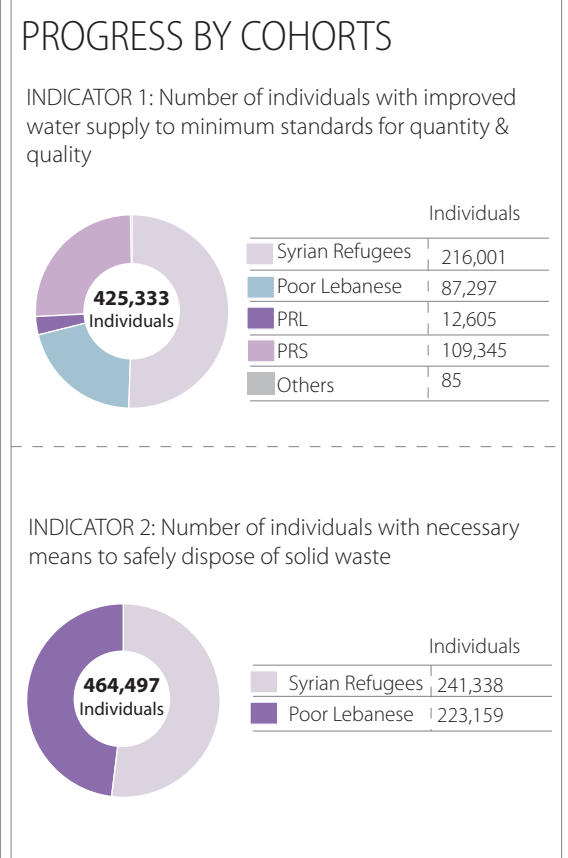
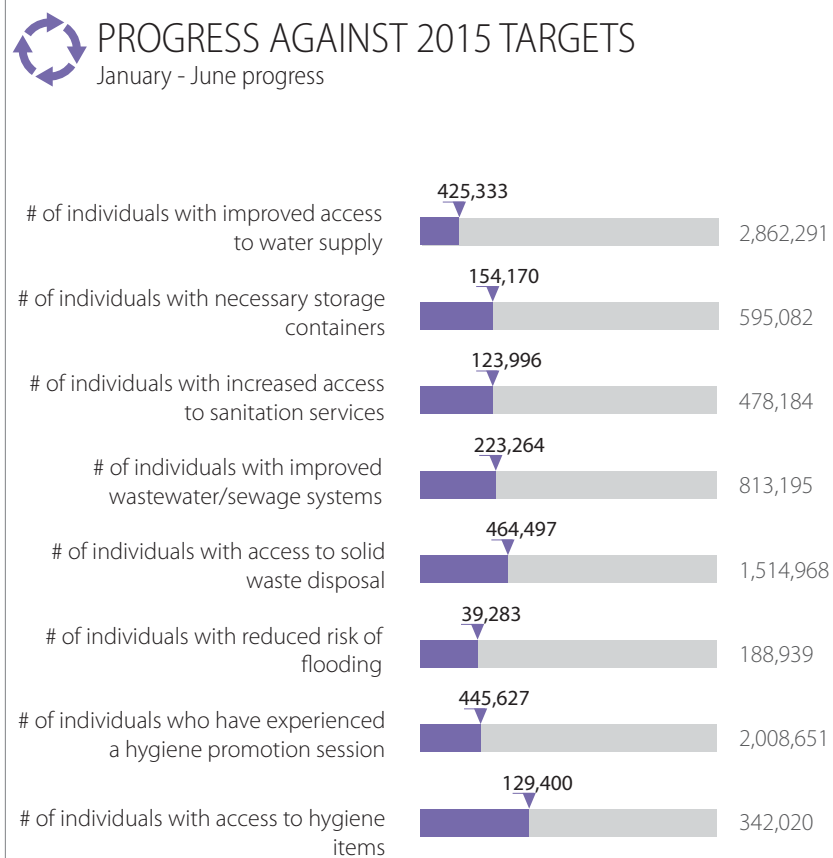
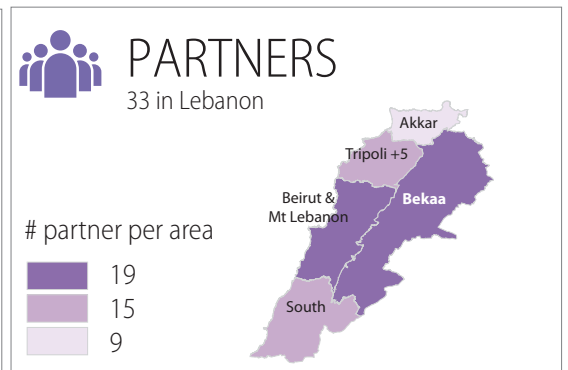
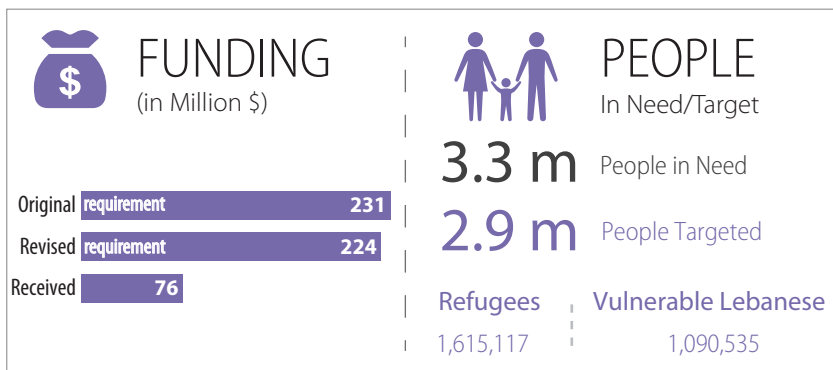



