



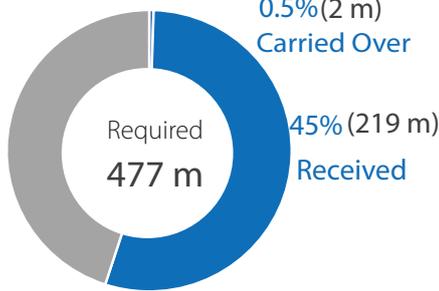
# Basic Assistance End Year 2019 Dashboard



Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Lebanon

The end year dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Basic Assistance Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Strengthen the ability of vulnerable households, including female-headed, to meet their basic survival needs; OUTCOME 2) Ensure that In-kind assistance in support of populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies is provided; OUTCOME 3) Develop National Social Safety Net Strategy.

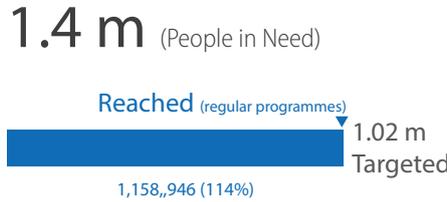
## 2019 Funding Status in USD as of 31 December 2019



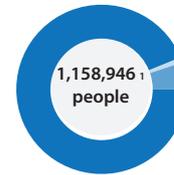
Programmes are funded by a combination of flexible/unearmarked funds and funds specifically earmarked to the sector



## Targeted Population groups



## Population reached by cohort



Syrian	90%
Lebanese	7.5%
Palestine Refugees	2.5%

## Progress against targets



### Key Achievements

reached / target

# of households receiving regular cash transfers - every month (Syr, Leb, Pal)\* **67,777 / 187,269**

Total USD amount distributed as regular cash transfers (Syr, Leb, Pal) **\$ 129.3m / \$ 283.9m**

# of **Syrian households** receiving multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers (every month) **58,090 / 137,097**

# of **Lebanese households** receiving multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers (every month) **916 / 41,372**

# of **Palestinian households** receiving multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers (every month) **8,771 / 8,800**

# of households receiving seasonal cash grants or vouchers **288,957 / 237,399**

Total amount of seasonal cash distributed in USD **\$ 91.4 m / \$ 152.1 m**

Total USD amount injected into economy in forms of cash assistance so far in 2019 (seasonal + regular) **\$ 220.7 m / \$ 436.1 m**

0% 100%

\* Includes UNICEF child focused cash transfers



### Outcomes

**OUTCOME 1:**  
% population that is severely vulnerable<sup>2</sup>

% of assisted severely economically vulnerable households report being able to meet their basic survival needs<sup>3</sup>

**OUTCOME 2:**  
% of assisted households affected by seasonal shocks who are able to meet their additional basic survival needs<sup>4</sup>

**OUTCOME 3:**  
National Social Safety Net Strategy endorsed

	LCRPR 2017/2020 Baseline				Dec 2019 Current				2020 Target			
	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL
OUTCOME 1	53%	10%	89%	65%	58%	-	-	-	50%	10%	89%	65%
OUTCOME 2	90%	-	90%	-	73%	-	-	-	90%	-	90%	-
OUTCOME 3	90%	-	-	-	92%	-	-	-	100%	100%	100%	100%
	No				No				Yes			



