

Displacement Impact and Rapid Needs Assessment (DIRNA) Mount Lebanon Governorate

November 24, 2024 | Lebanon

Context & Rationale

Since the onset of the Gaza war in October 2023, Lebanon has faced escalating conflict, resulting in widespread displacement and significant fatalities. The violence reached a peak on September 23, 2024, with the highest daily death toll since 2006. As of November 24, 2024, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that over 899,725 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been affected, with 78% having sought refuge outside government-run collective sites.¹

Despite the severe vulnerabilities faced by IDPs, critical information gaps remain regarding their ability to meet basic needs and access essential services. Additionally, the displacement has placed immense pressure on already strained services, creating further challenges for host communities. However, data on the impact of displacement on host communities, particularly regarding their access to services and ability to meet basic needs, remains limited.

To address these gaps, REACH launched the **Displacement Impact and Rapid Needs Assessment (DIRNA)**. This assessment provides a cadaster-level overview of how conflict-induced displacement **has affected access to essential services and identifies priority needs for both displaced populations and host communities**. The findings aim **to support evidence-based humanitarian responses and ensure that assistance is targeted to the most pressing needs**.

Following the ceasefire announced on November 27, some displaced populations have begun to return. However, although the factsheet presents data collected prior to the ceasefire, it remains a relevant resource, offering a comprehensive snapshot of ongoing needs in displacement-affected areas and highlighting persistent service accessibility challenges.

Key Findings

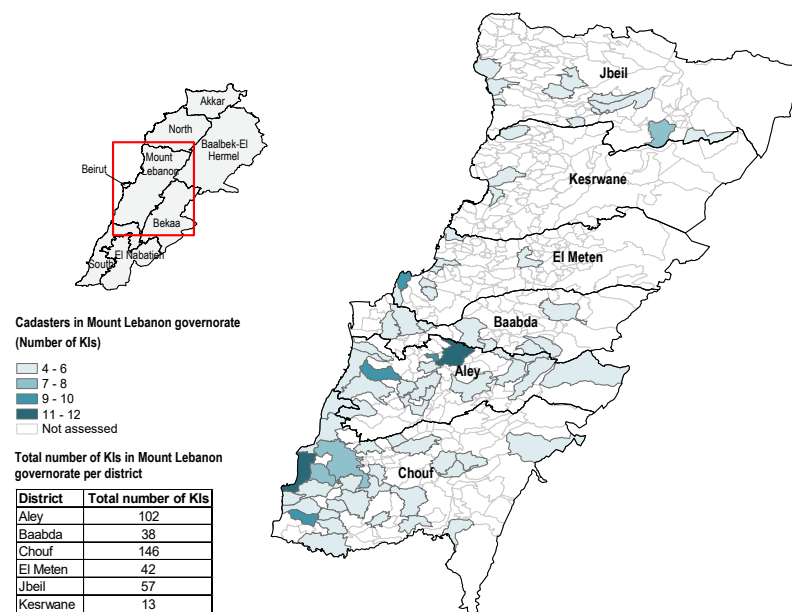
- KIs in Mount Lebanon highlighted several critical areas of concern for both IDPs and host communities, with the most severe challenges centered around **livelihoods, health, and education needs**. The findings clearly indicate reduced coping capacities and limited financial resources affecting both groups.
- Nearly all assessed cadasters reported **reduced access to education**. The long-term disruptive impact of the conflict on education is expected to persist, despite the ceasefire and the resumption of classes.
- Winterization needs emerged as a critical concern**, with 42 of the 75 assessed cadasters reporting need for warm clothing and bedding.
- Chouf and Aley districts exhibited the most significant declines in access to essential services and humanitarian aid. Patterns suggest that areas with higher concentrations of IDPs are experiencing greater challenges**, particularly in health and livelihoods.

