



2023 2nd QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD

Protection including Child Protection and GBV

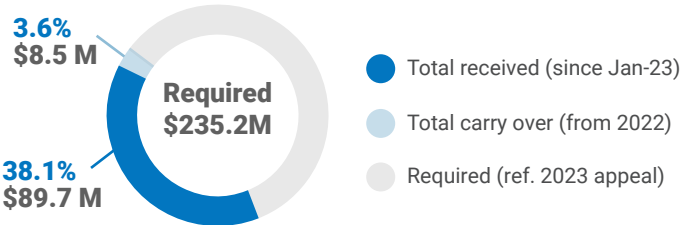


Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

This dashboard summarizes progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Protection sector in Lebanon aims to achieve the following results: OUTCOME 1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and access to an effective justice and protection system ; OUTCOME 2: Women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity are safe, empowered and supported in their communities ; OUTCOME 3: Women, girls, men and boys in all their diversity live with dignity and are resilient to shocks.

2023 Sector Funding Status

As of 30 June 2023



Progress Against Targets

Key Achievements

Protection

of persons who benefitted from counseling, legal assistance, and legal representation regarding legal stay.



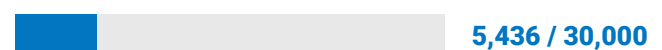
of households who benefitted from counseling, legal assistance, and legal representation regarding civil registration including birth registration, marriage, divorce and death



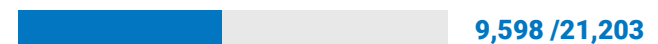
of unique persons participating in community centers and SDCs (includes mobile activities done outside the center)



of persons receiving protection case management (PCM).



of persons with disability and older persons receiving individual specialized rehabilitation support.

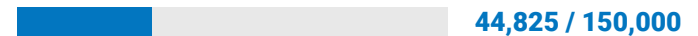


of children and adults reached through awareness raising activities and community mobilisation interventions on PSEA. ²

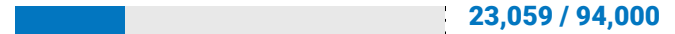


Gender-Based Violence

of women, girls, men and boys who participate in targeted gender equality and empowerment activities in safe spaces or at community level as part of GBV prevention programs

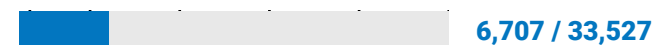


of women and girls accessing safe spaces

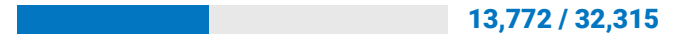


Child Protection

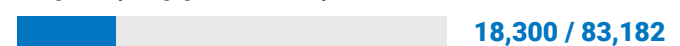
of caregivers engaged in activities to promote well-being and protection of children



of girls and boys and caregivers receiving specialized/focused psychosocial support¹



of girls, boys engaged in community-based Child Protection activities



¹ Children receiving more than one service may be counted more than once

² This is a cross cutting indicator, includes Child Protection & Gender-Based Violence

2023 population reached



26.1%

506,512
Services provided*

1,937,336
Target (services to be provided))

2023 population figures by cohort



1,216,278

Lebanese individuals
in need

22.3%

75,389
Services provided*

338,336
Target (services to be provided)



1,500,000

Displaced Syrians
in need

27.8%

417,659
Services provided*

1,500,000
Target (services to be provided)



29,000

Palestinian Refugees
from Syria in need

12.7%

3,701
Services provided*

29,000
Target (services to be provided)



180,000

Palestine Refugees
in Lebanon in need

14%

9,763
Services provided*

70,000
Target (services to be provided)

*To be noted that one person can benefit from several services

Partners

58 contributing partners: ABAAD, ACTED, AMEL, AND, Borderless, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CLDH, CONCERN, COOPI, DRC, HAND, Handicap International, HelpAge, Himaya, I m possible, Imam Sadr Foundation, IMC, Intersos, IOCC Lebanon, IRC, JRS, KAFA, Key of Life, LAW, LECORVAW, LOST, Magna Lebanon, Makhzoumi, MECC, Mouvement Social, Nabad, Near East Foundation, NRC, OXFAM, Plan International, PU-AMI, Rahma Association, RDFL, RI, RMF, SAWA Group, SCI, SFCG, SHEILD, SIF, Tabitha-Dorcas, TdH-It, TdH-L, Test, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, UPEL, WCH, WRF, WVI, YNCA

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MULTI-SECTORAL SITUATION UPDATE

The economic situation in Lebanon continued to deteriorate during the second quarter of 2023, leading to a significant decline in purchasing power for families. In June 2023, the annual inflation rate reached a record high of 260 per cent compared to June 2022, the highest level since comparable records began in 2018. The cost of living, as measured by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) covering food, essential goods and services, reached LBP 24,925,064 in May 2023 (down slightly from LBP 27,214,894 in April, but an overall increase from earlier in the year). The food SMEB increased by 94 per cent between January and May 2023. The average price of bottled water in Lebanon during the first six months of 2023 amounts to a 1,400 per cent increase in Lebanese pound and 135% increase in USD value when compared to the price in January 2021. The price of trucked water increased by over 1,500 per cent (15-fold) in Lebanese pounds and over 350 per cent in USD value during the same period.

