

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Reports from March re-affirmed certain trends in the child protection sector, including the identification of child labour, out-of-school children, birth registration, and child marriage as major child protection concerns. In addition, gaps continue to be identified in providing services for children with disabilities, an identified gap area in the sector as there is a lack of actors with this area of expertise. Insecurity in certain areas is inhibiting service provision and posing challenges to child protection actors. For example, in the south of Lebanon in Ain Al Helweh Palestinian refugee camp, there are no child protection actors able to provide case management services, leaving a crucial gap for children there and resulting in ad hoc measures to respond to urgent cases as they arise.

Child protection actors across Lebanon began to report cases of children experiencing difficulties in renewing their residency permits. Children aged 15 years and older are required to pay \$200 USD for renewals, like adults, making this process financially prohibitive. Unaccompanied children, as well as those living with caregivers but who have specific protection concerns, are reportedly experiencing difficulty with renewing their permits.

To support better programme quality and standardization of services provided across the sector, the Psychosocial Committee under the sector finalized the development of tools, including standardized job descriptions, memoranda of understanding, focus group discussion guides (for use with children, caregivers, and animators), and checklists to ensure safety and quality of activity sites. The group is currently working on a standardized format for measuring improvements in wellbeing attributable to these interventions. To date, over 23,000 girls and boys have participated in structured psychosocial activities: those are activities that recur over a period of time and engage children in a structured curriculum or programme.



FUNDING
Required

43.4 m



PEOPLE
Target

571,172 (People Targeted)



PARTNERS

30 partners in Lebanon

Count of partners per area of operation

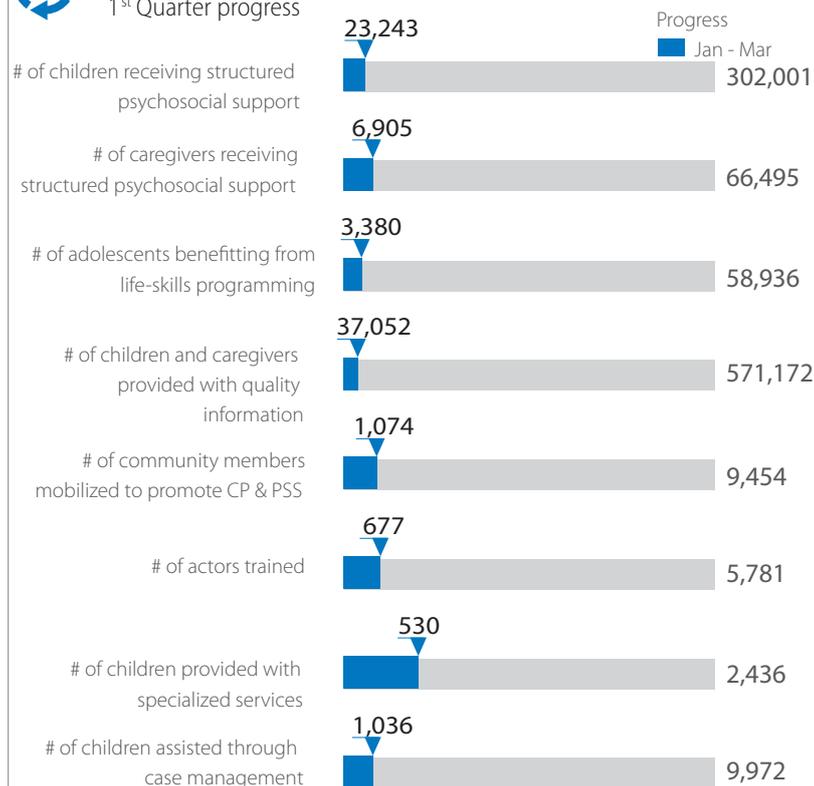


During the initial months of the year some partners may use un-earmarked global funds to ensure programmes can begin in the absence of funding earmarked specifically for the sector



PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

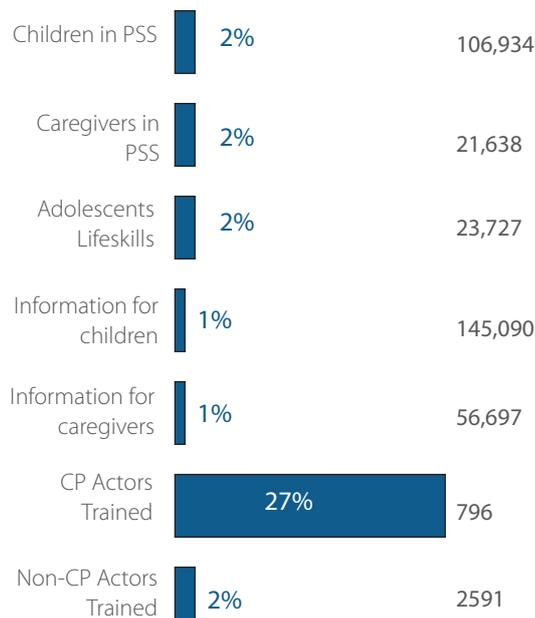
1st Quarter progress



SUPPORT TO LEBANESE

Lebanese Returnee and Affected Lebanese

% Progress against target





Progress towards sector Outcomes and Outputs in Quarter 1

Implementation of the LCRP commenced in child protection commenced with a variety of activities to reduce vulnerabilities and address child protection concerns. Organizations are working to set-up programmes, solidify partnership agreements, and secure funds. Following the launch of the 'National Plan to Safeguard Children and Women in Lebanon' by Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) with the support of UNICEF in November 2014, identified child protection actors developed local action plans for the implementation of prevention and response activities to mitigate children and women at risk in and around the Social Development Centers (SDCs) of MoSA. The plans were endorsed amongst 32 SDCs and activities should commence from the next quarter.

Amongst the main child protection concerns identified in the first quarter of 2015 are child labour and out-of-school children, each negatively impacting the other. Families are resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as child labour, due to the social-economic challenges and deteriorating security situation. Children work in a variety of settings, including stores, garages, agriculture, construction, and begging/selling items on the street – many of which are categorized as the worst forms of child labour as they are hazardous for their wellbeing and health.

To support greater understanding of this issue, a country-wide profiling, "[Children Living and Working on the Streets in Lebanon: Profile and Magnitude](#)" was published in February by UNICEF, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and Save the Children International, in coordination with the National Steering Committee against Child Labour. The research identified four main driving factors that cause children to live or work on the streets, including social exclusion, vulnerability of households, displacement, and organised crime and exploitation of children.

Child labour is addressed through the child protection emergency case management system as well as through psychosocial support and life-skills programmes. Ad hoc discussions have also begun on how to address the issue of child labour in a holistic and strategic way and in coordination with the National Plan of Action in addressing child labour.

In addition, birth registration of children born to Syrian and Palestinian parents continued to be raised as a major concern. In February, with the launch of its "[Birth Registration Update- Challenges of birth registration in Lebanon for refugees from Syria](#)", NRC declared Birth Registration Month with a series of events, including a photograph exhibition entitled **I AM HERE AND I EXIST**, to engage all communities and increase awareness about the importance of registering the births of babies in Lebanon.

According to the NRC report, **92% of the refugees interviewed were not able to complete the possible legal and administrative steps to register the births of their children** born in Lebanon (see Figure 1). Of these, 65% was due to a lack of information on birth registration steps and 43% for parents not having a valid residency visa. Although the risk of not having a legal identity and potential statelessness among refugee children is particularly acute; NRC emphasises that most parents can follow at least the initial steps, obtaining a birth certificate for their baby.

These findings are corroborated by child protection monitoring data. For example, actors undertaking monitoring in Tripoli found in February that 46% of unregistered births were due to the lack of documentation by parents, mainly marriage, and 54% were for the lack of awareness amongst parents of the importance of birth registration and lack of documentation as the main barriers.



Figure 1: Reasons (by percentage) of interviewed refugees for not completing the birth registration process



Changes in context in Quarter 1

A WFP verification exercise on the use of the food voucher e-card undertaken in January 2015 resulted in assistance being suspended to approximately 18,000 people in the North of Lebanon (Akkar and Tripoli+5). Of these, 84% were children. This raised concerns that parents would increasingly send their children to work – and remove them from school – to help families meet their basic needs. As further reductions in assistance is expected, monitoring of these issues will be vital to understanding how families are coping and whether they are resorting increasingly to negative coping mechanisms.

Furthermore, changes to the entry and renewal policies for Syrians in Lebanon are greatly impacting children and families, both those already in Lebanon and those wishing to now enter. Since January 2015, there have been multiple reports of family separations due to the new entry policies. Situations include children in Syria being unable to join their parents already in Lebanon, unaccompanied children unable to seek protection in Lebanon, or parents who are in Syria – either because they initially remained or they returned briefly – who are now unable to enter Lebanon. These policies are similar to ones applied to Palestine refugees from Syria from May 2014, after which Palestinians experienced - and continue to experience - similar situations by application of the policies.

