

MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN APPEAL



DISASTERS
EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE

One year on



October 2024 – October 2025

At a primary healthcare centre in Gaza, a DEC member charity provides Radwa* with breastfeeding support and helps her care for her five children who face severe medical challenges worsened due to the ongoing crisis.

**Name changed to protect identity.*

© Eyad AlTawil / Save the Children

Published February 2026

HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

Since October 2023, the prolonged conflict across Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria has driven one of the most severe humanitarian crises in the region resulting in tens of thousands of deaths, widespread injuries, and the large-scale displacement of civilians. By January 2026, millions of people across the region continue to struggle to meet their most basic needs, with severe shortages of food, clean water, shelter, and healthcare.

Across the wider region, conflict-related damage to water systems, health facilities, and other vital infrastructure has significantly reduced access to essential services. The inclusion of the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria within the DEC

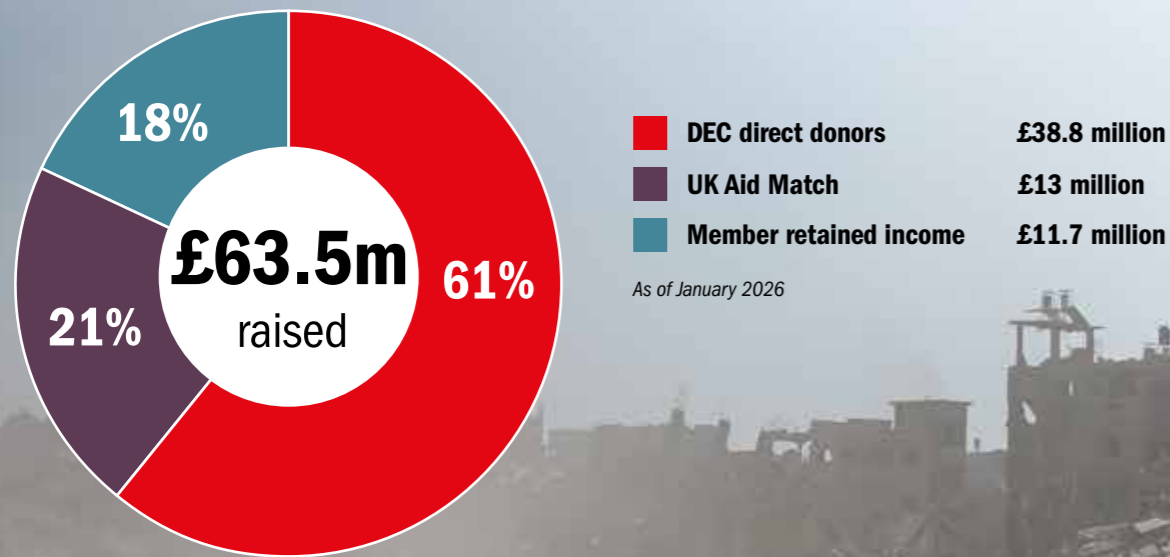
funded response reflects the escalation of displacement, the regional spill-over of violence, and the compounding impact of conflict on communities and services that were already under significant strain.

Despite the ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza remains catastrophic. Continued restrictions on movement and humanitarian access have further compounded civilian suffering. 14 DEC members and 15 local/national partners have been responding in Gaza, operating in this extremely challenging context. Over 70% of DEC funds spent to date have been spent within Gaza.

DEC APPEAL INCOME

The DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal

The appeal has raised a total of £63.5 million. The DEC only reports on funds that come directly to the DEC (£51.8 million as of January 2026, including £13 million UK Aid Match), which is covered in this progress update. Member charities report on income donated to them directly as part of the joint appeal.



Information is correct at the time of writing, but due to the ongoing nature of the crisis, the data included is expected to change. Members' relief activities are subject to change to address the evolving needs of affected groups across the region.

