



Background

The Lebanon WASH programme works to improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene services for refugee and host communities in urban areas, Informal Tented Settlements (ITSs) and public schools.

The arrival of 1.5 million refugees in Lebanon has placed extraordinary strain on public services that were struggling to meet the needs of the population before the crisis began. One in five households in Lebanon lacks a water connection and only 8% of sewage is effectively treated.

The scarcity of adequate drinking water and sewage services is resulting in increased risks to public health, while waste management has reached crisis levels. Municipalities across the country have struggled to maintain garbage removal services, leading to nationwide pollution and environmental degradation. Groundwater and boreholes have also become increasingly polluted.

The scarcity of resources has become particularly acute for refugees living in Informal Tented Settlements (ITSs). The Government of Lebanon does not permit the construction of permanent water or sanitation infrastructure for Informal Tented Settlements and landlords are often reluctant to allow water or sewage infrastructure to be built on their lands.

WASH Programme Reach in 2018

14,243	Refugees benefited from WASH facilities
80,246	Refugees benefited from community support projects
58,633	Lebanese benefited from community support projects
164	Informal Tented Settlements reached
6,015	Hygiene sessions conducted
1,149	Latrines rehabilitated/constructed
15,902	Hygiene and WASH kits distributed
3,008	Households provided with water and sanitation facilities
9	Number of schools rehabilitated
5,310	Students and staff benefiting from the school rehabilitation project
84,114	Female supported beneficiaries
87,578	Male supported beneficiaries



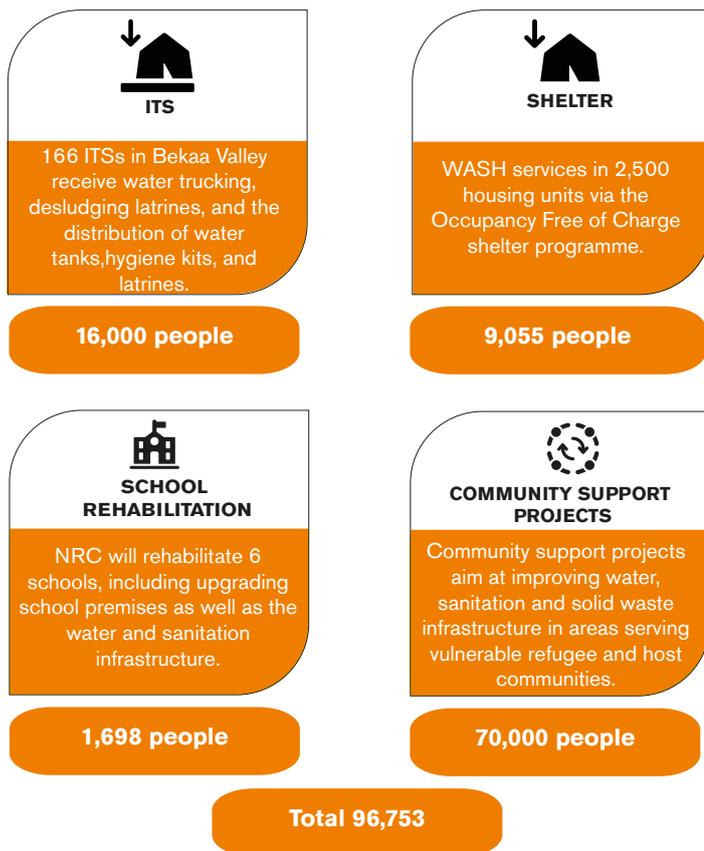
NRC Lebanon WASH Response

Informal Tented Settlements: With over 5,000 informal settlements WASH actors are unable to apply one single approach to cover needs in a sustainable manner. NRC aligns with the sector strategy in 2018–2019 to improve its WASH response through optimising service provision, piloting cost-effective technical solutions in order to provide targeted solutions, and empowering communities through provision of training on public health, hygiene, operation and maintenance and social accountability.

Urban Response: As part of an integrated response in NRC’s shelter programme, Shelter and WASH teams work in coordination to ensure minimum standards of housing for vulnerable Syrian refugees include adequate access to appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene. NRC also ensures adequate access to water and sanitation services as well as safe hygiene practices at public schools.

Community Support Projects: Water and sanitation infrastructure already in need of rehabilitation and repair before the arrival of Syrian refugees has worsened due to the additional demand. The increasing perception that the refugee population is taking jobs from the Lebanese and that INGOs are only on refugees and ignoring vulnerable Lebanese communities is also affecting community relationships. NRC supports vulnerable host communities that are in need of essential infrastructure upgrades. The aim is to mitigate social tension as well as to provide vulnerable communities with a reliable and sustainable access to safe water supply, sanitation and solid waste solutions.

Ongoing WASH Projects



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