Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2025

Key WASH Findings

Lebanon, November 2025

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

acted

Sida
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

WaSH Sector
Lebanon

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Scope & Methodology

Objectives

01

Provide detailed overview of the current humanitarian needs and gaps of the crisis-affected population by sector and across sector

02

Identify variations in need amongst population groups - Lebanese, Palestinian Refugee in camps (PRL, PRS), Migrants (live out) - and geographical areas – Baalbeck, Bekaa, South and Nabatyeh

03

Enhance current humanitarian response plans and provide input for future collective planning. Inform the 2026 humanitarian response planning and sectoral and overall People in Need (PiN) and severity calculations.

04

Conduct a thorough inter-sectoral analysis to assess the magnitude and severity of humanitarian needs; and identify differences in needs among geographical areas, population groups, and vulnerability profiles.

Population Coverage and Data Collection

REPRESENTATIVE COMPLETED SURVEYS

4,277

Data in South Lebanon's 10-km border belt was collected by REACH and Nabaa under a traffic-light access system co-reviewed with ACTED Security Department: **Red (no-go)**, **Orange (go with adjustments)**, and **Green (go)**. Sampling points were filtered by access status; **Red** cadasters were excluded, **Orange** ones were reached with controlled, while **Green** followed standard GPS-based selection. Quality and safety were safeguarded via same-day go/no-go approvals and paired teams with check-ins with all substitutions logged for transparent analysis.

- 2,177 Surveys with Lebanese HHs
- 707 Surveys with PRL HHs
- 489 Surveys with PRS HHs
- 904 Surveys with Migrant HHs

DATA COLLECTION

From **11 August 2025** to **23 September 2025**

POPULATION OF INTEREST

The population of interest is **households living in Lebanon** across three groups: **Lebanese nationals**, **Palestinian refugees (PRL/PRS) in official camps**, and **live-out migrant households**.
Focus is on areas covered by the MSNA (South, Nabatieh, Bekaa, and Baalbek-Hermel), including communities **within ~10 km of the southern border** affected by insecurity and service disruptions.
All analysis is **household-based with some indicators on individual level**, with disaggregation by sex of head of household and other vulnerability characteristics where possible.

