2024 Q2 Sector Dashboard

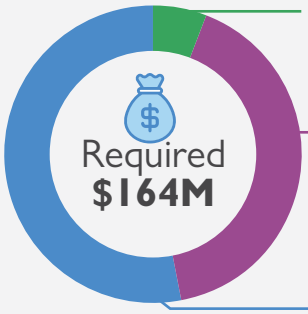
Social Stability

This dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) 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 LRP's capacities on tensions monitoring and conflict sensitivity.

The Lebanon Response Plan is pending endorsement by the LRP Steering Committee. This dashboard is based on information reported by Social Stability sector partners operating under the sector strategy.

2024 Sector Funding Status

As of June 30st



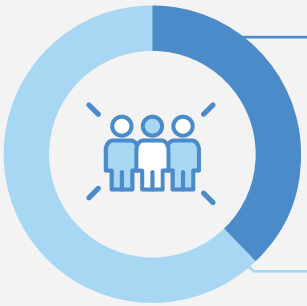
9.5% $15.56M
Total received
(since Jan-June 2024)

40.5% $66.6M
Total carry over
(from 2023)

50% $81.84M
Funding Gap
(ref. 2024 appeal)

2024 Population Reached

3,409,079
People in Need



1,278,865 38%
Reached

3,043,331 **Targeted**
Male **1,467,17**
Female **1,576,145**

2024 Population Figures by Cohort

1,679,482
Lebanese
individuals in need

811,762 53%
Reached

1,538,372
Targeted
Male **738,419**
Female **799,953**

1,500,000
Displaced
Syrians in need

376,576 29%
Reached

1,305,197
Targeted
Male **639,547**
Female **665,650**

23,026
Palestinian Refugees from Syria (individuals)

12,421 54%
Reached

23,026
Targeted
Male **11,052**
Female **11,974**

145,000
Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (individuals)

145,000
Targeted
Male **69,500**
Female **75,500**

78,106 54%
Reached

61,571
Migrants
(individuals)

TBC
Reached

31,736
Targeted
Male **8,569**
Female **23,167**

*Population In need and targeted should be similar to the figures from the LRP 2024 annual update

LEBANON Response Plan

2024 Q2 Sector Dashboard

Social Stability

Progress Against Annual Targets

# of Basic Service Delivery projects implemented including Solid Waste Management (SWM)

61 / 300

 # Municipalities benefiting from the "Basic Services Delivery" projects including SWM

78 / 250

 # Municipalities directly supported under the"Municipal Police strategic reform framework"

77 / 45

# of municipalities with new self-functioning conflict prevention mechanisms (CPMs) established supported

46 / 100

# of Members engaged in new CPMs aiming at reducing tension

602 Male | 481 Female | 1,083 Members

# of youth empowerment initiatives implemented

163 / 750

 # youth & children engaged in social stability initiatives

35,600 / 55,000

# of LRP partners staff trained on conflict sensitivity mainstreaming

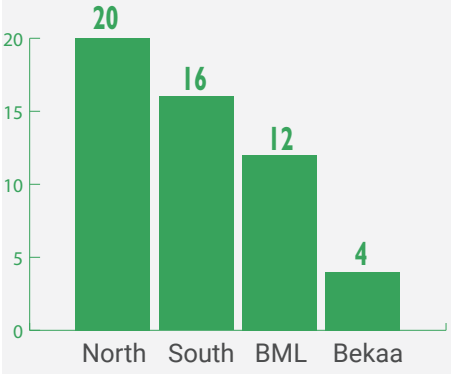
270 / 1,500

USD invested in Municipal & Basic Service Delivery projects including SWM

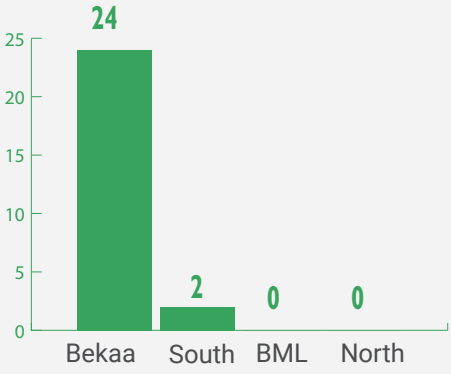
6,638,668.22 / 93,750,000

Geographical Analysis

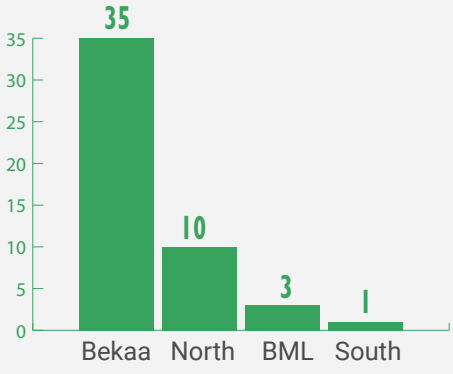
52 municipalities received Basic Service Delivery projects (output 1.1)



