



SOCIAL STABILITY

January - August 2018 Dashboard



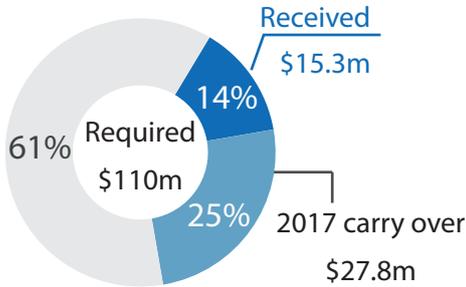
Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

This dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response and highlights trends affecting people in need. Social Stability partners in Lebanon are working to:

- Strengthen municipalities, national and local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure (Outcome 1);
- Strengthen municipal and local community capacity to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts (Outcome 2);
- Enhance LCRP capacities on early warning and conflict sensitivity (Outcome 3).

2018 Funding Status

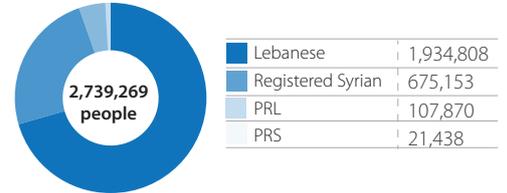
as of 30 June 2018



Targeted Communities



of population in cadastres reached by SoSt Partners



PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS

Outputs

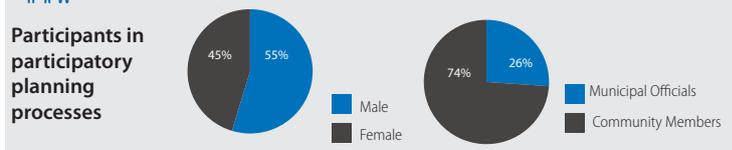
Output	reached / target
# of municipalities receiving Community Support or Basic Service Projects	53 / 150
# of municipalities implementing/using integrated solid waste management systems & approaches	36 / 50
# of local mechanisms promoting social stability established and linked to central level	978 / 894
# of community policing pilots municipalities and related management system set up	9 / 3
# of municipalities with self-functioning conflict mitigation mechanisms established	101 / 135
# of youth empowerment initiatives implemented	232 / 251
# of youth engaged in social stability initiatives	17,109 / 35,000
# of media & social media engaged in initiatives to defuse tensions	4 / 80
# of journalists, media students and academic trained or engaged	23 / 240
# of partners staff trained on conflict sensitivity	169 / 261
# of early warning/conflict analysis reports published	10 / 11

Outcomes

Outcome	LCRP 2017 Baseline		Aug 2018 Current		2018 Target	
	SYR	LEB	SYR	LEB	SYR	LEB
OUTCOME 1:						
% of people living in vulnerable areas reporting positive impact of municipalities on their lives*	45%	64%	74%	81%	50%	70%
% of people living in vulnerable areas reporting competition for MUNICIPAL and SOCIAL services and utilities as source of tension*	22%	34%	24%	39%	20%	25%
% of people living in vulnerable areas who feel that they can voice concern with authorities in case of dissatisfaction*	29%	51%	46%	37%	35%	60%
OUTCOME 2:						
% of people living in vulnerable areas able to identify conflict resolution mechanisms/actors in their community they would turn to*	21%	20%	25%	18%	25%	25%
% of people living in vulnerable areas identifying factors that could improve inter-community relationships*	79%	49%	82%	69%	85%	60%
% of people displaying propensity for violent conflict resolution*	31%	53%	49%	78%	25%	45%
OUTCOME 3:						
Proportion of LCRP partner informed on stability risks & trends and able to integrate conflict sensitivity in their programming**	75%		69%		80%	
# of LCRP sectors taking steps to include social stability consideration in their work***	1		5		3	

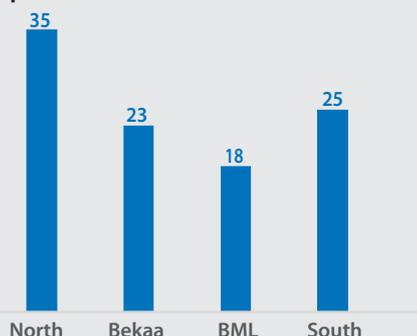
*Source: ARK wave IV **Source: Conflict Sensitivity and Social Stability Mainstreaming Survey ***Source: LCRP 2019 planning process

