 Organizations
Currently Report Their Activities**



Contact Information:

For information about Education, please contact:
Gemma Bennink gbenink@unicef.org or Audrey Nirrengarten nirrenga@unhcr.org
or if you have any inquiry about the map, please contact:
Aoife Long along@unhcr.org






Disclaimer:

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Legend

-  Governorate
-  District

of Education Organisations

-  1 - 2
-  3 - 4
-  5 - 7
-  8 - 9
-  10 - 12

Reporting Parnters:

ADRA, Al Masjed Com, Alpha, AMURT, ANERA, AVSI, Beddawi Popular Committee, CCP JAPAN, CLMC Lebanon, CONCERN, COOPI, CYC, Fraternity, GUPW, HOOPS, IQRAA, IR Lebanon, IRC, IRW, Lebanese Red Cross, LOST, MSL Lebanon, NRC, Pal_Scouts, PU-AMI, RET, SCI, SOS Village, TdH - It, UNRWA, WCH

SITUATION ANALYSIS

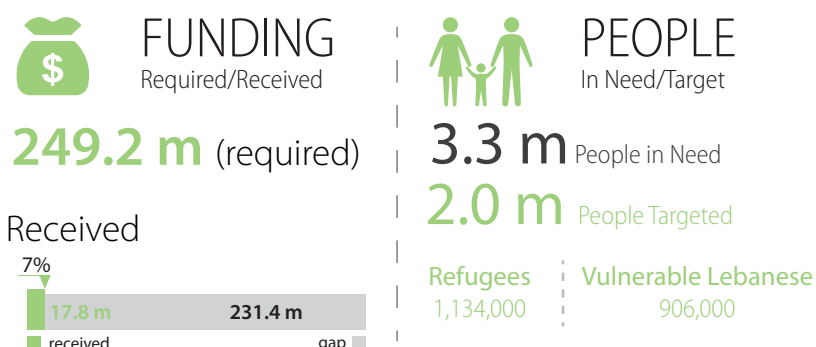
The first round of the mop-up polio campaign took place in 245 cadastres between 23-30 March, targeting children under 5 years of age for oral polio vaccination (OPV).

UNHCR engaged MediVisa as the Third Party Administrator (TPA) to facilitate access to hospital care for displaced Syrians from the 1 March after a competitive bidding process. UNHCR is working alongside the TPA through the transition phase to ensure uninterrupted access to life-saving and obstetric care.

Under the EU-funded Instrument of Stability (IFS), the supply of drugs and equipment to the MoPH facilities is on-going, the primary health care (PHC) guidelines have been updated, 8 isolation rooms at governmental hospitals completed and 5 water labs rehabilitated. 60 health-care staff from approximately 40 primary health-care centers received Psychological First Aid (PFA) training.

Under the Centre Pompidou funding, the national mental health program in collaboration with Universite Saint Joseph (USJ) is currently working on a national situation assessment on substance abuse. A strategy will be drafted based on the results of the assessment.

The Health Steering Committee was launched in March as a Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) initiative. It is led by the Director General of the MoPH with members from the MoPH, Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, ECHO and the World Bank. This committee will focus on strategic planning and decision-making related to the health sector. Two main initiatives have been undertaken since the initiation of the Steering Committee this month. One is the request for all health sector partners to provide information on 2014 funding and expenditure on health in order to get a better understanding on how funds were allocated, which in turn will feed into future planning. The other main outcome was the review and prioritisation of the sector budget ahead of the Kuwait conference, whereby the absolute minimum requirement for health would be US\$197 million, distributed evenly over 2015 and 2016, a much lower figure compared to the \$249.2 million for 2015 under the LCRP appeal.

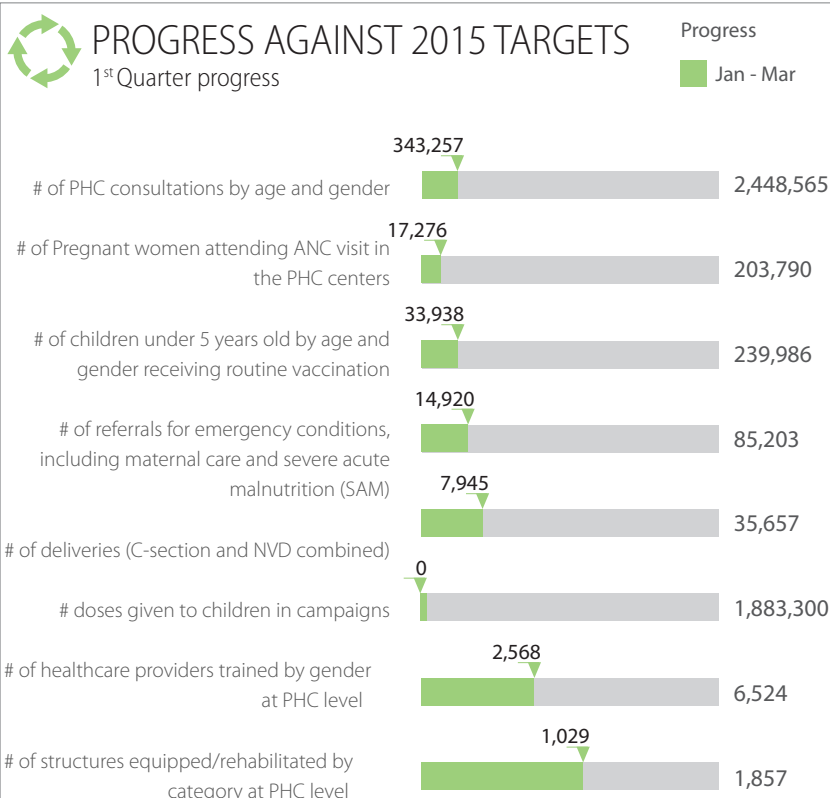
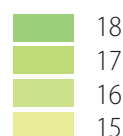


During the initial months of the year some partners may use un-earmarked global funds to ensure programmes can begin in the absence of funding earmarked specifically for the sector

PARTNERS

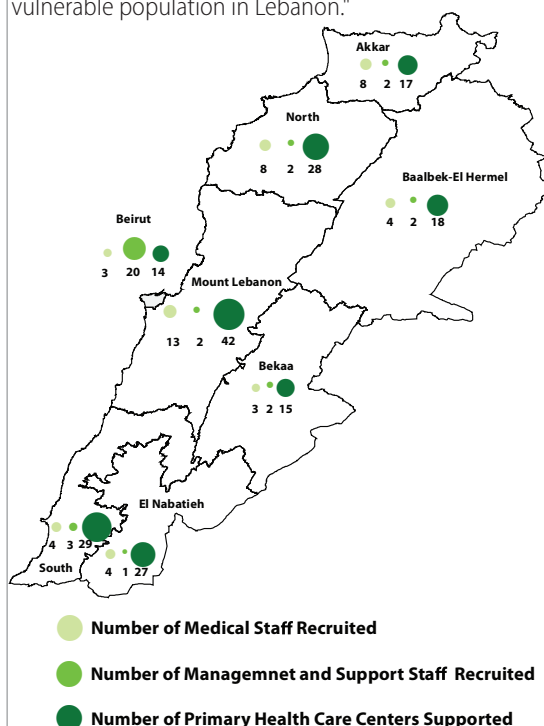
28 partners in Lebanon

Count of partners per area of operation



SUPPORT TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

under the EU-funded Action: "Conflict reduction through improving health care services for the vulnerable population in Lebanon."





Progress towards sector Outcomes and Outputs in Quarter 1

The main focus of the public health sector is to ensure access to adequate health care. Vulnerable populations continued to be able to access primary health care (PHC) services, with a total of 343,257 PHC consultations supported in the first quarter of 2015. The majority of beneficiaries seeking these consultations were Syrians (74%), followed by Palestine Refugees from Syria (18%), and affected poor Lebanese (7%). Women more regularly seek PHC, with a 3:2 ratio of females to males.

Of these PHC consultations, 17,276 refugee women received antenatal care (ANC). This is only 9 per cent of the target. Reasons can be attributed to lack of awareness on the importance of ANC and/or how to access it, as well as lack of accessibility mostly due to cost of transportation and consultation. Partners are working on strategies to increase awareness among pregnant women to seek preventive medical care. Secondary and tertiary health care continues to be provided to refugees, with 53 per cent of these services being provided to women delivering babies. The C-section rate for refugees is currently at 31 per cent.

Routine vaccinations of children under five years of age continue and a mop-up campaign of polio vaccinations took place in March. This campaign covers children of all nationalities, in an effort to keep Lebanon polio-free.

With the burden on primary health care centres increasing, an effort to strengthen the existing PHC system has gotten off to a good start in 2015. A total of 2,568 health care providers have been trained on various topics, including the Early Warning and Response System; standard protocols; the use of the Health Information System; and mother and child health and mental health. All of this helps to ensure standard quality health care. In parallel, 1,029 primary health centres have been renovated or provided with improved IT and medical equipment, such as solar fridges, weighing scales, examination tables, and echography machines. Through the Instrument for Stability (IFS) project, 75 health personnel -- 12 of them newly recruited this year -- have been placed within Ministry of Public Health facilities to ensure that services are more accessible.

During the first quarter, five water testing laboratories have been renovated, with three more expected in the next quarter. This will ensure adequate water testing for bacteriology and detection of possible water contamination. Also, eight isolation rooms were created at government hospitals to care for individuals with suspected communicable diseases.

Changes in context in Quarter 1

Syrians requiring health care not supported by partners in Lebanon and who in the past could have opted to go back to Syria to receive the required services, will now have no option but to stay in Lebanon for treatment. Otherwise, they will jeopardize their ability to re-enter Lebanon under new restrictions introduced in January. From an epidemiologic perspective, no major new outbreaks have been observed this year. The mumps outbreak has been on-going since 2014, with 559 incident cases between January and March (22 percent among the Syrian displaced population). The Hepatitis A outbreak has started to decline, with 404 incident cases this quarter (23 percent Syrians), 81 of which occurred over the last month. There were 10 reported cases of measles (three of whom are Syrian).

Complementary to the services provided by public health centres, Lebanon's social development centres (SDC) have received support to provide medications and improve health and nutrition screening in 57 SDC's around the country.

There were no significant changes in the response capacity of health actors. However, a significant development has occurred in the coordination of the health response. Following Decision 1/421 of the Ministry of Public Health, a Health Steering Committee was launched in March. It is led by the Director General of the MoPH with members from the MoPH, Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNRCO, ECHO and the World Bank.



The responsibilities of this committee include:

- setting the health sector strategy within the broad framework of the LCRP for 2015-2016;
- aligning the priorities for the health response with those of the MoPH;
- directing international donations towards these set priorities;
- and adopting mechanisms to reduce inefficiencies in spending within the health response.

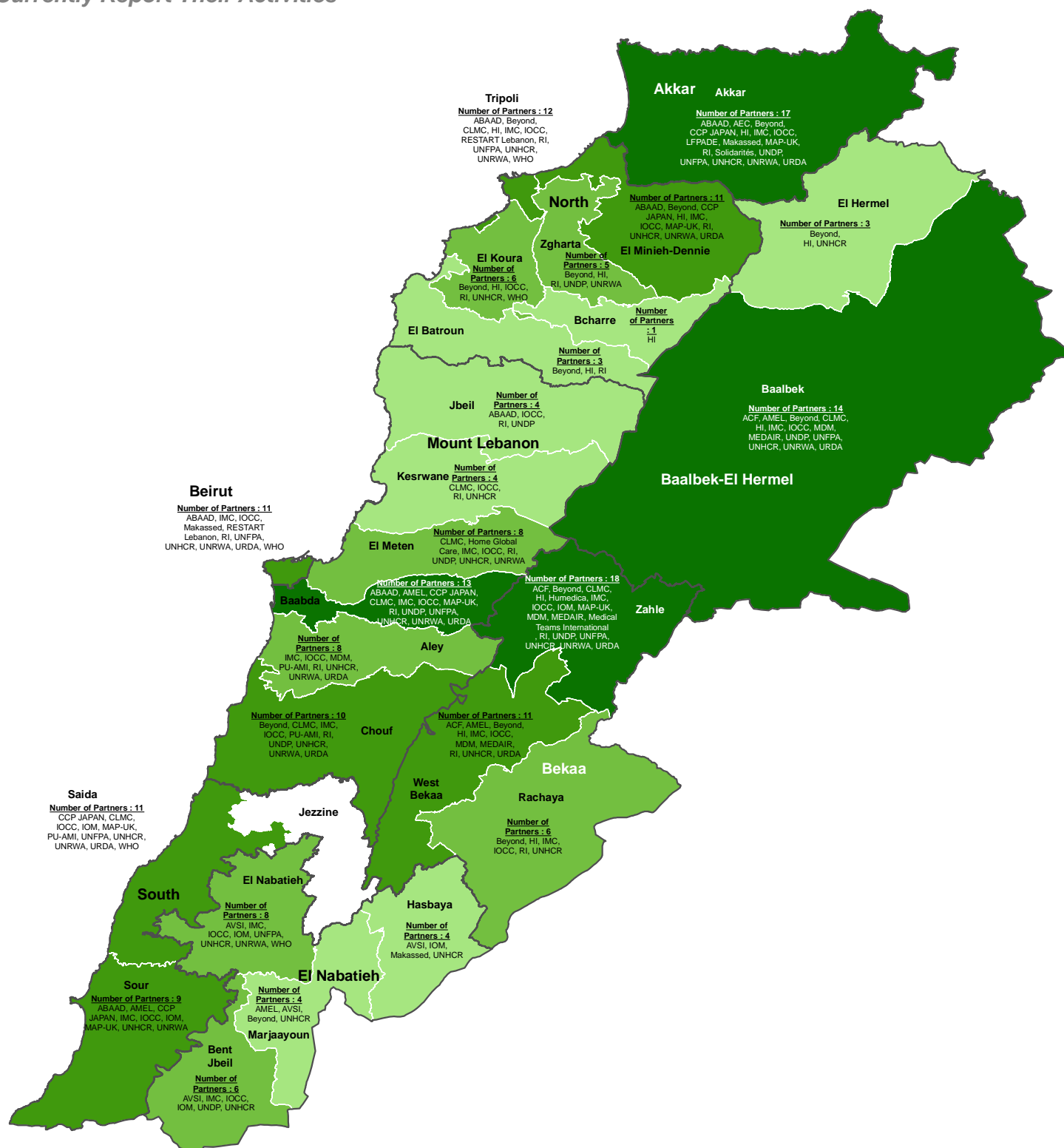
This is the first step in a process of increasing the Ministry of Public Health's engagement to further improve coordination and efficiency within the health sector response.