26 municipalities received SWM projects (Output 1.2)



163 of youth empowerment initiatives implemented - Geographic disagregation is only available for 49 initiatives (output 2.2)



1. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Despite the challenging funding landscape, cross-border hostilities, and escalating tensions, the Social Stability sector partners were able to make progress towards the annual targets in the first half of the year, however with some limitations.

Outcome 1- "Strengthening municipalities, national & local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure, reduce resentment and build peace" aims to support municipalities and UoM in providing basic services under their mandates. This includes support to municipal police and key national institutions. **[61 achieved basic service delivery projects including 17 SWM projects, reaching 78 municipalities, with invested funds of USD 6.64 M as of Q2 2024].**

Under Output 1.1 - "Services delivered based on participatory processes at the municipal level". [44 basic service projects implemented vs. annual target of 300 projects].

Basic services projects aim to support local authorities in providing essential services to the residents which otherwise would not be available due to the municipalities' limited resources. They comprise both hard (infrastructure) and soft components (participatory priority identification) with the latter usually being a pre-requisite for the former, yet both require extended periods of time to yield results.

44 Basic Services Delivery projects[1] were implemented in **52 municipalities**[2], showing progress from only seven projects in seven municipalities in Q1 2024. The total investment amounted to **five million USD** with 40 per cent of the invested funds in Beirut & Mount Lebanon, 27 per cent in the North & Akkar, 24 per cent in Beqaa & Baalbeck El Hermel, and nine per cent in the South & Nabatiyeh. In Q2 2023, investments of USD9.1 million were made for 58 initiatives, both these numbers show a decrease year over year. Implementation of projects in South Lebanon (SLR) was severely impacted by the continuous hostilities in the South. Several partners reported that projects which were initially put on hold were subsequently canceled due to ongoing security concerns and access limitations. In other cases, partners informed that projects under recent funding lines are still in the preparation or early implementation stages due to the priority assessment processes being recently concluded or still ongoing. Another challenge reported by partners is the underperforming contractors, resulting in implementation delays. For this, the sector will, in consultation with partners, work in the coming period on drafting possible mitigation measures for such issues. Along with the efforts, **264 municipal officials and community representatives** (136 women, 128 men), received capacity building and/or joined participatory priority assessment processes, as of Q2 2024, which aimed to foster collaborative governance and increase local abilities to assess priorities and implement community-based services. The action plans resulting from these participatory priority assessments serve as a spearhead for projects' implementation, mobilization of local resources, and fundraising, that can be accessible by th e local community & authorities, partners, and donors.

Under Output 1.2 - "Integrated solid waste management (SWM) services provided to reduce social tensions". [17 SWM projects implemented vs. annual target of 275].

In Q2 2024, **17 SWM projects** were achieved covering **26 villages**, with invested funds of **USD 1.62 M** – 69 per cent of the invested funds in Beqaa & Baalbeck El Hermel, 16 per cent in the North & Akkar, and 15 per cent in the South & Nabatiyeh. This shows less deliverables when compared to Q2 2023 where 58 achieved SWM projects benefiting 67 municipalities. In addition to the nature of these activities which require a longer time to be achieved, and the impact of the hostilities in the South & Nabatiyeh, delays in achieving results can also be attributed to the processes for obtaining approvals from relevant authorities for different types of large-scale interventions, including the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) from the Ministry of Environment. The sector will continue to follow up on key implementation issues such as the operational challenges due to approval processes, the impact of conflict on project implementation, and advocate for effective and strategic utilization of received funds.

These SWM interventions also included soft components with **69 awareness-raising** initiatives for communities and authorities on sorting from source and best practices. Awareness activities enhanced understanding and engagement, making sorting at the source more effective. They fostered a culture of responsibility and compliance, encouraging accurate and improved waste segregation, increased public participation, and sustainable waste management practices which hold many benefits such as reduced landfill waste. They also fostered a shared sense of responsibility for environmental sustainability.