Gender/Type Breakdown

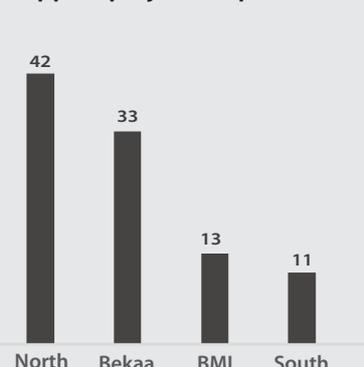


ANALYSIS

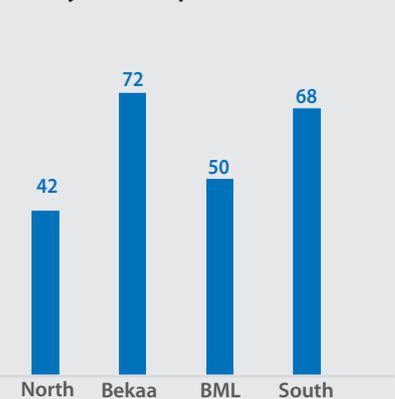
of municipalities with newly established dialogue and conflict prevention initiatives



of municipal and community support projects implemented



of youth empowerment initiatives



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 100 municipal and community support projects, in total worth approximately 7m USD, alleviated resource pressure and enhanced service delivery.
- 64 municipalities and Unions are better able to reach out to communities and develop strategic plans, having benefited from capacity building and mentoring programmes.
- 95 SDC staff trained to facilitate local dialogue and conflict prevention initiatives.
- 101 new dialogue and conflict prevention mechanisms established to bring community members together and jointly discuss local conflict risks and measures to mitigate them.
- 17,109 youth participated in community engagement and other inter-community dialogue initiatives.
- 35 municipalities benefitted from solid waste management projects worth in total USD 1.7m.



Facts and Figures

251 cadastres identified as most vulnerable

(Source: Vulnerability Map)

95% of people believe the Lebanese people have been good hosts to refugees since 2011

(Source: 2018 ARK/UNDP Perceptions Survey)

94% of people agree that the presence of so many Syrian refugees is placing too much strain on Lebanon's resources like water and electricity

(Source: 2018 ARK/UNDP Perceptions Survey)

18% of Syrian families have experienced verbal or physical harassment in the last three months

(Source: 2018 ARK/UNDP Perceptions Survey)

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACT(S)

The sector witnessed a notable increase in activities implemented in April through August of 2018 across all three of the outcome areas. While the number of municipal support projects lagged in 2017 and the first four months of 2018, the vast number of planned community and municipal support projects to address priority needs and reduce resource pressures have started to bring results. Meanwhile, the numbers of conflict dialogue mechanisms, community-led participatory planning processes, and youth initiatives have continued to proliferate in the last four months. More is planned for the remainder of the year and into 2019. Only limited fresh funds coming in, meaning that the sector remains relatively under-funded, despite a substantial carry-over of funds from 2017. Overall, the sector is reaching 155 municipalities and Unions of Municipalities, greater than the 138 reached in the second quarter of 2017.

Positively, with 154 municipalities and Unions of Municipalities benefitting from capacity building support, the number of municipalities is on track to meet its target of 212 for 2018. In addition, with 64 committees established, the number of community-led participatory planning committees is also on track to meet its 2018 target of 100. These initiatives are vital in increasing trust in local public institutions as they both meet community needs and serve to bolster trust amongst stakeholders. This is done by bringing together a broad range of stakeholders to identify community needs and initiatives in a participatory manner, often including Syrian and Lebanese voices to solve issues collaboratively. However, this is becoming more challenging in the context of decreasing interactions between host communities and refugees (see below, 'Challenges'). Given new research highlighting the importance of conflict dialogue mechanisms¹ – particularly working in tandem with other types of assistance – to reduce propensities to violence, further work to bring communities together to jointly discuss grievances needs to remain a priority of the sector.

Another growing area of the sector is the work with youth. 232 new initiatives are under way in 2018, often involving youth in planning activities, as well as in programmes that build life skills. This is well on the way to achieving the target of 251 projects, or at one initiative per vulnerable cadaster. Although the sector will likely not reach the same number of youths as in 2017 (near 50,000), 18,427 have already been engaged, meaning that this area of work remains significant.

With 60 new municipal and community support projects – taking the total to 100 new projects implemented this year – is encouraging, though is still falling short of the target of 200 for the year. These projects, designed to alleviate pressure on services at the community level, remain the primary point of concern for the sector as they are key in contributing to social stability, particularly as the number of people identifying services and utilities as a source of tension has been rising steadily over the past year. 36.1% of Syrian and Lebanese present in Lebanon now see this as a tension point in their communities, up from 22.6% in May 2017. At the same time, trust in municipalities to make a positive impact on peoples' lives is increasing, from 70.6% in May 2017 to 79.5% in July 2018. Thus, there is an opportunity to capitalize on this increasing trust placed in municipalities to deliver services by supporting them to alleviate service pressures for tensions to be reduced.