Methodology Overview

Data was collected by REACH and IOM enumerators between November 4th and 13th across 75 cadasters in Mount Lebanon through 397 structured Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), conducted both remotely and in person. Key informants included local authorities, community leaders, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and service providers such as NGOs, market owners, and teachers.

The purposive, non-probabilistic sampling was designed to capture insights from areas with significant displacement outside of collective sites. All cadasters with a displaced population size above the mean for Mount Lebanon were selected, aiming to focus on areas with the highest concentration of displacement.

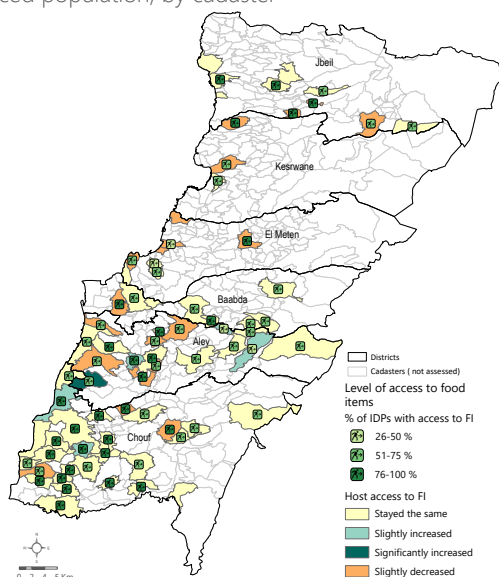
Map 1. Assessment coverage





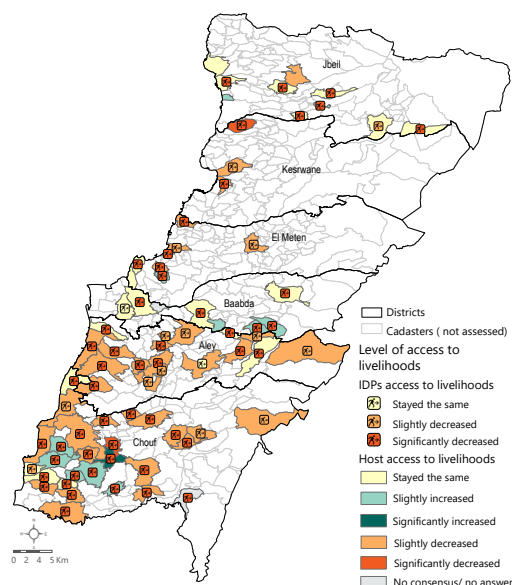
Access to food items and stocks

Map 2. Levels of food stock access for host communities and displaced population, by cadaster



Access to livelihoods

Map 3. Levels of livelihood access for host communities and displaced population, by cadaster



- Findings emphasize some challenges in access to food faced by both host communities and IDPs, aligning with FEWS NET's assessment that 2.0–2.5 million people in Lebanon urgently require humanitarian food assistance—a figure expected to rise as the IDPs population increases.²
- KIs in 27% (n=20/75) of cadasters reported a decline in access to basic food items among host communities, while access reportedly remained unchanged in 65% (n=49/75) of cadasters.
- At the same time, KIs in only 6% of cadasters (n=4/66) reported that the majority of IDPs had not had full access to basic food items since their arrival. This does not mean there are no IDPs in these cadasters **who experience challenges accessing basic food items; rather, it indicates that only a minority of IDPs are facing this challenge. It should be noted that food assistance provided to displaced populations may contribute to this outcome.** Challenges in accessing basic food items were particularly prevalent in Aley district, where KIs in 3 out of 18 cadasters reported a majority of IDPs was not able to access them fully.
- Both host and IDP populations reportedly faced similar barriers, including increased food prices, heightened demand, and limited financial resources. However, these issues were reported across more cadasters for IDPs than for host communities, suggesting the systemic vulnerabilities faced by displaced populations (see Table 1).

