Protection including Child Protection and GBV



This dashboard summarizes progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Protection sector in Lebanon aims to achieve the following results: OUTCOME 1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and have access to an effective justice and protection system; OUTCOME 2: Women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity are safe, empowered and supported in their communities; OUTCOME 3: Women, girls, men and boys in all their diversity live in dignity and are resilient to shocks.



Partners

56 contributing partners: ABAAD, ACTED, AMEL, Ana Aqra, AND, ARCPA, AVSI, Borderless, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CONCERN, DRC, Handicap International, HelpAge, Himaya, ICU, IMC, Insan, Intersos, IOCC Lebanon, IRC, JRS, KAFA, Key of Life, LAW, LECORVAW, Magna Lebanon, Makhzoumi, Migration Services and Development - MSD, Mouvement Social, Naba'a, Nabad, Near East Foundation, NRC, OXFAM, Plan International, PU-AMI, RI, RMF, SAWA Group, SCI, SFCG, SHEILD, Shift, SIF, Solidarités international, SWSL, Tabitha-Dorcas, TdH-It, TdH-L, UNHCR, UNRWA, UPEL, WCH, WRF, YNCA.

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1. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

In Q2, under output 1.1, protection partners provided awareness sessions on legal topics for 44,335 individuals (25% annual target; 53% women, 47% men, 10% children under 18 years old and older persons above 60 years old). The number of individuals reached through awareness sessions has increased monthly since the beginning of the year and in May and June targets exceeded 2021 figures. This is largely due to the absence of lockdown measures and fuel shortages.

Under output 1.2, the Protection sector provided legal aid in the form of legal counselling, assistance and representation to 62,849 individuals and households. This includes 32,172 households receiving civil documentation assistance (32% annual target; 97% Syrian, 3% Palestinian and 0.34% Lebanese); 22,552 individuals receiving services for legal status (56% annual target; 43% women, 57% men; 3% older persons, 1.4% person with disabilities); and 8,126 households receiving housing land and property (HLP) services and assistance as part of efforts to prevent and respond to risk of eviction (22% annual target; 91% Syrian, 3% Palestinian and 6% Lebanese). In Q2, protection partners were able to increase HLP service provision by 44% compared to the previous year due to the scale up of HLP services in 2022. The concentration of HLP services were provided in eviction prone locations in the Bekaa, Baalbek and Hermel and Mount Lebanon.

The SGBV/CP sector is on track in terms of legal counselling and representation for GBV and CP cases (46% of the target). However, devaluation of salaries and resulting strikes mean that the judicial sector is not working at full capacity, which delays survivors' access to justice (for example the issuance of life saving protection orders).

Under output 1.3, protection partners produced 13 products (protection monitoring, protection situation updates, Local NGO advocacy briefings) since the beginning of 2022 to inform advocacy efforts and responsive programming. Unfortunately, the sectors system strengthening and legal reform efforts have been negatively impacted by political deadlock and partners continue to face challenges in accessing public institutions for legal service provision.

From the beginning of the year, 732 institutional actors were trained on GBV prevention and response and 92% of them demonstrated an increase in knowledge between pre and post assessment. Moreover, GBV partners are supporting 23 local organizations and MOSA SDC to provide quality services across the country.

In Q2, under output 2.1, protection partners reached 283,444 individuals through community-based protection interventions, including 77,911 individuals participating in community and social development centres (SDCs) (63% annual target; 73% female, 27% male; 2% older persons, 1% persons with disability) and 205,533 individuals benefitting from information and awareness sessions, including individual consultations on how to access services (46% annual target; 59% female, 41% male; 1.6% older persons, 1% persons with disabilities). Importantly, the number of individuals accessing community centres on a monthly basis is consistently up from last year, likely due to transportation support being provided by partners; however efforts need to be made to ensure that these activities are more inclusive for older persons and persons with disabilities. An average of 2,371 outreach volunteers (64% female, 36% male; 1% persons with disability) provided information, feedback, and referrals for persons in their communities. This number has consistently declined since the start of the year, likely due to transportation costs and the decreased purchasing value of volunteer stipends reducing their ability to travel.

