

# 2021 MSNA BULLETIN

## KEY FINDINGS

JUNE 2022

LEBANON

### MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT (MSNA) OVERVIEW

Lebanon is currently facing a multi-layered crisis<sup>1</sup> characterised by an acute economic contraction, a political crisis, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>2</sup> and the continuation of the Syria crisis<sup>3</sup>. These factors contributed to civil unrest, high poverty rates, limited functionality of public services, and drive household vulnerability more generally.

Even though some assessments have been conducted to understand the outliers of the current crisis on affected populations, information gaps continue to exist regarding the needs of Lebanese host communities, migrants, and refugees from the occupied Palestinian territory (Palestine refugees in Lebanon, or PRL).

To support an evidence-based humanitarian response, the United Nations (UN) Officer for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), with support from REACH Initiative (REACH) and the Emergency Operation Cell (EOC), conducted a country-wide Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations unit (DG-ECHO) and the Lebanese Humanitarian Fund (LHF)<sup>4</sup>.

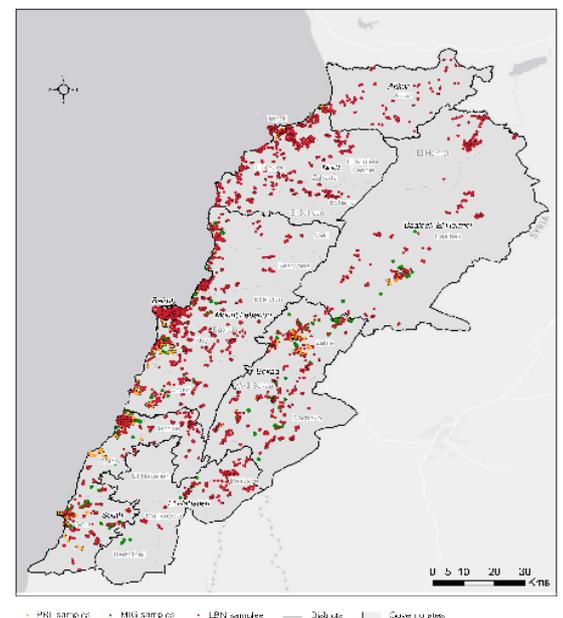
**Methodology.** Primary data was collected through a household-level survey conducted mostly in-person to assess the three subgroups of interest: 1. Lebanese, 2. Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and 3. migrants. Data collection took place between 19 October and 4 December 2021, with 5,613 households surveyed across 24 districts. Sampling for Lebanese households (2-stage stratified random) (n=4,232) was representative at district level with a 95% level of confidence and a 10% margin of error. Sampling for PRL households (n=668) was a mix of random and snowball sampling; sampling for migrant households (n=713) was primarily purposive with snowball sampling. Findings for both PRL and migrant households are therefore indicative.

For more details on the methodology, please refer to the [Terms of Reference](#).

### ASSESSMENT SCOPE AND GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

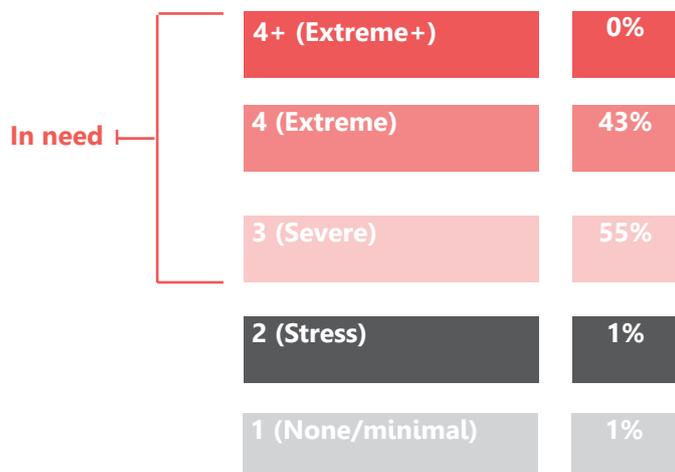
Primary data collection was conducted across almost the entirety of Lebanon, inclusive of all 24 out of 26 Qa'dat/Czas/Cadastres. Two districts, Bent Jbeil and Nabatieh, were not accessible due to security-related constraints. For reporting purposes, data has been aggregated at a regional level.

**This bulletin** contains key inter-sectoral findings from the primary data collected in the frame of the MSNA 2021. Using the multi-sector needs index, it highlights key drivers and vulnerabilities across sectors and population groups. More detailed sectoral findings are presented in factsheets published in April 2022. Further in-depth analysis of both the primary data collected and secondary data available in Lebanon, is shared in a report published in April 2022. All related publications can be found [here](#).



## MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS INDEX (MSNI): CRISIS LEVEL SECURITY

Percentage of households per severity phase:



The MSNI is a composite indicator, designed to measure the overall severity of humanitarian needs of a household.

