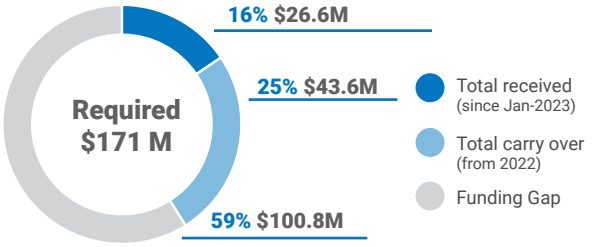
2023 3rd QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD
Social Stability

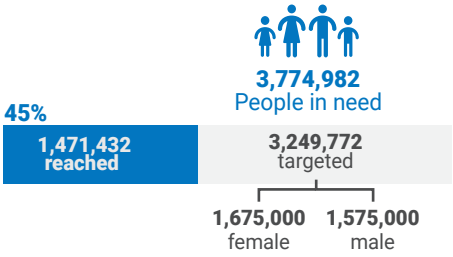
Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

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.

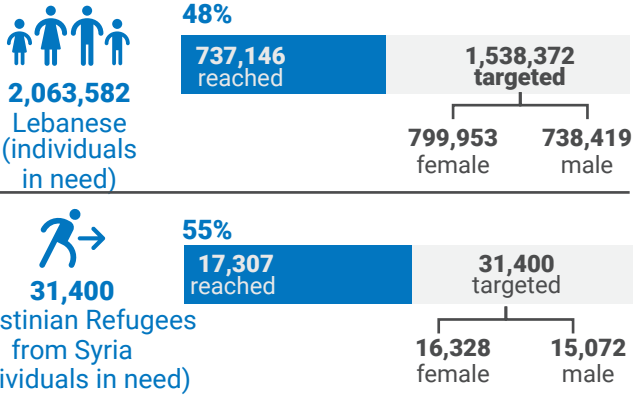
2023 Sector funding status
As of 30 Sep

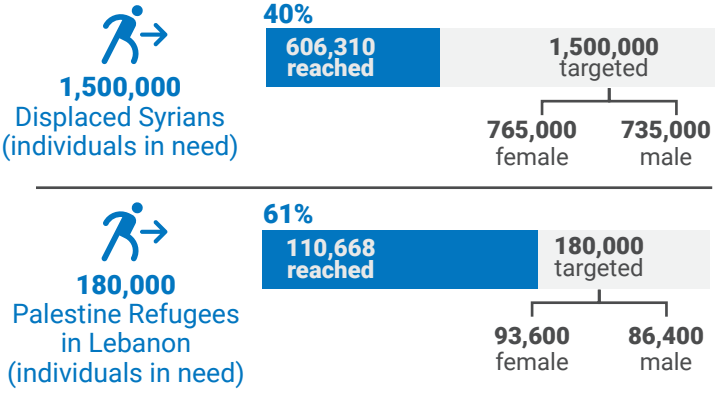


2023 Population reached



2023 population figures by cohort





Progress against annual targets

Key achievements

of Community Support (CSPs), Basic Services (BS) , and Solid Waste Management (SWM) Projects Implemented

192 / 400

# of municipalities received CSPs/ BS excluding SWM

155 / 275

# of municipalities implementing/using integrated solid waste management systems & approaches

188 / 125*

# of municipalities with self-functioning conflict mitigation mechanisms established

16 / 328

# of youth empowerment initiatives implemented

663 / 450*

youth engaged in social stability initiatives

26,412 / 45,000

USD invested in municipal and community support projects including SWM

25 M / 66.25M

local participatory planning processes conducted through municipalities

88 / 100

Outcomes

	LCRP 2017 Baseline		September 2023		2023 Target
	SYR	LEB	SYR	LEB	
OUTCOME 1: % of people reporting positive impact of municipalities on their lives*	45%	64%	14%	18%	35%
% of people living in vulnerable areas reporting competition for municipal and social services and utilities as source of tension*	22%	34%	48%	55%	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%	88%	94%	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 XVI** Source: Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Survey*
**** Source: LCRP 2023 planning process*