At the operational level support was provided through the provision of **21 SWM collection trucks** (eleven in Beqaa, five in the North, and five in the South), distribution of **603 waste collection bins**, and operational support to **16 existing SWM facilities** with running costs and human resources. These interventions led to the collection, sorting, and treatment[3] of **8,912 kg** of solid waste in Q2 2024.

Within the current context, such projects are particularly crucial as many municipalities are facing challenges in maintaining solid waste management services due to shortages of resources and scarcity of funds. Given that solid waste is a key tension driver, it remains a key priority for the sector, and there is a continuous need to advocate for donors and partners on the importance of solid waste management activities, focusing on operational support to existing facilities, collection of waste services, with prioritizing geographic areas with high density, risks of waste accumulation and environmental & tension spillover effects.

Under Output 1.3: "National institutions have the capacity to provide operational support and guidance for local crisis response":

As of June 2024, the sector supported the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) unit by building the capacity of the DRM's Regional Operations Room of the North Governorate, on the regional response plan and the role and mandate of the operations room in various scenarios with an emphasis on displacement and armed conflict. In addition, 72 officers from the Internal Security Forces (ISF) received a crash course on disaster risk management at the ISF Academy. Furthermore, following the collapse of a building in the Choueifat area (Mount Lebanon), 20 municipal police officers received training on urban response and preparedness which was provided by the National DRM Unit.

The sector partners also supported municipalities in addressing environmental challenges, such as under water & wastewater management, pollution, and natural resources protection, through training 86 individuals from 38 municipalities[4] (target 50 municipalities) identified as having high levels of environmental-related tensions. Key topics included water &

[1] 15 projects in the South & Nabatiyeh, 12 in the North & Akkar, 10 in Beirut & Mount Lebanon, and 7 in the Beqaa & Baalbeck/ El Hermel.
[2] 20 municipalities in the North, 16 in the South, 12 in Beirut & Mount Lebanon, and four in the Beqaa & Baalbeck/ El Hermel.
[3] including recycling and composting.
[4] In Baalbak & Hermel, Al Shaft Union (Akkar), Deir Ammar, Zahleh Union, Al Bouhaira Union and Saida

wastewater management, SWM, air quality, forest, rangeland management & biodiversity preservation, land planning, urbanization & integrated environmental management, as well as conflict resolution.

Under Output 1.4- "Municipal police have strengthened capacity to ensure community security". [77 municipalities reached under the MP Strategic Reform Framework vs. 2024 annual target of 45 municipalities]

In its efforts to consolidate the role of the municipal police (MP) and enable its transformation into a people-centered, gender-sensitive, and accountable community police service, 77 municipalities were sensitized on the unified MP strategic reform framework which is articulated around five components[5] and developed in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) and the ISF Academy.

In addition, **99 municipal police officers of which two were women**, representing **44 municipalities, completed the ISF training course**, in specialized human-rights-based training for Municipal Police. This six-month course at the ISF Academy aims to instill a human rights-centered approach, enhance professionalism, and improve the responsiveness of municipal police to community needs. These courses consist of eleven sessions focusing on circulation traffic management, first aid, and municipal police duties, and upon the completion of these modules, the municipal police officers receive standardized civilian uniforms. Further, **22 municipalities, from two new districts**, were reached under roll-out sessions complementing the MP reform framework, to increase the MP's oversight and reporting. These sessions took place in close collaboration with the Kaem Makams and Governors in each of the two districts, enabling the establishment of district-level reporting mechanisms, to ensure effective integration of the MP tools and templates. By adopting these templates, municipal police officers can now streamline paperwork, enhance information management, and bolster overall operational effectiveness.

These sessions also provided an opportunity to update municipalities on the MP reform's contents, generate support, address concerns, and gather valuable data on the situation of the municipal police.
In addition, activities took place to strengthen the relationship between the municipal police and the communities they serve, through the implementation of 'Communication for Development' (C4D) activities. These initiatives were tailored to the feedback and aspirations of the communities where municipal police operate, aiming primarily to strengthen the bond between the police and residents. The sector will follow up on overachieved results and contextual developments by the end of 2024, to update the related targets in the sector log frame if needed.

