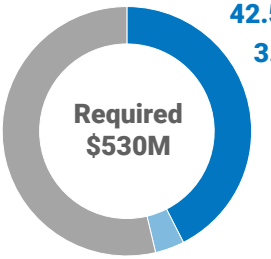
2022 End Year DASHBOARD
Basic Assistance

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

The end of 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: 1) Strengthen the ability of vulnerable households and individuals, including female-headed HHs, persons with disabilities and children, to meet their basic survival needs; 2) Strengthen the ability of populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies to secure additional basic survival needs; 3) Effective and efficient service delivery through strengthened linkages with national social safety net programmes and social protection systems

2022 Sector Funding Status*
As of 31 December



42.5% $225.3M

3.8% $20.1M

- Total received (since Jan-22)
- Total carry over (from 2021)
- Required (ref. 2022 appeal)

2022 population reached

3,074,000
People in need

68%
1,504,799 reached
2,207,900 targeted

2022 population figures by cohort

682,500
Lebanese individuals targeted

69%
470,729 reached

1,365,000
Displaced Syrian individuals targeted

73%
991,759* reached

29,000
Palestinian Refugees from Syria individuals targeted

100%
30,297 reached

180,000
Palestine Refugees in Lebanon individuals targeted

7%
12,014 reached

PRL are also supported under the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for basic needs

Progress against targets

Key Achievements

of households reached with regular cash assistance (Syr, Leb, Pal)[1]
273,777 / 383,817

# of Syrian households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs
193,069 / 264,000

# of Lebanese households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs
70,652 / 77,000

# of Palestinian refugees from Syria (households) reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs needs
9,746 / 42,817

# of children reached with Child Focused cash assistance
141,587 / 141,800

# of households receiving seasonal cash assistance
225,094

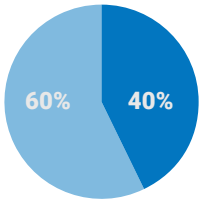
Total USD amount disbursed as regular and seasonal cash assistance in 2022 (Syr, Leb, Pal)
$175,023,787

Outcomes

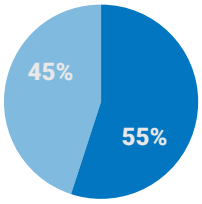
	LCRP 2017/2021 Baseline				2022 Current				2022 Target			
	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL
OUTCOME 1: % of assisted households report being able to meet their basic survival needs.	53%	10%	89%	-	59%[1]	0%	0%	0%	75%	75%	75%	75%
% of assisted Hhs that report relying on crisis or emergency asset depleting coping strageties.	90%	-	89%	-	92%				75%	75%	75%	75%
OUTCOME 2: %of assisted households affected by seasonal shocks report being able to meet their basic survival needs.	90%	-	-	-	16%[2]		-	-	100%	100%	100%	100%
% of assisted HHs that report relying on crisis or emergency asset depleting coping strageties.					77%		-	-				

[1]UNHCR MCAP 2021-2022 Mid Term PDOM results
[2]UNHCR Winter Post Distribution and Outcome Monitoring Survey for Winter cash to Syrian Refugees

Age/Gender Breakdown of MPCA (SYR) Beneficiaries



Head of Household
- Female
- Male



Household members
- Children
- Adults

* Figure includes all individuals that reached under the sector in 2022, excluding those assisted as part of the 2021 winter season.