Coverage and Sampling

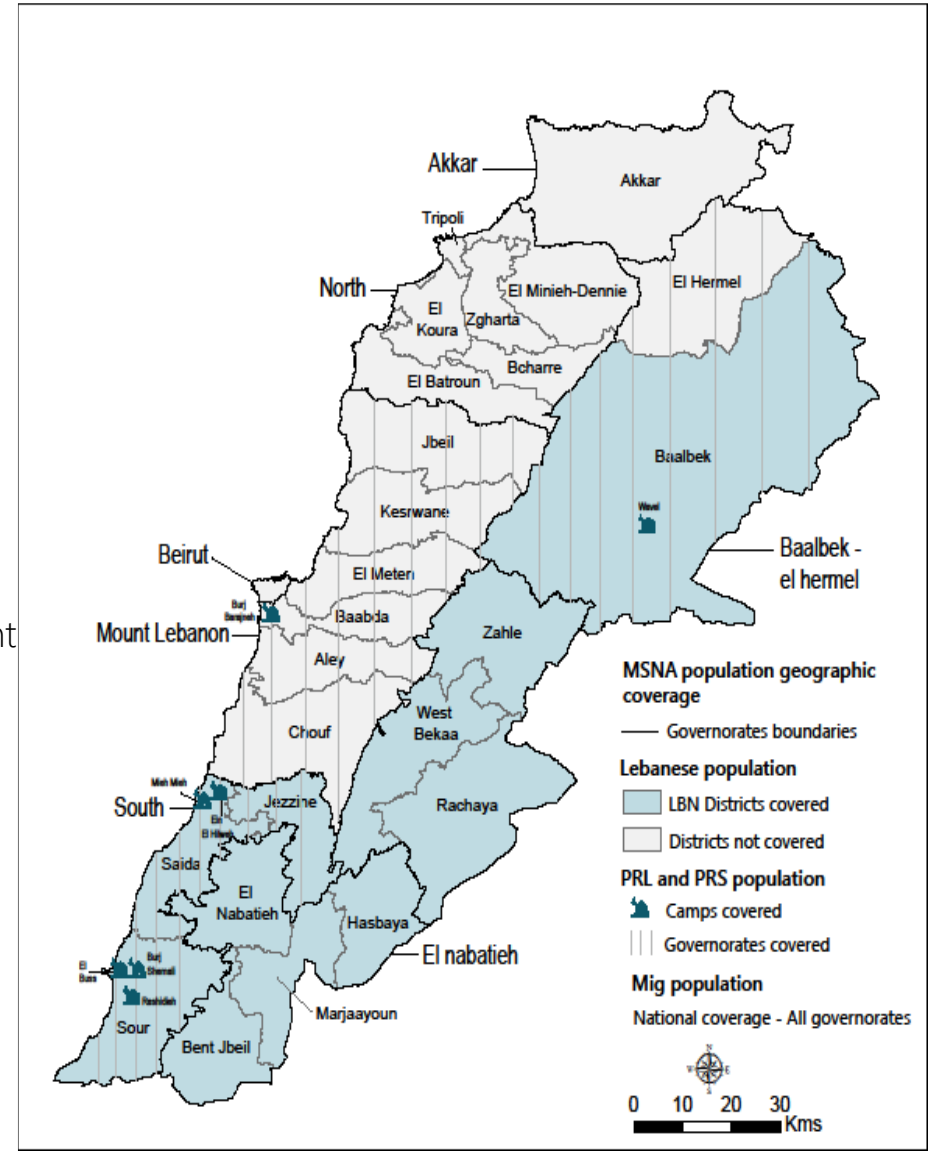
- **Lebanese** data collected in **11/12 districts** in 4 governorates. (Not in Hermel district)
- **In-camp Palestinian Refugee (PRL & PRS)** data collected in **7 camps** in 4 governorates.
- Migrant data collected in 8 governorates.
- Data is **representative** at a 90% confidence level and a 7% margin of error for Lebanese populations at district level and for Live-out Migrants at governorate level. And at a 90% confidence level and a 7% margin of error at the In-camp Palestinian population.

Challenges:

Security risks in South Lebanon and Nabatieh limited field movement. Daily changes in access permissions required close coordination with partners and governors. Enumerators faced movement restrictions and disruptions in highly affected areas.

Limitations:

Non-response among well-off households may have slightly skewed results.
Individual findings should be considered indicative as information was provided by the head of household rather than individual members.
For migrants, data collection often took place at employers' premises, which may have influenced response accuracy.
For Baalbek Hermel governorate data is missing Hermel district, should read the results considering this limitation



Partners

MSNA 2025 won't be completed without partner's support

02

Demographics

Demographics

Household Composition

3.35 Average Lebanese HH size

3.31 Average PR HH size

7,165 Lebanese HH members

4,023 PR HH members

	Lebanese HH	PR HH	
	37%	**43%**	of HHs have children (under 18 of age)
	42%	**41%**	of HHs have older persons (60+)
	18%	**29%**	of female-headed HHs
	16%	**23%**	of HHs have disabled persons*

	Lebanese HH	PR HH
	52%	**56%**
	48%	**44%**

* Using Washington Group Questions

Demographics

Household Composition

1.7 Average Migrant HH size

1,552 Migrant HH members

40%

60%

17% of Migrant HHs have children (under 18 of age)

4% of Migrant HHs have older persons (60+) (n=60 HHs)

26% of female-headed Migrant HHs

4% Of Migrant HHs have disabled persons (n=31 HHs)

- FHHs are smaller on average than MHHs (1.53 vs 1.78 members). Smaller FHHs may have fewer working-age earners and thinner informal support networks.
- MHHs include more adults 18–64 (1.45 vs 1.28). MHHs may have relatively higher labor-market engagement potential—but also higher exposure to job/income shocks.
- Heads with a reported disability are more common among FHHs (6%) than MHHs (4%).Targeted accessibility and cash/in-kind support may be especially relevant for FHHs..
- FHH share peaks in South (46%) and Mount Lebanon (42%), and is lowest in Baalbek–Hermel (0%) in this sample. Prioritize FHH-sensitive programming and outreach in South & Mount Lebanon.