Under OUTCOME 2: "Strengthen municipal and local community & resources' capacity to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts". [117 supported conflict prevention mechanisms including 46 newly established/supported Mechanisms]

Under Output 2.1 - "Municipalities, local conflict prevention mechanisms, and CSOs have strengthened capacities for dialogue and conflict prevention". [117 conflict prevention mechanisms were supported including 46 newly established mechanisms vs. The 2024 annual target of 100 newly established mechanisms]

As of Q2 2024, **117 conflict prevention mechanisms (CPM)** have been supported including the establishment of **46 new mechanisms**, compared to 16 new mechanisms in Q2 2023. In total, 1,083 civil servants (481 women and 602 men), community representatives, and youths have engaged as members in these local-level conflict prevention mechanisms. Establishing new CPMs and maintaining existing ones, was achieved with the support of sector partners, through municipalities, and included community representatives, aiming to address and reduce tensions at the local level through the identification of root causes of tension and implementation of conflict prevention activities. These mechanisms require an extensive conflict analysis process and are considered longer interventions; hence, further mechanisms are expected to be reported upon completion in 2024. In South Lebanon and Nabatiyeh, most activities were implemented online, taking into consideration the security situation and mobility restrictions. The mechanisms emphasized strategic coordination, flexibility, and community engagement to overcome obstacles and improve social stability by supporting local development and stability committees in preparing emergency response interventions and implementing context-specific activities.

Through these mechanisms, **98 one-off community events** were implemented, including in the South and Nabatiyeh area (30 events). These events included festivals, sports competitions, trainings on countering fake news, emergency planning, and psychosocial support, and aimed to reduce tensions and negative speech at the local level. **4,736 community members from diverse backgrounds participated in these events**, which aimed to improve the interaction between community members from diverse backgrounds, deconstruct misperceptions about each other, and reduce tensions and negative speech thus contributing to social stability. Previous experiences showed that such approaches contributed to reducing conflicts between community members, specifically during emergencies and challenging times. In addition, they capitalize on and mobilize local human and technical resources not only in tension mitigation but also in supporting communities, such as through volunteering under basic service delivery activities.

Under the same output, sector partners provided organization and/or operational support to **48 National & Local CSOs (710 members: 624 female, 86 male).** The capacity building included training sessions on collaborative governance, resources and projects management, gender (women, men, girls, and boys) mainstreaming, youth empowerment, as well as conflict mitigation activities. As a result of this support, these organizations are better prepared to implement social stability projects and address tensions at the local level.

Under Output 2.2 - "Youths are enabled to positively engage, participate in their communities, and build bridges with youth across dividing lines". [163 youth empowerment initiatives reaching 35,600 youth & children vs. 2024 target of 750 initiatives and 55,000 youth].

Under As of June 2024, **163 youth empowerment initiatives** were implemented, reaching **33,846 youth & 1754 children** from different nationalities (23,675 Lebanese, 8,707 displaced Syrians, 1,081 Palestinian, and 383 other nationalities). These results show progress compared to Q2 2023 where 21,416 youth & children were reached.

The initiatives included sports and artistic activities, peacebuilding clubs, community services, active citizenship, and mobilization in community-based services and emergency response. They also provided life skills training, conflict resolution, and healthy lifestyle habits, aiming to prevent youth from marginalization and adoption of negative coping mechanisms. Furthermore, these initiatives also included violence-free schools/communities and reaching youth with disabilities in the education system. One of the key

[5] The five components of the unified strategic framework are: [1]) Specialized human-rights-based training for Municipal police at the ISF academy; [2]) Code of conduct for the Municipal police; [3]) SOPs on rights and responsibilities; [4]) Standardized civilian uniforms as opposed to paramilitary; [4]) The promotion of the recruitment of women within the ranks of the Municipal police.

achievements includes the uptake of the previously created digital "peace-building toolbox" to integrate peacebuilding into educational channels in local communities, and mainstream conflict mitigation through peacebuilding tools across the country.

Under Output 2.3- "National, local and social media actors capacitated to defuse tensions". [246 individuals capacitated vs. Annual target of 550 individuals]

By the end of Q2 2024, **246 journalists, media students, local authorities, etc. (150 women & 96 men)** have been trained and engaged on how to meaningfully engage with the media to counter fake news, promote objective and positive reporting, and mitigate tensions through reporting on media. Though the training activities took place mostly during Q1 2024, Q2 focused on the engagement of trained young media students to further enhance youth empowerment and broaden audience reach.

These trainings are crucial in the current context of increased negative rhetoric on media, including fake news and hate speech. The training provided in conflict-sensitive reporting and fact-checking has empowered youth to create and implement impactful media campaigns that not only address critical issues such as hate speech, fake news, and community tensions, but also promote a culture of peace and dialogue across communities. Through these efforts, youth have been equipped to produce significant media content that reflects the local narratives and challenges, furthering the peacebuilding objectives.