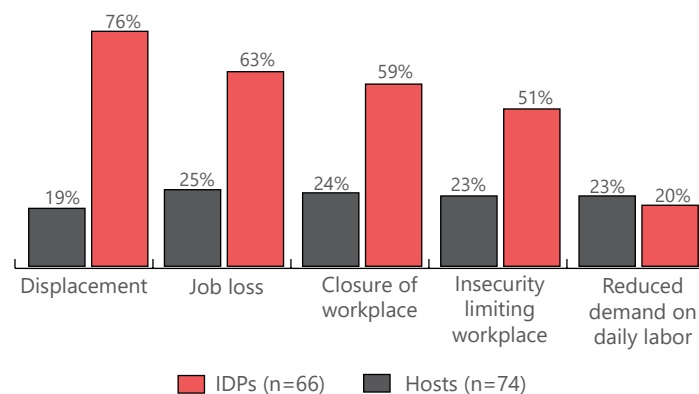
23% of market owners KIs reported a decline in access to basic food items for the host community since September 26, 2024

Table 1. Top three reported barriers to accessing basic food items, by population group and percentage of cadasters

	Hosts (n=75)	IDPs (n=70)
Increased prices	31%	47%
Increased demand for food items	28%	44%
Limited financial resources	13%	24%

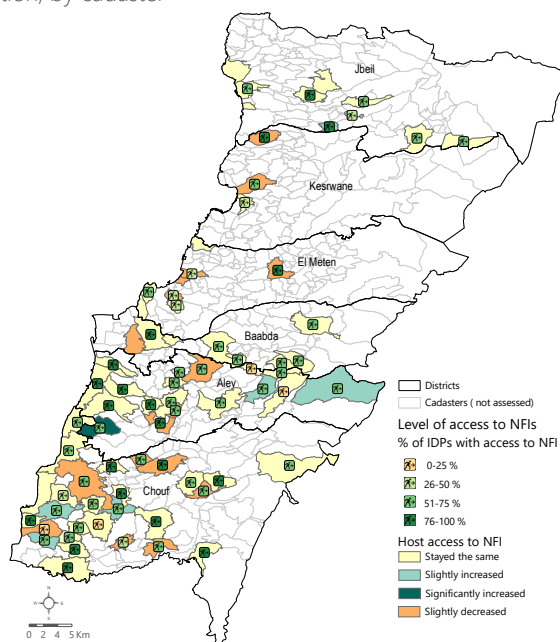
- Access to income-generating opportunities has **significantly decreased for both host communities and IDPs, with IDPs experiencing disproportionately severe challenges.**
- Decreased access to income-generating opportunities among hosts was reported by KIs in 56% (41/73) of cadasters. In 53% of cadasters (39/73) this decline was reportedly minor, and in 3% (2/73) this was reported as significant. This was most frequently reported in Chouf where 16 of or 27 KIs reported decreased access.
- For IDPs, KIs in 97% of cadasters (n=67/69) indicated that **access to livelihoods decreased since their arrival**, with KIs in 77% (n=53/69) of these cadasters reporting access significantly decreased. **That was the most prevalent in Chouf district, where KIs in 24 out of 28 cadasters reported decreased access.**
- KIs reported challenges in accessing income-generating activities for both IDPs and host communities, with most challenges more commonly affecting IDPs. While reduced demand for daily labor was noted, this may reflect increased competition due to an influx of IDPs raising the supply of labor, while demand remains unchanged. Additionally, economic pressures related to war may reduce incomes, limiting households' and businesses' ability to hire workers.
- The issue of limited workplace access due to insecurity was particularly pronounced in **Aley** and **Chouf** districts.

