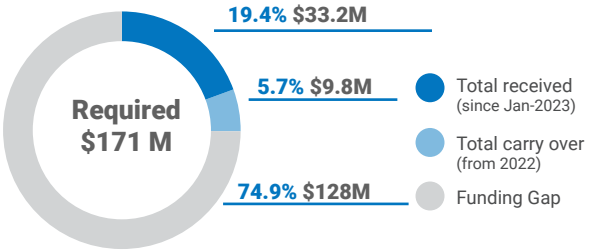
2023 1st QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD
Social Stability

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

This dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Social Stability Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Strengthen municipalities, national and local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure, reduce resentment, and build peace; OUTCOME 2) Strengthen municipal and local community capacity to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts; OUTCOME 3) Enhance the LCRP's capacities on tensions monitoring and conflict sensitivity.

2023 Sector funding status
As of 31 March



2023 Population reached

3,774,982
People in need

33% — 1,065,924 reached

3,249,772 targeted
- 1,675,000 female
- 1,575,000 male

2023 population figures by cohort

2,063,582 Lebanese (individuals in need)

32% — 487,131 reached

1,538,372 targeted
- 799,953 female
- 738,419 male

1,500,000 Displaced Syrians (individuals in need)

31% — 468,780 reached

1,500,000 targeted
- 765,000 female
- 735,000 male

31,400 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (individuals in need)

33% — 10,482 reached

31,400 targeted
- 16,328 female
- 15,072 male

180,000 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (individuals in need)

55% — 99,531 reached

180,000 targeted
- 93,600 female
- 86,400 male

Progress against annual targets

Key achievements

of Community Support (CSPs), Basic Services (BS) , and Solid Waste Management (SWM) Projects Implemented — **62/ 400**

# of municipalities received CSPs/ BS excluding SWM — **19/ 275**

# of municipalities implementing/using integrated solid waste management systems & approaches — **15 / 125**

# of municipalities with self-functioning conflict mitigation mechanisms established — **0 / 328**

# of youth empowerment initiatives implemented — **242 / 450**

youth engaged in social stability initiatives — **11,262 / 45,000**

USD invested in municipal and community support projects including SWM — **6.18 M / 66.25M**

local participatory planning processes conducted through municipalities — **3 / 100**

Outcomes

	LCRP 2017 Baseline		March 2023		2023 Target
	SYR	LEB	SYR	LEB	
OUTCOME 1: % of people reporting positive impact of municipalities on their lives*	45%	64%	26%	22%	35%
% of people living in vulnerable areas reporting competition for municipal and social services and utilities as source of tension*	22%	34%	28%	32%	30%
OUTCOME 2: % of people living in vulnerable areas able to identify conflict resolution mechanisms/ actors in their community they would turn to*	92%	92%	68%	100%	95%
OUTCOME 3:					
% of partners reporting that they have their own mechanisms to ensure conflict sensitivity**	75%		NA		80%
# of LCRP sectors taking steps to include social stability consideration in their work***	1		NA		10

** Source: UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey wave XV** Source: Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Survey*
**** Source: LCRP 2023 planning process*