Worth noting that the "SAWAB" fact-checking media platform, previously developed by Social Stability partners, maintained its position during Q2 2024, as one of the leading and among the top five fact-checking networks in the Arab world. It saw significant growth in Q2 2024, in its followers and has empowered young fact-checkers through comprehensive training and capacity-building, fostering a dedicated network to combat fake news and hate speech.

The sector will follow up on upcoming material to be produced and published by different actors such as the "Salam Wa Kalam" (SWK) digital platform, which made significant progress in expanding the reach and engagement in the peacebuilding news supplement which enhanced its impact as a dialogue space for affected communities to engage through uplifting stories and collaborative projects.

OUTCOME 3: "Enhance the abilities of LRP partners and public institutions on conflict analysis and sensitivity mainstreaming"

Under Output 3.1- "LRP partners have improved skills, capacities and practices for conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming":

Achievements focused on gathering data and generating analysis related to tensions and disseminating it to partners. **[34 tension reports published, and 270 partners' staff members trained on conflict sensitivity mainstreaming vs. 2024 annual target of 30 reports and 1,500 trainees].**

The results of the UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey on Social Tensions (wave XVIII), were made available publicly on the Tension Monitoring Dashboard and were presented in different sector working groups as of Q2 2024 to support sector analysis and inform partners' programming.

As of June 2024, **34 reports** have been produced on communal relations and tensions, in addition to **10 Governorate factsheets** which were circulated to feed the implementation and coordination efforts of LRP actors. **270 partners**[7] staff members (186 women & 84 men) were trained on conflict sensitivity mainstreaming in their operations. This included training sessions in Arabic language, delivered by sector partner staff who had received ToTs (training of trainers) in 2023.

Gender Analysis:

The main challenges compiled by the sector show that there is limited capacity to mainstream gender, under the Social Stability sector, affecting the engagement of women, men, boys, and girls in collaborative Governance, conflict prevention, and Social Stability programming. In addition, sociocultural factors coupled with a lack of awareness around gender equality and involvement of men & boys in Social Stability sector-specific gender activities. The sector will follow up with the support of the Gender focal point appointed to support the sector, and the LRP Gender Mainstreaming Officer and key SoST partners to overcome these challenges and provide technical guidance through specific types of interventions.

Referral trends:

In Q2 2024, the sector discussed ways to improve the referrals process under youth empowerment activities under Output 2.2. It has also been working closely with partners to ensure that their services are updated on the Inter-Agency Service Mapping and that they report the referrals they make through the sector. In addition, the sector, at the sub-national and national levels, conducted refresher sessions about referrals, their importance, and the Inter-Agency Referral tools.

Mainstreaming activities:

Gender Mainstreaming- The sector finalized extensive consultative discussions with the different stakeholders, on how to strengthen gender mainstreaming (women, men, girls, and boys) under the Social Stability sector. In addition, the sector developed three draft products and consulted partners, through the working groups and the core group in May 2024. These are: i) A mapping report of key initiatives & challenges under direct gender mainstreaming activities within the Social Stability sector; ii) A Social Stability sector-specific strategy & action plan for the short, medium, and longer-term; iii) Context-specific tipsheets by specific types of Social Stability interventions as follows: Municipal services & SWM, conflict prevention & dialogue, and youth empowerment. These documents will be published after final feedback and endorsement, in Q3 2024.

Environment Mainstreaming- As part of its continuous operations and environmental due diligence, the ETF (environment task force) continued to support Social Stability partners in screening their projects before implementation as per the Environmental Marker's guide and based on the classification of their activities/projects as presented in the related Activity Review document.

Escalation of Hostilities in the South:

In 2024, the sector engaged in the response to the escalation of cross-border hostilities through four prioritized activities: 1) tension monitoring and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming, 2) support to DRM, 3) support to municipalities & public institutions to ensure delivery of basic services, 4) humanitarian mine action (HMA).

The sector continued to support the integration of conflict sensitivity considerations across all relevant sectors, through the development of a guidance note on Conflict Sensitivity in Rapid Onset Emergencies for partners responding to the emergency in the South. In addition, the sector continued monitoring specific tensions related to the situation in the South and sharing that analysis with relevant partners to inform the response.

Furthermore, the sector partners continued to provide regular support to the National DRM (disaster risk management) unit, and Sub-National DRM units and Operation Rooms (ORs). This included centralizing data on displacement for informed decision making at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, developing the site management guidance document, developing the site identification, validation and referral protocol, building the capacity of DRM focal persons at the regional and local levels on site management, as well as, deploying Liaison Officers to South and Nabatiyeh Governorates.