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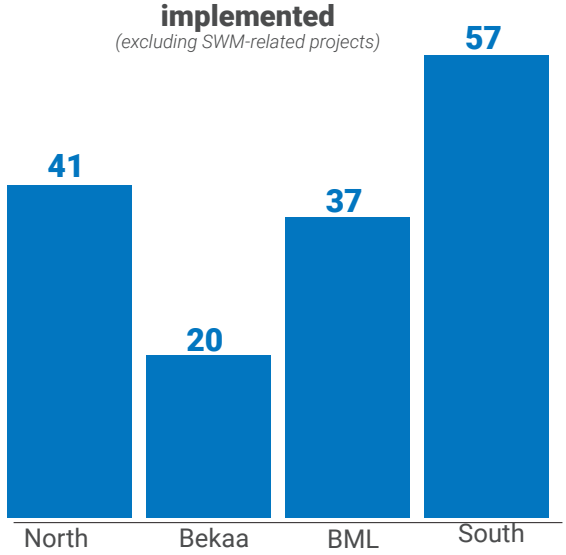
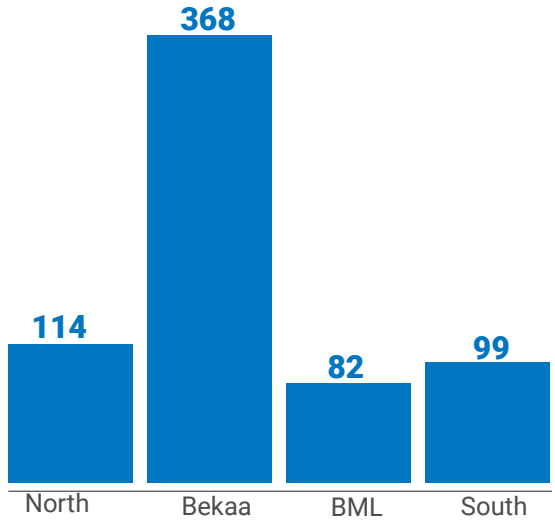
Analysis

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



# of youth empowerment initiatives implemented



Multi-sectoral situation update:

The economic situation in Lebanon remains dire in the third quarter of 2023, resulting in significant challenges for individuals and families. In August 2023, the annual inflation rate recorded a 229.8 per cent increase compared to August 2022, the 38th consecutive month of hyperinflation since the beginning of the crisis. The cost of living, as measured by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which includes expenses for food, essential goods, and services, reached LBP 30,472,087 in July 2023, a slight increase from June and up by 142 per cent compared to the SMEB cost in January 2023. The average price of bottled water in Lebanon up to September 2023 has witnessed a remarkable 16 per cent increase in USD value and a 2598 per cent increase in Lebanese pound (LBP) value compared to the prices in January 2021. Similarly, water trucking costs have soared dramatically, with a significant 297 per cent increase in USD value and 1665 per cent increase in LBP value over the same period. These soaring prices highlight the acute economic challenges faced by the population. In August 2023 alone, there was a significant price spike, with bottled water prices rising by 54 per cent in USD value and 57 per cent in Lebanese pound value, and water trucking prices increasing by 26 per cent in USD value and 29 per cent in Lebanese pound value. These steep price increases pose substantial challenges to access clean water in Lebanon.

