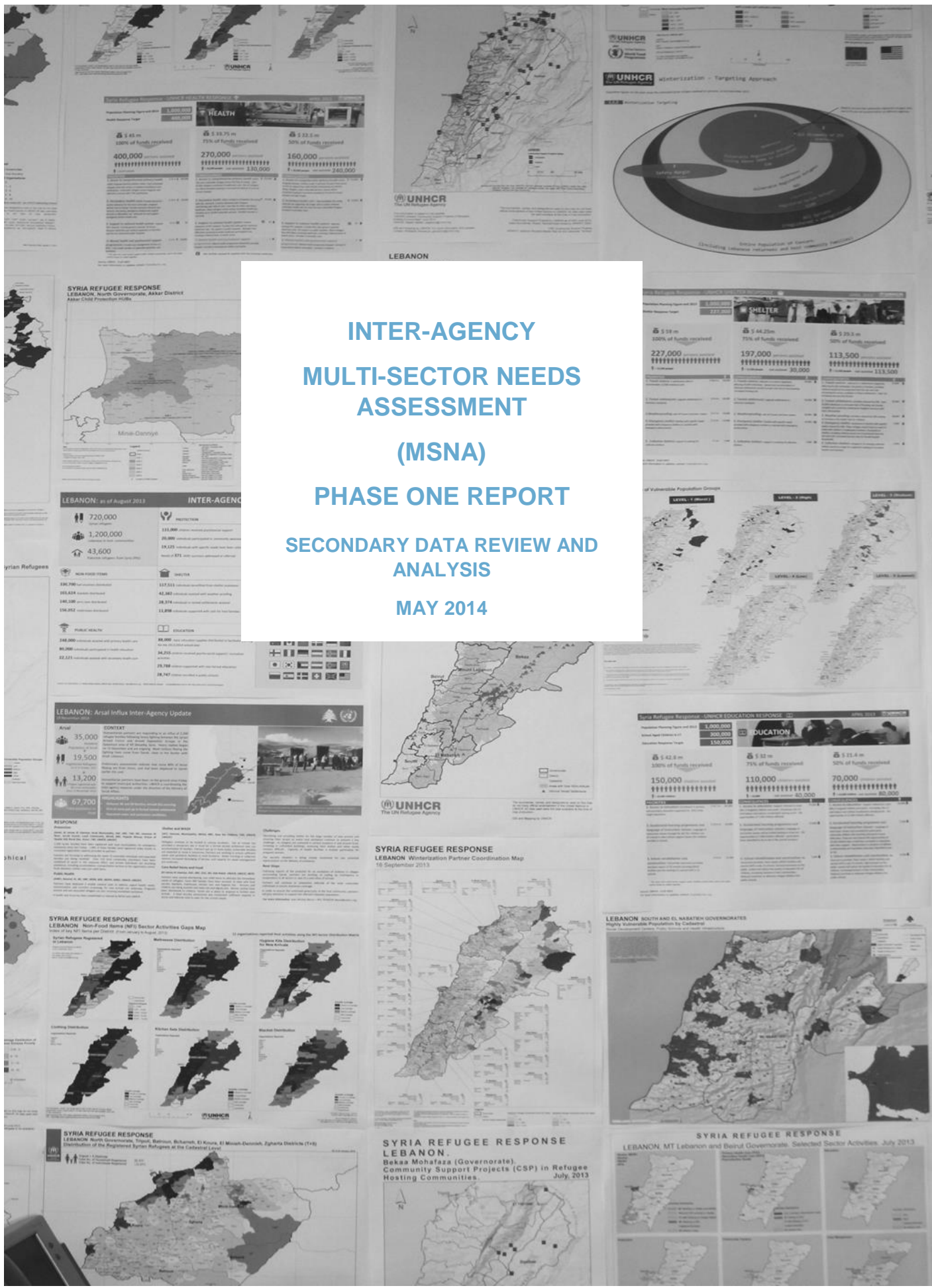# INTER-AGENCY

MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT

(MSNA)

PHASE ONE REPORT

SECONDARY DATA REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

MAY 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aim of the Inter-Agency Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), its structure and process

The MSNA was established, in light of the Syrian crisis, to enhance the humanitarian response in Lebanon. It aims to help prioritise humanitarian assistance, by identifying the most pressing needs, within and among sectors, and identify gaps in assisting these priority needs. This report represents the findings of phase one, a secondary data review and analysis of available data shared with the MSNA team.

An inter-agency technical working group (TWG) - consisting of members of NGOs, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), IOM and UN agencies - was established in February 2014, to develop the framework and methodology for the MSNA phase one, and to lead its technical implementation. From the start, the TWG engaged directly with sector coordinators and sector working groups (SWGs) in order to collect data and develop 'information needs', which were mainly derived from the regional response plan (RRP) indicators and other SWG recommendations. These were used to inform the data review process and identify relevant information gaps. During phase one, MSNA SWG workshops were established to collect views from SWG members and complement data findings. This main report will only present findings from the data made available to the MSNA team. The views of the SWGs are detailed in the extended sector chapters.

Outputs

Eight sector chapters[1] were released on 24 April. These provide some preliminary conclusions on priorities, based on available data and the views of SWG members, along with what is known in relation to the information needs identified by the SWGs. Sector-specific data limitations and recommendations are also included in the analysis. It should be noted that these sector chapters were released ahead of the main report, in order to inform discussions on the mid-term regional response plan (RRP6) review.

The main report starts with an overview of conclusions and recommendations drawn from phase one of the data review. This is followed by a brief overview of the situation in Lebanon at the time of writing (March/April), found in chapter two. Chapter three provides a summary of the methodology adopted throughout phase one, while the main findings section in chapter four provides some geographic characteristics and sector overlaps that were drawn from the data and can help inform priorities. It was not possible to provide a cross analysis by geographic area, target group and sector, given that the data was incomparable across geographic areas and between sectors, and focused mainly on Syrian refugees. The second section of chapter four provides a summary, by sector, of the findings drawn from available data[2]. The report concludes with an overview of some of the challenges and limitations encountered during phase one.

Summary of key data recommendations

While many of the assessments shared with, and reviewed by, the MSNA team fulfilled their original intent, a number of improvements could be made to the comparability and usefulness of overall findings. As articulated in chapter one, the MSNA team proposes:

- Recommendations based on the conclusions drawn in phase one, including the need for data on communities' perceptions and views of their needs, and the development and tracking of standard needs indicators.
- Recommendations for new/additional assessments, aimed at monitoring the situation over time and ensuring the needs of all target groups are considered.
- Recommendations for current/planned multi-sector assessments/inter-agency planning processes.
- Potential options for future harmonisation and coordination of assessments.
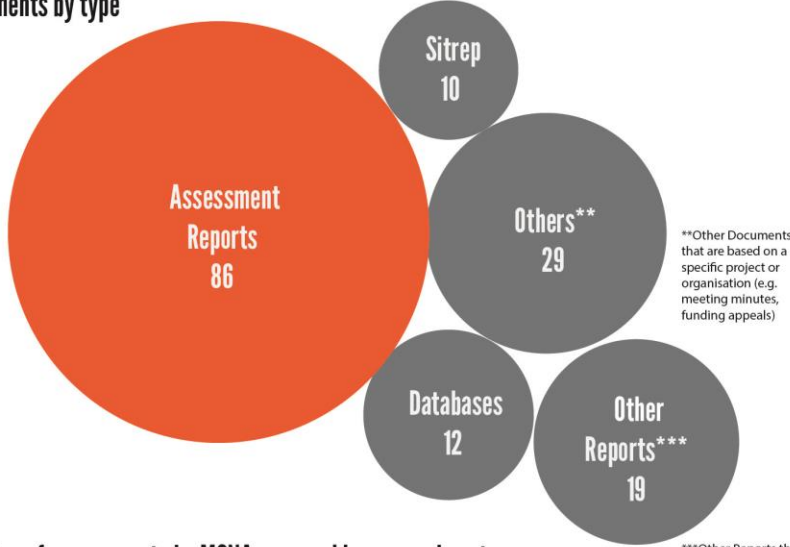
Limitations of phase one

While the available data enabled the MSNA team to identify some priorities **within** sectors, it should be noted that the absence of information on all target groups and locations made ranking them impossible. The priorities identified are detailed in the sector chapters, and a summary is provided in this report. During the process, it appeared that the terms of reference (TOR) was too ambitious, in terms of time and scope, to identify priorities **among** sectors. This would have required analysis that complemented the needs identified. Similarly, a comprehensive overview of assistance gaps could not be provided.

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[1] The protection chapter was released on 27 May 2014.
[2] Please note that the information in the summaries is based on data that was available and reviewed by the team in February and March 2014. There have inevitably been factual changes between the review and release date.
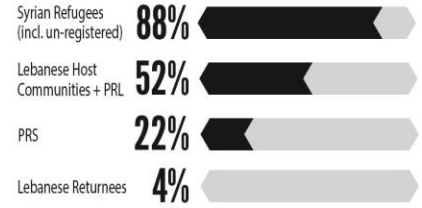
Documents shared with the MSNA team

Documents by type

Assessment Reports 86

Sitrep 10

Others** 29

**Other Documents that are based on a specific project or organisation (e.g. meeting minutes, funding appeals)

Databases 12

Other Reports*** 19

***Other Reports that are not based on assessments but provide findings (e.g. political analysis, reviews of multiple assessments, meta-analysis of existing studies)

% of Documents covering each Target Group

Many of the documents covered more than one target group

Target Group	%
Syrian Refugees (incl. un-registered)	88%
Lebanese Host Communities + PRL	52%
PRS	22%
Lebanese Returnees	4%

Disaggregation of assessments by sex/age

22% of assessments collected provided an analysis of needs disaggregated by sex
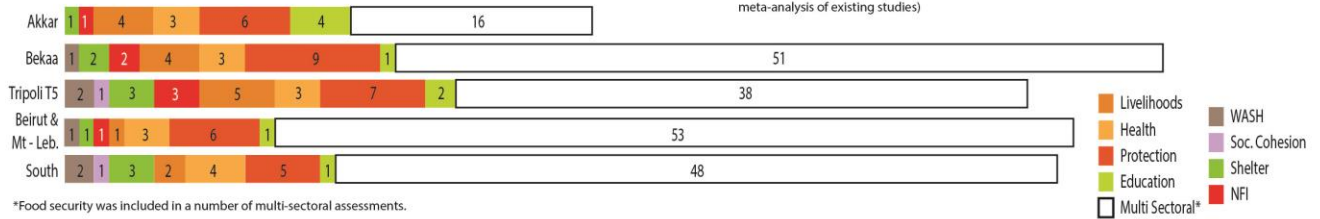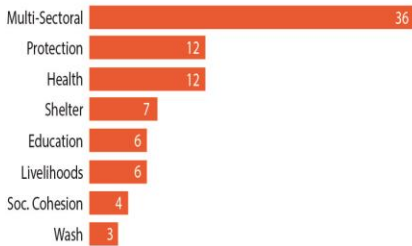
10% of assessments collected provided an analysis of needs for different age

Number of assessments by MSNA geographic area and sector

Nationwide assessments are included in each of the 5 areas

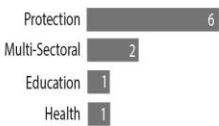| Area								Multi Sectoral
Akkar	1	1	4	3	6	4		16
Bekaa	1	2	2	4	3	9	1	51
Tripoli T5	2	1	3	3	5	3	7	2 → 38
Beirut & Mt - Leb.	1	1	1	3	6	1		53
South	2	1	3	2	4	5	1	48

*Food security was included in a number of multi-sectoral assessments.

Legend:
- Livelihoods
- Health
- Protection
- Education
- WASH
- Soc. Cohesion
- Shelter
- NFI
- Multi Sectoral*

Assessments by sector

Sector	Count
Multi-Sectoral	36
Protection	12
Health	12
Shelter	7
Education	6
Livelihoods	6
Soc. Cohesion	4
Wash	3

Number of assessments released

Jan-13: 5, Feb-13: 7, Mar-13: 3, Apr-13: 5, May-13: 8, Jun-13: 2, Jul-13: 6, Aug-13: 5, Sep-13: 5, Oct-13: 2, Nov-13: 3, Dec-13: 6, Jan-14: 3, Feb-14: (none listed), Mar-14: 3
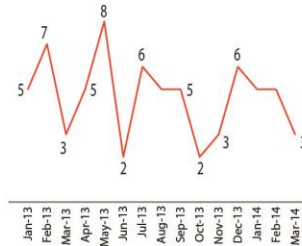
Other Reports by sector

Sector	Count
Multi-Sectoral	10
Wash	2
Shelter	2
Protection	2
Education	2
Livelihoods	1

Sit-Reps by sector

Sector	Count
Protection	6
Multi-Sectoral	2
Education	1
Health	1

Databases by sector

Sector	Count
Multi-Sectoral	6
Food Security	3
Wash	1
Shelter	1
Protection	1
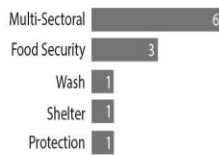
Other documents by sector

Sector	Count
Multi-Sectoral	14
Protection	5
Food Security	4
Shelter	2
Wash	2
Education	2
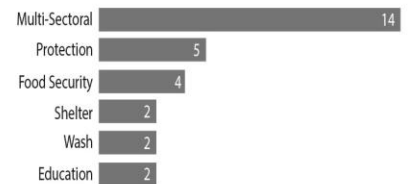
Geo-Specific VS Nationwide

Assessments: Geo-Specific 23, Nationwide 63, total 86
Other documents: Geo-Specific 33, Nationwide 37, total 70
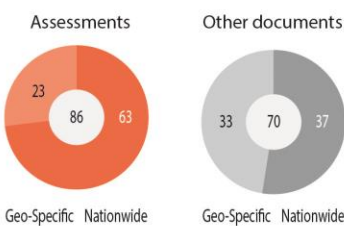
Specific VS Multi-Sectoral

Assessments: Specific 39, Multi-Sectoral 47, total 86
Other documents: Specific 31, Multi-Sectoral 39, total 70

Single VS Multi-Agency

Assessments: Single 71, Multi-Agency 15, total 86
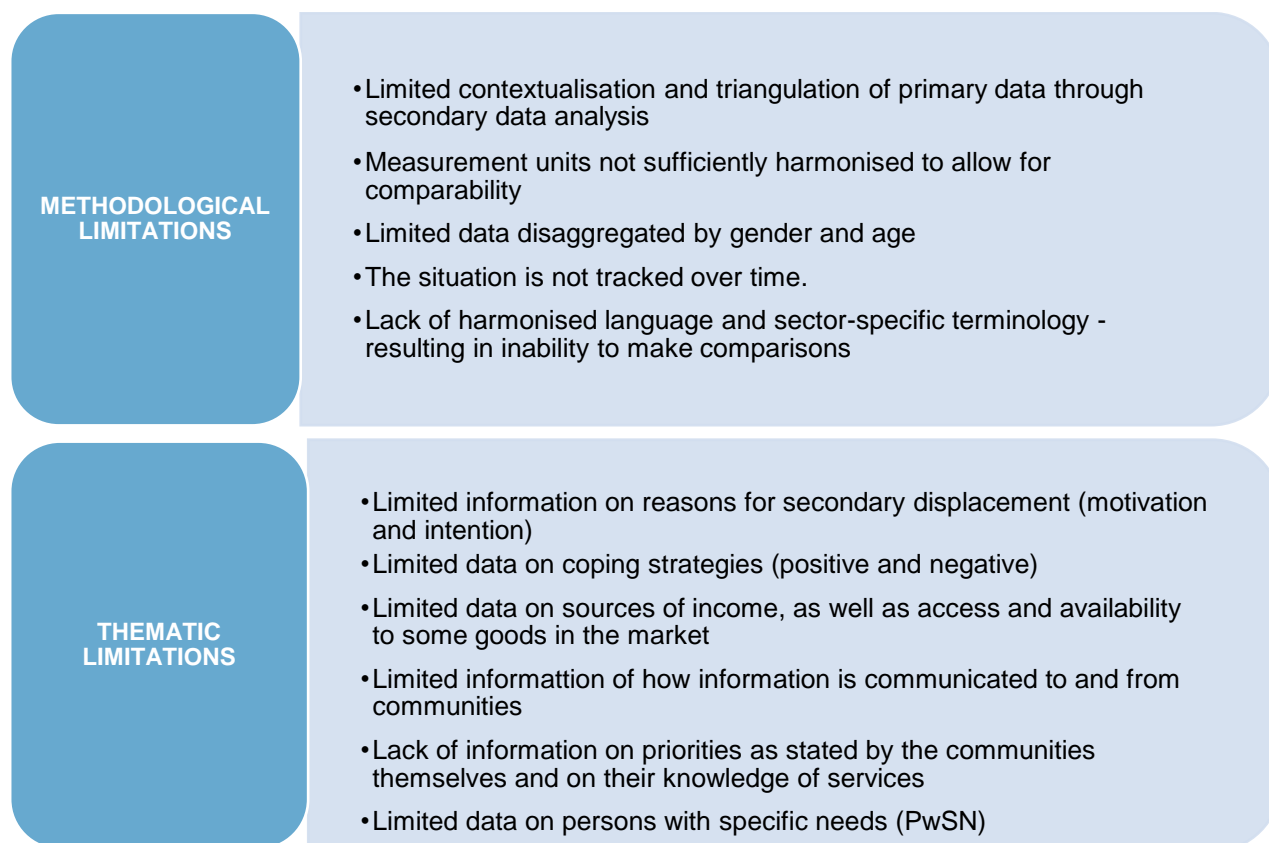Other documents: Single 61, Multi-Agency 9, total 70
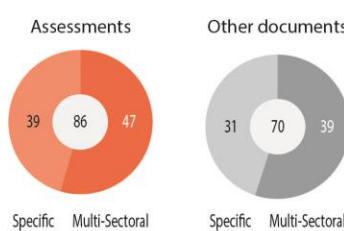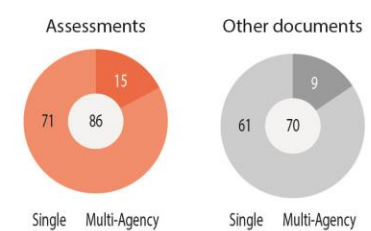
Limitations of data shared and reviewed during phase one

The following chart summarises key information gaps and limitations found in many of the reviewed assessments:

METHODOLOGICAL LIMITATIONS

- Limited contextualisation and triangulation of primary data through secondary data analysis
- Measurement units not sufficiently harmonised to allow for comparability
- Limited data disaggregated by gender and age
- The situation is not tracked over time.
- Lack of harmonised language and sector-specific terminology - resulting in inability to make comparisons

THEMATIC LIMITATIONS

- Limited information on reasons for secondary displacement (motivation and intention)
- Limited data on coping strategies (positive and negative)
- Limited data on sources of income, as well as access and availability to some goods in the market
- Limited informattion of how information is communicated to and from communities
- Lack of information on priorities as stated by the communities themselves and on their knowledge of services
- Limited data on persons with specific needs (PwSN)

Key information gaps, per geographic area

Many of the sub-national assessments were rapid and designed to support programme set-up, rather than be statistically representative of the geographic area. In addition, national assessments that had strong sampling frames were not representative of individual governorates. Consequently, it was generally not possible to compare findings across geographic areas.

Key information gaps, per target group

- **Syrian refugees:** Most of the data was collected from households, including surveys that targeted registered Syrian refugees. However, as some households had multiple families and may have had mixed registered and unregistered members, it was not possible, in many assessments, to distinguish between registered and unregistered Syrian refugees. There is an overall lack of reliable data on the unregistered population.
- **Lebanese returnees:** Information was limited to a single comprehensive assessment conducted in October 2013.
- **Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS):** There is some data available on the situation of PRS, including from local NGOs and UNRWA, which recently conducted a vulnerability assessment.
- **Vulnerable local communities, including host Lebanese communities and Palestine refugees from Lebanon (PRL):**
  - Regarding Lebanese host communities, information was available on the infrastructure of various sectors within Lebanon; however, data on the specific needs of vulnerable Lebanese households after January 2013 was limited.
  - Data on PRL was limited to one study, conducted in 2010.

A number of assessments are planned for the coming months and will inevitably fill some of the gaps highlighted above.

Key information gaps, per sector

A number of gaps were identified within sectors. Please refer to the MSNA sector chapters for details.

CONTENTS

1. DATA RECOMMENDATIONS

This section aims to provide some recommendations and options to take forward during the coming months in Lebanon. A more detailed options paper that builds on sections 1.2 to 1.4 is being developed, at the time of writing, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) technical working group (TWG) and other key stakeholders, for review by the MSNA steering committee.

1.1 Key conclusions and recommendations from MSNA phase one

1. A major finding of phase one was that data was insufficient to provide a comprehensive overview of the needs of all affected people across the country. There is a clear need to ensure **nation-wide** assessment coverage**, across all sectors and target groups**. *See section 1.3.*

2. A number of standard indicators have been developed (e.g. for Activity Info), but these do not distinguish between outputs, outcomes, and needs. The focus, to date, has been tracking the impact of interventions in order to measure progress. **Standard *needs* indicators** should be developed and tracked, to assess the situation's improvement or decline. These should then become minimum standards for future assessments, and serve as a basis for prioritisation.

3. From the 86 assessments reviewed, 71 were conducted by single agencies and 15 in partnership with other organisations. **Efforts to increase the number of joint assessments** are advised.

4. Some SWGs in Lebanon have established **standardised measurement units, terminologies and typologies** for types of interventions. Future assessments should integrate these to facilitate cross comparability. Similarly, standardised geographic areas should be used – it is recommended that, for large scale-coordinated assessments, the UNHCR sub-offices be used, because these best reflect the basis on which most responses are planned. Assessments should define the target groups covered (e.g. unregistered or registered Syrian refugees, Palestine refugees from Syria, Palestine refugees from Lebanon etc.).

5. Assessments should build on data collection initiatives already undertaken or planned, as identified through the initial MSNA phase (*summarised in sector chapters*), and through a regularly-updated assessment directory, which builds on phase one. All assessment activities should include a review of relevant existing secondary data and, as far as possible, **harmonise existing indicators and methodology in order to provide comparable information over time.**

6. Some SWGs in Lebanon have **sector-specific vulnerability profiles**. Assessments should take these into account, in order to see how vulnerability changes over time. The examples of characteristics provided in the MSNA analysis *(Chapter three)* could also be used.

7. There were significant gaps, in the information viewed, regarding men, boys, the elderly and persons with specific needs (PwSN). Where possible, assessments and analysis of findings need to **differentiate by gender and age, and ensure PwSN are captured** in general samples and/or specific assessments.

8. Given the potential future developments that could affect the response in Lebanon (as noted in *Chapter one*), the **early identification of risks/intentions** is recommended to better understand how the situation may evolve. This should, where possible and appropriate, include positive and harmful coping strategies, and consider secondary displacement (in and out of areas assessed).

9. Data analysed showed gaps in the communities' own perceptions/views of need and highlighted gaps in their knowledge of services available to them. Assessments should consider the **accountability of affected populations, including how to communicate with them**, and deliver messages to, and receive feedback from, beneficiaries.

10. All future assessments conducted in Lebanon should build on **best practices** established, at a global level, by technical specialist agencies.

1.2 Recommendations for current/planned multi-sector assessments/inter-agency planning processes:

Planned assessment/process	Recommendations
2014 Vulnerability assessment among Syrian refugees (VASyR)	Needs to be representative on operational level parameters (i.e. UNHCR field offices).
	Ensure questions are appropriate for all target groups, to enable comparisons in any future assessments of target groups; registered Syrian refugees, unregistered Syrian refugees; PRS, PRL and Lebanese returnees. In the absence of the above: • Ensure raw data is accessible to partner agencies for comparability purposes. Or, at the very least, partners should be provided with the information required to cross-analyse. • Conduct a specific assessment for unregistered Syrian refugees.
	Update questions to include key information gaps, as identified in MSNA phase one.
Assessment of 15,000 PRS households (HHs)	As much as possible, use indicators comparable with other target group assessments.
Multi-sector rapid assessment (MSRA) tool	The purpose of the tool needs to be clearly articulated. In addition, it could be developed to account for data quality issues. Requires a central point where findings are collated, analysed and can be fed into programming.
Profiling of Lebanese returnees	Capture the information needs identified during MSNA phase one, in the design process.
RRP6 revision and RRP7	Should be based around actual needs, as identified by MSNA phase one and other key assessment initiatives (VASyR 2, MSRA etc.). To achieve (funding) prioritisation among sectors, a number of steps are recommended: • Assess needs, per sector (MSNA phase one and further data collection) • Assess priority target groups, per sector (MSNA phase one and further data collection) • Assess priority geographic areas (MSNA phase one and further data collection) • Assess response coverage (through Activity Iinfo or other mapping) • Assess response quality (through donor reports, evaluations, Activity Info, Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) etc) • Assess stakeholders' capacity • Assess response gaps (based on coverage, capacity and quality) • Prioritise activities according to funding received, allocated and expected
Host community vulnerability mapping	Ensure that micro-level secondary data and stakeholder analysis, as well as tool design, consider the MSNA recommendations and findings, particularly in this report and the *social cohesion* chapter.
Re-registration process	Re-visit registration questionnaire to include information needs, as identified during MSNA phase one, and, as far as possible, the information needs required for the targeting process. or Establish a parallel questionnaire to capture new data, based on MSNA/targeting information needs.
	As above for recording of PRS.
Newcomers' programme	The current initiative to harmonise and collate data on newcomers is necessary. Those currently collecting data should share it among themselves – or with a central registry.

1.3 Potential options for new/additional multi-sector assessments

Recommendation	Why?	Potential Options
It is recommended that key humanitarian and development indicators, related to needs and access to services, are consistently tracked, collated and disseminated over time.	There is currently no mechanism in place to track needs, priorities and vulnerabilities on a sub-national level. This is required to obtain a comprehensive overview of the current and possible future situation on a sub-national level.	Develop a composite measure, based on on-going data collection initiatives, which provide regularly updated information on the situation on a sub-national level. Establish a mechanism to collate and disseminate findings.
Ensure multi-sector needs are assessed for all target groups.	Despite the many initiatives planned/upcoming, information gaps remain. There is a need to address these in a manner that allows for comparison between target groups.	Representative samples of all geographic areas and target groups. Could adapt VASyR (VASyR plus) or conduct separate assessments for population groups not targeted for upcoming nation-wide assessments. Link directly to RRP time-lines.

1.4 Potential options for harmonisation and coordination of assessments

Discussions have recently started regarding the need for an initiative to better harmonise and coordinate assessments in Lebanon. Based on the findings of the MSNA phase one, it is recommended that the following core functions are considered when designing these initiatives. A more detailed overview will be available in the soon to be disseminated *Options* paper.

- **Facilitate and harmonise planned and on-going assessments**: Inform, harmonise and review upcoming/planned assessments, in line with national tools and methodologies, to ensure quality and comparability across all assessments.
- Maintain an **assessment inventory** to map who is doing what. This will avoid duplication and decrease identified assessment fatigue among communities.
- Provide **tools to better capture and analyse qualitative data.**
- **Guidance on how sectors overlap** during the assessment design phase.
- **Analyse and share data**. With sector coordinators, collate and cross-analyse findings from various assessments, and other relevant information, updating the comprehensive, cross-sectoral overview of the situation in Lebanon regularly.
- **Include findings from assessments in key planning processes,** including the RRP6 and others organised by UNRWA and IOM.

2. CONTEXT

2.1 Humanitarian Profile

Prior to the 2011 Syrian crisis, Lebanon's total population stood at approximately 4.2 million people. As of April 2014, the population was estimated at 5.3 million people and more than a million Syrian refugees had been registered or were awaiting registration with UNHCR. The extent of the unregistered population had not been determined. Meanwhile, 52,800 PRS had entered Lebanon and more than17, 000 Lebanese had returned to Lebanon from Syria. Since the start of the crisis, the GoL has maintained an open border policy, despite some restrictions on PRS and, to a lesser extent, cases involving Syrian refugees. However, civilians fleeing Syria and seeking safety in Lebanon are subjected to the same administrative procedures required for residency as other foreign nationals.

At the time of the report, the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon who had not registered with UNHCR was unknown. In phase one, the MSNA identified some revealing estimates[3] of this population, but these varied significantly. Estimating figures is always problematic, as the population includes both an unknown number of Syrian migrant workers (many of whom had not approached the UN and/or partners for assistance) and an unknown number of Syrian refugees, who were unable or unwilling to register with UNHCR. An inter-agency mechanism has been put in place for identification and referral of unregistered cases, with the aim of recording those who in need of protection and/or assistance.

Though available data did not allow for thorough analysis, assessments indicated that secondary displacement of Syrian refugees in Lebanon was widespread; between September 2013 and January 2014, for example, the WFP's 2013 PDM showed that 55% of households had moved at least once. Their primary reason for moving was shelter related: 36% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon indicated that they had moved to better shelter and 29% to cheaper shelter, while9%had been evicted. An assessment by Solidarites in Tripoli/T+5 supported these findings, discovering that 50% of households assessed were displaced at least once.

With Lebanon's population having significantly increased due to the ongoing Syria crisis, there is concern that existing social and political instability, which affected the labour market, housing, services (education, health and WASH) and infrastructure, would become more acute while the crisis continued.

The ongoing humanitarian response is captured in the sixth Regional Response Plan (RRP6), which articulates the challenges for the affected Lebanese population, as well as Syrian refugees, PRS and Lebanese returnees. The MSNA phase one analysis also includes the impact of the crisis on PRL.

Since the RRP6 was released in December 2013, thousands more Syrian refugees have crossed the border into Lebanon. In addition, at the start of 2014, there was a higher level of insecurity- with several incidents in the border region and six vehicle-based improvised explosive devices (VBIED) having been detonated since the end of December 2013. Map 1, in Annex A, indicates existing and developing areas of tension in Lebanon, due to the Syria conflict.

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[3] Recent news reports indicate that Lebanese officials estimate the number to be as high as 400,000. (Associated Press; 03 April 2014), etc.
Syrian refugee School enrolment data 2013 to 2014 shows that around 5,500 (25%) of the over 21,500 refugees were not registered with UNHCR, nor pending registration, ranging from 8% in the South to 80% in Mount Lebanon. Please note that this data provides a snapshot of the status of a child at the time of enrolment and could have changed by now.
A Handicap International/Help Age survey showed a registration rate of 77% and 14.5% unregistered. The remainder were pending registration or did not answer the question during the interview.
Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) by WFP among beneficiary households between September 2013 and January 2014 indicated that 24% of households hosted unregistered Syrian refugees.

The chart below details the population statistics as at March 2014. This does not include a reference to unregistered Syrian refugees.

Population Statistics

Note: Data was not available on the number, or location, of unregistered Syrian refugees.
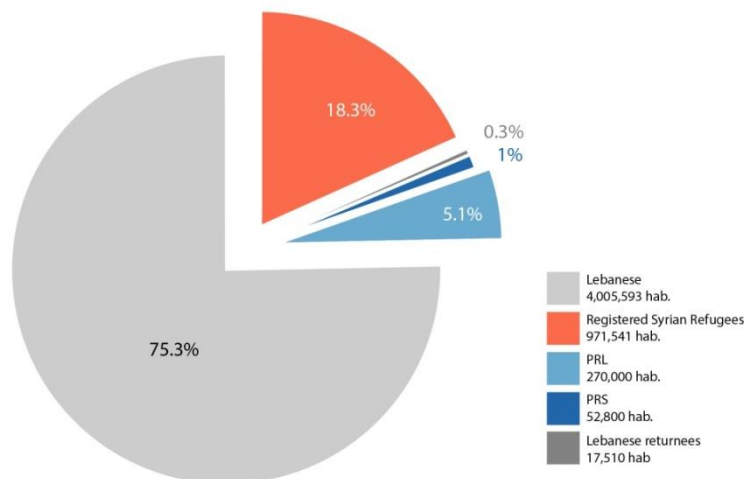
Sources for population statistics: Lebanese returnees (IOM database; October 2013), registered Syrian refugees (UNHCR; March 2014), PRS, PRL (UNRWA AUB; 2010), Lebanese (OCHA Governorates Data; March 2014).

It is evident that the context varies within different geographic areas. Table 1 and Map 2, in Annex A, provide an overview of populations, target groups and unique characteristics per geographic area. Map 3 in Annex A, demonstrates the exponential growth in the number of Syrian refugees since 2013.Map 4 provides a more detailed overview of the population statistics, as of March 2014.

2.2 Potential Future Developments

The RRP6 estimates that there will be 1.6 million displaced people in Lebanon by the end of 2014, including Syrian refugees, Lebanese returnees and Palestinians. With this growth in mind, the Government of Lebanon (GoL), international and development agencies, financial actors and the humanitarian community, are actively considering the implications for the country at large. Emergency scenarios outlined by humanitarian contingency planning in Lebanon include: refugee influx or large-scale secondary movements of refugees; natural hazards, with disastrous consequences; disease outbreak or epidemic; and internal displacement due to conflict.

In addition, there have been some recent developments that could affect the response in coming months:

- Potential change in GoL policies regarding establishment of formal settlements and border management
- Renewed interest by development actors to complement the work of existing humanitarian agencies.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Parameters

Following consultation with the MSNA TWG and steering committee, it was agreed that data would be analysed on the following target groups:

- Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR, or awaiting registration
- Syrians living in Lebanon, who have not been registered with UNHCR
- Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS)
- Vulnerable local communities, including Lebanese host communities and Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL)
- Lebanese returnees

Analysis was undertaken at the lowest possible geographic levels for the various target groups, depending on the type of information available. Where possible, information was collected according to the following locations: Mount Lebanon and Beirut, the south, Bekaa, Akkar, North/Tripoli (T)+5, Palestinian camps, and outside Palestinian Camps. The TWG and steering committee agreed these were the most practical and representative parameters for all target groups, as operational decisions are made according to these groupings.

It was also agreed that the MSNA would cover all sectors within the current humanitarian framework, including: basic needs, education, food security, health, protection (including sexual and gender-based violence [SGBV] and child protection), shelter, social cohesion and livelihoods and WASH. Assessment data over the last year was considered, although exceptions were made if data had not been collected so recently.

3.2 Main Steps

Identify information needs: In order to identify the relevant research questions for collation, the TWG combined the RRP6 indicators with the additional information needs of the SWGs. These information needs formed the basis of the sector chapter themes.

Secondary data collation: An assessment inventory was developed and shared, to encourage both input from stakeholders and the sharing of data collected. One focal point per sector was assigned from the TWG and supported the MSNA team to collect information from the sectors. Within the team, analysts were assigned to sector chapters and a number of partners were approached for assessment reports, including: international and local NGOs, UN agencies, Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), the national NGO forum and the World Bank.

Data categorisation: All information was summarised and categorised into an excel spreadsheet.

Analysis& Writing: Two levels of analysis were conducted: an overview of sector data, in consultation with Sector Specialists, and a cross analysis of data, per location and target group.

Where possible, given the time constraints, the sector coordinators and respective analysts assessed the usefulness of the reports and used them accordingly. For example, a nationwide multi-sector report would have been used to develop broad conclusions, whilst an assessment with a small sample size in one particular location may have been used to provide examples to support/contradict overall findings.

The following themes were taken into account during this process when time and data allowed:

Data collection method	Specific quality considerations	Overall quality considerations
Household assessments	Sampling methodology (incl. sample frame, stratification, size, field selection)	The suitability of methodology for information required, the length of the data collection process, appropriateness of data collection tool(s), level of triangulation, data collection platform, sectoral expertise of implementing organisation(s), training of data collection teams, in-country experience of implementing organisation.
Key informant interviews	Key information selection (knowledge of area / sector etc.), information reliability	
Focus group discussions	Facilitator experience, participant selection, range of population groups represented	

To help inform priority needs, within and among sectors, it was agreed that the views of the SWGs (not necessarily documented) would help inform the analysis. Workshops were held with the groups to ascertain their views on a number of areas, including: priority needs; priority target groups; priority geographic areas; response gaps; operational constraints; and potential future developments. The results of the workshops were built into the context and used to further inform information gaps.

Review and consultation: The MSNA team reviewed a number of databases, assessments and reports that were provided by partner agencies. In order to obtain as comprehensive an overview as possible, a number of consultations were built in, including with sector specialists, all SWG and TWG members, heads of agencies and the wider humanitarian community.

A data classification chart was developed and shared with partners who identified concerns regarding the sensitivity of their data. This highlighted the confidentiality and other related restrictions on the use of the data for the MSNA team.

4. MAIN FINDINGS OF PHASE 1

4.1 Overall findings

4.1.1 Cross analysis by geographic area

Prioritising by area was limited by variations in data available in different locations. However, when conducting assessments and/or planning a response, some characteristics were identified for consideration when prioritising target areas within regions. They included areas:

- with the highest concentration of vulnerable Lebanese and refugees living side by side[4]

- with high rates of insecurity, checkpoints, and unofficial border crossings, as well as related restrictions on freedom of movement (e.g. the north and Bekaa)

- with saturated absorption capacity with respect to shelter, employment and other basic services (e.g. health, education and wash)

- where people rely heavily on sub-standard shelter

- where tensions pre-dated the Syrian crisis (e.g. Wadi Khaled, Tripoli and Aarsal).

- that are remote and where access to services is limited (e.g. to registration, health care, public health, education, distribution centres)

- that are mountainous or highly elevated, which impact shelter (due to climate) and wash (due to soil type)

4.1.2 Cross analysis by target group

It became apparent during phase one that, for the most part, data gaps and limitations prevented thorough analysis of the priority target groups, with the vast majority of available data relating to Syrian refugees. Assessments, focused on registered refugees and those awaiting registration, were conducted at household level and included those unregistered within the household. It was therefore often impossible to differentiate between registered and unregistered Syrian refugees.

While data was available on each of the target groups, it was not comparable. Consequently, the MSNA team could not adequately identify priority target groups within and among sectors and geographic locations. Some sectors have worked on specific characteristics of vulnerable groups, but these were mostly limited to Syrian refugees.

4.1.3 Cross analysis by sector

Existing data, collected through phase one, was insufficient, in terms of readiness, comparability and scope to provide a full set of measures to enable sector comparisons.

Table 2 in Annex A shows areas (themes) where there is, or should be, overlap between sectors. It is possible, from this, to draw some conclusions that would help influence assessment design and coordination efforts between the various actors on the ground.

Example: The table indicates that 'disease outbreaks' is an area where overlap between WASH and health occurs. In the analysis provided in both sector chapters, poor quality water and the contamination of water with wastewater, leads to the outbreak of disease. Therefore, both WASH and health sectors should agree on appropriate common questions to address the health impact of water quality.

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[4] For additional information on vulnerability you can refer to the OPM/UNHCR/UNICEF vulnerable cadastral mapping.

4.2 Sector findings

The sector chapters were designed to present existing data in accordance with the SWG information needs (highlighted in italics in the main findings sections of these summaries). Sector experts have acquired, through experience, information that is not captured in the assessment reports. While the views and expertise of SWGs are extremely valid, the purpose of the exercise was to identify needs as per available evidence-bases, and plug information gaps with the data provided. In cases where SWG members suggested additions/changes to the data to reflect the current situation, the MSNA team reflected those gaps in the information gap and data recommendation sections.

The information presented in the sector summaries is based on data reviewed and analysed between February and March 2014.

It should be noted that all context and findings outlined in this section are based on references provided in each main sector chapter. For legibility purposes, all such references have been removed from this report.

Please also note that, in cases where data was insufficient to draw conclusions (especially around priority needs and geographic and target group highlights), reference to such conclusions has been omitted from the section, but can be found in the extended sector chapters.

- By February 2014, 120,000 children affected by the Syria crisis were enrolled formally in Lebanese public schools. This number included 90,000 Syrian children.

- Syrian refugee children faced a number of barriers in accessing education including financial constraints, curriculum and language challenges, and psychological, social and safety limitations. The relative significance of these barriers could not be established based on data available.

- The constraints of the Lebanese education system, including available space, equipment, facilities, and teachers, hampered its capacity to enrol additional students.

The majority of available data covered Syrian refugees.

Context

Lebanon's Education System (LES) includes public, semi-private (or free-private) and private schools. The public schools, which at the time of writing accommodate 30% of all students, and cater predominantly to children of lower social and economic status, are run by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and required a nominal fee (USD 47 to USD 80).

There are 363 free-private or semi-private schools, also subsidised by MEHE, most of which are run by religious groups (289), for which tuition fees are slightly higher (USD 450 to USD 533). The vast majority of children attend one of Lebanon's 572 private schools, which are not regulated by the MEHE, and for which fees range between USD 1,500 and USD 15,000 per year.

Palestinian children fall under UNRWA's mandate, not that of the MEHE. In Lebanon, UNRWA manages 69 schools, providing elementary, intermediate and secondary education. In accordance with the MEHE's guidance, these schools teach the Lebanese national curriculum and provide pupils with diplomas recognised by the national accreditation system. The schools are free of charge.

Since the crisis in Syria, there has been a decrease in access to, and availability of, education in-country due to displacement, insecurity and cost. As a result, many Syrian children were without education for months before arriving in Lebanon. Before the crisis, both Lebanon and Syria had achieved high enrolment rates in basic education. In Syria, education was free and school attendance obligatory for a minimum for nine years. Pre-conflict Syria had a literacy rate of 78% for women and 90% for men. The World Bank placed basic education enrolment in Lebanon at 90% and further noted that it had been stable for a decade, with gender parity achieved.

Main findings

School attendance, access and attainment
Although data was largely incomparable across target groups, the rate of non-attendance among Lebanese returnee children was significantly higher than that of Lebanese children at large, but lower than that of Syrian refugees. The available enrolment rates were based on enrolment in the public system and did not include activities in the private sector. By the end of February, around 120,000 children affected by the Syria crisis were enrolled in formal schools, 26%of the approximate 460,000 registered Syrian children in Lebanon. There are only 90,000 Syrian refugees in public schools. Families (both PRS and Syrian refugees) are typically sending one or two, but not all, of their children to school. The education sector defined three to 18 years as school age; of this age group, the GoL prioritises services for children aged six to 15 years – which was the age group covered by compulsory education in Lebanon.

Barriers to entering school and retention
The data showed that despite the GoL's generosity in opening the country's public schools to accommodate Syrian refugee students, major barriers to education remain for Syrian refugee and PRS children. These include: the cost (tuition, supplies and transportation fees and child labour); curriculum; language barriers; trauma experienced and the need for psychological and social support; discrimination; safety and security; non-admittance; and a lack of documentation. PRS children attend special UNRWA schools, which saw a 20% increase in enrolment and could, at the time of press, only serve PRS children through volunteer teachers in second shifts. One assessment identified discrimination and social tensions

as a leading barrier and poorer refugees were more likely to withdraw their children from school when discrimination was an issue. Children with special needs lack adequate support to access education, either due to a lack of affordable specialised institutions, or due to inappropriate arrangements at school. During the MSNA, no specific information on barriers for Lebanese host communities was available. According to the only study on Lebanese returnees, returnee children suffer the same barriers to education as their Syrian peers, as they had been part of the Syrian school system. That said, integration into the host community comes naturally to the returnee children and the authorities do not question their right to education.

System capacity
A number of capacity constraints were identified. LES suffers from inadequate space, learning materials, school supplies and qualified teachers trained to teach a diverse group of students. Although the system has room to take more students at a national level, schools that have the space are not in high-demand areas.

Facilities, while perhaps adequate for general use, require improvements, such as access for children with special needs and other infrastructure improvements, particularly latrines and washing facilities. Teachers are not trained to deal with increased class sizes, or, as noted in the north, the unique challenge presented when teaching Syrian refugee children in need of extensive psychological and social support. Lack of qualified teachers is a barrier to increased enrolment, specifically for PRS students.

Main priority needs identified from the data included:

* Assistance with language, transportation and finances (for fees and supplies)
* Psychosocial support for those children suffering from trauma
* Preparation for Syrian children to improve access to and learning in the LES

Target group highlights

Assessments mainly provided information on Syrian refugees and PRS, with very limited data on vulnerable Lebanese, including returnees, and PRL. The rate of non-attendance among Lebanese returnee children was significantly higher than that of Lebanese at large; however, the increase in Syrian refugees correlated with a higher drop-out rate for poor Lebanese students. There was no data available to explain why that was occurring. For vulnerable Lebanese children, school rehabilitation, the quality of education, and school capacity, were identified as key needs. If these needs were met they would also benefit Syrian children.

Sector-specific information gaps and recommendations

Gaps
* Data on Syrian refugees and PRS enrolment did not differentiate between types of education programmes (e.g. LES, non-formal) or types of education settings (public vs. semi-private vs. private schools). It did not include private or non-formal schools (not managed by either the GoL or the humanitarian community), or capture attendance rates.
* None of the data quantified what curriculum or teaching methodology enrolled Syrian refugees were receiving based on the type of education they were accessing (e.g. LES, second shift, non-formal).
* There was little information on the absorption capacity of Lebanese schools, the capacity gaps of MEHE, or the impact of the crisis on Lebanese schools, school administrations, and students.
* Data on barriers to education was not quantified or ranked. In particular, reasons for families only sending some, but not all children.
* No data was provided on Syrian students who had their higher education interrupted; the number of children out of school; number of enrolled students who were considered "at risk"; what happened to children after attending non-formal education programmes; and "out-of-school" children's profiles.
* There was a lack of data on: enrolment, attendance, retention and barriers for disabled students; Lebanese children, with respect to attendance, completion, dropout rates etc.; the quality of the education and its impact (both for second shift and language teaching); the appropriateness of school environments (facilities and staff competence) and of the curriculum to refugee-specific needs.

Recommendations

The data highlighted the need to track enrolment, attendance and dropout rates for all children in all education structures, including in non-formal education programmes.

To enable comparison, standard age group categories should be developed and used in all education assessments. All assessments should use the INEE minimum standards as a starting point.

In order to prioritise interventions aimed at addressing education barriers, existing barriers to enrolment should be further quantified and additional data provided.

Assessments should be undertaken in schools hosting refugee children to ascertain:

- The number and percentage of children in each school
- The curriculum provided, including whether life skills or other coping strategies are captured
- Teachers' capacity to address the specific educational and psychological and social needs of the children (e.g. KAP survey)
- The extent to which the education infrastructure is equipped to teach traumatised children and refer individual cases to appropriate specialists
- If the school has adequate facilities (including WASH, infrastructure -such as a functioning electricity supply) and offers an environment conducive to learning

- With an average monthly cost of USD 151 to 275 per five-person household, food was found to be the largest expense for Syrian refugees and PRS.
- Syrian refugees' main food-related coping mechanisms include buying less expensive food and reducing the number of meals consumed per day.
- Only 20% of Syrian refugees assessed reported consuming three or more cooked meals per day. This pattern was also noted among PRS, of which 45% reported eating only one cooked meal the day prior to being surveyed.

The majority of data was focused on Syrian refugees.

Context

The Syrian crisis has affected food availability and decreased household income. There are mixed views on the impact on prices, with some sources indicating an increase and others only expecting increased pressure on prices as consumption of staple products rises. The growing influx of refugees and returnees into the country has increased demand for food, while supply is decreasing in the absence of support to Lebanese farmers to mitigate the crisis impact. Lebanon is heavily dependent on imported food, and inhabitants of the border towns in Lebanon are dependent on Syria as a major source of imported food products and other groceries. However, Syria has seen a significant drop in its food production and the security situation has been restraining all transportation through the country, threatening the importing of food into Lebanon. The crisis has negatively affected household income and has increased prices for basic commodities, affecting access to food. Increased competition from refugee workers with local workers has also resulted in reduced household incomes in host communities.

Main findings

Diet diversity and food groups consumption
Available data shows that the majority of Syrian refugees have a diverse food pattern. However, most households surveyed consumed mostly bread, condiments and sugar, which have low nutrient value. Diet diversity was found to be significantly lower for those households awaiting registration and households recently registered, compared to households who have been registered for a longer period of time. The longer the households were registered, the more diverse their food pattern was –86% of households assessed, which had been registered with UNHCR for longer than six months, consumed more than six food groups, compared to 74% of those awaiting registration (VASyR).

Number of meals consumed
Only 20% of adult Syrian refugees reported having consumed three or more warm/cooked meals the day prior to the survey. Another assessment showed Tripoli had the highest proportion of Syrian refugees who ate just one or two meals per day, when compared to Akkar and Bekaa. Nearly half (45%) of the surveyed PRS households said that they had consumed only one cooked meal the previous day.

Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices
Assessment findings of 618 Syrian refugee children between six and 23 months old showed that only 6% consumed the minimum acceptable diet, according to WHO IYCF indicators. Findings also indicated that meal frequency was a problem, as almost 75% of the children surveyed did not meet the minimum acceptable meal frequency set by WHO guidelines. One assessment found that among Syrian refugees in Lebanon, more than85% of children 0-23 months were breastfed. More than 60% of mothers initiated the breastfeeding in the first 23 hours after birth and 25% of children aged0-23 months were exclusively breastfed.

Food sources
Available data identified several different food sources for Syrian refugees. However, much of the information is now outdated, due to the rollout of targeted assistance in October 2013, which led to targeted food assistance for the 72% of the registered refugee population found to be most vulnerable. At the time of the assessment, the main source of food was assistance from UN agencies and INGOs. Data found that nearly all households reported having received food vouchers on a regular basis. PRS were generally identified by different assessments as receiving less food aid than Syrian refugees.

Food sources are largely dependent on income and access to markets. For more information on these topics, please refer to the *section 3.2.10.*

Food prices
Several studies have found that food is the largest expense for Syrian refugees and PRS. For Syrian refugees, it ranges from USD 151 to USD 275 per household, per month. Monitoring reports found that the value of the commodity basket differed between regions, with the higher prices in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon.

Data indicates some differences in perceptions around price rises since 2011. One regional assessment highlighted that overall, food prices are higher than before the crisis. Between 2011 and 2012, food prices increased by about 10% in Lebanon. However, other sources indicate that whilst the Syrian conflict was expected to exert upward pressure on Lebanon's domestic prices, especially food and rent, existing (yet imperfect) inflation data did not confirm such pressures. Nevertheless, the data inferred that upward pressure on prices was expected to occur due to the rise in consumption for staple products (especially food) linked to Syrian consumers in Lebanon.

Coping strategies (consumption-based and assets depletion coping mechanisms)
Assessments generally show that the main food-related coping mechanisms used by Syrian refugees are: buying less preferred and expensive food, reducing the number of meals per day, and buying food on credit. Data shows that both registered and unregistered refugees rely on similar coping mechanisms. However, unregistered refugees tend to rely more on debt, while registered refugees use more food-related coping mechanisms. Data showed that there were differences between regions, with those in the north resorting more frequently to food-related coping strategies: more than half reduced the number of meals they consumed per day and 41%borrowed food. Data shows that the inability of PRS families to purchase adequate quantities of food often forces them to skip meals and/or reduce food portions.

Access to water for cooking
There was no data specific to access to water for cooking available during the MSNA review. Data showed the main reason given by refugees for not cooking to be a lack of food (64%),with a lack of safe water cited by only2%.

Target group highlights

Priority target groups, identified from the data, included the following: unregistered refugees, because they have limited access to consistent and regular assistance; newcomers, as when they arrive they do not know about the assistance systems; Lebanese returnees who most frequently ranked food (34%) as their first or second priority need. It should be noted that the SWG also considered vulnerable Lebanese communities as a priority.

Sector-specific information gaps and recommendations

Gaps
- The food security situation of newcomers
- Food insecure populations excluded of assistance due to targeting
- Illegal and risky livelihoods taken up to meet food needs
- Access to water for cooking
- The effect of food assistance on social cohesion
- Reasons for potential beneficiaries refusing food assistance
- Food sources, particularly in light of the rollout of targeted assistance

Recommendations
The upcoming VASyR exercise and FAO comprehensive livelihoods and food security assessment targeting vulnerable Lebanese communities will address many of the current information gaps and aims to provide data representative of governorates. In addition to the VASyR, a more comprehensive system should be established to monitor consumption-based coping mechanisms and to track the impact of specific interventions or changes in interventions (such as targeting).

4.2.3   HEALTH

- Access to primary health care is a major issue for refugees and vulnerable groups.
- The main barrier faced by refugees and vulnerable groups in accessing health care is the financial cost to attend a clinic/hospital, as well as the cost of treatment and medication, and service quality.
- Accessing maternal and child healthcare services remains challenging for refugees.
- Psychological and social health needs must be monitored and addressed, as required.
- Although disease outbreaks have been limited due to proactive measures, a focus should remain on health and hygiene promotion and links to the WASH sector. Serious concerns exist regarding the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as a result of refugees' living conditions and high rates in Syria prior to the crisis.

The majority of available assessments covered Syrian refugees.

Context

The Syrian refugee crisis has exacerbated problems in the already fragile public health system, where 50% of the Lebanese population possess no formal health insurance, are exposed to high health care expenditure and lack basic means of social protection. Lebanese citizens without private medical insurance rely upon the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and the National Social Security Fund to reimburse a portion of their medical bills. It is estimated that USD 1.5 billion (3.4% of GDP) will be needed to restore public services to pre-crisis levels, of which USD 177milion is for health services alone during2014.

The Lebanese healthcare system is dominated by the private sector and suffers from high spending: almost 6.4% of GDP, compared to an average of 5% in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Data shows that the private sector accounts for 81% (9,667) of hospital beds in Lebanon, indicating far greater capacity than the public sector. It is, however, very difficult to access data on hospital utilisation, as the data is deemed to be financially sensitive. The health system is also heavily focused on secondary hospital-based curative care and treatment, rather than primary and preventive health measures.

Secondary health-care services (life-saving and delivery only) are available to Syrians and Lebanese, but they face large out-of-pocket payments. All Palestinians are entitled to free primary health care through 27 UNRWA centres across Lebanon, and have 100% coverage for secondary hospitalisation at contracted hospitals. They also receive partial coverage for tertiary healthcare.

Main findings

General health status and access to health care and service capacity
Access to health care is repeatedly cited in the data as a major issue for refugees and vulnerable groups. The primary barrier identified is the cost of attending a clinic/hospital, as well as the cost of treatment and medication -particularly for chronic conditions and major surgical procedures. There is, however, limited data on access to primary and secondary health care and the service capacities/utilisation rates of medical facilities across Lebanon. Information collated indicates that the elderly area particularly vulnerable group.

Child, maternal and reproductive health
Reproductive and maternal health are identified in the data as major issues, particularly as women and children make up a large proportion of the refugee population. Deliveries (births) account for a large proportion of hospital admissions. Findings also indicate that the c-section rate among Syrian refugees is 35% (2013), which is three times higher than the WHO recommended rate of 10% Information on contraceptive and birth control awareness and usage for Syrian refugees is limited. Diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and communicable diseases are more prevalent amongst children since the crisis and are likely to increase due to water and sanitation conditions. Rates of malnutrition among Syrian refugee children also appear to be increasing.

NCD, chronic conditions and disease outbreaks
Some data and information regarding the magnitude and prevalence of NCDs and chronic conditions among refugees is available. However, information on NCDs among other vulnerable groups is limited. Information regarding communicable diseases among Syrian refugees shows that outbreaks have been limited largely due to proactive measures of the GoL and humanitarian partners. Syrians exhibited high rates of NCDs, in particular cardio-vascular disease, prior to the crisis.

Mental and social health

The data indicates that psychological and social health needs are an increasing challenge among the refugee population, however, while there is limited data to provide an accurate picture of the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) situation (prevalence and severity), systems to address this, based on internationally approved standards, are in place. Surveys found that PRS exhibit particularly high rates of emotional and mental disorders.

Main priority needs identified from the data included:

- Access to and availability of primary healthcare for all target groups, particularly in remote areas
- Improved access and treatment for NCDs and chronic conditions, especially for the refugee population
- Access to secondary health care for life-saving interventions
- Mental health and social support, as well as medication
- Access to preventive healthcare

Geographic and target group highlights

The data shows that the majority of Syrian and PRS refugee populations have settled in poor Lebanese communities. These areas already had limited or non-existent public service provision, including health care, the capacity of which is now being stretched even further in terms of provision, funding and staffing. This includes Akkar,Aley,Baabda,Baalbeck, Baalbek,Bebnine, Ersal,Halba,Hasbaya, Hermel, Kesserwan, Labweh, Matn, Saida, Sour, West Bekaa,Tripoli andZahle.

The data did not allow for priorities by target groups but did indicate that those who lack insurance (Lebanese) and the ability to pay for health care are particularly vulnerable. The length of residence and registration status were found to be associated with increased expenditure on health care services, and also a poorer mental health status, particularly for refugees and PRS.

Sector-specific information gaps and recommendations

Gaps
Limited information exists across a range of issues namely:
- Up-to-date/real-time data on the current health situation in specific geographic areas
- The prevalence and severity of certain health conditions, such as NCDs and mental health issues across target groups and regions
- The drivers/determinants of health care access across groups and geographic areas
- Mortality, morbidity and injuries among the refugee population
- Response capacities, in terms of the quality of health services available throughout Lebanon, particularly emergency disease outbreak staffing levels, and the availability of laboratories and medicine
- Information on awareness campaigns, the distribution and uptake of contraceptives/birth control, what family planning information is available among refugee populations
- Data on the availability of medication to refugee populations, and the prescription and consumption of medication/pharmaceuticals by refugee populations

No data appeared to be available on: the number of people requiring dental care and treatment; patient satisfaction among Syrian refugees using UN and INGO services; the current utilisation rates of hospitals; and how the social determinants of health and the actions of other humanitarian sectors are linked to the health status of Syrian refugees and other target groups.

Recommendations
Improve disease surveillance (Early Warning Response Network - EWARN), and the health information monitoring systems of UNHCR and the MOPH. Some of this will occur under the forthcoming Instrument for Stability project.

Conduct surveys aimed at targeting key areas, including: access to and use of healthcare services; quality and capacity gaps; chronic conditions; NCDs; mental health.

- No consistent data on the percentage of Syrian refugees in employment, with available statistics ranging from 17% to 33% of the population group.
- The ability of local markets to continue absorbing additional working-age people is declining rapidly.
- Wages commanded by Syrian refugees in Lebanon are on the whole below that of their Lebanese counterparts.

The majority of available assessments covered registered Syrian refugees.

Context

The main employment sectors in Lebanon are services, financial intermediation, insurance, and trade. The informal economy, i.e. the segment of an economy that is not taxed, is estimated to contribute 30% of GDP.

In 2011, only 24% of women were economically active (against 70% of men). Lebanese youth below the age of 25 years also suffer from weak integration into the labour market - in 2010, an estimated 23%were unemployed, compared to 9% of the total population.

The average monthly wage in the formal sector ranges from LBP 288,000 (USD 190) in the agriculture sector to LBP 965,000 (USD 640) in the transport, post and telecom sector. However, a large proportion of economic activities take place in the informal sector and, as a result, these findings do not reflect all wages in Lebanon. In a 2012 decree, the minimum monthly wage was set at LBP 675,000 (USD 450) and the minimum daily wage at LBP 30,000 (USD 20). However, migrant workers were not covered by this decree, differences in salaries paid to men and women have been reported and regional disparities exist.

By law, PRL are not allowed to follow professions in more than30 syndicated and 72 un-syndicated professions. With a signed company contract, PRL can obtain a work permit free of charge. Most PRL, however, are engaged in occupations that do not need work permits and many remain unaware of the procedures for regularising their status.

It is unknown how many Syrian workers were residing in Lebanon before the crisis, with estimates ranging from between 300,000 and 600,000. Syrian migrants mostly worked in agriculture, construction, handicrafts or at commercial establishments. In February 2013, a resolution by the Minister of Labour made some professions, previously confined to Lebanese, available to Syrian workers (such as construction, electricity, sales), in recognition that these workers had been engaged in these professions openly for many years. While a work permit is required for all Syrians in Lebanon, in practice significant number of Syrians work without one.

The crisis in Syria and unrest in Lebanon have affected economic productivity; productivity in the service and agricultural sectors has deteriorated. The agricultural sector which provides around 5%of GDP and 6% of employment has been severely affectedly the loss of overland export routes to the Gulf countries, through Syria.

Main findings

Sources of income
Available data shows that the main source of income for Syrian refugees is employment, ranging from 23% to 60% of household income (depending on the assessment). Other sources of income include assistance, remittances, and savings. Female-headed households rely less on income from employment. Lebanese returnees primarily rely on income from employment.

Employment
The information collated indicates that the proportion of Syrian refugees employed in Lebanon ranges from 17% to 33%. As a significant part of employment is undertaken on a daily basis, temporary and subject to seasonal changes, it varies significantly per region and time of year. The main constraints to employment are reported as a lack of jobs and skills, difficult working conditions, prejudice against Syrians, and limited freedom of movement. Information on the situation of vulnerable communities indicates that unemployment is increasing due to the influx of additional labour.

A profiling exercise of Lebanese returnees showed that 56% of men and 8%of women were employed, mostly on a seasonal or a day-to-day basis. Data indicated that only 10% of assessed PRS households had access to employment, compared to 38% of PRL. Among all target groups, women and youth were found to face more difficulties in finding employment.

Employment per sector
Syrians in Lebanon generate income predominantly from the agriculture, business and service sectors. The ongoing impact of the Syrian crisis has affected economic activities, with decreased trading, declining tourism and weak local investment. Available information on market capacity to host Syrian labour indicates that the agriculture, services and construction market cannot sufficiently expand to absorb the additional labour supply. However, reports showed that many Syrians continue to find employment, albeit mostly temporarily and/or on a daily basis.

Women's employment patterns
Several assessments confirm that the proportion of Syrian and Palestinian women earning an income in Lebanon is far below their male counterparts. The main reasons reported are the lack of available jobs and household duties, including the need to take care of small children.

Wages and work conditions
Wages differ according to the season, the type of employee, sector and contract. The data did not provide generalisations on wage levels by geographic area or sector. Available information shows that the average income for Syrian refugees is below the minimum wage in Lebanon (LBP 675,000). In addition, information on working conditions highlights instances of exploitation, including a lack of social security and long working hours. Wages are higher for Lebanese workers than their Syrian counterparts, and better for men than women. The most recent information on Palestinian workers, from 2011, indicates that the average monthly income is below the minimum wage and many Palestinians are working without a written contract.

Level of household debt
Available data indicates that \between 70% and 91%of Syrian refugee households are in debt; with amounts owed ranging from USD 201 to USD 600. Assessments show that the debt is generally higher for those living in larger households or those who have been in Lebanon longer. Loan sources are usually friends or relatives inside and outside of Lebanon. No information is available on household debt among other target groups.

Main priority needs identified from the data included:

- Improved access to income-generating opportunities for vulnerable Lebanese, and for refugees who directly benefit Lebanese businesses
- Support for existing markets to create additional livelihoods opportunities
- Support to women to overcome barriers to livelihoods opportunities
- Decent work conditions and wages for all target groups

Geographic highlights

From the data it was possible to conclude that those areas with the highest number of refugees face the highest competition for jobs. In addition, insecurity is a significant barrier to livelihood access. Border areas that have seen trade disrupted because of border closures, were highlighted as a geographical priority.

Sector-specific information gaps and recommendations

Gaps
- The effect of the crisis on livelihoods and the labour market, particularly for Lebanese host communities
- The employment profile of Syrian refugees or Lebanese communities
- Use of existing markets to create livelihood opportunities
- Trade flows on food and non-food commodities
- The situation for Syrians employed in industry
- Skills gaps in Lebanese labour market
- Best practices for cash-for-work programmes in Lebanon

Recommendations

Undertake a labour market assessment, highlighting current constraints and opportunities for expansion, as well as trade flows, levels of wages, and other key market indicators. This assessment should enable cross comparisons and highlight the impact of the crisis on Lebanese working conditions. Some of these information gaps will be covered by assessments, as planned by several actors - including the ILO, the GoL and the World Bank.

In cooperation with protection actors, monitor exploitative work practices, including child labour, and, where appropriate, capture these situations within upcoming assessments.

4.2.5   SOCIAL COHESION

- There is a widespread perception among the Lebanese population that Syrian refugees are benefiting disproportionately from the international & national response.
- Tensions between refugee and host communities are highest in areas of pre-existing social tension.
- Potential triggers for conflict, or the escalation of existing conflict, have been identified as: increased competition over local resources, economic deprivation, attribution of crime to a specific group, the mobilisation of communities causing sectarian tension, and racist behaviour towards refugees.

The majority of available data was on Lebanese communities and Syrian refugees.

Context

The potential for tension between the Lebanese and Syrian refugee communities is exacerbated by the fact that the majority of refugees (some 85%) are living in 229 communities where the majority of economically-vulnerable Lebanese people (66%) also reside. As the country grapples with its own political and internal divisions, the growing strain on host communities is contributing to tension between them and refugees, as highlighted by an increase in the number of violent incidents against refugees. Moreover, multiple dynamics are at play, involving Lebanese-Lebanese, Lebanese-Syrian, Lebanese-Palestinian, Syrian-Palestinian tensions. Several underlying and pre existing conflicts have ignited as a result of the Syria crisis. For example, sectarian tensions between the Jabal Mohsen and Bab al-Tabbaneh neighbourhoods of Tripoli, dating back to Lebanon's civil war, have intensified.

Main findings

Impact of the Syria crisis on stability in Lebanon
Almost all assessments on the topic highlight the significant impact of the Syrian crisis on available resources and services in Lebanon - the crisis, for instance, has lowered GDP and increased unemployment. The main sectors requiring stabilisation, according to the GoL are electricity, transport infrastructure, water supply and wastewater, health, education, social safety nets and employment. Limited information on the possible beneficial effects of the crisis and the refugee situation indicate that the primarily benefactors are middle and high income populations. The poorest are most affected.

Structural and proximate sources of tension
All assessments highlight significant pre-existing, structural causes of tension that have been aggravated by the Syria crisis. These include the underlying tension between communities of differing religious and political loyalties, weak public institutions and public services, and limited national cohesion. In addition, assessments cite the use of water sources, public services, and disputes within local governance bodies, as sources of tensions prior to the crisis.

Various reports indicated the following immediate sources of tension: economic pressure and access to livelihoods, inter-group resentment, and limited social interaction between host communities and refugees. The propensity to violence seems to increase in response to economic hardship, the absence of coping mechanisms, and the limited capacity of local Government. Negative perceptions also provoke tension. Fears, feelings of insecurity, and resentment seem to stem more from prejudice, word-of-mouth and media reports, rather than personal experience or strong cultural incompatibilities between Lebanese and Syrians. Syrians who closely follow events back home are also more likely to justify violence. There is a widespread perception among Lebanese communities that Syrians are benefiting disproportionally from the response.

Possible triggers for further escalation
Tensions are particularly high in specific areas that are historically prone to violent incidents and localised conflict. Triggers to conflict or tension include: increased competition for local resources; economic deprivation; the attribution of crime to a specific group; the mobilisation of communities, which causes sectarian tension; and racist behaviour towards refugees. The potential spill-over of the Syrian conflict onto Lebanese territory was also identified as a possible trigger.

Current conflict trends
The overall security situation in Lebanon has deteriorated since the start of the crisis in Syria, with a number of targeted explosions and cross-border security incidents. While there is little information on whether conflict incidents between and among communities in Lebanon have increased, increasingly

curfews are being imposed on Syrian refugees, who feel intimidated. Information available shows that a small number of Syrians fear or have experienced harassment or violence in Lebanon.

Resources to mitigate/manage conflict and potential change agents

Although tensions are high, available information suggests that the majority of Lebanese and Syrians are conflict averse and so there is room for conflict mitigation efforts. Most information available highlights a trend of 'self-protection' and shows that local actors, such as religious leaders, provide conflict resolution. There are important disparities throughout the country, with a more resilient political framework in the South that allows mediation by local institutions and political parties, while mediation in Tripoli is needed by NGOs or international institutions. One assessment found that 'natural leaders' of the Syrian community have not emerged and support networks are relatively weak.

Main priority needs identified from the data included:

- The alleviation of pressure on immediate sources of tension, particularly economic pressure
- Access to adequate information on the humanitarian response and the role of Government institutions to counterbalance misperceptions
- Increased opportunities for social interaction between and among communities
- The protection of vulnerable communities from harassment and violence
- Improved conflict sensitivity among humanitarian actors

Geographic and target group highlights

Based on the data available, the MSNA team has found high tension in the following areas:

- Tripoli (Jabal Mohsen, Bab al-Tabbaneh and Qibbe)
- Saida (HaretSaida, Taamir, Taamir Ain al- Hilweh, Abra)
- Beirut (Cola, Kaskas, Tariq al Jadideh), the northern Akkar region (especially Wadi Khaled)
- Bekaa (especially Aarsal, Hermel)

Existing information suggests priority target groups could include unemployed young males, due to their propensity to engage in violence to undermine social cohesion.

Sector-specific information gaps and recommendations

Gaps

- The impact of the crisis on stability: there is no information available on the existing capacity and bottlenecks in the most affected municipalities
- Structural and proximate causes of conflict: there is no information on how perceptions of Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians regarding security and social cohesion have developed over time
- Current conflict trends: while the main security incidents are widely covered by the media, there is almost no data regarding the likelihood of localised tension between and among communities resulting in conflict and how that could present itself
- Resources to mitigate and manage conflict and potential change agents: the available resources on potential change agents and conflict mitigation mechanisms are mostly anecdotal and patchy
- Response impact: there is limited information on the international humanitarian response's impact on the structural and immediate sources of tension, or on how it fuels existing tension or creates more

Recommendations

Identify clear indicators for possible esclation of violence, taking into account the specific triggers for different geographic areas.

While monitoring of the situation in traditional 'hot spot' areas (including WadiKhaled, Aarsal, Tripoli and Palestinian refugee camps) is the current priority, over time any monitoring system should attempt to capture other areas, including the south, Beirut and Mount Lebanon.

Capture, quantify and disseminate information on assistance provided to host communities, as well as the positive impact of on-going interventions on Lebanon. This is particularly important with regards to the upcoming large scale cash-based programmes, which could increase tensions among and within communities.

- Some 90% of Syrian refugees arrive in Lebanon with almost no personal possessions, and most do not have the means to purchase basic NFIs.
- Approximately 86,900 Syrian refugee households received a winter-specific support package, including NFIs, from November 2013 to March 2014.
- Priorities depend on geographic areas, but the majority of the Syrian refugees assessed ranked pots and kitchen utensils as the first priority NFI.

The majority of available assessments covered Syrian refugees.

Context

Many refugees arrive in Lebanon without personal possessions and do not have the resources to purchase NFIs. To address this need, the humanitarian community distributes to all newcomers 'core relief items - household items, such as: clothing; bedding (mattresses and blankets); cooking equipment (stoves and kitchen sets of pots, pans, bowls, cutlery); and consumables, such as fuel (for cooking or heating), soap, detergent, washing powder, sanitary items, diapers and toilet paper. Shelter materials, such as plastic tarpaulins or sheeting are also NFIs, but their distribution is coordinated by the shelter SWG. The hygiene kit and baby kit monthly distribution is coordinated by the WASH SWG.

It is apparent that there are gradual moves by humanitarian stakeholders to focus more on medium to long-term programmes and development strategies. This involves the creation of income-generating opportunities, to provide sustainable income sources and reduce dependency. In addition, there are significant moves to replace some of the in-kind assistance currently provided with cash transfers. For information on this and other cross-cutting issues surrounding income, expenditure, access to goods on the market, coping mechanisms and preferred modalities, please refer to section 3.2.10.

Main findings

Preparing for winter
In preparation for the winter months –November 2013 and March 2014, the humanitarian community provided specific cold weather support to vulnerable families to allow, for instance, the purchase of fuel, blankets and heaters. Most of this support was provided in the form of cash transfer through CSC bank ATM cards, however, additional NFIs were also provided. The winter assistance package comprised one thermal blanket or quilt per person, a stove or USD 50 cash in *lieu* of a stove per house hold, and heating fuel through ATM cards, fuel cards or vouchers worth USD 100 for each of the five winter months. It is estimated that, in total, 86,900 households (434,500 individuals) were provided with winter packages for this period.[5] This figure included newcomers and other vulnerable families.

NFI assistance
The data suggests that 90% of Syrians arrive with almost no personal possessions and most do not have the means to purchase basic NFIs. An assessment of Lebanese returnees estimated that 84% of returnees had not received any assistance, from the humanitarian community or the Government, since arriving in Lebanon. Among the remaining 16%, the types of assistance most frequently received included NFIs (179 households) – mostly consisting of blankets and household items.

Assessments in the south of the country showed that those families who were not receiving NFIs were using other sources to purchase them, which, in Tyre, were mainly found to be from personal resources (86%), such as savings, selling assets, or daily work. In Saida, 63% of these families resorted to credit from stores and friends. These families were asked to rank their priority NFIs. In Tyre, more than half selected pots and utensils as their first priority, with fuel second and cleaning products third. In Saida, the first priority was cooking pots and utensils, soap second and cleaning products third.

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[5] It should be noted that these figures were taken from data provided at the time of writing. Since then, it is estimated that 119,270 HH's were provided with NFIs between November and April.

Main priority needs identified from the data included:

- Pots and kitchen utensils were ranked as priority NFIs by most refugees assessed
- NFIs for newcomers

Geographic and target group highlights

The data and information reviewed shows that there should be geographical variation in the delivery of NFIs and cash assistance. Greater attention should be given to the variations in cost of living and access to markets across Lebanon, as urban areas are more costly to live in than rural communities.

The available data suggests that key priority groups are currently people of concern among unregistered refugees and newcomers. However, it is very difficult for agencies to access and identify newcomers, which adds to logistic costs and means that some refugees are missed and do not receive NFI packages. Limited data exists on the basic needs of vulnerable Lebanese, including Lebanese returnees. Available data suggests they have become more deprived in the past three years, in terms of incomes and basic needs.

Sector-specific information gaps and recommendations

Gaps

- There are no updated lists of the excluded or cases that have been re-registered for NFI assistance
- A lack of information on unregistered refugees and newcomers, making it difficult to gauge which households have received assistance from humanitarian actors

Recommendations

Conduct assessments on access and barriers to distribution points.

Standardise and consolidate the newcomer household assessment questionnaires and consolidate existing household assessment data sets.

In future assessments, monitor transitions of refugees in and out of vulnerability and how this affects their need for assistance.

Ensure distinctions between rural and urban areas are captured in future assessments to account for differences in the situation.

- Some 12% of registered Syrian refugees accessed Lebanon via an unofficial border crossing. Reasons cited include: fear of arrest or detention due to real or imputed political opposition support; lack of financial resources to undertake the journey to the official borders; insecurity; lack of documentation; proximity to areas where refugees may have family ties.
- The majority of Syrian refugees who wish to register with UNHCR are not having trouble doing so.
- Displaced populations without valid residency permits are disproportionately affected by increased security measures, such as checkpoints or curfews.
- Freedom of movement is a challenge for women and girls - coupled with barriers related to costs of services, distance, and access to information, particularly for female headed households.

The majority of available assessments covered Syrian refugees.

Context

Despite the absence of a comprehensive refugee-related legal framework, the GoL has maintained an open border to civilians fleeing the conflict in Syria, providing a safe protection space on its territory to more than one million refugees, although some restrictions were recently imposed upon the entry, particularly for PRS. The scale of the refugee presence tests the capacity of the protection response. The dispersal of refugees adds complexity to access, monitoring and protection interventions - particularly in remote or highly insecure areas, due to their proximity to conflict zones.

Children are overwhelmingly worst affected by the crisis. More than half of the Syrian refugees registered in Lebanon (52%) and 39% of PRS, wereunder18 years as of April 2014. They have experienced upheaval, instability, and insecurity in their lives, leaving them particularly vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse. Often, they have directly witnessed atrocities committed against family and friends - this has a significant impact on their well-being. Increasing economic insecurity and limited access to education opportunities increase vulnerabilities and need for coping mechanisms by refugee and Lebanese families alike.

Syrian women and children (who made up 75% of registered refugees in Lebanon in April 2014) were disproportionately affected by SGBV, particularly unaccompanied adolescents, single heads of households, child mothers, child spouses and child widows. Their mobility is restricted by cultural values and security concerns, and vulnerable women are the most difficult to reach.

Main findings

Access to territory
According to available countrywide registration data, more than12% of registered Syrian refugees entered Lebanon through an unofficial border crossing, with figures reaching as much as 18% or 19% in the northern and Bekaa areas. Other assessments highlight significant geographical differences, with rates of up to 30% in some geographically-focused assessments. Reasons include fear of arrest or detention at official border crossings due to real or imputed political opposition support; lack of financial resources to undertake the journey to the official borders; insecurity; lack of documentation; proximity to areas where refugees may have family ties. Entry through unofficial borders implies no regular status in the country, since the regularisation costs are largely unaffordable. Syrian refugees and PRS who lack a valid stay permit may be subjected to arrest for variable periods of time. Upon release they are issued a deportation order, but it largely remains unexecuted.

While an open border policy is maintained, a reinforcement of border controls by the General Security Office (GSO) reportedly led to the rejection of individuals with damaged documents, increased examination of entry purposes and addresses. People with specific needs and families seem not to have been affected. Since August 2013, restrictions have increasingly been imposed on PRS seeking to enter Lebanon.

Legal stay
Upon crossing an official Lebanese border point, Syrians with valid and accepted identification documents (ID) are granted legal residency for a period of six months, renewable free of charge for another six months at any regional GSO office. PRS are required to obtain a transit visa upon entry, at a cost of LL 25,000 (USD 17), which allows them to stay legally of up to 15 days, following which they must transfer to a three-

month short stay visa that can be renewed for up to one year's stay in Lebanon. Afterwards, both Syrian refugees and PRS age 15 and above must regularise their stay at the cost of LBP 300,000 (USD 200). The cost of the residency permit is a major impediment for the refugees to maintain their legal status. Refugees also fear approaching authorities because of potential repercussions, and some resort to negative coping mechanisms to overcome these challenges (e.g. resorting to unofficial documents, forged documentation, or crossing back and forth).

By December 31, 2014, it is estimated that there may be 388,000 Syrian refugees without valid legal residency in the country. While lack of documentation is not a barrier to registering with UNHCR, recording with UNRWA, or receiving humanitarian assistance, it restricts movement, particularly in areas with high security presence - such as around Palestinian camps. It also creates legal barriers in obtaining civil documentation and in accessing justice, as individuals with no valid residency documentation avoid approaching official institutions.

Registration
Data shows that most refugees are not encountering problems in registering with UNHCR. The number of Syrians unable or unwilling to register, and the reasons behind this, remain to be determined. In some parts of Bekaa and Akkar, security concerns and restricted freedom of movement are cited as the main obstacles to registration, particularly for refugees lacking documentation. A lack of understanding and misperceptions about the benefits of registration also influence refugees' decision to register. Other possible barriers reportedly include the cost of transport and lack of mobility for people with disabilities.

Freedom of movement
General insecurity, sectarian tension in specific areas and reinforced security measures, such as checkpoints or curfews (imposed by municipalities or non-state actors), have general repercussions on the mobility of refugees and an impact on economic opportunities and access to services. Such situations disproportionally affect Syrian refugees and PRS with no personal documentation, and individuals who lack a valid stay permit. Detention monitoring shows that between February 2013 and March 2014, 17% of the 1,102 Syrians identified in detention were detained because of illegal stay or entry. While systems are in place to collect information on detention cases in official detention facilities, much less is known on the situation and number of people arrested at police stations or checkpoints. Freedom of movement is a significant concern, particularly for women and girls, due to security concerns and cultural values.

Physical safety and security
Data collection and analysis on incidents made available by protection actors is still limited and largely of qualitative nature. A few assessments indicate that the majority of Syrians feel safe in Lebanon. However, a small proportion are said to have faced discrimination, including harassment and extortions, or crime.

Physical safety remains a concern for the civilian population in border areas with Syria, in locations with a high proliferation of arms or heightened tension around political allegiances, including in relation to the Syrian conflict (e.g. Tripoli). Experts report the presence of nearly 1,400 confirmed minefields and 520 cluster munitions strike areas, including areas hosting refugees. There is limited data on mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW) incidents. Available sources report an increase between 2012 and 2013. The assumed reasons for this are linked to lack of awareness and proper demarcation of contaminated areas.

Birth registration and civil status documentation
Available analysis is largely focused on birth certificates and its link to the possession of valid legal residency documentation. Around 75% of infants born between August and December 2013 reportedly did not have an official birth certificate. The possession of a valid marriage certificate is also emerging as an issue among refugees – there is a lack of awareness of the document's importance and the procedure required to obtain it, and concern about associated costs.

Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)
According to data reviewed, as of March 2014 more than 3,800 UASC have been identified. Registration captures a part of the population at a specific time and, as a result, this data is unlikely to provide the complete picture. The majority of unaccompanied children are reunified with their parents and/or further family members shortly after they cross the border.

Child labour
Sending children to work is a reported coping mechanism, as well as removing children from schools. Assessments highlight that children are engaged in different types of work, including in agriculture, shops, carpentry, cleaning, construction, as well as begging and selling on the streets.

Psychological impact of the crisis on children and parents
A number of assessments highlight the psychological impact of the crisis on children and caregivers. Children are reportedly experiencing anxiety, trouble sleeping, hyperactivity, low self-esteem, and aggressive behaviour, among others. Psychological distress also affects academic achievement. Caregivers and parents state that their distress prevents them from being able to comfort, guide and support their children.

Housing, land and property issues, including evictions
The data reviewed indicates that a growing number of Syrian refugees and PRS reside in informal tented settlements on private or public land, as well as in sub-standard accommodation in overcrowded Palestinian refugee camps. A rapid survey among newly-registered refugees confirms the assumption that most agreements between refugees and landlords are non-formal and largely verbal, often making the tenure insecure. Evictions are increasing, particularly in Akkar, Bekaa and Tripoli. Most of them are lawful (inability of the refugee families to pay the rent), but may not always be lawfully conducted. Other emerging causes are reported tensions with landowners, communities, and municipal authorities, which are increasingly concerned by the rise in informal settlements.

Persons with specific needs (PwSN)
Few available quantitative and qualitative assessments focus on specific needs, particularly of older people and those with disabilities, including children. Available information highlights the more severe consequences of inadequate assistance levels: challenges in accessing services, collective centres and tented settlements; and isolation and stigma. There are concerns that there are more people with disabilities than is currently shown in available registration data[6]. One assessment shows that the large majority of older people are often affected by chronic diseases or impairment and/or are showing signs of psychological distress.

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)
In line with best practices for SGBV data collection[7], information available does not assess the prevalence of SGBV, but focuses on assessing the availability of life-saving and specialised services. Findings of the secondary data review revealed several challenges related to freedom of movement, specifically for women and girls, coupled with barriers related to service costs, distance, and access to information, particularly for female-headed households.

Main priority needs identified from the data included:

- Access to registration and assistance, particularly for vulnerable groups with limited legal status
- Access to civil documentation, particularly birth and marriage certification and increased legal awareness
- Access to regular updates on the number of Syrian births and trends
- Access to information on available services
- Improved referral and support for PwSN
- Continued advocacy on refugee rights (access to territory, legal stay), including durable solutions
- Access to safe identification and referral for SGBV survivors

Geographic and target group highlights

Data collated suggests that specific attention should be given to areas that have a high refugee concentration; are more prone to influxes (Akkar and North Bekaa); have limited protection support (Akkar and the south); where freedom of movement is limited due to checkpoints and curfews; and to Palestinian camps, gatherings and communities with complex dynamics, which may hamper refugee movements, particularly for women and girls.

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[6]However, it should be noted that at registration stage, only specific needs that are visible and declared by the family are identified. UNHCR and partners become aware of more specific needs at a later stage through e.g. home visits, community centres, focus groups, case management, etc. This year RAIS database will be launched which will help to compile and consolidate the data gathered on specific needs identified after registration."

[7] IASC 2005 Guidelines for GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Settings indicate "All humanitarian personnel should therefore assume and believe that GBV, and in particular sexual violence, is taking place and is a serious and life-threatening protection issue, regardless of the presence or absence of concrete and reliable evidence".

The definition of vulnerability varies according to the specific protection concern. A detailed categorisation of groups with specific needs is captured through the registration process and used as the basis for referral and case management, such as UASC; child-headed households; female-headed households without other family support; people with disability; elderly people with no family support; victims of grave violations or abuse; undocumented individuals or those without valid legal stay documentation; and other groups particularly at risk of discrimination (e.g. lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, intersex (LGBTI) individuals).

While the risks and vulnerabilities for children may change between nationalities and geographies, the need to protect children against violence remains universal. Child protection takes a holistic approach to strengthening communities and creating safer environments for all children. SGBV prevention and response services are open to all population groups. Adolescent girls, including those who are married, out-of-school, separated or unaccompanied, as well as women living without a male member in the household, and women and girls with disabilities, are particularly at risk of SGBV.

It should be noted that some of the protection issues are rooted in socio-cultural norms and practices that make them difficult to identify and address, as victims may face barriers to reporting and seeking assistance. Without proper reporting, it is difficult to get a sense of what the actual needs are, although we have standards and experience from other emergencies to know what needs to be done.

Sector-specific information gaps and recommendations

Gaps

Additional analysis on specific protection topics and better systematisation of protection data is required. Information tends to focus on areas with a high concentration of newly-arrived Syrian refugees. Available assessments have limited quantitative components, since group discussions and consultations with key informants is a prevalent methodology. While age, gender and geographical disaggregation is available through the registration data, few assessments presented data disaggregated by sex and age. Data on the elderly and people with disabilities is also scarce[8].

In light of the sensitivies, the data reviewed by the MSNA on SGBV is largely from public reports, as a significant amount of data - on trends, needs, risk factors and access to services - that inform programming and individual response, cannot be shared publically. To improve collection and sharing of SGBV-related data, a gender-based violence information management system (GBVIMS) is currently being rolled out in Lebanon[9].

Other highlighted information gaps referred to:
- The situation and dynamics at border crossing points, particularly those that are unofficial
- The extent of the unregistered refugee population and why they are not registering
- Analysis on how not having legal stay documentation impacts access to services
- Eviction trends, in particular to assess categories particularly at risk
- Procedures at official and unofficial checkpoints, as well as incidents (arrests, detention, harassment), particularly for undocumented refugees or those with expired residency permits
- The impact of curfews
- The location and concentration of mines and ERW
- The possible protection impact of targeted assistance, such as negative coping mechanisms
- Protection concerns of other targeted populations, including the vulnerable Lebanese communities

Recommendations

There is a significant amount of qualitative information on protection concerns – particularly SGBV and child protection - collected across the country. Most information needs are reportedly, or planned to be, covered by assessments and monitoring reports. Therefore, the main recommendation concerns the aggregating, analysing and sharing collected data. There is a need to reinforce tools to systematise and consolidate the analysis of qualitative data. The sharing of information among protection actors to better

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[8] The RAIS database, which will be introduced in 2014, will improve the collection and consolidation of information on specific needs, identified after registration through e.g. home visits and case management".

[9] GBVIMS is an inter-agency data management system that enables those providing services to SGBV survivors to effectively and safely collect, store, share and analyse data related to reported incidents of SGBV. The SGBV data collected by the GBVIMS reflect the reported cases and therefore do not reflect the prevalence of SGBV incidents in the operation. Sharing of SGBV data and trends analysis is regulated by an information sharing protocol which outlines what data to be shared, for what purpose, who compiles the data, who has access to the compiled statistics and for what purpose as well as all ethical and safety issues that must be considered before sharing data.

support evidence-based advocacy and programming is critical, and will also require a harmonisation of the qualitative data tools and procedures.

To make further use of the SGBV information, an analysis framework should be established to capture qualitative data to provide information on challenges related to service provision, including on accessibility and quality of services, and current operational constraints, per geographic area. While it is recommended that SGBV- and child protection-specific assessments are undertaken by specialised actors, gender and age disaggregated data collection in all sectors would generate relevant information for efficient prevention and response strategies.

Existing protection monitoring tools must continue to include the information needs and gaps identified above, and extend the scope of monitoring, with better geographical coverage and disaggregation on specific target groups. In addition, community-based outreach mechanisms should continue to be strengthened as a key source of information to identify concerns and offer an opportunity for increased dialogue with communities and programme feedback.

- An increasing number of displaced people are relying on non-durable, and potentially vulnerable, shelter solutions; between June 2013 and February 2014 there was a 154% increase in Informal Settlements.
- Just over half (51%) of registered Syrian refugees are categorised as at risk due to shelter concerns.
- Displaced populations are predominately living in overcrowded and relatively expensive shelters. given their lack of income and depleted resources and living conditions, at a cost of between 150 and 300 USD per month.

The majority of available data was focused on registered Syrian refugees.

Context

A long-standing Government policy prevented camps being established in Lebanon to cope with the influx of refugees caused by the Syria crisis. By the end of 2013, one formal tented settlement (FTS) was established, with the support of the Ministry of Social Affairs, and a number of semi-formal tented settlements were established by NGOs. However, these sites were launched on a case-by-case basis and the scope does not significantly improve the shelter situation for others at risk.

A lack of alternatives saw displaced populations seek shelter within host communities, including in Palestinian camps and Informal Settlements (IS). As refugees continue to enter Lebanon, the shelter absorption capacity of the country is rapidly diminishing, particularly in and around already crowded Palestinian refugee camps and the areas in which some of the most economically marginalised and vulnerable Lebanese communities reside.

At the onset of the Syrian crisis, displaced populations were better able to afford safe shelter solutions. As affordable shelter options have become more difficult to find, displaced populations are increasingly turning to improvised shelter solutions (such as IS, unfinished buildings or otherwise sub-standard buildings). As a result of the diminishing shelter options, it can be expected that the number of vulnerable households requiring shelter assistance will continue to increase.

It should be noted that, at the time of writing, the findings from the most recent shelter survey were not available.

Main findings

Living conditions
The available data shows that there are considerable differences between shelter options for the different target population groups. For example, while only 59% of registered Syrian refugees were identified as living in apartments or houses, 70% of Lebanese returnees, and around 82% to 85%of PRS were resident in this shelter type. While IS are present across the country, they are most prevalent in the Bekaa Valley and in the north. The number of people being forced to rely on these shelter solutions increased dramatically between June 2013 and February 2014, when a 154% increase in IS throughout the country was identified. According to available data, the average rent paid by the target population for their shelters ranges from 150 to 300 USD per month, depending on the population group. High rental costs, and the depletion of Lebanon's housing stock, has seen 51% of the registered Syrian refugee population categorised by the shelter working group as being at risk. There is no data available on living conditions for unregistered refugees.

Average settlement space
Overall, available assessment information suggests that all the target populations are living in insufficient space. While shelter space is categorised as insufficient, it is worth noting that the shelter space for registered and awaiting registration refugees identified through the VASyR is significantly higher than the recommended minimum SPHERE standards of 3.5 square metres per person. Overcrowding was identified as problematic for all population groups whose data was collected. Half of the registered Syrian refugee population were identified as sharing their shelter with another refugee household. Upon displacement from Syria, PRS predominately relocated to areas in and around existing Palestinian refugee camps – almost half of them (45%) were living with Palestinian host families resident in already cramped conditions.

Overcrowding was found to have negative impacts on the hygiene and social and psychological health of the target populations, resulting in considerable protection risks, including of domestic violence and SGBV. For more information on how adverse living conditions affect the health status, access to water and other services, such as education, please refer to the relevant sector chapters.

Preparing for winter
According to available post-distribution monitoring data, just over half of registered Syrian refugees were targeted by humanitarian agencies during 2013. Prior to distributions, an inability to heat the shelter or home was identified as a primary concern by a considerable number of registered Syrian refugees. A sizeable proportion of them reported that they already had the necessary items to cope with winter at the time post-distribution monitoring was conducted, 27%. There is no data available on winter-specific needs for any other target groups in the shelter data. For more information please refer to the *NFI/Basic Needs chapter.*

Main priority needs identified from the data included:

Available data only covers the main shelter needs of registered Syrian refugees. However, taking into account the similarities in the shelter situation of the target groups, these needs can be applied to other groups with a reasonable level of confidence. Main shelter needs for registered Syrian refugees were identified as:

- Cash to pay for shelter and weather proofing in IS and other non-durable shelter solutions
- Formal tented settlements
- Improved public and private collective shelters
- Site improvement in IS
- Collective shelter management

Geographic and target group highlights

From the data available it was possible to conclude that the main priority groups are those experiencing one (or more) of the following:

- Eviction - either as a result of being removed from the shelter/landowner, an exhaustion of resources or tensions with neighbouring communities or local leaders
- Potential eviction – either a result of high rental costs or a lack of livelihood opportunities
- Overcrowded shelters
- Residency in shelters that require significant upgrade/rehabilitation, for example to the roof, windows, or bathroom
- Those without shelter; new arrivals

Sector-specific information gaps and recommendations

Gaps
There is a lack of data that disaggregated between rural, urban and semi-urban areas. There also appears to be a lack of data about poor/vulnerable Lebanese and the extent to which, and how, their housing costs and shelter situation is affected by the saturation of the housing market

Recommendations
Shelter assessments need to be geographically representative at the operational level (i.e. by the UNHCR sub offices) and differentiate between rural, urban and semi-urban locations, as well as the type of shelter. This will capture the specific needs that appear to exist along these lines.

- Some 28% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon do not have access to safe drinking water.
- Water contamination of the public network is a critical issue facing Lebanon and happens at the system's source, distribution, and storage points.
- The increasing prevalence of shelters not originally intended for habitation has resulted in a growing concern that displaced people are unable to access adequate sanitation facilities.

The majority of available data was around Syrian refugees.

Context

Water is more widely available in Lebanon than in other Middle East countries. However, water quantity, quality and access challenges that pre-date the Syrian crisis have been exacerbated by the large influx of refugees. It is estimated that demand for water has increased by 7%; the pre-crisis demand was335 million cubic metres per year.

Lebanon's water sector is facing numerous challenges in terms of provision and management of services. As a result, Lebanon is economically water scarce because of mismanagement, including: low water storage capacity; the high amount of water lost to the sea; poor maintenance of the water distribution network; the lack of an effective fee payment scheme for the water sector; and illegal connections. Water supply is also interrupted by periodic power outages. The result is that some regions have an irregular supply of sufficient water. Perhaps more significantly, irrigation for agriculture has been largely inefficient, due to the high proportion of open channels in the network.

The quality of water in Lebanon is varies considerably due to: the disposal of untreated domestic sewage and other contaminants from open dumping, including the direct discharge of industrial effluent into the environment; seawater intrusion and over-exploitation of groundwater; high nitrate levels from the use of fertilisers and unregulated application of pesticides, though no quantitative data is available to specify the amount. Before the Syria crisis, the coverage of wastewater networks was 60%, but only 8% of wastewater was treated. The lack of wastewater treatment facilities and limited wastewater collection systems poses a significant risk to public health.

UNRWA provides WASH services in the 12 Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, rather than the Lebanese authorities. Infrastructure that was already ageing and in need of rehabilitation has been strained further by the addition of 26,000 PRS to the existing camp population, as well as some Syrian refugees. Overcrowding in the camps has also affected household water, sanitation and hygiene activities, including accessing toilets. Large numbers of PRS also reside in areas adjacent to the camps and Palestinian gatherings, beyond UNRWA's mandate for provision of infrastructure services. WASH services in these areas are often inadequate, with needs not fully met by local municipalities.

Main findings

Water supply and access
The data shows insufficient access to a safe and sufficient water supply for Syrian refugees, with 28% unable to access safe water. More than 70% of households rely on the public water network; however, most have to supplement this in order to meet their drinking and other water needs, with some paying between LBP 60,000 and LBP 90,000 per month.

Water quality
Information collected indicates that water contamination happens at the system's source, distribution, and storage points. Agricultural runoff and sewage are contaminating the water supply. Water is treated at the municipal level, which is generally unable to deal with the source contamination issues. Further contamination is occurring within the reservoirs, due to a lack of maintenance and contamination protection procedures. The cracks in aging water distribution networks and old storage tanks offer further contamination points. Electricity outages also depressurise the distribution network, allowing contaminants to infiltrate the network. Despite the prevalence of contamination, very few Syrian refugees filter or treat the water before drinking it. This could be due to a lack of resources and/or knowledge to apply their own in-home water treatment. For a handful of assessed Lebanese communities, water quality is poor due to increased demand and lack of waste management. The data indicates that there is a biased perception that the Syrian refugees are a major contributor to water quality issues.

Sanitation

The data shows that municipalities rely mainly on a public sewerage system, although some still have pit latrines. For Syrian refugees, the majority of households (61%) had access to improved latrines. A third of Syrian refugee households used traditional pit latrines and 7% did not have access to toilet facilities, using the open field or springs. The lack of adequate sanitation facilities is a concern, particularly in buildings and settlements that were not originally intended as living spaces. The ratio of people to toilets varies between areas, with the worst cases being in some IS, where 26% of the facilities are shared by more than 15 individuals (the Lebanon WASH sector standard). In 'informal' structures, wastewater is not properly disposed. Poor sewage disposal has resulted in water source and agricultural pollution and vector control problems.

Hygiene

Syrian refugees generally are knowledgeable of and practice good hygiene when they have access to water and hygiene products, however, many refugees suffer from poor hygiene-related illnesses. Based on the available data, the ability to access products and clean facilities appears a determinant. In addition, overcrowding, substandard housing, and housing located near open waste disposal sites has led to the presence of rodents and insects.

Solid waste management

Data collected did not show a significant difference between solid waste collection between refugees and the Lebanese. Municipalities are responsible for collecting solid waste, and most village waste is collected at most daily, at least weekly. A small percentage of municipalities use a contractor for collection. Waste 'treatment' frequently involves burning the waste. The majority of municipalities do not have a recycling system, nor do they take fees. Illegal dumping and open burning of solid waste are common where most towns or cities operate open dumps within their jurisdictions. Nevertheless, based on information from Syrian refugees in IS, it seems likely that solid waste management would also be an issue. The presence of the refugees increases the amount of solid waste needing to be collected and is negatively impacting the municipal budgets; however it is also creating more jobs.

Main priority needs identified from the data included

- Better water supply systems
- The improved quality of sanitation facilities, particularly in schools and collective shelters
- More hygienic water storage tanks

For Syrian refugees the data indicated an additional need for:

- Improved access to segregated toilets, latrines and bathing facilities, particularly in IS and unfinished dwellings
- The desludging of latrines
- Specific hygiene items, hygiene promotion and adapted facilities for PwSN

Geographic and target group highlights

WASH assessment data has not systematically identified the unique challenges of each of the target populations to enable conclusions around priority groups. However, it is apparent that the most vulnerable groups are those who are living in substandard dwellings, including IS and unfinished buildings.

Sector-specific information gaps and recommendations

Gaps

Information on the following water-related issues was limited:

- The different types of water storage being used, and the adequacy of each type
- Reasons why refugees do not treat their water
- Water quality and supply mapping
- Water market assessment
- Cases of water borne diseases and spikes in health outbreaks

Data on the following sanitation-related concerns was lacking:

- Specific quantitative data on the capacity of the system, and the cost needed to provide wastewater treatment for municipalities in each of the governorates
- The comparative access, cost, and quality of sanitation facilities for Syrian refugees

Regarding hygiene:

- There was no specific data on access to hand-washing, bathing or laundry facilities, the quality of the facilities and the cost of providing access to facilities for all Syrian refugees in need
- Vector control challenges had been identified, but no detailed analysis of the vector control issues provided or quantified

The following information on solid waste management was lacking:

- The quality of the system
- How the number of Syrian refugees without access to municipal trash collection compared with the number of Lebanese in the same situation
- How solid waste is collected among those Syrian refugees who are not living in standard living spaces

Recommendations

Data should be gathered in consultation with the health sector to ensure correlations between lack of clean water and hygiene access with negative health outcomes.

Data should be disaggregated by settlement type and should include the population density of shelters.

For planning purposes, a WASH-focused needs assessment is necessary, in order to geographically prioritise WASH programmes.

To determine the danger of over pumping wells, future assessments should include measures of whether safe yields of boreholes are being respected.

4.2.10   ISSUES THAT AFFECT PURCHASING ABILITY ACROSS SECTORS

Context

The crisis in Syria has negatively affected economic productivity, growth and the cost of living in Lebanon, increasing the price of basic foods and the cost of accessing public services and utilities. Lebanon is dependent on imports to provide for its basic food needs. Pre-crisis, it already possessed some of the highest prices in the Arab world for meat, sugar, tea, milk, potatoes and vegetable oil, as well as products such as pharmaceuticals.

The key drivers of high prices are a reliance on imports, uncompetitive consumer markets, and the existence of price monopolies in non-tradable goods, such as transport and electricity. There is significant regional variation in commodity prices between north Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley, and south Lebanon. Average retail prices are highest in the south and lowest in the Bekaa Valley.

Agriculture provides around 5% of GDP and 6% of employment. The regions of Akkar and Bekaa traditionally employ the largest number of paid seasonal agricultural workers in Lebanon, including a large number of Syrian migrants. However, the agriculture sector has been severely affectly the crisis and the loss of overland export routes to Gulf countries through Syria. In addition, farmers are struggling to compete with cheaper products from Syria. The cost of agricultural inputs has increased, as before the crisis a number of Lebanese farmers close to the borders benefited from lower-priced imports, or subsidised Syrian inputs, through smuggling.

To address the challenges faced in purchasing key food and NFI, in August 2013, the GoL allowed humanitarian organisations to provide cash assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees. During the course of the year, the humanitarian community commissioned CSC Bank to provide e-transfers of cash to refugee populations. The large-scale cash rollout built on the ongoing targeting process (VASyR), as well as the transition from WFP food paper vouchers to electronic vouchers distributed through different cards. Similarly, UNRWA has been running cash/ATM programmes since August 2013. Currently around 15,000 PRS families are receiving regular cash assistance.

Main findings from the data

Income
The assessments suggest that major sources of income for Syrian refugees consist of casual labour, skilled work and assistance. Influx of refugees into agricultural areas has reduced available wage rates. Monthly income variations were found between regions –USD 86 on average in Akkar to USD 547 in Beirut. The median income from earnings for refugee groups is USD 200 per month. It appears that the source of income for Syrian refugees changes depending upon whether unregistered, awaiting registration, newly registered or long-term registered. Savings are initially used, casual labour, debt and then a combination of food vouchers and more formal employment (if possible). On average, personal savings run out after six months.

Expenditure
The data reviewed indicates that average monthly expenditure per household across refugee groups varies significantly between geographic locations, due to the differing costs of living per area. For example the highest expenditure (in Beirut) for an average household of five is USD 580 per month, while the lowest average (Akkar-Bekaa) is USD 359 per month. The top three expenditures for Syrian refugees across Lebanon are: food (confirmed as the main expenditure across a number of assessments), rent and fuel. A high degree of seasonal variation was noted. For example, more will be spent in winter on fuel and food items (prices of which increase due to winter scarcity).

Coping mechanisms
For Syrian and Palestinian refugees, acquiring individual or household debt, either formally or informally, is a common coping strategy. Major drivers of debt are food purchasing, rent, healthcare and transportation. The median debt for households that have taken out loans ranges between USD 201 and USD 600.Reduced food consumption is common in order to save money. This involves consumption of less preferred/cheaper food and/or reduced meal frequency and portion sizes. The most common non-food coping strategies adopted are: spending savings, buying food on credit or borrowing money to purchase food, reducing essential non-food expenditures, or having children work. The prevalence of coping mechanisms, such as debt or reduced food intake, was found to be significantly higher among refugees recently registered and awaiting registration than those registered long-term.

Access to markets, goods and services

Several assessments highlighted access constraints to assistance and services for Syrian refugees - including costs, distance and access to information - all of which may increase the risk of resorting to negative harmful coping mechanisms. Women and girls are particularly affected by such access constraints, due to limited freedom of movement, particularly for single women or female-headed households.

Preferred modality and lessons learned

Limited data indicates that Syrian refugees generally express a preference for cash assistance over in-kind provision of NFI, and cash is rated as a first priority need by the majority of refugees. For example, food vouchers are insufficient to cover the cost of basic food, meat, fruit, vegetables and milk. In addition, combined cash and in-kind distributions can cause confusion among refugees. A main problem identified in relation to cash programming is locating a bank branch to cash cheques, although further research is required.

Geographic and target group highlights

Available information suggests that greater attention should be given to the variations in cost of living and access to markets across Lebanon, when delivering NFIs and cash assistance. There is an argument to be made that cash assistance could be weighted for regional variations in the cost of living. Urban areas are more costly to live in than rural communities.

Whilst the majority of available assessments predominantly cover Syrian refugees, the information suggests that priority target groups include: unregistered refugees and newcomers, and potentially vulnerable Lebanese and Lebanese returnees. Limited available data suggests the latter groups have become more deprived during the past three years, in terms of income. Additionally, the data indicates that when prioritising within target groups, the length of residence should be considered, as this has been found to be associated with levels of expenditure, coping strategies and debt.

Information gaps and recommendations

Gaps

- There is a significant need for information on the effect of cash assistance on the Lebanese local economy, prices and cost of living in general
- NFIs and basic needs - the survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) is currently being revised, based on data from 16 organisations. Existing data on markets and prices is adequate in the north and the Bekaa, but is lacking in the south, Mount Lebanon and Beirut
- Most MEB data is based on the amount required by an entire household, although the food item quantities in the MEB are mostly captured per capita
- There are problems when attempting to record price action of food versus NFIs; evaluate prices faced by Lebanese hosts, as well as refugee populations; and evaluate food voucher partner shops versus non-partner shops used by cash recipients
- There is a need for more information and data on market access constraints

Recommendations

The cash SWG is currently researching ways to expand the use of cash transfers mid-2014, including a market impact assessment. It is paramount that these assessments are designed in a way that allows replication over time and/or geographic area, and that lessons learned whilst undertaking these assessments are captured and shared.

Efforts have already been made within the humanitarian community to expand and harmonise existing price data collection initiatives. There are two specific areas that would benefit from further improvement:

- Triangulation of price data collected by humanitarian actors with other sources, including Government sources and/or corporate initiatives
- Collation and analysis of all price data

Conduct a value chain assessment. This will provide up-to-date information on the availability of essential items in local markets.

Carry out assessments on access and barriers to distribution points.

Standardise and consolidate the 'newcomer' household assessment questionnaires and consolidate existing household assessment data sets.

Conduct regional assessments and evaluations of unconditional cash transfer programmes and share best practices.

Monitor transitions of refugees in and out of vulnerability, and how this affects need for assistance.

Ensure distinctions between rural and urban areas are captured in future assessments to account for differences in the situation.

5. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS OF MSNA PHASE ONE – PRELIMINARY LESSONS LEARNT

Timeline: In order to meet the deadlines required for the RRP6 mid-term revision, the timeline for phase one was short. However, throughout the process, a number of extensions were agreed by the steering committee, based on concerns raised by various stakeholders. It was hoped that, with the new timeline, additional information would be shared with the MSNA team and all stakeholders would feel that there was sufficient time to provide input into the process, and feedback on the documentation, as it was being developed.

Data sharing: Inevitably, there were a number of assessment reports that were not made available to the MSNA team by the respective organisation/data owner. In part, this was due to concerns over data sharing, particularly for the more sensitive protection reports.
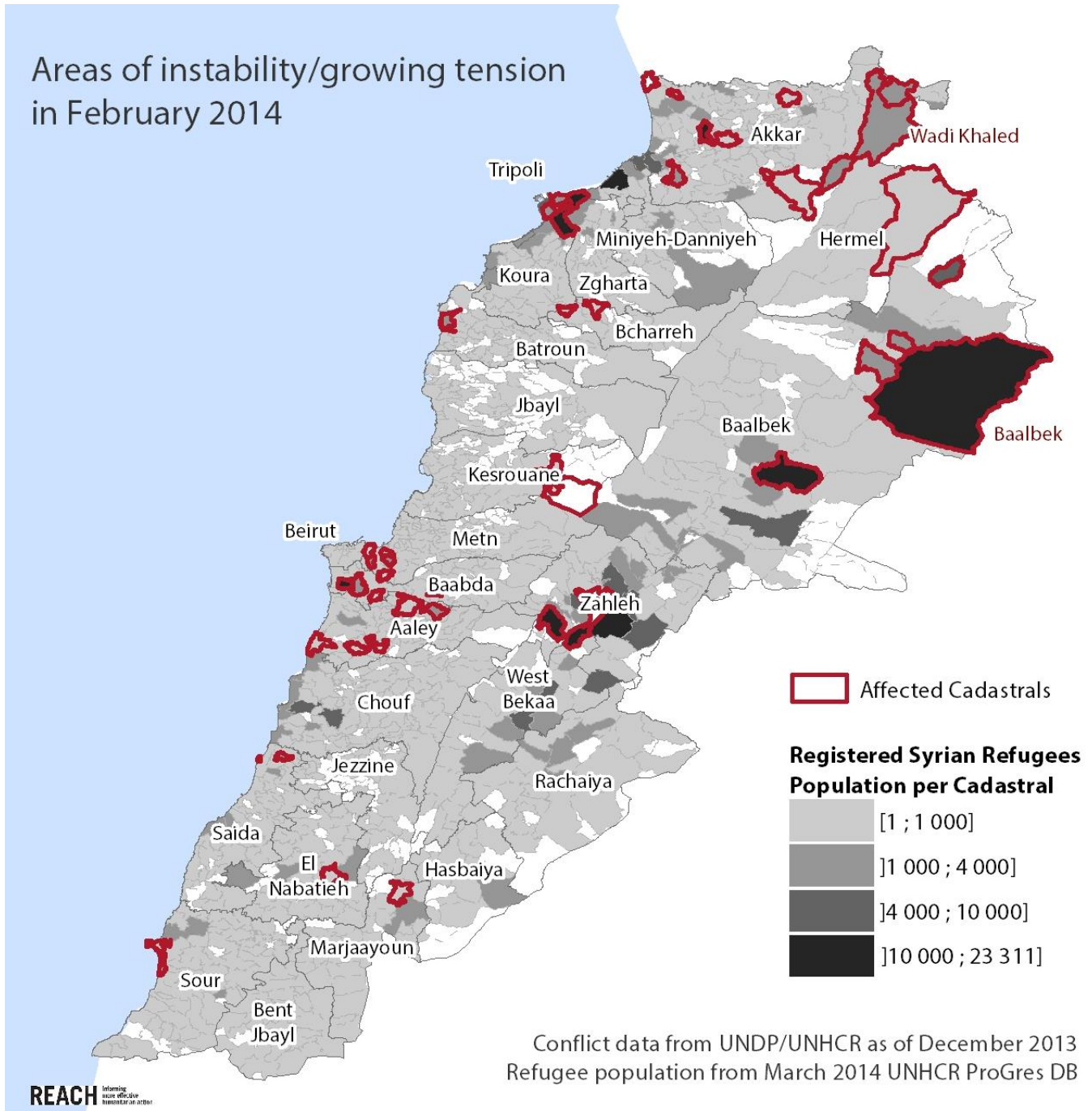
MSNA SWG workshops: Concerns were raised during the process about the final outcome of the report and the fact that a data review may not adequately reflect the situation on the ground. The MSNA team agreed and felt it was imperative to capture the views and perceptions of the SWGs, enhancing the document's relevance. As a result, the MSNA SWG workshops were organised. Short notice affected attendance; therefore the views expressed by the MSNA SWG workshops cannot be considered representative of all SWG participants.

Feedback and endorsement: As with any wide consultative process, some inconsistencies arose in relation to the feedback received by various stakeholders. The MSNA team attempted to balance the feedback and findings from assessments, ensuring that it qualified and contextualised assessment findings while remaining in line with the contents. This report has been endorsed by all members of the MSNA Steering Committee, and includes comments received from RRP6 appealing agencies. However, it should be noted that sector chapters were reviewed and endorsed at the Working Group level, and so do not necessarily reflect the views of Steering Committee members.

Sector chapters: It was felt that the nine sector chapters were too long to be included as annexes to the main report; therefore they were released independently to SWGs and uploaded to the inter-agency portal. In addition, both the child protection (CP) working group and SGBV task force opted to keep their sector chapters as working documents for sector members. It was felt that it was not part of the MSNA terms of reference to frame available data in relation with current CP and SGBV programming tailored to the context in Lebanon, which would have provided a comprehensive overview of the needs and priorities. In addition, SGBV data collection and assessment, as per international guidelines and best practices, does not aim to assess the prevalence of SGBV, but rather the availability of services. A draft summary of the chapter can be shared upon request.

Map 1 Areas of Instability

Areas of instability/growing tension in February 2014

Tripoli
Akkar
Wadi Khaled
Miniyeh-Danniyeh
Hermel
Koura
Zgharta
Bcharreh
Batroun
Jbayl
Baalbek
Kesrouane
Baalbek
Beirut
Metn
Baabda
Zahleh
Aaley
West Bekaa
Chouf
Jezzine
Rachaiya
Saida
El Nabatieh
Hasbaiya
Marjaayoun
Sour
Bent Jbayl

Affected Cadastrals

Registered Syrian Refugees Population per Cadastral

[1 ; 1 000]
]1 000 ; 4 000]
]4 000 ; 10 000]
]10 000 ; 23 311]

Conflict data from UNDP/UNHCR as of December 2013
Refugee population from March 2014 UNHCR ProGres DB

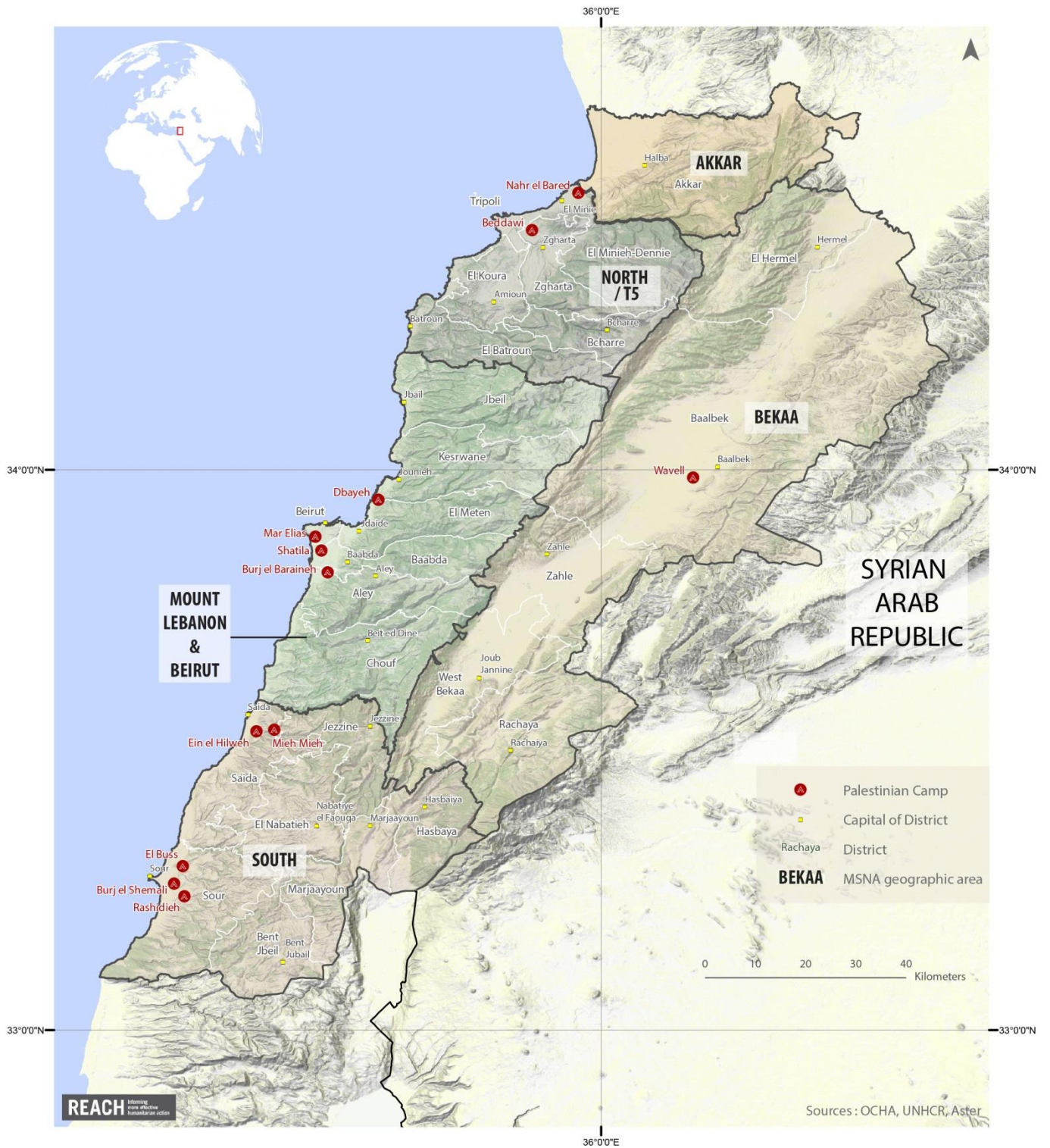REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

Table 1 - Overview of geographic areas and target groups

	Total Pop'n	Pop'n target group	Unique Characteristics	Areas with specific security issues
AKKAR	354,149	**Lebanese** 252,917 **Syrian Refs (reg'd)** 96,080 **LebaneseReturnees** 5152 **PRS** N/A **PRL** N/A	-Deprived rural region -Primarily Sunni -Over 145 ITS -100km border shared with Syria -27 border villages -3 crossing points -Strong ties with Syria	*WadiKhaled:* -Host of first Syrian Refugees -Restrictions on movement -Security approval required for activities -Sporadic disruptions to humanitarian programming
BEKAA	905,691	**Lebanese** 540,000 **Syrian Refs (reg'd)** 336,508 **Lebanese Returnees** 10183 **PRS** 9,000 **PRL** 10,000	-42% of Lebanon's area -Primarily Shiite -1 Palestinian Camp -Most PRS live outside the camp -Numerous ITS -First formal TS -Absorption capacity reached -Landmine incidents (through unofficial border crossings)	*Aarsal:* -Cross-border shelling -Rocket and mortar attacks from Syria -Sporadic temporary suspension on humanitarian activities *Hermel:* -Rocket and mortar attacks from Syria
MT LEBANONand BEIRUT	2,241,649	**Lebanese** 1,910,912 **Syrian Refs (reg'd)** 261,321 **Lebanese Returnees** 1,116 **PRS** 9,300 **PRL** 59,000	-Main urban areas of Lebanon -Home to half the population of Lebanon -Poverty in Southern Suburbs of Beirut -Mt Lebanon primarily Christian -4 Palestinian camps -12 ITS Majority of refugees in tented accommodation	*Greater Beirut:* -Recent deterioration in security *Southern Suburbs:* -Recent increase in bombings and suicide attacks -Community enforcement own security measures *Downtown Beirut:* Recent increase in bombings and suicide attacks
TRIPOLI/T+5	772,125	**Lebanese** 554,289 **Syrian Refs (reg'd)** 156,912 **Lebanese Returnees** 524 **PRS** 8,400 **PRL** 52,000	-2 Palestinian camps -Growing number of ITS (over 110) -Local curfews in some towns -Primarily Sunni	*Bab-al-Tibbaneh and Jabal Mohsen:* -Sporadic Sectarian and religious conflicts intensified by Syrian conflict
SOUTH	1,043,830	**Lebanese** 747,475 **Syrian Refs (reg'd)** 120,720 **Lebanese Returnees** 535 **PRS** 26,100 **PRL** 149,000	-Strong role of private sector, faith and political groups -Primarily Shiite -5 Palestinian camps -23 unofficial gatherings	-Some cross border incidents -Anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions still pose risks -Some access constraints and curfews

Sources: Lebanese Returnees(IOM database; October 2013); Registered Syrian Refugees (UNHCR; March 2014); PRS, PRL (UNRWA), Lebanese (OCHA Governorates Data; March 2014)

Map 2 – MSNA Geographical Areas

36°0'0"E

AKKAR

Halba

Nahr el Bared

Tripoli
El Minie
Beddawi
Zgharta
El Minieh-Dennie

Hermel

El Hermel

NORTH / T5

El Koura
Amioun
Zgharta

Bcharre
Bcharre

El Batroun

Batroun

Baalbek

BEKAA

Jbeil

Jbail

Kesrwane

34°0'0"N

Jounieh

Wavell

Baalbek

Dbayeh

Beirut

Jdaide

El Meten

Mar Elias
Shatila
Burj el Barajneh
Baabda
Aley
Baabda

SYRIAN
ARAB
REPUBLIC

Zahle

Aley

Zahle

MOUNT
LEBANON
&
BEIRUT

Beit ed Dine

Chouf

Joub
Jannine

West
Bekaa

Saida

Jezzine
Jezzine

Rachaya

Ein el Hilweh
Mieh Mieh

Rachaiya

Saida

Nabatiye
el Faouqa
Marjaayoun

Hasbaiya

El Nabatieh
Hasbaya

El Buss
Sour

SOUTH

Marjaayoun

Burj el Shemali
Rashidieh
Sour

Bent
Jbeil
Bent
Jubail

33°0'0"N

Legend

- Palestinian Camp
- Capital of District
- Rachaya — District
- **BEKAA** — MSNA geographic area

0   10   20   30   40
Kilometers

Sources : OCHA, UNHCR, Aster

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40

Map 3 – Growth in Syrian refugee population since 2013

SYRIAN REFUGEE REGISTRATION GROWTH
Between JANUARY 2013 and FEBRUARY 2014 by District

Number of Registered Refugees
150 000
120 000
90 000
50 000
20 000
5 000
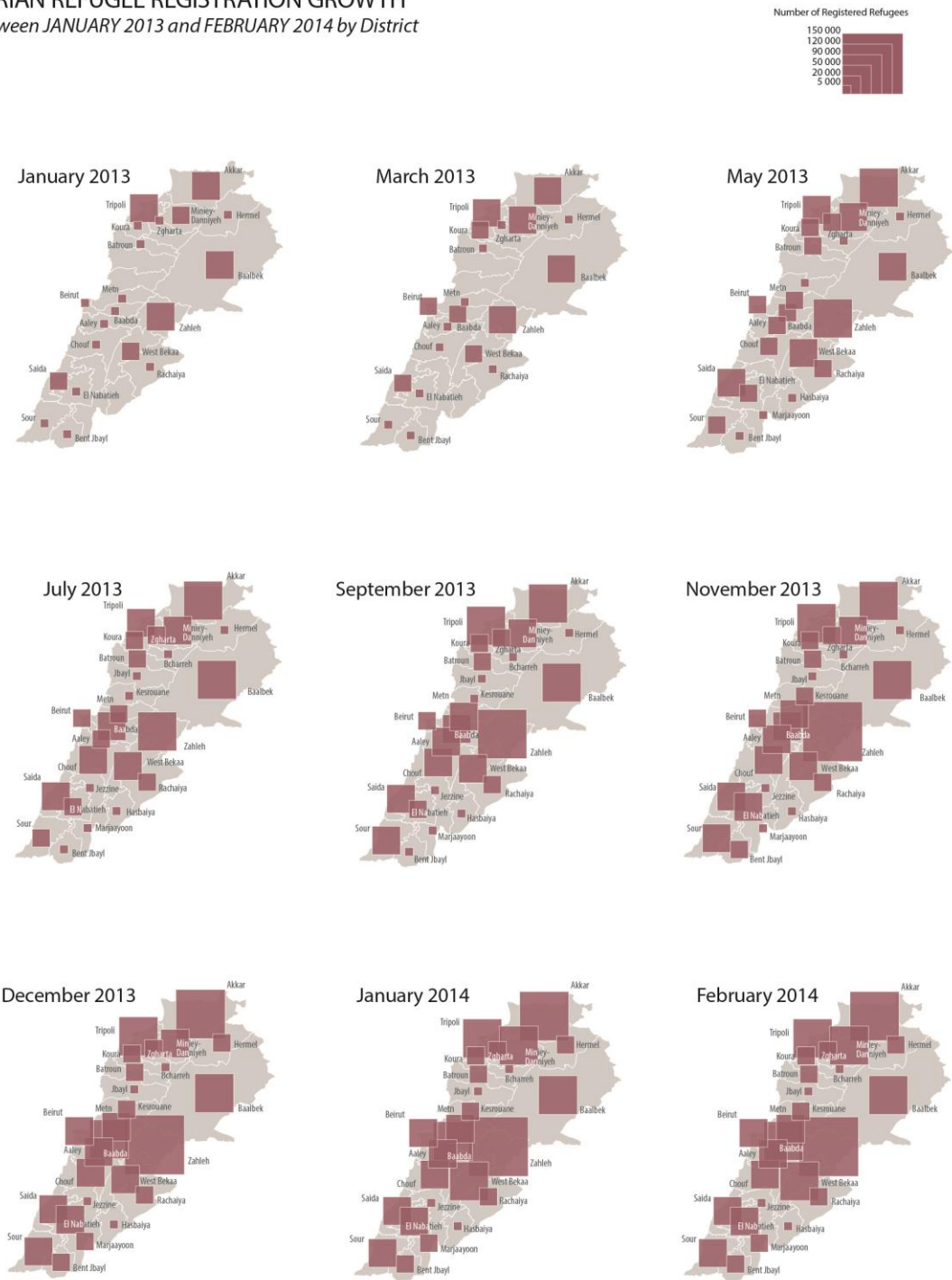
Sources : proGres UNHCR database

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Map 4– Population statistics

Lebanon
Population Statistics - March 2014

For Humanitarian Use Only
Draft/Work in Progress
Production date : 14 April 2014

Target group distribution by
UNHCR sub-office coverage

Akkar 354,149 Individuals
27%
2%
71%

Tripoli/T5 772,125 Individuals
20%
1%
7%
72%

Mount Lebanon Beirut 1,910,912 Individuals
12%
3%
85%

Bekaa 905,691 Individuals
37%
1%
1%
60%
1%

South 1,043,830 Individuals
12%
14%
72%

Target group distribution in Lebanon
18.3%
0.3%
1%
5.1%
75.3%

Number of Lebanese
4,005,593

Number of Registred
Syrian Refugees
971,541

Number of PRL
270,000

Number of PRS
52,800

Number of Lebanese
Returnees
17,510

Legend bar chart:
4,000,000
3,500,000
3,000,000
2,500,000
2,000,000
1,500,000
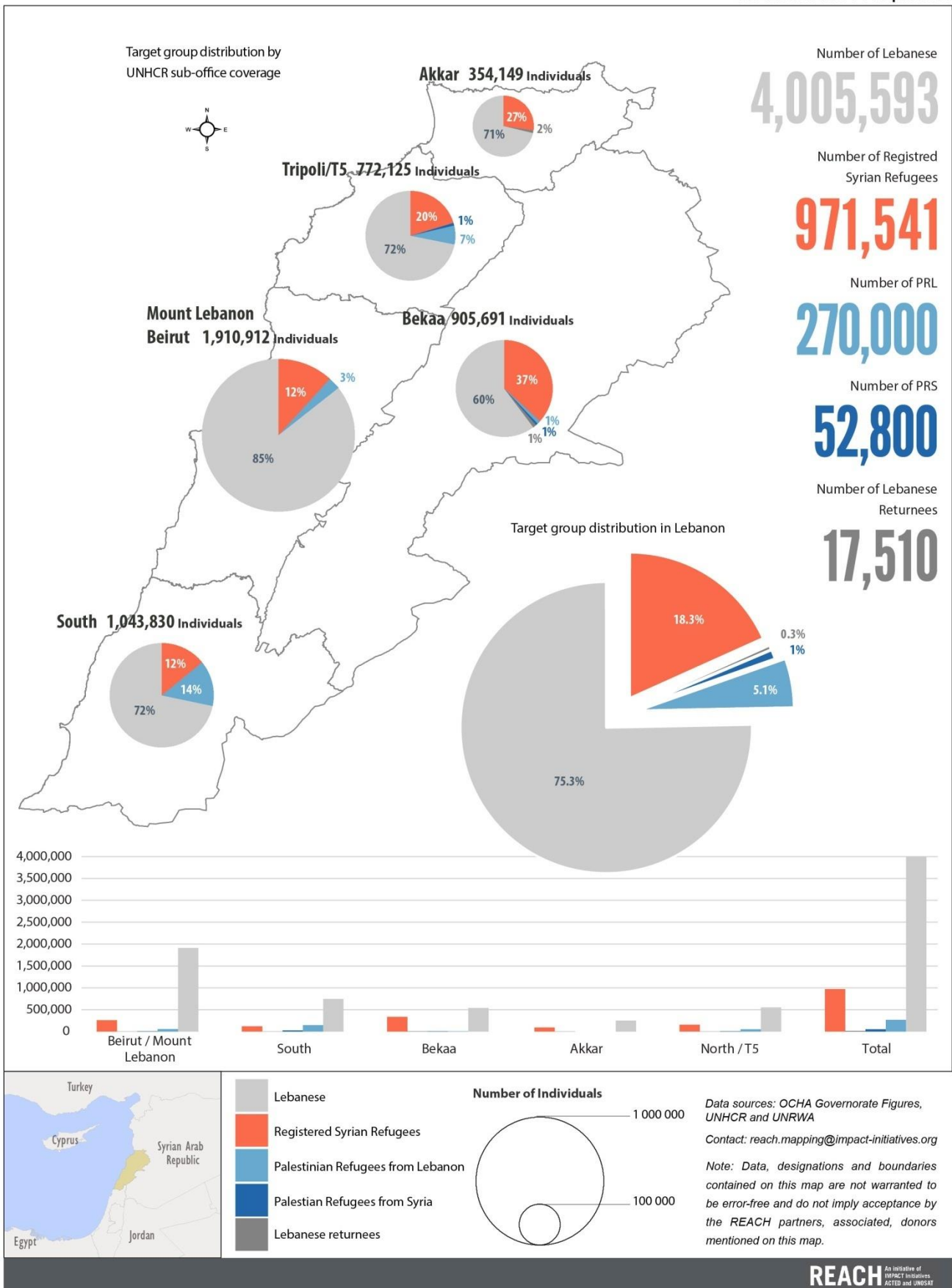1,000,000
500,000
0

Beirut / Mount Lebanon | South | Bekaa | Akkar | North / T5 | Total

Lebanese
Registered Syrian Refugees
Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon
Palestian Refugees from Syria
Lebanese returnees

Number of Individuals
1 000 000
100 000

Data sources: OCHA Governorate Figures,
UNHCR and UNRWA

Contact: reach.mapping@impact-initiatives.org

Note: Data, designations and boundaries
contained on this map are not warranted to
be error-free and do not imply acceptance by
the REACH partners, associated, donors
mentioned on this map.

Turkey
Cyprus
Syrian Arab Republic
Egypt
Jordan

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Table 2 – Sector overlaps

The Sector Overlap table on the following page provides areas of clear overlap between 2 sectors. In addition, there are a number of **cross cutting areas** that need to be taken into account during any needs assessment:

- Age, gender and diversity (AGD) in the choice of the respondents as well as in the analysis of the data (disaggregation)
- Involvement and participation of communities
- Informed consent, confidentiality, clear information on scope and objectives of the assessment (attention not to raise expectations)
- Impact of assistance (or lack of) on positive and negative coping mechanisms
- Local capacities and resources and how needs/resilience may evolve over time and result in differing exit strategies
- Positive and negative impacts of assistance on communities (conflict sensitive analysis), the environment and infrastructure
- How assistance is delivered (e.g. distribution lay-out, site management, community structures etc.)
- Impact of infrastructures on physical safety, security and privacy
- Perceptions of the communities around needs and priorities
- How affected populations receive and deliver information (feedback)
- Income, expenditure, preferred modalities (cash/NFIs), access to and availability of goods on the market
- Access to services, including inequalities among different population groups

Integrating protection in assessments

Protection principles are cross cutting in all sectors and integrating them in the humanitarian response is recognised as a necessity for all sectors[10]. Consultation with protection actors is encouraged in the design of assessments to ensure that protection concerns, including the safety and dignity of the population targeted by the assessment are taken into account and that protection risks are not created. In addition, assessments should not seek to obtain specific information on protection concerns and incidents (e.g. "When and where did violence happened?", "Who was the perpetrator"). Consultation with protection actors is encouraged in the design of the assessment. In addition, further expanding some of the cross-cutting areas across multiple sectors, specific attention should be devoted to:

- Effect of type and modality of assistance (cash and in-kind) on negative coping mechanisms of women and girls (e.g. survival sex, early marriage) and on children (child labour, including worst forms of child labour);
- Adequacy and accessibility of services for persons with specific needs (e.g. old persons and persons with disabilities, women and girls);
- Accessibility of shelter, wash and health facilities/structures and distribution points for persons with specific needs (particularly old persons and persons with disabilities);
- Impact of lack of legal documentation (e.g. residency permits, birth certificates) in accessing services and assistance;
- Impact of restriction of freedom of movement (e.g. due to security measures, cultural concerns) in accessing services and assistance;
- The role, capacities, coping mechanisms and/or interventions that communities are adopting (or need support in adopting) to address protection risks and assistance needs. Knowing this throughout sectors would help to:
  - Identify and develop sector interventions or activities which build on and support the role of communities (mobilisation) in the response e.g. community hygiene promoters, older persons mediating conflicts, teachers mobilised as education outreach volunteers, etc.
  - Identify negative coping mechanisms to be prevented or addressed at community level e.g. confining/tying adolescents with disabilities to their tents/homes as form of protection, sole authority resting with the informal settlement leaders, preventing children from going to school for road safety reasons, etc.

Integrating social cohesion in assessments

In a no camp situation such as Lebanon where refugees are spread throughout the country and hosted directly into communities, any humanitarian intervention has a direct or indirect impact on host communities and on relations between and among communities. This is why it is crucial that (multi)sectoral needs assessments and surveys take into account how inter and intra community relations are affected. This requires assessments to be conflict sensitive and to include specific questions that enquire how social dynamics at the community level are impacted. Recent conflict and tensions analysis have highlighted that the perception of unbalanced assistance (i.e. the perception by host communities that refugee disproportionally benefit from the humanitarian assistance) has become one of the main source of tensions throughout Lebanon. It is recommended that perceptions are verified during focus group discussions or key informant interviews.

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[10] Brief on Protection Mainstreaming – Global Protection Cluster 2012; Minimum Inter-Agency Standards for Protection Mainstreaming (World Vision/ Global Protection Cluster 2012); Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action page 165 – 213; IASC Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings

SECTOR	Basic Needs	Education	Food Security	Health	Livelihoods	Shelter	Social Cohesion	WASH	Protection/GBV/CP
Basic Needs		-Fuel for schools		- Winterisation needs	- Coping mechanisms, income, debt -Home-based production of NFIs	-Type of shelter	- Perception on the impact of provision of basic needs on social dynamics	- NFI (hygiene) needs - Hygiene promotion support	See "Integrating protection in assessments"
Education	-Fuel for schools			-Health promotion activities	-Vocational training		-Peace education	-WASH facilities in schools -Hygiene promotion	-Children out of school due to work -Physical safety/security in schools
Food Security				-Nutrition	- Income generating opportunities		-Perceptions on provision and delivery modality of food assistance on social dynamics	-Access to water for cooking	See "Integrating protection in assessments
Health	- Winterisation needs	-Health promotion activities	- Nutrition			- Type of shelter		- Disease Outbreaks	-Mental health -Clinical management of rape (CMR)
Livelihoods	- Coping mechanisms, income, debt -Home-based production of NFIs	-Vocational training	- Income generating opportunities			-Skills training	- Outcrowding - Competition over limited job opportunities	-Identification of specialist skills -Impact of water scarcity on ag and prices	-Decent work conditions -Child labour - Exploitation and working conditions
Shelter	-Type of shelter			- Type of shelter	-Skills training		- Eviction	- Ensuring minimum standards -Site planning	- Housing/land/ property issues, including evictions -Accommodation standards and effects on privacy and safety
Social Cohesion	- Perception on the impact of the provision of basic needs on social dynamics	-Peace education	-Perceptions on provision and delivery modality of food assistance on social dynamics		- Outcrowding - Competition over limited job opportunities	-Eviction		- Equal access -Rising tensions due to water scarcity	Relations refugees /local communities, perceptions
WASH	- NFI (hygiene) needs - Hygiene promotion support	-WASH facilities in schools -Hygiene promotion	-Access to water for cooking	- Disease Outbreaks	-Identification of specialist skills -Impact of water scarcity on ag and prices	- Ensuring minimum standards -Site planning	-Equal access- Rising tensions due to water scarcity		-Facility design
Protection	See "Integrating protection in assessments"	-Children out of school due to work -Physical safety/security in schools	See "Integrating protection in assessments	-Mental health -Clinical management of rape (CMR)	- Decent work conditions -Child labour - Exploitation and working conditions	- Housing/land/property issues, including evictions - Accommodation standards and effects on privacy and safety	Relations refugees /local communities, perceptions	-Facility design	