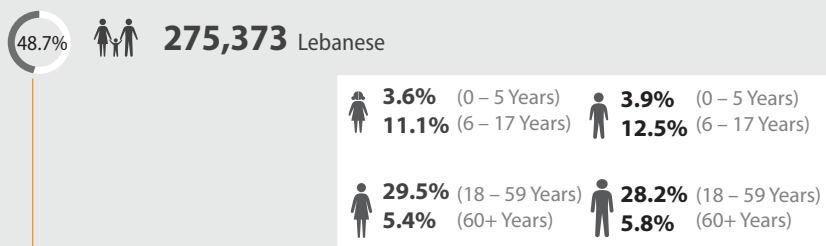


## GENERAL OVERVIEW

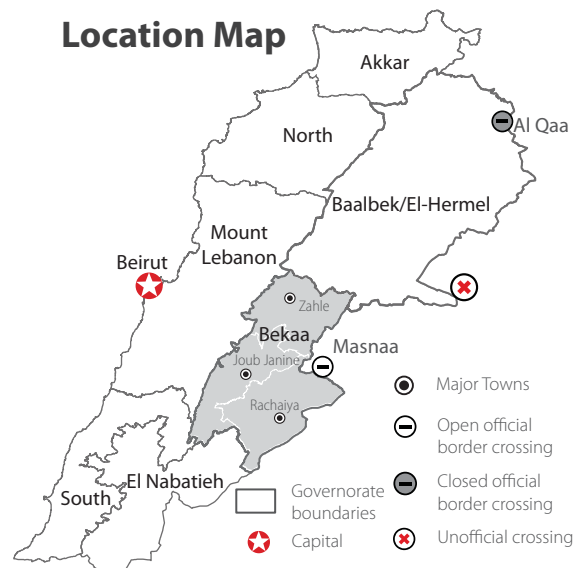
The Bekaa valley was split into two governorates in May 2014; Baalbek/Hermel and Bekaa. Bekaa hosts Lebanon's largest official border crossing with Syria in Masnaa. The Bekaa governorate is split into three administrative districts (Zahle, West Bekaa and Rashaya), composed of over 85 municipalities. The Bekaa valley is an area confessionally mixed with Christians, Sunnis, Shiittes and Druze. The governorate has an average altitude of 1,000m above sea level. Inter-agency and sector coordination meetings take place in Zahle.

## POPULATION OVERVIEW

**565,877** People are living in Bekaa Governorate



## Location Map



## SOCIO ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

- 54.5%** of Syrian refugees living in substandard shelter (inc. **37.4%** in informal settlements) in Bekaa and Baalbek-Hermel governorates
- 655** Informal Settlements, hosting **74,450** of registered Syrian refugees
- 2.5%** refugees living in collective shelters
- 124** public schools. Second shift programs are supported in 20 schools in Central Bekaa, West Bekaa and Rashaya
- 16** public hospitals; **9** are supported
- 6%** unemployment rate (MICS 2009)
- 15** SDCs
- 88** Municipalities/ **5** Union of municipalities
- \$4,480,854** multipurpose cash distributed (Jan-May)

POPULATION COHORTS	Zahle	West Bekaa	Rachaya
Lebanese above poverty line	140,399	46,006	23,273
Deprived Lebanese	36,426	19,437	9,832
Lebanese returnees	1,063	868	228
Registered Syrian Refugees	192,045	70,611	11,756
Palestine Refugees	7,672	4,975	188

## CHANGES IN CONTEXT JANUARY TO JUNE

Security trends in Bekaa were shaped by the intensifying conflict on the border between Islamist Armed Opposition Groups (I/AOGs) and other actors. The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) scaled up search and arrest operations, particularly in areas associated with I/AOG support networks including informal tented settlements and collective shelters. Heavy shelling of the border region by LAF was accompanied by a reinforcement of state and non-state security forces. Inside Aarsal, Lebanese and Syrian nationals were increasingly abducted for ransom or information, while violent criminal incidents became more frequent.

The LAF have implemented evictions policy focused on settlements located within the vicinity of LAF facilities and assets, along vital supply lines and in border areas. Over 7,000 individuals have had to relocate since January and a further 4,400 have been notified to vacate their sites.

Restrictions on access were formalized in January with the imposition of specific entry criteria. In addition, the Government of Lebanon requested the suspension of registration of Syrian refugees conducted by UNHCR. As a result, the number of new arrivals substantially diminished and the number of registered refugees has remained consistent.

## HUMANITARIAN AND STABILIZATION TRENDS

The Bekaa valley has received the highest number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon which has put strains on already fragile services and increased the vulnerability of host communities, as they compete over employment, accommodation, access to public services, and infrastructure. More than 40 per cent of the refugee population live in Informal Tented Settlements; and as a result, have limited access to basic services.

Winterization campaign was finalized in April and reached over 270,000 registered refugees, some of whom reside in remote locations.

In 2015, five agencies will be financing their own cash programs while a total of 19 organizations are working on assessing almost 25,000 households; of those, over 9,000 are expected to benefit from \$175 per month in cash assistance. Household visits as part of the targeting process confirmed that the highest number of poor refugee families in sub-standard shelter live in the Bekaa.

The evictions committee continues to track and respond to the security-driven LAF evictions mostly taking place in Central Bekaa. The committee's members are consistently conducting vulnerability and technical assessments and mobilizing assistance where needed.

