Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

BASIC ASSISTANCE WORKING GROUP

19 FEBRUARY 2021

AGENDA

1) Sector Updates:
    a) BA Co-Lead Election Results
    b) Assistance- 2020
    c) Overview of BA online dashboard
    d) Economic indicators
    e) WFP VAM Updates
    f) LOUISE operational updates
2) BA 2021 Sector Annual Workplan
3) Presentation by the World Bank on the ESSN project
4) Inter-Agency Referrals and Service Mapping

LEBANON

EMERGENCY CRISIS AND COVID-19 RESPONSE SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROJECT (ESSN)

Basic Assistance Working Group

19 February 2021

CONTENT

1. The Project

2. Beneficiaries & Assistance Packages

3. Poverty Impacts And Outcomes

4. New Features Introduced by the ESSN

5. Effectiveness And Disbursement Conditions

6. Upcoming Work on Poverty: LVAP

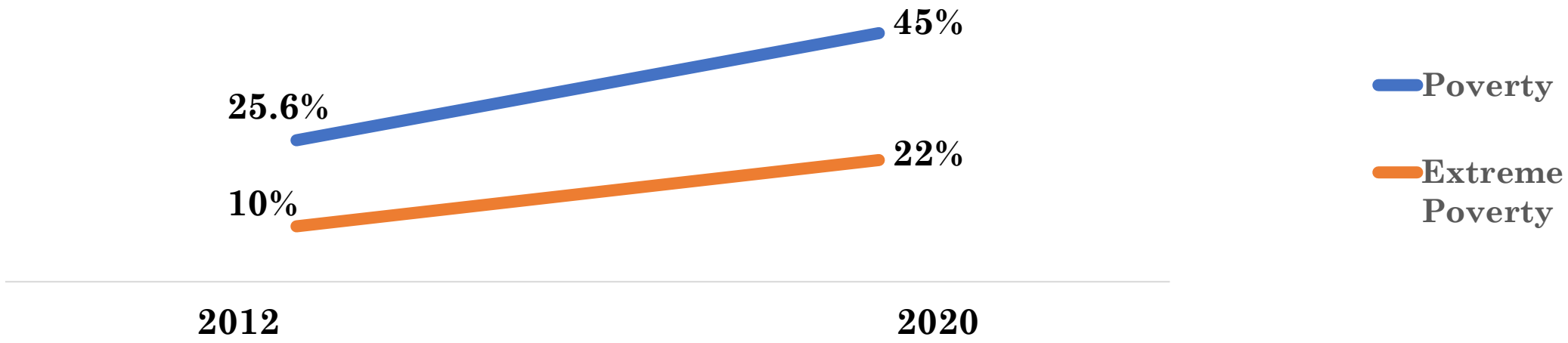
7. Common Areas for Further Discussion

THE PROJECT

➔ **The ESSN is a US$246 million 3-year project that will provide cash transfers and access to social services to extreme poor and vulnerable Lebanese populations affected by the economic and COVID-19 crises.**

➔ **The ESSN aims to arrest the increase in extreme poverty and to preserve the human capital of 13 – 18 years old children enrolled in public schools. The ESSN also aims to build a sustainable national social safety net (SSN) system in Lebanon.**

➔ **The ESSN will scale-up and enhance the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP): Lebanon's main poverty-targeting social assistance program launched in 2011 with financial and technical assistance from the World Bank.**



Source: WB calculations (pre-COVID, pre-PoB) as of March 2020, based on HBS 2011/2012 survey

BENEFICIARIES & ASSISTANCE PACKAGES

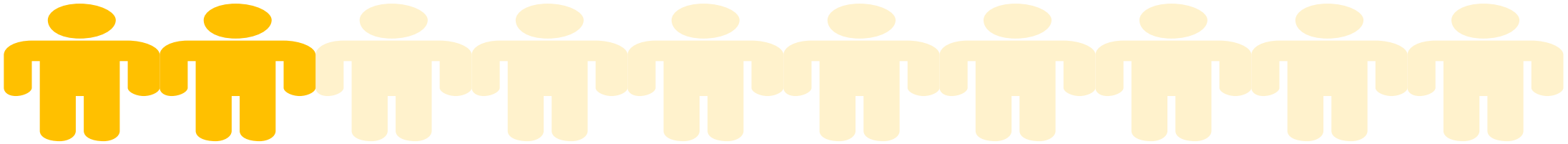
147,000 extreme poor Lebanese households (786,000 Individuals) will receive monthly **Cash Transfers for Basic Income Support** for one year:
LBP 100,000 / household member (capped at 6) + **LBP 200,000** per household.

87,000 students (13 – 18 yrs.) from extreme poor households enrolled in public schools will receive **Top-up Cash Transfers** to reduce dropouts:
LBP 137,280 - LBP 213,547 / student / month (depending on grade and stream of education).

100,000 individuals from vulnerable households will benefit from improved **access to quality social services**

Capacity Building for MOSA social workers **at the central and SDC levels**

POVERTY IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES



Covers 20% of the population and will result in reducing:

Extreme Poverty	Poverty Gap	Extreme Poverty Gap
21.8%	13.9%	5.6%
⬇	⬇	⬇
9.5%	9.2%	3.6%

Current Target

NEW FEATURES INTRODUCED BY THE ESSN

- Expanding Existing Systems: The roll out of the ESSN project will allow to extend coverage from 1.5% to 20% of the Lebanese population which will have a first order impact on poverty
- Preserving the human capital of 13 – 18 years old children at risk of dropping out of school through targeted assistance
- Move to cash is considered a major policy shift
- Introducing a "Cash Plus" approach to social assistance: direct cash transfers + specialized services
- ESSN will help build a comprehensive Social Safety Net Delivery System that can respond to future shocks including a National Social Registry, GRM, TPMA
- Bring civil society into the governance body of the project – Expert Advisory Group
- Multi-stakeholder engagement: several ministries, UN, NGOs, private sector
- Will facilitate the roll out of other safety net projects in the future (targeting for subsidies reform)
- Inclusion of Refugees as beneficiaries – component 3

EFFECTIVENESS AND DISBURSEMENT CONDITIONS

Condition	Effectiveness	Disbursement
1. Adopt the Project Operations Manual, in form and substance satisfactory to the Bank;	X	
2. Finalize, adopt, and publicly disclose Labor Management Procedures, in form and substance acceptable to the Bank;	X	
3. Legal opinion	X	
4. Verification of beneficiaries eligible to receive Cash Transfers under components 1 and 2 of the Project		X
5. Establishment pf the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) within MOSA, with the terms of reference, functions and staffing satisfactory to the Bank.		X
6. Signing of the Outputs Agreement with WFP, on the terms satisfactory to the Bank.		X
7. Appointment of a Third-Party Monitoring Agent (TPMA) for purposes of carrying out a technical audit.		X

