Basic Assistance Jan-Apr 2018 Dashboard

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

The January-April dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Basic Assistance Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Strengthen the ability of vulnerable HHs, including female-headed, to meet their basic survival needs; OUTCOME 2) Ensure that In-kind assistance in support of populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies is provided; OUTCOME 3) Develop National Social Safety Net Strategy

2018 Q1 Funding Status
Funding received Jan to March 2018

Required **542 m**

2% Received
4% Carried Over

USD 35 million is available for implementation as of March 2018 including USD 10 million received in 2018 and USD 25 million carried over
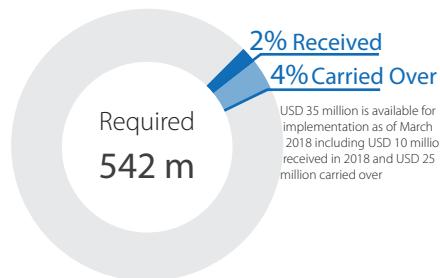
Programmes are funded by a combination of flexible/unearmarked funds and funds specifically earmarked to the sector

Targeted Population groups

2.2 m (People in Need)

Reached (regular programmes)
452,680

1,354,000 Targeted

Population reached by cohort

943,530 people*

Syrian	90%
Lebanese	1%
Palestine Refugees	9%
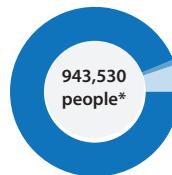
Progress against targets

Key Achievements

	reached / target
# of households receiving regular cash transfers - every month (Syr, Leb, Pal)*	90,536 / 238,700
Total USD amount distributed as regular cash transfers (Syr, Leb, Pal)	$ 50 m / $ 307 m
# of **Syrian households** receiving multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers (every month)	61,024 / 193,000
# of **Lebanese households** receiving multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers (every month)	789 / 35,500
# of **Palestinian households** receiving multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers (every month)	9,674 / 10,200
# of **Syrian households** receiving **child focused** cash transfers (every month)	20,399 / 26,500
# of households receiving seasonal cash grants or vouchers**	2,071 / 238,200
Total amount of seasonal cash distributed in USD**	$ 651 k / $ 175 m
Total USD amount injected into economy in forms of cash assistance so far in 2018 (seasonal + regular)	$ 50.7 m / $ 482 m

0%   100%

Outcomes

	LCRP 2017/2020 Baseline				Apr 2018 Current				2020 Target			
	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL
OUTCOME 1: **%** population that is severely vulnerable[1]	53%	10%	89%	65%	58%	-	-	-	50%	10%	89%	65%
% of assisted severely economically vulnerable households report being able to meet their basic survival needs[2]	90%	-	90%	-	71%	-	-	-	90%	-	90%	-
OUTCOME 2: % of assisted households affected by seasonal shocks who are able to meet their additional basic survival needs[3]	90%	-	-	-	92%	-	-	-	100%	100%	100%	100%
OUTCOME 3: National Social Safety Net Strategy endorsed	No				No				Yes			

Age/Gender Breakdown of Cash Beneficiaries

Head of Household
- Female 48%
- Male 53%
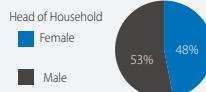
multi-sector/ purpose cash transfer beneficiaries

Household members
- Children 66%
- Adults 34%

* includes UNICEF child focused cash transfers   ** achievements of winter 2017-2018 have been reported on the end year 2017 BA dashboard
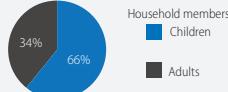
Analysis

Syrian Households Receiving Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) - Jan-Apr 2018