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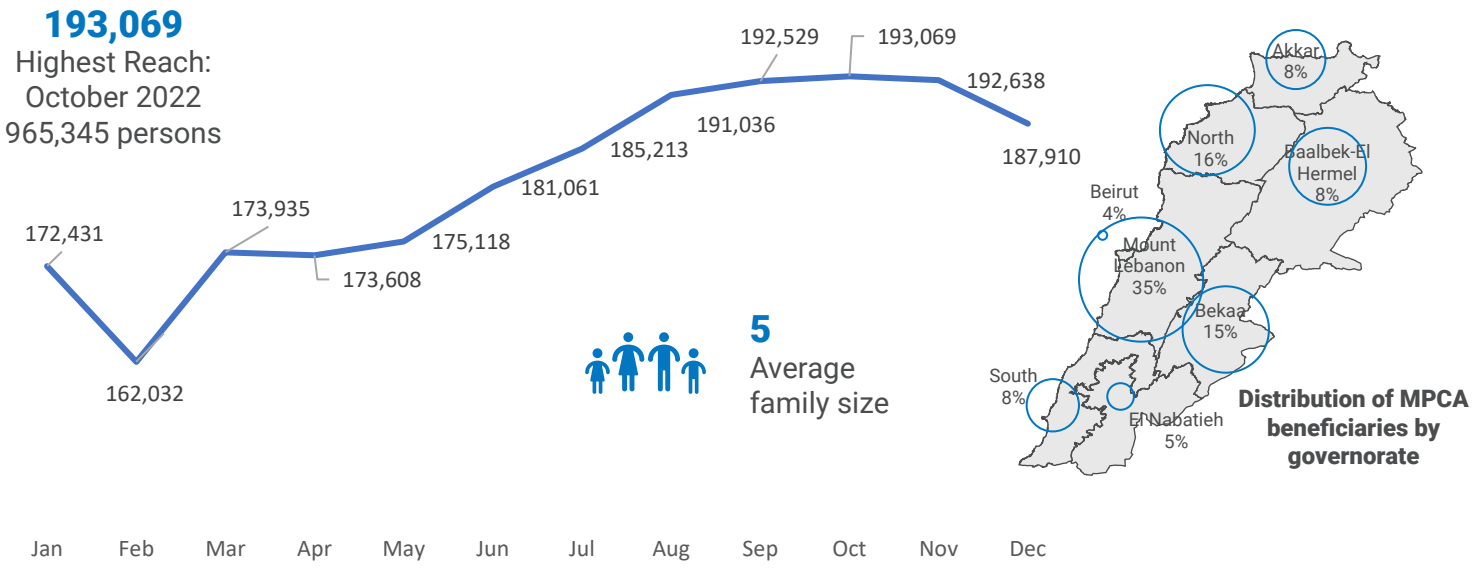
Analysis

Syrian Households Receiving Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in 2022



Since 2019, Lebanon has been facing an unprecedented financial and economic crisis that is likely to rank among the top ten most severe crisis globally, impacting all populations and communities across the country. Due to Lebanon's high reliance on imports for basic goods and commodities, the fluctuation and depreciation of the local currency has had a direct effect on prices in the country. The Survival and Minimum Expenditure Baskets (S/MEB) have served as main indicators to monitor the costs of living in Lebanon. The SMEB has increased by more than seven times by December 2022 compared to June 2020. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded an annual increase of 122 per cent from December 2021 to 2022. In September 2022, the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Food Insecurity Analysis was undertaken in Lebanon, led by FAO and WFP. According to the IPC results, 1,460,000 Lebanese are expected to be facing high acute food insecurity in 2023; the 2022 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) estimates that 91 per cent of the displaced Syrian population needs assistance to meet their basic needs, and UNRWA's September 2022 Crisis Monitoring Report showed that 93% of Palestine refugees are living below the poverty line. The crisis has also had negative impacts on households' economic and income-generating capacities, especially for female headed households. The 2022 VASyR showed that male headed households had incomes that were 57 per cent higher than female headed households, and a smaller proportion of females, in general, were part of the workforce. A quarter of Lebanese employees were earning less than 1,100,000 LBP monthly, less than 20 per cent of the SMEB[2] .

ANALYSIS OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Throughout 2022, 273,777 economically vulnerable households (71 per cent of the target) had a strengthened ability to meet their basic survival needs through regular, unconditional, and unrestricted cash grants. The highest coverage of monthly multi-purpose cash assistance for basic non-food needs in 2022 reached 193,069 Syrian households, 70,652 vulnerable Lebanese households[3], 9,746 Palestine refugee families from Syria and 310 Palestinian refugee families in Lebanon[4].