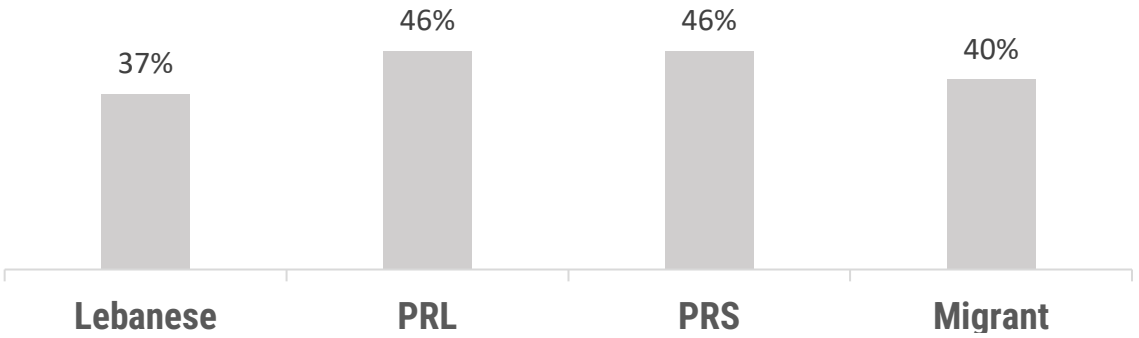
* Using Washington Group Questions

03

WASH Findings

Water Access and Availability

% of HHs reporting water insufficiency in the 30 days prior to DC:



Lebanese	74%
PRL	60%
PRS	59%
Migrants	72%

Non-functional water source as main reported reason for water insufficiency (amongst the %s above)

Main coping mechanisms for water insufficiency	Lebanese	PRL	PRS	Migrants
Reduce water consumption (non-drinking)	17%	15%	22%	24%
Spend money on water instead of other purposes	15%	1%	1%	5%
Fetch water at a further source	11%	7%	10%	5%
Rely on less preferred drinking water	7%	10%	8%	5%
Reduce water consumption (drinking)	4%	6%	2%	6%

% of Lebanese HHs reporting water insufficiency in the 30 days prior to DC in 2023 vs 2025:

District	2023 (%)	2025 (%)	
Baalbek	37%	50%	↑ 13%
Jezzine	19%	18%	↓ 1%
Saida	35%	42%	↑ 7%
Sour (Tyre)	18%	35%	↑ 17%
West Bekaa	12%	20%	↑ 8%
Zahle	11%	36%	↑ 25%
Rachaya	15%	60%	↑ 45%
Hasbaya	33%	45%	↑ 12%
Marjaayoun	27%*	46%	↑ 19%
Nabatieh	27%*	58%	↑ 31%
Bint Jbeil	27%*	36%	↑ 9%
Total (All HHs)	27%	41%	

* Data for these districts were not collected in 2023; national averages from MSNA 2023 were used as reference values.