61,000 Families received MPC in April 2018
366,000 persons

6.2 Average family size

Family members - age & gender

Female		Male
1%	60+	1%
24%	18-59	15%
10%	12-17	11%
19%	5-11	19%
10%	0-4	10%

Households receiving MPC by Month

49,460 ... 56,820 ... 61,024
Discontinuiation of LCC
26,928

Jan 2017 — Mar — Jun — Sep — Dec — Mar 2018

Cumulative amount distributed as MPC since January 2017

USD 137 million since Jan 2017
USD 48 million Between Jan-Apr 2018
8.6 million

Jan 2017 — Mar — Jun — Sep — Dec — Mar 2018
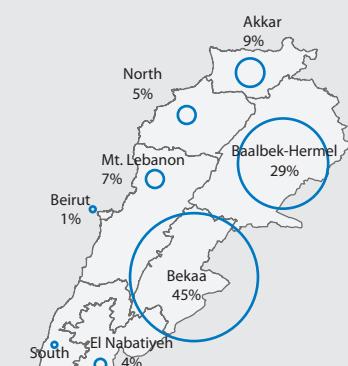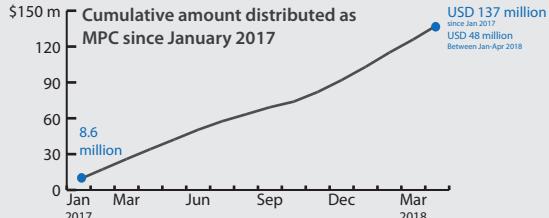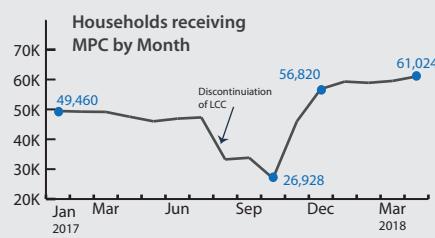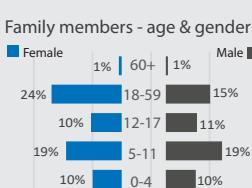
Households receiving MPC by Governorate

- Akkar 9%
- North 5%
- Mt. Lebanon 7%
- Baalbek-Hermel 29%
- Beirut 1%
- Bekaa 45%
- El Nabatiyeh 4%
- South 1%

1: Displaced Syrians (Baseline: VASyR 2016; Current: VASyR 2017) ; PRS/PRL (UNRWA Vulnerability Assessment 2015); Lebanese (NPTT, extreme Poverty Line)
2: Displaced Syrians (Baseline: 2016/17 UNHCR Cash OM; Current: March 2018 UNHCR Cash Outcome Monitoring); PRS (UNRWA Cash OM)
3: Displaced Syrians (Baseline: 2016/17 UNHCR Winter Cash OM; Current: 2017/18 UNHCR Winter Cash PDM); PRS (UNRWA Cash OM)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

More than **90,000** economically vulnerable households received regular monthly cash assistance grants to improve their access to basic goods and services essential for their survival, of which:

- 61,000 Severely Vulnerable Syrians – targeted with $175 MPC packages;
- 9,674 are Poor Palestinian – targeted with $100 MPC packages;
- 789 are Vulnerable Lebanese – targeted with $175 MPC packages;
- 20,399 vulnerable Syrian refugee households with school aged children received additional child focused cash transfers[1];
- $50,095,223 is the total value of regular monthly cash assistance injected in the local economy in support to those households;

2,071 out of 181,892 vulnerable households (Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestine refugees), living below the poverty line of $3.86/capita/day were supported with winter cash assistance between January and April 2018 to complement the 2017/2018 winter distribution cycle.

$50,746,523 was the overall amount of cash based interventions injected by Basic Assistance partners in the local economy to support the access of vulnerable families to markets across the country on regular and seasonal basis (combining regular and seasonal assistance distributed in this reporting period).

Facts and Figures

114 $/capita/month	Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)
87 $/capita/month	Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB)
76%	Syrian refugee households living on less than MEB (VaSYR 2017)
58%	Syrian refugee households living on less than SMEB (VaSYR 2017)
6.2	Average size of families receiving cash (RAIS)
4.3	Average size of families registered with UNHCR

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACT(S)

During this reporting period, more than 90,000 of the most vulnerable households (38% of the year target) were reached with different types of regular cash based interventions. 81,399 [2] of these households are Syrians, 9,674 are Palestinians (PRS), and 789 are vulnerable Lebanese.

Nationwide, 9 sector partners[3] currently implement large scale multipurpose cash assistance and have reached more than 61,000 severely vulnerable Syrian refugee households, living below a survival level of $435/family of 5/month, with monthly $175 regular multipurpose cash assistance (MPC).
It is worth mentioning that this is the highest number of households reached since the establishment of the sector, equivalent to 50% of the total severely vulnerable cases, 31% of the total poor, 25% of the total refugee household population.

Compared to the same period of 2017, the number of households assisted has increased by 41% (43,185 in April 2017 vs 61,000 in April 2018). This is mainly been due to increase funding available to the sector. It is also worth noting that there has been change in the strategy adopted by the sector in late 2017, in relation to the geographical redistribution of the households prioritized for multi-purpose cash assistance. This approach prioritizes the most vulnerable per region to receive assistance – according to available resources[4]. The impact of this redistribution has been mainly observed in the historically poorest areas of the country, i.e. the eastern governorates in Bekaa region that witnessed a sharp increase in the number of households receiving assistance in that area[5].

Child focused assistance programmes[6] constitute another important stream of regular assistance, as it reaches more than 20,399 households with children in the school age[7]. These unconditional and non-restricted cash packages ranging from $13.5 to $20 per child[8] aim to mitigate parents taking the decision to withdraw children from school for economic reasons, by covering transportation expenses, and allowing households to address needs beyond the basic ones[9].

On seasonal assistance, sector partners have reached 2,071 out of 181,892 vulnerable households with winter cash during this reporting period to complement the 2017/2018 winter distribution cycle. It is worth noting that the bulk of assistance was reported in the 2017 end year report given that cash for winter assistance packages were uploaded in an advance lump sum ($75 X 3 = $225) before December 2017 [10].

USD 35 million is the current funding available for implementation. This figure accounts for what sector partners have reported receiving so far in 2018 (USD 10 Million) combined with the total multi-year funding carried over from 2017 (USD 25 million). Nevertheless, the total spent in assistance exceeds $50 Million during this reporting phase. The discrepancy in figures is due to the fact that cash programmes are funded by a combination of flexible / unremarked funds and funds specifically earmarked to the sector.

CHALLENGES

While implementation of regular assistance programmes has been considered smooth up to the end of April, the predictability of funding for the remainder of the year remains uncertain.
Severely vulnerable households who report that this type of assistance is a primary livelihoods source, could fall deeper into poverty if funding levels decrease. In addition, current resources are not enough to meet the needs of 1240,000 severely vulnerable households in Lebanon. Half of the households that are eligible and prioritized for assistance are still not receiving it, which puts additional pressure on implementing agencies to

1. $13.5 per month for children aged 5-11; $20 top-up for children aged 12-15
2. 81,399 Syr HHS reached with regular cash assistance: 61,000 reached with $175 MPC + 20,399 reached with cash focused assistance (unique values – no duplication).
3. ACF, ACTED, HDA, ICRC, LRC, RI, Solidar Suisse, UNHCR, WFP
4. Regional filters are adopted to ensure a geographical balance Vis a Vis the concentration of refugees and vulnerabilities.
5. Between January and April 2018, 14% of the households reached were in the North: 9% in Akkar and 5% in T5

(vs 30% in 2017, 15% in Akkar and 15% in T5); 8% in in Beirut and Mount Lebanon: 1% in Beirut and 13% in Mount Lebanon (vs 14% in 2017, 1% in Beirut and 13% in Mount Lebanon); 5% in the South: 1% in South and 4% in Nabatieh (vs 8% in 2017, 6% in South and 2% in Nabatieh); and 73% in the Bekaa area: 45% in central Bekaa and 28% in Baalback el Hermel (vs 47% in 2017 - 37% in central Bekaa and 10% in Baalback el Hermel).
6. Mainly implemented by UNICEF.
7. Enrolled in second shift schools in the areas of Akkar, T5, and Mount Lebanon.

target only the most vulnerable, despite the fact that there is little difference in the situation of those receiving and not receiving assistance.

The situation for those at risk of no longer receiving assistance and those vulnerable households who have never received assistance will continues to worsen, with an increased need to resort to negative coping mechanisms putting them at a higher risk of facing protection concerns.

It is worth noting that agencies currently implementing multi-purpose cash cannot absorb any additional cases or cover potential gaps caused by discontinuation. The 2017-2018 winter support plan has also been challenging this year. The limited predictability and earmarking of funding led to a delay in sector discussions on what would be included in the assistance package and how it would be distributed, pushing the start of assistance distributions to November, whereby assistance is meant to reach households earlier in order to better prepare for cold weather hazards ahead of time.

Operationally, there is interest in exploring how the targeting approach (through the desk formula) could be made more flexible, allowing actors to refer cases identified in the field to the multi-purpose cash programme. Also, to examine how persons of concern currently benefiting from more short-term cash assistance (emergency or protection cash) but requiring longer term support could benefit from MPC. The ongoing work on the redress mechanisms will consider potential solutions for expanding referral pathways from and to basic assistance.

KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN (for next 4 months)

Below are the three main operational priorities the sector will be addressing in the next quarter of the year. The sector is currently working on the recalibration of the targeting model used for cash programming (regular multi-purpose cash and winter cash). Preliminary results are expected beginning July and full operationalization by August / September. Additional protection related indicators, trends, and information on excluded profiles will be tested and analyzed which could potentially result in better identification and targeting of the most vulnerable households. To complement the existing targeting tool, the sector is exploring referrals and redress mechanisms. Basic Assistance actors will explore existing tools and modules (on platforms such as RAIS) to ensure greater linkages between cash programs (including protection cash) in terms of the referral mechanisms and enough flexibility in the approach to allow severely vulnerable household to obtain the assistance they need in a timely manner.

A Redress mechanism pilot has been launched[11] recently to re-evaluate 4,500 households excluded from assistance last year due to change in eligibility. Further refinement to the redress mechanism will be made based on current pilot, in addition to considering how it could be enhanced through a mix of quantitative and qualitative indicators, as well as strengthening linkages to protection outcomes.

Lastly, the sector is planning to launch a sub working group looking at accountability to affected population. The main areas of interventions are linked with existing work streams on targeting and regular / seasonal cash assistance. A communications with communities' component represents the bulk of the work in the coming period that will tackle messages about the outcomes of the recalibrated model and address potential concerns of vulnerable households on why or why they have not been included in assistance. At the same time this group will look at ways to include feedback of affected communities into the different stages of programme[12].

Lastly, the sector has always been facing a gap regarding the scale-up of assistance (cash) to vulnerable Lebanese identified by the national poverty targeting programme (NPTP). This pillar is considered critical from a social stability perspective whereby vulnerable Lebanese in dire need for assistance should be supported through on-going programmes.

CASE STUDY

This case study is featuring the cash based intervention under the 2017-2018 winter support plan[13]. 181,892 vulnerable households (Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestine refugees), living below the poverty line of $3.86/capita/day were supported with winter cash assistance during the winter campaign that started in November 2017 and officially ended in March 2018.

Cold weather and associated natural hazards are considered a seasonal shock to vulnerable households. The Basic Assistance sector launches a winter support where cash is considered the main modality for assistance. Where this intervention is not possible, basic core relief items are distributed. Based on the information available from previous needs assessments, Syrian refugee households report additional expenditures between October and March that range between $70 and $150 per month.

The seasonal shock is considered the most adverse on highly and severely vulnerable households living below minimum ($571 / family of 5 / month) and survival ($435 / family of 5 month) expenditure levels respectively.

As per the sector's standards, these two thresholds are considered poor and therefore eligible for assistance. Based on existing data, there are nearly 194,000 households living in poverty of which 124,000 are extremely poor.

It is worth noting that the highly vulnerable households are not receiving any type of regular assistance, compared to those severely vulnerable who might be receiving multiple types[15].

Both vulnerable groups usually live in substandard / low quality unprotected shelters which increases their exposure to cold and therefore overall vulnerability.

Their needs range from securing additional weatherproofing tools, buying additional food, winter clothing for children, and most importantly fuel for heating. In most of the cases, these households accumulate further debt to secure these basics.

Households consider medical costs and health related expenditures one of the main expenses that increase during winter, specifically illness among children that is correlated with cold temperatures and shelter conditions.

Monetized assistance help households prioritizing their needs, cover parts of their debt, and cope with their increased vulnerability at a time where casual / informal labor opportunities are more limited.

Nearly half of the population receiving winter cash assistance by UNHCR[16] reported that they had no income generated from labor opportunities and therefore they rely on assistance provided by agencies[17]. Those reporting otherwise, had one working member, but yet still consider cash assistance as a primary source (51%), followed by informal labor (25%), and debt (18%).

Families who received winter cash assistance reported having a better access to key winter-related assets as well as an increased preparedness compared to families who did not receive winter cash assistance[18]. Households also report using winter cash received to cover four main expenditures: (1) heating (44% among severely and 30% among highly vulnerable households), (2) additional food (19% among severely and 31% among highly), (3) rent (16% among both severely and highly), and (4) covering health expenditures (7% among severely and 6% among highly).

These campaigns derive their importance from the scale and short implementation duration. While the direct outcome of covering 181,892 households with winter cash is increasing their ability to secure their winter related needs, nearly $49.2 Million were injected in the local economy between November 2017 and March 2018.

