



2023 1st QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD

Basic Assistance

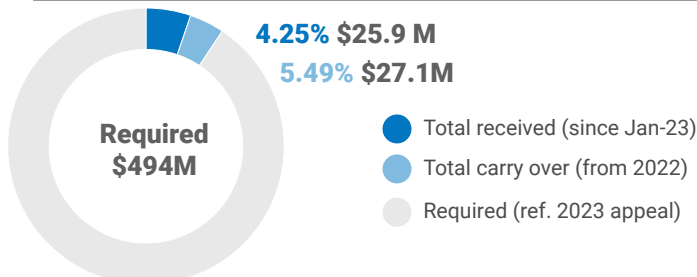


Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

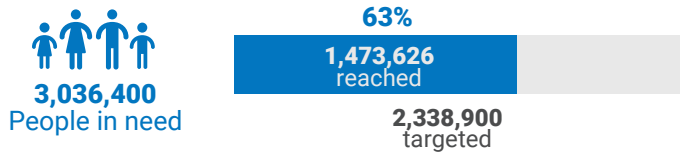
2023 Q1 dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Basic Assistance Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Strengthen the ability of vulnerable households and individuals, including female-headed HHs, persons with disabilities and children, 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): Effective and efficient service delivery through strengthened linkages with national social safety net programmes and social protection systems

2023 Sector Funding Status*

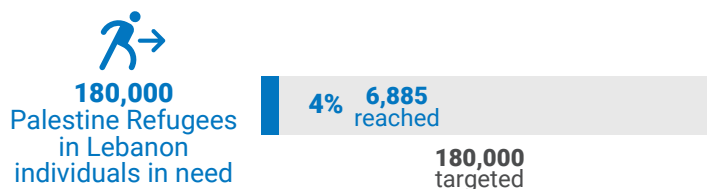
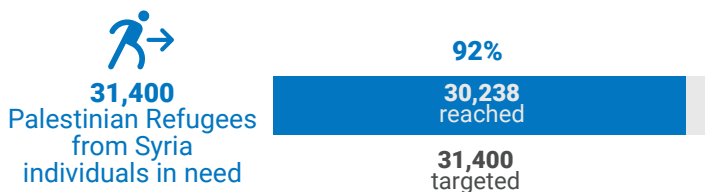
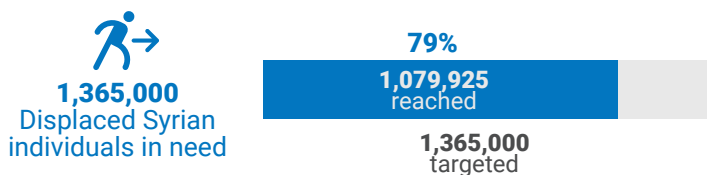
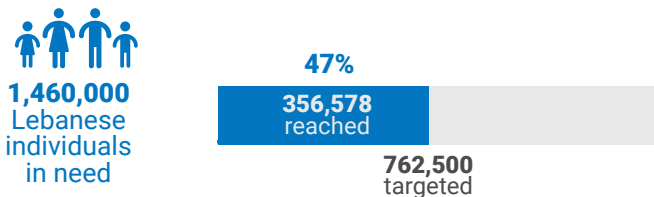
As of 31 March



2023 population reached



2023 population figures by cohort



Progress against targets

Key Achievements

of households reached with regular cash assistance for basic needs (Syr, Leb, Pal)

255,944 / 383,817

of Syrian households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs

159,943 / 270,000

of Lebanese households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs

65,763 / 77,000

of Palestinian households reached with multi purpose cash assistance for basic needs

30,238 / 41,850

of households reached with seasonal cash assistance (Syr, Leb, Pal)

216,597 / 359,086

of households reached with Child Focused cash assistance

83,985 / 447,176

of households reached with in-kind assistance (mattresses, blankets, winter clothing, heaters, jerry cans and other essential non-food items)

9,182

Total USD amount disbursed as regular cash transfer (includes regular and seasonal cash assistance)

