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UNICEF Lebanon: Winterization Programme

The escalation of hostilities in Lebanon, which intensified since mid-September 2024, has drastically worsened the ongoing cross-border conflict that began in October 2023. The violence, now widespread across several governorates, including Beirut, has triggered one of Lebanon's largest waves of displacement in decades, significantly increasing humanitarian needs across the country.

An estimated **one million people, including 350,000 children**, require urgent humanitarian assistance. As of 25 October 2024, IOM reports the total number of internally displaced persons has reached over 833,000 persons of which the Disaster Risk Management Unit (DRM) reports 191,473 displaced people are hosted in over 1,098 collective shelters across the country, including over 67,000 children. 84% of these collective shelters have reached maximum capacity, placing further strain on Lebanon's already overwhelmed response system. Additionally, at least five UNRWA facilities now host more than 1,400 displaced individuals. Cross-border movements have also been substantial, with 455,000 people having crossed from Lebanon to Syria, while 16,727 Lebanese are reported arriving in Iraq.

This massive displacement is occurring just as Lebanon's harsh winter approaches. Winters in Lebanon are marked by extreme cold, with temperatures dropping to -10°C in some areas, heavy rainfall along the coast, and snowfall starting from 500 meters altitude. Snow accumulation can reach up to 3 meters in higher altitudes, rendering many villages inaccessible for days. These extreme conditions pose severe risks to already vulnerable communities, especially IDPs living in inadequately equipped shelters. Families face additional financial stress as they struggle to meet the basic needs of warmth and shelter, exacerbating their already precarious situation.

UNICEF in Action

UNICEF has been at the forefront of winter support efforts since the onset of the Syria refugee crisis in 2011, delivering critical assistance to vulnerable children across Lebanon. Based on past experience, UNICEF has identified 60 cadasters most at risk of severe winter conditions, including 145 informal tented settlements (ITSs) sheltering approximately 11,300 vulnerable Syrian refugees. The impact of snow accumulation and flooding in

PEOPLE TO BE REACHED
BY UNICEF

**200,000 displaced
children & families**

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

USD 7 million

these areas often results in blocked access and forced relocations, increasing the vulnerability of affected families and their eligibility for life-saving humanitarian aid.

UNICEF Winter Response Strategy

The **goal** of UNICEF Lebanon's winterization plan is to **provide a rapid and effective response to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable IDPs and Syrian refugees, both in shelters and on the move**. UNICEF will implement a mixed-modality approach through its partners, delivering both cash-based assistance and in-kind support to **200,000 children and their families**. This approach is tailored to meet the diverse needs of affected populations and to ensure children's safety and protection during the harsh winter months.



Cash

UNICEF will provide **USD 150 per household** (USD 50/month), based on the standardized Winter Expenditure Basket, which serves as a needs benchmark for a family of five.¹ Given the scale of the crisis, assistance will be prioritized based on criteria such as altitude, exposure to cold, and residence type, focusing on those living outside collective shelters to address potential conflict sensitivity issues. UNICEF will further prioritize households with young children, leveraging available national data to ensure targeted support.



In-Kind Support

In-kind distributions will include **winter clothing kits** designed to meet children's needs for warmth and protection against the cold. The kits will be unisex and age-appropriate, containing items such as thermal sets (top and bottom), warm sweaters, winter jackets, puffball trousers, woolen hats, scarves, mitten sets, woolen socks, and winter boots. In addition, thermal blankets and plastic tarpaulins will be distributed to families living in inadequately equipped shelters to enhance insulation and protection against the elements.



Targeting and Prioritization

UNICEF aims to reach **200,000 IDP children and their families** through the rapid winter response, with a 50/50 split between cash-based and in-kind assistance. The response will prioritize areas located at altitudes above 500 meters, where severe winter conditions are most likely to occur. Each vulnerable household in shelters, hard-to-reach areas, or on the move will receive winter clothing for each child, segmented by age groups (3 months, 12 months, 1-2 years, 3 years, 5 years, 7 years, 9 years, 12 years, 14 years, and 16 years). Households living outside shelters will primarily receive cash assistance to ensure flexibility in meeting their needs. The following prioritization is in alignment with inter-agency winterization planning prioritization considerations as well as UNICEF vulnerability criteria.

- **In-Kind for Collective Shelters** above 500m
- **Cash for households Outside Collective Shelters** above 500m
- **Priority for households with Children, Children with Disabilities, Young Children**



Data Verification and Monitoring

Response planning will be based on DRM and Interagency shelter data, further verified by Interagency Emergency Rapid Needs Assessment (ERNA) and focused assessments conducted by UNICEF partners for accurate data triangulation. UNICEF will employ monitoring mechanisms, including real-time reporting on Activity Info, oversight by UNICEF field offices, and third-party monitoring supported by UNICEF Planning, Monitoring and Information Management (PMI) section. This approach will ensure transparency, accountability, and continuous adaptation to evolving needs on the ground.

¹ The Winter Expenditure Basket ranges from USD 200 to USD 400 and is inclusive of the additional winter needs, such as blankets, winter clothing, heaters, fuel, etc.).

Funding Requirements

October 2024 – March 2025

UNICEF Lebanon Winter Support				
Components	Individuals	HHs	Unit Cost (USD)	Total (USD)
<i>Winter Kits for Children</i>	100,000	20,000	40	4,000,000
<i>Cash for Winter</i>	100,000	20,000	150	3,000,000
Total				7,000,000

These funding needs are a subset of [UNICEF's HAC for Lebanon](#) overall funding requirements of USD \$105 million to meet the urgent needs of children affected by the escalating crisis in Lebanon.