THE DEC FUNDED RESPONSE

Priority sectors

- Food security
- Nutrition
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Capacity Bridging
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Education
- Health
- Holistic/Multi-sector programming
- Livelihoods
- Multi-purpose cash
- Protection
- Shelter and Non-Food Items

Lebanon

DEC members: 11

Syria

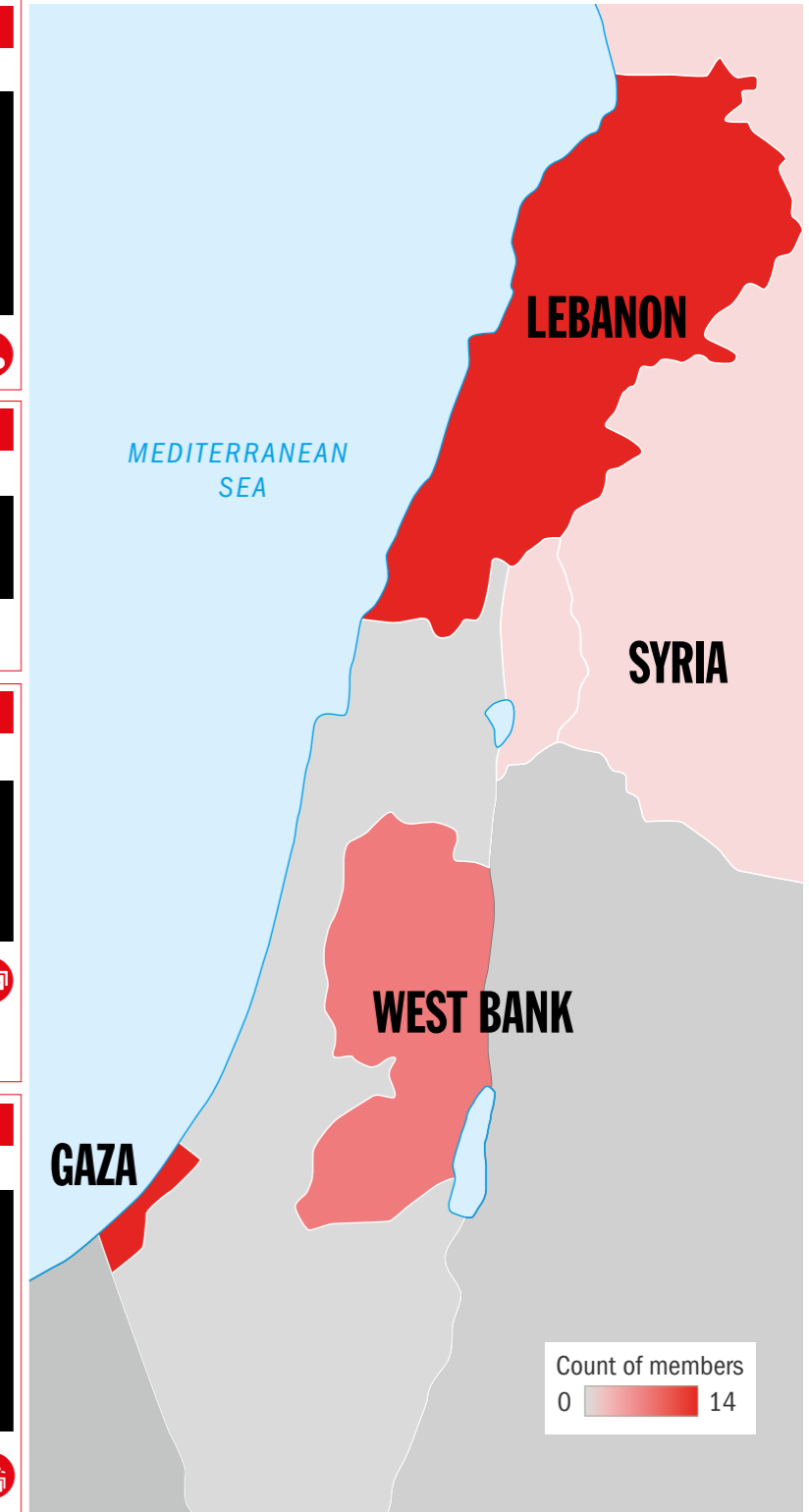
DEC members: 1

West Bank

DEC members: 7

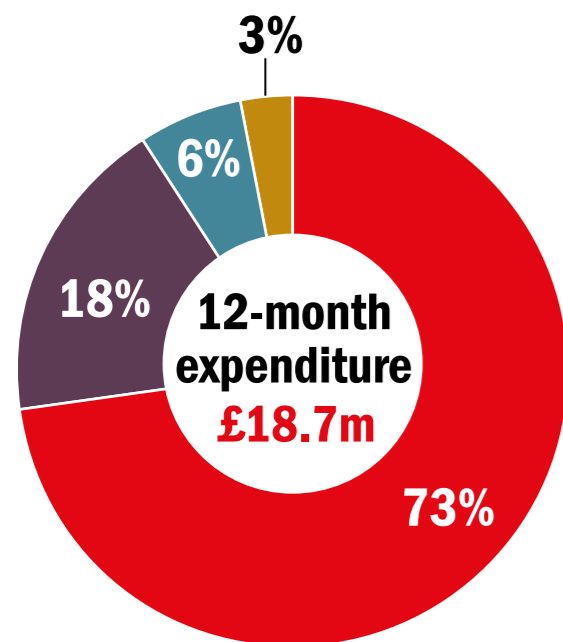
Gaza

DEC members: 14



The data provided is based on DEC Member Charities Phase 2 6 month report (submitted 30/11/2025) and is subject to change. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the DEC.

Expenditure by location
October 2024 – October 2025

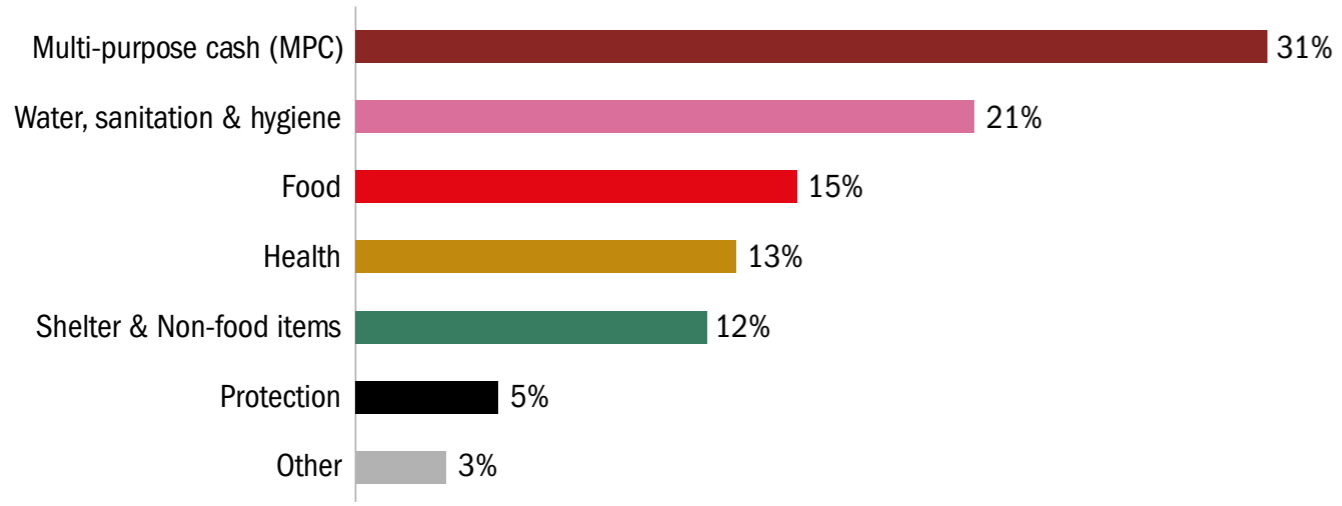


Current programme budget 17 October 2024 – 31 October 2026
£37.9 million
12-month expenditure 17 October 2024 – 31 October 2025
£18.7 million

**The figures presented in this report are accurate as of the date of publication. However, potential reclassifications of expenditure across reporting periods and between locations may result in minor future adjustments to the 12-month expenditure figures.*

- Gaza
- Lebanon
- West Bank
- Syria

How funds have been spent across all locations
October 2024 – October 2025



Staff from DEC charity and a local partner, deliver critical ready-to-eat food to displaced families in Lebanon. © Concern Worldwide

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
ACROSS ALL LOCATIONS – 12 MONTHS

More than 688,000 people received food assistance, such as one or more hot meals or food baskets.

More than 537,000 people supported with improved access to drinking water.

More than 473,000 people reached with support provided to healthcare facilities, including rehabilitation, distribution of essential supplies or primary healthcare support.

More than 172,000 people received mental health and psychosocial support or other protection services including the establishment of safe spaces, wellbeing support for children and their caregivers and community awareness raising sessions.

