

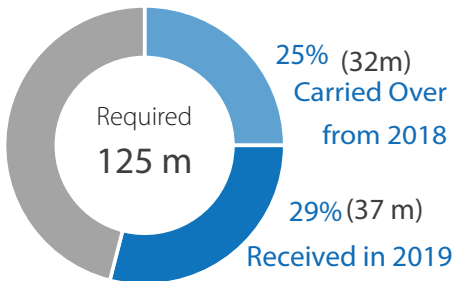


This dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response and highlights trends affecting people in need. Social Stability in Lebanon are working to:

- 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 tension monitoring and conflict sensitivity (Outcome 3).

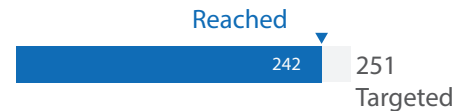
2019 Funding Status in USD

as of 31 December 2019



Targeted Population groups

251

 Communities in need

Progress against targets

Key Achievements

reached / target

# local participatory planning processes conducted	28 / 100
# municipalities & union of municipalities benefitting from capacity building support	110 / 212
# municipal and community support projects implemented to address priority needs identified following participatory processes	349 / 200
USD invested in municipal and community support projects	\$ 15.4 m / \$ 66.2 m
# new local and municipal dialogue and conflict prevention initiatives	25 / 135
# youth-led initiatives implemented	67 / 251
# youth engaged in social stability initiatives	18,318 / 35,000
# municipalities reporting on social stability to MOIM central security cell	620 / 600

0%

100%

Outcomes

LCRP 2017/2020 Baseline Dec 2019 Reached 2020 Target

OUTCOME 1

	SYR	LEB	SYR	LEB	
% of people reporting positive impact of municipalities on their lives*	45%	64%	67%	71%	85%
% of people living in vulnerable areas reporting competition for municipal and social services and utilities as source of tension*	22%	34%	15%	28%	30%
% of people living in vulnerable areas who feel that they can voice concern with authorities in case of dissatisfaction*	29%	51%	33%	51%	70%

OUTCOME 2

% of people living in vulnerable areas able to identify conflict resolution mechanisms/actors in their community they would turn to*	92%	92%	82%	95%	95%
% of people displaying propensity for violence*	31%	53%	41%	61%	40%

OUTCOME 3

Proportion of LCRP partners informed on stability risks and trends and able to integrate conflict sensitivity in their programming**	75%	78%	80%
Number of LCRP sectors taking steps to include social stability considerations in their work***	1	4	6

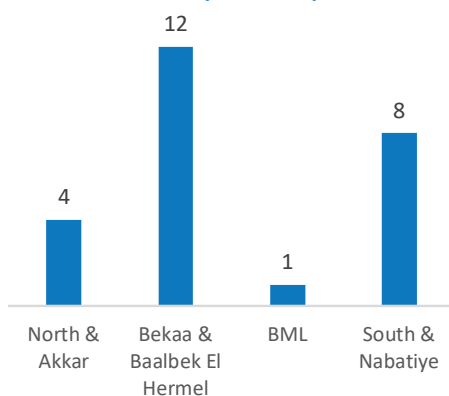
*: UNDP& ARK, Regular Perceptions Survey on Social Tensions

** : Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Survey

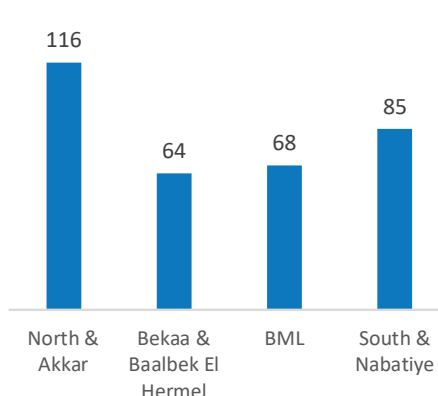
***: LCRP 2019 Planning Process

Analysis

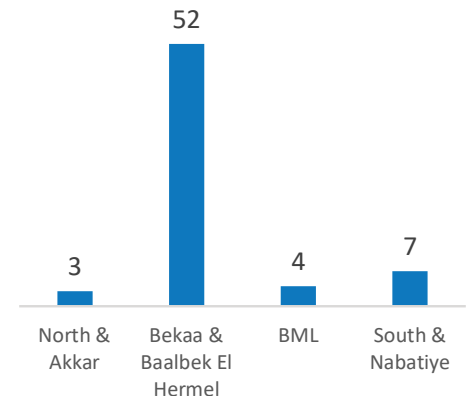
municipalities with newly established dialogue and conflict prevention initiatives (in 2019)



municipal & community support projects implemented (in 2019)



Number of youth-led initiatives (in 2019)





KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACT(S)

Social Stability partners fulfilled many of the targets set for their activities in 2019, though faced numerous contextual challenges - including nationwide protests starting from 17 October - and a lack of new funding that hampered their impact. The sector expanded in its reach, covering 242 communities by the end of the year, which is a 7% increase from the 227 reached in 2018. This growth was primarily driven by a significant increase in basic service and community support projects that address resource strains and infrastructure needs at the community level. At the same time, the sector faced challenges in implementing new dialogue mechanisms that seek to address the root causes of conflict.