Number of Partners per Caza/District

March 2015

*A Total Number of 28 Organizations
Currently Report Their Activities*



Contact Information:

For information about Public Health Sector, please contact:
Michael Woodman at woodman@unhcr.org
or if you have any inquiry about the map, please contact:
Maroun Sader at sader@unhcr.org

Disclaimer:

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Legend

- Governorate
- District

Number of partner per district

- 0 - 4
- 5 - 8
- 9 - 12
- 13 - 18

Reporting Partners:

ACF, AMEL, AVSI, Beyond, CLMC Lebanon, HI, Humedica, IMC, IOCC Lebanon, IOM, Makassed, MAP-UK, MDM, MOPH, PU-AMI, RI, UNHCR, UNRWA, WHO, RESTART Lebanon, UNDP, ABAAD, CCP JAPAN, LFPAD, MEDAIR, Solidarités, UNFPA, URDA

SITUATION ANALYSIS

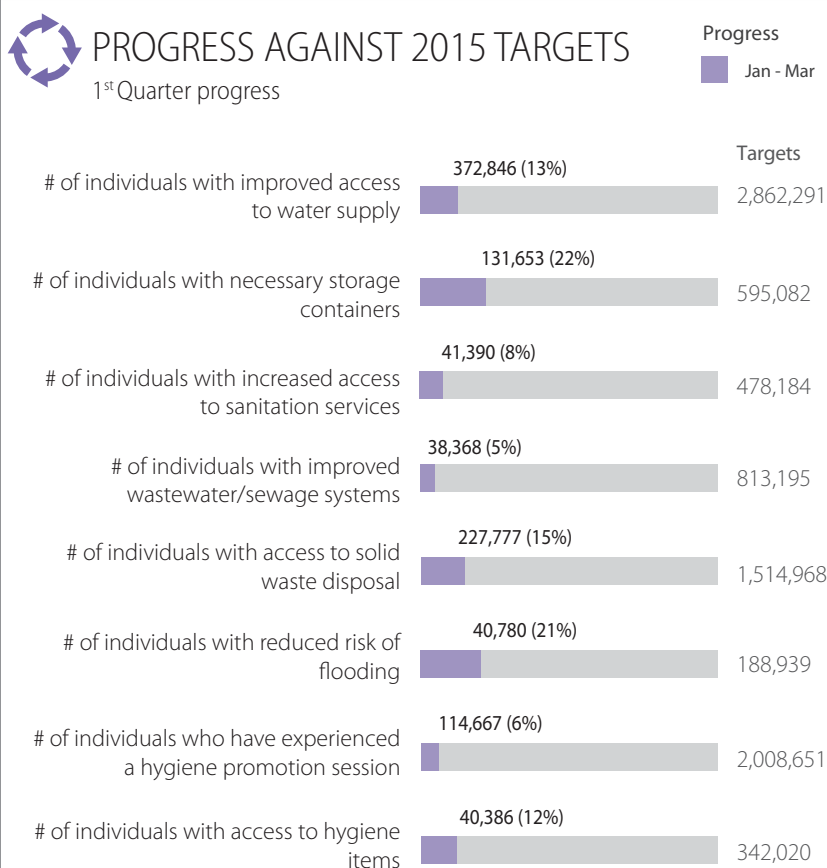
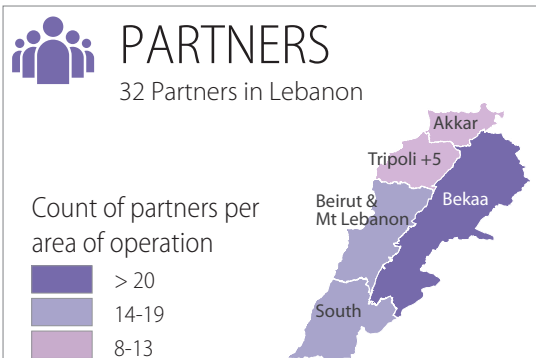
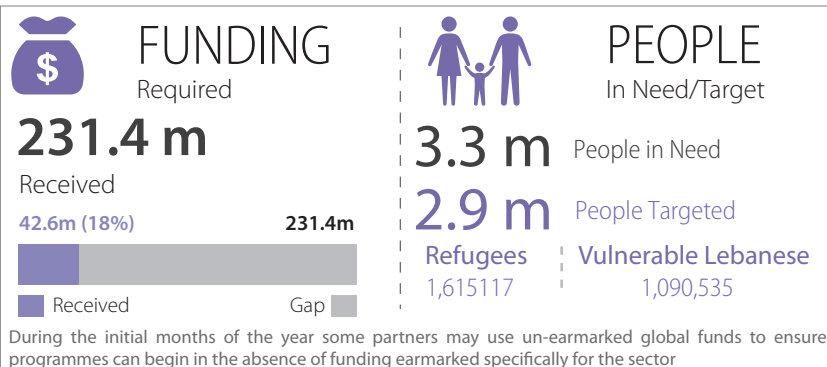
In March 9 Municipal water systems have been completed with work including the supply of pump equipment at 7 locations, source rehabilitation or development at 9 locations and distribution networks for a total of 3,550 meters of piping at 3 locations. In addition 32 communal water reservoirs have been completed. For water treatment 39 chlorination systems have been installed in the North and South of Lebanon and 1,714 household filters have been distributed in the Bekaa.

In water trucking 39,500,000 litres of water have been distributed by 7 agencies in 240 sites, an increase of 24% from February based upon changes in need and access.

A total of 1,273 latrines have been completed serving 17,000 people primarily Syrian populations indicating an increased production from previous months. Also 95 vector breeding sites have been removed in Akkar.

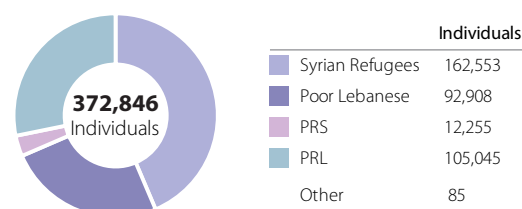
In hygiene promotion 35,050 people have attended hygiene sessions – average is 18 people per session. In addition 66 municipality level mass hygiene promotion campaigns took place. In total 3,701 family hygiene kits and 2,669 baby kits or vouchers were distributed.

Key sectoral issues remain in waste water management and solid waste management where the existing infrastructure and services are under considerable strain.

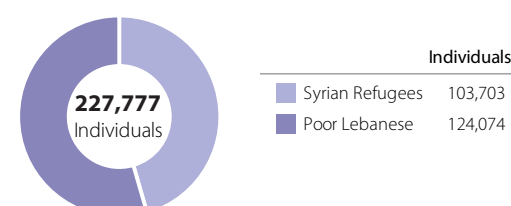


PROGRESS BY COHORTS

INDICATOR 1: Number of individuals with improved access to water supply



INDICATOR 2: Number of individuals with access to solid waste disposal



Reporting Agencies

ABAAD, ACF, ACTED, ANERA, AVSI, Beddawi Pop Com, CARE, CHF, CISP, CLMC Lebanon, CONCERN, DPNA, GVC, HOOPS, Intersos, IOCC Lebanon, Leb Relief, Lebanese Red Cross, Makhzoumi, MAP-UK, MEDAIR, Mercy Corps, NRC, OXFAM, PU-AMI, RI, SCI, Solidar Suisse, Solidarités, UN-Habitat, UNRWA, WVI



Progress towards sector Outcomes and Outputs in Quarter 1

The WASH sector has three key priorities:

(a) Ensuring access to safe and equitable water in sufficient quantities. To date, 15 percent of the target population (372,846 people of which 164,000 refugees) has been reached, in particular through enhanced access to water storage facilities. Challenges include security access restrictions in Aarsal and Akkar; dependence on poor water quality in agricultural areas; identification of beneficiaries in peri-urban areas; and conflicting information on using sustainable water resources.

(b) Ensuring that the environment is not polluted by solid waste or affected by standing water or flood water. As a result of targeted interventions, some 227,700 beneficiaries now live in a cleaner and more sanitary environment. Improvements in municipal sludge and wastewater management benefited 38,368 Syrians over the first quarter of the year. Given the complexity and large scale of the work, progress is expected to come in spurts. Wastewater management interventions are heavily controlled in Lebanon. A critical challenge at the moment is sludge removal by trucks and approved, safe disposal.

(c) Ensuring better hygiene practices. More than 114,600 people have participated in 9,116 household/small group hygiene awareness sessions. The actual number of people reached through hygiene promotion is higher as this figure does not include health, education and mass hygiene campaigns.

Changes in context in Quarter 1

The Government of Lebanon and WASH sector partners have reinforced their collaboration. A planning process to develop approved technical solutions is being initiated to guide the response.

According to the Ministry of Public Health, reported cases of selected water-borne related disease totaled 619 in the first quarter, compared to 1,026 in the previous quarter. However, the risk of an outbreak has not significantly diminished. The Ministry of Public Health has taken the lead to engage partners in mitigating risks of water borne diseases as well preparing response capacities should an outbreak occur. Examples of such activities are the training of 124 health and WASH staff on rapid response mechanisms and activities, and planning for responses in locations with highest risk of the spread of communicable, water-related diseases.

Recent assessments revealed widespread bacteriological contamination in addition to high nitrate and phosphates contamination for water sources in agricultural areas. This may have health implications, such as diarrhea or, in the case of nitrates, infant mortality. The challenge in providing water that is safe under Government standards is becoming increasingly apparent. Various solutions are under discussion, including connecting communities to established, treated networks; identifying better quality water sources; and the use of better treatment techniques to replace unsustainable water trucking, or dependence on other contaminated water sources.

There was notable precipitation during the winter, leaving a good snow cover in the mountains and allowing for ongoing groundwater recharge. However, the risk of water shortages during the summer cannot yet be completely ruled out. WASH partners continue to work on improving the supply of water and better managing of demand in conjunction with communities and local authorities in the most vulnerable locations.

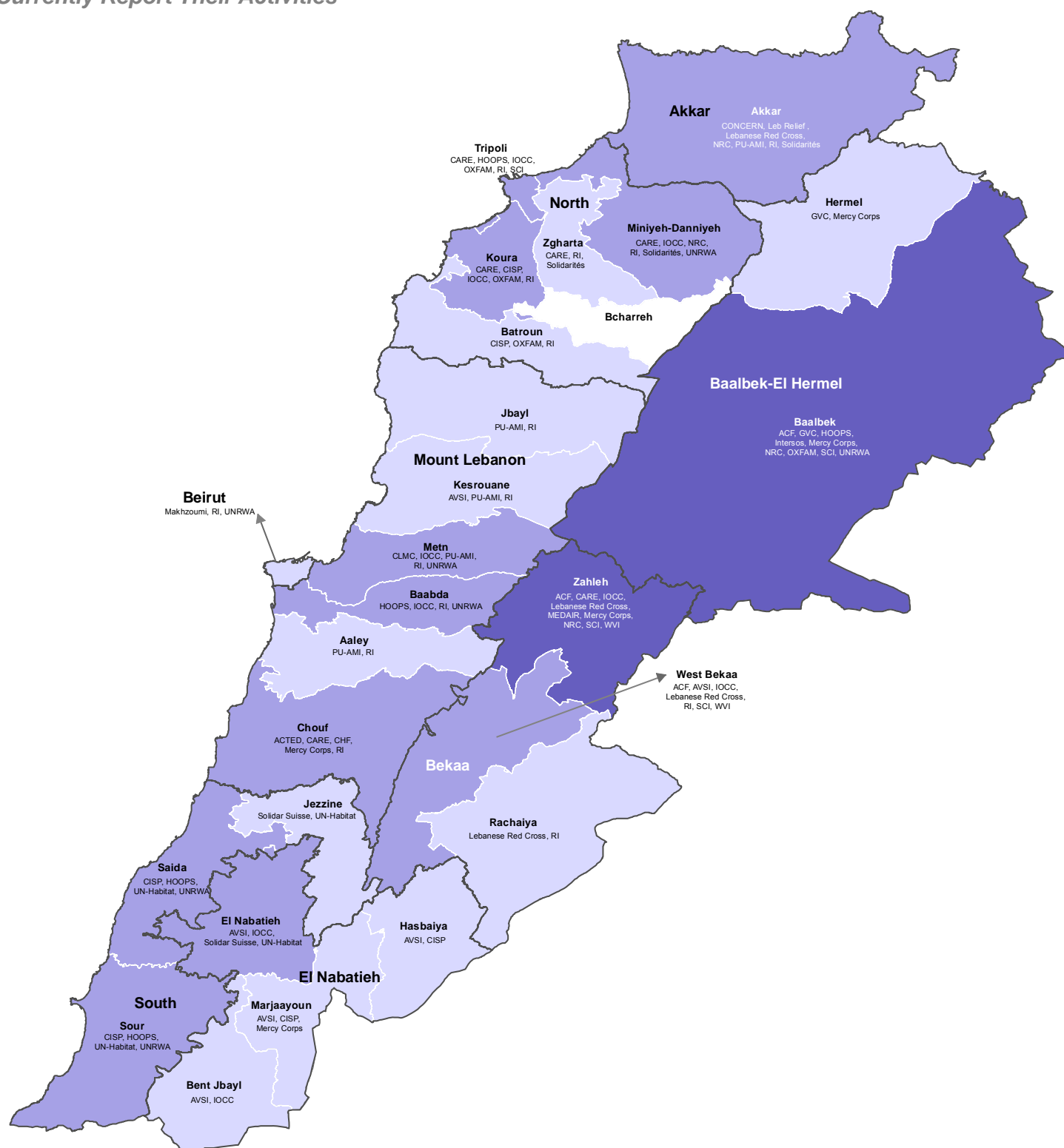
Health risks due to poor waste water and solid waste management have recently been cited by authorities as reasons for evictions from informal settlements. The sector is working closely with the eviction committees in the field to address these concerns, including through provision of immediate desludging.