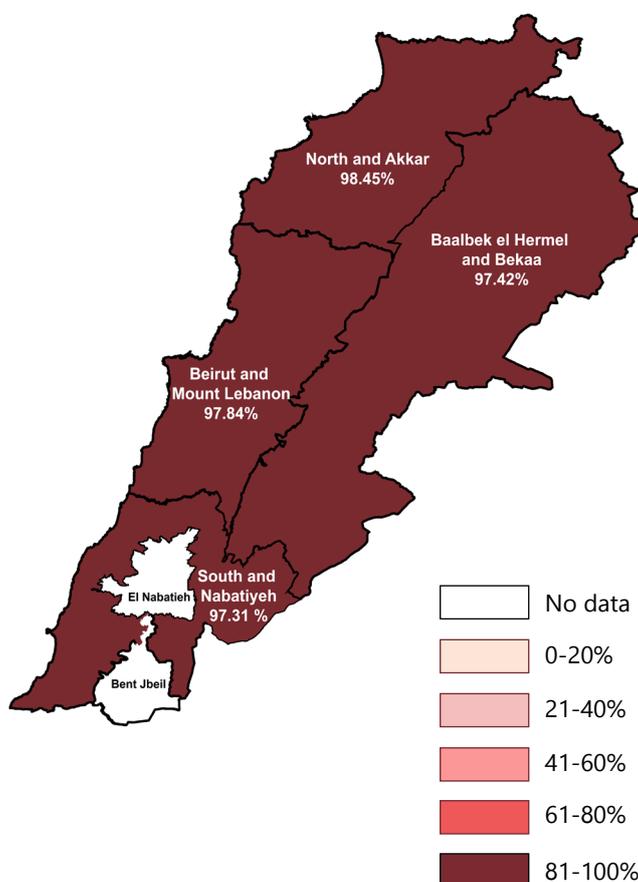
It is based on the highest sectoral severity identified in each household and expressed through a scale of 1 to 4+. Sectoral severity is determined through the calculation of sector specific composite indicators. The full methodology behind the calculation of the MSNI and individual sectoral composites, in accordance with the REACH MSNA Analytical Framework Guidance, can be found in the [methodological note](#).

## HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED BY POPULATION GROUP AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Percentage of households by population group and region per each severity phase:

	4	3	2	1
Lebanese	43%	55%	1%	1%
PRL	50%	49%	1%	1%
Migrant	21%	70%	2%	7%
South and Nabatieh	46%	51%	1%	2%
Beirut and Mount Lebanon	38%	60%	1%	1%
North and Akkar	52%	47%	1%	1%
Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa	38%	59%	1%	1%

Percentage of households with an MSNI severity of 3 or higher, per geographical area:



PRL was the population group found to have the highest proportion of households with multi-sectoral needs (MSNI score 3+). PRL was also the group found to have the highest percentage of households with extreme needs (MSNI score 4) (50%), followed by Lebanese (43%).

The North and Akkar region was found to have the highest proportion of households with multi-sectoral needs (MSNI score of 3+) (98%). Fifty-two percent (52%) of these households were found to have extreme needs (MSNI score of 4).

## UNPACKING THE MSNI: AREAS AND GROUPS WITH THE HIGHEST NEEDS

- **The North and Akkar region**, with Lebanon’s second-largest city, Tripoli, is one of the country’s most deprived regions, marked by a disparate lack of employment opportunities, inaccessibility and unavailability of essentials such as electricity, water, education and health services, and protection concerns. The deterioration of the economic context has put a particular strain on public services in an area marked by poor infrastructure<sup>5</sup>.
- While the **South and Nabatieh region** was found to have less households in need, it was, concurrently, the region with the second-most households in extreme need (46%), suggesting acute vulnerabilities, especially in the sectors of food security, health and livelihoods.
- **The five districts** found to have the **highest proportion of Lebanese households in extreme need** were: Tripoli (66%), Marjaayoun (61%), Sour (53%), Akkar (51%) and El Koura (50%).
- Findings showed that although **migrants in the Beirut Mount Lebanon** region have a lower percentage of households with MSNI≤3, the percentage of migrants households in extreme need (MSNI=4) in this area was the highest, pointing towards acute vulnerabilities.

## UNDERSTANDING KEY DRIVERS AND VULNERABILITIES

- The sector found to have the highest proportion of households in need was **food security** (89%). Rising inflation - resulting in a decline in household purchasing power - and reductions in wheat supplies may be key drivers<sup>6</sup>.
- Following, the **livelihoods** sector found 83% of assessed households in need. Limited access to decent livelihoods and a deep protracted economic crisis have left households vulnerable and increasingly incapable of covering basic needs<sup>7</sup>. A substantial amount of PRL and Lebanese households are relying on community support, savings and remittances and debt as their primary source of income<sup>8</sup>.
- The below table corroborates this **co-occurrence of livelihood and food security** needs overall, and among PRL households specifically. Lebanese households face multidimensional needs, with a co-occurrence of livelihood, food security and health needs, while assessed migrant households most common need was found to be shelter.
- Food security and livelihoods are followed by the health (46% of households in need), shelter (37%), WASH (16%), protection (1%) and education (1%). Again, the country’s economic crisis, contributing to a breakdown of public services such as health care - marred by financial barriers to access and unavailability of functional health facilities - WASH and education, can be viewed as a key driver. This is compounded by the ongoing fuel crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and political instability<sup>9</sup>.
- In Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa region, **health needs** drive the MSNI score, in addition to livelihood and food security needs (see next page), with 60% of households found in need, among which 15% in extreme need. This was also the main needs profile in South and Nabatieh region, where 13% of households were found to be with critical health needs.
- In North and Akkar region, **WASH needs** were particularly concerning - likely due to poor infrastructure and increased reliance on water trucking<sup>9</sup> - with 23% of households in need, among which 12% in extreme need.
- In Chouf district, a substantial proportion of Lebanese households (6%) presented **education needs** compared to other districts.