Figure 1. Top four reported barriers to accessing income-generating activities, by population group and percentage of cadasters



NFI Access to non-food items (NFIs)

Map 4. Levels of access to NFIs for host communities and displaced population, by cadaster



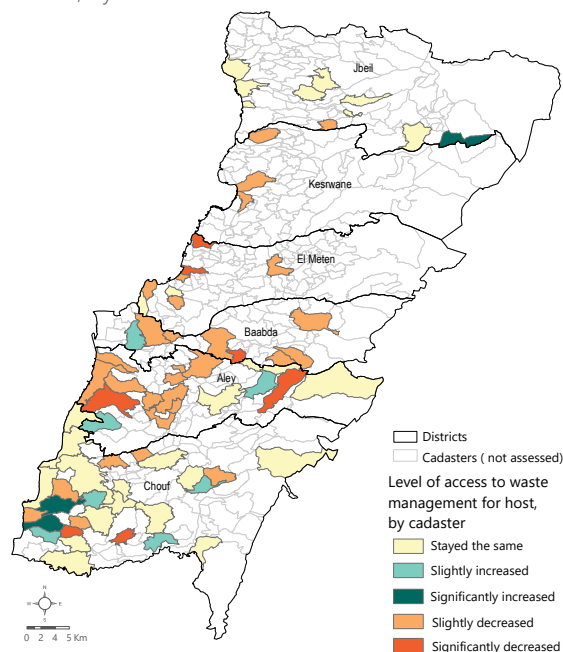
- Access to non-food items (NFIs), such as soap, cooking fuel, and blankets, was reportedly more limited for IDPs compared to the host community.
- KIs in a majority of the cadasters (72%, n=53/75) reported no significant barriers in accessing NFIs among host community. However, **a slight decrease in access was noted in 23% (n=17/75) of cadasters**. The most commonly cited reasons for access challenges were increased prices (32%, n=24/75), followed by disruptions in supply chains (7%, n=5/75) and limited financial resources (7%, n=5/75).
- Access to NFIs among IDPs appeared to be more limited. In 85% (n=55/66) of cadasters, **KIs reported that at least some portion of IDPs lacked access to NFIs**. In 11% (n=7/66) of cadasters, about 50% of IDPs reportedly had access, while in 6% (n=4/66) of cadasters, less than 25% of IDPs had access. Limited access to NFIs was particularly prevalent in Chouf district where KIs in 4 out of 27 cadasters reported that less than half of IDPs had such access to these items.
- The primary access barriers for IDPs, as reported by KIs, were limited financial resources (46%, n=32/66) and disruptions in the availability of essential goods due to heightened demand (11%, n=8/66).

Access to shelters for IDPs

- Access to shelter was reportedly a barrier among the displaced population.
- In 12% of cadasters (n = 8/66) KIs reported **the majority of IDPs did not have access to shelters since their arrivals**. This was a particular issue in Aley district, where KI reported this in 5 out of 18 cadasters.
- KIs reported shelter-related challenges faced by IDPs, including **inadequate shelter space** (27%, n=19/70) and an **insufficient number of available shelters** (29%, n=20/70).

Access to waste management

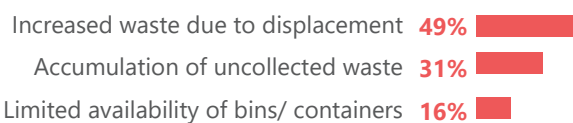
Map 5. Levels of access to waste management services for host communities, by cadaster



- Displacement has led to an increase in waste generation, placing additional pressure on waste management systems and contributing to social tensions between host communities and IDPs.³
- Indeed, KIs in 40% (n=30/75) of cadasters reported a **slight decrease in accessing waste management services**, with increased waste as a primary barrier. This issue was particularly prevalent in Aley district where KIs in 12 out of 18 cadasters reported a decrease in accessing waste management services.