At the beginning of Q3, a temporary decrease in raids undertaken by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) targeting displaced Syrians in informal settlements was witnessed compared to Q2. However, a shrinking protection space was observed in August and September with an increase in raids in Bekaa, movement restrictions and an uptick in border pushbacks. On 12 September, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM) addressed another circular to all Governors in Lebanon, to be further disseminated to municipalities and Mokhtars, regarding the presence of displaced Syrians. The circular included instructions to, inter-alia, conduct a data survey of displaced Syrians, report suspicious movements and gatherings of displaced Syrians and to request from all organizations, especially foreign ones, to coordinate their activities with the ministries, municipalities, and military and security agencies. Restrictions of movements including through curfews and searches at check points as well as confiscation of items such as internet routers, solar panels, and motorbikes were reported significantly impacting the feeling of safety and security and psychological wellbeing of displaced Syrians. The fear of deportation because of lacking legal residency was particularly reported by men, resulting in their limitations of movement and an increase of engagement of women and children in labour activities, accumulation of debts and other harmful coping mechanisms. In Q3, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) partners continued to observe rising trends in women and girls being exploited and exposed to sexual harassment and assault when working in farms and as domestic workers or in the streets. A spike in anti-gender rhetoric was observed resulting in a shrinking space to advocate for women's rights, diversity, and gender-based violence prevention and response programs.

As of July, inter-communal relations in Lebanon eased slightly after having experienced a peak in negative sentiments in the first and second quarter of 2023. Some 34 per cent of respondents now report negative inter-communal relations as compared to 46 per cent in March 2023 as per the UNDP-ARK Perception Survey. The main tension drivers continue to be economic such as competition for lower-skilled jobs and services such as electricity, healthcare, and waste management. Relations between Lebanese on the other hand have slightly deteriorated with 34 per cent rating intra-Lebanese relations as negative, compared to 21 per cent in March 2023. For the first time ever, economic competition was quoted as the main tension driver among Lebanese (58%), followed by political and sectarian conflict (51%).

1. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Throughout the third quarter of the year (July – September 2023), the Social Stability sector achieved a number of key results:

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": 119 BS/CSPs (Basic Services & Community Support projects) interventions[1] were achieved in 155 municipalities in 2023 (out of the annual target of 400 projects targeting 275 municipalities in 2023), while taking into consideration the increased operational needs of almost all municipalities and public institutions in Lebanon, with an investment of USD 20.7 M as of Q3 2023. Q3 results reflect progress compared to Q2 2023 results with 58 achieved projects at 76 municipalities and an investment amounting to USD 9.1 M. As these projects are more medium-term, further projects are expected to be reported in the next quarter. Sector partners will continue to prioritize projects that address drivers of tensions around service provision.

Under Output 1.1 related soft components, sector partners continued to provide support to the 88 previously established community-led participatory processes/committees to foster collaborative governance. As of September 2023, up to 507 (218 female and 289 male) municipal officials and community/ civil society members have participated in related activities, including assessments of local priorities and decision-making processes, through municipalities. The results of these collaborative committees include the development of comprehensive action plans serving as fundraising and project implementation platforms e.g., the MSLD (mechanisms for stability and local development) committees.

In addition, 21 staff were seconded to municipalities, mainly in the Baalbek - Hermel area, during Q3, and capacity-building support was provided to 157 officials (49 female and 108 male)[2] as of September (compared to 96 officials in Q2 2023), to support up to 41 municipalities in community engagement and mediation[3], strategic planning and service delivery[4].

Under Output 1.2: "Integrated solid waste management (SWM) services improved to reduce social tensions": 73 SWM projects were implemented as of September against the annual target of 100 projects, in 188 municipalities, mainly at Beqaa and Baalbek-Hermel, Beirut, and Mount Lebanon, with a total cost of USD 4.25 M as of Q3. This reflects an improvement compared to Q2 results, where 58 SWM projects were implemented in 67 municipalities and with a cost of USD 1.52 M as of June 2023.

Achievements as of Q3 included the distribution of 15,762 garbage bins (vs. 816 bins in Q2 2023) with the highest caseload (14,194 bins) in the South and Nabatieh area, and the provision of 160 awareness sessions on SWM (vs. 93 sessions as of Q2), as well as the collection/sorting of 1,018 tons (vs. 344 tons as of Q2) and the recycling of 409.3 tons (vs. 307 tons in Q2) of solid waste. In addition, one SWM facility was established and equipped at Hbeline village in Jbeil district (Mount Lebanon) with a 600-ton solid waste composting capacity per year.