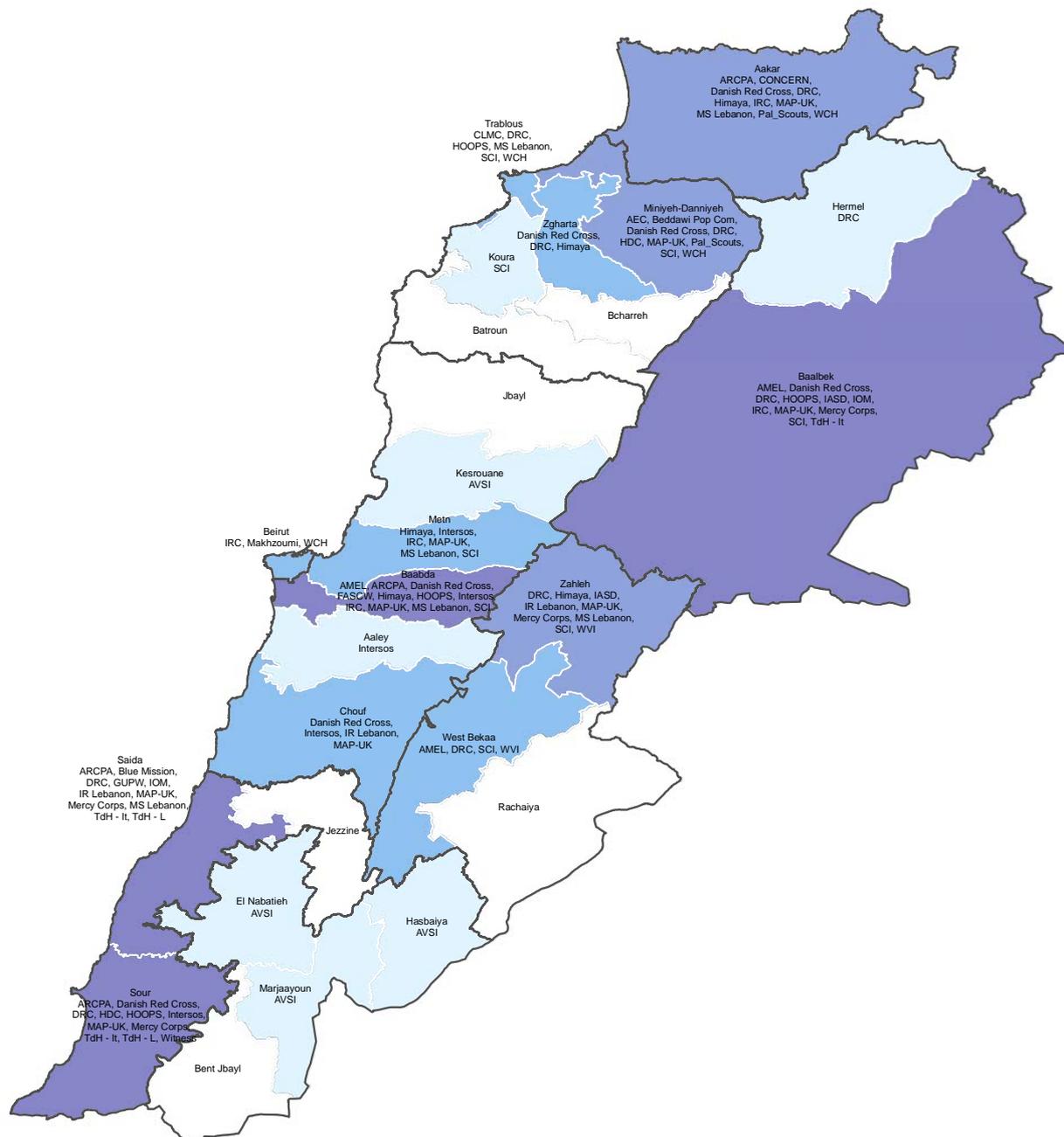
Changes to policies on renewing residency permits in Lebanon are also impacting children, particularly already vulnerable and at-risk adolescents. Children who are here without their parents or caregivers are experiencing difficulty in renewing their residency, as are those who already have identified child protection concerns and vulnerabilities even if they are with their families. Difficulty in finding a Lebanese sponsor, especially one willing to take on the responsibility of ‘pledging’ for vulnerable/at-risk adolescents, has been identified as one reason children are facing this difficulty.



Number of Partners per Caza/District

March 2015

A Total Number of 30 Organizations Currently Report Their Activities



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Legend

- Governorate
- District

of CPiE Organisations

- 0
- 1
- 2 - 6
- 7 - 10
- 11

Reporting Partners:

AEC, AMEL, AVSI, Beddawi Popular Committee, CLMC Lebanon, Danish Red Cross, DPNA, DRC, FASCW, GUPW, HDC, Himaya, HOOPS, Interos, IOM, IR Lebanon, IRC, ISAD, Makhzoumi, MAP-UK, Mercy Corps, MS Lebanon, Palestinian Scouts & Guides Association, SCI, SOS Village, TdH - It, TdH - L, WCH, Witness, WVI

This map does not include Case Management actors as this is reported at Governorate level.