In addition, sector partners continued to strengthen crisis communication and emergency communication skills, through capacity-building provision to a total of 144 Municipalities & UoMs, including 31 municipalities and six UoMs in Nabatiyeh & South Governorates.

Noting that partners have also mobilized during Q2 2024, existing Conflict Prevention Mechanisms (CPMs), to support the emergency response through the development/implementation of emergency plans and context-relevant interventions. This took place in several affected villages such as Kharayeb, and Nabatiyeh El Tahta & El Fawqa, and, via community outreach activities and community-based services, in Tebnine, Kfardounin, Majdel Selm, Safad El Battikh, Soultaniyeh, and Yater villages, in addition to other villages in the Nabatiyeh Governorate. Sector partners have also mobilized empowered youth under the Social Stability sector, for community outreach, and community-based services in affected areas.

Prioritization and Localization:

The sector promoted geographic targeting prioritization with uptake efforts of the sectoral Guidance Note on 2024 Geographic Targeting Prioritization Process - developed by the sector, to guide sector partners on how to prioritize geographic areas based on special considerations, by specific types of interventions e.g. under Municipal services, SWM, youth empowerment, and conflict pr evention/dialogue initiatives.

2. Challenges, Risks and Mitigation Measures

Most municipalities are unable to provide basic services which is leading to further negative effects on tension and the protection space. Additionally, resignations, human resource shortages, and postponed municipal elections exacerbated operational challenges for sector partners, affecting projects supporting municipalities and public institutions. Throughout Q2 2024, partners faced several challenges that had negative consequences on operations as detailed below:

Most municipalities are still unable to provide basic services due to a shortage of resources and decreasing municipal police capacity to control the security situation, due to operational challenges[6] . The partners have been mitigating the challenges through incorporating income generation components into infrastructure projects, proposing impactful activities to donors such as geographic clustering and consortiums approaches, to cover larger populations with less funds, prioritizing low-cost maintenance projects, fostering complementarity among organizations, and capacitating municipalities and local CSOs in maintenance and repair. The focus has also been on guiding partners on how to prioritize geographic areas by specific types of Social Stability interventions, through adopting special considerations and fostering innovative solutions facing operational challenges and scarcity of funds, e.g. provision of renewable energy to generate electricity for services to lower the financial burdens and operations and maintenance costs. The sector will continue to follow up on key challenges specifically areas affected by the hostilities in the South and continue to prioritize projects that address drivers of tensions around service provision while taking into consideration the increased operational needs of municipalities.

For solid waste management, several challenges are arising and impacting the operational environment due to municipalities' inability to maintain operations and the lack of an integrated SWM plan and interventions. Below are key local challenges compiled through Regional SWM Task Forces, which sit under the Social Stability sector and led by the Ministry of Environment (MoE), and supported by UNDP:

- **Inability of municipalities to deliver solid waste services, specifically collection of waste,** due to severe shortage of human and financial resources, exacerbated at areas where municipalities are partially or entirely dismantling, as well as the security situation in the areas affected by the hostilities in the South, with risks of halting and suspending waste collection services.

- **Accumulation of waste on roads, waste burning, and random dumping,** leading to serious environmental and health consequences, including flooding during storms, and resulting in community backlash.

- **Scavengers with child protection risks,** competing negatively with the local community, on plastics and other recyclable materials.

- **Gaps of information on waste quantification & quality, across populations, including around informal settlements, and Palestinian gatherings and camps,** challenging the adequate response, including the generated waste by non-Lebanese communities and related community backlash and protection risks.

The sector is providing guidance through regional SWM task forces and discussing key trends and priorities at the National level on a quarterly basis, emphasizing local-level coordination, and sustainable approaches like solar energy. The sector has been fostering the prioritization of waste collection services particularly in overpopulated areas including winter-sensitive hotspots to avoid flooding during

[6] facing insecurity sentiments, high crimes, theft, and robbery rate, and inter-communal tensions.

storms, as well as support to existing SWM facilities through for instance the operational engagement with the private sector, aligning with the MoE priorities and the sector strategy.
The sector will continue the quarterly SWM Task Force meetings and map and analyze gaps and challenges to ensure effective local-level coordination.

Under Youth support interventions, partners reported challenges in ensuring the engagement and commitment of youth in interventions specifically the longer-term ones. Specific challenges are financial (transportation fees, need for income generation, etc.), followed by socio-cultural differences, which affect directly youths' enrolment and dropout rates. The economic crisis in Lebanon also played a role in leading to further youth marginalization and exposure to social, protection, and legal risks. Efforts were made by partners to motivate participants, develop tailored solutions, and ensure a safe space for communication and expression of emotions despite the socio-economic situation. In addition, Sector partners have been coping through innovative approaches and motivating youth in active citizenship to become positive agents of supporting their communities and municipalities.