In April and May 2023, a series of raids and arrests were conducted by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) leading to the deportation of displaced Syrians. These events created anxiety amongst the displaced community, coinciding with the

implementation of restrictive measures by various municipalities, leading to families reducing their movements and access to services. This represented an overall reduction in the protection space in Lebanon. Disturbingly, gender-based violence has been on the rise across all areas of Lebanon. Reports indicate an increase in sexual violence and harassment, particularly in workplaces such as farms, agricultural sites, and domestic housework employment. Additionally, child marriage, a continuous violation of child rights, has seen a concerning shift in the age of forced marriages, with girls as young as 12-13 being subjected to marriages. Gender disparities persist in the labour market, with women and girls being underrepresented in cash-for-work opportunities and facing limited employment opportunities overall. Inter-communal relations in Lebanon have reached their lowest point since 2017. The latest UNDP/ARK regular perception survey from March 2023 reveals that 46 per cent of respondents reported negative inter-communal relations, compared to 34 per cent in April 2022 and 21 per cent in July 2018. The main drivers of tension include competition for lower-skilled jobs and access to vital services such as electricity, healthcare, and waste management.

1. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Outcome 1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have access to information on their rights and legal procedures (Output 1.1, 1.2, 1.3)

Protection: Since January 2023, 151,187 individuals/households have benefitted from legal awareness sessions, counselling, assistance, and representation in relation to legal residency, civil status documentation, housing land and property (HLP) and detention. Of note in Q2 is the rapid response of legal partners to a rise in arrests, detentions, and deportations, which resulted in significant progress in providing legal residency awareness sessions (41% annual target; 57% female) counselling, assistance and representation surpassing the sectors annual target (102% annual target; 41% female). As a result, legal partners shifted resources from provision of legal aid on other thematic areas to a focus on legal residency particularly in the Beirut Mount Lebanon (BML) and Bekaa governorates. As expected, this resulted in a comparatively lower achievement for legal aid provision for HLP (24% annual target) and civil status documentation (29% annual target).

Gender Based Violence - legal assistance and support to national systems to prevent and respond to Gender-based Violence: access to legal counselling, assistance and representation is a critical response to support and empower survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). Since the beginning of 2023, sector members supported 1,8 individuals (94% women and girls and 6% boys and men) with legal counselling and representation on issues specific to GBV. The majority of those seeking GBV specific legal services are adults (60%) and 30% include children mainly seeking services related to marriage/divorce counselling for adolescent girls married under the age of 18 years. This presents over 66 per cent of the target with the majority of survivors seeking legal services being Lebanese (51%) followed by Syrs (41%) and others including migrants (8%). The main legal issues survivors requested legal actors' support include counselling on divorce or marriage disputes as well custodial conflicts. In Q2, partners have observed higher numbers of divorces triggered by the socioeconomic challenges facing families that have led to increasing levels of intimate

partner violence, family conflicts and men leaving their wives without support. However, closure of courts, absence of judges and limited capacity of law enforcement actors remain significant obstacles in survivors accessing their fundamental rights and perpetrators of GBV, including rape and sexual assault, being accountable and brought to justice.

In May 2023, alongside other member states, Lebanon GBV WG coordinator and the Ministry of Social Affairs have also participated in a workshop on the recently launched Arab strategy to prevent and respond to GBV in the asylum context that was organized by the Regional Office of UNHCR in Amman and the League of Arab States. The workshop has facilitated enhanced collaboration and discussions between the GBV Working Group Coordinators and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) to work closely on national strategies, enhance coordination and guidance documents, including the national SOPs on GBV. A follow up meeting was held that outlined key areas the GBV WG and the MoSA gender focal points will engage in, including quarterly technical meetings, the provision of inputs to the revised national SOPs and increasing engagement of MoSA technical leads in the national GBV WG.