17% of Mukhtars KIs reported a significant decline in access to waste management services for the host community since September 26, 2024

Figure 2. Top three barriers to accessing waste management services, by % of cadasters (n=75)



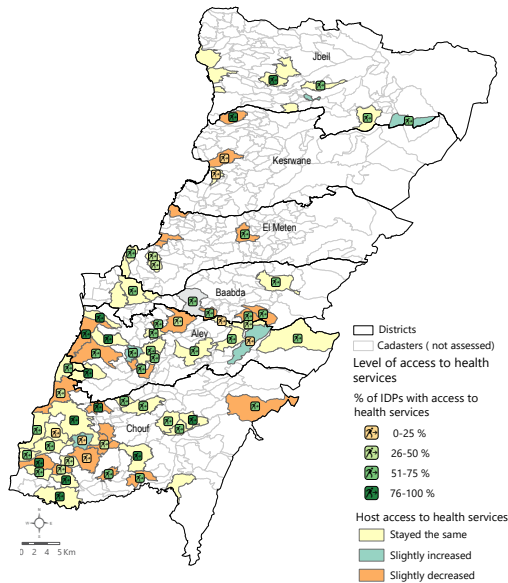
Access to water

- There were no cadasters where a majority of KIs reported a significant decrease in the availability of either domestic or drinking water.
- At the same time, KIs in 44% (n=33/75) of cadasters reported **slight decrease in domestic water availability** for host communities. In terms of **drinking water**, KIs in 27% (n=20/75) noted slight decrease, while in 69% (n=52/75) KIs reported no change. Decrease in drinking water, as reported by KIs, was most prevalent in Aley (n=5/18).
- For IDPs, **KIs in 8% of cadasters (n=5/65) reported that less than half of IDPs have access to drinking water**, with the majority of these cadasters located in Aley (n=4/5). KIs in 26% of cadasters (n=17/65) reported that approximately half of IDPs have such access.
- Additionally, KIs reported **challenges with water quality and affordability** in 24% of cadasters (n=17/65) for both issues.



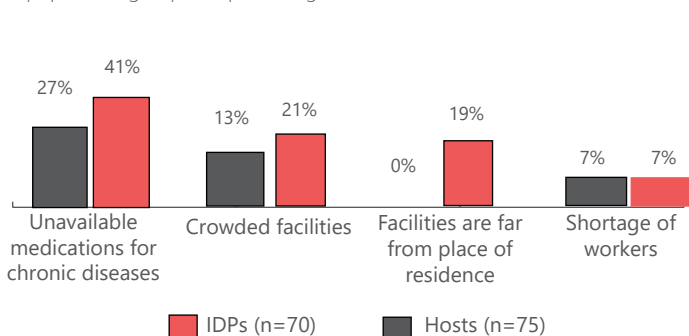
Access to health services

Map 6. Levels of access to health services for host communities and Displaced Population, by cadaster



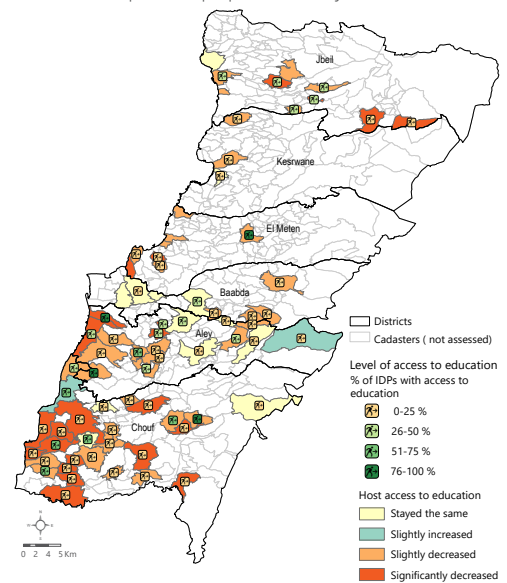
- According to WHO, over 133 primary healthcare centers have been closed due to attacks since September 2024.⁴ This has led to increased strain on services and overcrowding of facilities.
- KIs in 32% (n=24/74) of cadasters reported a **decline in access to health services among host communities**. That was most prevalent in Chouf district, where KIs in 10 out of 28 cadasters reported decreased access.
- When asked about the situation of IDPs, KIs in 25% of cadasters (n=15/61) reported that the majority of IDPs did not have full access to health services since their arrival. This was most frequently reported by KIs in Aley and Chouf districts where KIs reported that the majority of IDPs did not have access to health services in 4 out of 18 cadasters and in 7 out of 26 cadasters respectively.
- Systemic challenges, such as **supply chain disruptions** and **worker shortages**, were the most common barriers reported by KIs for both groups. However, these challenges were more frequently reported as affecting IDPs, highlighting their heightened vulnerabilities and the need for targeted health interventions.
- The remoteness of medical facilities from the place of residence was reported in 19% of cadasters (13/70) for IDPs, compared to 0% for host communities, suggesting that IDPs lack of access to means of transportation may inhibit their ability to access healthcare.