A national plan for municipal solid waste (MSW) that would divide Lebanon into six areas for waste collection and disposal was launched in February 2015. This plan is likely to change the landscape of solid waste management. Any planning for new projects should consider the implications of this plan. Active coordination with relevant government authorities continues to ensure consistency with the Lebanese WASH guidelines and regulations.

Number of Partners per Caza/District

March 2015

*A Total Number of 32 Organizations
Currently Report Their Activities*



Contact Information:

For information about WASH Sector, please contact:
David Adams at dadams@unicef.org or Ross Tomlinson at TOMLINSON@unhcr.org
or if you have any inquiry about the map, please contact:
Georges Haddad at ghaddad@unicef.org

Disclaimer:

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Legend

□ Governorate

□ District

F3

1 - 3

4 - 8

8 - 12

12 - 21

Reporting Partners:

ABAAD, ACF, ACTED, ANERA, AVSI, Beddawi Pop Com, CARE, CHF, CISP, CLMC Lebanon, CONCERN, DPNA, GVC, HOOPS, Intersos, IOCC Lebanon, Leb Relief, Lebanese Red Cross, Makhzoumi, MAP-UK, MEDAIR, Mercy Corps, NRC, OXFAM, PU-AMI, RI, SCI, Solidar Suisse, Solidarités, UN-Habitat, UNRWA, WVI



SITUATION ANALYSIS

On a positive note, activities in the sector have scaled up significantly in March. This relates mostly to activities and programmes that started last year, such as Rapid Income Generating Activities or activities related to workforce employability. For both activities, partners have reported more progress in the sole month of March than in January and February combined.

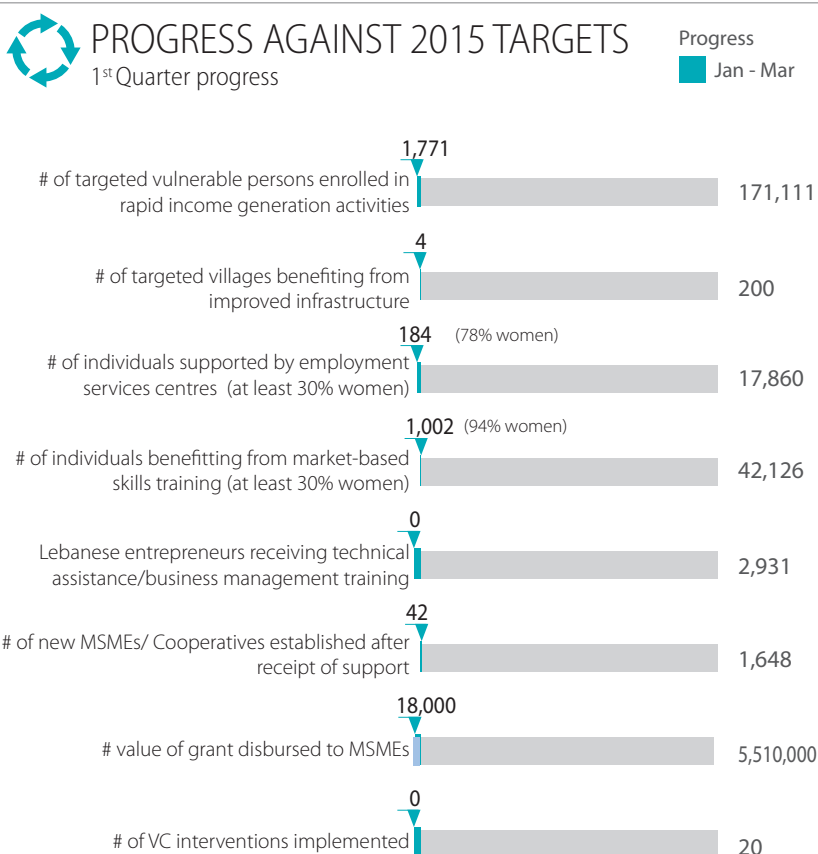
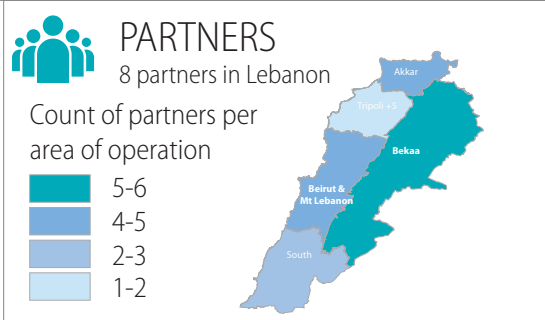
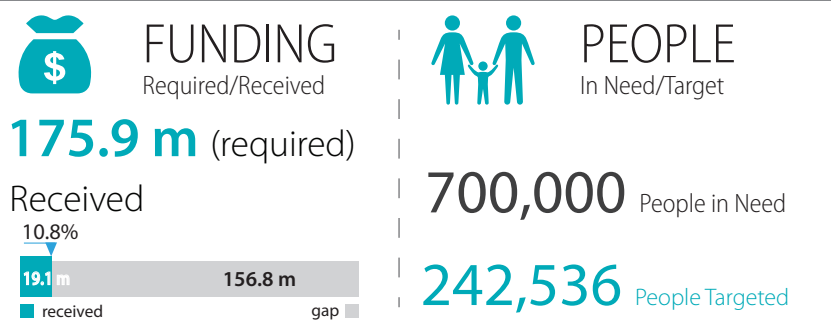
1,771 people have now benefitted from income generating activities, which is broadly in line with progress achieved last year (6,000 people over the year, or 1,500 per quarter), while the sector aims at achieving a much higher target this year.

Interestingly, the skills training delivered by partners overwhelmingly benefits women (96% of the total beneficiaries). This is line with existing assessments highlighting that across populations cohorts, women are less employed than men and therefore more interested and available for trainings.

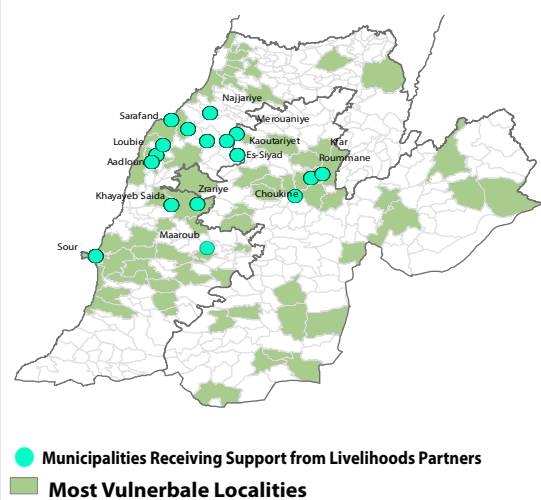
Progress on other activities remains. Support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is slowly developing with 12 activities already reporting results and 13 more ongoing. Support to institutions and policy development is also showing early results, with ILO supporting the development of plans by Local Economic Development Agencies in Akkar. Unfortunately, no results are reported yet related to Value Chain Developments. The reasons for the overall slow progress of the sector are further explained in the quarterly analysis below.

In the meantime, the government internal consultation process on livelihoods is continuing, as communicated by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) at the end of the month: The Ministry of Social Affairs is currently conducting the final consultation meetings among the relevant Government stakeholders in preparation for the national livelihood workshop. The national livelihood workshop will be held early May 2015, as a joint initiative between MoSA and UNDP, where all stakeholders will have the opportunity to participate in drafting the national livelihood plan that aims at stabilizing the country.

Finally, the coordination set up of the sector was finalized in March with the first meeting of the field working group for Beirut - Mount Lebanon. The sector now has field working groups established in all five operational areas of the country.



Municipalities in the South receiving support through rapid income generation initiatives



In South Lebanon, IOM and ACF are implementing their rapid income generation initiatives with municipalities, supporting their provision of services, such as cleaning of roads and public spaces, rehabilitation of roads and public infrastructures.



Progress towards sector Outcomes and Outputs in Quarter 1

Progress in the livelihoods sector in the first quarter of the year has generally been slow, which is of growing concern considering the importance to mitigate the economic impact of the crisis on both host and displaced population. In this respect, it is particularly worrying that three months into the year, only two livelihoods partners have activities in the region of Tripoli, considering the vulnerability of the area in terms of social deprivation and risk of violence. This can mostly be explained by three factors:

Lack of funding: the sector has only secured US\$19.1 million, or 10.8% of its appeal, while a substantive increase in funding of the sector is necessary to address the stabilization need of the country.

Development of new activities: the livelihoods sector strategy under the LCRP represent a major shift compared to previous response plans, moving from providing short-term opportunities to the most vulnerable to new priority interventions creating more opportunities to access employment and income through support to Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises, entrepreneurs, employment service centres, key ministries, and developing value chains. As such, new plans and activities need to be built from scratch and results are slower to appear.

The current uncertainties on the possibilities for Syrians registered as refugees with UNHCR to engage in livelihoods activities is also limiting the possibilities for partners to scale up previous initiatives or secure additional funding for other interventions such as income-generation activities and vocational training.

Yet, in the meantime, the sector is also supporting public institutions on the ground, particularly through the use of rapid income generation programmes to support municipalities in providing services and rehabilitating infrastructures. This is benefitting 15 municipalities in the South, to which nearly 2,000 workmen day were made available to carry out municipal services (such as road repair, public space cleaning- see map above).

Changes in context in Quarter 1

While the livelihoods sector strategy is built around the Lebanon legal framework, there has been two changes in the response environment related respectively to (1) the new entry and renewal regulations for Syrian refugees and (2) the internal government process on livelihoods.

The new entry and residency renewal regulations issued by GSO at the end of 2014 and early 2015 include that Syrian registered as refugee with UNHCR need to sign a notarized pledge not to work to renew their residency in Lebanon. While actual enforcement control remains limited, this new regulation is limiting the possibilities to engage refugees in activities, putting both partners and beneficiaries at risk of illegality.

In parallel, the Ministry of Social Affairs has been facilitating an internal governmental process on livelihoods, and is currently conducting the final consultation meetings among the relevant Government stakeholders in preparation for the national livelihood workshop. The workshop will be held as a joint initiative between MoSA and UNDP, where all stakeholders will have the opportunity to participate. The pending finalization of the process is also limiting partners in develop their plans and interventions.

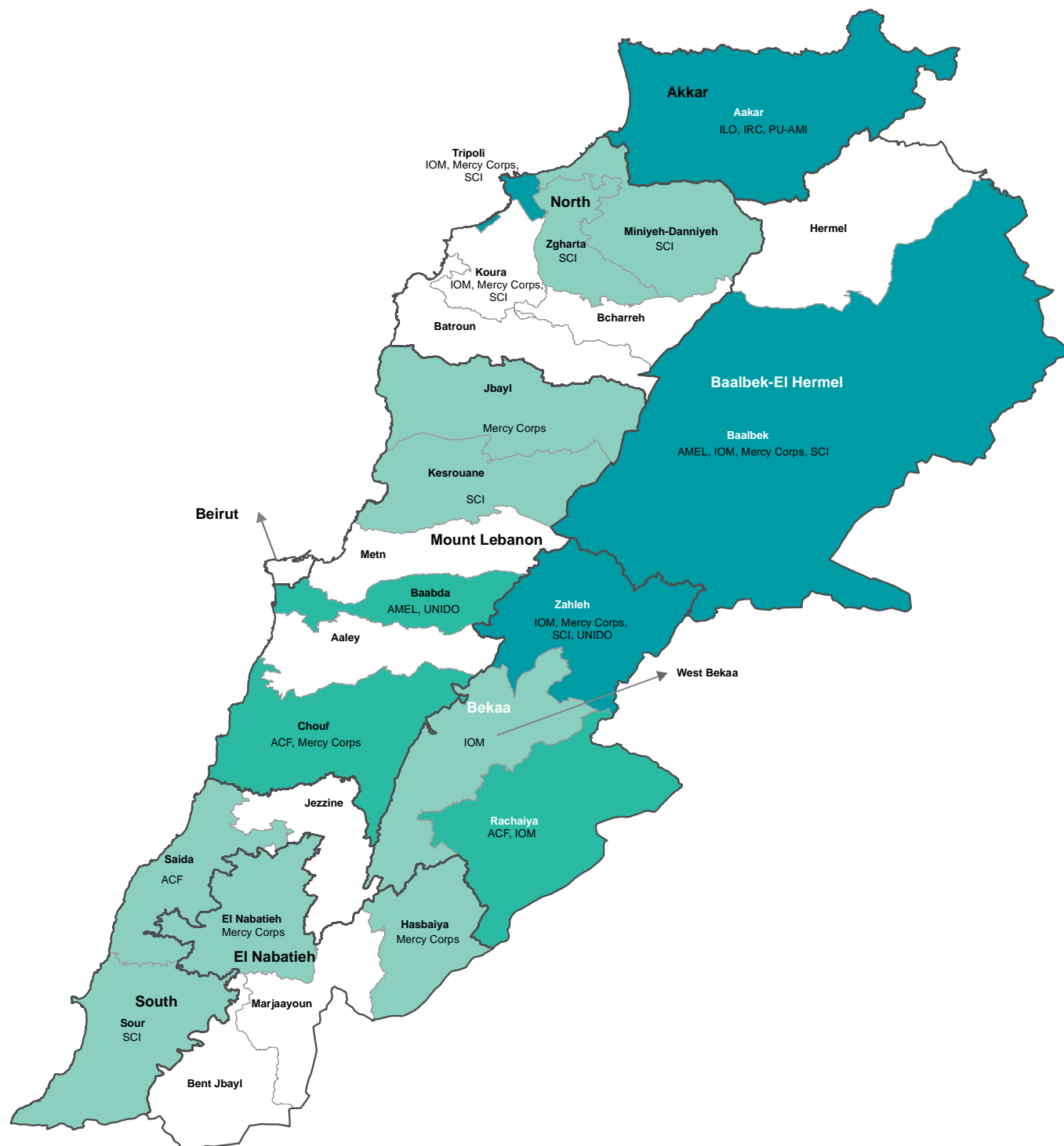
Limitations on the possibilities to engage Syrian in livelihoods and income-generating opportunities come as recent assessment underline their increasing vulnerability. The 2014 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees shows an increasing reliance of refugees on humanitarian assistance and particularly food vouchers as their primary source of income. As this assistance is currently decreasing, the impossibility for refugees to benefit from livelihoods assistance or from legal work will put them at risk of increased exploitation.