Outcome 2: Women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity are safe, empowered and supported in their communities (Output 2.12.2, 2.3)

Protection: Community-based approaches to protection are vital to responding to community identified protection risks leading to the safety, and inclusion of women, men, girls and boys. Since the beginning of 2023, 166,139 individuals (78% women, 22% men) participated in community centres (78% Syrian; 20% Lebanese) and benefitted from information sessions on access to services (89% Syrian; 10% Lebanese). Partners, continue to struggle to reach representative numbers of older persons and persons with disabilities through their community-based activities and through partner complaint and feedback channels. In Q2, partners reported low attendance at group sessions in community centers with some sessions being suspended as a result of Syrian refugees restricting their movement to avoid



arrest and deportation. This, in addition to other factors, such as high fuel costs resulted in slightly reduced numbers compared to 2022. In order to strengthen community-based protection (CBP) the sector held a learning event in Q2 to prioritise critical interventions and unpack key challenges partners are experiencing in provision of CBP interventions related to ensuring sustainability, inclusion of older persons and persons with disabilities and measuring and communicating impact. The outcomes from this event will be shared for validation with partners and will then serve as a roadmap to improve response and feed into the 2024 sector strategy.

Child Protection: In the second quarter, community-based child protection activities reached a total of 8,186 children by the end of Q2 (4,372 girls and 3,814 boys) making a total of 18,079 (girls 9,500 and boys 8,579) children against the annual target 83,182 (20% annual target). This is in addition to 3,873 caregivers, making a total of 6,771 caregivers by end of Q2 (annual target of 33,528), engaged to promote well-being and protection of children. Furthermore, 65 Social and Behavioural change communication initiatives were implemented, making a total of 198 initiatives in the first two quarters against the annual target of 450. These initiatives targeted child protection (CP) duty bearers, i.e. Municipalities, landowners, employers, religious leaders, community-based organisations (CBO) with the aim to address harmful social and behavioural practices that lead to violations of child rights and to prevent child marriage, child labour and violence against children and women in communities.

Prevention of gender-based violence: up until the end of June, a total of 44,825 individuals (69% adults and 31% children and youth; 18% men and boys and 82% women and girls) have participated in GBV prevention activities undertaken at community level or in women and girls' safe spaces (30% of the annual needs-based target). Prevention interventions include amongst other activities awareness raising sessions on gender equality and power relations, as well as core concepts of GBV and access to GBV services. While 82% of those participating are women and girls, the GBV sector aims at enhancing the inclusion of boys and men in prevention programs (currently represented with 18%) to address root causes of GBV and to ensure long-term behaviour and attitude change within the society. In support of this, GBV partners implement tailored projects that engage men and boys of different ages in prevention programs fostering their role in supporting gender equality, harmful practices and support reducing GBV, specifically intimate partner violence (IPV). In addition, partners also worked with religious and community leaders to ensure a decision-makers, which are mostly men within the society, positively influence the environment that often results in GBV, have a profound understanding of root causes of GBV within the society, address power imbalances and strengthen women's and girls' access to rights.

Outcome 3: Outcome 3: Women, girls, men and boys in all their diversity live with dignity and are resilient to shocks (Output 3.1, 3.2)

Protection: In 2023, 38,474 women, men, girls and boys at risk

Referral trends:

The protection sector received 63 per cent of all referrals conducted between agencies in 2023 (protection 49%, child protection 11%, GBV 3%) amounting to 45,218 individuals referred for protection services. For protection working group partners, the highest number of referrals was received in the Bekaa (12,250 individuals, 66% of all referrals) and second in Mount Lebanon (8,413 individuals, 50% all referrals). The higher number of referrals in these areas compared to others is likely due to safety concerns expressed by displaced persons from Syria in Q2 in relation to arrests and deportations. Despite these numbers, a slight improvement in referrals accepted by partners was noted in Q2 with 40 per cent accepted but 23 per cent received no feedback. The sector will engage with sub-national PWG coordinators with the highest no feedback rates to put in place steps to address key barriers.

have received individual tailored protection services these include protection case management (18% annual target), protection cash (35% annual target), individual rehabilitation services (45% annual target) and individual and group structured and non-structured mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) (2% annual target). There is an equal number of women and men receiving these services. Of note is the uptick in Lebanese (42% of total reached) and Palestine refugees from Lebanon (6% of total reached) who are older persons or persons with disabilities receiving individual rehabilitation services. This increase aligns with the notable impact the socio-economic crisis has had for these individuals across population groups who have had their care arrangements significantly impacted. In Q2, the protection sector supported the finalisation of the 'In-Focus on Persons with Disabilities' which examines the impact of the crisis and sets out clear recommendations for key stakeholders on how to improve response at national, development and humanitarian levels.