Figure 3. Top four reported barriers to accessing health services, by population group and percentage of cadasters



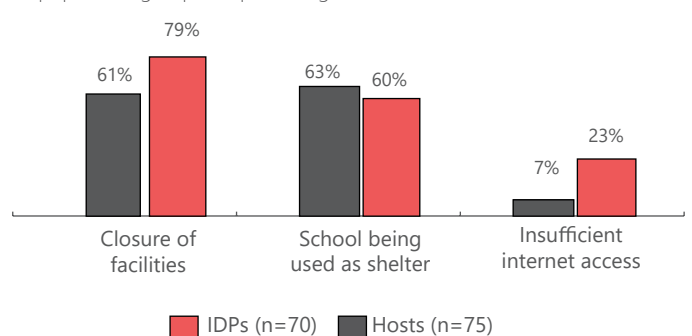
Access to education

Map 7. Levels of access to education services for host communities and displaced population, by cadaster



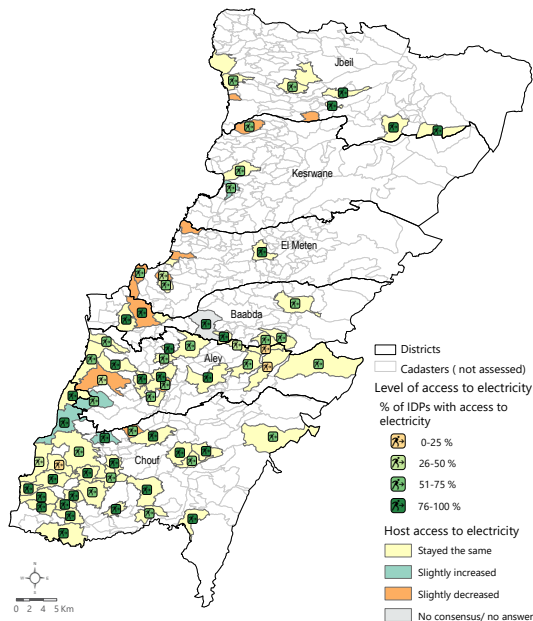
- Since 23 September, escalating violence has forced at least 500 public schools—half of Lebanon's total—to serve as shelters, delaying the school year and disrupting education for 40% of the country's 1.5 million pupils. This ongoing disruption threatens children's long-term well-being.⁵
- The disruption of education is reflected in the findings, with KIs in 80% (n=60/75) of cadasters reporting a **decrease in access to education among host communities**. KIs in 31% (n=23/75) of cadasters indicated a significant decline in access to education. Such a significant decline was particularly prevalent in the Chouf district, where KIs in 24 out of 28 cadasters reported that the majority of IDPs were unable to access education.
- For IDPs, KIs in 85% of cadasters (n=56/66) indicated that **fewer than 50% of IDPs had access to education services since their arrival**. Significant constraints were reported across all districts, with almost all KIs stating that most IDPs did not have access to education.
- The most frequently reported challenges in accessing education for both IDPs and host communities were schools being used as shelters and the closure of educational facilities by the Ministry of Education.