Among displaced Syrians, 73 per cent of households deemed to be socio-economically vulnerable in 2022 were assisted with regular cash for basic needs[5]. This coverage is significantly less than in 2021, where around 90 per cent of socio-economically vulnerable households received assistance. This is due to temporary expansions of coverage in 2021 by some partners due to available funds at the time.

Coverage of assistance through the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP) has been gradually increasing since 2021 and throughout 2022 with the aim to reach 75,000 vulnerable families. Together with NGO- led programs that aim to support vulnerable Lebanese meet their basic needs, the sector targeted 77,000 vulnerable Lebanese households By the end of 2022, coverage through the NPTP and other programs implemented by local and international NGOS reached 70,652 vulnerable Lebanese families (92 per cent of the LCRP target)[6]. In addition to the NPTP and other support under the LCRP, around 150,000 vulnerable Lebanese families are targeting through the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) program[7].

Concerning child-specific grants[8] , 130,452 children (72,188 Syrian children, 1,169 Palestinian Refugees from Syria, 10,746 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon and 46,349 Lebanese children) benefited from child-focused social assistance.

In response to the multiple crises affecting Lebanon UNICEF launched "Haddi" in June 2021 in coordination with the Government of Lebanon as a timebound emergency programme. Haddi is a child focused social grant programme providing a monthly cash transfer in USD, linked with necessary services to help households raising children. During 2022, Haddi child grant program was sustained to reach a bit more than 130,000

[2] REACH, Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment, September 2022

[3] This does not include some 150,000 Lebanese families targeting through the Emergency Social Safety Net Program.

[4] An additional 54,948 PRL families were supported with regular cash for basic needs under the Emergency Response Plan

[5] Proportion of families reached reflects the highest reach throughout the year in a given month. Monthly figures are available in the graph below.

[6] The sector target for Lebanese in 2022 was based on estimated achievable coverage from expected funding and interventions through the NPTP and NGOs, in complement to s schemes funded outside the LCRP including the ESSN, rather than an overall needs-based target.

[7] https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/517791610478201970-0280022021/original/MENALebanonESSNFactSheetEnglish.pdf

[8] Namely through UNICEF's Haddi program and Save the Children's child wellbeing program

Starting October 2022, the programme started scaling down and most of the caseload will exit by early 2023. Lessons learned from operational and technical design and implementation will further inform policy dialogues on transitioning Haddi to become a National Child Grant programme for Lebanon. Save the Children had also transitioned in 2022 from a regular poverty targeted cash program to a child focused social grant, focusing on targeting vulnerable children and impacting child wellbeing specifically. Coverage of vulnerable children in 2022 reached 92 per cent of the sector target[9].

The value of regular cash assistance provided in 2022 under the Basic Assistance Sector totalled US $175,021,787 across all population cohorts[10]. Despite the challenges outlined in section 3 in more detail, monthly redemption rates remained high (97-98 per cent) throughout the year, indicating that cash beneficiaries were able to redeem assistance in a timely manner[11].

In addition to regularly disbursed assistance, 222,579 vulnerable households were supported to meet additional basic survival needs caused by seasonal hazards, through seasonal cash assistance contributing to heating and other costs[12]. Partners reached 57 per cent of the sector target for seasonal assistance. This was a significant drop in overall coverage as compared to 2021, driven by the large funding gaps in seasonal support for Lebanese and Palestinians in 2022. Coverage for Syrians remained high reaching 76 per cent of the target (208,345 families), with more coverage expected in the first quarter of 2023. For Lebanese, only 18 per cent of the seasonal target was achieved and winterization support to Palestinians was even more limited. The sector has continued to advocate for additional support into 2023.