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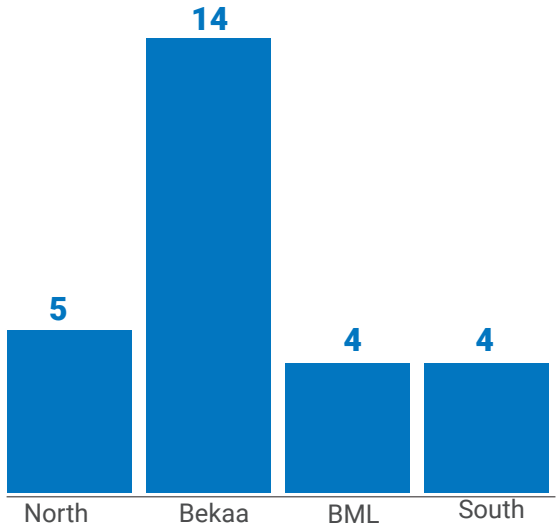
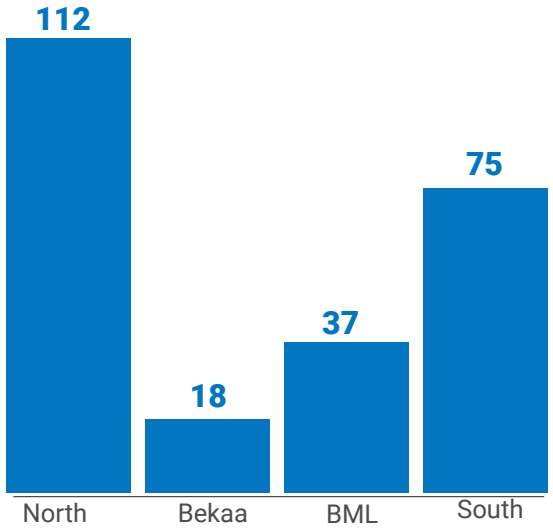
Analysis

of municipal and community support projects implemented
(excluding SWM-related projects)



of youth empowerment initiatives implemented



Multi-sectoral situation update:

In the first quarter of 2023, families across Lebanon continued to face diminishing purchasing power, affecting vulnerable peoples' 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 per cent in March of 2023 from 190 per cent in the previous months. This was the highest inflation since comparable records began in 2008. The Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) increased by 36 per cent from January to February 2023, reaching almost LBP 18,000,000 per family per month. This is the largest monthly increase noted since June 2020. Over the last year, the price of water delivered by private water tankers increased by 330 per cent, while the price of bottled water, still used by most as a main source of drinking, increased by 250 per cent. 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 the average displaced Syrian 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 the 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 especially those with specific transportation needs such as persons with disabilities. Inter-communal relations are the most negative that they have been since 2017, as reported through the UNDP-ARK regular perception survey. As of March 2023, 46 per cent of respondents cited that the relations between Syrians and Lebanese are 'negative' or 'very negative', compared to 37 per cent in August 2022. The primary driver for inter-communal tension is competition over lower-skilled jobs, cited by 60 per cent as the key tension driver, an increase from 50 per cent in August 2022. The second most cited tension driver is competition for services, particularly electricity and solid waste management, cited by 31 per cent as a source of tension. Women and girls continue to report their exposure to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) at home 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 sub-standard shelter conditions. Financial constraints and limited livelihood opportunities have also resulted in reduced access to menstrual hygiene products for women and girls.

1. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Throughout the first quarter (Q1) of the year (January-March 2023), the Social Stability sector achieved some important results versus annual targets despite the generally straining funding landscape and high priorities to reduce tensions and support municipalities:

OUTCOME 1- "Strengthening municipalities, national & local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure, reduce resentment and build peace", includes interventions mainly related to supporting municipalities to provide services with four underpinning outputs.

Under Output 1.1- "Increased services based on participatory processes delivered at the municipal level": 27 Basic Services & Community Support projects (BS & CSPs)[1] were implemented during Q1 2023, in 19 municipalities, out of which eight were categorized as medium/high tension areas. These projects

[1] BS and CSPs are the same type of projects with one only difference in the budget. It is called a CSP when the budget is < USD one hundred Thousand and BS when the budget is > USD one hundred thousand

comprise hard interventions targeting municipalities, institutions, and local communities, with services delivery & infrastructure support, through participatory approaches. The investment of the 27 achieved projects amounts to USD 5.3 M (as compared to the annual target of USD 72 M). As these projects are more medium to longer-term, partners are expected to report in Q2, making further progress toward the annual target of 275 municipalities. The sector will continue to follow up on key challenges faced by partners and continue to prioritize projects which address drivers of tensions around services provision while taking into consideration the increased operational needs of municipalities.

Under the same output, sector partners provided capacity building to 26 municipalities including 68 municipal officials (17 female & 51 male), on strategic planning & engagement of communities. Supported municipal staff are now better skilled to ensure the continuity of municipal basic services, facing the deterioration of services and shortage of resources and skills at the local level.