LEBANON VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT PANEL (LVAP) - HIGH-FREQUENCY MONITORING SURVEY

- LVAP is a set of high-frequency and nationally representative panel household survey (approx. 3,000 HHs) of Lebanese and non-Lebanese residents;
- Aim to generate a reliable evidence base for quick assessments of the evolving economic and social situation, and to inform the need for alternate mitigating measures.
- Will represent an entry point for alignment of assistance packages for vulnerable Lebanese.
- Combination of face-to-face and phone-based interviewing techniques;
- Periodic follow-up surveys conducted over the phone with individuals from a rotating sub-set of the households surveyed at baseline (every 3 months);
- The surveys will include multiple modules covering various aspects of households' economic and social conditions, views, and aspirations (Demographics, Health, Education, Consumption, Employment, Income, Asset Ownership, Shocks and coping strategies, Access to government programs, Transfers received and paid (including remittances), Migration, Aspirations, and social/ political attitudes).

Shortlisting of survey firm	**February 2021**
Baseline survey	
Preparations (sampling frame, listing, pilot, training)	March-May 2021
Data collection in the field	June-July 2021
Clean dataset produced	August 2021
Data analysis	August-September 2021
First report release	November 2021
Phone survey data collection rounds	1st round in January 2022

COMMON AREAS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

- **Readiness of the ESSN project and complementarity**
- **Alignment of assistance packages for vulnerable Lebanese**
- **Entry points for humanitarian agencies to use the NPTP/ESSN database**
- **Vulnerability Assessment of Lebanese**

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

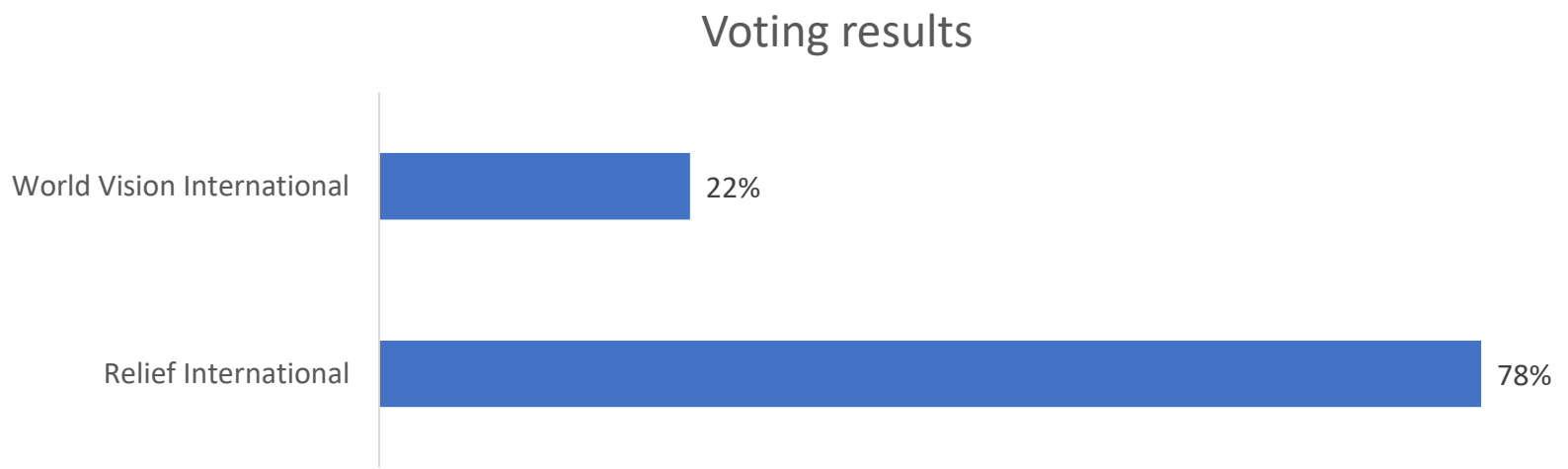
1) Sector Updates:

BA Co-lead Elections

BA Co-Lead Election results

- Expression of interest open for National and International NGOs
- Call for nominees: November 27th, 2020
- Two agencies came forward as candidates: Relief International and World Vision International

- Voting took place from January 18th till January 21st through a circulated link
    - Eleven NGOs registered to vote, and nine NGO's cast their votes



Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

1) Sector Updates:

Assistance- 2020

2020 Assistance Summary (tentative)

107,319 vulnerable households received monthly multi-purpose cash

93,497 SYR HHs | 1,333 LEB HHs | 8,564 PRS HHs

6,313 households (total of 10,040 children) benefited from child focused social assistance through UNICEF's Integrated Children Wellbeing Program.

