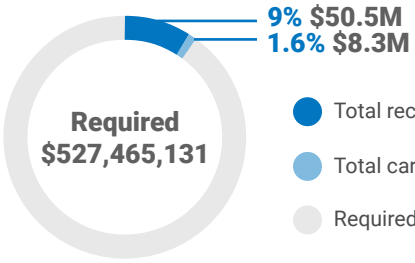
2021 1st QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD
Basic Assistance

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

The end year dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 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) Strengthen the ability of populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies to secure additional basic survival needs; OUTCOME 3): Support the National Poverty Targeting Programme.

2021 Sector Funding Status
As of 31 March



2021 population reached

1,800,246
People in need

47%
849,754 reached
1,651,498 targeted
828,120 female
823,378 male

2021 population figures by cohort

227,546
Lebanese individuals in need

12%
28,835 reached
113,090 female
114,456 male

1,365,000
Displaced Syrian individuals in need

61%
817,995 reached
1,335,000 targeted
667,500 female
667,500 male

27,700
Palestinian Refugees from Syria (individuals)

96%
26,578 reached
14,349 female
13,351 male

180,000
Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (individuals)

1%
46 reached
61,252 targeted
33,181 female
28,071 male

Progress against targets

Key Achievements

of households reached with regular cash transfers (Syr, Leb, Pal)* — **149,481 / 197,385**

# of Syrian households reached with multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers — **139,647 / 146,000**

# of Lebanese households reached with multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers — **1,780 / 42,935**

# of Palestinian households reached with multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers — **8,054 / 8,450**

Total USD amount distributed as regular cash transfers (Syr, Leb, Pal) — **$25,961m / $293.9m**

# of households reached with UNICEF ICWBP cash assistance — **5,217 / 7,000**

# of households reached with winter cash assistance — **63,341 / 250,097**

Total USD amount injected into economy in forms of cash assistance so far in 2021 (seasonal + regular) — **$ 36.4m / $ 495.6m**

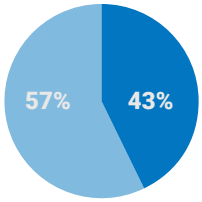
** Includes UNICEF child focused cash transfer*

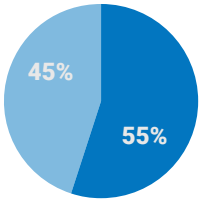
Outcomes

	LCRP 2017/2020 Baseline				Q1 2021 Current				2021 Target			
	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL
OUTCOME 1: % population that is severely vulnerable	53%	10%	89%	-	89%	22%	89%	-	88%	10%	98%	65%
% of assisted severely economically vulnerable households report being able to meet their basic survival needs	90%	-	89%	-					90%	-	90%	-
OUTCOME 2: % of assisted households affected by seasonal shocks who are able to meet their additional basic survival needs	90%	-	-	-	25%[1]	15%	-	-	100%	100%	100%	100%

[1] *UNHCR Winter Cash Assistance Post Distribution Monitoring*

Age/Gender Breakdown of MPCA (SYR) Beneficiaries





2021 1st QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD
Basic Assistance

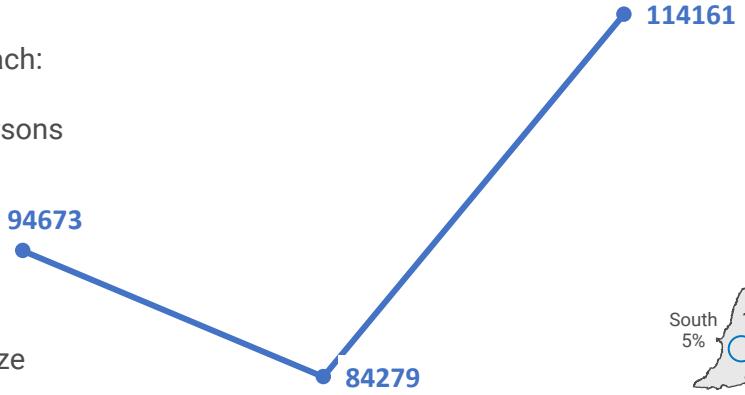
Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

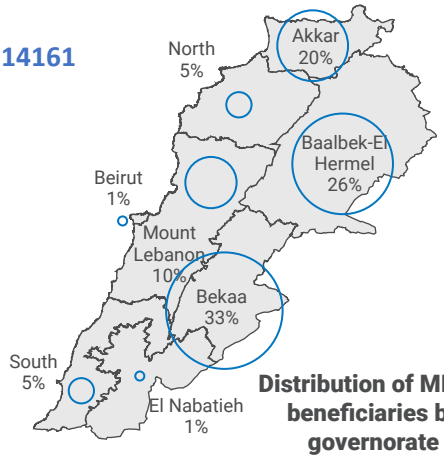
Analysis

Syrian Households Receiving Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in 2021

114,161
Highest Reach:
March 2021
570,805 persons

5
Average family size





Distribution of MPCA beneficiaries by governorate

1. Key achievements of the sector at the output level

Throughout the first quarter of 2021, 149,481 households had a strengthened ability to meet their basic needs through the receipt of monthly multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). This constitutes 45% of the targeted severely economically vulnerable households.

Per population group, 139,647 Syrian (41% of those targeted), 1,780 vulnerable Lebanese (4% of those targeted) and 8,054 Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) (95% of those targeted) households received regular MPCA[1]. From January to March 2021, coverage of extremely vulnerable Syrian households receiving MPCA increased by 19%, , from 91,242 households assistance in January 2021 to 108,994 by March 2021. Additionally, 7,686 children received monthly cash grants through the Integrated Child Wellbeing Program (ICWP)[2].