Under Output 1.2: "Integrated solid waste management (SWM) services improved to reduce social tensions": 35 projects were achieved during Q1 vs. the annual target of 100, with a total cost of USD 1 M, including the collection/ sorting of 147 tons of waste. These interventions supported 15 municipalities out of which 13 are categorized as medium/ high tension areas. As of March 2023, 55 per cent of people say that competition over services leads to tensions between Lebanese and Syrians and solid waste remains a main tension driver [2] . Similarly, to the abovementioned projects, solid waste management projects are a medium to longer-term investment where it is expected that further interventions will be reported in Q2.

Under Output 1.3: "National institutions have strengthened capacity to provide operational support and guidance to local crisis response": Eight Governors' offices were provided with stationery and IT equipment and supported with capacity building (data management, analysis, coordination, and strategic planning), mainly related to disaster risk management and other functions, as essential in playing a key role in enhancing social stability at the local level. Furthermore, four officers have been seconded [3] at four Governors' offices, to support in data management & administrative work in relation to DRM functions and the Cholera response, for a duration of six months, from January to June 2023. At the local level, three UoMs[4] in Mount Lebanon were supported with the provision of firefighting equipment, trucks & training sessions under DRM support.

Under Output 1.4- "Municipal police capacity to ensure community security strengthened": 78 municipalities were supported (exceeding the annual target of 50 municipalities), to implement the municipal police strategic reform framework, as compared to 35 municipalities in Q1 2022. The sector will review the annual target based on these results and contextual developments and update the sector logframe. The reform framework aims at transforming police work into service to the population through mainly five main elements: SOPs, code of conduct, training sessions, unification of the uniform, and recruitment of police (including female members). Different tools were produced at the national level by the Municipal Police Committee to support the implementation of the reform including the production of a National ID and 13 templates for the daily oversight and management of the municipal police, etc. In addition, 'Communication for Development' activities have been conducted at the local level, to engage the community and increase the trust in municipal police. In the current context of high crime such as theft, it is critical to enhance municipal policing services.

OUTCOME 2: "Strengthen municipal and local community capacity to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts", includes achievements under three outputs as below.

Under Output 2.1- "Municipalities & local actors have improved capacities for dialogue and conflict prevention": 29 one-off community events e.g., festivals, sports competitions, celebrations, etc., were implemented by existing 'conflict mitigation mechanisms',[5] at 17 municipalities out of which ten are identified as tension areas. These events aim at improving social stability, and engaging the wider community members from diverse backgrounds, to interact and deconstruct misperceptions vis-a-vis each other and reduce tensions & negative speech. As per previous experiences, such contact-based approaches did contribute to reducing tensions & conflicts between people in Lebanon. The 29 events included 2,864 participants & community representatives (2,524 Lebanese & 340 Syrian) mainly in Beirut & Mount Lebanon (1,847 including 1,730 Lebanese & 117 Syrians). Worthy to note that the establishment of a 'conflict mitigation mechanism' is a long-term process and new mechanisms are being developed/ supported by sector partners through municipalities. The selection of new communities and municipalities takes into account tensions analysis noting that additional established mechanisms are expected to be reported during the year.

Under Output 2.2- "Youth enabled to positively engage and participate in their communities": 242 youth empowerment initiatives were implemented in Q1 2023 versus the annual target of 450 initiatives. This is an increase from 104 initiatives during the same period in 2022. These initiatives aim to prevent youth from marginalization and adoption of negative coping mechanisms, including life skills training sessions, sports and artistic activities, peacebuilding clubs, community services, active citizenship, etc. The bulk of such initiatives were peacebuilding clubs (152) and reached 11,262 youths (5,277 female & 5,985 male), (out of the annual target of 45,000 youth). They have been implemented in all areas with a strong focus on the Bekaa and Baalbek El-Hermel with 5,198 reached youth, who are now better equipped to engage positively in their communities. These youth come from diverse backgrounds and with a gender balance, including 8,000 Lebanese (3,729 female & 4,271 male), 2,699 displaced Syrian (1,286 female & 1,413 male), 549 PRL (259 female & 290 male) & 14 PRS [6] (3 female & 11 male) youth.