2020 Assistance Summary (tentative)

170, 884 vulnerable households received seasonal cash grants

160,236 SYR HHs | 8,089 LEB HHs | 1,802 PRS HHs | 757 PRL HHs

COVID-19 TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE

27,000 SYR 2,000 LEB 28,048 PRS/PRL

UNICEF's year-end one-off social grant

29,648 non-Lebanese HHS and 15,126 Lebanese HHs

122,464 **blankets** distributed

518 **heaters** distributed

15,870 **Clothing kits** distributed

32,000 **CRI kits** distributed

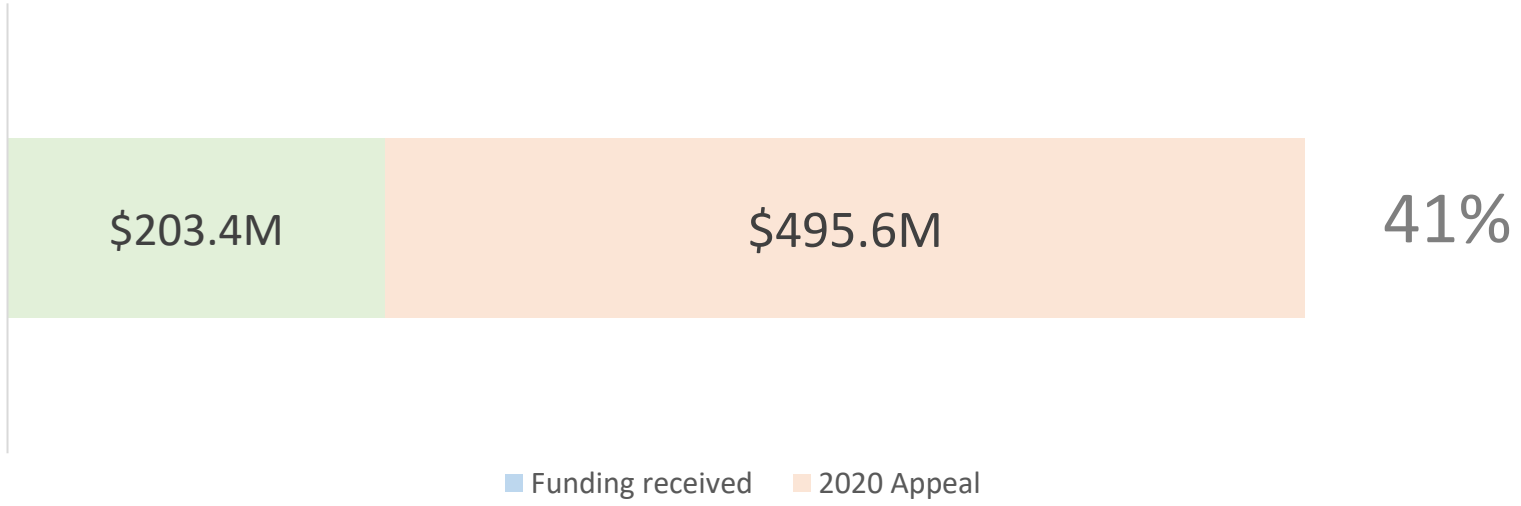
Sector Updates

2020 Assistance Summary (tentative)

Total USD disbursed in 2020 for regular assistance: US$126,479,830

Total USD disbursed in 2020 for winter assistance: US$ 40,629,804

Total USD disbursed in 2020 for COVID19 temporary assistance: US$ 9,364,463



Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

1) Sector Updates:

Overview of BA Online Dashboard

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

1) Sector Updates:

Economic Indicators

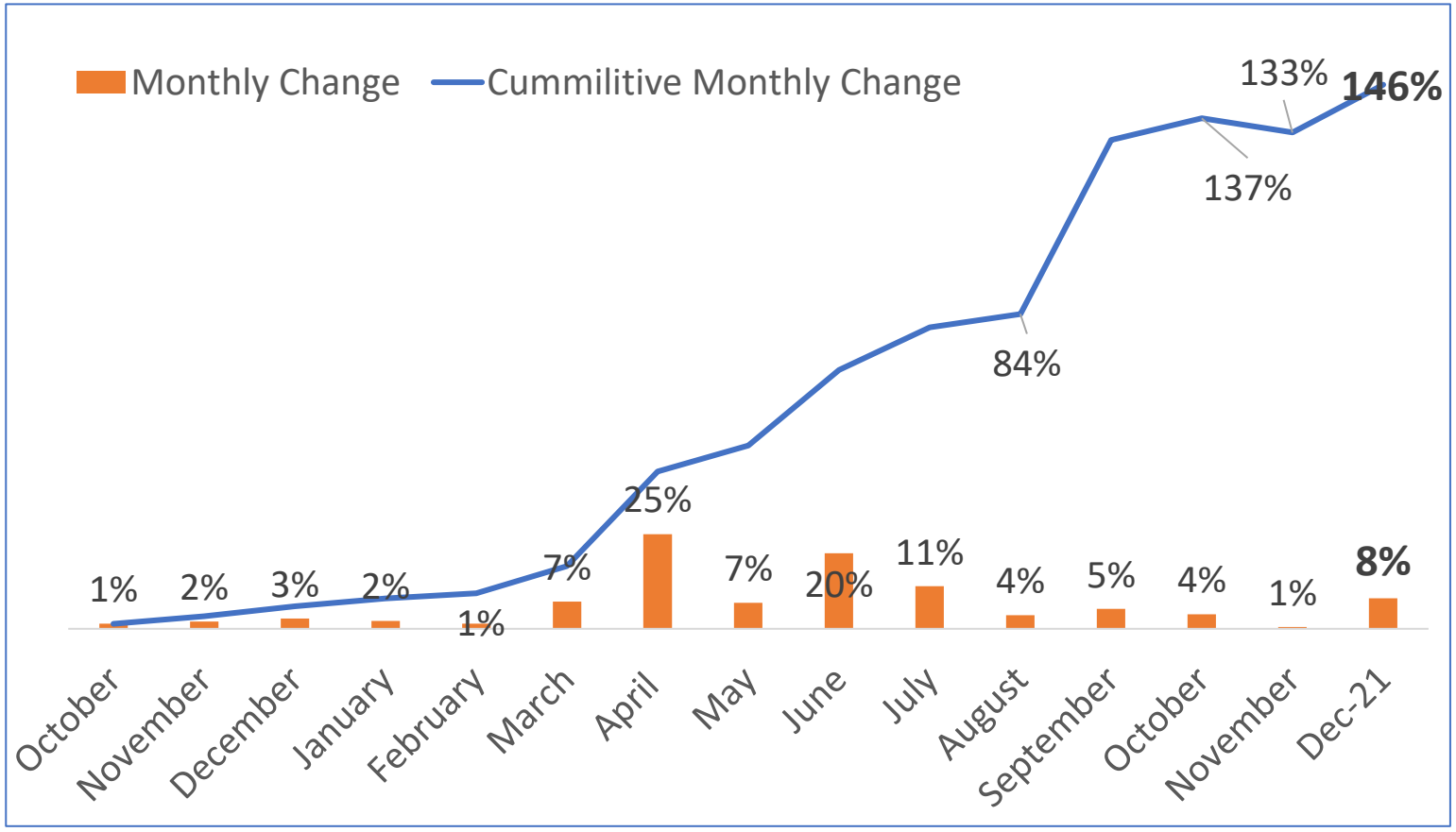
Exchange rate

Black Market Exchange Rate LBP/USD
Used as a proxy for purchasing power of cash beneficiaries