\$44,228,275

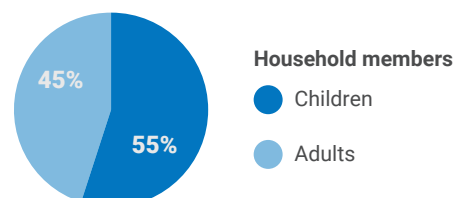
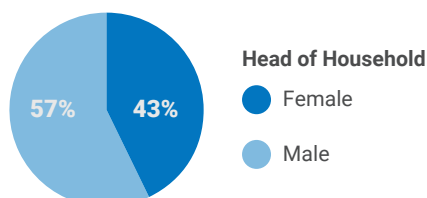
Outcomes

	LCRP 2017/2022 Baseline				2023 Current				2023 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 ¹ .	53%	10%	89%	-	0%	0%	0%	0%	75%	75%	75%	75%
% of assisted Hhs that report relying on crisis or emergency asset depleting coping strategies	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 ²	90%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	100%	100%	100%
% of assisted Hhs that report relying on crisis or emergency asset depleting coping strategies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ UNHCR Baseline Survey December 2021

²Outcome monitoring for seasonal cash not completed and will be included in Q2 dashboard

Age/Gender Breakdown of MPCA (SYR) Beneficiaries

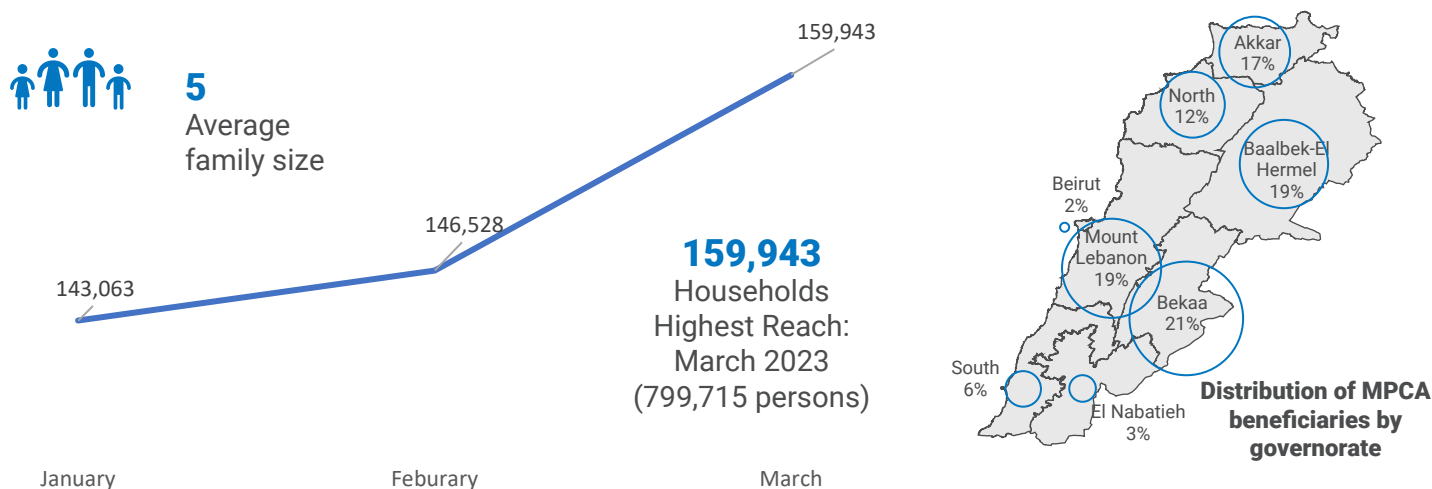


* Does not include funding received in 2022 for seasonal cash assistance



Analysis

Syrian Households Receiving Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in 2023



Multi-sectoral situation update:

In the first quarter of 2023, families across Lebanon continued to face diminishing purchasing power, affecting vulnerable peoples' ability to meet basic needs. The Lebanese Pound continued to fluctuate, reaching average levels of LBP 134,900 to the dollar in the month of April. Lebanon's annual inflation rate jumped to 264 percent in March of 2023 from 190 percent in the previous month. This was the highest inflation since comparable records began in 2008. The Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) increased by 36 percent from January to February 2023, reaching almost LBP 18,000,000 per family per month. This is the largest monthly increase noted since June of 2020. Over the last year, the price of water delivered by private water tankers increased by 330 percent, while the price of bottled water, still used by most as a main source for drinking, increased by 250 percent. An increased number of people from all population groups reported not having access to enough water, with the heaviest impact on the most privileged families.