Under Output 2.3- "National, local, & social media engaged in defusing tensions": In Q1 2023, 45 individuals (28 females & 17 males) have been trained and engaged in how to mitigate tensions through reporting on media, versus an annual target of 550 individuals. Such activities include sensitization and training sessions for journalists, media students, local authorities, etc., on objective reporting, and countering misperceptions and fake news, and they are crucial in the current context of increased negative rhetoric on media, including fake news and hate speech.

OUTCOME 3: "Enhancement of the LCRP capacities on early warning & conflict sensitivity", includes achievements under one output as below.

Under Output 3.1- "LCRP partners have improved skills & practices for conflict sensitivity supported by tensions monitoring analysis": Achievements focused on generating analysis related to

[2] UNDP/ Ark Regular Perception Survey, Wave XV 2023

[3] Recruited and financed by sector partners

[4] Union of Municipalities.

[5] They are locally established mechanisms through municipalities, including community representatives, to address local conflict dynamics & mitigate tensions at the local level.

[6] PRL: Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon, PRS: Palestine Refugees from Syria.

tensions and communal relations and disseminating it to partners through various channels.

In March 2023, the UNDP/ ARK regular perception survey was carried out to capture the perceptions around the social stability of 5,000 respondents (across populations). The results are available to all partners on the Tension Monitoring Dashboard and will be presented to different sectors in Q2 2023. As of March 2023, five tension analysis reports have been published and the tension analysis fed into the strategy implementation and coordination efforts of LCRP actors. In addition, five tensions overview presen-tations were provided to LCRP sectors at all levels, targeting key stakeholders.

Three new Lebanon-specific conflict sensitivity toolboxes were launched during Q1 2023, based on a consultative process with stakeholders, and were presented in different form including LCRP sectors Working Groups covering: 1) Conflict Sensitive Cash Assis-tance in Lebanon; 2) Conflict Sensitive Engagement with Local Authorities in Lebanon; and 3) Institutionalizing Conflict Sensitivity at the Organizational Level.

Furthermore, four LCRP partner organizations including 79 staff (52 female & 27 male) were trained on conflict sensitivity in their operations (annual target of 350 trainees). In addition, seven training sessions were provided on conflict sensitivity mainstream-ing to 131 participants (106 female & 25 male) under five organiza-tions. At the local level, eleven Heads of centers and social workers at PHCCs (primary health care centers), in Al Khiam, Tyre, and Al Bazourieh at the South & Nabatieh Governorates, were trained on how to mainstream conflict sensitivity and social stability by frontline officers in health facilities, aiming to facilitate dialogue within community-based activities.

In Q1, the sector also kickstarted the mainstreaming of gender in social stability activities, which will entail capacity building and training sessions to key partners throughout the year. Noting that the sector has appointed a gender and GBV [7] risk mitigation focal point (International Alert) who will support the implementation of gender and GBV priorities in the sector's annual work plan.

2. KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

Throughout the first quarter of 2023, Social Stability sector partners reported several challenges, related to decreasing capacities of municipalities. Most municipalities are no longer able to provide basic services which is leading to further deterioration of services [8] with negative effects on environment, health, tension [9] and protection space. Specifi-cally, key challenges for partners are:

Lack of operation & management (O&M) capacities of municipalities continues to create challenges for sector partners, mainly due to shortage of fund in general and specifically in ensuring extra funding to cover O&M on top of the project implementation cost. To mitigate this, sector partners are adding elements into the design of infrastruc-ture & basic services projects to reduce O&M costs on the municipality e.g., provision of renewable energy for services, adding income generation component, etc.