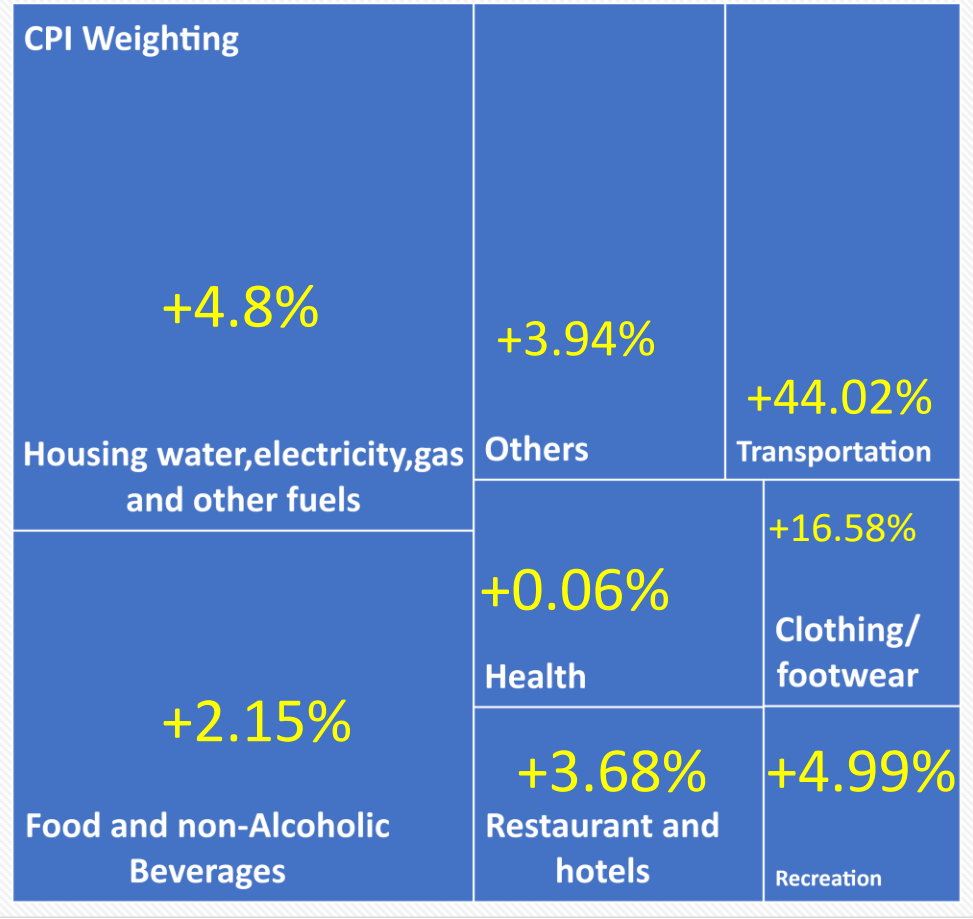
Official Rate: 1,500
Official Syndicate Rate: 3,850-3,900
Bank Rate: 3,900

Consumer Price Index

Yearly Change, December 2019 to December 2020: 146%
Monthly Change, November 2020 to December 2020: 8%

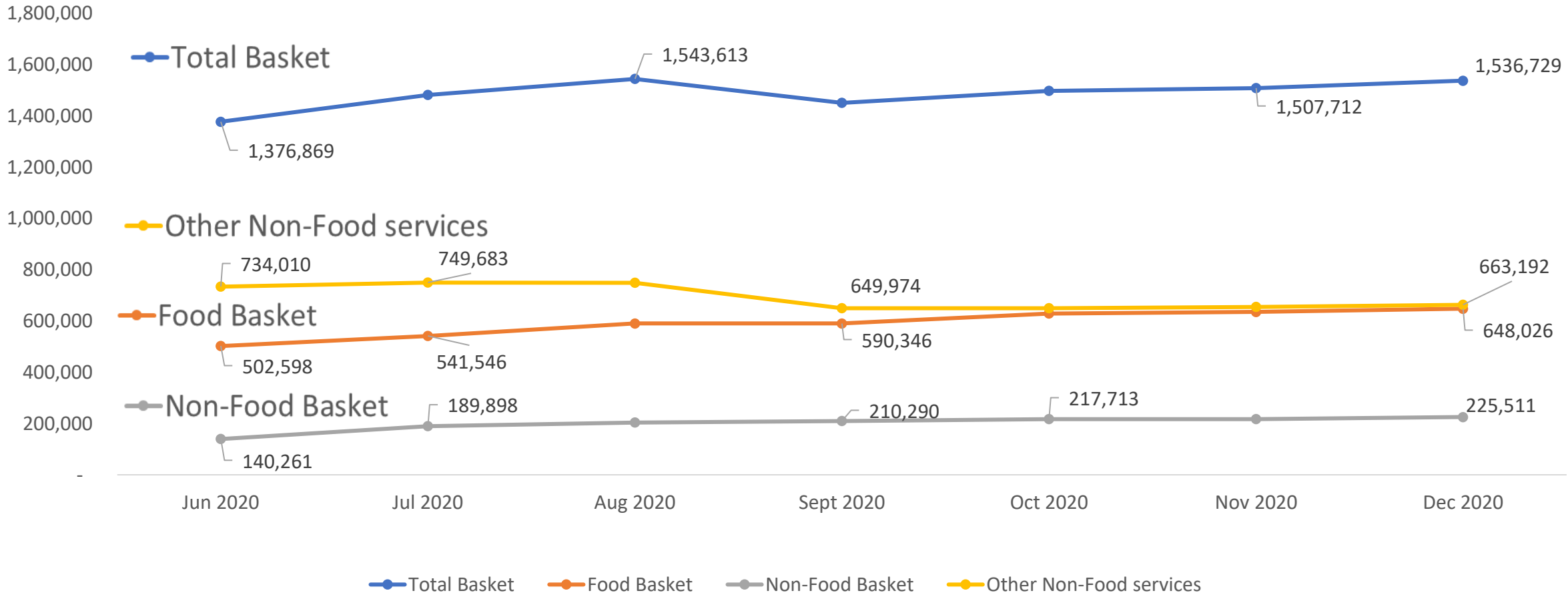


Monthly Change (Nov-Dec 2020)



http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php/93-english/statistics-by-topics/economic-statistics-en/185-cpi-en-2

SMEB monitoring



Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

1) Sector Updates:

WFP VAM Updates

LOUISE
LEBANON ONE UNIFIED INTER-ORGANISATIONAL SYSTEM FOR E-CARDS

LOUISE Programmatic Updates & Mitigation Measures February 2021

Mitigation Measures to Safeguard LOUISE Operations

LOUISE Preferential Exchange Rate:

- Preferential exchange rate at 6,240 LBP/USD in February 2021

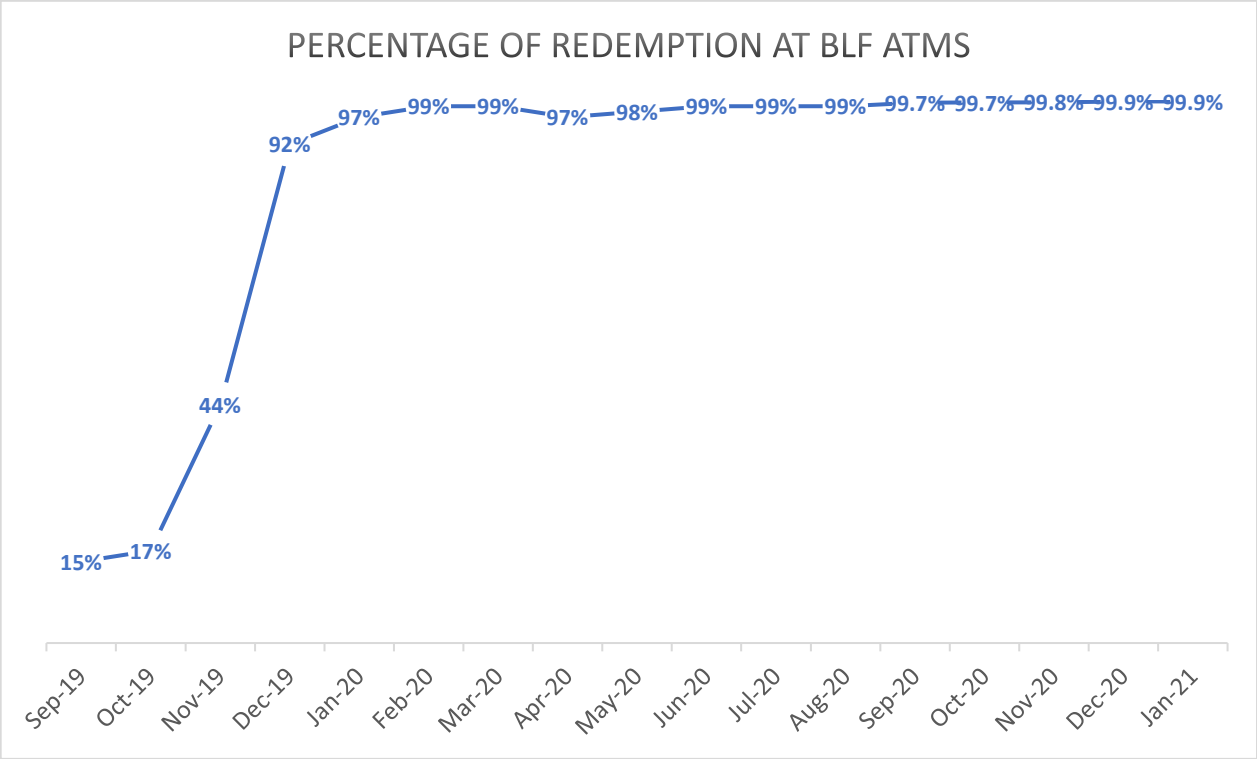
Staggering of Upload Schedules for February 2021:

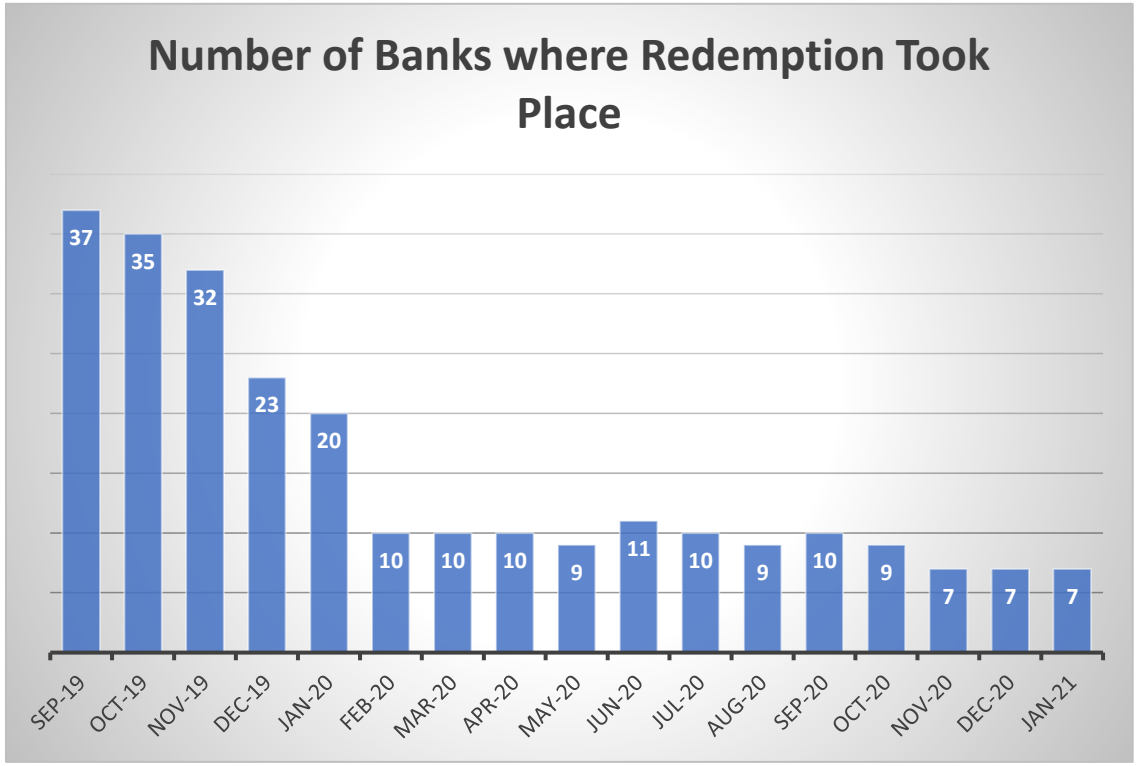
- North (Akkar & T5) and Bekaa: loading over 10 days
- South and BML: loading over 7 days
- No uploads planned for weekends (to account for limited replenishment over weekends)

ATM Monitoring and Crowd Control:

- Resumed activity across all regions, after suspension due to lockdown.

Concentration of Redemption at BLF ATMs
As of January 2020





Redemption rates for the month of January 2021 stood at 99.9%.

LOUISE Programmatic Updates

1. UNHCR Expansion Plans, Starting in March 2021

- *Increase caseload of MCAP assistance by 31,000 households. All households were previously non-assisted households, in order to reduce the gap of unassisted populations.*
- *A further 6,000 unassisted households will be added in April 2021 following results of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).*

2. WFP Expansion Plans, Starting in March 2021:

- *Increase caseload of MPC assistance from 820,000 to 950,000 individuals in March 2021.*
- *Considering further expansion to reach 970,000 individuals in April 2021.*

3. UNICEF One-off social grant for Lebanese and non-Lebanese: February 2021

- *Additional one-off social grant payment to 15,000 Syrian and Lebanese children rolled out in February 2021.*

4. UNICEF Reaching School Program resumed in February 2021:

- *Targets a total of 28,000 children to cover transportation costs for the month of December 2020. The program will then be suspended until new children are registered and/or decision to finance data bundle for children moving forward.*

5. Terre Des Hommes-L: MCAP assistance to approximately 200 households (September 2020-January 2021)

- *Final payment to beneficiaries completed in January 2021.*

6. Shield Association: Two Cash for Work projects in response to COVID-19 outbreak.

- *First CfW project in the Marjaoun, Bent Jbeil and Nabatieh areas completed in December. Second project in the Hasbaya region (forest management)-(June 2020-May 2021)-total of 133 workers., distribution of cards ongoing.*

LOUISE Programmatic Updates

(Transfer Values Update)

1. **Food Component Transfer Value:** 100,000 LBP/individual as of November 2020.