Water Access and Availability

% of HHs by type of primary source of drinking water	Lebanese	PRL	PRS	Migrants
Improved drinking water sources	92%	99%	99%	98%
Bottled water (incl. water refilling shop)	51%	27%	26%	63%
Bottled water	31%	15%	17%	45%
Water refilling kiosk/shop	20%	12%	9%	18%
Piped	32%	52%	57%	28%
Protected well	5%	13%	8%	2%
Unimproved drinking water sources	8%	1%	1%	2%

Areas with the highest % of HHs reporting drinking from non-improved source of water:

Lebanese HHs: Baalbek district (20%)
PRL HHs: Wavel camp (5%)
PRS HHs: Wavel and Rachidieh camps (7%)
Migrant HHs: Baalbek Hermel governorate (7%)

Very low subset

Areas with the highest % of HHs reporting drinking from bottled water:
Lebanese HHs: Marjaayoun district (54%)
PRL: Burj El Barajneh camp (57%)
PRS: Burj El Barajneh camp (51%)
Migrants: Akkar governorate (69%)

Drinking water

Between 2023 and 2025, **water access patterns shifted noticeably across groups**:

- For Lebanese households, reliance on **bottled water (incl. refilling shops)** remained high but slightly decreased (54% → 51%), while **piped water use increased marginally (29% → 32%)**, and **unimproved sources increased from 3% to 8%**, signalling growing affordability and infrastructure challenges.
- Among PRL households, **piped water remained** but bottled water use decreased (45% → 27%), suggesting lower affordability to purchase bottled water; unimproved sources also increased (0% → 1%), though still minimal.
- For live-out migrants, bottled water reliance decreased (71% → 63%), while piped water slightly increased (24% → 28%), reflecting persistent exclusion from public networks and growing costs. Overall, the trend shows **greater dependence on piped water and a rise in unimproved sources**, pointing to worsening affordability and service reliability.

Water Access and Availability

Drinking water

Lebanese	36%
PRL	27%
PRS	20%
Migrants	50%

HHs reported a need to collect water for drinking, meaning that water does not reaches their premises

Areas with the highest proportion of HHs reporting collecting water for drinking:

Lebanese HHs: Hasbaya district (92%)
PRL HHs: Burj EL Barajneh camp (92%)

PRS HHs: Burj El Barajneh camp (86%)
Live-out migrant HHs: Nabatieh governorate (100%)

Areas with the highest average of time needed to collect water for drinking:

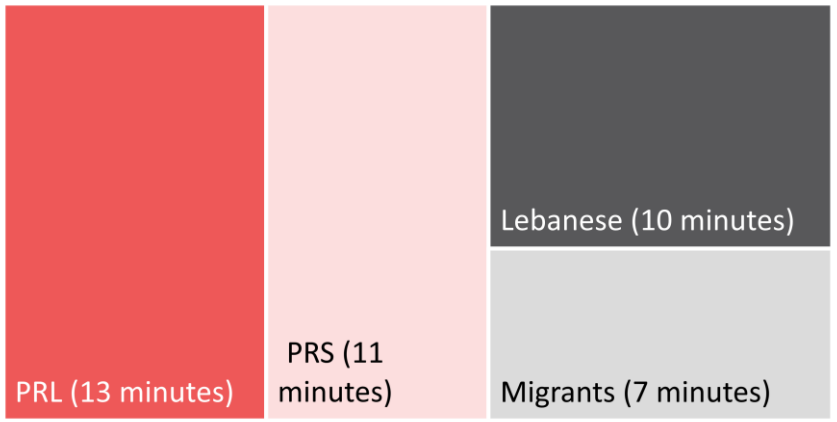
Lebanese HHs: Baalbek district (17 minutes)

PRL HHs: Burj El Chemali (24 minutes)

PRS HHs: Wavel camp (17 minutes)

Live-out migrant HHs: Nabatieh Governorate (20 minutes)

% of HHs reporting a need to collect water for drinking*, by average time (in minutes) needed:



While a relatively high proportion of households still report the need to collect water for drinking — particularly among Lebanese (36%) and migrant (50%) households — the average time required remains limited (7–10 minutes), suggesting that distance or waiting time are not the main barriers. Instead, the findings indicate structural and supply-related constraints, as water simply does not reach premises in many areas, especially in Hasbaya, Burj el Barajneh, and Nabatieh. This points to gaps in infrastructure and reliability rather than physical access time.