Under Output 1.3: "National institutions have strengthened capacity to provide operational support and guidance to local crisis response": 14 staff members (12 female and 2 male) were trained by sector partners at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM), as of Q3, to support municipalities in information management, coordination, participatory planning, and local governance.

In addition, 17 municipalities have been trained on environmental protection as of September (vs. three municipalities as of Q2 2023), mainly in the North and Akkar, to support the Ministry of Environment in natural resources management and ensuring the protection of the environment through the implementation of projects, this also includes the development of one guideline document on environmental risks mitigation.

Under Output 1.4- "Municipal police capacity to ensure community security strengthened": The implementation of the municipal police reform framework[5] continued during Q3 2023, covering 241 municipalities as of September, compared to 78 municipalities as of Q2 2023, and overreaching the annual target of 50 municipalities in 2023. Under this programme, partners supported the issuance of the second batch of unified municipal police IDs by the Directorate of Municipalities of the MoIM and provided 14 workshop sessions to 398 municipal police members (with more than 50 female police participants), engaging 241 municipalities across all districts. These sessions took place in collaboration with the ISF (Internal Security Forces) academy and with the support of Governors and KaemMakams, to train police on standardized accountability templates, aiming to optimize administrative work and promote accountability of the municipal police units. In addition, the first round of the basic training for the municipal police was successfully completed during Q3, covering 59 municipal police officers representing 23 municipalities in Lebanon that are now better capacitated on human rights values and positive community relationships. The sector will follow up on contextual developments by the end of 2023, to update the annual targets of the 2024 strategy logframe, taking into consideration the current context of high crime such as desperate theft and high insecurity sentiments for women and girls, and the importance 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": In Q3, 539 (298 female and 241 male) civil servants[6], community representatives[7], and youths engaged in the 16 previously established "Conflict Mitigation Mechanisms"[8] in 2023, mainly in the South and Nabatiyeh including 420 members (vs. 159 as of Q2 2023). Most participants were Lebanese (496), followed by 35 displaced Syrians, and seven Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon. These mechanisms are considered longer interventions; hence, the establishment of further mechanisms is expected to be reported upon completion towards the annual target of 275 committees in 2023.

In addition, 119 one-off community events[9] (festivals, sports, etc.) were implemented by the "Conflict Mitigation Mechanisms", mainly in the BBH area (84 events) as of Q3, aiming to reduce tensions and negative speech at the local level. These events included 7,588 participants (6,389 Lebanese and 1,199 displaced Syrian) as of Q3 2023 vs. 3,288 participants as of Q2 2023. Participants at these events came from different areas including 4,575 from the North and Akkar, 1,987 from BML, 674 from the South and Nabatieh, and 352 from BBH. As per previous experiences, such approaches did contribute to reducing conflicts between people in Lebanon, specifically during emergencies and difficult times.

Under the same output, sector partners have also capacitated 162 CSOs (civil society organizations) vs. 123 as of Q2 2023, including 95 local CSOs (33 in BBH, 31 in BML, 16 in North and Akkar, and 15 in South and Nabatieh), and 67 national CSOs. Capacity building included training sessions on collaborative governance, resources and projects management, youth empowerment and mobilization

[1] *These projects comprise hard interventions, targeting mainly municipalities/ UoMs and local communities, with service delivery and infrastructure support, based on participatory local Governance assessments and implementation, to reduce pressure on resources and services and mitigate tensions.*

[2] *Worthy to note that some of the 41 reached municipalities include more male officials, which would explain the higher number of male trainees. However, sector partners are encouraged to ensure a gender balance in reaching officials in future capacity-building activities to municipalities and public institutions.*

[3] *This includes community outreach, conflict prevention, and dispute resolution.*