2. **MCAP/MPC Transfer Value:** remains at 400,000 LBP/HH since July 2020

WFP and UNHCR in discussions with MoSA to increase food component to 130,000 LBP/individual, and MCAP/MPC assistance to 480,000 LBP/household.

3. **UNICEF:**
   - i. Integrated Child Well-being Program (ICWBG): increase in transfer value to 380,000 LBP/child (capped at 2 children)
   - ii. Resumption of Reaching School Program, with a transfer value of 50,000 LBP/child (uncapped)
   - iii. Additional one-off social grant payment to 15,000 Syrian and Lebanese children: 380,000-500,000/child (capped at 3 children).

Program	January-March 2020	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21
	Monthly Entitlement Amount (in LL)/HH	Updated Monthly Entitlement (in LL)/HH	Updated Monthly Entitlement (in LL)/HH	Updated Monthly Entitlement (in LL)/HH	Updated Monthly Entitlement (in LL)/HH	Updated Monthly Entitlement (in LL)/HH	Updated Monthly Entitlement (in LL)/HH	Updated Monthly Entitlement (in LL)/HH	Updated Monthly Entitlement (in LL)/HH	Updated Monthly Entitlement (in LL)/HH	Updated Monthly Entitlement (in LL)/HH	Updated Monthly Entitlement (in LL)/HH
WFP CFF Assistance	40,500/individual	50,000/individual	50,000/individual	60,000/indvidual	70,000/individual	70,000/individual	70,000/individual	70,000/individual	100,000/individual	100,000/individual	100,000/individual	100,000/individual
WFP MPC Assistance	260,250	260,250	320,000	320,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
MPC Food Component	40,500/individual	50,000/individual	50,000/individual	60,000/indvidual	70,000/individual	70,000/individual	70,000/individual	70,000/individual	100,000/individual	100,000/individual	100,000/individual	100,000/individual
WFP E-card Food Voucher Program	40,500/individual	50,000/individual	50,000/individual	60,000/indvidual	70,000/individual	70,000/individual	70,000/individual	100,000/individual	100,000/individual	100,000/individual	100,000/individual	100,000/individual
WFP RON cash for Food Assistance	40,500/individual	50,000/individual	50,000/individual	60,000/indvidual	70,000/individual	70,000/individual	70,000/individual	70,000/individual	100,000/individual	100,000/individual	100,000/individual	100,000/individual
UNHCR MCAP Assistance	262,500	262,500	320,000	320,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
UNHCR MCAP Assistance (RON)	262,500	262,500	320,000	320,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
UNHCR Winterization Assistance									954,000 LBP	954,000 LBP	954,000 LBP	n.a
UNICEF Reaching School Program*	56,250/hh	56,250/hh	56,250/hh	56,250/hh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	50,000/child
UNICEF Integrated Child Wellbeng Program (ICWBG)**	120,000	160,000	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000	380,000/child
UNICEF One-Off Social Grant***										460,000 LBP/child	460,000 LBP/child	380,000-500,000 LBP/child

* Reaching School Program resumed in February 2021, with a TV of 50,000 child, uncapped.
**Transfer Value per Child, capped at 2 children
***Transfer Value per Child, capped at 3 children

LOUISE Programmatic Updates
(Number of Households Targeted as of February 2021)

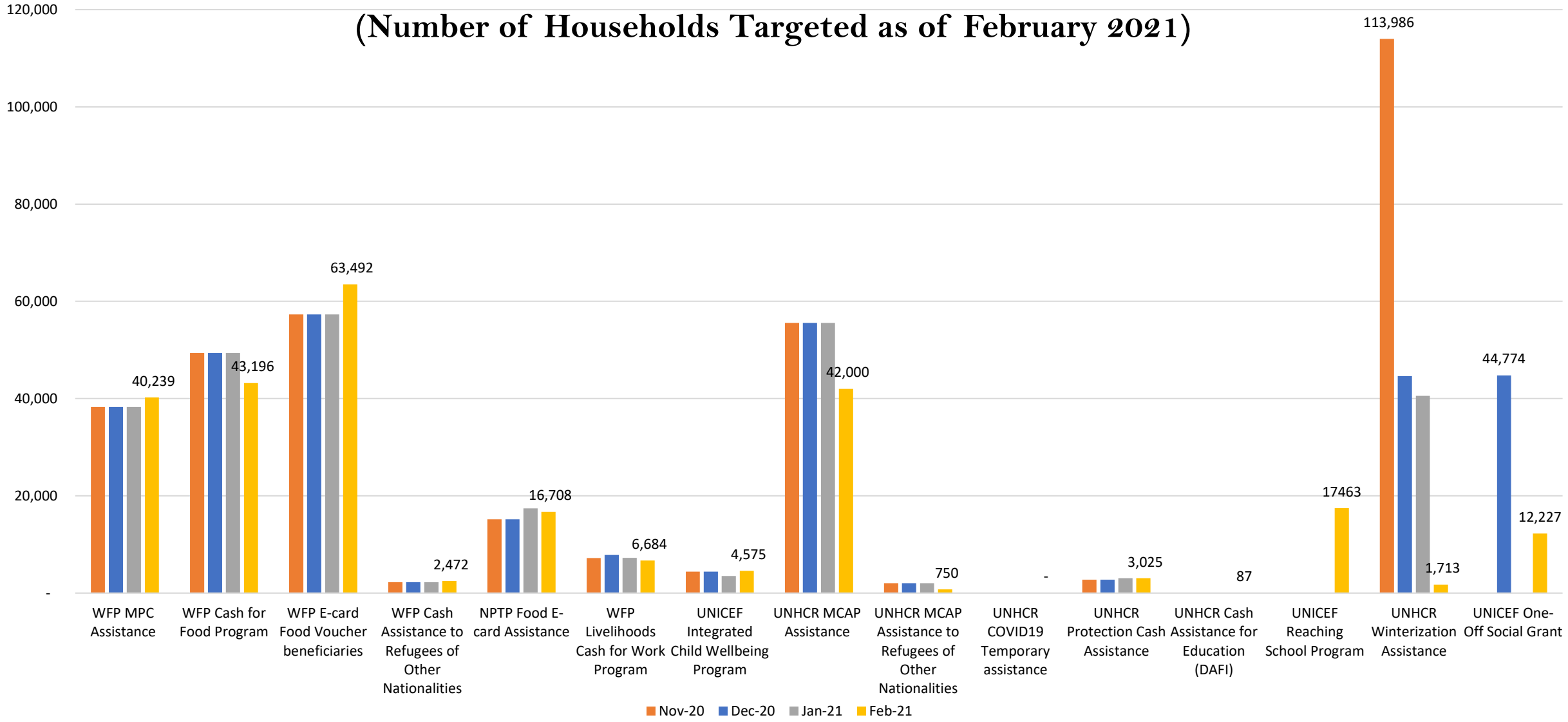
Program	January-March 2020	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21
	Number of Households Reached	Number of Households Reached	Number of Households Reached	Number of Households Reached	Number of Households Reached	Number of Households Reached	Number of Households Reached	Number of Households Reached	Number of Households Reached	Number of Households Reached	Number of Households Reached	Number of Households Reached
UNHCR MCAP Assistance	33,000	33,000	33,000	49,800	49,800	55,577	55,577	55,577	55,577	55,577	55,577	42,000
WFP CFF Assistance	33,000	33,000	33,000	37,600	40,168	47,580	49,370	49,384	49,384	49,384	49,384	43,196
WFP MPC Assistance (includes Food transfer value)	23,650	23,650	23,650	34,910	34,910	37,457	38,213	38,255	38,255	38,255	38,255	40,239
WFP Food E-card Assistance	54,500	54,500	54,500	55,830	55,922**	57,147**	57,139**	57,317	57,317	57,317	57,317	63,492
WFP RON cash for Food Assistance	3,030	3,030	3,030	3,030	2,253	2,253	2,253	2,253	2,253	2,253	2,253	2,472
UNHCR MCAP Assistance (RON)	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,641	1,641	2,037	2,037	2,037	2,037	2,037	2,037	750
UNHCR Winterization Assistance									113,986	44,644	40,570	1,713
UNICEF Reaching School Program	31,836	32,348	32,790	33,018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,463
UNICEF Integrated Child Wellbeng Program (	3,817	3,722	3,851	3,807	4,871	3,865	3,918	4,276	4,419	4,419	3,516	4,575
UNICEF One-Off Social Grant										44,774	-	12,227

**Total expanded beneficiaries for the food e-card has remained the same to account for the former e-card beneficiaries that have been moved to CFF and MPC assistance

LOUISE
LEBANON ONE UNIFIED INTER-ORGANISATIONAL SYSTEM FOR E-CARDS

LOUISE Programmatic Updates

(Number of Households Targeted as of February 2021)



LOUISE
LEBANON ONE UNIFIED INTER-ORGANISATIONAL SYSTEM FOR E-CARDS

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

2) BA 2021 Annual Work Plan

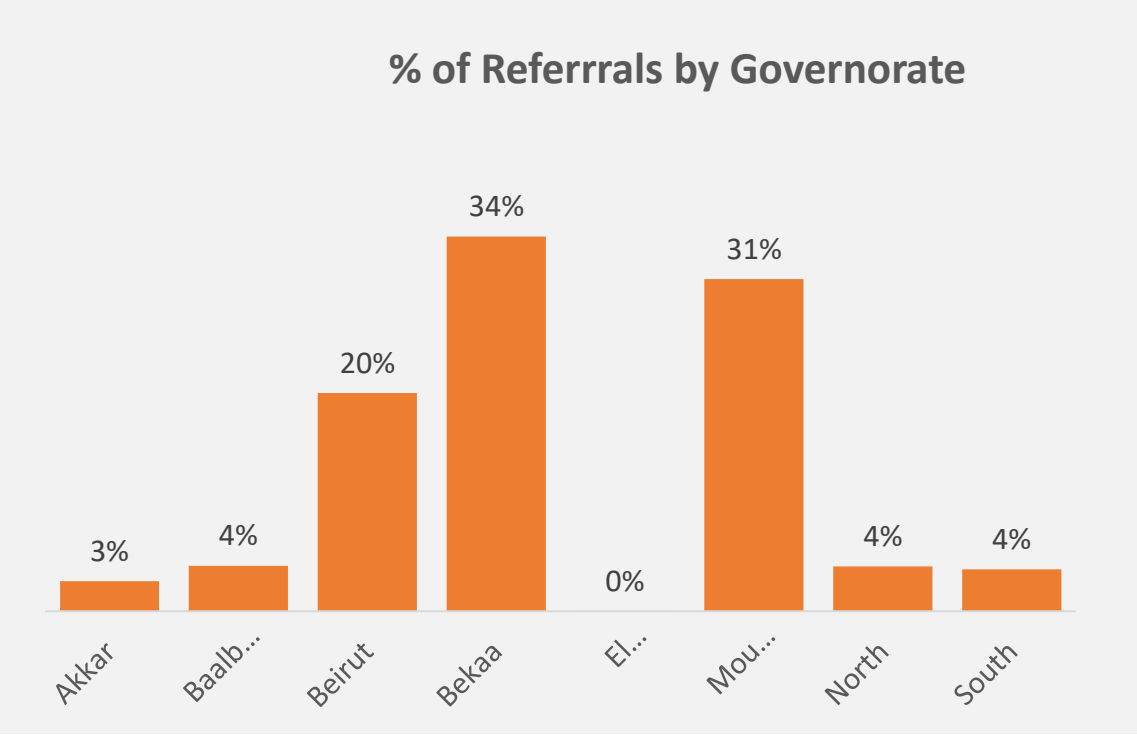
Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

