



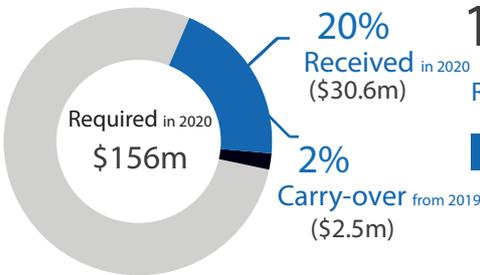
2020 Annual Shelter Sector Report



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

This dashboard summarizes activity reported by shelter partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response between January and December 2020 and highlights trends affecting people in need. Shelter partners in Lebanon aim to achieve the following: OUTCOME 1 Reduce immediate protection-related shelter needs of most vulnerable households; OUTCOME 2 Contribute to multi-sectoral upgrading of disadvantaged areas for enhanced stability; OUTCOME 3 Enhance the contribution of national institutions and organizations to the housing situation in Lebanon.

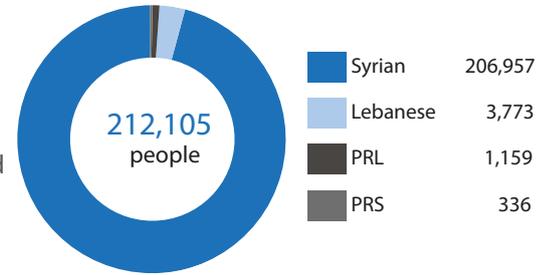
2020 Funding status End of Year 2020



Targeted population groups



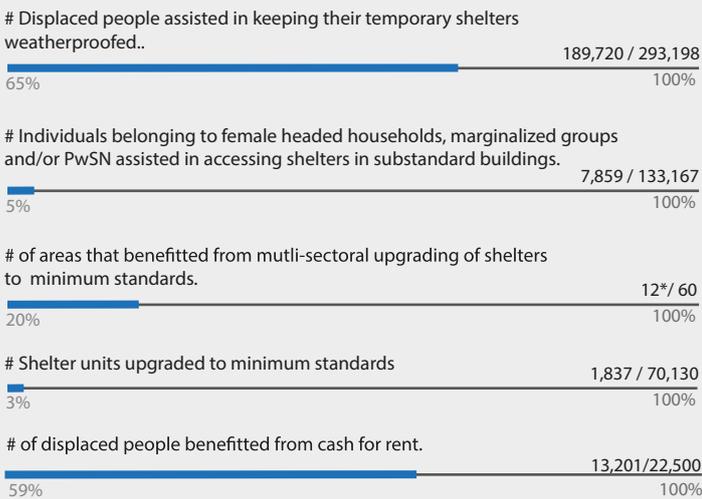
Population reached by cohort



Progress against targets

Output indicators

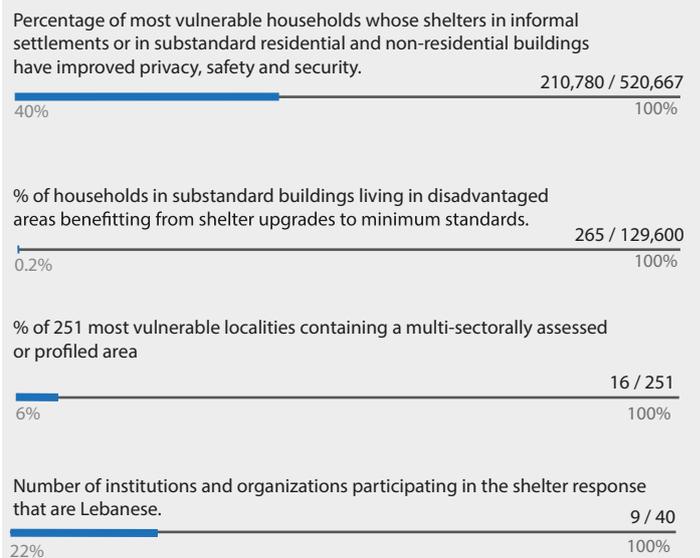
reached / target



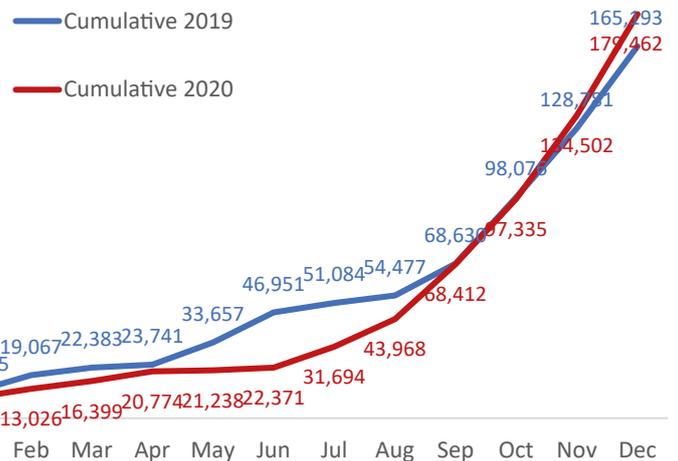
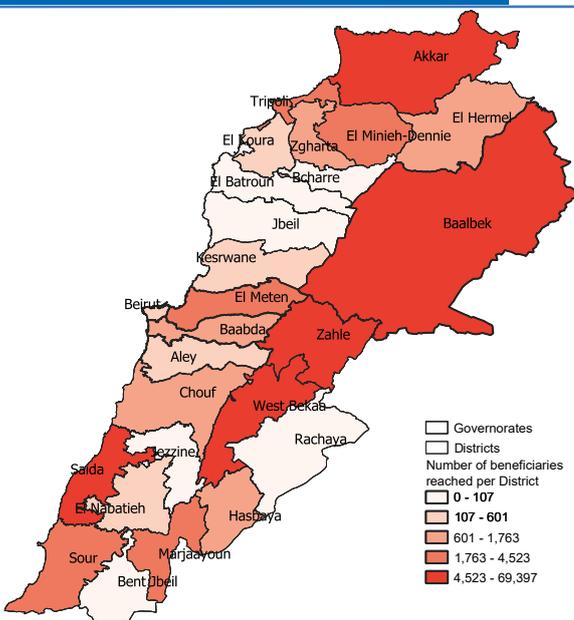
* Hayy El-Blat, Daouk-Ghawash, Hayy Tamlis, Barja El-Qadimeh, Ketermaya El-Qadimeh, Maraash, Naameh, Sibline, Hayy El-Jadid, Shoaab, Taalabaya El-Fawaa , El-Marj.

Outcome

reached / target



Analysis



of individuals benefitting from weatherproofing in informal settlements including for emergency events (fire, flood and evictions)



Analysis of achievements

In 2020, 189,720 displaced Syrians (67 per cent of the set target of 293,198 persons under Output 1.1 Temporary shelters (informal settlements and non-residential buildings) and residential shelters (for protection/referral cases) hosting vulnerable displaced populations are maintained at livable and safe conditions) had their temporary shelters maintained at livable and safe conditions. This was achieved through distributing shelter kits and implementing minor repairs which are activities that target the 30 per cent of displaced Syrians who are living in informal settlements or non-residential shelters. 160,028 individuals preemptively received shelter kits to improve their ability to manage adverse climatic events. This was planned following an assessment of all informal settlements in the country that determined that 70 per cent of all assessed shelters were in need of assistance. The majority of beneficiary families are located in Baalbek El-Hermel/Bekaa (65%), a significant number in Akkar (29%), and a few in the North (3%), Mount Lebanon (3%) and Nabatiyeh (1%). The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the assessment and distribution of shelter kits. The lockdown measures limited partners' access to the field and delayed international procurements of shelter material. The distributions were finalized by mid-December, one month and half behind schedule. In addition to regular weatherproofing activities in informal settlements, 19,434 individuals benefitted from shelter material to build new shelters or reinforce existing ones following emergency events such as fires, flooding or eviction. In response to COVID-19, and as outlined in the 'Guidance on Home Isolation in Overcrowded Settings', families living in congested shelters received guidance on how to build extra rooms (upon acquiring approval from the local authority) using the distributed shelter kits to allow for home isolation in case of confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 in the family.

