



Severe weather swept through Lebanon from 20 December 2021 with heavy rain, thunderstorms, strong winds and some flooding. The effects varied throughout the country, with people in the North and South most affected, and to a lesser extent, the Bekaa and Beirut/Mount Lebanon region. Preparedness actions put in place at the start of the season helped to ensure a swift and smooth activation of rapid needs assessments (RNAs) and the mobilization of assistance where it was required.

PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS

In advance of the winter season, a number of key actions were taken by partners and inter-agency coordination in each region to prepare for the onset of storms, including: revising the geo-split of organizations responding in different areas, review of the Emergency Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)s, updating contingency stocks, and holding refresher trainings for Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) partners on the emergency preparedness and RNA tools. Early warning notifications were sent to partners, informing them about the RNA activation and weather forecast from the Disaster Risk Management Unit prior to the storm.

In addition, region-specific preparedness measures were adapted:

- In the **North**, site improvements were prioritized in 2021 for the sites that had experienced previous flooding. The Protection sector also conducted a refresher training session on safe identification and referral of protection cases to the RNA partners in early December.
- As mitigation measures in the **South**, partners provided informal settlements (ISs) with weather proofing kits and solar lamps in anticipation for the winter season.
- In **Beirut/Mount Lebanon**, UNHCR distributed 359 medium repair kits (MRK)s and three light repairs kits (LRK)s to informal settlements (ISs) in preparation for winter season.
- Core Relief Items and shelter kits stocks were replenished in **the Bekaa** as well as the stock in Aarsal Jusoor Al Nour warehouse. In

addition, mass messaging to communities about upcoming storms and recirculation of winter preparedness key messages was shared.

IMPACT OF THE DECEMBER 2021 STORM

	Cumulative Total
Sites confirmed affected	149
Estimated households affected	314
Estimated individuals affected	1,635

RESPONSE

North

- RNA partners received referrals to 87 sites (68 ISs and 19 urban shelters). Only one site with confirmed COVID cases was not assessed. 36 sites (23 informal settlements and 13 urban shelters) were confirmed to be affected.
- Assistance, including repair kits and high thermal blankets, was provided to all 97 households (HHs) (84 HHs in informal settlements and 13 HHs in urban shelters) residing in the affected sites.

South

- RNA partners reported 64 sites affected where 201 households (1,132 individuals) reside.



- The most needed assistance identified in assessments were the core-relief items (CRI) and shelter kits for informal settlements and other non-residential substandard buildings in need for weatherproofing.

Bekaa

- Just two sites were confirmed affected by minor floods, following the RNA, based on 18 referrals received.
- The needs highlighted included medium repair kits (MRKs), light repair kits (LRKs) and floor repair kits (FRKs), distributed by Medair.

Beirut/Mount Lebanon

- A total of 241 sites were reached during the RNA (42 sites were unreachable), of which focal points in 47 sites reported impact by the weather. However, following field assessments, just 14 sites were confirmed affected, with 21 structures impacted by water leakage.
- 16 Light Repair Kits (LRKs) and 2 Medium Repair Kits (MRKs) were distributed to 18 affected HHs.

OVERALL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

- 103 light repair kits (LRKs)
- 7 new arrival kits (NAKs)
- 35 medium repair kits (MRKs)
- 598 high thermal Blankets (HTBs)
- 617 mattresses
- 245 sleeping mats
- 4 solar lamps
- 4 kitchen sets
- 31 hygiene kits
- 36 baby kits

LESSONS LEARNED

- The geo-split proved effective in helping to guide RNA partners within their locations and areas of intervention.
- Partners are more comfortable reporting on the RNA following the RNA refresher trainings. Further trainings could allow for the RNA actors to improve data collection and assessment reliability.
- Internet connectivity issues at times delayed the collection and submission of assessments.
- Access to sites was generally available in December despite the weather conditions.



Photo: SHIELD (Soleyman Hassan) Location: Kherbet El Dweir, Saida

PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE RESPONSE

Humanitarian partners continue to provide assistance in sites that were affected by floods, and further detailed assessments will take place as necessary.

- Partners involved in the December 2021 response: UNHCR, UNICEF, WVW, Medair, Intersos, SCI, SHEILD, DPNA, NRC, MoSA, AVSI, ACFI, SI, CWW, PU-AMI, Leb-Relief and IRC

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