**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Provision of WASH services has contributed to recent reduction in cases of water-borne diseases.
- Recent improved collaboration with the WASH related Government institutions to better reflect existing strategies, priorities and legal framework.
- Secondments for information coordinators and hydraulic engineers in the four regional water establishments have been initiated to fill much needed capacity gaps in the Government.
- Operational gap analysis by field areas has led to better coverage of vulnerable population with services, especially in the Bekaa.
- Lack of funding is severely reducing the capacity to adopt sustainable solutions, mainly with respect to wastewater and solid waste management.
- Risk of diseases outbreaks during summer and autumn period is elevated due potential water shortage in certain areas combined with inadequate solid waste and wastewater management.
- Bacteriological contamination of water sources remains widespread despite efforts of the WASH sector to address this problem.
- Innovative and sustainable wastewater treatment solutions have been piloted in the south. Their replication requires additional funding.
- In order to improve the household water treatment standards, a comparative study between ceramic and aqua-filters has been completed.





## **Situation analysis and change in context**

### **Water**

Ensuring sustainable and equitable access to safe water in sufficient quantities has progressed through the completion of various projects including: equipping and connection of wells in south Lebanon, benefitting around 67,000 Lebanese and 20,000 displaced Syrians; and the construction of a 200 m<sup>3</sup> reservoir and the equipping of a well and its connection to the network in the Bekaa, benefitting an estimated 15,000 Lebanese and 13,000 displaced Syrians. Since January 425,333 people have benefited from water projects of which 21% are Lebanese and 50% are displaced Syrians. The sector is also focusing on improving monitoring of water quality and water resources; reducing dependence on expensive trucking water; and including cost recovery of water supply services in projects.

### **Sanitation**

Sector partners have increased the access to sanitation services. Examples of completed projects include: the replacement of sewage-evacuation pumps in south Lebanon, benefitting 16,800 Lebanese and 5,000 displaced Syrians; construction of a sewage network in Kharayeb municipality benefitting 3,478 Lebanese and 1,351 displaced Syrians; procurement of 4,454 bins and 14 garbage trucks in support of municipalities across the country; and the construction of 2,595 toilets. As a result of targeted interventions 464,497 beneficiaries now have access to improved sanitary services. Whilst collection has improved, there remains a huge challenge to provide solutions for solid waste reduction, reuse, recycling and disposal. Even more difficult is finding safer and more environmentally friendly ways to collect, treat and dispose of wastewater in lieu of functioning wastewater treatment plants.

### **Hygiene**

Fostering awareness of public health risks and adoption of good hygiene practices and measures to operate and maintain WASH facilities is the third key objective for the sector. Almost 450,000 people participated in 21,813 household/small group hygiene awareness sessions. Over 2,000 people have been trained in hygiene promotion, over 145,000 people have been given access to hygiene kits and over 900 training sessions have been held for establishment of beneficiary managed WASH committees.

### **Changes in operational context**

Collaboration between WASH implementing agencies, donors and Government authorities has increased considerably in recent months. The Government of Lebanon is creating a WASH Steering Committee to be lead by the Ministry of Energy and Water, with proposed committee members from key Government ministries, UN agencies and donor representation.

According to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported cases of selected water-borne disease totalled 811 since the beginning of 2015, compared to 2,450 for the same period at the end of 2014. However, the risk of disease outbreak is ever-present and the health and WASH sectors have continued to improve the surveillance and referral systems as well as conducting training in preparedness and response for possible outbreaks.

Recent assessments, particularly in the North and Akkar reveal widespread bacteriological contamination leading to acute diarrhoea, in addition to high nitrate and phosphate contamination for water sources in agricultural areas. They highlight the need to increase water quality monitoring as well as efforts to protect and treat water sources.

Contingency planning process has commenced in preparation for the summer and autumn period to minimise the effect of potential water shortages. Precipitation during wintertime has not been enough to sufficiently recharge groundwater.

The Government's call for tenders for municipal solid waste management in Lebanon was first launched in February 2015 and received scant interest from the private sector. It was subsequently relaunched in May 2015 with bid opening in July. This is a setback for implementation of greatly needed facilities for treating and safely disposing waste and heightens the requirement for interim solutions. Major landfills (e.g. Naameh) are supposed to be closed in July. There is a high risk that, if no solution is found, municipal waste would pile up, causing impacts on human health.



A similar challenge exists for managing wastewater; existing operational wastewater treatment plants are few and it may take decades before the MoEW's plans can be realised. Solutions to ensure wastewater is sufficiently treated are desperately needed.

Informal Settlements are increasing in number since the start of the year (from 2,053 to 3,274 mapped sites) but shrinking in size (number of inhabitants remaining at over 190,000); this is requiring more resources to assist an increasingly scattered population.

Activities to ensure WASH services and increased coverage of basic urban services in poor urban neighbourhoods is far behind meeting the growing needs. This may have severe consequences in the most deprived settings in the largest cities, including informal settlements and Palestinian gatherings and camps, subject to a steep population increase of refugees in areas where the majority of the host population lives under the poverty line and with low coverage of networks prior to the crisis.