Figure 4. Top three reported barriers to accessing education services, by population group and percentage of cadasters



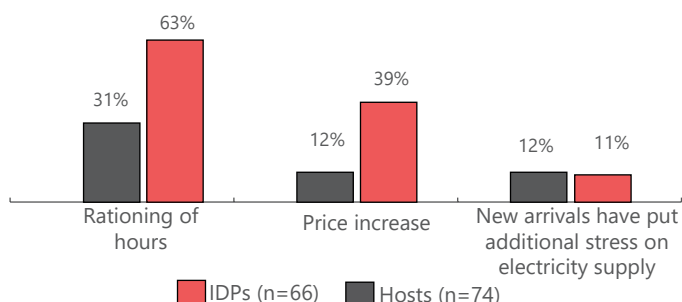
Access to electricity

Map 8. Levels of access to electricity for host communities and displaced population, by cadaster



- In October 2024, Lebanon continued to experience severe disruptions in access to electricity, heavily influenced by the ongoing conflict and its impact on critical infrastructure. Recent air-strikes exacerbated an already fragile energy sector.⁶
- Findings from DIRNA align with the broader humanitarian analyses. **KIs in 22% (n=16/74) of cadasters reported a decline in access to electricity** among host communities. In Meten district, KIs in 5 out of 11 of cadasters reported a majority of hosts experienced a decline in accessing electricity.
- In addition, **KIs in 11% of cadasters (n=7/66) reported that the majority of IDPs did not have access to electricity** since their arrival, while in 39% of cadasters (n=26/66), KIs reported that 51–75% of IDPs had such access. This situation seemed most severe in Aley district, where KIs in 4 out of 18 cadasters reported that the majority of IDPs did not have access to electricity.
- Challenges in accessing electricity, reported for both IDPs and host communities, centered around rationing of hours and price increases. However, KIs reported these challenges in a greater number of cadasters for IDPs than for host communities, highlighting the lower financial capacity of IDPs to access basic services.

Figure 5. Top three reported barriers to accessing electricity, by population group and percentage of cadasters



Priority needs

Table 2. Top three reported priority needs, by population group and percentage of cadasters

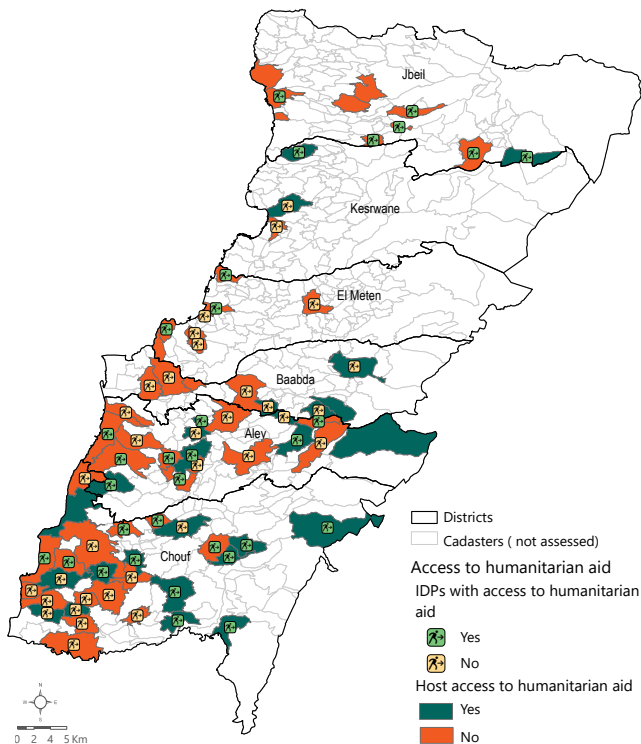
	Hosts (n=75)	IDPs (n=70)
Food support	63%	67%
Cash support	55%	51%
Health support	48%	47%