Child Protection sector partners were able to reach more than 22,301 children (51% girls and 49% boys) with Community-Based Child Protection activities, including Community-Based Psychosocial Support Services (69% are Syrian refugees, 30% are vulnerable Lebanese and 1% others including Palestine Refugees from Syria and Palestine Refugees from Lebanon). The numbers reached during the first half of 2022 represents only 26% of the overall sector target for this activity due to challenge s faced by Child Protection partners while outreaching different communities, namely the increased number of COVID-19 cases and transportation costs.

Under Output 2.2, in Q2, GBV partners provided targeted gender equality and empowerment activities to a total of 55,700 beneficiaries, both in Women and Girls in Safe Space and at community level . The targeted population is mainly female (85%) and adult (79%), noting there is an increasing target on adolescents (21%), Syrians (50%), 45% Lebanese and 5% of other nationalities. This trend indicates an increase in the reach of prevention activities from previous quarter, but still lower compared to last year. Prevention programmes show to have a positive impact on knowledge with 94% of community members involved showing an increase in knowledge and attitudes towards GBV (above the target of 75%). In line with the plan, GBV partners in Q2 conducted safety audits in 19 communities and 84% of women and girls reported feeling safer as result of action taken following audit recommendations.

Child Protection sector partners reached more than 9.323 caregivers (70% Syrian Refugees, 27% Lebanese and 3% others) with community-based child protection and positive parenting activities that aimed to raise the caregivers' awareness around key child protection issues, such as Child Labour and positive discipline. Noticeably, out of the total number of caregivers reached, 88% are female while only 12% are male, emphasizing the need to address male caregiver engagement in the Child Protection community-based activities in order to ensure effective engagement and behavioural change at the community and family levels. Additionally, more than 370 Social and Behavioural Change initiatives (82% out of the sector target) were conducted by Child Protection sector partners during the first half of 2022. The initiatives targeted communities through different awareness raising interventions on key child protection and GBV issues, mainly child marriage, Child Labour and positive parenting.

Under Output 2.3, 65% of all complaints and feedback received by protection agencies were received from women, however only 4% were older men and women and 1% were women and men living with a disability. This highlights the need for more inclusive complaint and feedback channels to support access for these groups . The sector is piloting the use of this indicator in an effort to promote greater inclusion in partner complaint and feedback mechanisms. In the next quarter the sector will hold specific discussions with partners on this topic to gather best practices and lessons learnt.



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Under output 3.1, protection partners reached 11,439 individuals with protection case management, individual counselling and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services (38% annual target; 59% female, 41% male; 15% older persons, 13% persons with disability). Nearly one fifth of individuals reached are Lebanese. Positively, partners are being able to reach consistently higher numbers of persons with disabilities in case management than in previous year s , with nearly double the number reached compared to 2020. This is due to a number of factors including improved data collection on the needs of persons with disability through the Washington Group Questions and improved partner outreach strategies. The majority of cases were reached in Mount Lebanon governorate. In addition, 4,208 persons with disabilities and older persons (48% female, 52% male) received specialised services in Q2, with 30% of these of Lebanese nationality and 17% older persons. In the reporting period, 21,316 individuals (34% annual target; 95% Syrian refugees) received emergency cash (ECA) and recurrent protection cash assistance to address protection threats. Partners reported that they had to scale up the use of ECA to respond to urgent threats of forced eviction. Governorates with the highest disbursement of protection cash were North, Mount Lebanon and the Bekaa.

For Child Protection, more than 8,105 children (67% boys and 33% girls) were reached with Child Protection Case Management services by Child Protection sector partners during the reporting period. Out of the total number reached, 80% are Syrian Refugees, 16% vulnerable Lebanese and 4% others (including Palestine Refugees from Lebanon and Palestine Refugees from Syria). The majority of the cases managed/followed-up on by Child Protection partners were related to Child Labour and Worst Forms of Child Labour (50% of the cases), followed by cases of Violent Discipline (22%) and Children in contact with the law (20%).