More than 156,000 people received essential items, such as clothes, blankets, tents and hygiene kits containing shampoo, toothpaste, and soap.

More than 50,000 people supported with cash or voucher assistance, so they have the flexibility to meet their specific needs, for example, to buy food, clothes or basic household items.

Local and national partners

Response location	Local/national partners	International partners
Gaza	15	6
Lebanon	14	1
West Bank	1	1
Syria	2	1
Total	32	9

Funds raised by the DEC are allocated to the 15 member charities responding to this humanitarian crisis. They work with local communities through direct implementation and with their local, national and other partners. During the first 12 months of the response, DEC members worked with 32 local/national partners, and 9 remote/other partners.



Hand washing during a DEC funded hygiene promotion session in Gaza. © Shaima Al-Obaidi / Save the Children

GAZA

Humanitarian context in Gaza

The January 2025 ceasefire briefly improved humanitarian access, enabling limited aid deliveries, but renewed conflict in March caused widespread destruction and mass displacement, especially in North Gaza.

From May to October 2025, intensified military operations and repeated evacuations forced over two million people into increasingly overcrowded areas, with more than 80% of Gaza designated as evacuation or militarised zones. Civilian casualties rose sharply as strikes hit shelters and health facilities, while famine conditions worsened. By late July, the entire population faced crisis-level food insecurity, including over half a million people in catastrophic conditions, and more than 856,000 displacement movements were recorded.

Humanitarian access remained severely restricted. Constraining and inconsistent procedures for the entry of humanitarian personnel and convoys continued to delay or prevent the delivery of essential supplies. A prolonged fuel blockade pushed water, sanitation, and health systems toward collapse, leaving nearly 80% of health facilities at risk of closure and over 40% of essential medicines unavailable.

By late October 2025, despite a new ceasefire agreement, Gaza remained in acute emergency, with only 64 of 181 primary healthcare centres partially functional and civilian casualties continuing to rise, totalling nearly 70,000 killed and over 170,000 injured since October 2023.

How DEC members responded in Gaza

Amid relentless ongoing conflict and severe access restrictions, member charities and their partners ensured continued support for affected populations in Gaza over the first 12 months of the appeal. The continuity of the activities was made possible by the remarkable resilience and commitment of member charity

and partner staff. Working under sustained pressure and in an extremely high-risk environment, staff demonstrated perseverance, flexibility, and problem-solving capacity, enabling programmes to continue even during periods of heightened insecurity.

Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) proved to be one of the most effective humanitarian modalities in Gaza in 2025 due to its flexibility, speed, and adaptability. Persistent insecurity, repeated displacement, access constraints, and intermittent blockades significantly limited the feasibility of large-scale in-kind assistance. In this volatile environment, cash-based assistance allowed member charities and their partners to continue reaching affected populations even when physical access was restricted or humanitarian supply chains were disrupted.

Over the past 12 months, **member charities and their partners implemented a diverse range of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions across Gaza, reaching more than 571,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable communities** amid severe access constraints, displacement, and infrastructure damage.

Six member charities and their local partners supported critical health infrastructure, including one hospital, two field hospitals, ten clinics, and four mobile clinics. These interventions directly addressed the collapse of primary and reproductive healthcare caused by widespread destruction of health facilities, mass displacement, and severe shortages of medical supplies and qualified staff.

Five member charities and their partners were able to deliver critical food assistance in Gaza amid widespread food insecurity. They distributed over 73,000 food parcels to vulnerable households, while 8,000-9,000 loaves of bread per day (only during the initial ceasefire) and more than 523,000 hot meals were provided through community bakeries and canteens, with in-kind support from the World Food Programme (WFP).