Protection monitoring demonstrates that average refugee household income remains well below the SMEB, with greater aid dependency reported. Reduced spending on food, rent, medicine, and healthcare is reported by most households and gaps in meeting survival needs drive harmful coping mechanisms. Concerningly, protection monitoring demonstrates growing debt and eviction threats with the highest recorded so far in the first quarter of this year. These challenges are driven by inability to meet basic needs, which in turn lead to several harmful coping strategies and protection risks. Meanwhile in March, fuel prices transitioned to USD further impacting the ability of people to afford transportation costs especially those with specific transportation needs such as persons with disabilities. Inter-communal relations are the most negative that they have been since 2017, as reported through the regular UNDP-ARK perception survey. As of March 2023, 46 percent of respondents cite that the relations between Syrians and Lebanese are 'negative' or 'very negative', compared to 37 percent in August 2022. The primary driver for inter-communal tension is competition over lower-skilled jobs, cited by 60 percent as the key tension driver, an increase from 50 percent in August 2022. The second most cited tension driver is competition for services, particularly electricity and solid waste management, cited by 31 percent as a source of tension. Women and girls continue to report their exposure to Gender Based Violence (GBV) at homes and in public spaces. Girls also report feeling unsafe and at risk of GBV on their way to school, but the incidents remain underreported. Female headed households, LGBTIQ+ persons and other vulnerable groups are at heightened risk of exploitation often living in sub-standard shelter conditions. Financial constraints and limited livelihood opportunities have also resulted in reduced access to menstrual hygiene products for women and girls.

1. Key achievements of the sector at the output level

During Q1 of 2023, regular unrestricted cash assistance strengthened 255,944 households' ability to meet basic needs (97% of the sector target for 2023). Among the targeted population groups, 159,943 displaced Syrian households (59% of those targeted), 65,763 vulnerable Lebanese households* (85% of those targeted) and 30,238 Palestinian families received cash for basic needs. Partners that provided cash for basic needs in quarter one included ACTED, CONCERN, DPNA, DRC, IRC, Nusaned, Oxfam, Salam LADC, UNHCR and WFP. Support to Lebanese is provided through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP).

Additionally, child-focused social assistance programmes provided monthly cash grants to 83,985 individuals, which is 19 percent of the Sector's target. This assistance included 51,904 displaced Syrians, 24,703 Lebanese, 6,821 Palestinian refugees from Syrian, and 557 Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL). Partners that provided child focused grants in quarter one included Save the Children and UNICEF. The Haddi programme's child-focused cash assistance, implemented by UNICEF provided final payments to its beneficiaries in February 2023, following a scale down from 2022, with the aim to transition to a National Child Grant as part of the national social protection strategy.

The value of regular assistance (including cash for basic needs and child focused social assistance) in the first quarter of 2023 totalled USD 21,554,506 across all LCRP population cohorts. Most of the assistance continued to be disbursed to beneficiaries in Lebanese Pounds (LBP),

* In addition, outside the LCRP vulnerable Lebanese families are supported through the Governments Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) scheme, financed through a World Bank Loan.



while child focused assistance and cash assistance to Lebanese is being provided in USD. The USD value of assistance disbursed in LBP is calculated using agency specific exchange rates with their financial service providers.

In Q1 of 2023, 216,597 households were able to meet their additional seasonal needs through seasonal cash grants under Output 2.1, as the winter season came to an end. Among the beneficiaries were 215,985 displaced Syrian households and 612 vulnerable Lebanese households. Unfortunately, PRS and PRL households were not supported with winter specific cash assistance due to lack of funding. The seasonal cash assistance provided in quarter one totalled USD 22,673,769. The total value of all cash assistance (regular and seasonal) under the Basic Assistance sector in quarter one was USD 44,228,275.