[4] *Capacity building on strategic planning and service delivery includes on: project development and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, maintenance of municipal services, development of local municipal plans, financial management, organizational support, and liaising with central ministries with the final aim of contributing to social stability by improving municipal service delivery and reducing resources pressure.*

[5] *in the transformation of municipal police work into services to the population.*

[6] *Civil servants: They are officials or employees from local government structures (such as municipalities, schools, health centers, SDCs...).*

[7] *Community representatives: They include civil society members, community/traditional leaders (Mukhtars), and other community focal points.*

[8] *These mechanisms include a systemic conflict analysis process, that aims at identifying the root causes of tensions and mitigating local conflicts through municipalities and community focal points.*

[9] *Community events: One-off events/initiatives (festival, sports competition, commemoration, celebration, etc.) organized/-facilitated by the "Conflict Mitigation Mechanisms" to improve social stability and defuse tensions.*

to support their communities, as well as, conflict mitigation activities. The 162 supported CSOs are now better equipped to implement social stability projects and reduce tension at local and National levels.

Under Output 2.2- "Youth enabled to positively engage and participate in their communities": In total, 663 youth empowerment initiatives and quick impact projects (mainly active citizenship, peacebuilding, and sports activities), were implemented by sector partners as of Q3 overreaching the annual target which is 450 initiatives in 2023. This includes 368 initiatives in BBH, 82 in BML, 114 in North and Akkar, and 99 in South and Nabatieh. One of the key achievements includes the creation of a digitalized "peace-building toolbox" [10] to integrate peacebuilding into educational channels in public high schools, and mainstreaming conflict mitigation through peacebuilding tools[11] in North and Beqaa.

Up to 26,412 youths and children (21,613 youths and 4,799 children) have been reached under these initiatives (compared to an annual target of 45,000 in 2023), reflecting progress specifically in comparison with 18,335 reached youths through 461 initiatives as of Q2 2023. These activities aim to prevent youth marginalization and adoption of negative coping mechanisms and to cope more positively in their communities, they also include capacity-building support on life skills, conflict resolution, and healthy lifestyle skills. The total reached 21,613 youth (10,926 male and 10,682 female) come from diverse nationalities, including 15,514 Lebanese, 4,812 displaced Syrians, 1,074 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, 130 Palestine refugees from Syria, and 83 from other nationalities.

Under Output 2.3- "National, local, & social media engaged in defusing tensions": In 2023, 249 individuals (47 female and 201 male), have been trained and engaged in trainings and sensitized on objective reporting and countering fake news on media, as of September 2023 showing progress vs. 212 individuals as of Q2 2023 and compared to an annual target of 550. The sector will follow up with key partners to ensure gender balance in these types of activities. Such activities targeted journalists, media students, local authorities, and other individuals, to foster objective reporting, facing the online and offline negative rhetoric and hate speech. Worthy to highlighting that the Arabs Fact Checkers network has selected "Sawab" which is a fact-checking media platform that was developed by Social Stability partners in 2023, as one of the leading and among the top five fact-checking networks in the Arab world. Sawab has seen significant growth during Q3 2023, in its followers, with an additional 1,000 individuals now engaging with their content.

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 tensions and communal relations and disseminating it to partners through various channels.
The results of the data from the latest Wave XVI of the UNDP/ ARK regular perception survey which was collected in July 2023, were disseminated in August 2023 (Updated data can be found in the Tension Monitoring Dashboard), across all LCRP sectors to support partners with data and analysis on tensions and inform their programming.
In total, some 30 tension overview presentations have been provided as of September, across LCRP sectors at the national and sub-national levels. As of September 2023, three thematic reports, eight governorate factsheets, and eight tension briefs have been published.
Under Output 3.1, sector partners trained 1,023 staff (725 female & 298 male) on conflict sensitivity mainstreaming in their operations, overreaching the annual target of 350 trainees in 2023. Trained staff will be able to integrate conflict sensitivity in their programming, including training of trainers in Arabic, aiming to expand reach of knowledge on conflict sensitivity, to maximize positive impacts and minimize negative impacts of interventions under all the LCRP sectors.