The sector promoted the provision of transportation and livelihoods opportunities to youth enrolled in programmes, and training youths on active environmental/healthy/social skills, which was found to be effective in motivating youths to cope positively and avoid negative coping mechanisms, such as drug usage, vagabondage, engagement in crimes, and drop out from work or education system. Furthermore, the sector has faced a technical reporting challenge, on youth activities' progress, and efforts are being made to ensure partners accurately report their achievements. Furthermore, the sector will follow up on key gaps to enhance youth empowerment, including:
i) Advocacy efforts to mainstream awareness raising about youth engagement and empowerment schemes, including the education system;
ii) Establishment and maintenance of online & offline platforms for social dialogue and mobilization in volunteering opportunities under service delivery and emergency response, as well as;
iii) Strengthening the referral pathway under youth empowerment across all LRP sectors.

Escalation of Hostilities in the South:

The situation in the South impacted most projects in affected areas, where partners either suspended the implementation in the SLR (South Litani River), shifted to other geographic areas, suspended partially the implementation, or shifted to an online modality under soft components such as training sessions to youths and peacebuilding initiatives, however, this impacted the number of participants due to access issues to electricity and internet.

Challenges faced included access challenges due to ongoing risks of increased exposure to physical harm by explosive ordnance/UXO (unexploded ordnance). Access and mobility risks for DRM assessment & support visits at affected areas in case of escalation of hostilities. Furthermore, solid waste accumulation in areas with a high presence of IDPs (internally displaced people), had environmental and tension spillover effects e.g. at Sour, Abbasiyeh, and Bourj El Chemaly.

3. KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

The Sector will continue to support municipalities in delivering basic services and community support projects, with a focus on municipal solid waste management. The goal is to target most vulnerable municipalities to reduce environmental pressure, community backlash, and intra & inter-communal tensions. To better guide interventions the sector will continue leading in prioritizing geographic targeting and mapping of interventions, feeding into complementarity and ensuring interventions are well maintained and functional. The sector will also recommend prioritizing tension hotspot municipalities with capacity building provision under environment protection mainstreaming and reduction of tensions generated by environmental issues, coupled with an economic component (e.g. Cash for Work pilots).

In Q3 2024, the sector will continue preparing and responding to the cross-border escalation of hostilities, through i) continuous support to municipalities to ensure delivery of basic services in affected areas, as well as, public institutions' preparedness and capacities like Civil Defense centers to respond effectively to ongoing conflicts; ii) continuous support to DRM under the coordination and information management, development of a national Guidance document and SOPs for site management alongside key sectors, as well as, extending the deployment of two liaison officers at South & Nabatiyeh Governors to support in the emergency response; and iii) additional interventions to raise awareness and provide capacity building, on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and white phosphorus through media and community outreach, within the Humanitarian Mine Action under the Lebanese Mine Action Center (LMAC).

The sector will continue to foster dialogue mechanisms and will provide needed data and analysis to partners so they can target tension hotspot areas to reduce tensions under Social Stability interventions. The sector will enhance the reporting of activities under Youth Empowerment (Output 2.2) on the "Inter-Sector Services Mapping" reporting platform via "ActivityInfo", to ensure better coordination and referrals, across all LRP sectors, as well as under the Education system and online/offline dialogue platforms facing hate speech and fake news. Additionally, the sector will actively follow up on donors' funding strategies for 2024 and 2025 to inform decision-making and future planning. The sector will continue monitoring online and offline tensions and incorporate analysis in evidence-based programming. Conflict sensitivity will continue to be mainstreamed across the response, and in the uptake of Lebanon-specific guidance notes published previously, which have now been updated to align with the changing context and translated into Arabic. Additionally, training on Conflict Sensitivity will be rolled out with a second batch of the Training of Trainers. Priority will be placed on addressing sector-specific Conflict Sensitivity needs.

With regards to the cross-border escalation of hostilities, the sector will continue preparing and responding through i) continuous online and offline monitoring of tensions arising from displacement movements on both inter-communal and intra-communal levels, to ensure programmatic flexibility and mitigation where possible; ii) conflict sensitivity trainings and guidance to all key sectors within capacities.