Child Protection: In quarter two CP case management and specialized services reached a total of 3,130 children (girls 1,127 and boys 2,003), making a total of 6,585 by the end of Q2 (girls 2,371 and boys 4,214) out of the annual target 13,481. Additionally, specialized/focused psychosocial support (PSS) was provided to 8,429 girls, boys and caregivers making a total of 13,774 by the end of Q2 (girls 6,581, boys 5,456 and caregivers 1,737) out of the annual target 32,316.

Response services to gender-based violence: Since the beginning of the year, 23,094 persons (25% of the annual target) were supported with GBV case management, focused and non-focused PSS such as peer support groups and cash assistance in safe spaces in the country addressing individual risks. In line with data from the GBV IMS, 95% of those accessing safe spaces are women and girls while 5% include men and boys requesting individual support to address GBV risks. Challenges in reaching the mid-year target of individuals in need of GBV services include limitations in paying transportation costs, restrictions of family members and intimate partners to access safe spaces, municipal restrictions to operate GBV services in some areas, as well as socioeconomic constraints that require survivors to re-prioritize their expenditures.

With the aim to enhance the quality and monitoring of GBV case management services, the GBV WG finalized the Lebanon GBV WG Client Feedback Survey to be used as a standard tool by all working group members available in English and Arabic. Through the tool, agencies enhance accountability standards to those accessing GBV services while enabling sector members to continuously enhance the quality of case management programs and measure impact of services provided. Through client feedback surveys, GBV partners have increasingly monitored the quality of GBV services with 98% of all survivors expressing their satisfaction with services provided.



Mainstreaming activities:

In Q2, the Protection Mainstreaming Community of Practice (PM COP) held two events; a panel discussion on protection mainstreaming approaches where practitioners shared good practices and lessons learnt from their agencies and where WASH and Food Security Sector partners were particularly invited and an information session on disability inclusion for PM COP members. Further, three separate disability inclusion trainings are being arranged for Shelter, Health and WASH frontliners in the Bekaa.

Under the inter-sectoral responsibility to ensure gender and GBV are mainstreamed throughout the response, the list of GBV and gender focal points elected by all humanitarian sectors was finalized and meetings were held between the Interagency Gender/ GBV mainstreaming focal points and each sector focal point. In Q2, two consultants were recruited by UNDP to support the GBV Working Group coordinators to design and roll-out gender and GBV training of trainers for all sector focal points.

2. KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

Protection: Operational impacts and partner adaptations were shared by sector partners in Q2 in relation to the raids, arrests and deportations reported in April and the beginning of May. These developments continued to be monitored by sector partners through their ongoing field visits and their hotlines. Various impacts on sector programs were reported in particular; requests for legal counselling and assistance, GSO accompaniment services and housing attestations for access to legal residency increased, self-imposed movement restrictions by refugees led to reduced attendance in activities in community centers and some non-formal education sessions, hotline and frontline staff reported a surge in questions regarding legal residency and safety. In response protection partners reduced situations through their interventions which would lead to refugee gatherings, they put in place adaptive plans to safely continue their work, legal actors prioritized legal aid for legal residency shifting resources from other legal topics and partners monitored the protection situation. The protection sector stressed the importance of as much as possible maintaining protection by presence whilst balancing the risks for communities. Further, the sector developed the Q1 Protection Overview and a Brief on the Impact of Raids, Arrests and Deportations. This was shared with key protection donors and protection partners.

Gender-Based Violence: In Q2, several challenges and gaps in accessing GBV services were identified by GBV sector members due to stigma and denial of access to services by partners/ caregivers or intimate partners as well as socioeconomic constraints. Depleted resources of families have also resulted in limited access to GBV and other specialized services, such as MHPSS or health services as survivors of GBV, including rape or physical violence, as survivors deprioritize or are unable to afford the transportation costs to the different service points. Suggestions during consultations with communities indicate a

preference to approach multi-sectoral service points in one location such as one-stop-service centers. GBV actors also mentioned that limited resources, lack of electricity and strained human resources have impacted the functioning of national helplines to respond to domestic violence in some areas (specifically in the North/ Akkar).

Socioeconomic constraints and limited access to livelihood opportunities have also resulted in other related protection and health concerns, including period poverty. In the GBV WG held in May, focus was placed on recent studies indicating the increase in period poverty particularly amongst the most vulnerable families which leads to lack of access of adolescent girls and women to adequate menstrual health and hygiene items. In 2022, a study commissioned by UNFPA on 'Building Further Evidence for the Relevance and Importance of Adopting Sustainable Solutions for Tackling Period Poverty in Lebanon' indicates that in Lebanon around 1 million girls between 15-49 years are affected by period poverty and are unable to access safe, clean and affordable pads or other menstrual hygiene products.¹ Main obstacles and gaps relate to limited awareness of parents, caregivers and intimate partners on the importance of access to adequate menstrual health items, inadequate infrastructure and facilities such as in schools, ITS, and community spaces as well as limited access to reusable or disposable products. This has also negatively impacted girls' school attention and retention with significant long-term consequences for girls' development, education and future opportunities. Through a cross-sectoral approach to mainstream gender and GBV, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNDP are currently working with sectors to support the mapping of MHM and SRH related assistance, approaches and capacities which will be rolled out in Q3.