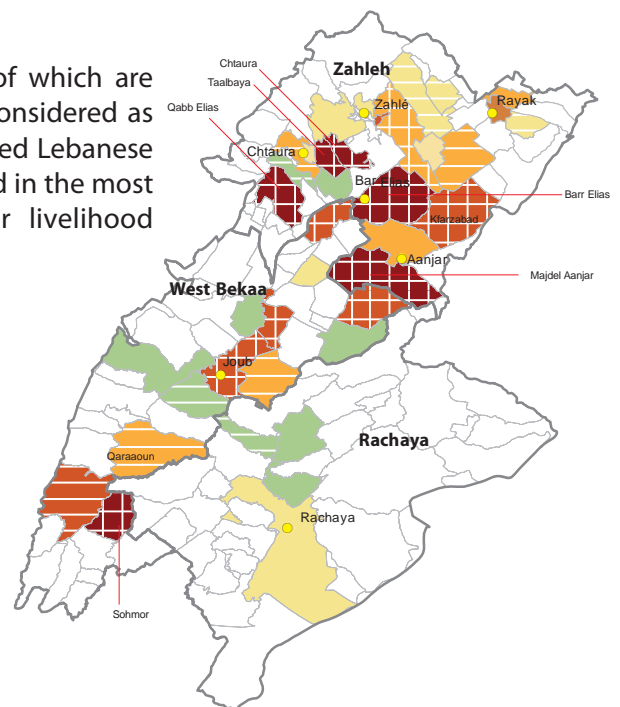
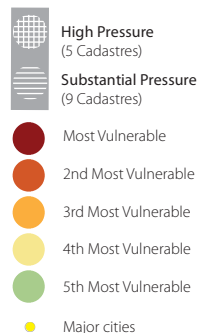
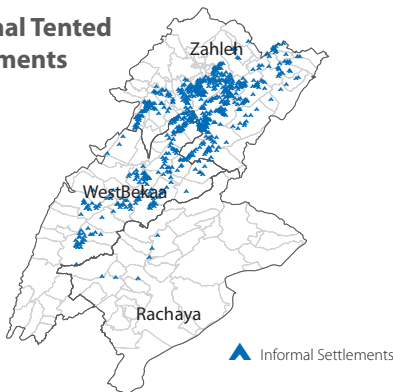
Through the National Poverty Targeting Program, MoSA aims to help 18,000 poor Lebanese families that have been affected by the impact of the Syria crisis. At the moment only 7-8 per cent are being targeted due to lack of resources.

Interventions with municipalities through the Mapping of Risk and Resource programme have taken place in 16 municipalities. In addition, socio-cultural and socio-economic committees aiming at supporting Lebanese-Lebanese social stability by reducing tensions between Lebanese citizens themselves and supporting social interaction between Lebanese and Syrians have been established in Central Bekaa municipalities (Bar Elias, Majd El-Anjar, Taalbaya, Saadnayel, Terbol and Zahle). Local peacebuilding bodies have been created in several municipalities in West Bekaa, supported by UNDP's "Peace Building in Lebanon". Other innovative institutional support include the Municipal Support Assistant Programme where some international NGOs have seconded staff to several municipalities to support the work of the municipality staff and provide information to refugees.

## MOST VULNERABLE LOCALITIES

There are 38 vulnerable localities in the Bekaa governorate, six of which are classified as most vulnerable. Twenty of the 38 localities are also considered as substantial and high pressure where the ratio of refugees to deprived Lebanese is at least three to one or more. Inter-sectoral coverage has increased in the most vulnerable localities witnessing the highest pressure, however livelihood interventions are lacking in many of them.

### Informal Tented Settlements



## HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

	13	10	19	4	9	6	4	9	11	10	5
Zahle	9	7	11	5	6	4	4	2	7	5	4
West Bekaa	4	4	7	2	3	2	1	2	2	1	1
Rachaya											

### 53 UN Agencies and NGOs operating in Bekaa

ABAAD, ACF, AJEM Lebanon, AMEL, Arab Puppet Theatre, AVSI, Beyond, CARE, CLMC Lebanon, DRC, EPL, FAO, HabitatForHumanity, HI, Himaya, Humedica, HWA, IA, IMC, Intersos, IOCC Lebanon, IOM, IQRAA, IR Lebanon, IRC, IRW, ISAD, KAFA, Lebanese Red Cross, MAP-UK, MDM, MEDAIR, Medical Teams International, Mercy Corps, MoSA, MS Lebanon, MSL Lebanon, NRC, OXFAM, RI, SCI, SFCG, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNRWA, URDA, Welfare Association, WHO, WVI

### Key contacts

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**Bekaa Governor** Mr. Antoine Sleiman

**UNDP** George Akl, [george.akl@undp.org](mailto:george.akl@undp.org)

**Disclaimer:** The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

**Data Source:** Lebanese Population - Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) year 2002 dataset, Poverty data: CAS, UNDP and MoSA Living Conditions and Household Budget Survey 2004-5,

Syrian Refugee Population - UNHCR as of 30/06/2015, Humanitarian Intervention Data - Activity Info as of 30/06/2015, Palestinian Refugee Population - UNRWA, Lebanese Returnees data IOM as of 30/06/2015