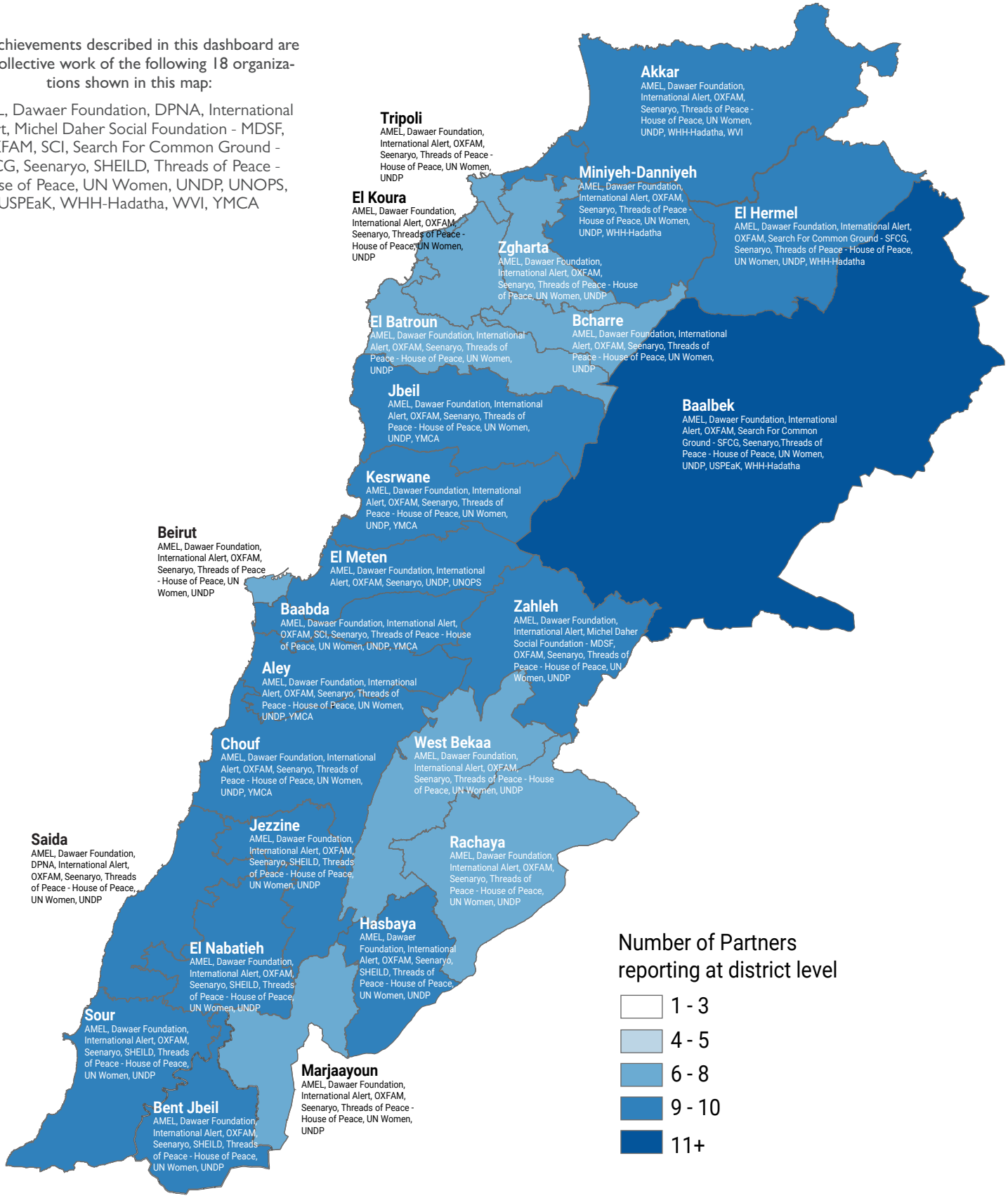
Gender mainstreaming into Social Stability activities will be further enhanced in Q3 2024, including the circulation of the three Social Stability sector-specific products, aiming to guide partners on how to mainstream gender in social stability projects.

2024 Q2 Sector Dashboard

Social Stability

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 18 organizations shown in this map:

AMEL, Dawaer Foundation, DPNA, International Alert, Michel Daher Social Foundation - MDSF, OXFAM, SCI, Search For Common Ground - SFCG, Seenaryo, SHEILD, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UN Women, UNDP, UNOPS, USPEaK, WHH-Hadatha, WVI, YMCA



Note: This map has been produced by UNDP based on maps and material provided by the Government of Lebanon for Inter Agency operational purposes. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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