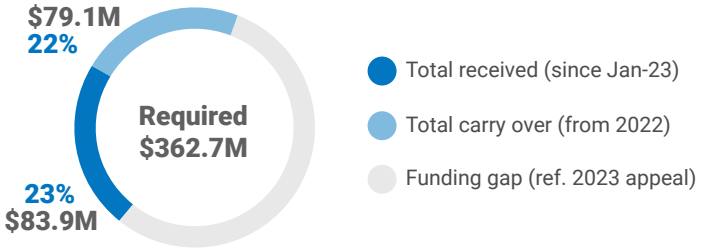
2023 3rd QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD
Education

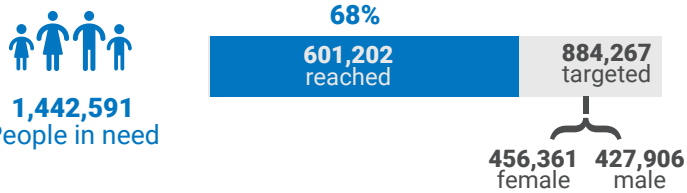
Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

This dashboard summarizes the progress made by the Government of Lebanon and Sector Partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Education Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) increased equitable and inclusive access to, participation in, and completion of safe and protective education for all learners in Lebanon, with a focus on the most vulnerable children and their caregivers; OUTCOME 2) improved learning outcomes for children and youth through enhanced quality of formal and non-formal education services that are safe, protective, inclusive, and adapted to multi-crisis situations; and OUTCOME 3) enhanced governance, managerial and knowledge management capacities of the education system to deliver high-level results relying on evidence-based decision-making.

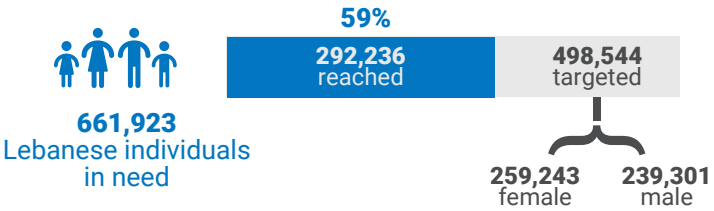
2023 Q3 Sector Funding Status
As of 07 November 2023