Referral trends
As of Q3 2023, the sector has discussed ways forward to improve the referrals process under Youth Empowerment activities, through the Social Stability Sector, including cross-sectoral referrals among key sectors. The sector has been working closely with partners to make sure that their services are updated on the Inter-Agency Service Mapping and report referrals they make through the sector.

Mainstreaming activities & AAP
In Q3, the sector has also followed up with the appointed gender & and GBV risk mitigation focal point (International Alert), which will support the implementation of gender and GBV priorities in the sector's annual work plan.
The sector started the discussion in Q3, on M&E and CFM (complaints and feedback mechanisms)-related mapping, challenges, and opportunities for improvement, as well as, to enhance the overall contribution of the sector to the collective AAP (accountability to affected populations), building also on the recently shared CFM/AAP In-Focus in Q3, and existing AAP resources under the sector. Worthy highlighting key data collection and analysis challenges, affecting the quality of CFM data in informing/influencing the response based on populations' feedback, are as follows: 1) accessibility issues to CFM channels[12] , 2) low trust in CFM outcomes, safety concerns specifically for non-Lebanese beneficiaries, 4) Limited human, technical and financial resources specifically, 5) Difficulty in closing the loop[13] . The sector will seek further technical consultation with M&E focal points to identify mitigation measures share for sector partners.

2. KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

Throughout the third quarter of 2023, Social Stability sector partners continued to report several challenges. Challenges in strengthening municipalities and reducing tensions in Q3: Most municipalities are still unable to provide basic services due to shortage of resources, which is leading to gaps in services with negative effects on the environment, tensions, and the protection space. The continuous deterioration of municipalities' situation is exacerbating further the operational challenges for sector partners. Partners are coping through the continuous provision of capacity-building support, aiming to enhance municipalities' collaborative

[10] *The overall objective is to build the capacity of students and teachers to deal constructively with differences, understand violence and conflicts, and provide them with needed tools and skills to deal with conflicts.*
[11] *The overall objective of the training is to develop capacities to dealing with differences, understanding violence and conflicts, dealing with conflicts, non-violent education, and the non-violent management of the classroom.*
[12] *CFM channels include complaints & and feedback boxes, hotline, SMS, WhatsApp, satisfaction surveys, FGDs, etc.*
[13] *and ensuring all populations have access to the final feedback.*

governance, management of resources, and engagement in projects. However, balancing support to municipalities between mid-term and long-term service delivery development, as well as, adopting a geographic clustering approach, has become crucial to enhancing strategic planning and operational capacity, and reaching larger populations and geographic areas.

Solid waste management remains a top operational priority impacted by the current situation. Key solid waste challenges as identified through the Q3 Solid Waste Management Task Forces, included halting waste collection in certain areas, increased backlash related to operations and management challenges, and accumulation of waste, including in Palestinian gatherings and camps. The sector will build on current mapping and tools to systematize the data analysis of hotspot areas and trends and ensure effective local-level coordination.

Partners also reported several challenges related to monitoring and evaluation such as measuring the results of projects, with technical limitations related to data collection and processing, the complexity of the multi-layered crisis, and the rapid deterioration in vulnerabilities which is affecting data collection and results.

Challenges in municipal and local community capacity to foster dialogue and reduce tensions: Youth support was also impacted by gaps in funding during Q3, leading partners to prioritize minimal-cost activities and cut quick-impact projects and creative ideas due to budget constraints.

To cope with this situation, the sector has built on previous discussions in 2023, to raise advocacy messages on the importance of funding youth empowerment initiatives and encourage the exchange of resources and creative ideas fostering innovative approaches, such as mobilization of skilled youth under community support and active citizenship projects, through online platforms, enabling them to become effective positive agents of change and development in their communities and municipalities.