In non-residential buildings, 8,483 individuals benefitted from minor repair of their shelters, improving their living conditions and enhancing their safety and privacy (e.g. garage, shop, warehouse), and a further 1,775 individuals benefitted from weatherproofing of their substandard buildings, in the form of plastic sheeting and timber distribution, to allow families to cover their windows and doors to protection them from the elements and improve their physical living conditions. 13,201 severely socio-economically vulnerable individuals were provided with cash-for-rent assistance to mitigate evictions. It should be noted that eviction risks increased in 2020 in comparison to 2019, mainly due to the deteriorating socio-economic situation.

Ensuring adequate accessibility to shelters in informal settlements is crucial to improve the ability of people to live safely in these settlements, especially in the winter season. In 2020, 33,512 persons living in 93 informal settlements have improved living conditions, as a result of the implementation of site improvement activities. Such assistance can help mitigate water inundation in winter, which can limit safe access to and circulation around shelters for service providers and individuals, with particular implications for those with compromised mobility. Site improvement activities also contribute to reducing health risks associated with the contamination of drinking water and storm water with grey and/or black water. 1,475 elderly individuals benefitted from improved access to latrines through the leveling of paths leading to latrines as well as the installation of railing in and around latrines.

60,164 displaced Syrians residing in informal settlements and non-residential buildings, including 197 elderly individuals, have been equipped with firefighting materials and taught how to use it as part of sensitization sessions which included raising awareness on fire risks. These sessions and distributed materials contribute to improving the physical safety of vulnerable households.

A total of 7,859 socio-economically vulnerable individuals (6 per cent of the annual target of 133,167) now live in a residential shelter upgraded to humanitarian standards (including but not limited to, rehabilitation of sanitation facilities to mitigate health risks and the installation of windows and doors to improve safety and privacy). Among this group, 1,282 individuals belong to female-headed households, households with protection concerns or households with at least one Person with Special Needs. This group also included 964 elderly Syrians, Lebanese, PRL and PRS individuals and/or individuals who are from households affected by physical disability. Tailored assistance to these households included shelter adaptations (e.g rail and ramp installation inside the shelter, floor leveling, modifying door openings to allow for wheelchair accessibility when needed) that facilitate mobility within and around shelters. The implementation of this activity was delayed due to the COVID-19 lockdowns as well as due to the banking restrictions which came into effect since October of 2019. However, the low achievement compared to the target (only 6 per cent) is not linked to the delays since partners were able to pick up the implementation pace in Q3/Q4. Rather, it is linked to the low funding received by partners for this activity.

There are 1,325 individuals displaced persons and vulnerable Lebanese who now live in 265 shelters that were upgraded as part of a coordinated multisectoral approach to ensure people are living at a minimum humanitarian standards. Limited funding for the sector, in particularly to fulfill more stabilization-orientated results, was the main obstacle preventing the sector from reaching the annual target of upgrading 43,497 residential shelters. This has severely impacted programs that improve the access of vulnerable people to adequate residential shelters with enhanced security of tenure is a push factor for families to downgrade their shelter types and move to informal settlements and non-residential shelters. Both these shelter types are substandard in nature and require costly yearly assistance to be maintained at livable conditions.