Additionally, Child Protection partners reached more than 16,050 children (55% girls and 45% boys) with Focused Psychosocial Support Services (FPSS) in Q2. More than 45% of them attended FPSS sessions related to violent discipline, while 37% attended Child Labour related sessions. Out of the total numbers reached, 53% are Syrian Refugees, 46% are vulnerable Lebanese and 1% others. Moreover, 4,197 caregivers (89% females and 11% males) were also reached with Focused Psychosocial Support and positive parenting sessions. Interestingly, 67% out of the total number of caregivers reached with FPSS are vulnerable Lebanese while only 32% are Syrian Refugees and 1% others due to the increased needs among Lebanese and Child Protection partners expanding their reach to vulnerable Lebanese.

From the beginning of the year to date, 35,228 women and girls, men and boys accessed SGBV services in safe spaces with an annual target of 90,000. 62% of beneficiaries served were Syrians and 37% Lebanese, with a focus on women and girls (95%). Services include age appropriate group activities for focused and non-focused Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) life skills and training sessions, age appropriate case management, referrals to specialized services including clinical management of rape (CMR), legal assistance, individual psychological counselling, and safe shelters options. Safe spaces are statics, mobile and virtual.91% of women and girls surveyed reported to feel empowered by accessing the safe space.

Referral trends:.

25,416 referrals were made to Protection, 7735 to Child Protection and 2380 to SGBV by the end of Q2 2022. 29% of the referrals made to protection were reported as not receiving feedback while 32% were acknowledged and 30% referrals were accepted.

The reporting of referrals to Child Protection partners demonstrates a similar concern in the quality of feedback being received on referrals by receiving agencies (29.4 % with no feedback received especially in the Bekaa and Akkar governorates, with an acceptance rate of 45%).

The SGBV sector has the highest rate of acceptance across the three protection streams with 65% of referrals accepted and only 13% of referrals not receiving feedback.

The high percentage of referrals that were reported as not receiving feedback is extremely concerning for the protection sector, and further follow up on the types of referrals and the reasons for low response rates amongst partners will be explored in the next quarter with specific discussions held in sector working groups.

Mainstreaming activities:

In Q2, 30 protection sector partners attended Gender in Humanitarian Action trainings to learn how to practically mainstream gender in assessments, planning, implementation and monitoring. Further, in April the Protection Mainstreaming Community of Practice was established consisting of twenty-five staff from 18 organisations, across regions and sectors, and an action plan will be put place until the end of 2022. Lastly, the Inter-Agency with support from the protection sector conducted six orientation sessions for partners on the newly updated Inter-Agency Referral Tools. 596 staff were introduced and trained on the use of the tools (352 Local NGO, 195 INGO, 10 GOL, 39 UN), across sectors (with highest attendance from the protection, education and livelihoods sectors) and across regions. The updated suite set of tools is available here: https://ialebanon.unhcr.org/#ServiceMapping





2. KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

In Q2, three key challenges were faced by sector partners in the implementation of protection interventions: the limited functioning of public administrative institutions and courts, transportation barriers to access services, and the impact of high-level Government of Lebanon public statements leading to a deterioration of the protection space. These risks correlate to Risk 4, 3 and 2 outlined in the LCRP Business Continuity Plan.

The limited functioning of administrative offices and courts vital to the provision of legal services – due to lack of electricity, shortage of basic supplies such as stamps, reduced opening hours at public institutions given difficulties for staff to reach work - continued to hamper legal actors' efforts to provide legal aid in a timely and responsive manner. Strikes by employees at the Personal Status Department (PSD) led to the complete suspension of all civil documentation processing. Protection partners continue to report significant difficulties for individuals to reach services due to increased transportation costs. Transportation barriers are leading to decreased numbers of community outreach volunteers providing information, feedback and referrals in Q2. This is concerning as a low number of older persons and persons with disability are approaching community centres. In response, several protection partners support individuals by providing cash to cover transportation costs to reach their services.