Preparing clothing kits in North Gaza.
© Aya Matrabie/DEC/Fairpicture

Gaza Duty of Care Fund

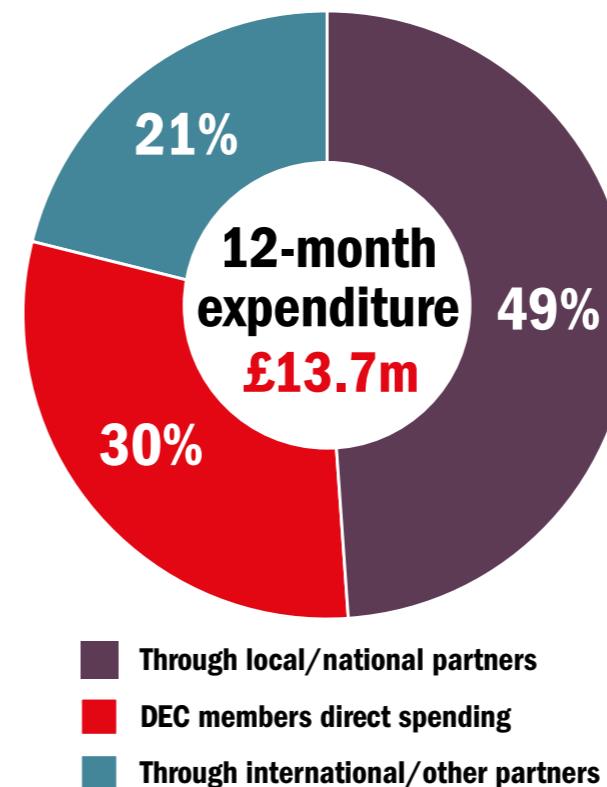
Frontline humanitarian workers in Gaza are delivering life-saving assistance while facing bombardment, incursions, displacement, and acute shortages affecting their own basic needs. Despite this, they continue to work around the clock to support others, all while enduring vicarious trauma and struggling to secure the survival of their own families.

Recognising the exceptional circumstances in Gaza, the DEC created the Duty of Care fund. This fund is a one-off rapid grant application mechanism where DEC members can apply for a proportion of the £430,000 available to support the wellbeing of their staff, partner staff, and volunteers, enabling them to continue the work they are doing. The fund is a top-up mechanism to complement, rather than replace, existing wellbeing initiatives that DEC member charities already provide for their staff. The priorities that the fund will contribute towards for DEC member and partner staff in Gaza include: unrestricted cash assistance to meet their individual needs, winterisation support for displaced staff and their families, rent payments for accommodation, psychosocial support and counselling, and safe transportation.




A member charity delivers drinkable water by trucks to communities lacking functional water systems.
© Action Against Hunger


Gaza 12 month expenditure





KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN GAZA – 12 MONTHS

- 

More than 597,000 people received food assistance, such as one or more hot meals or food baskets.
- 

More than 434,000 people supported with improved access to drinking water.
- 

More than 413,000 people reached with support provided to healthcare facilities, including rehabilitation, distribution of essential supplies or primary healthcare support.
- 

More than 36,000 people received shelter support items such as blankets and mattresses and/or personal items such as warm clothing.
- 

More than 28,000 people supported with cash or voucher assistance, so they have the flexibility to meet their specific needs, for example, to buy food, clothes or basic household items.

WEST BANK

Humanitarian context in the West Bank

During the first 12 months of the response, attacks against Palestinians and their property across the West Bank not only continued but increased in frequency and severity. October 2025 recorded the highest monthly number of settler attacks since 2006, with more than 260 incidents resulting in casualties, property damage, or both, an average of eight attacks per day. Northern West Bank has experienced a particularly alarming escalation in violence, military operations, and movement restrictions.

How DEC members responded in the West Bank

Member charities and one local partner have focused on mitigating the severe humanitarian consequences of large-scale displacement in the northern West Bank, particularly in Jenin and Tulkarm, by providing emergency assistance such as MPCA, non-food item (NFI) distributions, and access to health services.