Number of Partners per Caza/District

April 2015

*A Total Number of 9 Organizations
Currently Report Their Activities*



Contact Information:

For information about Livelihoods Sector, please contact:
Tom Thorogood at tom.thorogood@undp.org
or if you have any inquiry about the map, please contact:
Said Abou Kharroub at saboukharroub@undp.org

Disclaimer:

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Legend

- Governorate
- District

Number of Partners per District

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3 - 4

Reporting Partners:

ILO, IRC, PU-AMI, AMEL, UNIDO,
IOM, Mercy Corps, SCI, ACF

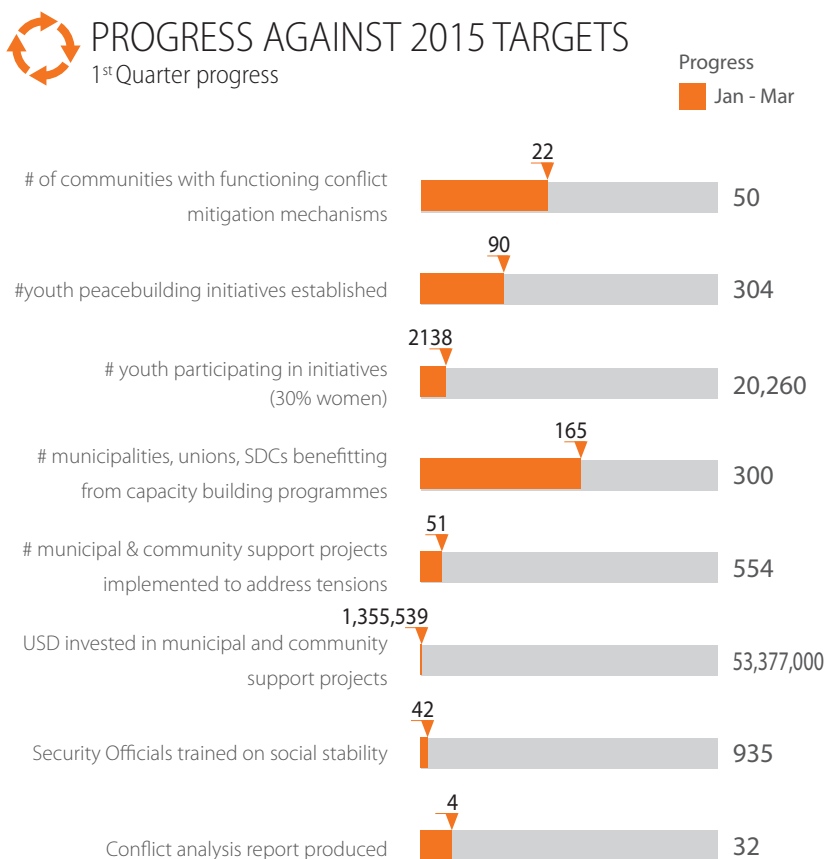
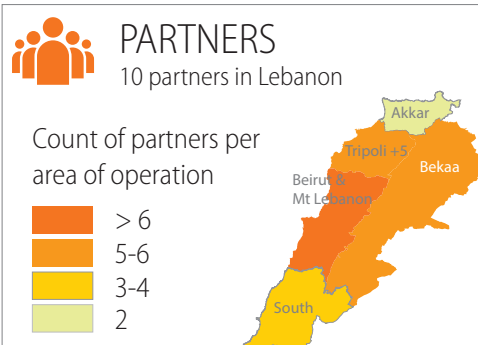
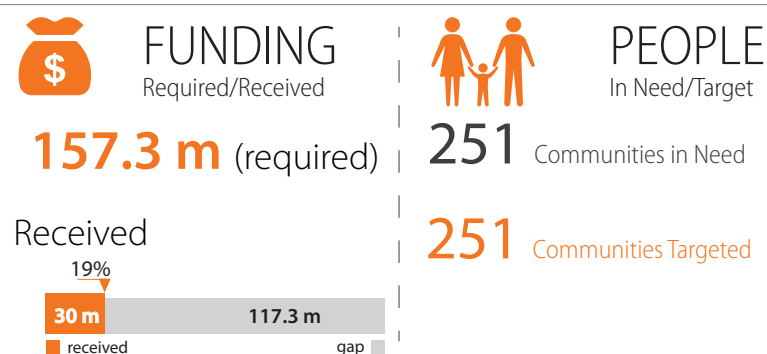
SITUATION ANALYSIS

The month of March saw good progress in the work of the sector, especially at the local level. Activities aiming specifically at capacitating communities to mitigate tensions have been particularly successful, with seven new community mechanisms set up to defuse tension at the local level, engaging 354 new changes agents (49% female). Work with youth is also continuously increasing, with 32 new 'peacebuilding initiatives' launched by partners, including for the first time the establishment of 9 'violence free schools' (schools developing a code of conduct to create a school environment conducive to peace) in the Bekaa. Youth initiatives have engaged 1,583 more youth this quarter, and impressive rise compared to previous months where only 555 were engaged altogether.

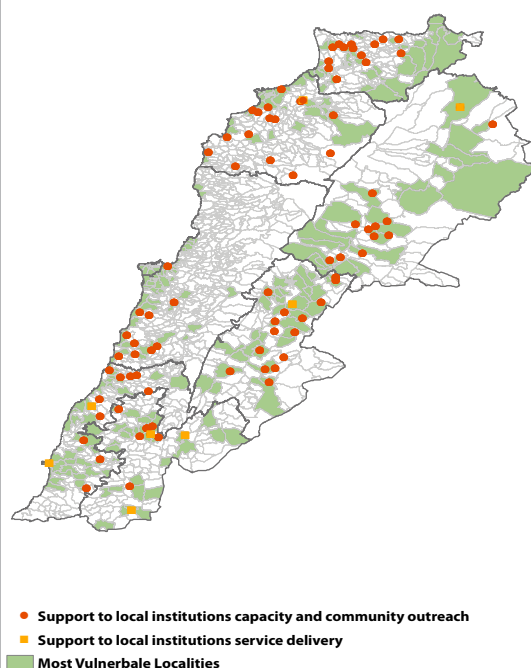
As for the support to local institutions and in particular municipalities, the work of the sector is already starting to shift from 'soft' support (capacity building, support to participatory processes) to more tangible support. Indeed, while two new participatory processes were launched at municipal level (in Mount Lebanon) and five new municipalities are receiving staffing support through Municipal Support Assistants, 39 new community and municipal support projects were completed in March, in areas such as support to solid waste or water supply services, or rehabilitation of roads or municipal support infrastructure. This represents an investment of over USD 1 million in host communities, a four time increase compared to previous months where only 12 such projects were completed.

There was very little progress reported in terms of work with national institutions, as partners are still developing their activities, particularly with regards to working with security forces.

CARE published a new report on social stability, focused on the Chouf and the T5 region. The report's findings are in line with previous assessment, highlighting that negative perceptions, differences in values and prejudices exacerbate tensions related to pressure on basic services (particularly water, electricity, sanitation and solid waste) and competition for economic opportunities. The study also confirms the lack of interaction between communities. The recommendations of the study are also well in line with the overall LCRP objective is calling for support to local institutions, livelihoods opportunities, and increased accountability from response partners.



Support to Local Institutions by the Social Stability Sector





Progress towards sector Outcomes and Outputs in Quarter 1

Overall, the social stability sector has made good progress in the first quarter in 2015 towards achieving its targets. The sector has secured 19% of its appeal, or US\$ 30 million.

The sector seems on track to achieving overall target of establishing 50 conflict mitigations mechanisms this year with 15 established so far, while activities targeting youth will need to be scaled up despite a promising start to reach the ambitious targets set in the LCRP. As for activities slower to show results, only 51 community/municipal support projects have been implemented so far. This is very modest achievements compared to the overall target for the year (554) and the achievements of last year (300). This is partly explained by the time required to identify and implement such projects, particularly over winter months, but also by the need for additional funding to address priority sources of tensions in the most vulnerable municipalities. Activities to support central level institutions to build social stability take also typically longer to show results, but partners have been laying the groundwork to engage security forces, media institutions, and civil society coalitions in separate social stability initiatives.

Overall, supporting public institutions is at the core of the work of the sector, particularly regarding local institutions, a total of 165 municipalities, unions of municipalities and SDCs are being strengthened and supported by partners. This is generally done by partners who have been providing technical and staffing support to such institutions for several months or years. Although half of the yearly target has already been reached, expanding this support to additional municipalities and institutions will take additional more time. In the meantime, the sector is also taking the lead across sectors with regards to working with municipalities, and has been mapping all interventions directly involving municipalities across sectors so as to facilitate coordination and to bridge gap with other community mobilization initiatives, such as Collective Site Management and Coordination (CSMC)

Overall, the sector is already active in 146 of the 251 vulnerable cadastres. The sector is still working on setting up the appropriate monitoring framework to assess its impact at outcome level (tensions, incidents) – the upcoming publication of the REACH-UNICEF-OCHA assessment in vulnerable cadastres will help setting a baseline.

Change in context in Quarter 1

347 instances of conflict (ranging from armed fighting to street demonstrations) have been recorded in the first quarter of 2015 according to Lebanon Support conflict map, concentrated primarily around boarder areas, urban areas, particularly Tripoli, as well as Aarsal. This is equivalent to what was registered in the last quarter of 2014.

On a positive note, perception survey conducted in Bekaa and the North for USAID noted a relative improvement in inter-group relations, with a decrease of respondents reporting 'negative' Syrian/Lebanese relations in the first quarter of 2015. Yet most respondent qualify inter-group relations as neutral, in line with the fact that there is a consistent trend of very limited contact between the host and displaced communities. This in turn poses a major challenge for the work of the sector and its ability to bring both communities together in joined forum to identify and mitigate tensions. As for the pressure on resources caused by the crisis, recent assessments show the importance of seasonal variations, with tensions related to water decreasing constantly over the past months with the end of the summer/autumn drought, and competition for jobs now the top source of tensions.

Changes in the humanitarian context, particularly the decrease in humanitarian assistance and the new entry and renewal regulations have a mostly indirect impact on the sector. Indeed, partners report a growing concern among both displaced and host communities that the decrease in humanitarian assistance combined with limited freedom of movement and access to livelihoods for refugees will lead to increased negative coping mechanisms from the most vulnerable Syrians, which might in turn fuel social tensions.

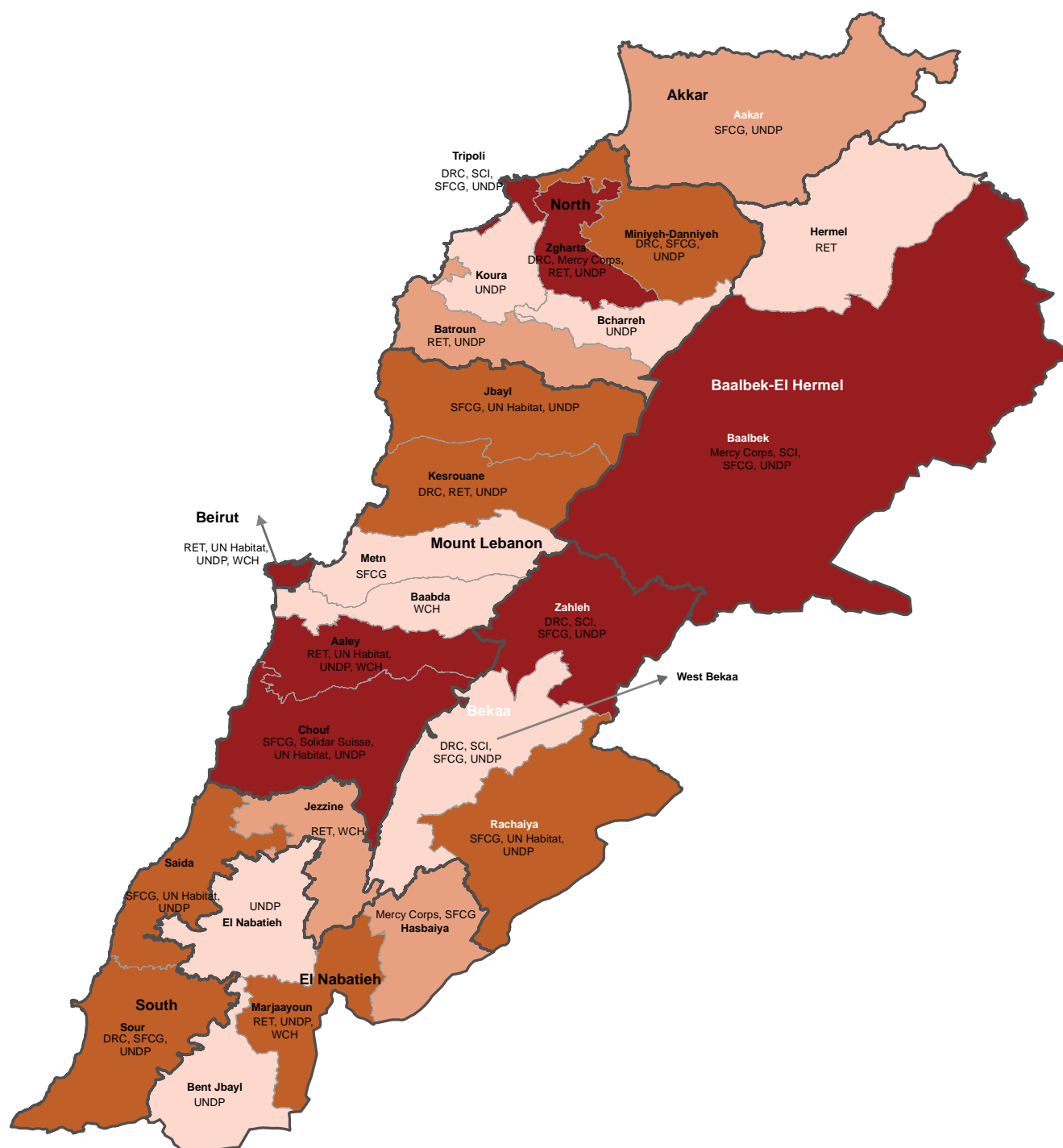
The capacity of partners to address and mitigate such challenges is seemingly increasing, with more and more partners engaged in the sector and developing specific social stability programs compared to the RRP6, an indication of the confidence and reputation they have built at community level. Similarly, other sectors' plan to increasingly contribute to social stability by supporting the needs of host communities and public institutions. The social stability sector will provide analysis and technical expertise to support these initiatives.