Additionally, support to municipal police continues to grow. Thus far, 52 mayors have taken part in the recruitment of female municipal police personnel, while a further 20 mayors have undergone trainings on transforming their municipal police on community policing. Overall and in the long term, this is likely to contribute to municipalities not undertaking restrictive measures on refugees themselves, but to rely instead on trusted municipal forces. The percentage of municipalities imposing curfews on their refugee populations, Impact Indicator 5.1, rising to 54% in September 2017 from 43% in May of that year, indicates that there is still much work to do in this area.

Overall, the sector is on course to meet its targets, though will likely face a multitude of contextual challenges in the coming months that will require a scaling up of the sector as a whole in order to ensure that social stability is maintained.

¹Ark & UNDP, 'Regular Surveys on Social Tensions throughout Lebanon, Wave III', (May 2018) - <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/64953>

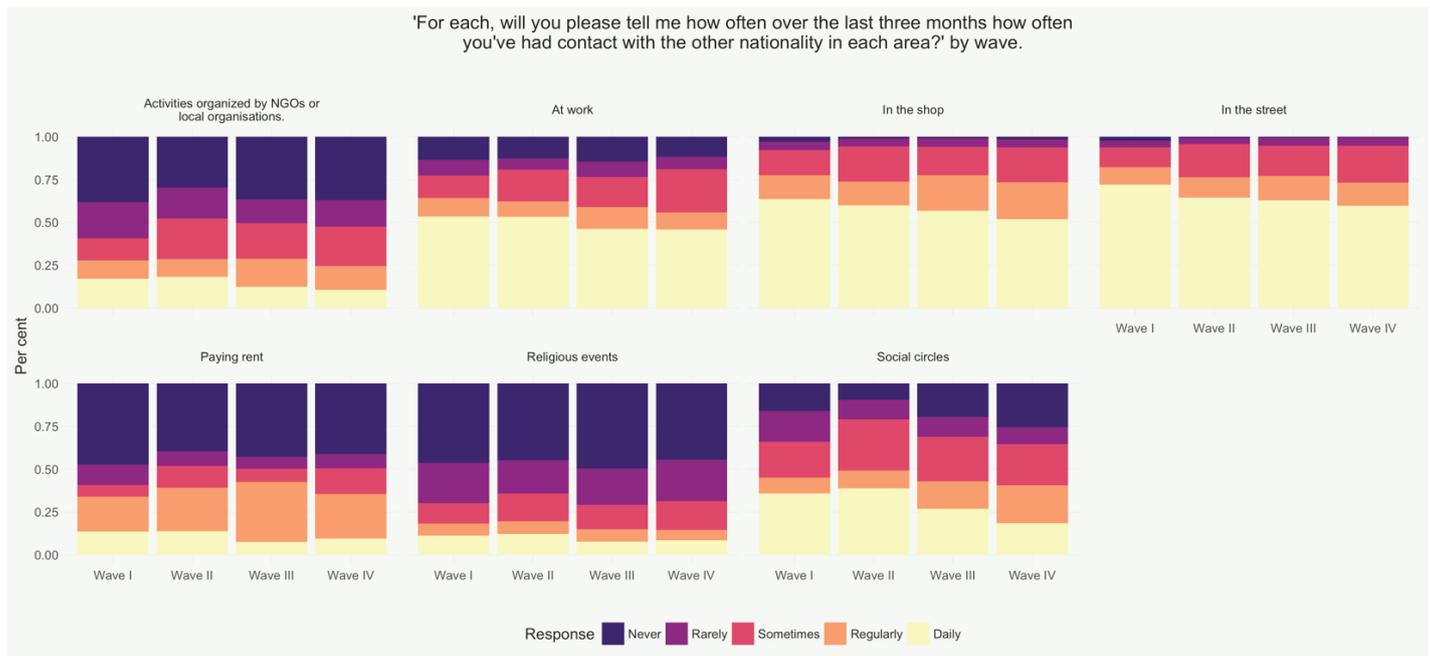
A confluence of factors has made the maintenance of social stability more challenging in the past four months and will pose new challenges in the near future. First, the protracted presence of Syrian refugees, and their perceived negative impact on Lebanese host communities, has re-emerged in the national discourse since the national parliamentary elections in May 2018. The issue, which remained relatively dormant for the duration of the campaign period, has re-emerged in popular narratives, catalyzed by hardened political stances and propagated by the media.