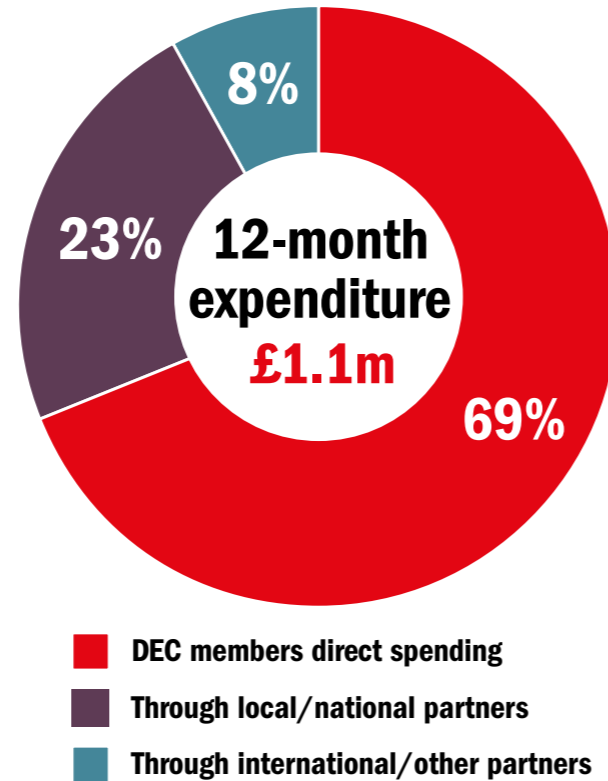
Three member charities implemented targeted NFI interventions in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates to support displaced and conflict-affected households following military operations in some IDPs camps. **One member charity and its partner reached 500 displaced families (2,500 individuals) through a summer-focused NFI distribution**, providing each household with an electric fan and a gas cylinder with a cooking stand. **Another member distributed kitchen and bedding sets to 4,300 individuals, improving basic living conditions.** Between April - October 2025 **one member charity delivered**



A woman harvests her family's olive grove in the West Bank. © World Vision

MPCA transfers to 250 vulnerable families, prioritising female-headed households, families with children under five, older persons, persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses, and households with pregnant or lactating women.

West Bank 12 month expenditure



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE WEST BANK – 12 MONTHS

- More than **22,000** people received essential items, such as clothes, blankets and/or tents.
- More than **2,750** food parcels were distributed to families, reaching more than 13,000 individuals mostly in Jenin and Tulkarm governorates.
- More than **2,500** people supported with cash or voucher assistance, so they have the flexibility to meet their specific needs, for example, to buy food, clothes or basic household items.

LEBANON

Humanitarian context in Lebanon

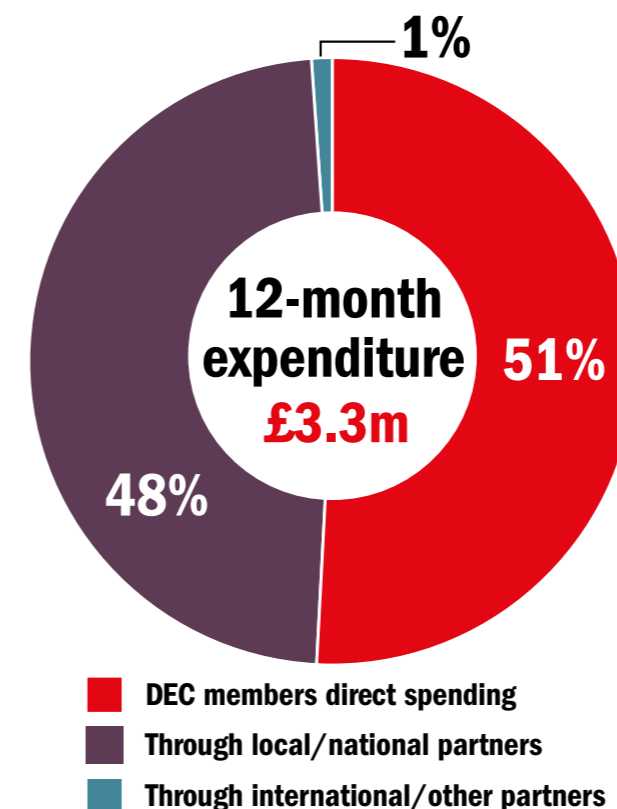
In September 2024, Lebanon's already fragile security situation was further exacerbated by an escalation of conflict, mainly in the south, displacing hundreds of thousands. A ceasefire was agreed in November 2024, which resulted in a marked reduction of hostilities and over 800,000 people began returning to their areas of origin. Humanitarian need was widespread and acute; displaced communities lacked appropriate housing and shelter as many had lost their homes in the conflict, and essential services such as health facilities and water infrastructure were severely impacted. Despite the ceasefire agreement, Lebanon witnessed persistent violations in 2025, with frequent airstrikes, particularly in the south, killing those in residential areas. Lebanon continues to host the highest number of refugees per capita in the world. An influx of refugees from Syria and cross-border movement as a result of the political change in 2024 has resulted in over 112,100 additional arrivals, further straining the already extremely limited essential services. By the end of 2025, 82,000 people remained internally displaced, mostly in severely impacted areas in the south of Lebanon.