### Most common needs profiles, overall and by population group

Population group	Education	Food Security	Health	Livelihood	Protection	Shelter	WASH
Overall (19%)		■		■			
Lebanese (22%)		■	■	■			
PRL (20%)		■		■			
Migrant (20%)						■	

The figures noted in brackets in this table reflect the percentage of households with the most prevalent needs profile (overall and then disaggregated by population group).

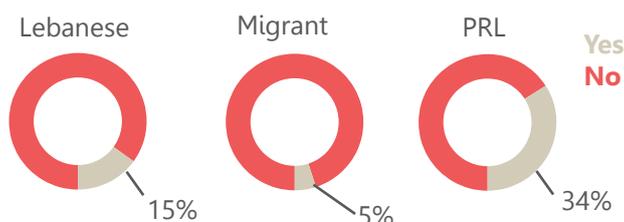
Living Standard Gaps (LSGs) are composite indicators designed to measure the sector-specific severity and magnitude of needs for each humanitarian sector included in the MSNA. LSGs are the analytical building blocks for producing the overall MSNI.

### Most common needs profiles, by geographic area

Region	Education	Food Security	Health	Livelihood	Protection	Shelter	WASH
Akkar and the North (17%)		█	█	█		█	
Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa (28%)		█	█	█			
Beirut and Mount Lebanon (23%)		█		█			
South and Nabatieh (21%)		█	█	█			

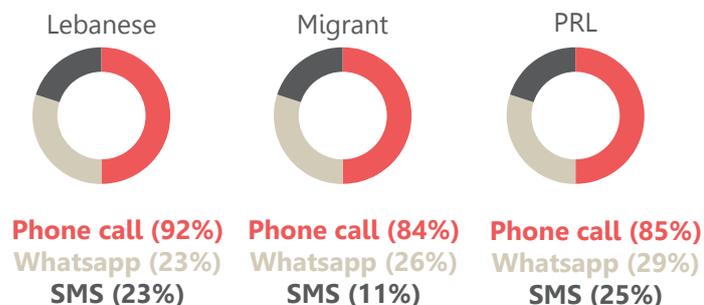
### Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)

% of households reporting having received assistance from a formal governmental or non-governmental actor in the 3 months prior to data collection, by population group



- The **highest proportion of households** who reported having received assistance in the 3 months prior to data collection were in North and Akkar (23%) and South and Nabatieh (22%).
- Among households who reported having received assistance in the 3 months prior to data collection (n=958), the main types of assistance reported were **food assistance** (67%) and **cash (multipurpose) assistance** (30%).

### Households' preferred means of information, by population group



% of households reporting being aware of how to access complaint mechanisms among those having received aid, by population group\*



Of the 15% of Lebanese households (n=673) and 34% of PRL households (n=225) who have reportedly received aid in the 3 months preceding the assessment, 29% and 25%, respectively, reported being **aware of how to access complaint mechanisms**.

Overall, 5% of the households having received aid reported being willing to use existing complaints mechanisms to **provide feedback** about the aid they received and/or the way that aid workers behaved in their location.

\* The subset for assessed migrant households is too small to be presented for both indicators above.

### Households' preferred sectors to receive information on from humanitarian actors



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Emergency Operation Cell (EOC)

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### WITH THE SUPPORT OF:



## NOTES

1. [ACT Alliance Alert: Lebanon Crisis, 16 March 2021](#)
2. OCHA, [Lebanese Emergency Response Plan](#), August 2021
3. UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, [Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon](#), September 2021
4. The data has been collected with the support of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Mercy Corps, Akkar For Development (AFD), Terre des Hommes Foundation (TdH), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Intersos, Save the Children, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Humanity and Inclusion (HI), Solidarités International (SI) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).
5. OCHA, [Lebanon: North & Akkar Governorates Profile](#), October 2018
6. REACH, [Lebanon: 2021 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment](#), April 2022, p.23
7. REACH, [Lebanon: 2021 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment](#), April 2022, p.9
8. REACH, [Lebanon: 2021 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment](#), April 2022, p.18
9. REACH, [Lebanon: 2021 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment](#), April 2022, p.9
10. REACH, [Lebanon: 2021 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment](#), April 2022, p.25

**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).