On another hand, partners faced difficulties reaching youths in specific villages, specifically when non-Lebanese participation in violence-free initiatives was not widely accepted by the local community, preventing partners from effectively reaching their targets in some areas, and the sector will follow up with key partners on the impact of outreach and engagement challenges on desired results and target groups.

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

The Social Stability sector continues to implement work under all three sector outcomes, taking into consideration the rising tensions, the increasing challenges faced by local authorities to provide services under their mandate, and the future risks-related impact on tensions and protection space. Priorities for Q4 include:

Continue to support municipalities and public institutions
The sector will continue to follow up with key actors on the major gaps under these types of interventions, viewing the critical needs for support to municipalities in covering basic services delivery and the high pressure on resources and resulted communal tensions. To better support partners, the sector will follow up on key interventions including winter-related preparedness priorities with a focus on sustainable solutions such as the clustering approach, and prevention of flooding at riverbeds and rain drainage levels, etc.

In addition, the sector aims to organize a technical session during Q4 on optimizing the monitoring and evaluation process in measuring impacts on tension and social stability and share recommendations with sector partners on moving forward.

Moreover, under the same outcome, the sector will gather updates through the Quarterly SWM Task Force meetings including key SWM trends, gaps, and capacities, and mobilize funds and cross-sectoral collaborations to enhance the response.

On the support to Municipal police, the sector will follow up on the regular support including key progress of the planned capacity-building support which will take place at the ISF Academy during Q4, aiming to strengthen leadership skills and achieve greater influence and substantial impact on people's lives.

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 build on previous thematic discussions on youth empowerment to organize in-depth discussions on youth platforms and initiatives that foster youth mobilization in active citizenship and volunteerism activities under community support initiatives and quick-impact projects, supporting their communities and municipalities. This includes lessons learned and ways forward on the mobilization of youths as local resources in emergencies at the local level. The sector will also unpack further the geographic specificities in terms of urban versus rural areas, and related specific challenges and opportunities, in shaping youth empowerment interventions under the Social Stability sector. The sector will actively follow up on donors' funding strategies for 2024 to inform decision-making and future planning and will also focus on strengthening the referrals for youth empowerment initiatives, through promoting these services for referrals at all sectors working groups. On the positive reporting and countering fake news level, the sector will follow up on upcoming issues that are to be produced and published by different Social Stability actors such as the "Salam wa Kalam digital" platform, which remains an inclusive space, serving as a hub for affected communities to engage through uplifting stories and collaborative projects.

Continue tension monitoring and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming-
With the rising inter- and intra-communal tensions related to the compounded crises, the sector will continue to focus on monitoring tensions and incorporating such analysis in evidence-based planning for interventions.

The sector will continue to play a key role in mainstreaming Conflict Sensitivity (CS) across the response, with the aim of providing ad-hoc sectoral guidance, mainstreaming support to inform planning for 2024 as well as training organizations and donors on key areas in Conflict Sensitivity. Thematic guidance notes on CS are in the pipeline for Q4 including CS in Emergencies and Monitoring and Evaluation. Meanwhile, existing guidance notes are continuously updated to remain pertinent and context-specific.