### Age/Gender Breakdown of MPC (SYR) Beneficiaries



## Analysis

### Syrian Households Receiving Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) in 2019



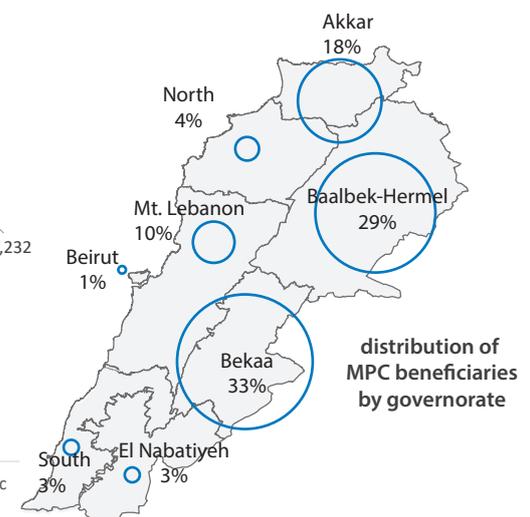
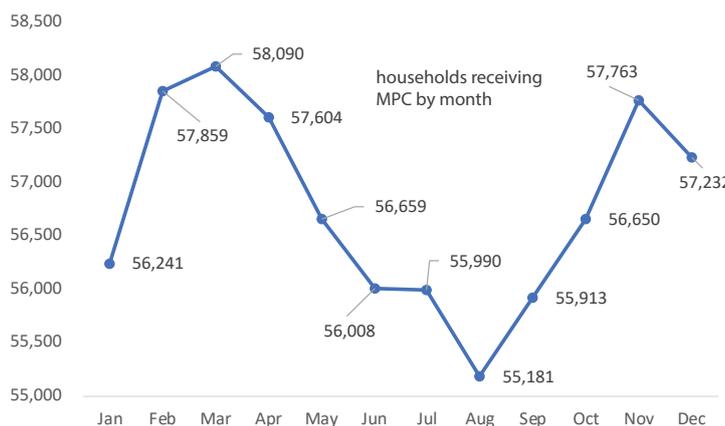
**58,090**

Highest Reach: March 2019  
392,688 persons



**6.76**

Average family size



1. Highest reach per cohort in regular and seasonal assistance; multiplication of the AVG HHs size of each group with the total number of HHs reached  
 2. Displaced Syrians (Baseline: VASyR 2016; Current: VASyR 2019); PRS/PRL (UNRWA Vulnerability Assessment 2015); Lebanese (NPT, extreme Poverty Line)  
 3. Displaced Syrians (Baseline: 2016/17 UNHCR Cash OM; Current: June 2019 UNHCR Cash Outcome Monitoring); PRS (UNRWA Cash OM)  
 4. Displaced Syrians (Baseline: 2016/17 UNHCR Winter Cash OM; Current: 2018/19 UNHCR Winter Cash PDM); PRS (UNRWA Cash OM)



## ANALYSIS OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT

**67,777 severely economically vulnerable households from different population cohorts had improved access to essential basic goods and services available in local markets and critical to their survival on a regular monthly basis.**

To achieve this result in 2019, 58,090 Syrians households ( 62,627 in 2018) 8,771 PRS households ( 9,674 in 2018) and 916 Lebanese households ( 912 in 2018) identified as living below extreme and survival monthly expenditure levels<sup>5</sup> were supported with multiple types of unrestricted, unconditional cash-based interventions<sup>6</sup> on a monthly basis. : 36% of the households targeted have been reach (vs. 39% in 2018). This decrease between 2019 and 2018 corresponds to the diminished number of agencies providing regular cash support<sup>7</sup> due to limited funding opportunities.

As highlighted by a recent outcome monitoring reports<sup>8</sup>, displaced Syrian receiving multi-purpose cash are using the grants to pay rent (43% of total cash received), followed by buying food or covering health expenditures (40%), as well as repaying debts with an average of \$20 per month. The report demonstrates the positive impact of cash assistance as assisted families have lower average debts than non-assisted (\$1,059 vs. 1,248). It also shows that the proportion of families who borrow money to pay rent is significantly lower among those receiving cash-assistance (39% vs 60%).

The total value of the regular assistance provided in forms of direct transfers was \$129.3 million by end December 2019. In addition to improving the ability of vulnerable households to meet their basics survival needs, the cash support also represents an important injection of cash into the local economy with a multiplier effect varying between 1.6<sup>9</sup> and 2.13<sup>10</sup> for every dollar spent based on existing literature.

**In 2019, 288,957 vulnerable Syrian, Lebanese, PRS and PRL households strengthened their ability to secure additional basic survival needs.**

During the winter months of 2019 (Jan, Feb, March, Nov, Dec) vulnerable households have been confronted to several small-scale emergencies due to heavy rains, snow, and low temperatures. The livelihoods of nearly 60,000 families, mainly living in informal settlements in the eastern and northern parts of the country, were affected by successive severe storms and adverse weather conditions during the first two months of 2019.