An uptick in restrictive measures was reported in quarter two which impacted the protection space including with protection partners reporting humanitarian access challenges, and additional information requests on the work of protection partner outreach volunteers. The protection sector will continue to monitor the situation in the next quarter.

3. KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER

Of particular concern in Q3 is the impact of increased costs to telecommunication lines which is likely to affect the ability of beneficiaries to receive assistance-related information from service providers, to provide feedback and complaints (to receive information from and communicate with sector partners), to maintain their social networks and will impact the delivery of community-based protection activities. As a result, and in view of continued and emerging external factors impacting the delivery of protection interventions, in Q3 the sector will conduct its annual survey with protection partners to assess the impact of external factors on the ability to deliver quality protection interventions and agree on mitigation measures ahead of the annual planning process for 2023.

The protection sector will continue to prioritise core protection interventions which provide individual response to high and medium risk cases through case management, individual MHPSS support and emergency and recurrent protection cash assistance. In light of increased anti-refugee sentiments in public discourse and an increase in restrictive measures, the sector will continue to monitor the impact on the protection space. From a coordination perspective, in Q3, the protection sector will work with health partners and the National MHPSS Task Force to develop a joint action plan for MHPSS interventions. Key priorities will include: safe identification and referral of cases with MHPSS concerns, responding to the increased need for qualified inpatient and outpatient care for drug abuse and addiction cases, including advocacy for increased funding requirements, and improved awareness raising, outreach and screening for individuals with MHPSS concerns. Furthermore, the protection and shelter sectors will hold a cross-sectoral and cross-regional individual eviction workshop to promote best practices and lessons learnt across Lebanon in individual eviction prevention and response. The protection mainstreaming community of practice will also hold a workshop on Accountability for Affected Populations with members in the form of panel discussions at the beginning of September 2022.

The GBV sector will work towards improving the quality of services with capacity building, improving data collection system with the roll out of the GBV IMS plus and advocate for access to justice, along with strengthen referrals to clinical management of rape services.

The Child Protection sector will also work with the GBV sector on developing and rolling out an operational, contextualized guidance on Caring for Child Survivors in Lebanon, in order to improve the coordination between Child Protection and GBV partners on the case management of children survivors of GBV.



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4. Case Study

Child Protection sector partners are working to provide a multi-sectoral comprehensive service package targeting children involved in Child Labor and Street-Connected Children, their caregivers and their communities. Through a project funded by the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) in February 2022, Sama for Development - as a implementing partner for TDH-Lausanne - started the implementation of an integrated project targeting Syrian Refugees, Palestine refugees from Syria and vulnerable Lebanese. The project aims to raise the communities' awareness on the risks and dangers of Child Labor through awareness raising campaigns, Social and Behavioral Change Initiatives as well as Community-Based Psychosocial Support interventions. As a second layer, Sama for Development in collaboration with TDH-L, provide positive parenting sessions and focused psychosocial support services to the children and caregivers of children involved/at risk of being involved in Child Labour. These interventions are all complementary to the Child Protection Case Management services during which the case worker sets a clear case plan with the child and his/her caregiver, in order to help meet their basic needs and alleviate the risk of Child Labour. As a result of this comprehensive package of services, including referrals to other sectoral interventions (such as education, livelihoods and food security and agriculture), 69 children stopped working on the street and were protected and benefitted from educational opportunities, in addition to 74 children who reduced their working hours. One of the cases managed by Sama for Development is a family of five children and their parents. The case workers opened two case files for two of the children (10 and 14 years old) who were working on the street, selling tissues and collecting plastic from trash bins. As part of the action plans developed by case workers with the children and their parents, they conducted awareness raising sessions on key child protection principles, including child labor, and referred the children to education services. Now, the children go to school and help each other with their studies. The mother and her two adult daughters have been attending Focused Psychosocial Support sessions and were referred to attend vocational trainings to support the family with income generating activities. "We are happy and grateful for the change that happened to our family since the beginning of the case workers' interventions. Our children are more protected, they go to school now and they decreased their working hours." the mother stated as the case workers closed her children's cases and after a final follow-up visit.





Partners per governorate