The value of seasonal cash assistance amounted to US $47,970,630 in 2022, of which, around half was disbursed in Q4 of 2022.
Additionally, 50,417 households affected by seasonal or emergency shocks were supported through in-kind assistance, which included in-kind distribution of blankets, mattresses, heaters, clothing kits and other essential items. In-kind assistance is scaled up during the winter season, in comparison to other times of the year when ad-hoc distributions support families dealing with emergencies, such as evictions or fires. This included 43,068 Syrian, 6,871 Lebanese, 378 PRS and 100 PRL families.

The total value of cash assistance disbursed under the sector in 2022, including regular and seasonal support, amounted to US $222,992.417. children.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SECTOR TO LCRP OUTCOME AND IMPACTS

Outcome 1 and 2 under the Basic Assistance sector directly contribute to the LCRP Strategic Objective: “Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations” This is achieved through the provision of regular cash assistance to address socio-economic vulnerability and life cycle vulnerabilities (including for children, disabled persons and elderly) in addition to targeted interventions (cash and in-kind) to address emerging needs during the winter and in response to evictions, floods, fires and other emergencies..
Under Outcome 1, the provision of regular, unconditional, and unrestricted cash assistance represents the primary source of income for vulnerable households in Lebanon in an effort to support families to meet their basic survival needs. These regular cash programs either follow a poverty-driven targeting approach to support the most socio-economically vulnerable families or follow a lifecycle targeting approach to address specific needs of groups most at risk (including children, persons with disabilities and the elderly). For multiple years in a row, the VASyR has demonstrated that cash assistance, whether through unrestricted cash or vouchers, was the most commonly reported primary source of income among displaced Syrians[13]. Post distribution monitoring results showed that families who receive cash assistance continue to prioritize spending on rent, food, and healthcare [14] [15] .

Results from the mid-line impact assessment of UNICEF’s Haddi program showed that the project was able to achieve its intended objective of improved wellbeing through child-focused cash grants. This was evident in assisted families (Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian) having increased expenditures, registering higher food consumption scores and lower reliance on negative coping mechanisms.

Findings from monitoring activities of UNHCR’s and WFP’s large scale poverty targeted cash programs for basic needs show that while the situation of Syrian displaced people continued to deteriorate in light of the on-going financial and economic crisis in the country, cash assistance still played an important role in alleviating the financial burden on families. Most households, including those assisted, continued to have expenditure below the survival threshold and families had maintained reliance on both food and livelihood coping strategies [16]. While the majority of families reported that assistance improved their living conditions and reduced financial burdens and stress to some degree, most stated that it only slightly or moderately impacted these aspects[17] . With continued inflation and rising prices of basic goods and services in the country, coupled with rising inter-communal tensions specifically linked to cash assistance and limited funds, and the need to maintain wide coverage of families, transfer values for UNHCR and WFP cash programs (representing over 95 per cent of the Sector’s reach in terms of beneficiary numbers) have remained well below the Sector recommended value, leading to a diluted impact and weaker positive outcome level results.

[9] Targets per nationality group were not defined
[10] For partners that were disbursing cash assistance in Lebanese Pounds, the U.S. Dollar value is calculated based on the respective exchange rate for each agency with their financial service provider.
[11] Based on redemption rates from UNHCR and WFP
[12] Figure includes families support at the beginning of 2022 as part of the 2021/2022 winter season and at the end of 2022 as part of the 2022/2023 winter season.
[13] Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, 2019-2022
[14] Post Distribution Monitoring Q3 2022 UNRWA
[15] Post Distribution and Outcome Monitoring for Multi-purpose Cash Assistance in Lebanon, 2021-2022 mid-term results, UNHCR
[16] Basic Needs Outcome Monitoring for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, June 2022, WFP
[17] Post Distribution and Outcome Monitoring for Multi-purpose Cash Assistance in Lebanon, 2021-2022 mid-term results, UNHCR

Outcome 2 strives to support families to meet additional needs when faced with seasonal hazards and/or emergencies. Annually, the sector develops a winter expenditure basket to estimate winter specific costs and determine accurate transfer values for seasonal cash assistance that would support families to meet these addition needs, such as complementaryfuel for heating, heaters, blankets, and clothes without compromising basic survival needs.