*round trip by walking, queuing and time needed to fetch water.

Sanitation facility

Lebanese	75%
PRL	84%
PRS	91%
Migrants	92%

HHs reported Flush/pour to piped sewer system as main sanitation facility used

None of HHs across all population groups reported using unimproved sanitation facility

% of HHs sharing sanitation facility, among HHs with pit latrine or septic tank

	Lebanese	PRL	PRS	Migrants
2025	5%	2%	2%	35%
2023	< 1%	4%	NA	33%

- Of the 5% that share sanitation facilities among Lebanese households, 22% are located in Nabatieh district, pointing to localized infrastructure challenges in that area.
- Of the 35% that share sanitation facilities among Migrant households, an overwhelming 91% reside in Baalbek El Hermel governorate, indicating severe localized vulnerability.

% of HHs by TOP 3 reported using pit latrine or septic tank as main sanitation facility used

Lebanese	PRL	PRS	Migrants
31% (n=662)	15% (n=122)	8% (n=68)	7% (n=75)

% of HHs with pit latrine or septic tank, by having them not emptied (not at all or only covered and left undisturbed)

Lebanese	PRL	PRS	Migrants
56%	47%	57%	25%

A considerable 31% of Lebanese households use flush/pour to septic tanks, which require regular emptying. Combined with the fact that over half of these facilities are never emptied, this represents a critical gap in safe sanitation management.

Access to hygiene items

Lebanese	10%
PRL	19%
PRS	19%
Migrants	27%

HHs reported issues in accessing hygiene NFI

However, relying on less preferred type of items was top common reported coping mechanism used to cope accessing hygiene NFI, as reported by 6% of Lebanese HHs, 10% of PRL HHs, 6% of PRS HHs and 17% of Live-out migrant HHs

Areas with the highest proportion of HHs reporting issues with accessing hygiene NFI:

Lebanese HHs: West Bekaa district (37%)
PRL HHs: Wavel camp (37%)

PRS HHs: Burj El Chimali camp (33%)
Migrant HHs: Baalbek el Hermel governorate (61%)

Access to hygiene NFIs has **stabilized overall**, but **inequality across districts and population groups has deepened**.
Support should **prioritize districtswith an increase in the % of HHs with issues accessing NFIs (Nabatieh, Baalbek)** and **migrant communities**, while maintaining market-based interventions that sustain recent gains in urban hubs like Saida and Zahle.

* Data for these districts were not collected in 2023; national averages from MSNA 2023 were used as reference values.

% of HHs reporting having issues accessing NFIs in 2023 vs in 2025

District	2023 (%)	2025 (%)	
Baalbek	18%	21%	↑ 3%
Jezzine	16%	2%	↓ 14%
Saida	18%	7%	↓ 11%
Sour (Tyre)	33%	3%	↓ 30%
West Bekaa	37%	3%	↓ 34%
Zahle	42%	7%	↓ 35%
Rachaya	34%	2%	↓ 32%
Hasbaya	26%*	13%	↓ 13%
Marjaayoun	26%*	14%	↓ 12%
Nabatieh	26%*	29%	↑ 3%
Bint Jbeil	26%	10%	↓ 16%
Total (All HHs)	26%	21%	

Access to menstrual materials

Lebanese	**9%**
PRL	**5%**
PRS	**13%**
Migrants	**11%**

HHs reported NO issues in accessing menstrual materials*

However, The most often reported reason behind not having access to menstrual materials was their high price, as reported by 6% of Lebanese households, 5% of PRL households, 12% of PRS HHs and 7% of live-out migrant households

Areas with the highest % of HHs reporting having access to menstrual materials:

Lebanese: Hasbaya and Rashaya districts (100%)

PRL: Burj el Chimali, Rashidieh and Wavel camps (100%)

PRS: Mieh Mieh, Rashidieh and Wavel camps (100%)

Migrant: Nabatieh governorate (100%)

