

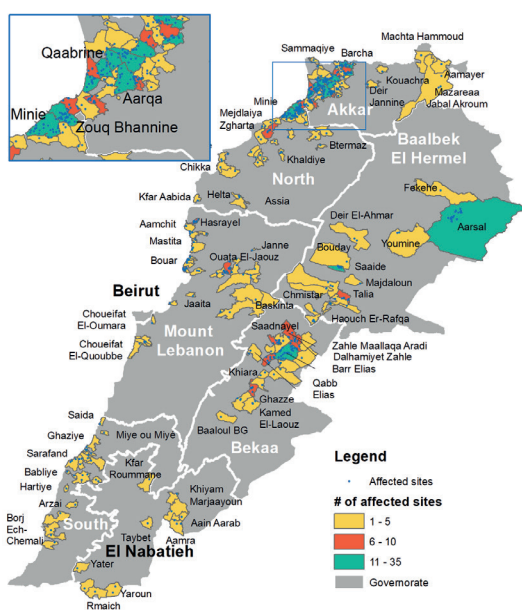


The storms and heavy rains that have swept through the country since 13 January have impacted thousands of refugees across Lebanon. A coordinated response to the cold, flooding and damages in informal settlements, collective shelters and urban areas was immediately launched by the Ministry of Social Affairs and rapid response partners. Site assessments, monitoring and emergency responses are ongoing in all regions, and needs are expected to increase as rains, high winds, snow and colder temperatures are expected to continue in the coming weeks. The most affected areas include Akkar, Baalbek El Hermel and the Bekaa.

The extreme weather conditions coincided with the nation-wide lockdown and restrictions on movements. Rapid response partners were therefore included in the list of organisations needing exemptions to move. Generally, movements to respond to flooding and related damages to shelters were authorised by the local authorities in the regions affected but the speed of the response was delayed in some areas.

	 Sites	 HH	 Individuals
Confirmed Affected	135	1,037	5,120
Assisted	75	272	1,247

As of date: 20 January 2021



use it. Sessions with partners to better ensure safe identification and referral for SGBV survivors were held.

Collaboration and coordination with the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Unit under the Prime Ministers Office is ongoing. An emergency WhatsApp group with the Ministry of Social Affairs, DRM and LCRP partners is used to facilitate coordination during an emergency response. Weather forecast warnings and emergency reports are shared to ensure the field is ready to support. Areas of high risk are jointly prioritized for prevention interventions.



Preparedness actions

The LCRP Inter-Sector initiated an **inventory of available contingency stocks** in warehouses and storage sites that can be dispatched to the storm response. A gaps analysis was completed to identify where and what is available to inform planning in areas at high risk. The **Contingency & Preparedness Dashboard** is updated in real time: <http://ialebanon.unhcr.org/Stocks/>

The regular winter shelter kit distribution was concluded by mid-December in all the areas to help families prepare for the harsh weather conditions. Emergency Standard Operating Procedures were updated, and COVID-19 precautionary measures identified.

Emergency field focal points reviewed and updated the **Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) Tool**, a **field driven and decentralized Inter-Agency tool** that offers humanitarian partners a quick initial snapshot of the situation on the ground and immediate cross-sectoral needs at each assessed site. The tool can be used for both affected refugee and Lebanese communities.

Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) teams were identified with Inter-Agency partners in each region and are **activated whenever displacement¹ occurs**. Refresher training sessions on the RNA Tool were conducted by the LCRP Inter-Agency in all regions to re-familiarize partners with the tool and support new partners to

Impacts and response by region North

Storms have heavily affected refugee families in Akkar and T5. There are 2,020 individuals identified as in need of assistance. The RNA emergency response has been activated and partners have confirmed that 77 sites are affected, including 69 informal settlements and 8 urban shelters. Assistance to 670 individuals has been provided, including with shelter kits, blankets, mattresses, baby kits and WASH facility rehabilitation being the most critical. Eleven informal settlements were entirely flooded in Qleiaat affecting 1,380 individuals and forcing 719 residents in 3 informal settlements to self-relocate to nearby sites or communal facilities. Several women and children took shelter in a mosque. Affected families in the remaining informal settlements preferred to stay close to their tents despite the flooding. Families reported that they did not have enough essential items to protect themselves from the elements.

In the North, partners were authorized to move to quickly respond to these shocks despite the lockdown.

The lives of five children have been forever altered when their father was crossing a bridge with them and fell into the Asfour river. His body has not yet been found.

¹ either an influx or secondary displacement.



Bekaa

Heavy rains have led to flooding across municipalities in Central, West and North Bekaa. The RNA emergency response has been activated and 12 informal settlements have been confirmed affected, with 2,217 individuals impacted and 60 individuals displaced so far. To date, 397 individuals have been assisted. WASH partners responded through dewatering and desludging activities in all flooded informal settlements. Shelter kits were also distributed. In Arsal, partners provided food to 1,000 families and 20L of fuel. Bulldozers were used to divert water. Mattresses, blankets, potable water and ready hot meals were provided in a community centre.

There were some delays in the response due to the permission needed to move during the lockdown and unclarity in procedures on how to obtain it. Also, municipal halls that had been allocated for relocation of people affected by the flooding could not be assessed and equipped due to the lockdown.

South

Heavy rains and extreme winds in the South and Nabatieh have caused partial flooding and damage in informal settlements and urban areas. The rising water levels inundated tents and many refugee families lost mattresses, blankets, and food items. One fire was also reported in a flooded site, caused by electrical issues. There have been 23 sites and 508 individuals affected. Assistance was provided to 60 residents in Miye ou Miye, Marwanieh, Arzey, Sarafand, Khartoum, Marjaayoun and Adloun, including mattresses, sleeping mats, plastic sheets and high thermal blankets.

The requirement to have permission to move during the lockdown slowed down the response for some partners.

BML

Extreme weather damaged shelter structures in informal settlements and unsealed residential and collective shelters has affected 375 individuals. MoSA and RNA partners have so far assessed 23 sites and 120 people have been provided with an immediate shelter response. All the sites visited had suffered from extreme winds, floods and/or leakages to their homes.

Like other areas, delays in receiving permission to respond during the lockdown slowed down the response.



Credit: PU-AMI - Qleiaat – Akkar – Flooded IS

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LCRP Emergency Response

Rapid response teams and tools

Central-level coordination support to scale up elements of the rapid response, harmonize processes (where needed) and provide overall reporting

Contingency stocks updated to redirect stocks and capacities from different locations and support resupplying

Localized rapid response mechanisms

Standard operating procedures (SOPs)

Partners:

ACF, Amal Organization, Athar, AVSI, Awareness and Equality, Concern WW, DAF, GVC, HAND, Humedica, Intersos, IRC, LebRelief, Medair, MoIM, MoSA, NRC, OXFAM, PCPM, PU-AMI, Save the Children, SCI, SAWA for Aid and Development, SHIELD, Solidarites International, UNHCR, UNICEF, URDA, WFP, WV