



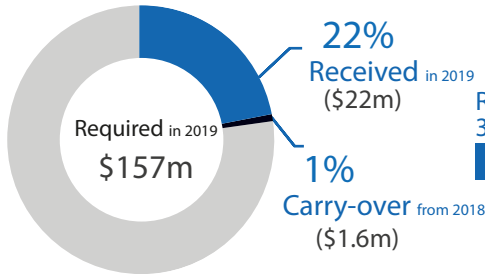
# Shelter Endyear 2019 Dashboard



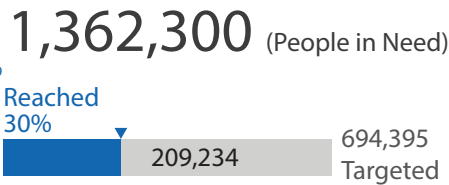
Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Lebanon

This dashboard summarizes activity reported by shelter partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response between January and December 2019 and highlights trends affecting people in need. Shelter partners in Lebanon aim to achieve the following: OUTCOME 1 Reduce immediate protection-related shelter needs of most vulnerable households; OUTCOME 2 Contribute to multi-sectoral upgrading of disadvantaged areas for enhanced stability; OUTCOME 3 Enhance the contribution of national institutions and organizations to the housing situation in Lebanon.

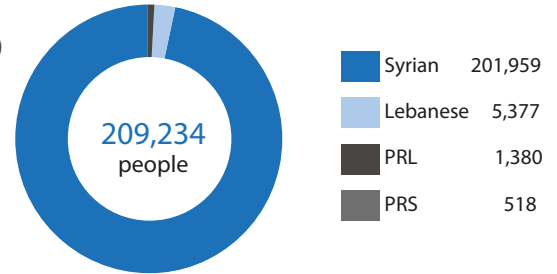
## 2019 Funding status Endyear 2019



## Targeted population groups



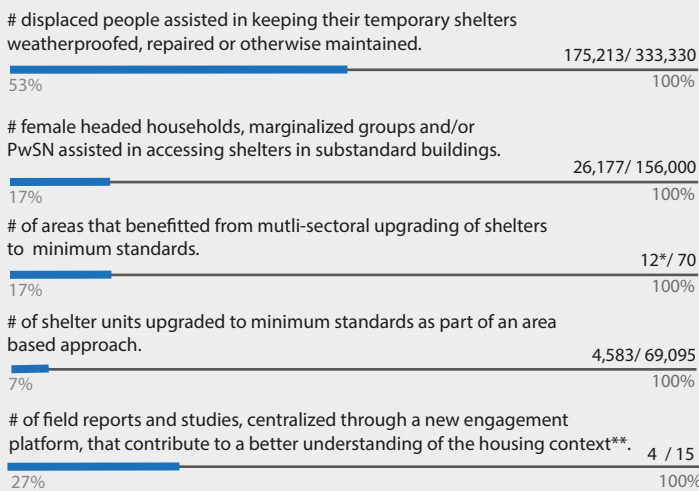