This has meant that certain factions have pushed for the returns of Syrian refugees to be accelerated. That discourse has likely contributed to some elements of local authorities and host community members taking actions to expedite the returns of refugees themselves. For instance, the trend of increasing restrictions on refugee communities has continued as the municipality-ordered curfews are now imposed in over half of the municipalities in Lebanon, having increased steadily through late 2017 and into 2018. During the same period, evictions notices were observed across all regions, particularly in the Bekaa and Mount Lebanon. Close cooperation with lead ministries (MoSA as well as MoIM) proved successful in advocating for an easing of restrictions, though the sheer number of communities living under threat of eviction poses a risk to stability.

In addition, refugees are now far more likely to report that either they or a member of their family have been verbally harassed in the last three months as 30% of Syrians report in June 2018, compared to 20% in May 2017. Equally, Syrians are also less likely to trust local authorities as if they witness an incident, only 8% would turn to the authority, compared to 18% at the beginning of the year.

Lastly, the sector continues to suffer from a lack of longer-term funding to build social stability. Multi-year funding would allow much greater planning and more ambitious projects to maintain social stability - whether they are conflict dialogue mechanisms, or direct support to municipalities to deliver services – is much needed for a sustainable delivery of the response.

These developments contribute to an overarching trend of decreasing intercommunal contact between refugees and host communities as observed in the chart below. Given the correlation between higher intercommunal contact and better quality of relations, this poses another contextual challenge to social stability.



KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN FOR THE NEXT 4 MONTHS

The primary concern for the sector is to account for the contextual changes and to ensure that a plan is in place in 2019 for a greater response to maintain social stability. Second, the sector will continue its close monitoring of the tensions landscape between community groups as the returns themselves – as well as the discourse around them – are likely to continue over the coming months. At present, the extent of the returns is yet to be known, though, based on current observations, what is likely is that the pressure to return will grow. Finally, the Social Stability sector will complete its work on mainstreaming conflict sensitivity and 'do no harm' into the sectors of the LCRP – a key pillar of the response. Training will be rolled out in September and October while specific engagement with sector Core Groups is planned to ensure that the 2019 response is strategized with conflict sensitivity in mind.

Conflict Sensitivity: Stories that Shape the Concept

House of Peace (HOPe)² held two roundtables in July and August 2018 with diverse participants coming from different organisations and backgrounds. The aim of these roundtables was to reflect on the concept of conflict sensitivity and to put forward recommendations based on grassroots stories and perspectives collected from the field.

Real-life stories have been shared with House of Peace during the past 3 years, throughout 70 Social Peace Workshops and Conflict Sensitivity Trainings held with more than 690 participants in Lebanon and Syria. After thorough classification of all collected stories, it has come to HOPe's attention that many recurring and widespread issues facing Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese host communities are related to conflict sensitivity, encouraging HOPe to investigate the topic more intensely with concerned stakeholders.



Social activists, researchers, and participants from local and international NGOs and UN agencies met during the roundtables and discussed the shortcomings of the conflict sensitivity concept, the challenges that face them in the field, and what should be done to improve the adoption and application of the concept. Experience showed that despite the availability of so many tools and capacity building programs, humanitarian organisations largely do not take conflict sensitivity into consideration when developing or implementing their interventions, leading to many unintentional negative consequences.

HOPe argued that this lack of application of the conflict sensitivity principles in the field is not only a matter of practicality or technicality. The conceptualisation and the framework of the concept itself has many shortcomings, related to unclear scope of recommended analyses, controversial definition of positive or negative impacts, frustrating framework for field staff, and other points. However, this is not to say that the concept is not feasible or functional. On the contrary, analysing the concept critically aims at improving its position and enhancing its application.

Participants shared varied field stories and observations. For instance, they agreed that NGOs take emergencies as an excuse for not acting in a conflict sensitive way. Being concerned in achieving immediate results prohibit those in the field from sensing their intervention's impact on the longer term, for example.