Similar to regular cash assistance, the winter cash assistance played a role in supporting households to partially meeting their needs such as buying fuel for heating, paying winter related debt, paying rent etc. Winter 2021-2022 post distribution and outcome monitoring results showed that winter cash assistance prevented families from resorting to further negative coping strategies.

In-kind support during the winter, but also in response to ad-hoc emergencies (including fires, evictions, and re-locations) is also a component of direct service provision to vulnerable families. While cash assistance allows families the flexibility to determine their own need and priorities, responding with in-kind assistance allows families to have access to basic items that have been either lost or damaged without compromising their already limited budgets used to secure food and access essential services.

Outcome 3 under the basic assistance sector contributes to LCRP strategic objective and impact 3: "Strategic Support service provision through national systems"; and "vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national systems". As mentioned above, regular assistance to vulnerable Lebanese households has been scaling up gradually through Government-led National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP) with the aim to reach 75,000 poor Lebanese families. The sector has been working towards strengthening linkages between humanitarian interventions provided by NGOs under the sector and government-led programs. This included facilitating referrals from the NPTP to partners and supporting by information sharing across the two work streams.

On the policy context, the Council of Ministers approved an overarching framework of Lebanon's first ever National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) In May 2022. The National Social Protection Strategy represents Lebanon's first ever vision for the sector developed with technical assistance from UNICEF and ILO to the Ministry of Social Affairs and through an extensive consultative process that included government, donor, UN agencies, civil society, and NGOs. The strategy includes five main pillars[18] , of which Social Assistance is one of the greatest priorities of Lebanon today. Under the social assistance pillar, the NSPS lays out Lebanon's vision for expanding coverage. This vision articulates the need to expand social assistance, taking a twin-track approach: that of poverty targeting alongside and in complement to social grants to address lifecycle vulnerabilities[19].

CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Over the past few years, the challenges faced by the sector to support vulnerable people across Lebanon have largely been driven by the ongoing financial and economic crisis. A substantial challenge has been faced in the ability to maintain meaningful transfer values for cash assistance considering exponentially increasing prices. Throughout the year, the gradual removal of subsidies, depreciation of the national currency and global inflation has caused the prices of goods and services in the country to skyrocket. Throughout 2022, the majority of Syrian families benefitting from regular cash assistance for basic needs (assisted by UNHCR and WFP) received transfer values less than 60 per cent of the sector recommended value. The inability to increase transfer values has been driven by a combination of factors including limited funding (to increase values while maintaining coverage) and concerns around social stability and community tensions. Other agencies providing cash assistance have shifted to disbursements in U.S. Dollars to safeguard beneficiaries purchasing power. Partners, such as UNICEF, UNRWA and most NGOs, who have shifted currencies typically have smaller caseloads, as compared to UNHCR and WFP's large-scale programs, and/or target both Lebanese and Syrian families.

While prices of all goods, commodities and services have increased, the rising cost of fuel and communications has had a direct impact on the delivery of programs. Removal of subsidies on fuel as well as global price increases has meant that beneficiaries have had increased transportation costs to access assistance. For cash and in-kind assistance, this translates to very high costs to arrive at redemption or distribution sites. Transfer values for cash assistance are based on the SMEB, which includes a component on transportation. In this way, if assistance provided considers transportation costs, this should be reflected in increased transfer values. However, as discussed above, this is not always the case. Communication costs have also increased substantially in 2022, potentially impacting beneficiaries access to information about programs they may be enrolled in. Partners have been closely monitoring hotlines and call centers to better understand the impact. So far, as redemption rates remain high, the impact this has had on access to assistance remains low.

In addition to the above, the financial crisis in Lebanon has also led to a shrinkage of the banking sector. This has mainly had an impact on ATM accessibility, which, prior to the crisis, has been the main cash redemption modality. This has led to a significantly lower number of ATMs that beneficiaries can access. In 2022, almost all partners under the sector have completely shifted to, or begun introducing, redemption through money transfer agents, not just for cash over the counter services but also as e-card cash out points. This has allowed for an expansion of redemption points and shorter travel distances to redeem assistance.

With regards to support for Lebanese specifically, challenges in coordination continued mainly due lack of a centralized system and database. Without an accessible social registry for multiple stakeholders, automated deduplication and crosschecking of assistance to Lebanese in a systematic way has not been feasible. To combat this, bilateral coordination between partners operating in the same regions has been encouraged. . Moving forward, the sector will define processes where NGO partners can coordinate more closely with government-led programs (namely the NPTP and ESSN), to receive referrals of vulnerable Lebanese families in need of support or to crosscheck existing beneficiary lists.

[18] The five pillars of the NSPS: Social Assistance, Social Insurance, Financial Access to Services, Economic Inclusion and Labor Activation, Social Welfare

[19] The twin track approach is also articulated in the Basic Assistance Sector Advocacy Note: "Ensuring Meaningful Cash Assistance for Vulnerable Families in Lebanon, September 2022". https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/96205

CASE STUDY – Caritas Lebanon, Family to Family project

Lebanon finds itself grappling with multiple crises and a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation, affecting its population in all its diversity. The ongoing economic crisis has wrought widespread and dire consequences, with inflation spiraling to alarming levels, jobs disappearing, and children and families, particularly those who are marginalized, facing increased vulnerabilities and protection risks. This has led to widespread insecurity in access to basic necessities such as shelter, food, healthcare, education, and protection, threatening the sustenance of the population and exposing them to various risks.

In 2022, Caritas Lebanon (CL) addressed the urgent requirements of vulnerable households impacted by the convergence of various crises. CL extended multipurpose cash aid (MPCA) along with other forms of basic assistance to over 75,643 individuals (18,910 HHS), including MultiPurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Non-Food Item Distribution (NFI), Winter Cash Assistance (WCA) and Core Relief Items Distribution (CRI). CL, a prominent humanitarian organization in Lebanon that has been serving vulnerable populations across various sectors for over 50 years, makes sure that those who require additional help are referred to receive customized and comprehensive support.

With the support of Caritas Poland, the Family-to-Family project was implemented by CL in 2022. In this project, one Polish family supports one family in Lebanon for a period of 7 months through MPCA. The story of the Hajj family is a testament to hope in crisis. Holding on to faith and love, the Hajj family sit around their kitchen table and share the struggles they face with warm smiles on their faces. The main concern for Marie Theresia, who tirelessly loves her quadriplegic brother Charbel, is providing for his basic needs, including 2 to 3 boxes of diapers per week. Despite her own health issues, she prioritizes her brother's well-being and only allows herself to buy medication when it can't be procured for free.

Charbel sleeps in the kitchen, surrounded by family, as there isn't enough room in the house. The family's only income is from Elie's monthly military retirement salary of 1,500,000 LBP, which barely covers the cost of food. "We eat meat once a month and chicken only on Sundays if we have enough money saved", Marie Theresia claims. The monthly financial assistance from Caritas, which includes $150, is a lifeline for the Hajj family, "it keeps us from being homeless, believe me", Marie Theresia concludes.

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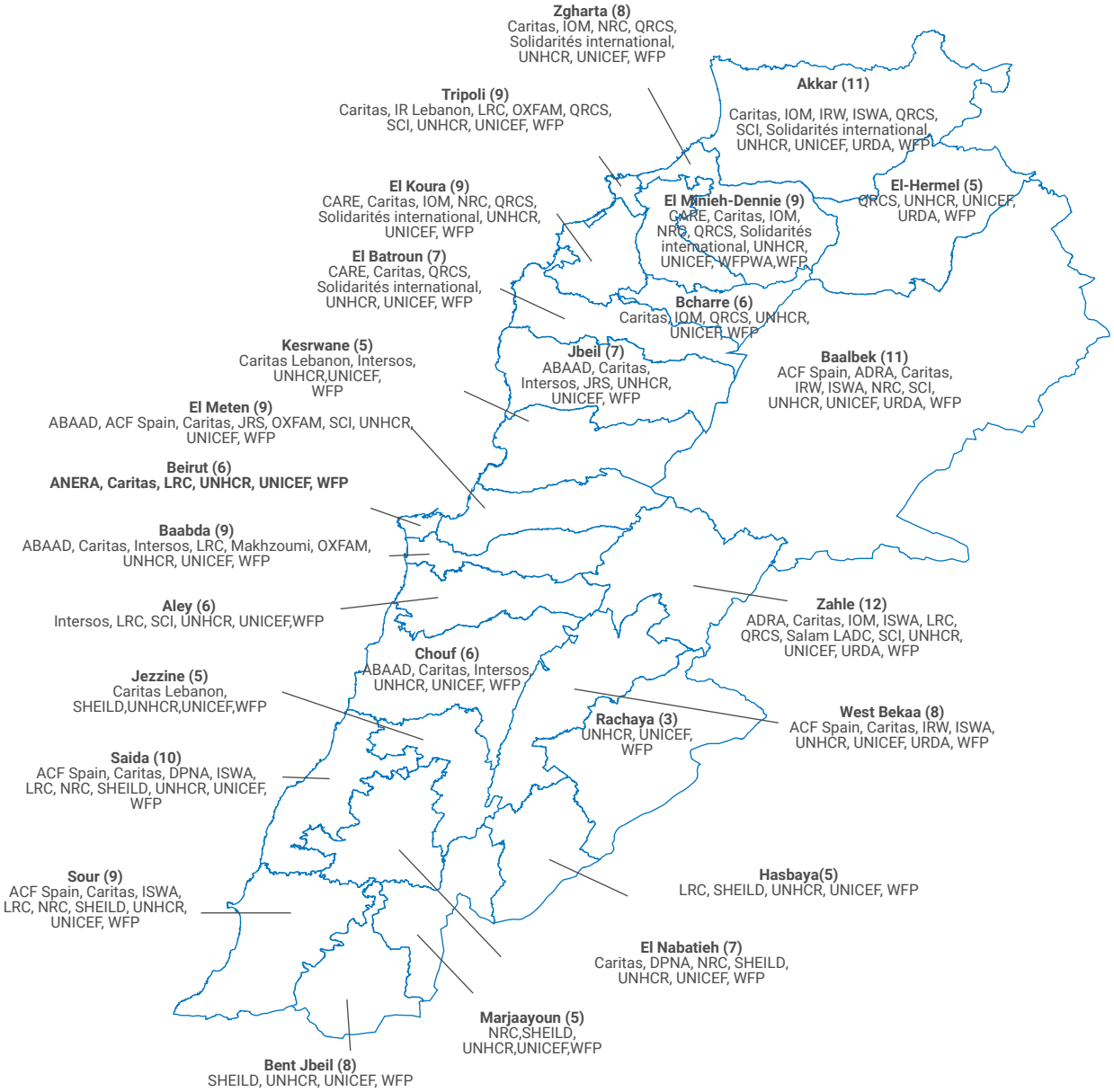
Organizations per district

ABAAD, ACF Spain, ADRA, ANERA, CARE, Caritas, DPNA, Intersos, IOM, IR Lebanon, IRW, ISWA, JRS, LRC, Makhzoumi, NRC, Organization, OXFAM, QRCS, Salam LADC, SCI, SHEILD, Solidarités international, UNHCR, UNICEF, URDA, WFP



Note: This map has been produced by UNHCR based on maps and material 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.

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