## Population reached by cohort



## Progress against targets

### Output indicators

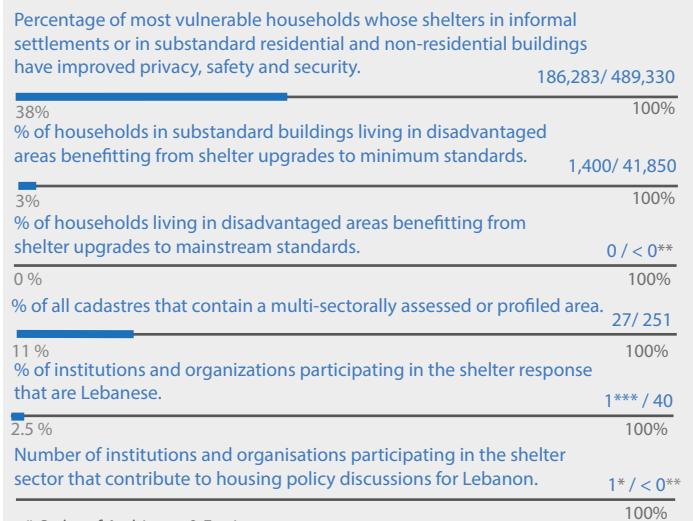
reached / target



\* Halba, Qoubbe, Mashha, Mina, Majdal Anjar, Temnine El-Fauqa, Mansoura, Bork el Chemaly, Maarakeh, Bourj Barajneh, Jnah, Cite Sportive  
 \*\* National thematic research reports have been produced by NRC (2), SCI (1), UN-Habitat (1).

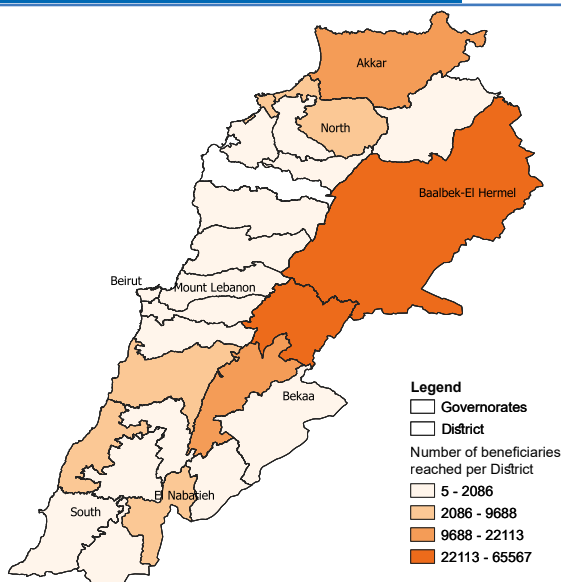
### Outcome

reached / target

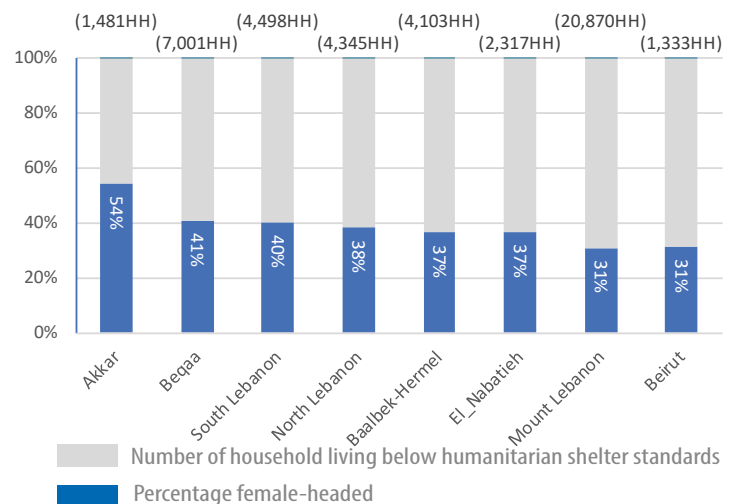


\* Order of Architects & Engineers.  
 \*\* The target denominator has not been determined beyond 'greater than 0'.  
 \*\*\* This includes agencies reporting assistance on ActivityInfo.

## Analysis



## Percentage of female-headed households and/ or households with at least one PwSN member living below shelter standards



