



# 2023 1st QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD

## Education

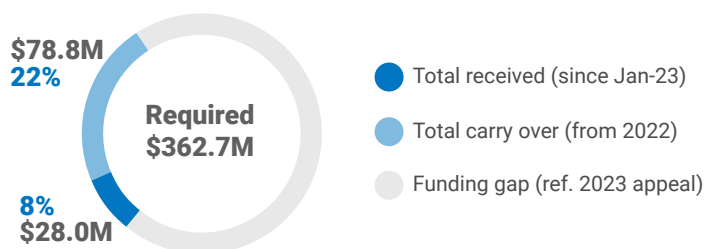


Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Lebanon

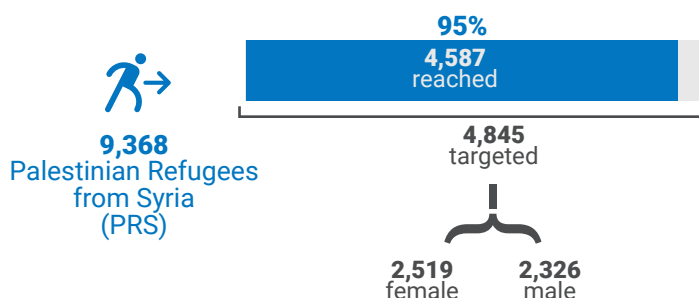
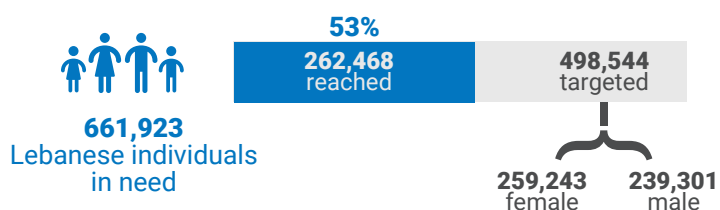
This dashboard summarizes the progress made by the Government of Lebanon and Sector Partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Education Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) increased equitable and inclusive access to, participation in, and completion of safe and protective education for all learners in Lebanon, with a focus on the most vulnerable children and their caregivers; OUTCOME 2) improved learning outcomes for children and youth through enhanced quality of formal and non-formal education services that are safe, protective, inclusive, and adapted to multi-crisis situations; and OUTCOME 3) enhanced governance, managerial and knowledge management capacities of the education system to deliver high-level results relying on evidence-based decision-making.

### 2023 Sector Funding Status

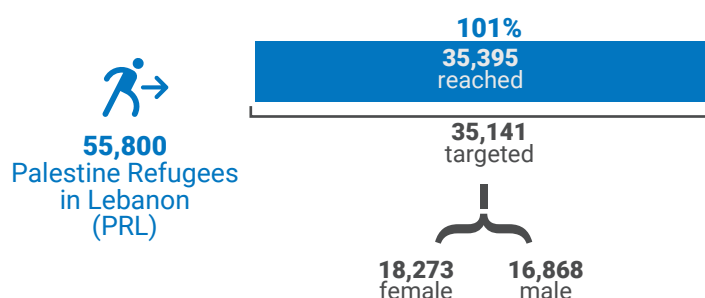
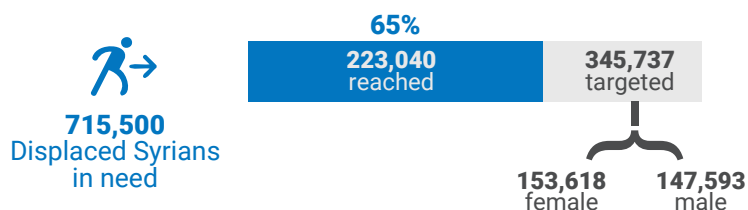
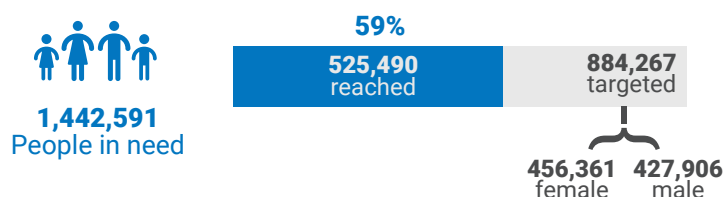
As of 31 March 2023



### 2023 population figures by cohort



### 2023 population reached



### Progress against targets

#### Key Achievements

# of school-aged children and youth (age 3-18) whose registration fees for public/UNRWA schools are partially or fully subsidised for 2022-2023 school year.