% of HHs reporting having issues accessing menstrual materials in 2023 vs in 2025

District	2023 (%)	2025 (%)	
Baalbek	6%	10%	↑ 4%
Jezzine	7%	5%	↓ 2%
Saida	25%	8%	↑ 17%
Sour (Tyre)	27%	5%	↓ 22%
West Bekaa	33%	6%	↓ 27%
Zahle	16%	25%	↑ 9%
Rashaya	18%	0%	↓ 18%
Bint Jbeil	13%***	2%	↓ 11%
Nabatieh	13%***	2%	↓ 11%
Hasbaya	9%	0%	↓ 9 %
Marjaayoun	13%***	1%	↑ 12%
Total (All HHs)	13%	9%	↓ 4 %

*Among HHs with at least one woman 15-49 y/o, interviewed by a female enumerator

**Data for these districts were not collected in 2023; national averages from MSNA 2023 were used as reference values

***Data for these districts were not collected in 2023; national averages from MSNA 2023 were used as reference values

Spending on water/hygiene

% of HHs income spent on water and hygiene products:

	Lebanese	PRL	PRS	Migrants
% of monthly HH **income** spent on **water**	11%	2%	2%	5%
% of monthly HH **income** spent on **hygiene items**	10%	11%	10%	7%

- Lebanese HHs spend 11% on water (up from 5% in 2023) vs. 2–3% for PRL/PRS with UNRWA support.
- Hygiene spending steady (9–12%) across groups.
- Interestingly, the **only population group that reported spending money on water that should be used for other purposes as a coping mechanism were Lebanese households (15%)**, with the **highest % in Marjaayoun district (41%)**. This highlights a key inequity: **some population groups do not have the privilege or financial capacity to consider paid water access as a coping strategy**, underscoring disparities in economic resilience and service availability.

% of monthly HH **income** spent on **water, as reported by Lebanese HHs by district**

District	2025 (%)
Baalbek	11%
Jezzine	4%
Saida	7%
Sour (Tyre)	2%
West Bekaa	4%
Zahle	7%
Rashaya	8%
Bint Jbeil	9%
Nabatieh	8%
Hasbaya	7%
Marjaayoun	14%
Total (All HHs)	11%

All HH income was collected in USD

The proportion of income was calculated only on those HHs that reported an income >1 USD

The highest and lowest values in spending were transformed into averages closest to them to prevent skewing the results.

The proportion of expenses is calculated considering all expenses of the household

Conclusion

- WASH services in assessed areas show critical gaps impacting water, sanitation, and hygiene:

➢ Water insufficiency is rising sharply, with app 42% of assessed households reporting shortages in the past month of data collection (up from 27% in 2023). Districts like Nabatieh (58%), and Baalbek (50%) are most affected.

➢ Structural issues dominate: 36% of Lebanese households and 50% of migrants must collect drinking water because supply does not reach premises, while reliance on unimproved sources among Lebanese rose from 3% to 8%, signaling affordability and infrastructure decline.

- Sanitation and hygiene access remain uneven and risky:

➢ While most households use improved facilities, 31% of Lebanese and 15% of PRL households depend on septic tanks or pit latrines, with over half never emptied, posing major health hazards.

➢ Migrants face increased challenges in accessing WASH services: 35% share sanitation facilities, mostly in Baalbek-Hermel, where also report difficulty accessing hygiene items in this district, highlighting gaps in service coverage

➢ Coping strategies include relying on less preferred items, especially among migrants (17%).

- Economic strain compounds WASH challenges:

➢ Lebanese households spend 11% of income on water (up from 5% in 2023), while PRL/PRS spend only 2–3% due to UNRWA support.

➢ Around 15% of Lebanese households reported diverting money from other essentials to buy water, peaking at in Marjaayoun (41%). These trends highlight growing inequities in affordability and access, requiring urgent sectoral coordination to address infrastructure gaps, affordability barriers, and localized vulnerabilities.

Thank you for your attention

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REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action