



February Storm: Situation Update February 2025



GENERAL SITUATION

This year, Lebanon is experiencing a milder and more delayed winter than usual. In February 2025, the country faced two consecutive storms characterized by challenging weather conditions, including heavy rain, snow, strong winds, and cold temperatures starting from February 5th. These weather conditions led to hailstorms, and thunderstorms, exasperated by strong winds. Weather conditions improved before deteriorating again on February 21st. By February 22nd, snow levels dropped to locations situated at 400 meters elevation and rainfall intensified. Due to the nature of this year's storms, which were marked by lower temperatures rather than heavy rainfall, the impact on informal settlements has been less severe compared to last year.

The storm's impact remained significant in Beirut and Mount Lebanon (BML). The impact also extended to North and Akkar and the Bekaa.

In the last week of February, 206 households composed of 1,166 individuals were estimated to be affected in 111 sites in Beirut and Mount Lebanon (BML), Bekaa, and North and Akkar.

Conversely, in the South region, the situation remained stable, with no significant impact or flooding reported at the site level. Effective preparedness measures, coupled with the storm's limited intensity, helped minimize potential damage, reinforcing the importance of readiness efforts.



Figure 1. Photo Credit: Abdul Dennaoui, Medair | Location: Jeb Janine, West Bekaa, Bekaa Valley, 4 December 2024.



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PREPAREDNESS

This year, Lebanon's winter response has expanded significantly under the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) to address the urgent needs that arose from mass displacements due to escalation of hostilities. This expansion aimed to cover both traditional winter needs and additional, acute requirements for the influx of displaced populations, especially for these living in collective sites in high-altitude areas above 500 meters, where winter conditions are most severe. Due to the limited funding and lack of data on the need in every site, the winter support to the displaced population remained minimal.

LRP Partners are continuing to work to support vulnerable and displaced populations of all nationalities, along with local institutions, by providing winter cash and in-kind assistance, implementing municipal support projects, enhancing site infrastructure, conducting winter shelter repairs, supplying collective sites with hot water, and distributing essential winter items and clothing. These comprehensive efforts are part of a wider inter-sectoral winter season response documented in the [Overview of Lebanon Winter Preparedness & Response for 2024-2025](#), aiming to enhance preparedness and response in anticipation of the challenges posed by winter.

In addition, region-specific preparedness measures were adapted:

- **North and Akkar:** Site improvement and cleaning river channels to prevent blockages and mitigate flood risks and updating RNA tools.
- **Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel:** Prepositioning supplies and completing early distributions in high-elevation and flood-prone areas.
- **BML:** Equipping shelters with weatherproofing kits to allow repair in preparedness for winter..
- **South and Nabatieh:** Supporting local authorities with equipment, stormwater management, and fuel provisions for heating. Even though not a direct response to the storms, UNHCR distributed winter jackets, stoves and core relief items (CRIs) in about 22 high-altitude villages and newly accessible villages at the border areas for vulnerable returnee and IDP families in February.



Figure 2. Photo Credit: Omar Abdelkhalek, Medair | Location: Al Mansoura, West Bekaa, Bekaa Valley, 18 February 2025.



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IMPACT OF CURRENT STORM ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

	Affected	Assisted
Sites confirmed	111	68
Estimated households	206	105
Estimated individuals	1,166	704

Figures are cumulative to date.

RESPONSE

North

The North region experienced extreme weather conditions on 21 February, with snowfall affecting areas as low as 200 meters in elevation by 24 February. Four sites were referred to Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) partners for urgent intervention—two in Akkar (Hnaider and Qarha) and two in Batroun district (Kfar Hilda). These conditions have exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, particularly for displaced populations residing in flood-prone areas.

In response, Basic Assistance sector partners provided Core Relief Items (CRIs) and shelter kits, including transportation. However, only three out of eleven RNA partners have trucks available for distributions, limiting the efficiency of aid delivery.

In the North, assistance provided so far includes the distribution of 27 blankets, 33 mattresses, 10 sleeping mats, one kitchen set, five Light Repair Kits (LRKs), and seven Medium Repair Kits (MRKs).

Beirut & Mount Lebanon

In BML, partners responded to the first phase of the storm by distributing shelter kits to 29 affected families (205 individuals) across 21 informal settlements. However, challenges in distributing shelter kits persist in Chouf district, where teams are working closely to resolve access and logistical issues.

During the second phase of the storm, RNA partners successfully completed the distribution of shelter kits to all 25 affected families (170 individuals) in 10 informal settlements. These efforts ensure that vulnerable households receive the necessary support to withstand harsh winter conditions, despite ongoing challenges in certain areas.

Bekaa

Following deteriorating weather conditions on February 19th, RNA partners conducted phone surveys with 40 informal settlements located at high altitudes and prone to be affected by adverse weather conditions. As of February 24th, assessments determined that 38 households comprising of 264 individuals were deemed eligible and provided with shelter kits, primarily Light Repair Kits (LRKs), and seven Medium Repair Kits (MRKs). No requests for CRIs were received by the Basic Assistance (BA) Sector. Since the storm did not cause significant impact, the Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) was not activated.

South

No significant impact or flooding was reported in the South and Nabatiyeh governorates and the RNA was not activated.



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KEY CHALLENGES

It is important to note that winter preparedness and response efforts this year face a uniquely complex array of challenges, underscored by the escalation of hostilities, infrastructure and housing damage, deepening economic crisis, and a significant increase in displacement. Each of these factors introduces additional needs that add layers of complexity to an already strained response system, demanding highly coordinated and strategic interventions across all sectors.

Moreover, funding remains a significant challenge for emergency preparedness and response efforts, particularly for community support projects (CSPs), site improvements, additional shelter kits, CRIs, WaSH interventions, dewatering, desludging, and waste management. Additionally, deteriorating infrastructure across the country and the lack of municipal resources further hinder response efforts. While shelter kits and CRIs provide temporary relief, they are not a sustainable solution for completely flooded sites, necessitating long-term mitigation measures.



Figure 3. Photo Credit: Abdallah Harb, B&Z | Location: Bekaa, September 2024

PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE RESPONSE

Caritas, Medair, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM), Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), Save the Children International (SCI), Tabitha-Dorcas, UNHCR, We World-GVC.

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