In addition, 9,182 households 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. The distribution included 18,702 blankets, 358 heaters, 13,649 mattresses and 9,182 other types of non-food items.

Only about 10% of the sectors required funding was secured in Q1 of the year, which is similar to Q1 of last year. With competing priorities globally, the sector had expected a drop in funding as of 2023. It is important to note the discrepancy in coverage of funding (10 per cent) versus coverage of target (63 per cent). This is linked to the reduction of transfer values for cash-based interventions to refugees. While available funding has allowed for a large coverage of people in need, the transfer values have not been adjusted to meet the rising costs in the country.

2. KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

Coverage of regular multi-purpose cash assistance to displaced Syrians declined in the first quarter, as compared to coverage by the end of 2022 due to expected decrease in funding linked to the on-going global context and prioritization. Expected coverage of vulnerable Syrian households throughout the year, based on confirmed funding among partners is not expected to exceed 65 per cent as compared to 73 per cent in 2022. The decline in coverage is coupled with inadequate transfer values (discussed below) leading to a deteriorating impact of cash programmes under the Sector. This comes in addition to the suspensions of UNICEF's Haddi programme, targeting vulnerable children leading to a more severe decline in overall coverage under the sector.

With the continuous rise in prices of goods and services in the market, amidst fluctuating exchange rates, the challenge of maintaining meaningful transfer values continues to remain one of the largest challenges facing the sector and partners. Regardless of the currency for disbursement, it has become increasingly difficult for partners to regularly update and increase transfer values. The latest recommendations from the Sector included \$100 to cover non-food needs for a family of five. The majority of assisted families under the sector were only receiving around 25 per cent of that. This is coupled with fluctuating purchasing power of beneficiaries who receive cash assistance on a monthly basis. Throughout the first quarter of 2023, informal exchange rates fluctuated from an average of 50,847 LBP/USD in January up to almost 100,000 LBP/USD in March. As mentioned above, many programs have shifted currency of disbursement to provide assistance in USD in an effort to preserve the purchasing power of beneficiaries. It is expected that more programs will be making this shift to provide assistance in dual currencies in the coming months.

During the first quarter of 2023, a total of 1,083 referrals were made to partners who offer support under the Basic Assistance Sector, but only 37 per cent of those referrals were accepted. Uptake of referrals to the Basic Assistance Sector remains a challenge due to how the sector targets those in need and the inability of key partners to consistently include those who have been referred. To address this issue, previous briefings were held with key sectors to clarify the challenges and explain shortcomings. That being said, the number of referrals to the Basic assistance Sector declined from around 6,000 in Q1 of last year. This is not linked to a decrease in needs, but rather can be interpreted as an effect of the several briefings held to increase awareness on the inability of key partners under the sector to accept referrals.

3. KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER

During quarter one, efforts were made to strengthen coordination between NGOs supporting vulnerable Lebanese and the government led programmes, specifically the Nation Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). These efforts will be further explored and strengthened during the second quarter. Specifically, NGOs have been able to successfully crosscheck families/individuals to ensure deduplication with the NPTP as well as receive referrals of vulnerable Lebanese not currently assisted (those within the NPTP database but that fall just above the threshold for eligibility).

As more partners shift to dollarize assistance, in the second quarter it is expected that almost all cash programmes under the sector will have made, or begin to make, this transition. The sector will coordinate closely with partners, other relevant sectors, and the Cash Working Group on the topic and any relevant actions and priorities.