511,243 / 664,325

# of children and youth whose registration fees for regulated NFE programmes are partially or fully subsidised in 2023.

10,746 / 95,000

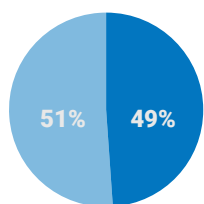
# of children and youth benefiting from remedial or homework support programs in 2023.

12,890 / 28,450

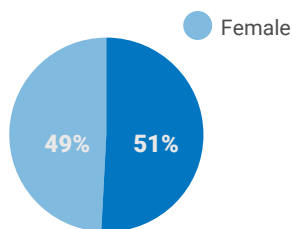


## Gender Breakdown in Formal and Non-Formal Education

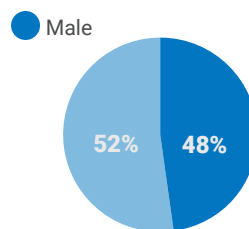
Students (aged 3-18)  
in Formal Education



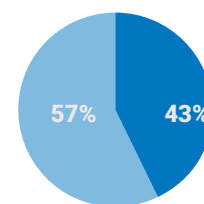
Children (aged 3-5) in Community-based  
Early Childhood Education



Children (aged 10-14) in  
Basic Literacy & Numeracy



Youth (aged 15-20) in  
Basic Literacy & Numeracy



## 1. Multi-sectoral situation update

In the first quarter of 2023, families across Lebanon continued to face diminishing purchasing power, affecting vulnerable people's ability to meet basic needs. The Lebanese Pound continued to fluctuate, reaching average levels of LBP 134,900 to the dollar in the month of April. Lebanon's annual inflation rate jumped to 264% in March of 2023 from 190% in the previous month. This was the highest inflation since comparable records began in 2008. The Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) increased by 36% from January to February 2023, reaching almost LBP 18,000,000 per family per month. This is the largest monthly increase noted since June of 2020. Over the last year, the price of water delivered by private water tankers increased by 330 %, while the price of bottled water, still used by most as a main source for drinking, increased by 250 %. An increased number of people from all population groups reported not having access to enough water, with the heaviest impact on the most unprivileged families.

Protection monitoring demonstrates that average refugee household income remains well below the SMEB, with greater aid dependency reported. Reduced spending on food, rent, medicine, and healthcare is reported by most households and gaps in meeting survival needs drive harmful coping mechanisms. Concerningly, protection monitoring demonstrates growing debt and eviction threats with the highest recorded so far in the first quarter of this year. These challenges are driven by inability to meet basic needs

which in turn lead to a number of harmful coping strategies and protection risks. Meanwhile in March, fuel prices transitioned to USD further impacting the ability of people to afford transportation costs, which also contributed to the teachers' strike and school closures, while at the same time transportation was indicated as the main barrier for households to send their children to school, particularly for those with specific transportation needs such as persons with disabilities. 2017, as reported through the regular UNDP-ARK perception survey. As of March 2023, 46% of respondents cite that the relations between Syrians and Lebanese are 'negative' or 'very negative', compared to 37% in August 2022. The primary driver for inter-communal tension is competition over lower-skilled jobs, cited by 60% as the key tension driver, an increase from 50% in August 2022. The second most cited tension driver is competition for services, particularly electricity and solid waste management, cited by 31% as a source of tension. Women and girls continue to report their exposure to Gender Based Violence (GBV) at homes and in public spaces. Girls also report feeling unsafe and at risk of GBV on their way to school, but the incidents remain underreported. Female headed households, and other vulnerable groups are at heightened risk of exploitation often living in substandard shelter conditions. Financial constraints and limited livelihood opportunities have also resulted in reduced access to menstrual hygiene products for women and girls.

## 2. Key achievements of the sector at the output level

### Output 1.1 (Children, youth and their caregivers are provided with the necessary support to expand access to and retention in education)

Responding to the significant interruptions to education in Q1 of 2023 due to school closures and the widespread teacher strikes in the first- and second-shift public schools across Lebanon during January and February of 2023 (total of 8 weeks), the Education Sector partners mobilized to mitigate learning losses.