In 2019, the number of municipal and community support projects implemented to address priority needs through participatory processes increased significantly. With 349 new projects completed, partners exceeded the target of 200 projects by a large margin. The shift towards this type of programming was well received by the Inter-Sector Coordination Team, which had been recommending a greater focus on infrastructure and – in particular – solid waste management initiatives. These initiatives are designed to be implemented in areas experiencing chronic underinvestment in services and infrastructure to relieve competition over those services. To that end, these projects are concentrated in 110 cadasters, the vast majority of which are in the 251 most vulnerable cadasters. While good progress has been made in this regard, the funding invested (USD15.4M) still falls considerably short of the estimated USD66.3M required to comprehensively address the needs of the most vulnerable in Lebanon.

In terms of coverage, sector partners have comprehensively covered the different Governorates across the country, particularly in the North and Akkar where 116 projects have been completed. In 2020, partners should also concentrate on the Bekaa and Baalbeck-Hermel, where only 64 projects (or 18% of the national total) are being implemented. This is an area of work that will require continued support in 2020 as to meet needs as 'competition for resources and services' continues to be a widely-cited source of tension with nearly a quarter (24%) of Lebanese and Syrians stating that this is a source of tension in their area in July 2019.¹

Less positive progress was made in 2019 regarding the sector's softer components, including dialogue forms and establishing youth initiatives. In total, just 25 new initiatives aimed at addressing grievances through dialogue were established, far short of the target of 135. This contrasts starkly with the output level achieved in 2018, when 115 initiatives were established and running across the country. Given research highlighting the importance of conflict dialogue mechanisms to reduce propensities to violence², further work to bring communities together to jointly discuss grievances needs to remain a priority of the sector. This decrease can be explained by the fact that many of the partners who were running dialogue mechanisms pivoted towards implementing basic service and community support projects, following a significant rise in competition over services and utilities that was observed in 2018.

A number of partners continued to work with youth in 2019. Although the sector did not reach the same number of youths as in 2017 (near 50,000) and 2018 (24,378), the sector partners still reached still 18,318, constituting a significant element of social stability programming. These initiatives often involve youth in planning activities, as well as in programs that build life skills. Continuing with this programming in 2020 will be important too, especially as youth have emerged with the most polarized views on other community groups.³

An area of continued success in the sector in 2019 was the increasing awareness of conflict sensitivity with a total of 161 individuals trained from different organizations across all sectors of the LCRP response. A sizeable proportion of partners (89%) now state that they take steps to ensure knowledge is captured from analysis and is translated into programmatic changes. In addition, 86% of partners now state that their sector is conflict sensitive, an increase from 46% when compared to 2018. These figures point to a strong foundation which has been laid for partners to expand this area of work as a key focus in 2020.



CHALLENGES

A series of major contextual challenges occurred in 2019 that hampered progress for sector partners. Beginning in January, severe storms hit Lebanon bringing extreme weather conditions that necessitated an emergency response. Social Stability partners monitored the situation, in particular offering support on conflict sensitive responses to host communities.

Following the storms, a number of decisions were taken by the Higher Defense Council (HDC). The decisions included an order to demolish hard structures that refugees were residing in informal settlements. Tensions were heightened during the implementation of this decision which caused significant disruption in terms of rubble management, particularly in Aarsal.

Then, on 17 October, nationwide protests erupted with host community members voicing their grievances against the Government of Lebanon. Despite the significant disruption, sector partners largely managed to maintain the implementation of projects through their networks with local communities. However, issues with road blocks meant that delivery of equipment, for instance hardware needed for solid waste management, struggled to arrive at times at the needed localities.

1. Ark & UNDP, 'Regular Surveys on Social Tensions throughout Lebanon, Wave VI', (September 2019)

2. Ark & UNDP, 'Regular Surveys on Social Tensions throughout Lebanon, Wave III', (May 2018)

3. UNDP & ARK, 'Regular Perceptions Survey on Social Tensions in Lebanon', Wave VI (September 2019). 18-24 year olds have the lowest proportion of respondents characterizing relations as 'neutral', and are instead more likely to characterize relations as either 'very positive' or 'very negative'

In addition to this contextual challenge, the sector continues to suffer from a lack of new longer-term funding. Multi-year funding would allow much greater planning and more ambitious projects to maintain social stability.



KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN FOR 2020

Tensions not only between refugees and host community members, but also between different host community groups, grew in 2019.⁴ The national protests that began in October are likely to unify certain Lebanese groups, though entrenched divides amongst others – carrying with it implications on how perceptions of refugees may change over time and geography. Investing in research and analysis on understanding the new dynamics will be key if programming tailored to the local contexts are to be implemented. This will be the immediate priority for the sector in early 2020.

In an atmosphere of heightened scrutiny over the nation's finances, sector partners can also be expected to come under closer examination from host community members. In this context, another key priority will be in continuing its work on mainstreaming conflict sensitivity and 'do no harm'. Understanding how the recipients, location and modality of assistance in 2020 will affect conflict dynamics will be vital if operational space is to be preserved.

Finally, a foreseeable gap for 2020 is in terms of funding. The economic crisis facing the country is creating new challenges, with vulnerable host community members having emerged more clearly than previously as a particularly underserved group. As the only sector in the LCRP with the majority of beneficiaries being host community members, the Social Stability sector will require greater funding if it is to lead assistance delivery to these groups.

⁴ Ark & UNDP, 'Regular Surveys on Social Tensions throughout Lebanon, Wave VI', (September 2019)