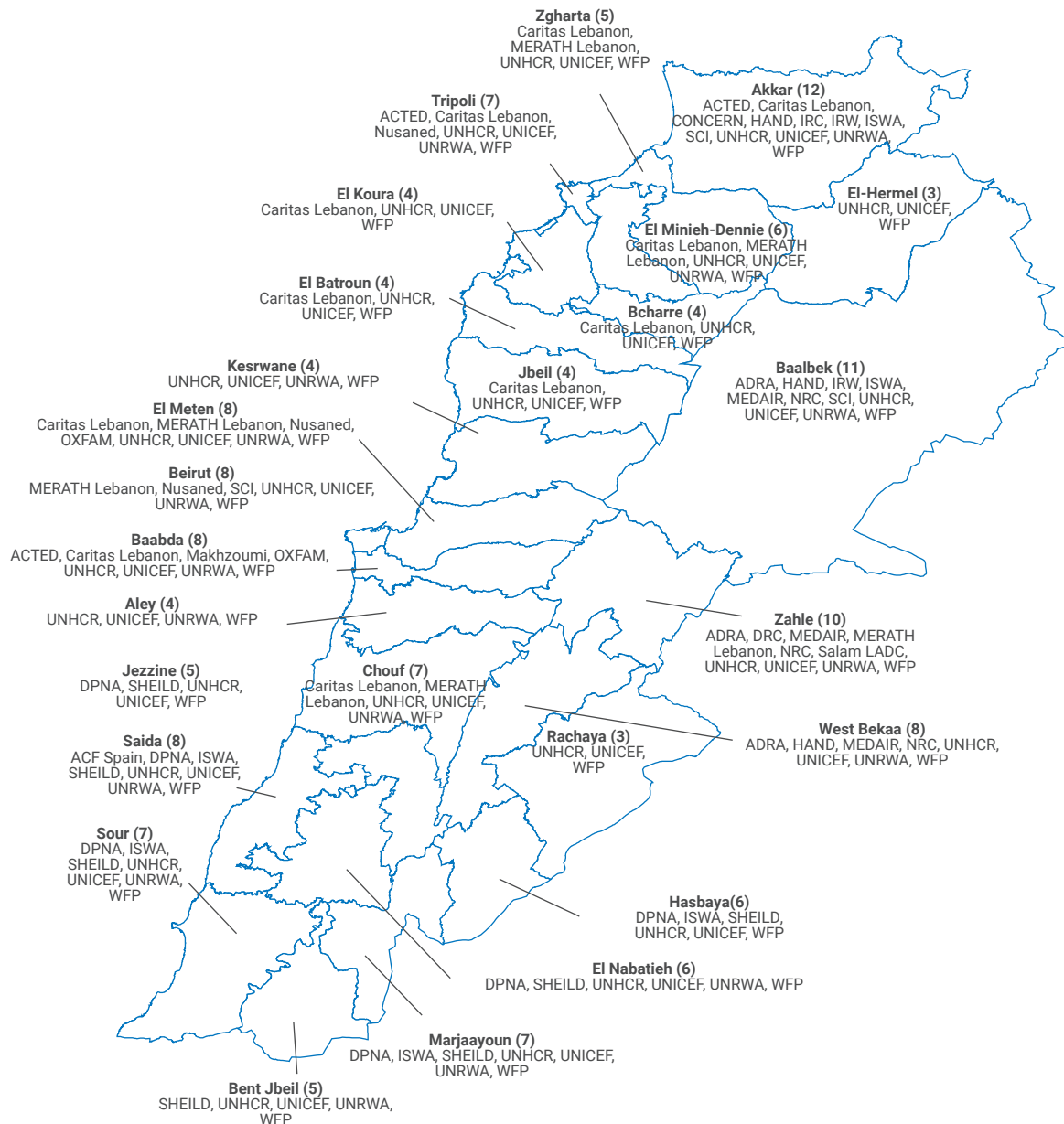
Along with continuing to regularly monitor prices and markets as they impact the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket, the sector will continue to work on strengthening data and methods used to define and recommend transfer values for multi-purpose cash assistance. This includes strengthening the use of the ECMEN (economic capacity to meet basic needs) which was incorporated to replace the income indicator as part of transfer value calculations.

During quarter one, a gender and GBV risk mitigation focal point for the sector was identified. Work to mainstream gender and tackle priority areas included in the BA sector work plan and as identified with the inter-sector mainstreaming focal points will be prioritized.



4. Organizations per district

ACTED, ACF Spain, ACTED, ADRA, Caritas Lebanon, CONCERN, DPNA, DRC, HAND, IR Lebanon, IRC, IRW, ISWA, Makhzoumi, MEDAIR, MERATH Lebanon, NRC, Nusaned, OXFAM, Salam LADC, SCI, SHEILD, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, 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.