In 2020, the sector remained committed to advocating for the implementation of a sectoral integrated/ area-based approach to ensure that assistance is delivered in a coordinated way. To this end, the sector generated 12 multi-sectoral assessments, produced in especially vulnerable areas, to serve as the basis for coordinated and multi-sectoral upgrading. These assessments are being used to develop evidence-based programming as well as feed into fundraising messages.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- 67%** Of displaced Syrians live in residential buildings.
- 21%** Of displaced Syrians live in informal settlements.
- 12%** Of displaced Syrians live in non-residential buildings.
- 264,642 LBP** Average rent per month for displaced Syrians
- 19%** Of households that moved in the past 12 months did so because they were evicted (3% of all households moved because of eviction). Inability to pay rent was the most cited reason for those evicted (86%), followed by evictions due to measures implemented locally in the context of COVID-19 (7%).
- 5%** Of households were planning to move within the coming 6 months, a quarter of which due to threat/fear of evictions.

The source of the above information is from VASyR 2020.



Key contributions of the sector to LCRP outcome and impacts

In 2020, the Shelter Sector has achieved significant results which have contributed to reducing the immediate protection-related shelter needs of vulnerable households (Outcome 1) residing in informal settlements, substandard residential and non-residential shelters. This directly contributes to the LCRP Strategic Objective 1 'Ensure protection of vulnerable populations' and Strategic Objective 2 'Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations. The 2020 LCRP Shelter Strategy is based on the 2019 unified shelter assessment results which found that 70 per cent of the population living in informal settlements, substandard residential¹ and non-residential shelters was in need of shelter assistance. A total of 210,780 individuals live in shelters with improved privacy, safety and security conditions due to interventions aimed at maintaining temporary shelter², improving residential shelter to humanitarian standards and improving informal settlement conditions. This amounts to 40 per cent³ of the population in need. Consequently, more than one third of the shelter-vulnerable households (mainly in residential and non-residential shelters) continue to live in unsafe and unsanitary conditions that increases their protection and health risks.

In 2020, the sector continued to aim to enhance stability through improved access to adequate shelter as part of a multi-sectoral approach in disadvantaged areas (Outcome 2). This second outcome contributes to LCRP Impact 4 'Mitigated deterioration in the economic condition of vulnerable populations' and Impact 5 'Social Stability is strengthened in Lebanon' and is linked to the LCRP Strategic Objective 4: 'Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability'. Approximately 265 households in disadvantaged areas have benefitted from shelter upgrades to minimum standards, representing only 0.2 per cent of vulnerable households in these areas (for an annual target of 16 per cent). This achievement of the sector alone is not sufficiently at scale to have a significant impact on social stability in these areas.

Multi-sectoral assessments contribute to enhancing social stability through a multi-sectoral upgrading of disadvantaged areas. They aim to outline the needs in disadvantaged areas as well as facilitate the implementation of coordinated, multi-sectoral upgrading of such areas. However, the 12 assessments conducted in 2020 represent only 5 per cent of the 251 most vulnerable localities when the annual target is 90 localities (36 per cent). This under achievement can be explained by very limited funding linked to the limited understanding of the intervention's potential impact it has on vulnerable communities.

Key priorities for 2021

In light of the continuing increase in the proportion of displaced Syrians moving into informal settlements, one of the priorities of the sector will be to halt or slow this trend whilst simultaneously improving understanding of its motivations (higher rents outside ISs may be a push factor and while at the same time, higher certainty of receiving assistance may be a pull factor). To address this priority, the sector would need to be able to effectively operate sector modalities that target all three shelter types through both humanitarian and stabilization-oriented activities. However, this requires higher and more equally distributed resources as this is difficult to achieve with a sector appeal only funded at 32 per cent (as of 31 December for the 2020 Shelter Sector's LCRP appeal).

To mitigate this, in 2021, the sector will engage donors on funding shortfall specifically for urban shelter interventions and the urgency of providing shelter assistance to female-headed households, Persons with Specific Needs and marginalized groups who are at high risk of exploitation and/or resorting to negative coping mechanism in the current volatile economic situation.