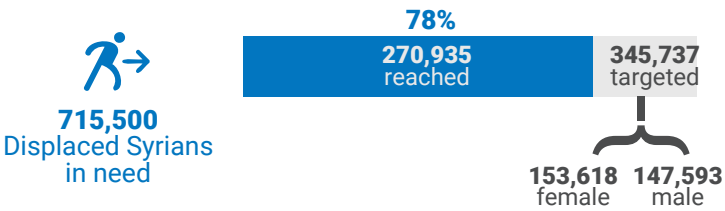


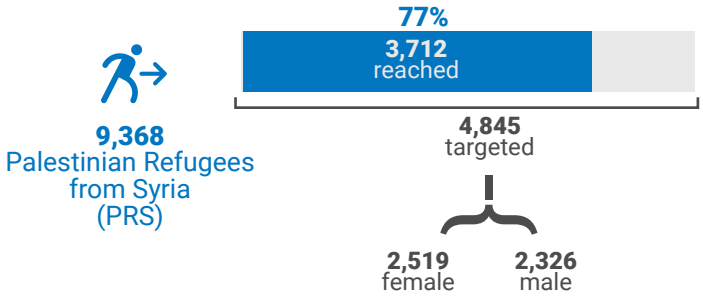
2023 population reached

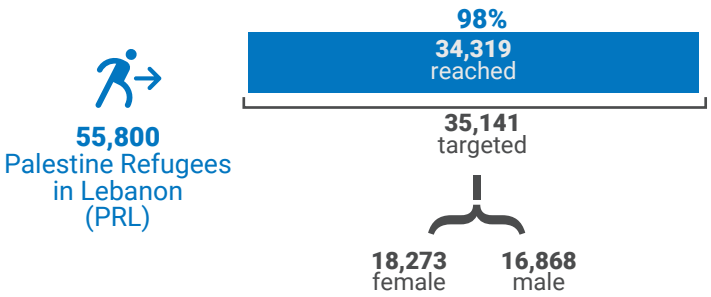


2023 population figures by cohort









Progress against targets

Key Achievements

# of school-aged children and youth (age 3-18) whose registration fees for public/UNRWA schools are partially or fully subsidised for 2022-2023 school year.	527,712/665,325
# of children and youth whose registration fees for regulated NFE programmes are partially or fully subsidised in 2023.	36,662 / 95,000
# of children and youth bene□tting from remedial or homework support programs in 2023.	41,430 / 28,450
# of parents/caregivers outreached with awareness sessions (on education and health).	35,592 / 65,000

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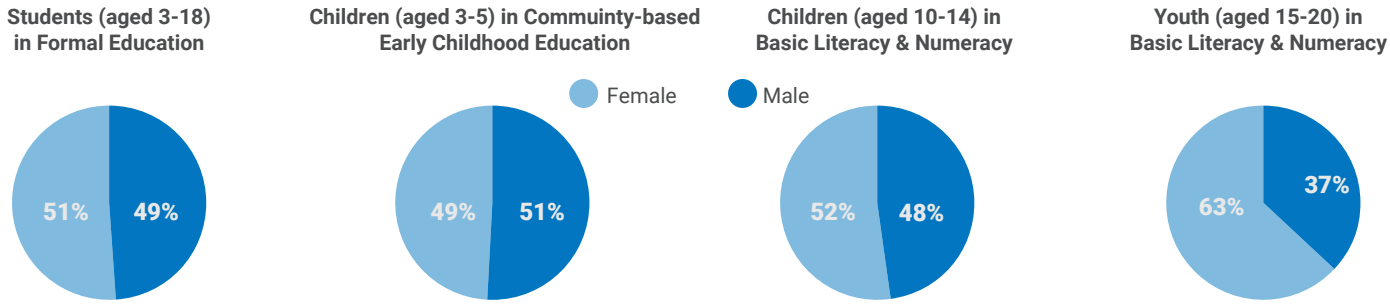
Gender Breakdown in Formal and Non-Formal Education



1. Multi-sectoral situation update

The economic situation in Lebanon remains dire in the third quarter of 2023, resulting in significant challenges for individuals and families. In August 2023, the annual inflation rate recorded a 229.8 per cent increase compared to August 2022, the 38th consecutive month of hyperinflation since the beginning of the crisis. The cost of living, as measured by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which includes expenses for food, essential goods, and services, reached LBP 30,472,087 in July 2023, a slight increase from June and up by 142 per cent compared to the SMEB cost in January 2023. The average price of bottled water in Lebanon up to September 2023 has witnessed a remarkable 16 per cent increase in USD value and a 2598 per cent increase in Lebanese pound (LBP) value compared to the prices in January 2021. Similarly, water trucking costs have soared dramatically, with a significant 297 per cent increase in USD value and 1665 per cent increase in LBP value over the same period. These soaring prices highlight the acute economic challenges faced by the population. In August 2023 alone, there was a significant price spike, with bottled water prices rising by 54 per cent in USD value and 57 per cent in Lebanese pound value, and water trucking prices increasing by 26 per cent in USD value and 29 per cent in Lebanese pound value. These steep price increases pose substantial challenges to access clean water in Lebanon.

At the beginning of Q3, a temporary decrease in raids undertaken by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) targeting displaced Syrians in informal settlements was witnessed compared to Q2. However, a shrinking protection space was observed in August and September with an increase in raids in Bekaa, movement restrictions and an uptick in border pushbacks. On 12 September, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM) addressed another circular to all Governors in Lebanon, to be further disseminated to municipalities and Mokhtars, regarding the presence of displaced Syrians. The circular included instructions to, inter-alia, conduct a data survey of displaced Syrians, report suspicious movements and gatherings of displaced Syrians and to request from all organizations, especially foreign ones, to coordinate their activities with the ministries, municipalities, and military and security agencies. Restrictions of movements including through curfews and searches at check points as well as confiscation of items such as internet routers, solar panels, and motorbikes were reported significantly impacting the feeling of safety and security and psychological wellbeing of displaced Syrians. The fear of deportation because of lacking legal residency was particularly reported by men, resulting in their limitations of movement and an increase of engagement of women and children in labour activities, accumulation of debts and other harmful coping mechanisms. In Q3, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) partners continued to observe rising trends in women and girls being exploited and exposed to sexual harassment and assault when working in farms and as domestic workers or in the streets. A spike in anti-gender rhetoric was observed resulting in a shrinking space to advocate for women's rights, diversity, and gender-based violence prevention and response programs.