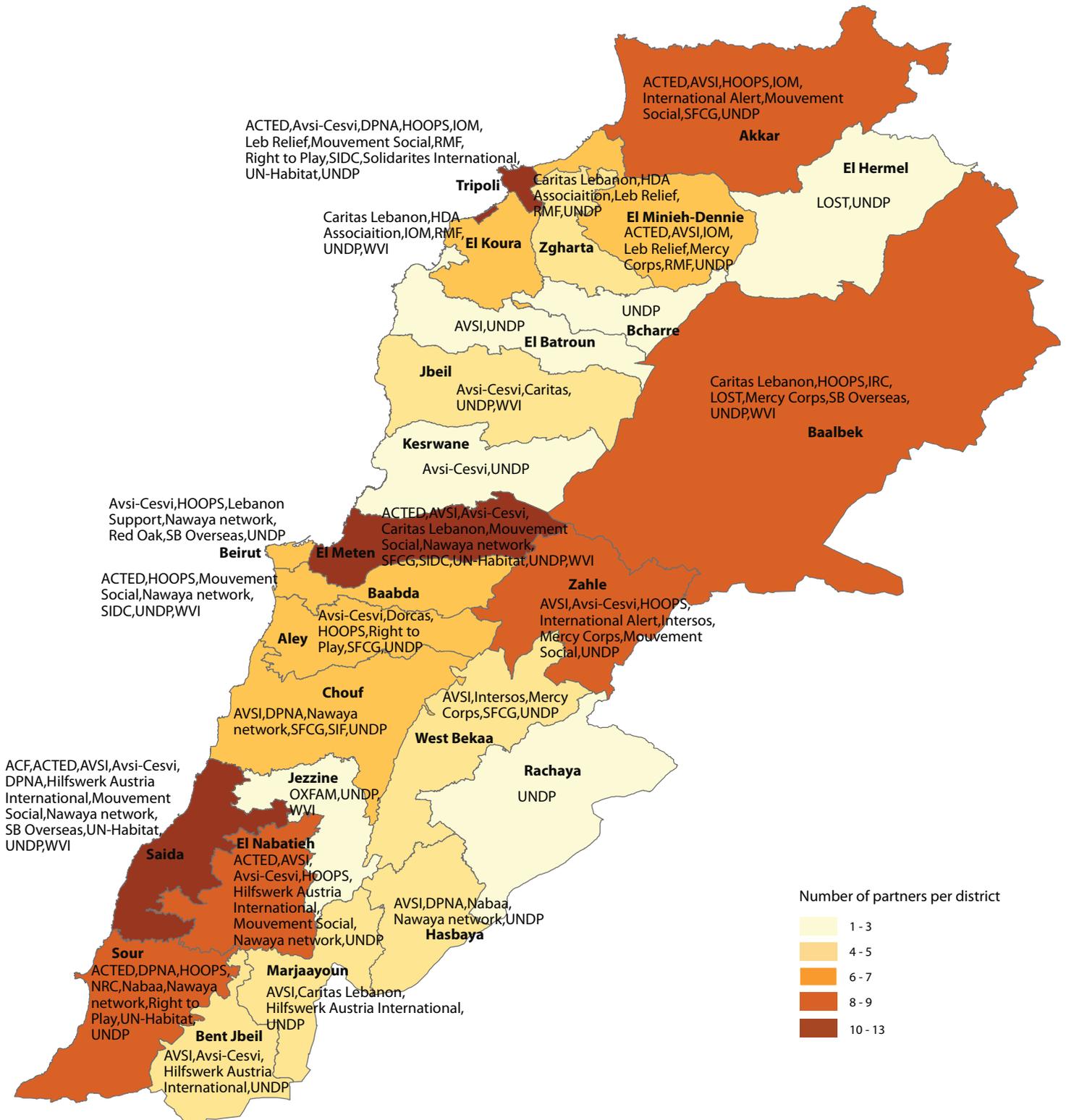
Finally, when drawing recommendations, participants emphasised the importance of integrating conflict sensitivity in all program development stages, investing the capacity building of NGO staff and government officials, conducting participatory analysis and exchanging lessons learnt, and encouraging consortium-based programs. Overall, the impact of the roundtables was that participants gained a more sophisticated but also more practical understanding of conflict sensitivity, underlining how it can be applied to their work to ensure that harm is minimized. All these discussions and recommendations will be presented through the 4th issue of Their Voices papers, developed by House of Peace, voicing grassroots perspectives and narratives to enhance best practices in the field of social peacebuilding.

²House of Peace, a social peacebuilding organisation that aim at enhancing social peace within local communities by providing space, tools and support to local community groups and humanitarian NGOs. HOPe accompanies and incubates community-based initiatives that create dialogues spaces for people coming from different backgrounds. Also, HOPe encourages and supports humanitarian NGOs to be more conflict sensitive by facilitating a process of analysis and action.



The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 35 organizations:

ACF, ACTED, AVSI, Avsi-Cesvi, Caritas Lebanon, DPNA, Dorcas, GAME, HDA Association, HOOPS, Hilfswerk Austria International, IOM, IRC, International Alert, Intersos, LOST, Leb Relief, Lebanon Support, Mercy Corps, Movement Social, NRC, Nabaa, Nawayya network, OXFAM, RMF, Red Oak, Right to Play, SB Overseas, SFCG, SIDC, SIF, Solidarites International, UN-Habitat, UNDP, WVI



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