Another key priority for 2021 is the launch of the Temporary Technical Committees (TTCs) in charge of revising a set of guidelines in a continued effort to harmonize approaches whilst capturing and mainstreaming best practice in the field. These will take into account a range of current concerns, including best practices from the response to the Beirut Port explosion. The TTCs that are due to be launched are: Weatherproofing in IS, Rehabilitation and Minor Repair of residential and non-residential shelters, Cash for Rent, Stabilization of structurally unsound buildings, Principles and standards of area-based approaches and lastly Housing Land and Property (HLP) rights.

Case study

A Voice in the Dark

By Abdul Dennaoui – Medair Lebanon Communications Officer

With Lebanon facing compounding crises and a steady rise in socio-economic vulnerability of Syrian refugees and limited income opportunities, refugees are struggling to find affordable and adequate shelters in the Bekaa Valley.

"It was an abandoned structure made of baked bricks that could barely hold up. To me, I saw it as a home" – Karim.

"I came to Lebanon in 2014 after fleeing Damascus with my family to the area of Marj, in the Bekaa valley. At first, we lived in a tent on a farming land. My daughters used to work the land for our survival, since I am an old man and can't work. Shortly after the landowner discovered I had five kids with downs syndrome, he kicked us off the land. He didn't want them there. We packed our entire life in plastic bags and left. While walking around the area searching for a new home, at a distance, it looked like an abandoned structure made of baked bricks that could barely hold up. To me, I saw it as a home. It was somewhere to provide my family with Shelter." said Karim, from his home in Marj.

¹under Outcome 1, residential shelter is focused on female-headed households and households with at least one PwSN member

²through weatherproofing, repairing or maintained shelter conditions

³40% of most vulnerable households whose shelters in informal settlements or in substandard residential and non-residential buildings have improved privacy, safety and security), compared to 35% in 2019. The difference between the annual target (70%) and the result achieved at the end of the year is mainly due to limited funding.



According to him, they remained a week under the abandoned brick structure, until after the owner made an appearance. They struggled through long cold nights and very poor living conditions. Upon meeting the new owner, Karim had a chance to explain his situation and how they were in urgent need of Shelter. At the time the rent was fair and he was happy to have found what he now calls his home.

“The brick structure then had no windows, just the framework. We used plastic sheets to cover them, however they did not prevent the rain from entering and it allowed the cold to travel through easily. When it rained, my kids used to wait standing up until we dried everything, since the water leaked all over the space. This was dangerous for their health as they would catch a cold standing barefoot in the water.” said Karim as he was picking his youngest son up and sat him down on his lap. Shortly after he continued “Remembering the cold nights, our bathroom was located outside. A family of twenty, it was no easy task going to the bathroom, especially when assisting the little ones.” According to him they had built one outside in the front yard, where they used to struggle accessing it at night, during the rain or in cold weather.



Renovations to Karim’s home was made possible through Medair in coordination with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP). When asked about his current living conditions Abdul Karim did not hesitate to explain. “For one month, Medairs shelter team installed windows and doors into what we only knew as squares and rectangles in the wall and built us a new bathroom inside. Having windows has helped us tremendously, preventing water leakages throughout when it rains. The new bathroom allowed us to gain back some of our dignity, as we did not have to go outside like animals to do our deed. Also, for the first time, the cold was something we only experienced outside. All of these different aspects have allowed me and my family security in our home and created more privacy for us, and for that I am eternally grateful.” said Karim.

Medair’s work in Lebanon is made possible by the support of United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Swiss Solidarity, Medicor Foundation, the European Union’s ‘Madad’ Fund, Global Affairs Canada in partnership with Tearfund Canada and generous private donors.