Increased requests for support to partners from local authorities, where many municipalities regularly contact LCRP partners to inform them about rising needs and gaps. This adds a burden on LCRP partners, who in many cases and recently receive requests for projects that are not in their area of expertise neither within their budget. Municipalities are requesting increased support to Lebanese communities specifically in cash-for-work interventions, and other support that can start with the provision of papers and ink for printers, small generators for municipalities, unconditional cash transfer support e.g., to pay for municipal staff salaries, to larger-scale support etc. To better support partners in engaging with authorities, partners are encouraged to utilize the Conflict Sensitive Engagement with Local Authorities in Lebanon toolbox , to enhance relations with authorities.

Public institutions & municipalities staff are affected by the current economic situation, which is leading to demotivation and shortage of human resources including staff with techni-cal skills at municipalities. This can delay Social Stability projects as reported by key partners, including the issuance of permits, land documents, vehicle registration, and in some cases the whole implementation process basic services & infrastructure projects. In addition, this is also affecting the technical engagement of municipalities in projects implemen-tation, and partners recommend prioritizing the quality assur-ance of projects which would compensate the technical engagement gap of municipalities.

Increased customs fees and global supply chain challenges have also delayed the delivery of some Social Stability projects due to re-tendering requirements in the procurement process.

Increased challenges related to solid waste management (SWM), including tensions, and ensuring sustainability and measuring impact of SWM projects. Partners reported increased tensions, particularly in areas close to informal settlements, mainly due to the deterioration of municipal SWM services and facilities. In addition, partners reported that they faced challenges in ensuring sustainability and measuring the impact of SWM projects at some municipalities. This was due mainly to limited capacity of municipalities to measure the size & financial revenue of sorted waste, related to partners interventions. Worthy to note that collecting recyclable waste generates income, which in turn can ensure the sustainability of the operations. On this note, recyclables material have become less profitable for municipalities and the private sector, due to 1) decreased purchase power and less consumption and throw of goods in the garbage, 2) competi-tion with informal waste collectors leading many waste collec-tion points empty with less financial revenues and operational capacities, and 3) competition with households in selling composted waste for private benefit.

Partners highlighted the importance of mobilizing local resources, social enterprises, public private partnerships for collaborative governance and innovative solutions and, facing the current SWM operational challenges. Awareness campaigns on waste reduction, reuse, and recycling etc. are also crucial, noting that waste quantification is the main indicator that proper waste management is being implement-ed even in small scale interventions, as when recyclables are collected and treated the proper way, less waste will be going to landfills which is a part of the integrative solution. Technical

[7] Gender-based violence.

[8] 40 % of the population felt that electricity quality was poor as of July 2019, and it increase to 94% as of February 2023 based on UNDP/Ark Regular Perception Survey.

[9] Inter-communal relations are now at the lowest point since the beginning of the tension monitoring in May 2017. 46% of the population cited that relations are negative between Lebanese and Syrians, as of February 2023

support to municipalities and SWM facilities is also key, to compensate the shortage of local skills and troubleshoot technical challenges at a lower cost. Renewable energy for services is also important specifically to ensure operation and sustainability of most of SWM facilities that are not functional currently due to O&M challenges.

Lack of motivation of youths affecting their engagement in social stability youth empowerment projects mainly due to prioritizing income generating activities facing the current economic crisis. This has affected the outreach process of youths and increased drop-out rates in related programmes, specifically the longer-term ones. One of the key lessons learnt is to ensure a safe space for communication and expression of emotions, to motivate youths and ensure their retention despite their socio-economic situation. In addition, provision of transportation and livelihoods opportunities, would ensure better retention of youths in programmes, specifically when realizing the positive impact of youth empowerment skills on enhancing their employability. Furthermore, the modality of support can reduce drop-out rates like the online modality, which is favoured by youths in general, specifically in activities that don't require necessarily a physical presence.

3.KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER

In Q2 2023, the Social Stability sector priorities will include the below for the following quarter:

1) **Continue to support municipalities to deliver Basic Services and Community Support projects** (including Solid Waste Management) - targeting 275 municipalities by the end of the year.