Such large volumes of cash trigger an aggregate demand effect that stimulates local markets. While noting that the recipients of this type of assistance are the poorest, this population is largely concentrated in the poorest areas of the country (North and East). These cash injections come during the "dead season" time when local economies produce the least. The precise effect of such injection will have to be further studied.

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8. Age based differentiation: $13.5 per child aged between 5 and 11 & $20 per child aged between 12 & 15.
9. Tackled in other programmes.
10. Compared to last year, the 2017/2018 winter campaign targeted eligible households with a lump sum equivalent to three transfers of $75 (reduced package), to ensure a blanket coverage of the poor. The in the previous years, winter assistance has been uploaded on a monthly basis, stretching over two calendar years (from November to March).
11. By UNHCR
12. Eligibility, assessment, assistance, communications, etc..

13. Figures on effects of winter assistance are extracted from UNHCR's Winter Assistance Post Distribution Monitoring 2017/2018.
14. Mutli-purpose cash or food assistance.
15. All severely vulnerable households receive food assistance and half receive both multi-purpose cash and food assistance.
16. 165,000 households out of 181,000 reached by the sector with winter cash.
17. Food and cash assistance.
18. These assets include heaters, blankets, mattresses, and winter clothes.

Organizations per district

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 21 organizations:
MoSA, ACF, ACTED, ADRA, Caritas Lebanon, Dar El Fatwa, HDA, ICRC, Intersos, Lebanese Red Cross, Makhzoumi, NRC, PU-AMI, RI, Solidar Suisse, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, URDA, WFP, WVI

Zgharta
Caritas Lebanon, HDA, Lebanese Red Cross, RI, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP

Tripoli
Caritas Lebanon, Lebanese Red Cross, RI, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP ICRC

Akkar
Caritas Lebanon, Dar El Fatwa, Lebanese Red Cross, PU-AMI, RI, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP ICRC

Akkar

El Minieh-Dennie
Caritas Lebanon, Lebanese Red Cross, RI, UNHCR, UNICEF ICRC

El Hermel
Lebanese Red Cross, UNHCR, WFP ICRC

El Koura
Caritas Lebanon, RI, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP ICRC

North

El Batroun
Caritas Lebanon, RI, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP ICRC

Bcharre
Caritas Lebanon, Lebanese Red Cross, UNHCR, WFP

Baalbek-El Hermel

Jbeil
Caritas Lebanon, Makhzoumi, RI, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP ICRC

Baalbek
ACF, ADRA, Caritas Lebanon, Dar El Fatwa, NRC, RI, UNHCR, UNRWA, WFP ICRC

Kesrwane
Caritas Lebanon, Makhzoumi, RI, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP ICRC

Mount Lebanon

El Meten
ACTED, Caritas Lebanon, HDA, Makhzoumi, RI, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP ICRC

Beirut

Beirut
ACTED, Caritas Lebanon, Dar El Fatwa, Makhzoumi, RI, UNHCR, UNRWA, WFP

Zahle
Caritas Lebanon, Dar El Fatwa, NRC, RI, UNHCR, URDA, WFP, WVI ICRC

Baabda
Caritas Lebanon, Intersos, Makhzoumi, RI, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP

Aley
Intersos, Makhzoumi, RI, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP ICRC

Chouf
Caritas Lebanon, Dar El Fatwa, Intersos, Makhzoumi, RI, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP ICRC

West Bekaa
Caritas Lebanon, Lebanese Red Cross, NRC, RI, UNHCR, UNRWA, URDA, WFP ICRC

Bekaa

Jezzine
UNHCR, WFP

Rachaya
Dar El Fatwa, Lebanese Red Cross, UNHCR, WFP ICRC

Saida
UNHCR, WFP ICRC

El Nabatieh
Caritas Lebanon, Solidar Suisse, UNHCR, UNRWA, WFP ICRC

Hasbaya
Lebanese Red Cross, UNHCR, WFP

South

El Nabatieh

Sour
Lebanese Red Cross, UNHCR, UNRWA, WFP ICRC

Marjaayoun
Caritas Lebanon, UNHCR, WFP ICRC

Bent Jbeil
Caritas Lebanon, UNHCR, WFP ICRC

Legend

☐	Governorate
☐	Disrict

Number of partner per district

☐	2 - 3
☐	4 - 5
☐	6 - 7
☐	8 - 9