Number of Partners per Caza/District

April 2015

*A Total Number of 9 Organizations
Currently Report Their Activities*



Contact Information:

For information about Social Stability Sector, please contact:
Bastien Revel at bastien.revel@undp.org
or if you have any inquiry about the map, please contact:
Said Abou Kharroub at saboukharroub@undp.org

Disclaimer:

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Legend

- Governorate
- District

Number of Partners per District

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Reporting Partners:

SFCG, UNDP, RET, UN Habitat, WCH, Mercy Corps, SCI, Solidar Suisse, DRC

SITUATION ANALYSIS

The month of March witnessed the completion of the weatherproofing activities in North, Akkar, and Bekaa. Some 24,053 vulnerable individuals living in informal settlements and substandard buildings were assisted in March with the replacement, physical improvement, and protection of their shelters from the elements and winter conditions.

100% of the targeted most vulnerable population living in informal settlements were assisted. However, 38% of the needs of the people living in substandard buildings (unfinished houses, garages, worksites) were met. This is because of insufficient funding in addition to the difficulties to locate refugees living in the dispersed substandard buildings.

As a lesson learnt, the shelter sector started mapping the locations of substandard buildings in Bekaa, followed by Akkar. This will allow locating their needs, planning ahead for assistance, and advocating for support within the donor community.

Rehabilitation of substandard houses continues to be central to the shelter response. 3,256 individuals benefitted from rehabilitation of unfinished houses from various agencies across the country. This includes indirectly benefitting Lebanese and Palestinian landlords.



FUNDING

Required/Received

147 m (required)

Received



During the initial months of the year some partners may use un-earmarked global funds to ensure programmes can begin in the absence of funding earmarked specifically for the sector



PEOPLE

In Need/Target

1.8 m People in Need

1.4 m People Targeted

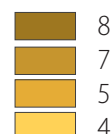
Refugees: 863,417
Vulnerable Lebanese: 504,838



PARTNERS

13 Partners in Lebanon

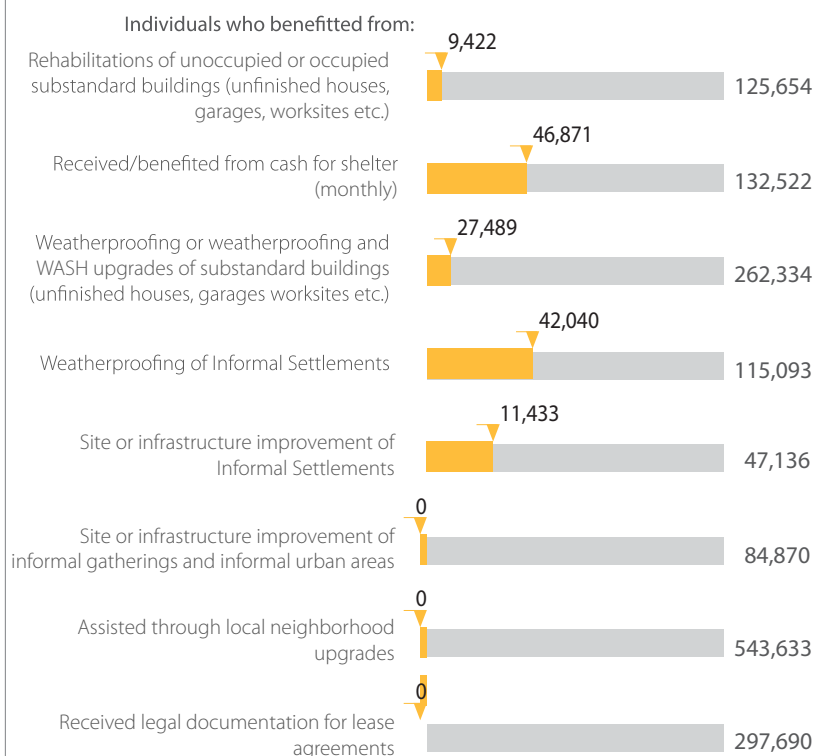
Count of partners per area of operation



PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

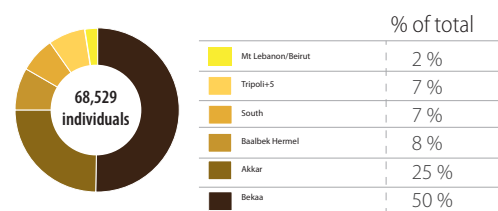
Month of March progress

Progress
Jan - Mar

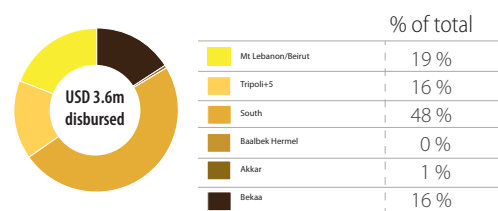


ACTIVITIES BY GOVERNORATE

ACTIVITY 1: Weatherproofing activities in informal settlements and substandard buildings



ACTIVITY 2: Amount of USD disbursed for cash for shelter



46,871 individuals received cash for shelter support in 2015 - mostly Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Progress towards sector Outcomes and Outputs in Quarter 1

At least 34,400 refugee families received weatherproofing kits during the first quarter under the winterization assistance programme and in the aftermath of two harsh storms. Most of the beneficiaries were in informal settlements in the North, Akkar and the Bekaa.

In addition, 18,260 refugees living in sub-standard buildings were assisted through distribution of sealing-off kits, protecting them against the elements. However, only 38 percent of the targeted population living in sub-standard buildings was covered during winter 2014-15 because of insufficient funding and difficulties in reaching such a dispersed population. Shelter partners are conducting assessments to gather detailed information on refugees cadastral location, level of vulnerability and shelter needs in the coming months.

In urban areas already pushed to the limit by overcrowding, deteriorating housing conditions and lack of basic services, poor neighborhoods are being assessed and mapped. Analysis of pre-crisis data and various sector reports on the current situation supported by field assessments will be compiled in City Profiles. These will provide a synopsis of the impact of the crisis on the poorest urban communities and on the living conditions of marginalized Lebanese and Palestinian communities. This holistic and cross-sectoral mapping will serve as important tools to develop comprehensive response plans for the neighborhoods to better address the needs of poor communities in general and the most vulnerable in particular.

Urban data collection and upgrading interventions, falling under the stabilization components of the shelter strategy, have so far received little funding. Response capacity thus remains limited.

Changes in context in Quarter 1

With a projected increase in shelter vulnerabilities among both refugees and host communities, the main objectives of the shelter strategy are a) increased focus on shelter rehabilitation to increase availability, b) improved infrastructure and public spaces in dense urban areas, and c) legal support to increase tenure security. A March 2015 survey shows that 55 per cent of vulnerable refugees are living in sub-standard shelters. This includes in informal settlements and overcrowded sub-standard buildings. A regularly conducted mapping exercise of Informal Settlements shows there has been a 48 per cent increase in the number of refugees living in such settlements. Altogether, some 18 percent of the entire registered refugee population live in informal settlements.

Shelter partners continue exploring emergency shelter approaches that have an increased lifespan as this would reduce the continuous weather proofing interventions. Advocacy with local authorities and private landlords that do not want to have semi-permanent structures on their land continues.

Finally, with available and affordable housing becoming increasingly scarce, coupled with an increase of overcrowding and eviction risks, solutions must be identified for the most vulnerable families. Shelter agencies have been boosting their search for alternative relocation sites. A sharp increase of overcrowded shelters reflects the decreased ability of refugees to pay rent. Work restrictions affect many. Securing tenure for refugees currently in adequate shelters will be key in avoiding a further increase in those who need shelter support.

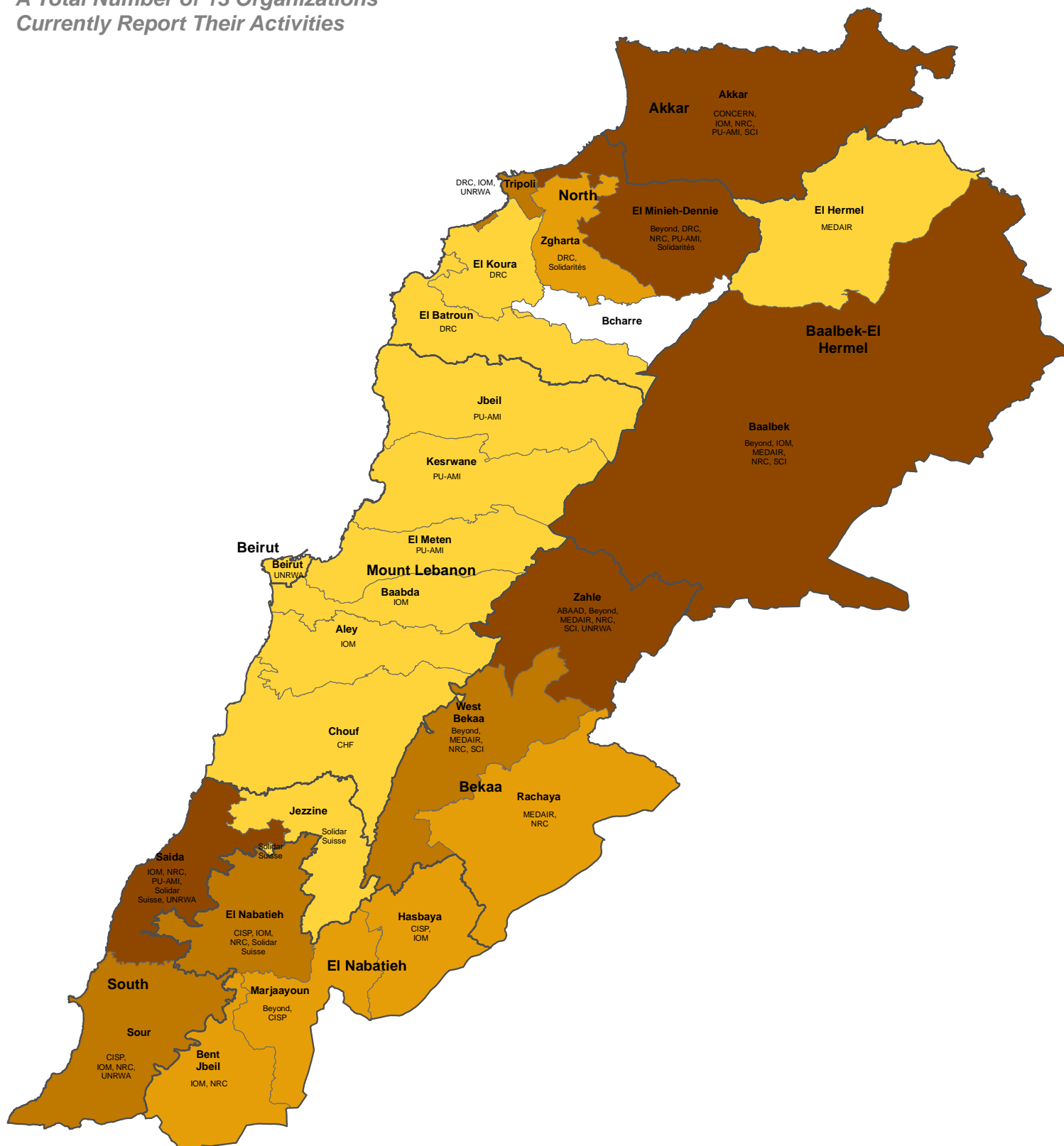
Jointly with UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), UN HABITAT has offered to provide co-leadership of the shelter sector.



Number of Partners per Caza/District

March 2015

*A Total Number of 13 Organizations
Currently Report Their Activities*



Contact Information:

For information about Shelter Sector, please contact:
Ahmad Kassem at kassema@unhcr.org or Synne Bergby at synne.bergby@unhabitat.org
or if you have any enquiry about the map, please contact the information management focal point:
Remo Fambri at fambri@unhcr.org

Disclaimer:

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Legend

□ Governorate
□ District

Number of Partners per District

□ 0
□ 1
□ 2
□ 3 - 4
□ 5 - 6

Reporting Partners:

ABAAD, Beyond, CHF, CISP, CONCERN, DRC, IOM, MEDAIR, NRC, PU-AMI, SCI, Solidar Suisse, Solidarités International, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA



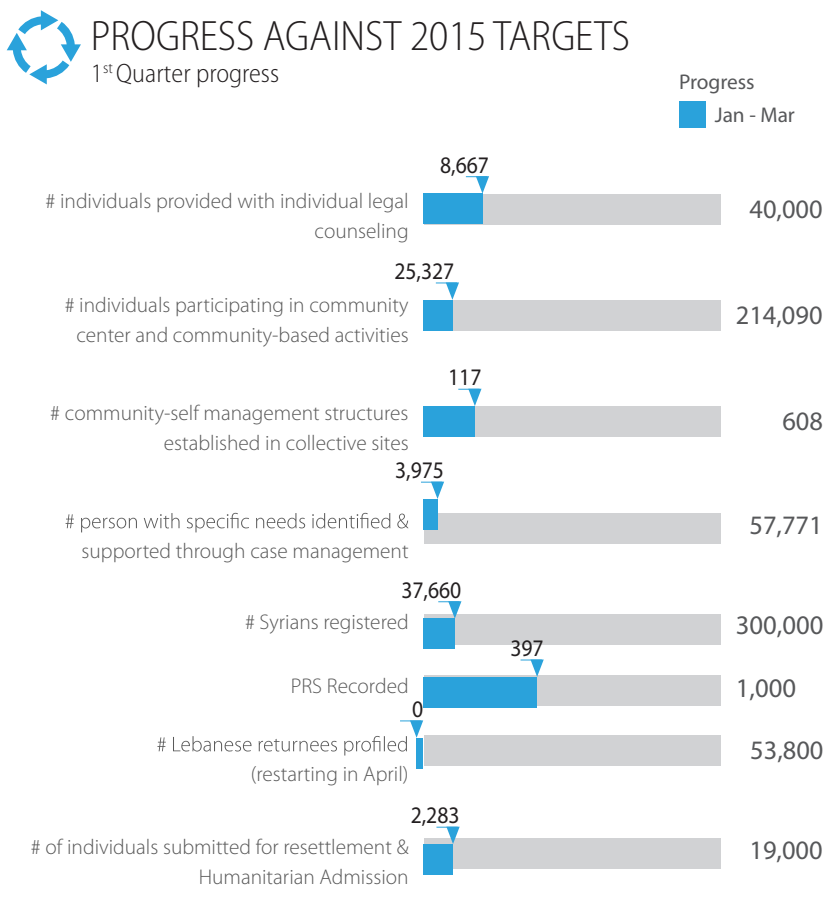
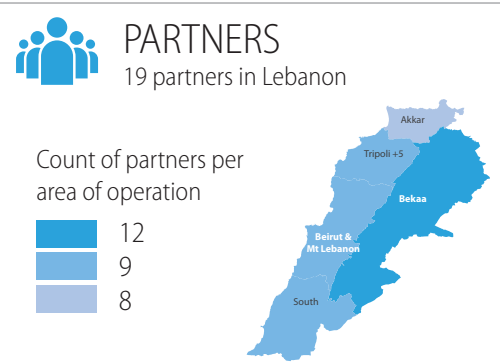
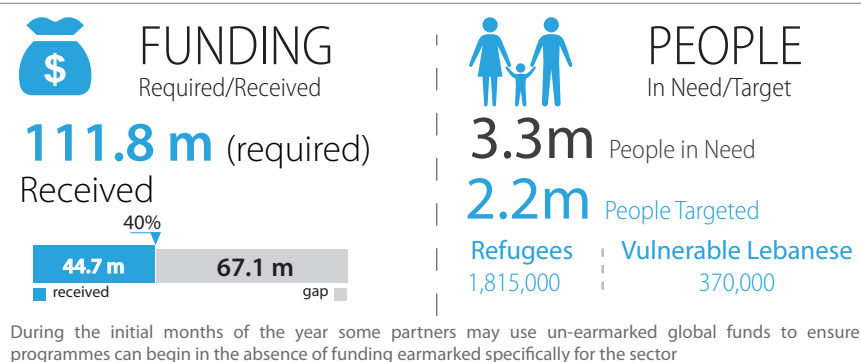
SITUATION ANALYSIS - March

The total number of Syrian refugees at the end of March was 1,192,280. The imposition of admission restrictions beginning in January 2015 has resulted in a nearly 75 per cent drop in monthly refugee registrations with UNHCR, compared to the same period in 2014. A total of 45,150 Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) has been recorded by UNRWA. This includes 397 persons who were registered this first quarter. The total number of Lebanese returnees registered to date is around 50,000 persons.

On 31 December 2014, the General Security Office (GSO) issued a circular introducing new entry and residency rules for Syrian nationals taking effect from 5 January 2015. Admission to Lebanon for Syrian nationals is restricted to those who can produce valid identity documents and proof that their stay in Lebanon fits into one of the approved entry categories. Seeking refuge in Lebanon is not an approved reason other than in exceptional circumstances. The Government also issued new regulations governing the renewal of residency permits. Syrians who are registered with UNHCR must pay a fee of US \$200 and in addition provide: a housing commitment (certified copies of a lease agreement or real-estate deed); certified attestation from a mukhtar (village leader) that the landlord owns the property; and a notarized pledge not to work. Some refugees are also asked to sign a notarized pledge that they will return to Syria when their permit expires or when requested by the Government. Most refugees are not able to pay the US \$200 fee, nor can they produce the documents required since most do not have formal lease agreements. In addition, there is a newly added requirement that refugees provide proof of their financial means. As a result of these measures, there is a growing sense of insecurity and unease in refugee communities. Protection partners have been following these legal changes closely and providing critical legal advice and support to refugees.

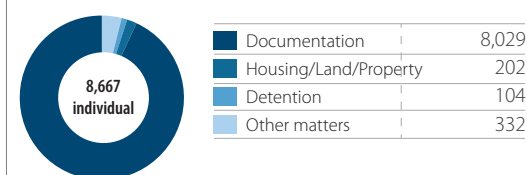
Evictions of refugees from informal settlements caused considerable concern early in the year because of harsh winter conditions and a lack of alternative shelter but the evictions rate abated towards the end of March. Some 6,800 persons had to relocate this year, mainly on orders from the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in the Bekaa for being in or too close to military-sensitive areas. Another more than 6,500 persons still remain at risk of eviction. Some are relocating themselves and others are trying to find alternative local solutions. Partners are working to assist the most vulnerable among those at risk.

Low birth registration among newborns remains a grave source of concern, particularly for refugee children who risk being stateless and face difficulties in eventually returning home. Partners work closely with the authorities to address this concern, including through awareness campaigns and legal advice and support.

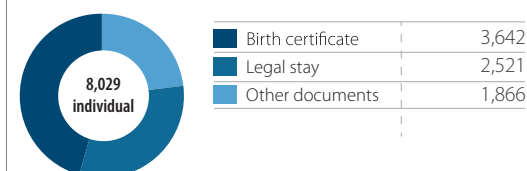


PROGRESS BY DISAGGREGATION

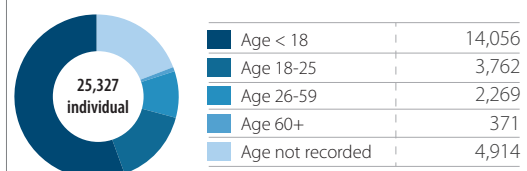
INDICATOR 1: # individuals provided with individual legal counseling (By type)



INDICATOR 1: # individuals provided with individual legal counseling (Documentation: By type of documents)



INDICATOR 2: # individuals participating in community center and community-based activities





Progress towards Sector Outcome and Outputs in Quarter 1

The total number of Syrian refugees at the end of March was 1,192,280. The imposition of admission restrictions beginning in January 2015 has resulted in a nearly 75 per cent drop in monthly refugee registrations with UNHCR, compared to the same period in 2014.

A total of 45,150 Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) has been recorded by UNRWA. This includes 397 persons who were registered this first quarter. The total number of Lebanese returnees registered to date is around 17,510 persons.

Moving into 2015, a broader, community-based approach for protection is being more systematically implemented by protection partners. Collective site management, greater use of refugee volunteer and outreach workers, and an enhanced role for Community and Social Development Centers are all part of the approach aimed at strengthening the capacity of refugee communities to address their own and their community's needs.

Changes in Context in Quarter 1

On 31 December 2014, the General Security Office (GSO) issued a circular introducing new entry and residency rules for Syrian nationals taking effect from 5 January 2015. Admission to Lebanon for Syrian nationals is restricted to those who can produce valid identity documents and proof that their stay in Lebanon fits into one of the approved entry categories. Seeking refuge in Lebanon is not an approved reason other than in exceptional circumstances.

The Government also issued new regulations governing the renewal of residency permits. Syrians who are registered with UNHCR must pay a fee of US \$200 and in addition provide: a housing commitment (certified copies of a lease agreement or real-estate deed); certified attestation from a mukhtar (village leader) that the landlord owns the property; and a notarized pledge not to work. Some refugees are also asked to sign a notarized pledge that they will return to Syria when their permit expires or when requested by the Government. Most refugees are not able to pay the US \$200 fee, nor can they produce the documents required since most do not have formal lease agreements. In addition, there is a newly added requirement that refugees provide proof of their financial means. Not all registered refugees are in receipt of international assistance. As a result of these measures, there is a growing sense of insecurity and unease in refugee communities. Many are fearful of arrest or detention because of lapsed residency visas or are feeling increasingly vulnerable to abuse given their irregular status in the country. Protection partners have been following these legal changes closely and providing critical legal advice and support to refugees.

Evictions of refugees from informal settlements caused considerable concern early in the quarter because of harsh winter conditions and a lack of alternative shelter. But the eviction rate abated towards the end of the quarter. In all some 6,000 persons had to relocate in the first quarter, mainly on orders from the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in the Bekaa for being in or too close to military-sensitive areas. Another 6,000 persons still remain at risk of eviction. Some are relocating themselves and others continue to try and find alternative local solutions. Partners are working to assist the most vulnerable among those at risk.

Low birth registration among newborns remains a grave source of concern, particularly for refugee children who risk being stateless and face difficulties in eventually returning home. Partners work closely with the authorities to address this concern, including through awareness campaigns and legal advice and support.

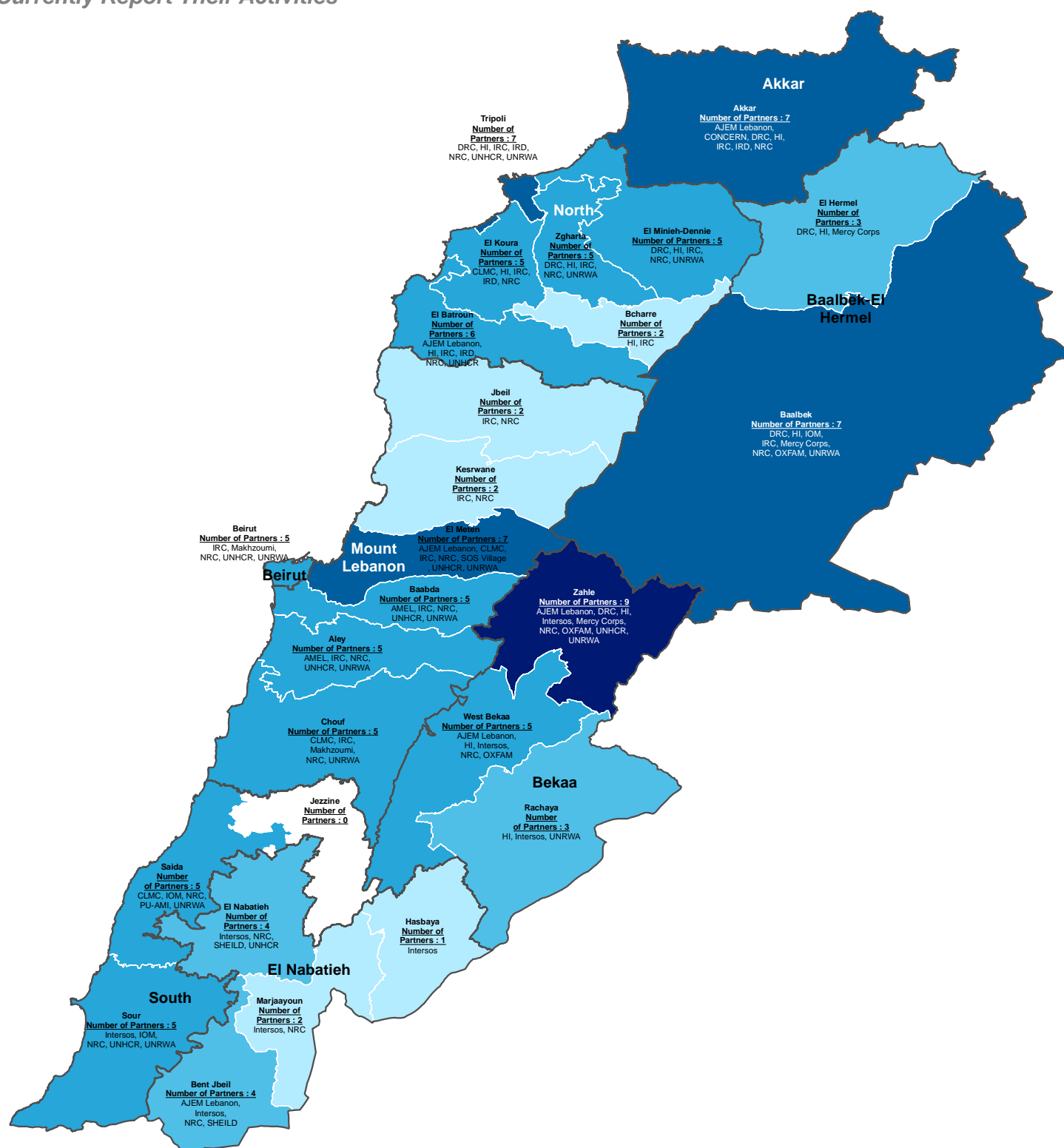
Recent surveys indicate some refugees are becoming increasingly isolated and restricted in their movements due to curfews and a lack of residency documents. They also confirmed increased financial pressures due to reduced assistance provided by humanitarian partners, which in turn leads to growing concern over child labor and early marriage.



Number of Partners per Caza/District

March 2015

*A Total Number of 19 Organizations
Currently Report Their Activities*



Contact Information:

For information about Protection Sector, please contact:
Kiran Kaur at kaurk@unhcr.org
or if you have any inquiry about the map, please contact:
Aung Thu WIN at wina@unhcr.org

Disclaimer:

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Legend

- Governorate
- District

Number of partner per district

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5-6
- 7-8
- 9-10

Reporting Partners:

AJEM Lebanon, AMEL, CLMC, CONCERN, DRC, Handicap International, Intersos, IOM, IRC, IRD, Makhzoumi, Mercy Corps, NRC, OXFAM, PU-AMI, SHEILD, SOS Village, UNHCR, UNRWA

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Reports from March re-affirmed certain trends in the child protection sector, including the identification of child labour, out-of-school children, birth registration, and child marriage as major child protection concerns. In addition, gaps continue to be identified in providing services for children with disabilities, an identified gap area in the sector as there is a lack of actors with this area of expertise. Insecurity in certain areas is inhibiting service provision and posing challenges to child protection actors. For example, in the south of Lebanon in Ain Al Helweh Palestinian refugee camp, there are no child protection actors able to provide case management services, leaving a crucial gap for children there and resulting in ad hoc measures to respond to urgent cases as they arise.

Child protection actors across Lebanon began to report cases of children experiencing difficulties in renewing their residency permits. Children aged 15 years and older are required to pay \$200 USD for renewals, like adults, making this process financially inhibitive. Unaccompanied children, as well as those living with caregivers but who have specific protection concerns, are reportedly experiencing difficulty with renewing their permits.

To support better programme quality and standardization of services provided across the sector, the Psychosocial Committee under the sector finalized the development of tools, including standardized job descriptions, memoranda of understanding, focus group discussion guides (for use with children, caregivers, and animators), and checklists to ensure safety and quality of activity sites. The group is currently working on a standardized format for measuring improvements in wellbeing attributable to these interventions. To date, over 23,000 girls and boys have participated in structured psychosocial activities: those are activities that recur over a period of time and engage children in a structured curriculum or programme.