- The most frequently reported needs for both groups were **food, cash support, healthcare, and livelihood assistance**. Additionally, KIs frequently reported a need for Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) support (n=18/75 for host communities, n=14/66 for IDPs).
- As expected, **shelter needs were more pronounced for IDPs**, with KIs in 29% of cadasters (n=20/70) reporting these needs. Shelter needs were most prevalent in Chouf (reported in 10 out of 26 cadasters) and Aley (6 out of 18 cadasters).
- Conversely, KIs reported **a greater need for education support for host communities** than for IDPs (n=20/75 vs. n=10/66, respectively). This discrepancy may reflect differing priorities, with displaced populations focusing on addressing immediate and essential needs, such as shelter, in the short term.
- Interestingly, although access to food was not identified as an urgent issue by KIs—over half of cadasters reported that it had remained unchanged since the escalation—it was still identified as a priority need for both IDPs and host communities. This discrepancy may stem from concerns about rising prices, limited assistance, and potential future shortages, even though access has not yet been severely limited.
- Furthermore, while KIs reported significant disruptions in access to education, educational support was not among the priority needs identified. This may suggest that communities are prioritizing immediate survival needs, such as food and cash, over long-term developmental goals.
- When asked about the items most needed by displaced households, **winterization needs were highlighted**: KIs in 60% of cadasters (n=42/70) reported a need for warm clothing and bedding sets. The need for warm clothing was most prevalent in Chouf (n=15/26) and Aley (n=12/18).
- As noted by OCHA, scaling up a comprehensive winter response is an immediate priority, including through winter cash assistance, site improvements, critical winterization shelter repairs, and the distribution of winter-related items and clothing.⁷



Access to governmental and humanitarian assistance

Map 9. Availability of humanitarian assistance for host and displaced populations, by cadaster



- Limited assistance was reported for both the host and displaced populations.
- There was KIs reported that **humanitarian aid was available in only 27 out of 75 cadasters for host communities and in 32 out of 66 cadasters for IDPs**. The lack of aid was most frequently reported by KIs in Aley and Chouf districts.
- The most commonly reported types of humanitarian aid by KIs were food support, NFI support, and shelter support, for both displaced and host communities.
- KIs indicated that government aid was available for displaced populations in only 7 out of 67 cadasters, and for host communities in 15 out of 74 cadasters. The unavailability of aid was most pronounced in Chouf district, where KIs in 26 out of 28 cadasters reported that aid was not available for either group.
- The types of government aid included mainly food support, followed by health and livelihoods support.
- While food assistance was most frequently reported aid available, it was also a top priority need for both host and displaced communities, indicating a partial alignment between available aid and critical needs.
- However, **gaps in shelter and NFI support were more pronounced**, particularly for IDPs, highlighting a misalignment between aid distribution and urgent needs. This underscores the importance of enhances resource

Endnotes

- 1 IOM DTM , Mobility Snapshot - Round 65 - 25-11-2024. Accessible: [here](#)
- 2 FEWS NET, Conflict drives mass displacement and high food prices, resulting in Crisis, October 2024. Accessible: [here](#)
- 3 UNICEF, Increasing bombardment damaging essential services, October 2024. Accessible: [here](#)
- 4 WHO, Lebanon: a conflict particularly destructive to health care, October 2024. Accessible: [here](#)
- 5 Save the Children, Education disrupted for a sixth year: half of public schools used as shelters, November 2024. Accessible: [here](#)
- 6 Mercy Corps Lebanon, Lebanon at War: Scenarios and Impact, October 2024. Accessible: [here](#)
- 7 OCHA Flash Update #46, Escalation of Hostilities in Lebanon. Accessible: [here](#)

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).

Contact us:

For additional requests related to DIRNA, such as additional information on DIRNA indicators and cadaster-level analysis, please send an email to: aline.maalouf@reach-initiative.org