## Key achievements

- In 2019, 219,579 vulnerable individuals from different population cohorts benefitted from shelter assistance in the form of weatherproofing, repairing or maintaining homes to contribute to improved protection environment and physical living conditions of vulnerable households. (Implemented activities contribute to LCRP Strategic Objectives 2.)<sup>1</sup>
- 165,193 individuals received shelter kits (weatherproofing) in informal settlements to improve physical living conditions, including 33,854 individuals who benefitted from emergency weatherproofing assistance following emergency events in informal settlements, such as fire, flood, evictions and the hard structure dismantlement. 6,204 individuals benefitted from minor repair of their non-residential shelters (e.g. garage, shop, warehouse), and a further 3,816 individuals benefitted from weatherproofing of their substandard buildings to improve physical living conditions. 95,718 individuals benefitted from the distribution of firefighting kits as well as fire prevention and awareness training to reduce the risk of fire emergencies as well as to improve preparedness for emergency fire response. 22,130 individuals benefitted from site improvements activities in informal settlements to mitigate shelter flooding risks and to reduce barriers to circulation for individuals and services. Due to the high percentage coverage of winterization needs of the population living in informal settlements, site improvements and fire prevention, two activities that are also implemented in informal settlements, are not counted in the overall population reached to avoid double counting.
- 17,825 socio-economically vulnerable households were assisted with upgrading their homes to reach minimum humanitarian standards, including 2,718 individuals belonging to a female-headed household, having protection concerns or having specific needs (PwSN). This contributed to improving their accessibility to safe and livable shelters. Also, 8,352 individuals benefitted from conditional cash for rent to support their security of tenure in physically adequate shelters.
- In line with the sector's commitment to increase access to adequate shelter stock in disadvantaged areas, 7,844 individuals benefitted from upgrading of their residential shelters as a contribution to a multi-sectoral approach that includes complementary WASH and Protection components. (Implemented activities contribute to LCRP Strategic Objectives 4)<sup>2</sup>.
- 10 area-based multi-sectoral assessments were completed to encourage coordinated, multi-sectoral interventions alongside shelter partners that contribute to social stability. (Implemented activities contribute to LCRP Strategic Objective 4)<sup>2</sup>.
- 4 research reports providing evidence on the shelter and housing situation in Lebanon were published. These reports, along with other guidelines and analysis produced by the sector, will serve as a foundation to strengthen the capacity of national institutions and organizations to support the shelter response. (Implemented activities contribute to LCRP Strategic Objective 3)<sup>3</sup>.

### FACTS AND FIGURES

- 69%** of displaced Syrians live in residential buildings. Up from 66% in 2018
- 20%** of displaced Syrians live in informal settlements. Up from 19% in 2018
- 17%** of displaced Syrians live in non-residential buildings. up from 15% in 2018
- 178\$** Average rent per month for displaced Syrians
- 12%** of displaced Syrians live in shelters in dangerous conditions

\*Shelter structure physically unsound; likely in danger of collapse eg damaged roof, damaged columns  
Source: VASyR 2019

## Key contributions towards LCRP Impacts

In 2019, 209,234 individuals benefitted from interventions implemented by eighteen Shelter sector partners, reaching 30 per cent of the sector's targeted population with 23 per cent funding. The population targeted in 2019 exceeds the population targeted in 2018 target by almost 100,000 individuals. However, the population reached in 2019 was 13 per cent less than the total reached in 2018 as a whole (239,000 individuals). This will inevitably translate into further deterioration of shelter conditions with knock-on effects on protection, health, safety, water and sanitation and other vulnerabilities.

Of the total displaced Syrian population, 20 percent live in makeshift structures in informal settlements and another 11 percent in shelters not designed for human inhabitation, known as 'non-residential' buildings. Residents of these typically precarious shelter types are targeted under the sector's Outcome 1 'Reduce immediate protection-related shelter needs of most vulnerable households'. In 2019, 131,339 displaced Syrians living in informal settlements benefitted from weatherproofing assistance to maintain their temporary shelters in habitable conditions with improved resilience to adverse climatic events. This included assessing all informal settlements in the country where assistance eligibility was determined at 70 percent of all settlements. In terms of the geographical distribution, the majority of beneficiary families are located in Baalbek/Bekaa (67%), a significant number in Akkar (26%), and a few in the North (2%), Mount Lebanon (4%) and Nabatiyeh (1%). In non-residential buildings, 6,204 individuals benefitted from minor repair of their shelters to improve living conditions and enhance safety and privacy to the extent possible (e.g. garage, shop, warehouse), and a further 3,816 individuals benefitted from weatherproofing of their substandard buildings, in the form of plastic sheeting and timber distribution, to improve physical living conditions.

In addition to regular weatherproofing activities in informal settlements, sector partners responded to the needs of 33,854 individuals following emergency events including fires, flooding or eviction. This was an increase of 400 percent compared to 2018 total where 8,235 individuals were reached. This drastic increase in emergency response needs was to a large extent a result of the Higher Defense Council's decision in May to enforce the dismantlement of hard-structure shelters in informal settlements, with the initial attention being focused on Aarsal and then the North. A total of 1,387 shelters were dismantled nationally. This required \$3m to procure kits and distribute them over and above the yearly winterization budget. The response also called for a new type of intervention that created fire breaks between dismantled back-to-back shelters. Fire breakers were custom designed by the sector to delay the spread of fire in settlements where such shelters were found. The installation of the breakers also helped in sound proofing and providing more privacy for families.

<sup>1</sup> Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations, to support them in meeting their basic needs.

<sup>2</sup> Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability.

<sup>3</sup> Support service provision through national systems.

Activities to improve site conditions were undertaken in 188 informal settlements, benefitting 22,130 individuals. Such assistance can help mitigate water inundation in winter, which can limit safe access to and circulation around shelters for service providers and individuals, with particular implications for those with compromised mobility, as well as result in damage to personal belongings. Site improvement activities also contribute to reducing health risks associated with the contamination of drinking water and storm water with grey and/or black water. To improve physical safety of vulnerable households, 95,718 displaced Syrians residing in informal settlements and buildings have been sensitized to the risks of fire, how to respond to such risks and how to use firefighting materials distributed to them.

A total of 17,825 socio-economically vulnerable individuals, including 2,718 individuals belonging to female-headed households, households with protection concerns or households with at least one PwSN members benefited from the residential shelter upgrading programme. This also included tailored assistance that was provided to 577 Syrians, Lebanese, PRL and PRS individuals who are elderly and/or are from households affected by physical disability. Activities included shelter adaptations that facilitate mobility within and around shelters. However, an extremely low 13 per cent of the year's target was reached linked to the progressive decrease in funding secured by partners.

Partners have also provided 'cash for rent' assistance to severely socio-economically vulnerable households residing in physically adequate shelters but who are not benefitting from Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance. This small-scale programme reached 8,352 individuals in 2019.

Under Outcome 2 and as part of the sector's commitment to 'Contribute to multi-sectoral upgrading of disadvantaged areas for enhanced stability', 7,844 vulnerable people from both displaced and host communities living in disadvantaged areas were assisted with upgrading their residential structures to minimum humanitarian standards as part of a coordinated multi-sectoral, area-based approach. As such, achievements under this development-oriented Outcome of the Sector remain critically low at four per cent assisted of the sector set target. It should be noted that the needs for shelter interventions in disadvantaged urban areas are high but due to very limited funding. The sector continued its commitment to enhancing access to adequate shelter for vulnerable households.

Under LCRP Strategic Objective 4, sector partners are continuing their work on area-based multi-sectoral assessments as a basis for interventions that integrate other sectors complementary to the shelter sector. Partners have produced a total of ten such multi-sectoral assessments, which are being used as evidence bases for programming and fundraising.



## Challenges

Due to the rising needs, the overall appeal figure for 2019 (\$157m) is higher than the appeal for 2018 (\$137m), however the Shelter sector only received (\$36m) for 2019, a slight increase from the \$34m received in 2018. In terms of funding distribution across the three shelter types, the limited available funding has mainly affected urban-dwelling vulnerable households in residential and non-residential buildings. These make up the overwhelming majority of those in need of shelter assistance – a population who has been largely unreached in 2019. Due to this funding gap, it is becoming increasingly challenging to prioritize amongst the 26 per cent (12,000 HH) who belong to a female-headed household or a household with PwSN members amongst those living in substandard urban shelters (47,000 HHs) when received funding barely covers 4,000 HHs (2019).

In addition to the above and because of the economic and financial crisis that hit the country in the fourth quarter of 2019, the local currency devaluation has led to a cost increase of construction material required to improve shelter conditions. This has caused severe constraints on shelter agencies implementing residential shelter upgrades, an intervention that heavily depends on cash transfers to landlords, contractors or refugee families, depending on the followed approach. Overall, there is a high risk that the current situation will result in an increase of households living in deteriorated shelter conditions, both due to the sector's inability to assist families already living in such conditions as well as families relocating to deteriorated shelters for subsidized rental costs. Furthermore, it is highly likely that vulnerable households would downgrade shelter types, relocating from urban shelters to non-residential shelters and informal settlements to decrease burden of rental costs. This would result in an increased need to provide unsustainable assistance such as short-term weatherproofing, water trucking and sanitation services.

As of end of January 2020, only one shelter partner (INTERSOS) has confirmed receiving funding to cover shelter needs in Beirut and Mount Lebanon. This is linked to the limited funding of urban shelters interventions, while in BML 98 per cent of displaced Syrians live in urban shelters outside of informal settlements. The funding gap has led several partners to close their shelter operations in the area. As the number of families living in substandard shelters increases, it is coupled with a high risk of vulnerable households resorting to negative coping mechanisms, especially female-headed households, children and girls at risk and PwSNs. Considering the current situation and due to the high visibility of significant aspects of shelter activities in informal settlements, there is an increased risk of contributing to social tensions prompted by the assistance delivered to non-Lebanese households. Hence, as shelter activities require heavy physical presence of partners in the field, it is recommended to adopt practices that limit partner/assistance visibility in the field, in order to avoid escalating social tension, and at the same time, increasing emphasis on risk mitigation and social tension risk assessments of activities

<sup>5</sup> The front-loading of multi-sectoral assessments that typify area-based approaches can mean that time investment to completion of residential upgrading is longer compared to single-household referral responses

## Finding a home, a basic human right unmet

by Marta Castillo and Cesar Araktingi, GVC-

“We left Beirut because we didn’t have a job to sustain us anymore and we couldn’t afford paying the rent”, Hassan explained. He has been living and working in Lebanon since 1997. Hailing from Syria, Hassan was going back and forth between both countries until 2014 when he moved permanently with his family to Beirut due to the security situation in Syria. He lived in a small apartment in Beirut for five years with his wife, brother, sister-in-law, and their children. Hassan and his brother were employed by a car wash company and they both lost their jobs in October 2019 due to the protests and socio-economic downturn. “My husband is still trying to get the money of his last salary from his employer. He didn’t pay him for his last days of work”, said Amira, Hassan’s pregnant sister-in-law. They moved from Beirut to Qaa (North Bekaa), where they have relatives,



(From right to left) Hassan, his sister-in-law and his wife in front of his tent in an ITS in Masharia Al Qaa, North Bekaa. Picture: Cesar Araktingi, GVC

in the hope of finding a stable and safe environment to raise their children. The protests in Beirut were concerning them. “We didn’t feel safe anymore”, said Hassan. However, the shift to the new location has been fraught with challenges.

“We have been living in a borrowed tent since we arrived here. And now our friend, that is the owner, wants it back together with his water tank that we are also using because he needs it”, said Hassan. Bekaa region is known for its harsh conditions in winter, especially in the informal settlements (ISs) inhabited by Syrian refugees. The Lebanese government does not allow for permanent infrastructure in these settlements resulting in cyclical interventions. These include desludging and water trucking due to lack of access to solid waste facilities and basic drinking water and replacement of plastic and plywood sheeted structures called home to the 20% of Syrian refugee population that live in the settlements (VaSYR 2019). These shelters are prone to floods and fires, lack basic heating and privacy and cannot withstand the storm-like winter weather that is the norm in Lebanon.

“The floor regularly floods, the stove is not working, and water is leaking inside. We need a proper shelter, but the municipality has not given us permission to put a new tent”, said Hassan pointing to the issues within his temporary home. The small tent where he is living used to be shared by Hassan and his brother’s family. However, his brother recently received permission to build a new tent and moved out of the shared accommodation. When he got the permission, he called GVC’s helpline to ask for assistance. After an assessment, he was supported by GVC, as part of the Lebanon Protection Consortium (LPC) funded by ECHO, who provided him with a shelter kit to erect his own home.

These kits consist of tarpaulin, plastic sheets, different sizes of timber to build the structure of the tent along with a toolbox, hinges for the door, locks and synthetic plastic mattress. They are regularly distributed by GVC - as part of the LPC - and other humanitarian actors as a form of support and service provision to Syrian refugees, given the restrictive policy environment that does not allow for homes with any permanent material to be constructed for and by Syrian refugees.

Hassan, as his brother, also called GVC helpline to get assistance. However, the municipality approval is still pending. “The municipality is not willing to help us”, says Hassan. So, while he and his family wait in a holding pattern with the constant fear of being homeless, at least his brother has an opportunity to start a fresh albeit in constrained circumstances. “If we had stayed in Beirut, someone would have pitied me and helped me pay the rent. At least, I would have preserved my dignity and kept my family warm”, Hassan concludes.

\*Names have been changed for protection purposes.





## Organizations per district

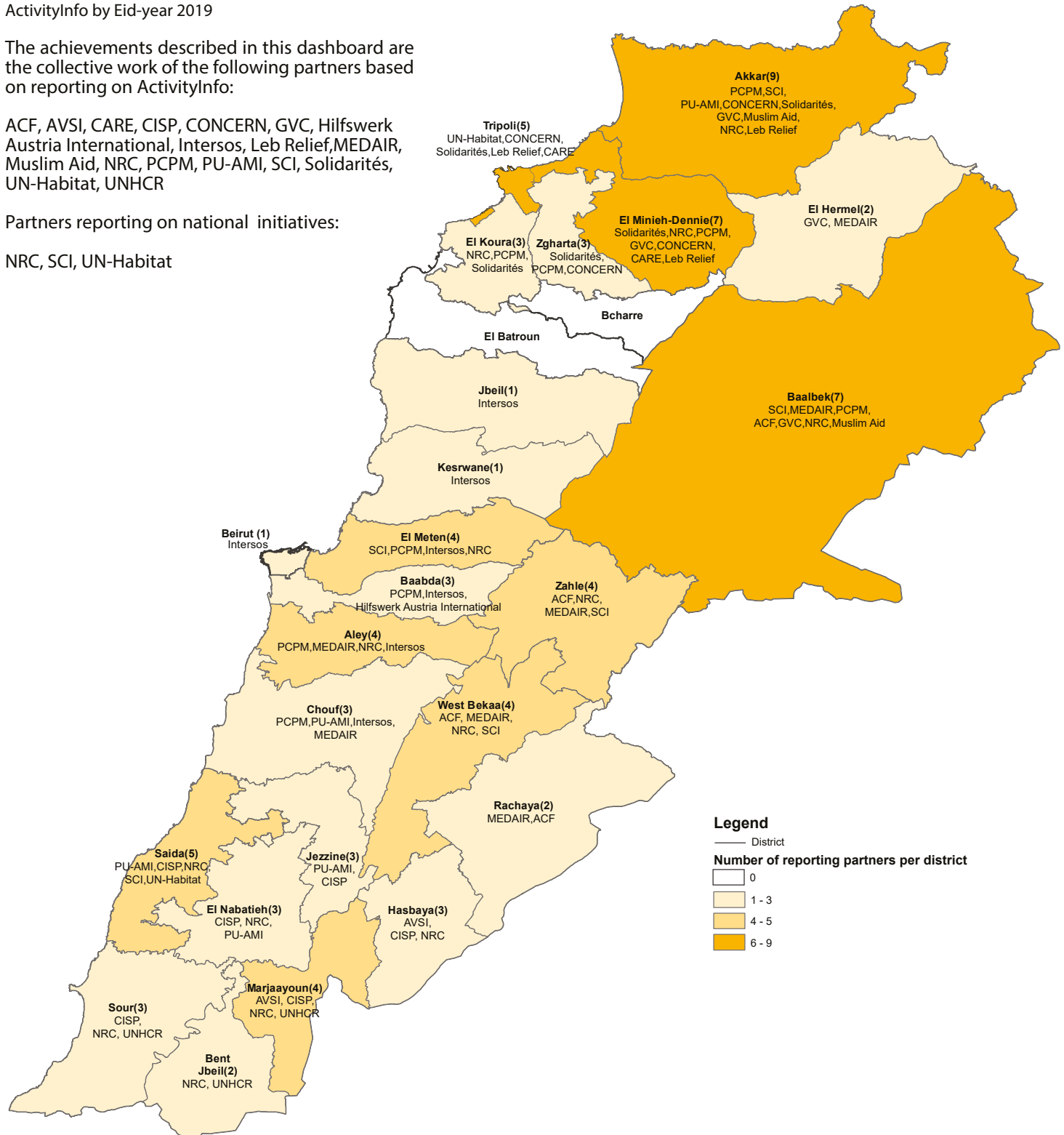
**18** partners reported shelter activities through ActivityInfo by Eid-year 2019

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following partners based on reporting on ActivityInfo:

ACF, AVSI, CARE, CISP, CONCERN, GVC, Hilfswerk Austria International, Intersos, Leb Relief, MEDAIR, Muslim Aid, NRC, PCPM, PU-AMI, SCI, Solidarités, UN-Habitat, UNHCR

Partners reporting on national initiatives:

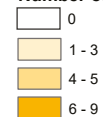
NRC, SCI, UN-Habitat



### Legend

— District

Number of reporting partners per district



Note: This map has been produced by UNHCR based on maps provided by the Government of Lebanon for UNHCR operational purposes. 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.



## Key Priorities And Gaps Foreseen

As the proportion of displaced Syrians moving to informal settlements is increasing, a key priority is to halt or slow down this trend whilst simultaneously improving the understanding of the underlying motivations for these moves. Assessments show that higher rents outside informal settlements may be a push factor and, at the same time, higher certainty of receiving assistance may be a pull factor. This priority implies effective operation of sector modalities that target all three shelter types.

Due to the economic crisis, a temporary Shelter sector technical committee has been convened to assess the impact of local currency devaluation on implementation of shelter activities. Indicators were set to monitor, on a quarterly basis, the price variations of shelter interventions, possible rental cost variation and evictions as a result of the latter. The results will determine the need to re-evaluate implementation modalities (e.g: reassessing the value of implementing landlord, beneficiary or contractor-led approaches; switching between cash-based and in-kind assistance) in order to mitigate shortfalls and delays in assistance delivery caused by devaluation.

The Shelter sector will share lessons learned on area-based approach with the Inter-Sector in order to establish a collective understanding of the approach amongst the different sectors. The next step is to set up a coordination structure responsible to develop minimum implementation guidelines with involvement of Water, Protection, Livelihoods and Social Stability as core sectors.

The sector coordination continues to seek to direct partners to cover gaps in under-served geographical areas, particularly BML, as well as into urban settings more generally as gap-filling exercises.

Yet, there is no shelter partner covering winterization needs in Aarsal for 2020. Weatherproofing assistance is critical to protect families from the harsh weather conditions in the area, especially for those who were affected by the dismantlement of hard structures. The replacement of hard materials with permitted ones has led to the inadequate reestablishment of shelters and thus loss of thermal insulation (especially for female-headed households and PwSN) mainly due to difficulties in marrying existing structure with newly distributed timber and plastic sheeting.

Partners are currently engaged in a round of finalizing or updating almost all of the sector's nine Technical Guidelines in an effort to harmonize approaches whilst capturing and mainstreaming best practice in the field. These will take account a range of concerns, including sensitization to environmentally sound disposal of plastic sheeting in informal settlements, as well as principles and standards of area-based approaches.