FUNDING

Required

43.4 m



PEOPLE

Target

571,172 (People Targeted)

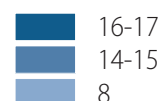
During the initial months of the year some partners may use un-earmarked global funds to ensure programmes can begin in the absence of funding earmarked specifically for the sector



PARTNERS

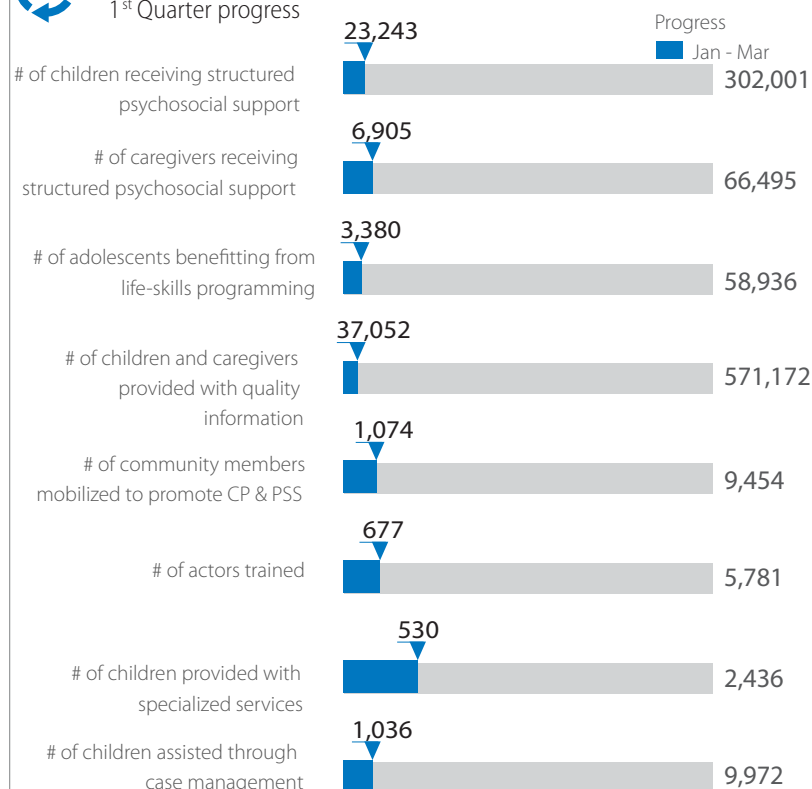
30 partners in Lebanon

Count of partners per
area of operation



PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

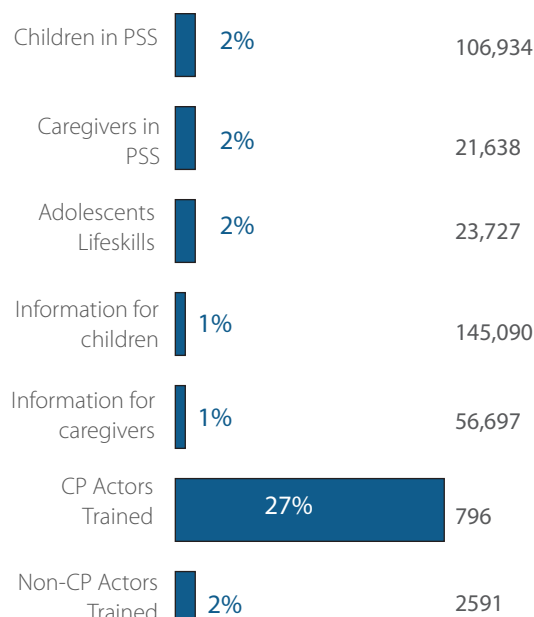
1st Quarter progress



SUPPORT TO LEBANESE

Lebanese Returnee and Affected Lebanese

% Progress against target





Progress towards sector Outcomes and Outputs in Quarter 1

Implementation of the LCRP commenced in child protection commenced with a variety of activities to reduce vulnerabilities and address child protection concerns. Organizations are working to set-up programmes, solidify partnership agreements, and secure funds. Following the launch of the 'National Plan to Safeguard Children and Women in Lebanon' by Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) with the support of UNICEF in November 2014, identified child protection actors developed local action plans for the implementation of prevention and response activities to mitigate children and women at risk in and around the Social Development Centers (SDCs) of MoSA. The plans were endorsed amongst 32 SDCs and activities should commence from the next quarter.

Amongst the main child protection concerns identified in the first quarter of 2015 are child labour and out-of-school children, each negatively impacting the other. Families are resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as child labour, due to the social-economic challenges and deteriorating security situation. Children work in a variety of settings, including stores, garages, agriculture, construction, and begging/selling items on the street – many of which are categorized as the worst forms of child labour as they are hazardous for their wellbeing and health.

To support greater understanding of this issue, a country-wide profiling, "[*Children Living and Working on the Streets in Lebanon: Profile and Magnitude*](#)" was published in February by UNICEF, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and Save the Children International, in coordination with the National Steering Committee against Child Labour. The research identified four main driving factors that cause children to live or work on the streets, including social exclusion, vulnerability of households, displacement, and organised crime and exploitation of children.

Child labour is addressed through the child protection emergency case management system as well as through psychosocial support and life-skills programmes. Ad hoc discussions have also begun on how to address the issue of child labour in a holistic and strategic way and in coordination with the National Plan of Action in addressing child labour.

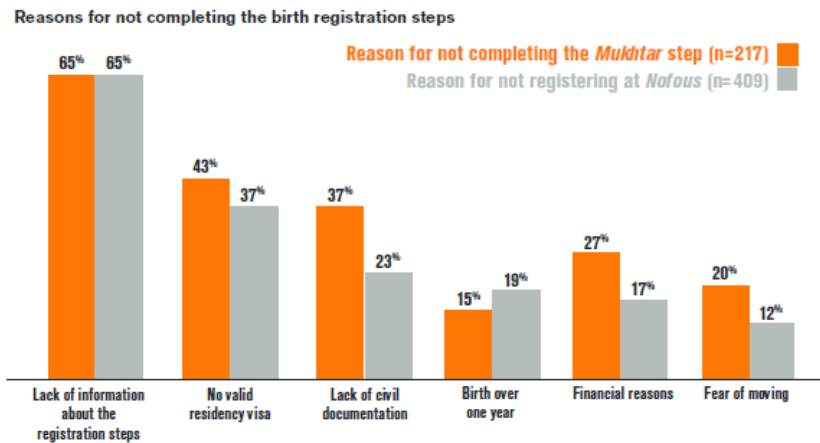
In addition, birth registration of children born to Syrian and Palestinian parents continued to be raised as a major concern. In February, with the launch of its "[*Birth Registration Update- Challenges of birth registration in Lebanon for refugees from Syria*](#)", NRC declared Birth Registration Month with a series of events, including a photograph exhibition entitled **I AM HERE AND I EXIST**, to engage all communities and increase awareness about the importance of registering the births of babies in Lebanon.

According to the NRC report, **92% of the refugees interviewed were not able to complete the possible legal and administrative steps to register the births of their children** born in Lebanon (see Figure 1). Of these, 65% was due to a lack of information on birth registration steps and 43% for parents not having a valid residency visa. Although the risk of not having a legal identity and potential statelessness among refugee children is particularly acute; NRC emphasises that most parents can follow at least the initial steps, obtaining a birth certificate for their baby.

These findings are corroborated by child protection monitoring data. For example, actors undertaking monitoring in Tripoli found in February that 46% of unregistered births were due to the lack of documentation by parents, mainly marriage, and 54% were for the lack of awareness amongst parents of the importance of birth registration and lack of documentation as the main barriers.



Figure 1: Reasons (by percentage) of interviewed refugees for not completing the birth registration process



Changes in context in Quarter 1

A WFP verification exercise on the use of the food voucher e-card undertaken in January 2015 resulted in assistance being suspended to approximately 18,000 people in the North of Lebanon (Akkar and Tripoli+5). Of these, 84% were children. This raised concerns that parents would increasingly send their children to work – and remove them from school – to help families meet their basic needs. As further reductions in assistance is expected, monitoring of these issues will be vital to understanding how families are coping and whether they are resorting increasingly to negative coping mechanisms.

Furthermore, changes to the entry and renewal policies for Syrians in Lebanon are greatly impacting children and families, both those already in Lebanon and those wishing to now enter. Since January 2015, there have been multiple reports of family separations due to the new entry policies. Situations include children in Syria being unable to join their parents already in Lebanon, unaccompanied children unable to seek protection in Lebanon, or parents who are in Syria – either because they initially remained or they returned briefly – who are now unable to enter Lebanon. These policies are similar to ones applied to Palestine refugees from Syria from May 2014, after which Palestinians experienced - and continue to experience - similar situations by application of the policies.

Changes to policies on renewing residency permits in Lebanon are also impacting children, particularly already vulnerable and at-risk adolescents. Children who are here without their parents or caregivers are experiencing difficulty in renewing their residency, as are those who already have identified child protection concerns and vulnerabilities even if they are with their families. Difficulty in finding a Lebanese sponsor, especially one willing to take on the responsibility of 'pledging' for vulnerable/at-risk adolescents, has been identified as one reason children are facing this difficulty.



CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES SECTOR

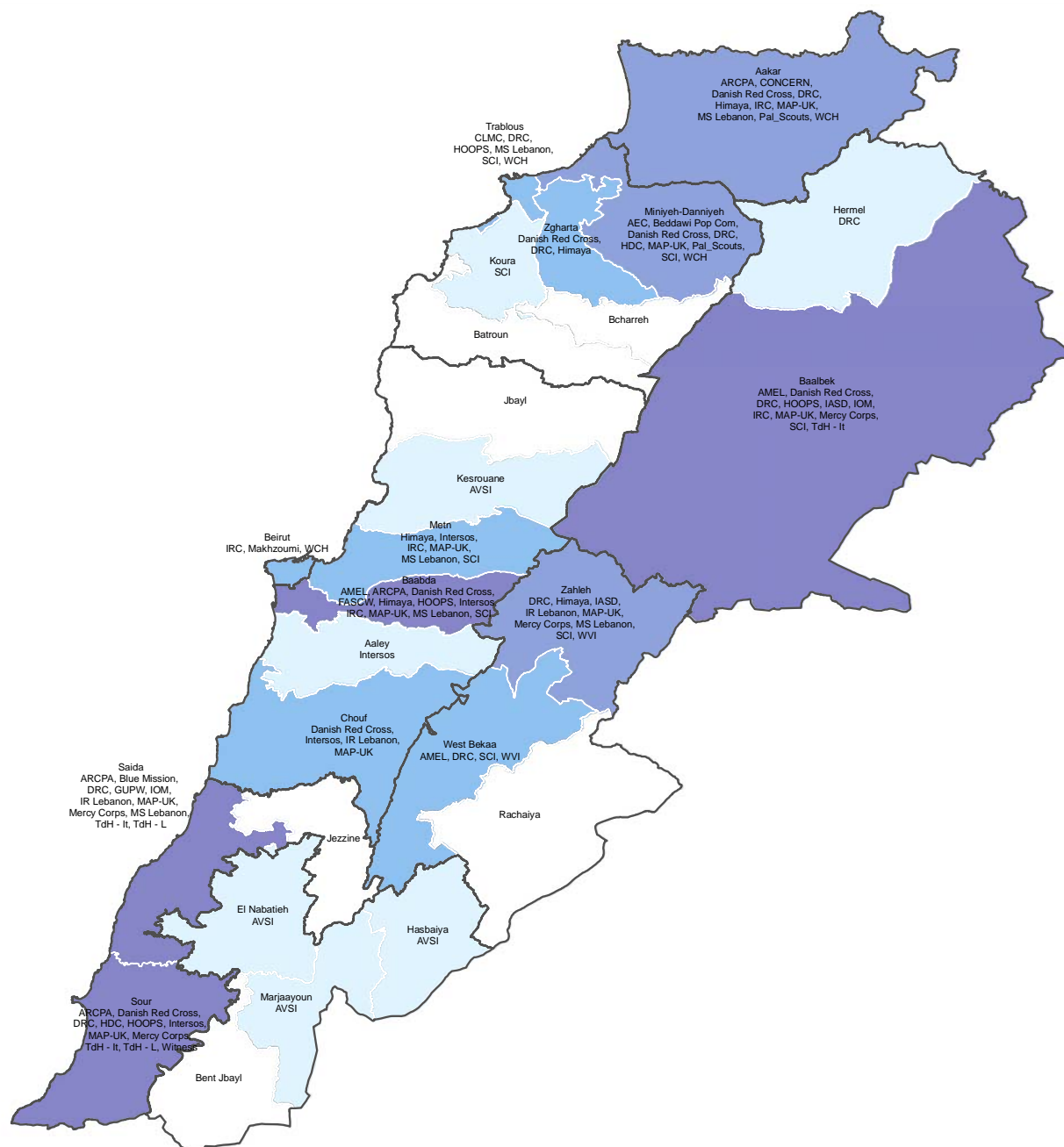


Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

Number of Partners per Caza/District

March 2015

*A Total Number of 30 Organizations
Currently Report Their Activities*



Contact Information:

For information about Child Protection in Emergencies Sector, please contact:
Layal Sarrouh Isarrouh@unicef.org
or if you have any inquiry about the map, please contact:
Aoife Long at along@unhcr.org

Disclaimer:

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Legend

- Governorate
- District

of CPiE Organisations

- 0
- 1
- 2 - 6
- 7 - 10
- 11

Reporting Partners:

AEC, AMEL, AVSI, Beddawi Popular Committee, CLMC Lebanon, Danish Red Cross, DPNA, DRC, FASCW, GUPW, HDC, Himaya, HOOPS, Intersos, IOM, IR Lebanon, IRC, ISAD, Makhzoumi, MAP-UK, Mercy Corps, MS Lebanon, Palestinian Scouts & Guides Association, SCI, SOS Village, TdH - It, TdH - L, WCH, Witness, WVI

This map does not include Case Management actors as this is reported at Governorate level.

SITUATION ANALYSIS - MARCH

During the reporting period assistance to survivors of SGBV and women at risk has continued through the provision of case management, psychosocial, medical care and skills building activities in some 54 spaces across Lebanon. In addition, three safe houses are open 24/7 for survivors at imminent risk. During the first quarter, 10,585 individuals have benefited from these services and of those approximately 33 percent are below 18 year old. Mobile outreach has extended these services to 4,818 persons in remote areas in the North and in the Bekaa.

