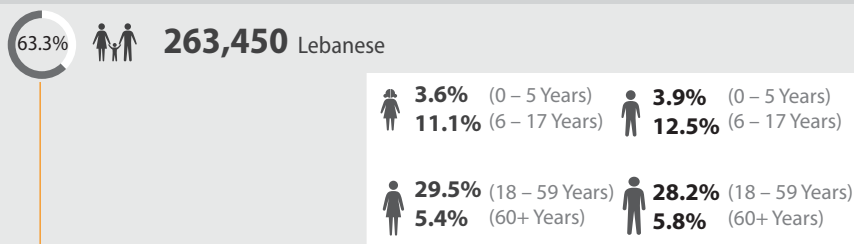


GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Bekaa valley was split into two governorates in May 2014; Baalbek/Hermel and Bekaa. Bekaa hosts Lebanon's largest official border crossing with Syria in Masnaa. The Baalbek-Hermel Governorate is predominantly Shiite with pockets of Christians and Sunnis. Several UN agencies and NGOs have offices across the valley and regular inter-agency and sector coordination meetings are held in Zahle. Localized coordination structures are also established for Aarsal and the Hermel district.

POPULATION OVERVIEW

416,427 People are living in Baalbek-Hermel Governorate



26% **109,068** Deprived Lebanese

2.5% **10,072** Lebanese returnees

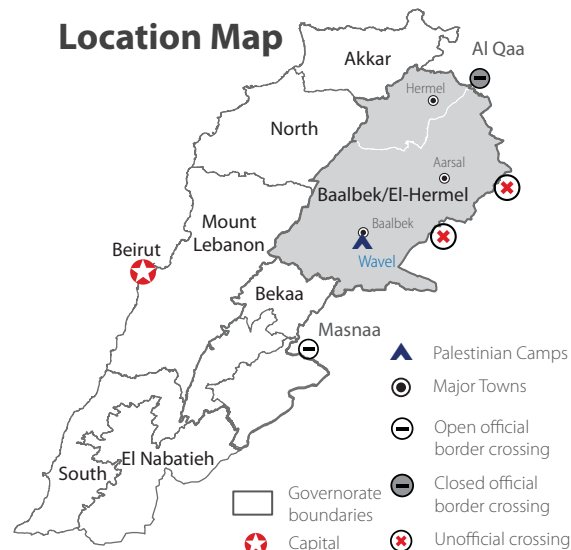
33% **137,788** registered Syrian refugees

1.1% **4,725** Palestine refugees in Lebanon

0.1% **392** Palestine refugees from Syria

POPULATION COHORTS	Baalbek	El Hermel
Lebanese above poverty line	133,310	21,073
Deprived Lebanese	94,180	14,887
Lebanese returnees	5,048	2,976
Registered Syrian Refugees	131,074	6,714
Palestine Refugees	5,117	0

Location Map



SOCIO ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

54.5% of Syrian refugees living in substandard shelter (inc. **37.4%** in informal settlements) in Bekaa and Baalbek-Hermel governorates

532 Informal Settlements, hosting **53,585** registered Syrian refugees

2.5% refugees living in collective shelters

130 public schools. Second shift programs are supported in 20 schools in Central Bekaa, West Bekaa and Rashaya

13 public hospitals; **8** are supported

4% unemployment rate (MICS 2009)

17 SDCs

74 Municipalities/ **7** Union of municipalities

\$1,859,491 multipurpose cash distributed (Jan-May)

CHANGES IN CONTEXT JANUARY TO JUNE

The northeastern border region remained highly volatile with consistent infiltration attempts by Islamist Armed Opposition Groups and recurrent LAF shelling along the outskirts of Aarsal, Fakiha and Ras Baalbak. A new round of Qalamoun battles was launched in the first week of May and is ongoing. Access to Aarsal continued to be inhibited by the security context. While some assistance has trickled in through local partners, UN agencies have been denied access since August 2014.

Restrictions on access were formalized in January with the imposition of specific entry criteria. In addition, the Government of Lebanon requested the suspension of UNHCR registration. As a result, the number of new arrivals substantially diminished and the number of registered refugees remains consistent.

Like in the rest of the Bekka, the number of Syrian refugees living in informal settlements has continued to increase with 196 new informal settlements since December 2014 and 5,058 refugees newly accommodated there.

HUMANITARIAN AND STABILIZATION TRENDS

Lack of access to Aarsal remains a challenge. Activities are ongoing, monitoring is undertaken remotely which is challenging; however new techniques have been adapted to respond to this situation. Agencies have been able to provide relatively consistent services and respond to emergency situations through local staff members and partner organizations.

Since the August 2014 hostilities, the LAF has tightened its security cordon around Aarsal, limiting movement of refugees to and from the town.

Access to services has been of concern in Aarsal given that almost 50 per cent of the registered Syrian refugees are without documentation and have feared crossing checkpoints along the way. Some restrictions imposed by the LAF between the outskirts and Aarsal town have impacted the approximately 3,000 individuals remaining. Fuel, food and other materials for the numerous businesses have been restricted. There is one formal transit site managed by DAF and 93 informal settlements inside Aarsal town.