Around 12,500 children (51% girls) out of the total targeted 28,000 children were reached with retention education support, of which 21 per cent were Lebanese, as reported by nine implementing partners. This number represents 43 per cent of the total target in 2023 and double the number of children reached with retention support during Q1 of 2022.

However, due to school closures, large programmes in public schools, such as Cash for Education and the provision of snacks in schools, were interrupted. As for snacks in schools, only 2,217 (51% female) children were reached, out of a total of 68,000 children, and cash for education programmes were largely delayed as well as provision of cash for Education is linked to attendance. However, registration of eligible children in most cash for education programmes started during this period. Cash for Education provides assistance to households to meet children's educational needs. Both the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) and the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) of 2022 listed cost of education (mainly covering educational materials and transportation) and economic challenges as the primary reasons for decreased enrollment, attendance and retention of children, both in formal and non-formal education. Cash for education and snacks in schools are two of the main strategies to mitigate these barriers, with targets set at 110,000 and 130,000 children, respectively,

for 2023 (52% females and 48% males for Lebanese and 51% females and 49% males for non-Lebanese).

### Output 1.2 (Children and youth have improved access to appropriately equipped public schools, learning centres and other learning opportunities, especially in underserved areas).

The sector continued with the rehabilitation of 26 public schools as well as the construction of four new public schools in different districts of Lebanon. About 18,000 (51% female) pupils will benefit from these projects in Mazraat, Dhour el Khweir, Kfarzabad and Mejdlaya. About 2,300 (51% female) children will access the new schools. Sector partners are aiming to rehabilitate 149 schools by the end of the year.

### Output 2.2 (Learning spaces and their communities are capacitated to contribute to an inclusive, safe, healthy and protective environment that is conducive to learning)

Following the reopening of schools in March 2023 with the support of partners, a total of 511,243 children (51% female) were able to access public schools, 51 per cent of whom were Lebanese children. Furthermore, 366 out of the targeted 384 education community liaison volunteers were deployed inside schools during the second shift to establish an avenue for dialogue between families and the school administration. The overall aim of this programme is to ensure a safe enabling environment that supports learning for all students, in addition to following up on absenteeism, referring at-risk children to remedial programmes and promoting social cohesion between host and refugee communities.



### Output 2.2 (Children in learning spaces have enhanced academic and non-academic competencies (PSS, life skills, organizational skills through recreational/extra-curricular activities))

With regard to non-formal education, 17 implementing partners supported around 11,000 children (51% female) to enroll in the Multiple Flexible Pathways programmes, representing around 12 per cent of the target for 2023, which is likely due to underreporting. Of these, 2,226 children (53% female) achieved the learning competencies, thereby completing the Non-Formal Education programme. During this period, partners also engaged 2,481 parents in awareness-raising sessions to improve access to education and address relevant barriers to educational achievement, such as mental health and a lack of psychosocial support.

A survey of partner capacity in this area was conducted, followed by a workshop with partners that focused on increasing capacity to expand retention support activities. The prioritisation exercise conducted by partners will continue to inform retention programming. The importance of coordination with Child Protection partners has been recognized as well.

### Output 3.1 (An effective unified education data management system is developed and administered)

Concrete steps were undertaken with regard to inclusive education; with the technical support and contribution of a large group of sector partners, Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) developed a draft of the Inclusive Education Policy for Lebanon.

### Output 3.2 (Evidence-based policy frameworks developed, revised, endorsed, or implemented to regulate education programs and services)

A key achievement contributing to strengthening the national education system has been the unification of the student information management system, which is now operational and is generating reports. One of its most important features is the ability to track children's attendance at school, which will allow a targeted response by partners.

### Referral Trends

There were 1,494 referrals to formal and non-formal education in Q1. This is 4.1 per cent of the total referrals made by 20 partners from other sectors, such as protection and health. This number is likely linked to the fact that schools were closed. A sharp increase in referrals was observed in all regions, which is likely linked to the closure of schools for a period of around eight weeks. The majority of referrals were made in the South, Akkar, Bekaa, Baalbek/Hermel and Mount Lebanon governorates, followed by Nabatieh and the North, with the lowest number of referrals made in Beirut. The majority of referrals were acknowledged (48%) or accepted (34%) by Education Sector partners and categorized as important and eligible for action. The most significant challenge for the sector partners was the fact that schools were closed for a lengthy period, limiting the possibilities for partners to address the issues of access to learning.