In an effort to enhance access to quality medical care for survivors, 11 forensic doctors and 2 judges have participated to two day training on Clinical Management of Rape and core concepts of sexual and gender based violence. On the job coaching and support visits have taken place for the 12 health facilities.

Awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns take place on a regular basis to provide information on the key concepts of SGBV, how it can be prevented and available services. During the first quarter these activities have targeted 16,819 community members, mostly women, allowing them to get information on the location of centers, hotlines and mobile activities.

As part of community mobilization efforts 92 safety audits have been conducted mostly in North and Bekaa, to assess risks of SGBV for women and girls. 699 men and boys have participated to structured information sessions on gender roles, parenting skills, non-violent communication, early marriage and child labour. Some programmes have complemented learning sessions with the development of projects to increase the protective capacity of the community.



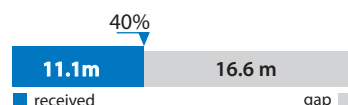
FUNDING

Required/Received

Required

27.7 m

Received



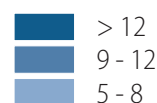
During the initial months of the year some partners may use un-earmarked global funds to ensure programmes can begin in the absence of funding earmarked specifically for the sector



PARTNERS

20 partners in Lebanon

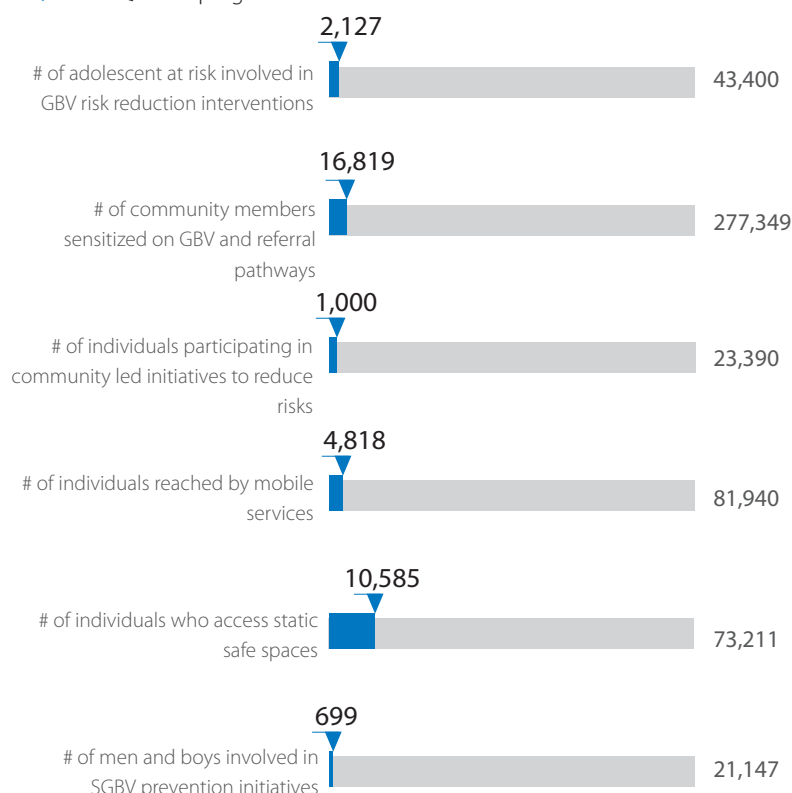
Count of partners per area of operation



PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

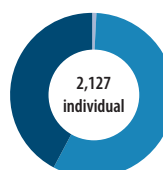
1st Quarter progress

Progress
Jan - Mar



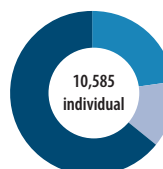
PROGRESS BY DISAGGREGATION

INDICATOR 1: # of adolescent at risk involved in GBV risk reduction interventions (By Gender)



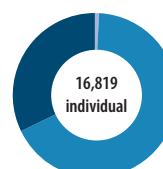
Female	894
Male	1,204
Gender not recorded	29

INDICATOR 2: # of individuals who access static safe spaces (By Population Cohorts)



Displaced Syrian	6,744
Poor Lebanese	1,403
Palestinian (PRS/PRL)	2,398
Other population	40

INDICATOR 3: # of community members sensitized on GBV and referral pathways (By Age Groups)



Age < 18	5,433
Age > 18	11,188
Age not recorded	198

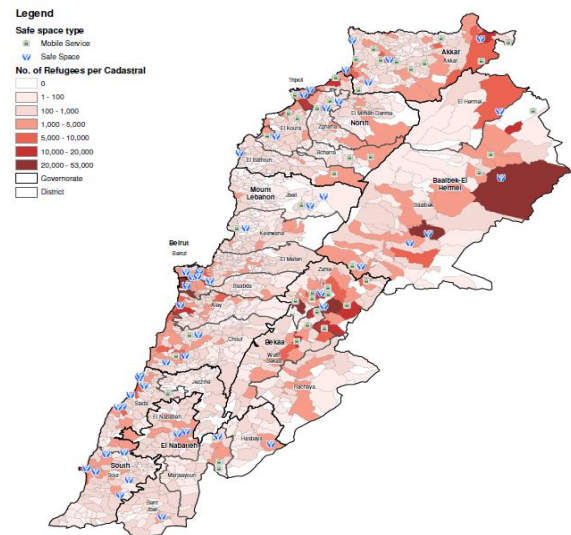


Progress towards sector Outcomes and Outputs in Quarter 1

In Lebanon, services for women and children who are survivors of gender based violence can be accessed in 57 Social Developments Centers. In addition to these, mobile teams are also reaching out to women and adolescent girls in remote locations -- mostly in the Bekaa and the north. The map below shows an overview of areas where services are being provided to Syrian and Lebanese women and children. However, considering barriers such as fear, isolation, restrictions on freedom of movement and the stigma faced by women and girls, services still need to be scaled up across the country. The 57 facilities that provide support to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) survivors and women and girls at risk offer psycho-social, medical and legal services. More than 10,600 Syrian and Lebanese persons visited the centers each day in March, 33 percent of whom were below 18 years of age. Mobile outreach has extended these services in more remote areas.

In February, initiatives were expanded in Mount Lebanon and Akkar to engage refugee men and boys as agents of change to help prevent SGBV within their own communities. These initiatives include structured information sessions on gender roles, child marriage, non-violent communication, and anger and stress management. Technical consultations with specialists and experts from the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) have allowed identification of challenges in terms of outreach and best practices. Challenges, for example, include the fact that often men and boys can only participate in activities late in the evening after the centers are closed.

Awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns take place on a regular basis to provide information on the key concepts of SGBV, including how it can be prevented and available services. During the first quarter, these activities targeted mostly women, providing information on the location of centers, hotlines and mobile activities. For International Women's Day, activities focused on the promotion of gender equality.



Within the framework of the MOSA national plan to safeguard children and women in Lebanon, the 57 SDCs provide a comprehensive and integrated package of child protection, GBV, and health services. This includes life skills training, assistance to survivors, and information on how to access basic and specialized health, education and protection services. In the first quarter, 17 centers were assessed to determine suitability based on criteria of accessibility, existence of confidential spaces and presence of trained professionals. Once selected, the centers will set up psychosocial activities, peer support groups and case management services for Syrian and Lebanese women and children.

As part of the development of reproductive health national service delivery guidelines, a protocol on clinical management of rape has been finalized in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and is currently being validated. This protocol will standardize medical treatment provided to survivors of sexual violence across all medical structures; reduce waiting time; and ensure non-discriminatory and non-judgmental attitudes among medical service providers. In the meantime, the 29 facilities trained in clinical management of rape in 2014 are being enrolled in a coaching programme to further increase capacities of medical practitioners to provide quality care to survivors.



Changes in context in Quarter 1

Women and adolescent girls are disproportionately affected by SGBV. Analysis of 2014 data shows how displacement increases risks of SGBV for refugee women and girls in Lebanon. According to the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), 75 percent of reported incidents occurred after arrival in Lebanon. The remainder of the incidents took place in Syria. The GBVIMS is a data management system that enables service providers to effectively and safely collect, store, analyze and share data related to the reported incidents of GBV.

Since 2013, GBVIMS in Lebanon assists service providers in adapting programs to better respond to the needs of survivors and inform advocacy efforts. The GBVIMS provides a set of harmonized tools. One is a GBV classification tool that standardizes how GBV incident types are defined and the procedure by which they are classified. In Lebanon, five organizations (IRC, DRC, INTERSOS, IMC and Makhzoumi Foundation) are currently using the system.

Physical assault remains the most reported type of GVB incident. A quarter of reported cases involved sexual violence, a significant proportion of them rape. Data analysis among specialized GBV actors suggests that the majority of these incidents occur as part of domestic violence. Identification of GBV survivors remains challenging due to fear of disclosure, social stigma and restricted mobility. This highlights the need for continuous expansion of GBV specialized services, including safe spaces for women; provision of clinical management of rape/health; legal and psychosocial services; and outreach to vulnerable communities. To ensure sustainability of support provided to survivors, capacity-building is crucial among medical and social service providers. Efforts are ongoing to ensure training of health facility staff in the clinical management of rape, as well as training of social workers on case management and provision of psycho-social support. In May, the sector will conduct a quality assessment of specialized service provision.

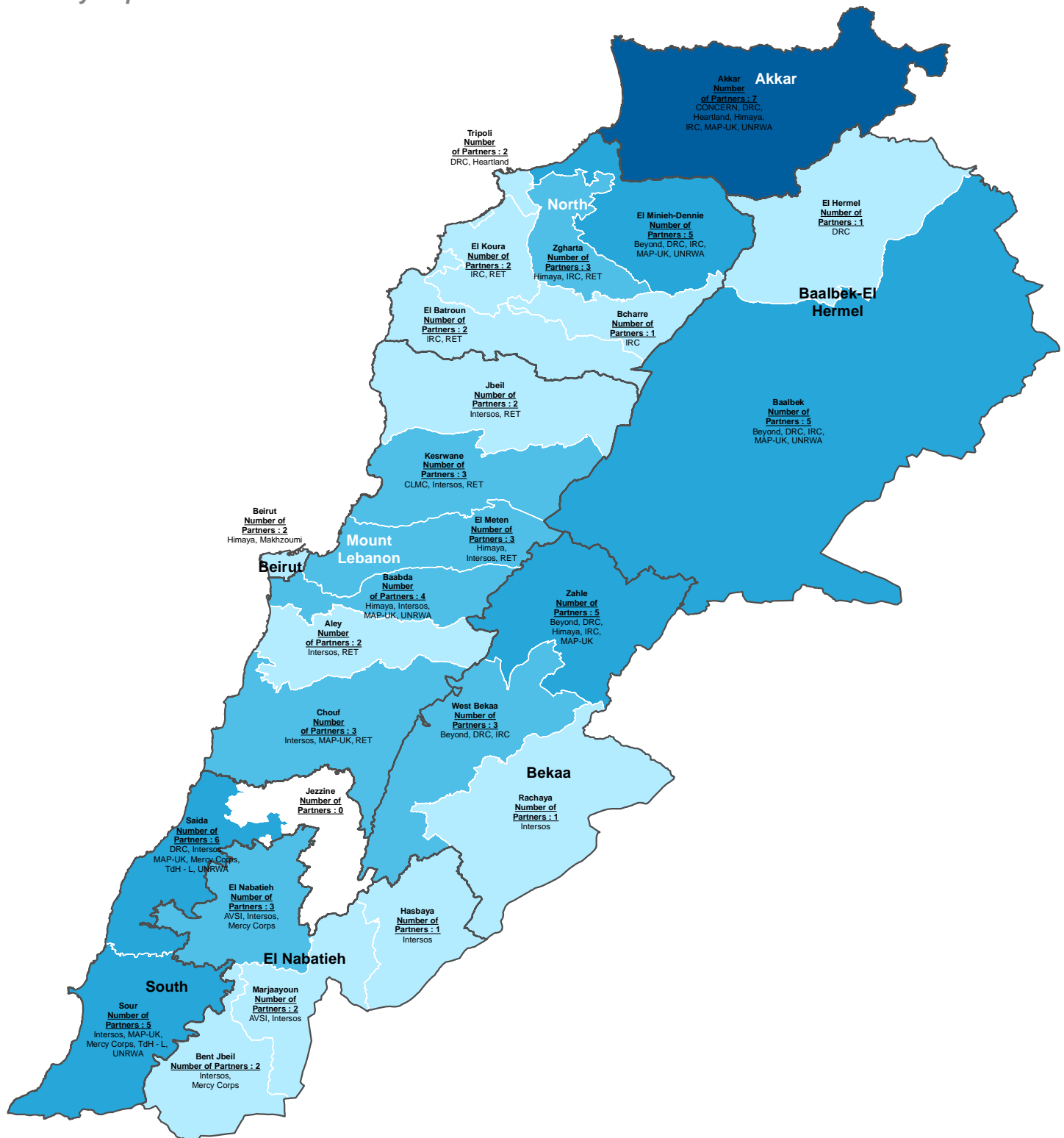
During 2014, 67 percent of reported cases of forced marriage within the refugee community involved children. Subsequent analysis indicates that early marriage is used by families experiencing increased financial pressure due to the prolonged displacement. Adolescent girls face a heightened risk of early marriage due to their limited access to services, particularly education. Early marriages, like any other type of SGBV, are under-reported due to limited dedicated services and the belief among some communities that it is not an issue of concern. Awareness-raising materials, including animated videos and information sessions are being rolled out for caregivers and adolescents in an effort to prevent early marriage. In addition, specific advocacy messages have been developed with religious leaders. Tailored curricula for girls have also been developed.



Number of Partners per Caza/District

March 2015

*A Total Number of 17 Organizations
Currently Report Their Activities*



Contact Information:

For information about Protection Sector, please contact:
Lorenza Trulli at trulli@unhcr.org
or if you have any inquiry about the map, please contact:
Aung Thu WIN at wina@unhcr.org

Disclaimer:

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Legend

- Governorate
- District

Number of partner per district

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5-6
- 7-8
- 9-10

Reporting Partners:

AVSI, Beyond, CLMC, CONCERN, DRC, Heartland, Himaya, Intersos, IRC, Makhzoumi, MAP-UK, Mercy Corps, RET, TdH - L, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA