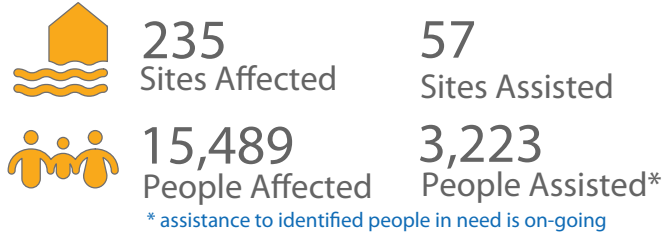


Inclement weather swept through Lebanon again starting on 14 February, with the peak of heavy rain, thunderstorms, strong winds and flooding over the weekend. The effects were disparate throughout the country, with mainly the Bekaa, and to a lesser extent, the South, feeling the strongest consequences. Whereas, in the North and Beirut/Mount Lebanon regions rainfall was considered regular winter weather, not requiring an emergency response. Very few calls for assistance or urgent intervention were received in those areas. Overall, this storm was much less intense and devastating than the extreme weather experienced in January.

## IMPACT OF THE STORM



## STORM PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

In the lead up to this most recent storm, partners have been working together tirelessly to make adjustments based on lessons learned. Additional risk prevention and mitigation measures were put in place to limit further impact on the most vulnerable Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities. More specifically, to support early warning, lists and maps of flood-prone sites and sites affected during last month's storms were circulated among response partners. Advanced weather reports from the Disaster Risk Management Unit on possible severe weather conditions were also shared widely. The situation was closely monitored to trigger

a response as quickly as possible. SMS were sent to refugees throughout the country advising them of the potentially harsh weather and possible associated risks. Stocks are being updated in the

ActivityInfo shared platform and additional stocks were pre-positioned in some key locations. Preparedness information was spread through outreach volunteers, field workers, and whatsapp groups. Moreover, particularly in the Bekaa, detailed work with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) on emergency relocation site locations and relocation procedures, including transportation arrangements and measures for persons with specific needs, were prepared and shared with actors prior to the storm to ease the process.

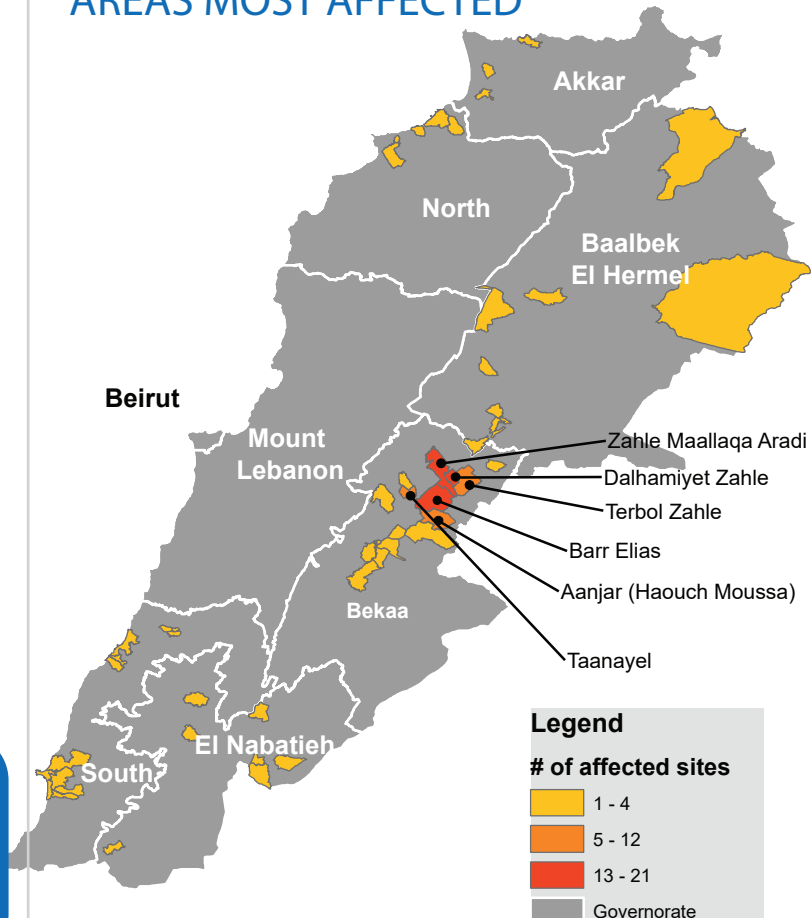
Coordination was further strengthened through the widespread utilization of the harmonized interagency assessment and reporting tools developed ([Extreme Weather and Emergency Tools](#)):

- [Referral form](#) - to refer affected sites for a rapid needs assessment
- [The phone survey](#) - used by the emergency focal points to help prioritize sites for rapid needs assessment
- [The Rapid Needs Assessment](#) - a form to conduct on site rapid needs assessments (RNA)
- [Emergency distribution tool](#) - used by all partners distributing relief items to track distributions during the emergency

In addition, communication trees and geographical splits between partners, based on area of intervention and capacity, to conduct RNAs and provide response were further refined. These actions combined contributed to greatly enhancing the efficiency of the response by enabling rapid identification of areas to prioritize during interventions as well as highlighting response gaps and sharing of information with all actors in the field.

At the same time, more mid to longer-term disaster risk reduction strategies are

## AREAS MOST AFFECTED



### Top 5 most affected areas were in the Bekaa:

Barr Elias, Zahlé Maallaqa Aradi, Dalhamieh, Anjar, Terbol Zahlé

### % of sites affected by type of extreme weather hazard



Based on RNA, referrals and phone surveys

being developed and partners are working closely with MoSA, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) and at the municipal level on plans to mitigate flooding through site improvements, rehabilitation of infrastructure and relocation of sites where no improvements can make the areas safe in times of intense storms. Seven of the most affected sites by previous storms have been identified and efforts are on-going for their relocation. The matter was discussed between UNHCR and the Minister of Interior and Municipalities on 19 February.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS RESPONSE

### BEKAA

**1,013 refugees were temporarily relocated to safer sites in the Bekaa**, with 170 individuals having already returned to their sites of origin. On Saturday and Sunday, rains and flooding heavily affected many areas in the Bekaa, with ten sites needing to be totally or partially relocated by MoSA, with assistance from UNHCR, to URDA, Sawa for Development and Aid and Damma sites. In the relocation sites families received stoves, blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, jerry cans fuel, water and food as needed. Continuance of food assistance was highlighted as a potential gap in the three relocation sites and on Sunday a food security assessment was undertaken. Also, detailed WaSH assessments are being conducted to determine required support, such as water tanks.

In general, based on the RNAs, 59 sites were referred for basic assistance support, refugees in 11 sites were referred for legal counselling for protection follow-up, and desludging and pumping is ongoing in affected sites. Shelter kits, mainly floor raising kits, are being distributed, with distributions expected to increase over the next few days. Shelter and WaSH partners are also continuing to work together on site improvement activities. While no major health concerns were reported, mobile medical units responded to some flooded informal settlements where access to medicine was lacking and/or some skin diseases were reported.

**Funds / actions needed** to cover some of the **most urgent gaps in the Bekaa:**

- Seven sites still require improvements – potentially more following new round of assessments.
- Undertake cleaning work in five sites to enable access – US \$35,000 needed.
- 150 floor raising kits (FRKs) to improve preparedness in lightly flooded and relocation sites – US \$9,300 needed.
- Excavators and bulldozers for municipalities to open road access during snow storms, mainly in Aarsal.
- 5 dewatering pumps.
- Post-flood / winter assessment to identify damages and rehabilitation requirements for latrines and sewage-holding tanks mainly in affected sites in: Anjar, Zahle Maalaqa Dalhamiyet Zahle, Terbol, Taanayel, Bar Elias, Qab Elias, Al



Distribution in Mayfadoun CS  
UNHCR/ Haydar Hadad

## FOCAL POINTS FOR EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE AND REFERRALS

### North

Lea Kraitem / Yasser Waris

kraitem@unhcr.org/waris@unhcr.org

### Bekaa

Raffaella Pascarella - pascarer@unhcr.org

### Beirut/ Mount Lebanon

Maguelone Arsac - arsac@unhcr.org

### South

Jean-Pierre Tuyishime - tuyishim@unhcr.org

Marej, Hoauche el Harimeh, Ghazze, Jeb Janine and Saadnayel.

### SOUTH

**In the South, the most affected areas were located in Saida, Tyre and Marjaayoun districts.** The affected sites were especially in need of shelter materials and core relief items. Seven sites in the south – four collective shelters and three informal settlements – were partially flooded with up to 40cm water levels. In addition, eight families (55 individuals) from five informal settlements relocated temporarily to either stay with their relatives in another informal settlement or in individual shelters because their tents were severely damaged. Most have already returned to their sites of origin or rented alternative accommodations.

## SUMMARY OF EMERGENCY TOOLS USE



Sites referred by partners  
**142**



Phone surveys to prioritize RNAs  
**373**



On site Rapid Needs Assessments  
**199**



On site distributions took place  
**69**

## DISTRIBUTION STILL REQUIRED

**3,551**  
Blankets



**2,855**  
Mattresses



**1,737**

Weather  
proofing kits



## PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE RESPONSE

Humanitarian partners continue to provide assistance in sites that were affected by floods, and further detailed assessments will take place as necessary.

**Partners involved in the response:**

MoSA, MoIM, Municipal Support Assistants (MSAs), UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, ACF, Amel, Al Abrar, AVSI, Basmah and Zeituna, CISP, Concern WW, DAF, Damma Organization, DPNA, DRC, IMC, Intersos, IRC, ISWA, Leb-relief, MDI-Humedica, Medair, PU-AMI, Relief International, Save the Children, SAWA for Aid and Development, SHEILD, Solidarités Internationale, Tdh-L, URDA, WVI, and YNCA.