The value of MPCA, including the ICWP, in the first quarter of 2021 totaled US$25,961,513 across all LCRP population cohorts[2].

March marks the end of the winter season and under Output 2.1, 65,341 households were better able to meet additional seasonal needs through the receipt of seasonal cash grants in Q1 of 2021. This included 59,089 Syrian, 5,787 vulnerable Lebanese, 453 PRS and 12 PRL households.
In total, throughout the Winter Season and including Q1 of 2021, from November 2020 through March 2021, 200,231 Syrian, 13,876 vulnerable Lebanese, 1,210 PRS and 1,814 PRL households benefited from a one-off seasonal cash grant to support families cover additional needs brought about by the winter season. For Syrians, 75% of targeted families were reached, and31% of targeted vulnerable Lebanese families were reached.

Seasonal cash assistance throughout the 2020-2021 winter season reached a total of US$ 65,291,894, of which 16% was disbursed in Q1 of 2021.

Additionally, households who faced seasonal and/or emergency shocks were able to cover their additional needs with in-kind assistance, including mattresses, blankets, winter clothing, heaters, jerry cans and other essential non-food items. A total of 2,357 households received blankets, 3,794 received heaters, 6,975 received clothing kits and 8,284 received mattresses.

[1] Agencies that provided MPCA throughout Q1: UNHCR, WFP, Caritas, the Lebanese Red Cross, Save the Children, Oxfam, Danish Refugee Council, Hilfswerk International.

[2] the Integrated Child Wellbeing Program cash grant is delivered by UNICEF.

[3] Assistance is disbursed in beneficiaries in Lebanese Pounds. The dollar value of assistance is calculated using agency specific exchange rates, which varied from 3,900 LBP/USD to 6,240 LBP/USD throughout Q1.

2. Key challenges of the sector

A key challenge faced by the Sector continues to be ensuring coverage of all extremely vulnerable populations with MPCA. While scale-up of the Syrian caseload was possible in March 2021, 50% of targeted Syrians remain un-assisted with MPCA. The gap for vulnerable Lebanese is even larger at over 90%. Moreover, even among those assisted, transfer values for MPCA do not cover the entire basket of non-food items, as defined by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket. As of March 2021, the non-food SMEB is estimated to be LBP 952,164 per family per month. With the current transfer value of LBP 400,000 per month, 42% of the non-food SMEB remains uncovered through MPCA (which assumes an average family income of LBP 262,000). With worsening economic conditions in the country, lack of access to basic assistance is likely leading families deeper into poverty and increasing the likelihood of resorting to negative coping mechanisms in an attempt the meet their most basic survival needs.

While partners continue to negotiate with financial service providers for preferential exchange rates, securing a rate that minimizes the loss of the hard currency value of funds continues to be challenge. Partners under the LOUISE platform have been able to secure a higher exchange rate at 6,240 LBP/USD, while others are operating at an exchange rate of 3,900 LBP/USD. This discrepancy with the unofficial market rate (which averages around 12,000 LBP/USD in March 2021) makes it difficult for partners to expand coverage of assistance to vulnerable families. However, even if partners are able to secure higher exchange rates, trade-offs will need to be made between increasing transfer values (if possible) and increasing coverage, due to limitations in available funding.

3. Key priorities for the following quarter

The Sector will continue to prioritize providing a meaningful assistance package to the most vulnerable populations. With major gaps in coverage across population groups, **scaling up assistance to families in need remains a priority.** Highlighting the gap in assistance to vulnerable Lebanese families and making efforts to provide assistance to host communities will aid in ensuring a conflict-sensitive approach to targeting and assistance coverage.

Discussions around transfer values and maintaining meaningful assistance packages is vital to ensuring that vulnerable and assisted families are able to meet their basic needs. Transfer value adjustments need to be made considering both the needs of assisted persons and the potential tensions that might arise among those that are not assisted. With prices and the cost of living increasing across the country, increases in transfer values are needed to ensure that cash programmes meet their intended objectives.

As part of protection mainstreaming, the BA Sector underwent a review of its Protection Risk Analysis in the first quarter of 2021 through field-level sessions and discussions around potential risks and mitigation measures surrounding the BA programming. The next step will take place within the first month of Q2 and will include prioritizing identified risks and development of a monitoring plan for identified mitigation measures within the Sector. Another priority for the Sector in the coming quarter will be to review and finalize a set of standard M&E tools that can be used by partners for Post Distribution and Outcome monitoring. Building off of a workshop conducted in early 2020, the Sector will define a set of core indicators and develop monitoring tools that will be available for Sector partners.

The development of the National Social Protection Strategy advanced in Q1 with completion of draft matrices for the five pillars of the Sector that are now being reviewed for release to feed into the final consultations in Q2 following those that took place in 2020.

4. Mainstreaming of COVID-19

Partners disbursing assistance under the BA Sector continued to take necessary precautions to mainstream COVID-19 mitigation within related activities. This includes staggering cash uploads to avoid large crowds at ATMS, which also helps alleviate the risk of tensions and conflict. ATM monitoring and crowd managment is ongoing and remains a key mitigation measure put in place in 2020 andalso serves to monitor and control crowds at ATMs. When possible, communication and activities, such as post distribution and outcome monitoring, take place through phone calls instead of face-to-face interviews to minimize direct contact and risk of infection.

For more information, please contact:
Senior Inter-Agency Coordinators Camilla Jelbart jelbartm@unhcr.org and Elina Silen elina.silen@undp.org