The sector will continue to work in close coordination with the Ministry of Environment to guide partners including providing regular updates of the solid waste management situation, national and area-specific priorities, and mapping initiatives and capacities. Enhancing the reporting quality is a key priority in Q2, on different reporting platforms including the "Services Mapping", and "Lebanon Aid Tracking System", building on the 32 reporting partners in Q1 2023, to improve coordination & partnerships, including exchange of resources and experiences, under support to municipalities.
In addition, the sector will continue advocacy for funding support to municipalities with basic services, community support projects and SWM interventions. These interventions are crucial for ensuring continuity of basic services delivery by municipalities, specifically in a context where many municipalities are no longer able to deliver services and others are collapsing due the financial and economic situation.

2) **Establish and engage in Social Stability dialogue mechanisms and youth initiatives**- targeting 45,000 youth beneficiaries by the end of the year.

The sector will continue to provide support on fostering dialogue mechanisms and will follow up during Q2 with key partners on the establishment of new conflict mitigation mechanisms and providing needed support to target tension hotspots areas and reduce tensions at the local level.
In addition, the sector will build on key partners' experiences to enhance the support of civil society organizations (CSOs), to be able to implement social stability activities and reduce tensions at the local level. To move forward, discussions will take place at the WG coordination level with the strategic support of the Core Group, to identify best practices on the support to CSOs, including the selection process, capacity building and related resources.
The sector will enhance the reporting of youth support on the Services Mapping platform to ensure better coordination of these type of activities that aim at protecting vulnerable youths from marginalization and negative coping mechanisms. The sector will also consult key partners to elevate advocacy messages to donors and key stakeholders, and ways forward to prioritize the investment in youth-led initiatives and its importance on the mobilization of skilled youths in community services and active citizenships under support to municipalities and local communities. In addition, the sector will strengthen the referrals process of youths inside the sector and across all LCRP sectors, under youth-led initiatives and life skills & conflict resolution trainings, through training sessions to sector partners and promotion of the referrals process at the inter-sector level.

3) Continue tensions monitoring and conflict sensitivity main streaming

With the rising tensions related to the compounded crises, the sector will continue to monitor online and offline tensions and incorporate such analysis in evidence-based programming. In Q2, analysis and data will be presented to partners across the response looking at sector-specific data, including guiding partners to overlay their targeting & selection process based on tension monitoring and mapping. The sector will continue to play a key role in mainstreaming conflict sensitivity across the response. In Q2, the focus will be on continuing to roll out the Lebanon-specific guidance notes published in 2022 and 2023 and support sectors and their partners in the uptake. These notes include:

- Getting Started with Conflict Sensitivity in Lebanon.
- Conflict Sensitivity throughout the Project Design Cycle in Lebanon.
- Conflict-Sensitive Procurement, Recruitment, and Accountability in Lebanon.
- Conflict Sensitive Cash Assistance in Lebanon (to be updated in Q2).
- Conflict Sensitive Engagement with Local Authorities in Lebanon.
- Institutionalizing Conflict Sensitivity at the Organizational Level.

Gender mainstreaming into Social Stability activities will be enhanced in Q2, including the mapping of gender-related activities and a workshop to develop a sectoral strategy on how to mainstream gender in social stability projects. In addition, the Conflict Sensitivity Training of Trainers program will commence in July 2023 to capacitate twelve individuals from across the country on training on Conflict Sensitivity.
On the local level, further 48 health frontline staff including Head of centers and social workers will be trained all over Lebanon, at PHCCs (primary health care centers), on conflict sensitivity in health facilities, to build the capacity of the PHCCs staff as agents of change within the communities-based services.