¹ UNFPA Lebanon | Building further evidence for the relevance and importance of adopting sustainable solutions for tackling period poverty in Lebanon, 2022. <https://lebanon.unfpa.org/en/publications/building-further-evidence-relevance-and-importance-adopting-sustainable-solutions>



3. MID-YEAR REVIEW - KEY PRIORITIES/ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE DURATION OF 2023

By the end of Q2, the protection sector is 42% per cent funded leading to challenges for partner planning and implementation and reaching needs-based targets. As a result, annual targets for community-based protection, case management and MHPSS were impacted.

As a result of these impacts, operational priorities for protection working partners in Q3 and Q4 will focus on finalising the outcome report from the community-based protection learning event. Additionally, focus will be on moving forward with the review of the sector protection case management guidelines and tools to support partners to improve their inclusion of persons with disabilities and older persons. Other priorities include mainstreaming MHPSS mainstreaming, quality assurance through supervision and monitoring and evaluation tools such as the client feedback survey for GBV case management and prioritisation of cases. Lastly there will be a focus on finalising the review of the protection sector cash guidelines, including the drafting of a post-distribution monitoring form with partners.

In Q3 and Q4, the GBV safety audit will be conducted with support of UNHCR and UNFPA and all sector members that will further outline programmatic gaps, challenges to support planning for GBV services and sector priorities in 2024. The GBV safety audit is an annual assessment that aims to analyse the GBV situation in the country.

In 2023 and beyond, common programmatic priorities among protection, GBV, and child protection partners include securing multi-year and unearmarked funding for prevention to strengthen resilience and behaviour change, implementing a coupled response through quality case management and protection cash, leveraging community-based protection approaches, and prioritizing and strengthening integrated and specialized MHPSS services to address growing mental health concerns. This includes ensuring adequate investment to enable case workers to provide focused MHPSS and guaranteeing that all funded humanitarian sectors fulfil their responsibility to mainstream protection (age, gender and disability inclusion, GBV risk mitigation, AAP, PSEA and Child Safeguarding) and work toward integrated protection programs which tackle eviction, child labour/marriage, mental health and GBV. Further, legal aid for legal residency and individual specialised rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities and older persons are protection working group specific priorities.

Protection partners identified three key areas where reflection is needed ahead of the 2024 strategy process; improving awareness, identification, and referral for victims of trafficking, advocacy, and programmatic ways forward to address low legal residency rates and improved articulation of how and which protection interventions have a long-term and sustainable impact.

4. CASE STUDY

The below listed case study reflects on the challenges of obtaining legal residencies for displaced persons in Lebanon and the importance to provide timely and accurate legal counseling across the country.

The impact of obtaining legal residency: A Syrian refugee man, 41 years old, was living in the Bekaa and moved a few years ago to Mount Lebanon. A legal actor received a referral in Q1 to support the man to renew his legal residency which he had received five years ago. The man was eligible to renew his legal residency based on his UNHCR certificate, but faced several stumbling blocks as the only valid documentation he holds is an individual civil extract which is not accepted for adults to renew their legal residency. He does not hold a valid passport and his identity document (ID) is scratched. He was not able to update his passport because he feared approaching the Syrian Embassy in Lebanon and could not afford the cost, and he is not able to get a new ID in Lebanon because this requires him to return to Syria.

The legal actor assisted the man to renew his legal residency based on his UNHCR certificate. The legal partner advocated with the General Security Office to submit his request based on his individual civil extract taking into account his existing ID. The advocacy was successful, and the man was provided with legal residency. During the raids, arrests and deportations in Q2, the man said he felt safe and protected because he has a legal residency. He has explained to the legal partner that since

receiving his legal residency 'everything changed in my life, I am able to move around and mostly I do not worry about my children and family as much as before in case I get arrested or stopped by the authorities'.

Legal counselling, assistance and representation are life-saving intervention for many refugees in Lebanon which can protect them from harm and has a wide impact on their whole family and community. This intervention is critical for ensuring the safety and access to services for the refugee community in Lebanon and as such is a critical component of the protection sector strategy.



Partner Presence by Governorate