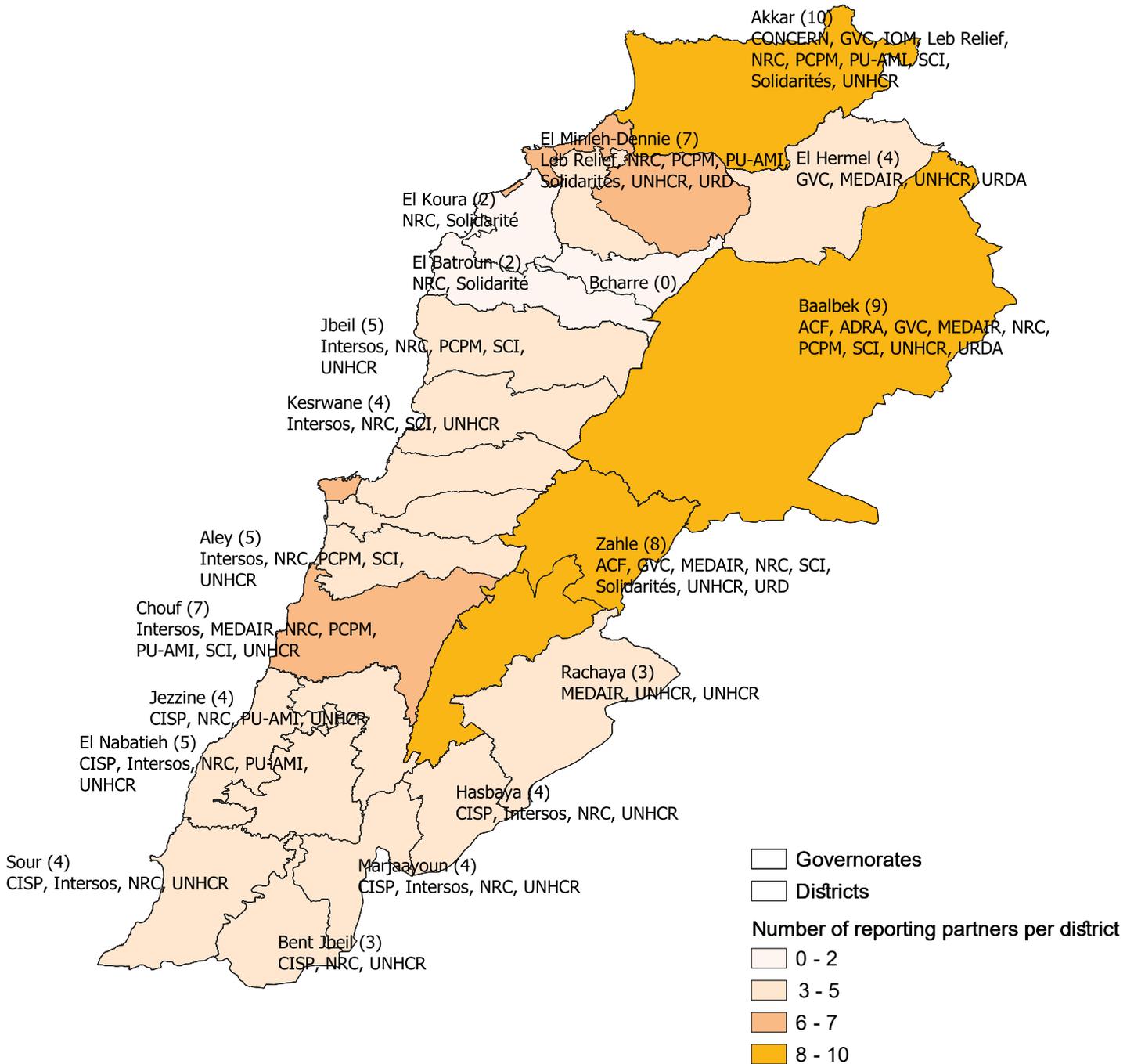


Organizations per district

17 partners reported shelter activities through ActivityInfo by End of Year 2020

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following partners based on reporting on ActivityInfo:

ACF, ACTED, ADRA, CISP, CONCERN, GVC, Intersos, IOM, Leb Relief, MEDAIR, NRC, PCPM, PU-AMI, SCI, Solidarités, UNHCR, URDA



Note: This map has been produced by UNHCR based on maps provided by the Government of Lebanon for UNHCR operational purposes. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.