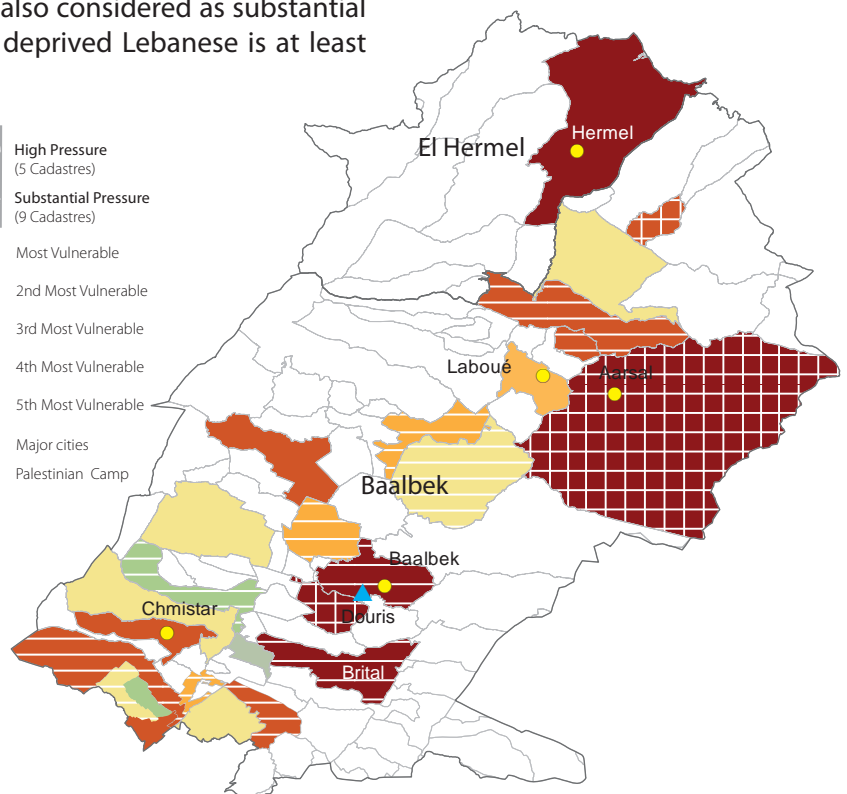
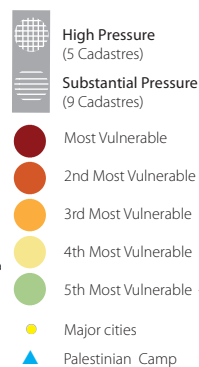
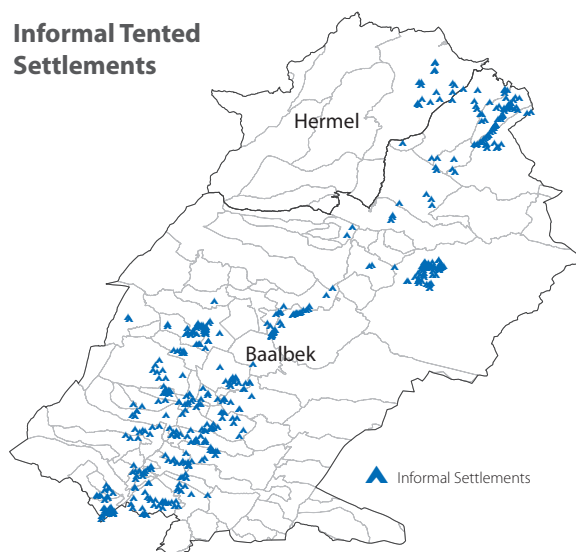
A total of 8,900 households in Aarsal benefited from \$200 worth of winter fuel support (and a hygiene kit covering the first quarter of 2015).

Like in the Bekka, innovative institutional support includes the Municipal Support Assistant (MSA) Programme where some international NGOs have seconded staff to several municipalities to support the work of the municipality staff and provide information to refugees. Eleven Mapping of Risk and Resources programmes are being implemented.

MOST VULNERABLE LOCALITIES

There are 26 vulnerable localities in Baalbeck/Hermel, five of which are classified as most vulnerable. Sixteen of the 26 localities are also considered as substantial and high pressure where the ratio of refugees to deprived Lebanese is at least three to one or more.

Informal Tented Settlements



HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

	14	7	15	5	8	5	3	7	5	13	6
Baalbek											
El Hermel	3	5	3	1	4	2	3	2	3	4	1

41 UN Agencies and NGOs operating in Baalbek-Hermel

ACF, Al Masjed Com, AMEL, ARCPA, Beyond, CCP JAPAN, CLMC Lebanon, Danish Red Cross, DRC, EPL, FAO, GVC, HI, HOOPS, IMC, Intersos, IOCC Lebanon, IOM, IQRAA, IRC, ISAD, Lebanese Red Cross, LOST, MAP-UK, MDM, MEDAIR, Mercy Corps, MoSA, NRC, OXFAM, SCI, SFCG, TdH - It, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, URDA, Welfare Association, WHO, Arab Puppet Theatre

Key contacts **UNHCR** Maeve Murphy, murphym@unhcr.org **UNDP** George Akl, george.akl@undp.org
Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) Hussein Salemm, husein.salemm@hotmail.com
Baalbek-Hermel Governor Mr. Bashir Khodr

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Data Source: Lebanese Population - Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) year 2002 dataset, **Poverty data:** CAS, UNDP and MoSA Living Conditions and Household Budget Survey 2004-5, Syrian Refugee Population - UNHCR as of 30/06/2015, **Humanitarian Intervention Data** - Activity Info as of 30/06/2015, **Palestinian Refugee Population** - UNRWA, Lebanese Returnees data IOM as of 30/06/2015