During the specific responses to these localized emergencies, basic assistance partners distributed core relief items to affected families, combined with other interventions such as weatherproofing and insulation kits, dislodging, floor raising, and site improvements implemented by partners from the Shelter and Water sectors.

By December 2019, 288,957 households had received winter support in the form of cash-based interventions, fuel cards, and core relief items such as high thermal blankets, stoves, mattresses. These families and given their economic vulnerability levels were identified to require additional support the meet the additional needs and better cope with cold temperature, heavy rain, and snowstorms. In addition and given the deteriorating economic situation that Lebanon started witnessing as of the second half of the year, which resulted in additional heavy economic burdens on families, many partners scaled up winter support this year to reach more vulnerable families across different population groups. Some \$91.4 million were injected in the local markets through various forms of seasonal cash and vouchers assistance, contributing to local economy.

National system for social assistance strengthened.

Since its establishment in 2015, the Basic Assistance sector has been supporting through its operational partners existing national system to strengthen the delivery of social assistance to Lebanese. At the end of 2018, the ministry of social affairs, with the support of UNICEF, developed a roadmap to guide the country's move toward a national framework for social protection. While this is still a work in progress, MoSA organized a national dialogue on social protection in 2019, in addition to several consultations and technical workshops, engaging relevant ministries and government institutions as well as development partners and agencies. Moreover, a third party<sup>11</sup> was contracted to conduct the technical work and was tasked to develop the overall social protection policy framework.



## KEY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SECTOR TO LCRP OUTCOME

In 2019, the Basic Assistance sector has contributed to enabled displaced families to better protect themselves by reducing risks associated to economic vulnerabilities. The interventions contribute to LCRP impact 2 (strategic objectives 2)<sup>12</sup> and impact 3 (strategic objective 3)<sup>13</sup>.

For the 67,777 vulnerable households (86% Syrians, 13% Palestine Refugees, and 1% Lebanese) supported, the regular and seasonal cash-based interventions under the LCRP represent the primary source of income, used to cover basic needs mostly food, rent and health expenditures.

The cash-based interventions are contributing to meeting the immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations (LCRP impact 2). In fact, more than 73 per cent of households receiving multi-purpose cash assistance reported improved ability to meet basic needs<sup>14</sup>.

A decrease in the level of assistance would increase families' risk of becoming more vulnerable, given that recipient households are currently living with limited economic means to access basic goods and services critical to their survival.

Even though resources available for programming did not drastically change between 2018 and 2019, an increase in the economic vulnerability levels of displaced Syrians was witnessed due to many exogenous factors such as limited access to employment and

<sup>5</sup> Syrian Refugee Expenditure Baskets thresholds:

Minimum expenditure levels: \$571/family of five/month;

Survival minimum expenditure levels: \$435/family of five/month;

<sup>6</sup> Multipurpose cash assistance for Syrians and Lebanese \$175 and \$100 for Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS).

<sup>7</sup> CLMC, Solidar Suisse, and UNICEF are no longer providing financial assistance. The major drop in the caseload is due to the discontinuation of the UNICEF child focused grants programme (Min - IIa), that used to reach 20,300 Syrian households during the 2017 / 2018 scholastic year. CLMC and Solidar Suisse used to reach nearly 1,000 cases together.

<sup>8</sup> UNHCR Outcome Monitoring Report, December 2018, Round 3, published on the 8th of May 2019.

<sup>9</sup> Impact of Humanitarian Aid on the Lebanese Economy; UNHCR, UNDP, 2015; <https://www.lb.undp.org/content/lebanon/en/home/library/poverty/impact-of-humanitarian-aid-undp-unhcr.html>

<sup>10</sup> Emergency Economies: The Impact of Cash Assistance in Lebanon; International Rescue Committee, 2014; <https://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/document/631/emergency-economies-evaluation-report-lebanon2014.pdf#page=32&zoom=100,164,945>

<sup>11</sup> A national institution (Beyond Reform & Development) along with an international consultant were contracted to carry out the technical work.

<sup>12</sup> Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations, to support them in meeting their basic needs.

<sup>13</sup> To strengthen service delivery and access to vulnerable groups service provision will be supported through national systems.

<sup>14</sup> UNHCR's Outcome Monitoring, 2019.

shrinking protection space due to increased restrictive measure and an overall worsening of social and economic conditions which impacted the entire country.

On the other hand, and under LCRP's impact 3 (vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national (public and private) systems, the Basic Assistance sector and through its existing partnership with the National Poverty Targeting Programme is supporting the existing systems through the identification of Lebanese households eligible for cash based interventions implemented by various partners. Moreover, partners are engaging with NPTP in broader discussions on social protection systems and frameworks. In the medium to long term, strengthening national safety net can only be done through strengthening NPTP and establishing sustainable operational and technical linkages.



## CHALLENGES

Overarching challenges related to the context, from the deterioration in the overall economic situation in the country, to the shrinking protection space for displaced Syrians had negative consequences on the vulnerability of families already living in poor conditions.

Levels of economic vulnerability remained high among the affected population from different population cohort in the first half of the year. Findings of VASyR 2019 indicated a slight increase in the percentage of Syrian displaced population living in poor conditions : 73% of households were identified to be poor, i.e. living below the minimum expenditure basket, an increased by 4% from 2018, and 55% estimated to be living in extreme poverty, i.e. below the survival minimum expenditure level.

In addition, up to date information on the vulnerability and poverty levels of Lebanese remains an information gap. Nevertheless, estimates from the world bank indicated an increase in the percentage of Lebanese living in poverty during 2019, with an expectation to reach 40% during 2020 (around 10% increase since 2011).

The deterioration of social and economic conditions led to massive demonstrations and civil unrest erupting as of October. The banking sector has had limited operations functions since then, roadblocks were witnessed, and an overall constrained private and public sector functionality.

The unprecedented prevailing economic crisis featured a rapid increase in prices, supply shocks, informal devaluation of the exchange rate, and loss of livelihoods for many households from different population groups. Additional consequences were portrayed by an immediate degradation in purchasing power, contributing to a decrease in the ability of individuals and families to meet their basic needs, even those who are being assisted through the sector.

Humanitarian actors were also challenged and operational delays in transfers and upload / withdrawal of assistance resulting in interrupted operations (card issuance, distributions) was noted during the last three months of the year.

Since October 2019, the Basic Assistance sector has been monitoring key indicators (such as assistance redemption rates, inflation, and informal exchange rate values) to serve as proxies of the impact of the current situation on households and programmes. Yet, programme adaptation and related resource mobilization remains an issue for further discussion in 2020.



## KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN FOR 2020

In 2020, Basic Assistance sector partners and others working under the LCRP will have one main goal: to manage the impact of the Syria crisis in Lebanon within an economic crisis with a wider protection and social impact.

The current funding levels will not be enough to tackle the additional needs that have emerged due to the ongoing situation. Pre-crisis achievements of regular targeted assistance has never reached more than one third of prioritized households with a major gap in extending assistance to vulnerable Lebanese.

Moreover, and in the case of Syrian households supported, cash-based assistance has always been calculated based on a local market-based expenditure basket and transferred in local currency. With the 30% increase in the price of the food basket and local currency losing more than 35% of its value by end-December, the contribution of the cash and food assistance package to the most economically vulnerable (71% pre-crisis) in meeting the survival minimum expenditure basket level has decreased leading to wider livelihoods gaps and further unmet needs. It is worth mentioning that these market dynamics have affected all population cohorts and pushed them to change their expenditure patterns, incur more debts, and apply severe coping mechanism.

With negative market-based outlooks regarding inflation and the value of the local currency in 2020, there is a growing risk that the assistance provided will no longer be sufficient and impactful as its value decreases, coupled with a diminishing purchasing power and more limited informal income generation opportunities.

Moreover, to date, the available funds for 2020 remain limited. In 2019, the BA sector was funded at 45%, contributing to gaps in the response. For 2020, additional funding would be needed to ensure an appropriate response to the increasing needs. While managing the current situation is an integral part of the ongoing interventions of the Basic Assistance sector, meeting existing gaps such assistance to vulnerable Lebanese through NPTP is equally important. Lastly, as sector partners are entering 2020, there are many existing information gaps that needs to be met. Such questions seeking answers include how the ongoing situation is impacting the welfare of different population groups, changes in expenditure patterns, negative coping mechanisms, and programmatic adaptation by partners.



## CASE STUDY

58,090 poor displaced Syrian households benefited from the unconditional, unrestricted multi-purpose cash assistance programmes implemented by partners under the Basic Assistance sector . For the fourth consecutive year, the Basic Assistance sector <sup>15</sup>still maintains this critical type of support to the most economically vulnerable Syrian families at a large scale.

Multi-purpose cash assistance is provided together with food assistance<sup>16</sup> with the aim to deliver a meaningful package of assistance to families with poor financial means who are unable to meet their basic needs on their own. This meaningful package is meant to cover 71% of the survival expenditure basket (\$435 / LBP652,500) for a family of five members.

<sup>15</sup> ANERA- ICRC- IOM- Lebanese Red Cross- OXFAM- Relief International- UNHCR- WFP

<sup>16</sup> Provided by WFP under the Food Security Sector



Since economic vulnerability overlaps with other types, a typical poor displaced household identified to receive this type of assistance usually live in low quality unprotected shelters, require spending on medication, food, clothing for their children, and repay parts of the burdening debt.

Fatima<sup>17</sup>, a mother of six children, lives in the middle of an industrial city in a one room structure shelter. In order to afford the rent and cover food needs for her family, Fatima sold all available appliances and assets she owned gradually.

Without the support of any family member, Fatima joined other vulnerable women in picking potatoes in a nearby field, having to leave her children home alone. Fatima receives multi-purpose cash assistance from WFP that she withdraws from an ATM and allocates modest portions to be fully spent on debt repayment, rent, school transportation fees, and food. For most vulnerable families in Lebanon, like Fatima's, survival is possible only thanks to multi-purpose cash contributions. (photo 1)

Poor families across Lebanon struggle to meet their needs, especially during the cold winter months when opportunities for informal income generation linked to seasonal work decrease.

On average, vulnerable families need between \$66 and \$150 to cover heating, fuel, winter clothing, weatherproofing and extra food needs to survive winter months.

Every year, sector partners deliver a large-scale winter campaign with cash being the primary modality for assistance. In some cases, additional distributions of in-kind core relief items are required to cover the specific needs of vulnerable families leaving at high altitudes, especially during storms.

As a part of UNICEF's response to the current economic and social crisis gripping the country, over 27,000 winter clothing kits have been provided for poor and vulnerable children across Lebanon in December 2019<sup>18</sup>.

3-year-old Mariam's face lights up on discovering what's inside her UNICEF winter clothing kit. She is one of 5,000 Lebanese children throughout the Bekaa, who has benefitted from UNICEF's December initiative, and has received a supply of heavy winter clothes – gloves, scarf, jacket, boots, and even pyjamas.

Mariam's mother, Amani said "This year, more than in any year, we're turning the heater off earlier in the night. We're preparing for harder times ahead and keeping our children warm is a priority. UNICEF's provision for our children will help keep them a little safer, and a little healthier this winter!"

Basic Assistance sector partners ensure a blanket coverage of poor households during similar response plans. This year and given the severe economic conditions the country is witnessing, large scale cash and in kind assistance were carried out to respond to the growing critical needs.



<sup>17</sup> Putting the Furthest Behind First"/Edward Johnson-WFP- July 2019/https://insight.wfp.org/putting-the-furthest-behind-first-5a316516f034

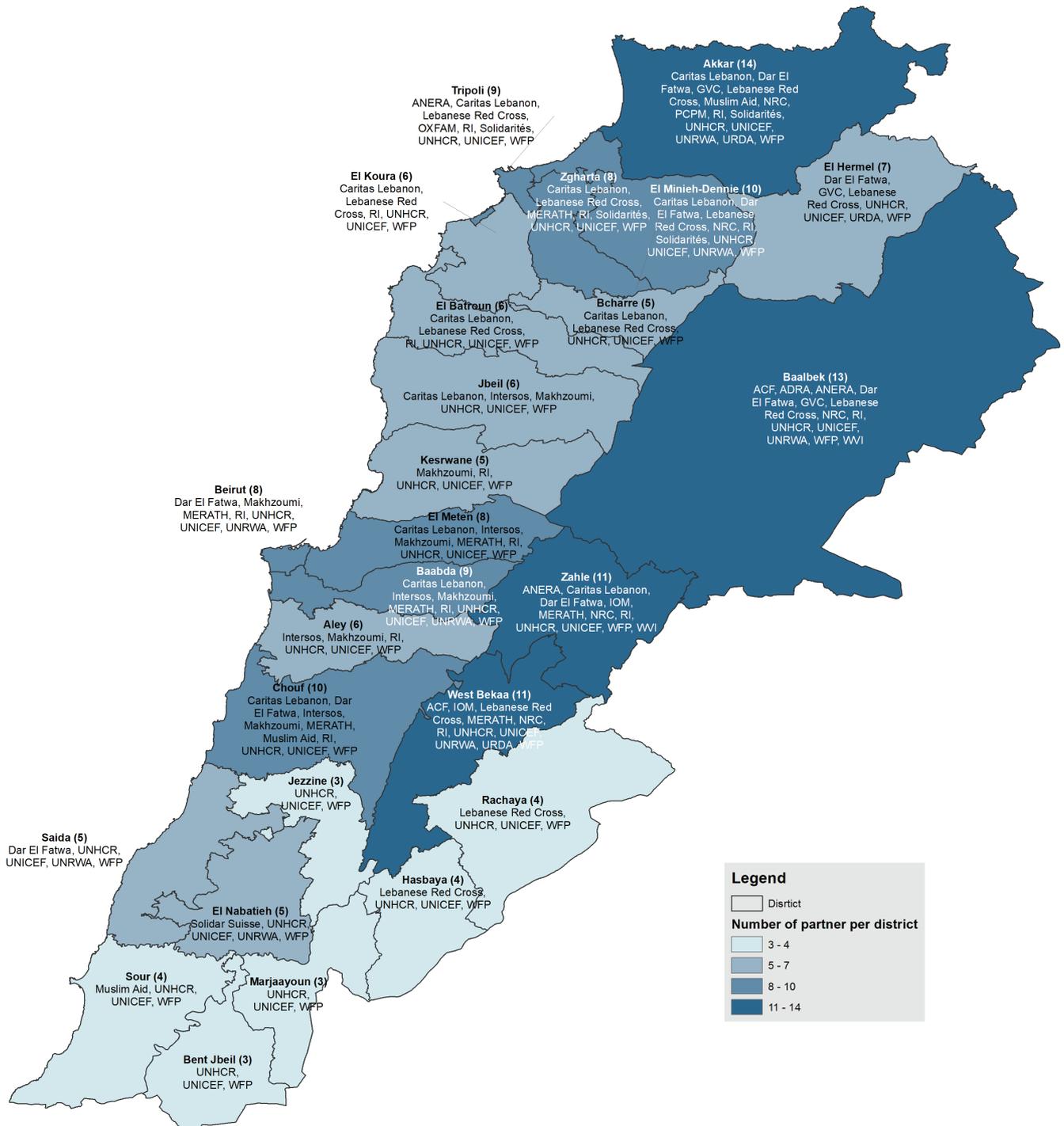
<sup>18</sup> "UNICEF's winter programme provides warmth and support for Lebanon's most vulnerable children"/Simon Balsom- UNICEF- December 2019/https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/stories/unicefs-winter-programme



## Organizations per district

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 26 organizations:

MoSA, ACF, ADRA, ANERA, Caritas Lebanon, Dar El Fatwa, GVC, Intersos, IOM, Lebanese Red Cross, Makhzoumi, MERATH, Muslim Aid, NRC, OXFAM, PCPM, RI, Solidar Suisse, Solidarites, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, URDA, WFP, WVI.



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