### Mainstreaming Activities

In an effort to enhance the well-being of frontline workers impacted by the current deteriorating situation, daily stressors, and recent earthquakes, the Child Protection and Education Sector, with support from ECHO, organized a series of training events titled 'Frontliners' Well-Being Preventative Care Package'. The aim of this initiative was to provide the appropriate Mental Health support to frontline staff, explore the value of practicing self-care strategies, and implement evidence-based interventions and organizational measures to help protect and support the mental health and well-being of frontliners within various sectors. A total of 25 frontline workers from Education Sector partner organizations participated in two training sessions in February 2023. The Sector coordinators will act as gender and GBV risk mitigation focal points in 2023.

## 3. Key challenges of the sector

Most children enrolled in public schools were out of school for eight consecutive weeks in Q1 of 2023. It is notable that the strikes represented the longest and broadest interruption to education since the COVID-19 school closures, with the accompanying risks associated with prolonged interruptions to education, including learning losses, protection risks, and dropouts. Agreements were made with the teachers' unions to reopen all schools by 6 March 2023, although some difficulties remain in opening some of the secondary schools. The school closures resulted in inconsistencies in learning among children in public schools and in the implementation of activities by partners, which especially affected formal programmes, such as cash for education as well as snacks and retention in schools.

In response, the education sector mobilized partners to prioritize the expansion of the ongoing response for children enrolled in public schools who were targeted to receive remedial education activities, with a renewed focus on the integration of child protection and mental health psychosocial support (MHPSS).

To further mitigate the learning losses and dropouts during the 2022-2023 scholastic year, the sector will focus on implementing retention support and support for summer learning programmes. The sector is aiming to reach 200,000 children; however, to achieve this goal additional funding is needed. Also, funding is still needed to ensure the implementation of the official exams for Grades 9 and 12 in June 2023.

## 4. Key priorities for the following quarter

In Q2 2023, under the umbrella of the MEHE five-year plan, the Education Sector will continue to prioritize the implementation of activities aiming to ensure an effective response to learning losses, expand coordination with new partners under the leadership of MEHE, and strengthen the education system.

In addition to key outreach activities to refer children who are out of school to the appropriate form of education, the sector will focus on implementing retention support and summer learning programmes. Moreover, responding to the increasing child protection risks, the sector will ensure cross-sectoral coordination, especially with the child protection sector, for the targeting, outreach and referrals of children, as well as the implementation of activities. Further efforts to engage out-of-school children in Multiple Flexible Pathways programmes will be needed to reach the education sector target of 90,000 children between the age of [insert details] by the end of the year, especially when considering that the prolonged and repeated disruptions to education are expected to contribute to increasing dropout rates.

In the rehabilitation of 143 schools and the construction of four new schools, the solarization assessment of all public schools is a key priority. Resources are being mobilized for the installation of solar panels for the ongoing rehabilitation of schools.

To ensure effective coordination among the growing number of organizations working in the Education sector and a needs-based response within the changing context in Lebanon, MEHE released an Expression of Interest (EoI) on 23 February. Currently, 129 applications are under review. The EoI will be followed by the harmonization of tools, the development of guidelines for partners and capacity development for partners to ensure effective response. Finally, MEHE and partners will be further prioritizing the operationalization of the unification of data collection protocols and a compliance system under the Student Information Management System (SIMS). This unified data management system will be adopted by all departments at MEHE and CERD with the overall aim of collecting, processing and reporting all relevant student, teacher and school information via SIMS.



### Partners per Governorate

#### 22 NGO Partners have reported their activities up to Quarter 1:

AMEL, Ana Aqra Association, AND, ARCS, Borderless, FISTA, LOST, LSESD, Nabad, NRC, Plan International, Relief International, Ribat Association, RMF, Salam LADC, SCI, SDAid, SIF, SSSE, TdH-It, WCH, WVI.