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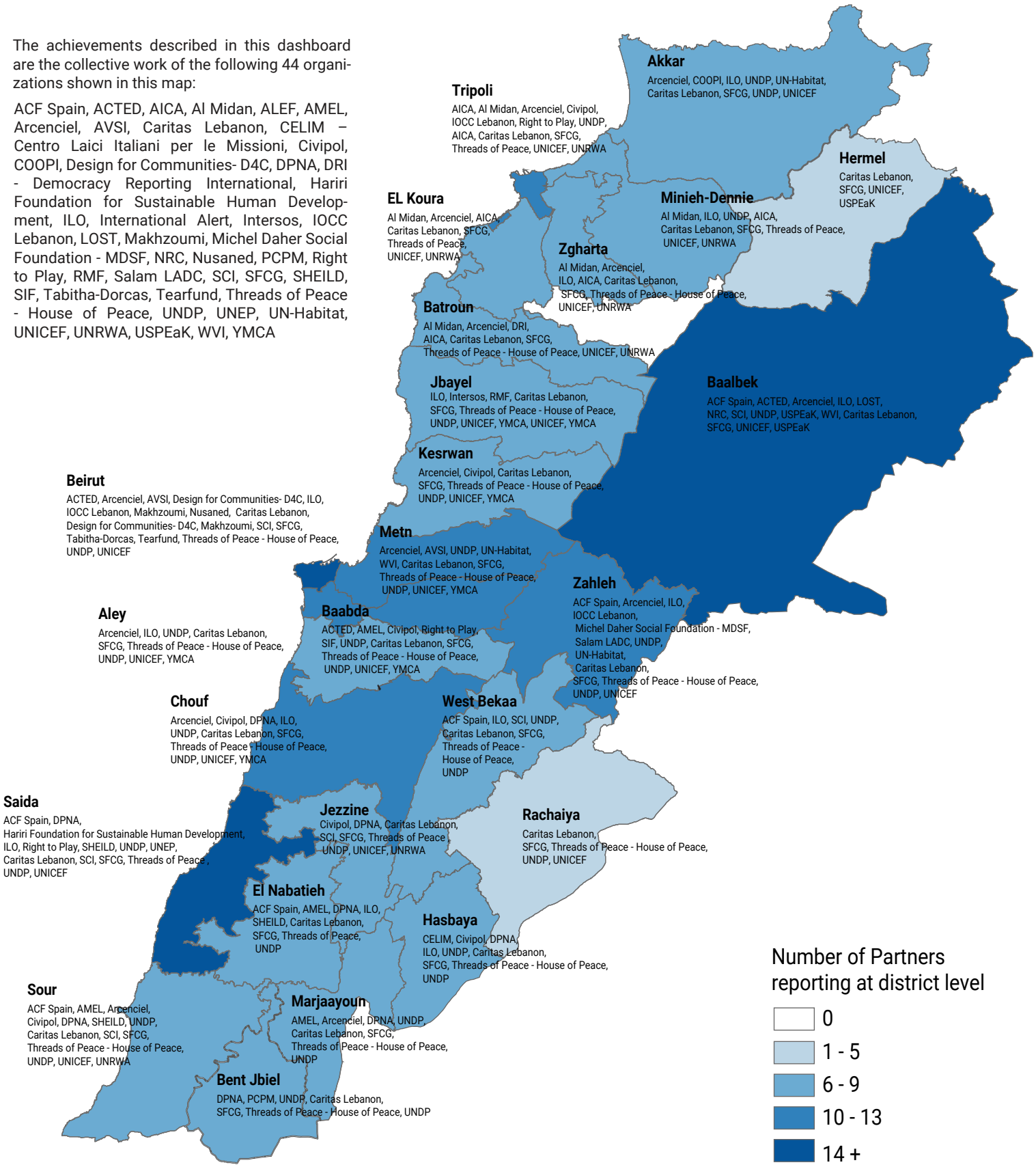
Partners by district

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 44 organizations shown in this map:

ACF Spain, ACTED, AICA, Al Midan, ALEF, AMEL, Arcenciel, AVSI, Caritas Lebanon, CELIM – Centro Laici Italiani per le Missioni, Civipol, COOPI, Design for Communities- D4C, DPNA, DRI - Democracy Reporting International, Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, ILO, International Alert, Intersos, IOCC Lebanon, LOST, Makhzoumi, Michel Daher Social Foundation - MDSF, NRC, Nusaned, PCPM, Right to Play, RMF, Salam LADC, SCI, SFCG, SHEILD, SIF, Tabitha-Dorcas, Tearfund, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA, USPEaK, WVI, YMCA



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