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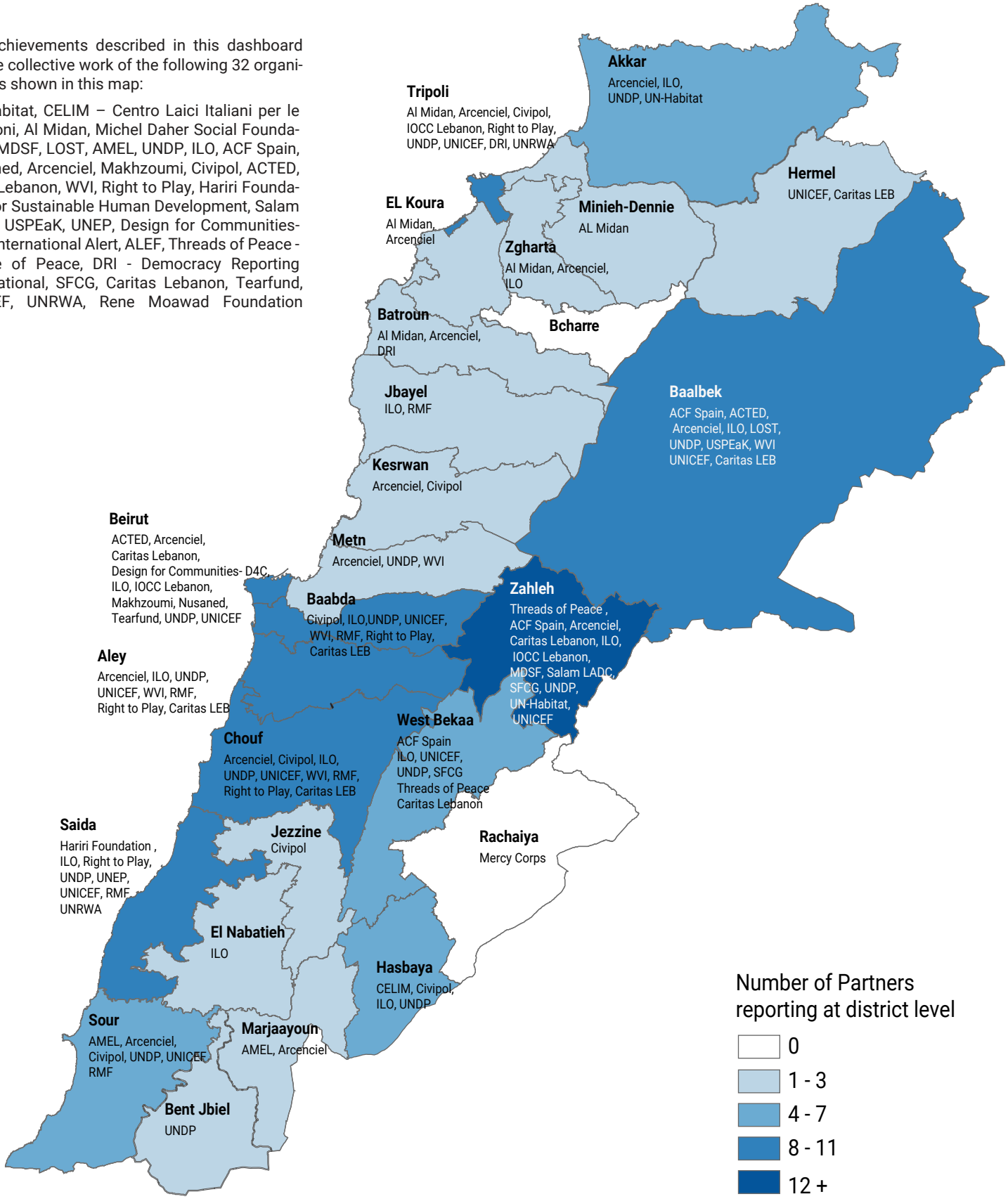
Partners by district

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 32 organizations shown in this map:

UN-Habitat, CELIM – Centro Laici Italiani per le Missioni, Al Midan, Michel Daher Social Foundation - MDSF, LOST, AMEL, UNDP, ILO, ACF Spain, Nusaned, Arcenciel, Makhzoumi, Civipol, ACTED, IOCC Lebanon, WVI, Right to Play, Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, Salam LADC, USPEaK, UNEP, Design for Communities-D4C, International Alert, ALEF, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, DRI - Democracy Reporting International, SFCG, Caritas Lebanon, Tearfund, UNICEF, UNRWA, Rene Moawad Foundation (RMF)



For more information, please contact: Senior Inter-Agency Coordinators Camilla Jelbart jelbartm@unhcr.org and Michael Schaadt michael.schaadt@undp.org