



Unprecedented polar temperatures hit the country as ‘Storm Greta’ brought snow and icy conditions at a time where already vulnerable families are struggling with the worsening fuel shortages, lack of electricity, and growing food concerns. Families have told Lebanon Crisis Response Plan partners that the winter cash assistance that they received to support with heating and other seasonal costs was used to cover basic needs, most notably food, and they could not allocate the necessary resources for heating solutions. In Akkar, the situation is further exacerbated as state-provided electricity has been absent for over a week. In Aarsal, private generators have been unable to provide electricity due to the cost of fuel.

In response to the latest storm, the Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) was activated in all four regions. Access issues were most significantly reported in the North and Bekaa due to river flooding coupled with the snow accumulation that resulted in roads becoming inaccessible, with a need to dislodge water from informal settlements. Municipalities’ ability to ensure adequate preparedness and respond to such emergencies is evidently limited due to the financial and capacity constraints as seen throughout this winter season.

IMPACT OF CURRENT STORM

	Cumulative Total
Sites confirmed affected	188
Estimated households affected	520
Estimated individuals affected	2,952

- UNICEF reported that Water sector partners dislodged 960 cubic meters of water in 42 informal settlements (34 sites in Akkar and 8 in the North) hosting 2,962 individuals. No emergency water trucking was required in the ISs, and no referrals were received for damaged water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.
- Many of the impacted urban/ rural shelters and tents were zinc roof structures that were not targeted in the weatherproofing annual response conducted by UNHCR Shelter partners.

RESPONSE

North

- RNA partners received referrals of flooded and collapsed tents from various sources and conducted field visits to the sites within their areas of intervention.
- A total of 213 sites were referred (206 informal settlements (ISs) and 7 urban/ rural shelters) hosting 2,502 families (2,493 in ISs and 9 in urban/ rural shelters). Out of these sites, 200 sites were assessed (196 ISs and 4 urban/ rural shelters). The assessments for the remaining 13 sites are ongoing and will be finalized in the upcoming days.



PHOTO CREDIT | SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL
| LOCATION AASOUN, ZGHARTA

- Access problems were faced by Solidarites International in the Sahel area in Akkar due to the muddy and flooded roads by the rainwater canals.



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- A higher number of referrals were noticed during this storm, mainly due to the disseminated information that Al-Kabir river had flooded. This triggered urgent follow up and information sharing from all partners.

Assistance provided in the North:

- 188 mattresses
- 170 High Thermal Blankets (HTBs)
- 64 sleeping mats
- 32 Kitchen Sets
- 35 Medium Repair Kits (MRKs)
- 37 Hygiene Kits (HKs)
- 65 Light Repair Kits (LRKs)
- 5 New Arrival Kits (NAKs)

South



PHOTO CREDIT | ACF | JINAN TERRO
LOCATION | KHARAYEB, SAIDA

- The RNA was activated in both the South and Nabatiyeh governorates. Assessments started on Friday, 11 March, and the response plan was discussed with the RNA partners.
- The most needed items identified in the assessments were core relief items (CRIs) and shelter kits in informal settlements and other non-residential substandard buildings including collective shelters in need of weatherproofing.



PHOTO CREDIT | OV
LOCATION | AARSAL INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

- RNA partners assessed and confirmed 39 sites affected where 99 households (about 670 individuals) reside. 69% of the affected population was reported in Saida district, 23 % in Marjaayoun and 8% in Sour.

Assistance provided in the South:

- 8 Light Repair Kits
- 8 Medium Repair Kits
- 1 New Arrival Kit
- 227 High Thermal Blankets (HTBs)
- 227 mattresses,
- 227 Mats
- 2 kitchen sets
- 55 Hygiene kits
- 37 Baby kits

Bekaa

- The RNA was activated in the Bekaa. As of Thursday, 17th of March, 100 informal settlements have been referred, 77 informal settlements confirmed to be affected with an estimated 288 households/1,804 individuals. The majority of referrals are for tents damaged due to wind or leaking from snow. Partners continue to conduct assessments.
- Snow accumulation was reported in Aarsal and higher elevations, although Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and HAND have cleared roads in Aarsal as well as



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entrances to ITS to facilitate access and delivery of assistance. Partners have reported some access constraints in West Bekaa due to ice.

- As of Thursday, out of the 89 second-shift schools, 25 were closed due to cold.
- There was a delay in the replenishment of ATMs as the company that refills ATMs, Security Control and Protection (SCAP), was unable to travel from Beirut due to the closure of El Baidar, further follow-up is ongoing.

Assistance provided in the Bekaa:

- 110 Shelter kits
- 82 floor raising kits
- 118 High Thermal Blankets (HTBs)s
- 1 water tank

Beirut/Mount Lebanon



PHOTO CREDIT | UNHCR AND INTERSOS LOCATION |

- Following the deterioration of weather conditions, and the referral received from two sites, Beirut/Mount Lebanon activated the RNA.
- A total of 41 sites were visited and five tents hosting 12 families (84 individuals) in five sites confirmed to be impacted.

- Partners had contacted by phone 249 informal settlements in Mount Lebanon for initial phone survey to assess the impact of rain.
- So far, 195 were reached, of which the vast majority reported no impact (121) or minor leakages (8). The remaining 66 indicated that they were impacted by heavy leakages (35), floods (21), extreme wind (7), collapsed tents (1) and snow accumulation (1), or other unspecified impact (1).
- One family reported relocating from one site due to the effects of the storm. The majority of sites reported by residents as impacted were in coastal areas.
- RNA partners continue visiting additional sites to confirm impact with priority given to those that reported impact and distribution of needed shelter kits are underway.

Assistance provided in the Beirut/Mount Lebanon:

- 6 Shelter Kits

PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE RESPONSE

Partners involved in the March 2022 response:

ACF, AVSI, CWW, DPNA, HAND, Intersos, IRC, LOST, Medair, MoSA, NRC, OXFAM, PU-AMI, Save the Children, SAWA for Aid and Development, SHEILD, SI, UNHCR, UNICEF and WVL

Focal Points for Extreme Weather and Referrals:

North: Elias Sawan, sawan@unhcr.org

BML: Bruno Stolze, stolze@unhcr.org

South: Arash Behazin, behazin@unhcr.org/ Haydar Hadad, hadad@unhcr.org

Bekaa: Marguerite Nowak, nowak@unhcr.org/ Yara Atallah, atallahy@unhcr.org