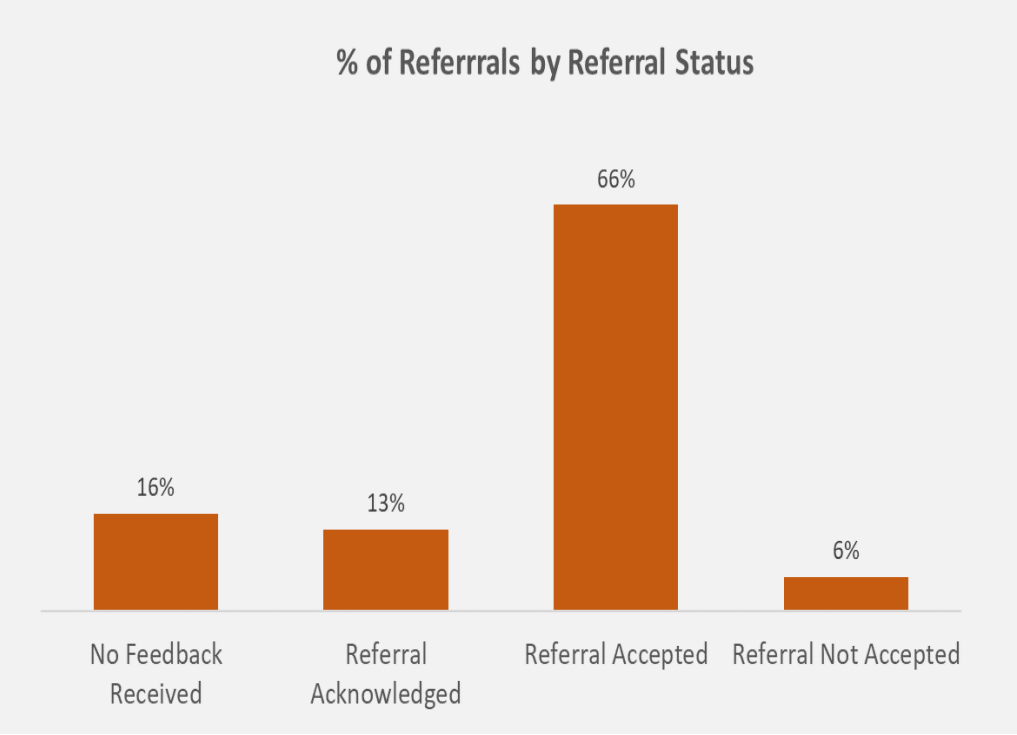
4) Referrals and Service Mapping

Q4 Referrals (Inter-Agency Service Mapping Tool)- Prelim

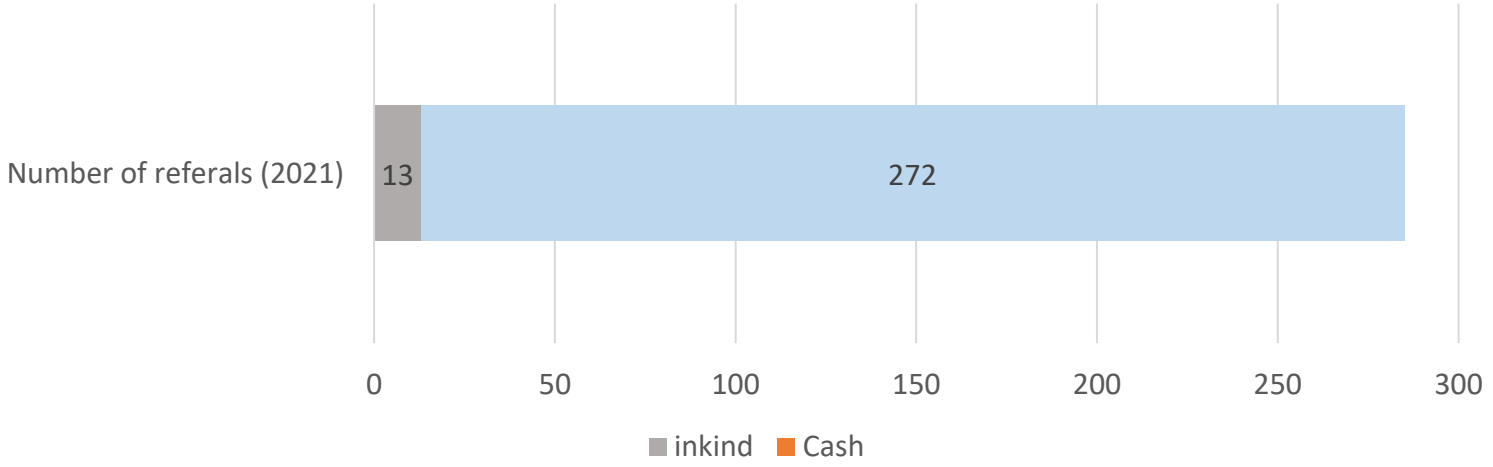
Total number of Referrals to All Sectors	10,435

Referrals to BA made up 24% of all referrals



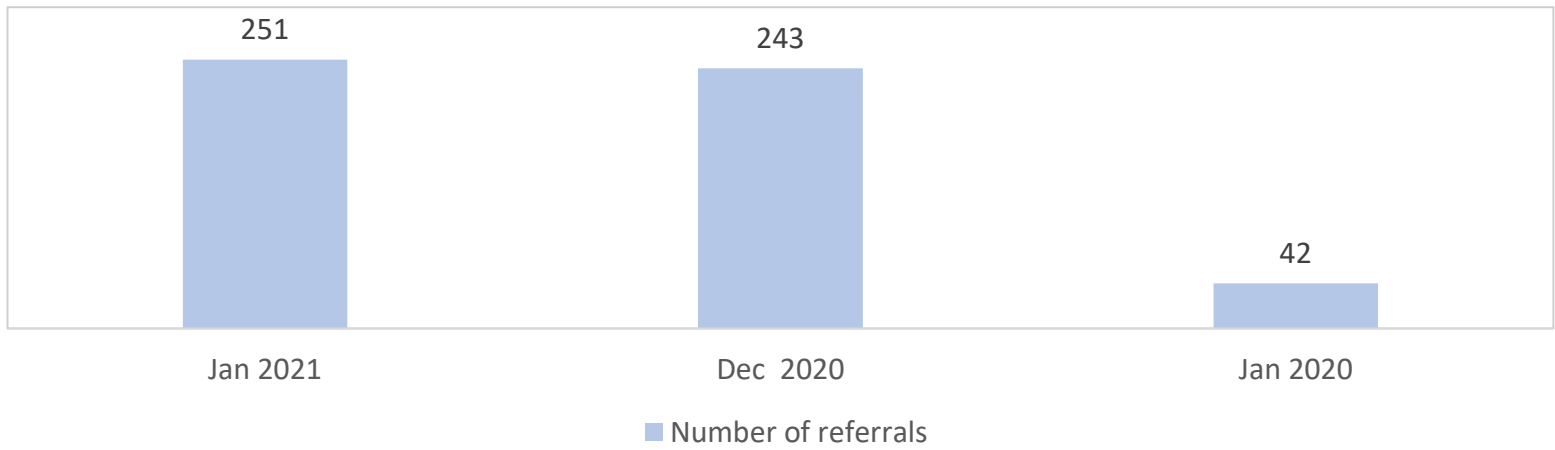


Referral Analysis- RIMS (Jan-Feb 2021)



66% Female / 34% Male

76% Syrian/ 20% Lebanese



Next steps in enhancing referrals

- Ensure accurate data on service mapping tool
  - **Activity status and end date**
  - **- Indication of accepting referrals**
  - **- Ensure that your programs/activities are entered**

- Mapping of BA partners capacity (esp. cash assistance) to take referrals
  - **Focus on cash assistance**
  - **Ensure proper communication to other sectors**

- Ensure proper communication to other sectors
  - **Services/interventions under BA**
  - **Basic Assistance versus Food Security**
  - **Clear eligibility criteria on Service Mapping tool**
  - **Develop a “cash” specific module**