How DEC members responded in Lebanon

Following the 2024 ceasefire agreement, members and local partners focused on delivering MPCA, hygiene kits, warm clothes and blankets for the winter months, ready to eat food and hot meals, and WASH and shelter rehabilitation.

MPCA continued to be the preferred mode of support for affected communities, and strong progress has been made in providing timely assistance for the most vulnerable households, particularly those impacted by displacement, in tranches of \$100 or \$200.

Lebanon 12 month expenditure



DEC members and partners have focused on improving water, sanitation, and hygiene as a key sector, shifting now towards provision of clean drinking water and improved access to water and sanitation, through rehabilitation. **One DEC member is restoring water and sanitation facilities at the household level through installation of latrines, solar panels, pipe connections, and water tanks, to enable families whose homes have been damaged by airstrikes to receive clean, hot water for drinking and cooking.** They have supported more than 15,000 people in Tyre, Marjaayoun, and surrounding areas in the south.

As the contextual situation changed, and communities returned home, members and partners moved to in-kind food baskets and parcels, containing items such as rice, lentils, hummus, and cooking oil. For example, **one member reached 5,200 returnees with food parcels in the south. Overall, over the 12-month period, DEC members and partners provided over 15,000 people with food parcels, supporting their recovering and food security.**

DEC members and partners focused on distributing essential NFIs for displacement communities, including winterisation kits. **One DEC member targeted families in Mount Lebanon, at the start of the crisis, providing 2,380 people with blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, and baby kits.** In 2025, some DEC members and partners shifted to shelter rehabilitation, focusing on restoring WASH facilities and infrastructure in community centres, schools, and safe spaces for children.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN LEBANON – 12 MONTHS

- More than **148,000** people received mental health and psycho-social support or other protection services including the establishment of safe spaces, wellbeing support for children and their caregivers and community awareness raising sessions.
- More than **77,000** people received essential items, such as clothes, blankets, tents and hygiene kits.
- More than **31,500** people received food assistance in the form of food baskets.
- More than **24,000** people supported with improved access to domestic water for showers, bathrooms and washing machines and wastewater management.
- More than **16,000** people supported with cash assistance, so they have the flexibility to meet their specific needs, for example, to buy food, clothes or basic household items.

SYRIA

Humanitarian context in Syria

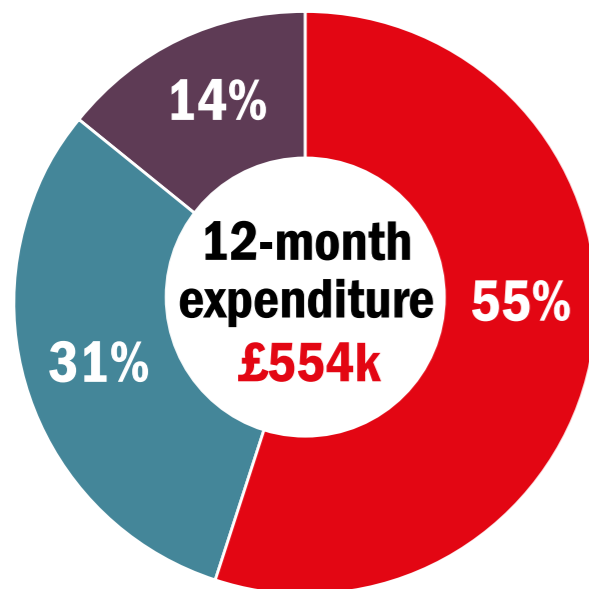
At the end of 2024, renewed hostilities in Lebanon led to significant cross-border displacement into Syria. An estimated 200,000 people, primarily Syrian nationals returning from Lebanon alongside Lebanese refugees, sought safety across the border, with women and girls accounting for more than half of those displaced. A major shift in the political and security landscape followed in December 2024, prompting further large-scale population movements. In 2025, the situation remained highly volatile and fluid, with internal and cross-border population movements. Refugees who remain in Syria continue to face ongoing insecurity, economic hardship, damaged infrastructure, acute humanitarian needs, compounded by limited access to basic services and livelihoods support.

How DEC members responded in Syria

In the first six-months of the response, three DEC members responded across impacted areas, focusing on shelter – such as winterisation kits including blankets and warm clothing, WASH – through hygiene kit distribution, MPCA, and provision of counselling. Following this, two members phased out their DEC-funded programming, with one member continuing for the next six months, implementing in Idleb and Hama, prioritising WASH infrastructure and rehabilitation, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and protection case management, and distribution of winterisation kits.

Winterisation kits, including blankets and warm clothing, were critical for displaced families and refugees. **Over the 12-month period, DEC members and local partners reached over 6,000 people with winterisation kits. DEC members and partners**

Syria 12 month expenditure



- DEC members direct spending
- Through international/other partners
- Through local/national partners


reached more than 13,000 people in total with hygiene kits, containing soap, shampoo, toothpaste etc. **One member focused on water rehabilitation through the repair, operation, and maintenance of water systems, reaching 17,000 people in affected communities in Idleb and Hama**, and ensuring the continuity of water services. These water and sanitation measures have been particularly critical in the prevention of the spread of waterborne diseases, such as cholera, which are a risk in displacement camps in Syria. **One DEC member and their local partner distributed one-off emergency cash assistance with the value of \$120 per household, for 471 vulnerable families, reaching over 3,200 people, including 73 people with disabilities.**



A local partner of a DEC member charity distributes DEC funded winter items such as blankets and mattresses to families fleeing the escalation of conflict in Lebanon to Syria.

© World Vision

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN SYRIA – 12 MONTHS

 More than **17,000** people provided with improved access to drinking water and over 13,000 people reached with hygiene kits shampoo, toothpaste, and soap.

 More than **8,600** people received essential items, such as clothes, blankets, and tents.

 More than **3,200** people supported with multi-purpose cash assistance.

COLLECTIVE INITIATIVES

Collective Initiatives are joint projects where DEC member charities and their partners can work together to address challenges or gaps in the response. This can be achieved through commissioning a study or research, or piloting new and innovative programmatic approaches. For this appeal, the DEC has funded four Collective Initiatives, across Palestine and Lebanon, to support local entities and embed new approaches into the response:

Locally led anticipatory action in West Bank and Lebanon: within both contexts, communities face predictable risks, including climate and environmental shocks, as well as damage linked to settler violence. This initiative works closely with communities to co-develop tailored anticipatory approaches and early-warning systems. It will also seek to strengthen local leadership and contribute to the wider evidence base of anticipatory action.

Locally led pooled funding for mutual aid in Palestine and Lebanon: this initiative has been designed to prioritise grants for

mutual aid and community-based organisations in Palestine and Lebanon as both have long-standing and deeply rooted mutual aid networks.

Women-led initiatives for sustainability and evidence in Palestine: women-led organisations (WLOs) and women's rights organisations (WROs) continue to face disproportionate barriers to accessing flexible, high-quality funding. This initiative in Palestine will provide grants to 6-8 WROs and WLOs, alongside tailored technical support to strengthen longer-term organisational capacity.

Water Access Through Emergency Response, Local Innovation and Networked Knowledge (WATERLINK) in Lebanon: this initiative aims to improve access to safe water in conflict-affected areas in southern Lebanon through strengthening water system infrastructure with community participation and ownership embedded in WASH interventions.

LOOKING AHEAD

At the beginning of 2026, humanitarian access in Gaza remains uncertain. Reports of shelling and airstrikes continued across Gaza, importation of humanitarian supply is limited, and the latest re-registration procedures for International Non-Governmental Organisations are making their presence increasingly precarious. Sustained and scaled-up humanitarian assistance is essential to prevent further deterioration and to meet the population's ongoing, life-saving needs. The escalating violence in the West Bank and the fragile ceasefire in Lebanon are also very concerning.

Even in these extraordinarily difficult circumstances, donations are making a difference. DEC member charities and their local partners have been adapting their work to cope with limited deliveries of aid and focusing on support that does not rely on external supplies, such as water trucking, cash assistance, medical care and psychosocial services. Given the high costs of delivering aid into Gaza and buying supplies locally, more funding is urgently needed.

A DEC charity with the support of DEC Appeal funding, has provided lifesaving water to more than 120,000 individuals in North Gaza and Gaza City.
© Action Against Hunger



DEC MEMBER CHARITIES



act:onaid

ageInternational



CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development



CONCERN
worldwide



OXFAM



Save the
Children

tearfund

World Vision

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