As of July, inter-communal relations in Lebanon eased slightly after having experienced a peak in negative sentiments in the first and second quarter of 2023. Some 34 per cent of respondents now report negative inter-communal relations as compared to 46 per cent in March 2023 as per the UNDP-ARK Perception Survey. The main tension drivers continue to be economic such as competition for lower-skilled jobs and services such as electricity, healthcare, and waste management. Relations between Lebanese on the other hand have slightly deteriorated with 34 per cent rating intra-Lebanese relations as negative, compared to 21 per cent in March 2023. For the first time ever, economic competition was quoted as the main tension driver among Lebanese (58%), followed by political and sectarian conflict (51%).

2. Key achievements of the sector at the output level

Output 1.1 (Children, youth and their caregivers are provided with the necessary support to expand access to and retention in education)

Sector partners were able to support a total of 539,48 children (51% female) with access to education in public schools, 51 percent of whom were Lebanese children. VASyR 2023 data shows that more Syrian children were able to attend school over the last year (7.5%). This is related to the removal of administrative barriers for Syrian children entering Grade 1. For the school year 2022-23 the number of Syrian children in grade 1 was 22 percent of the total of Syrian children in schools.

In addition, due to the increased efforts of the sector, around 42,000 children were received retention support, which is nearly 150 percent of the total target (28,000). Furthermore, partners reported that 75,000 children were reached through non-formal education programmes, indicating reaching the target of 90,000 children by the end of the year. One of the main factors to this increase in numbers is the improved reporting by the sector partners as a result of the sector's reporting monitoring and quality assurance efforts.

Due to learning losses over the last several years and as part of Lebanon's National Learning Recovery Initiative, which benefits all Grades 1-9 students in public schools, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), and in collaboration with partners, launched the six months summer school on July 17, 2023, for the third consecutive year. The program aims to help students catch up on lost learning and prepare them for the upcoming school year. The essential program will ensure learning continuity for 157,941 children enrolled mainly in public and semi-private schools, and some in private schools, following the multiple learning disruptions they faced this year due to the teachers strikes. The 2023 Summer School was implemented in 588 public schools across the country , reaching Lebanese and non-Lebanese children. The curriculum included Math, Science, English/French, and Arabic. The program also nurtured children's wellbeing and socio-emotional learning through physical education, psycho-social support, and art activities, making the learning environment more fun and engaging. Healthy snacks were also provided to students attending around 260 schools to support their nutritional needs. In addition, the program provided cash assistance to help children with transportation costs, school supplies, and learning materials for students and teachers. It also supported the operational costs of the schools, children's insurance, and financial support for teachers and administrative staff to facilitate participation.

Additionally, as part of the scholastic year, partners reached around 270 schools with the provision of snacks, reaching around 68,000 of the 77,000 targeted children and another 5,000 out of the target 7,700 through the support of kitchens providing hot meals for children in public schools. Between March and June 2023, the Cash for Education programme supported nearly 90,000 eligible children, 10 percent of whom are living with disabilities. Each eligible child received, on average USD 20 monthly, to cover education-related expenses such as the cost of transportation to school or other expenses required for the child to participate in school regularly (such as snacks, clothing, or stationery).

Output 1.2: Children and youth have improved access to appropriately equipped public schools, learning centres and other learning opportunities, especially in underserved areas.

Out of the overall 149 targeted public schools, the sector completed the rehabilitation of 26 schools, and initiated the work for another 8. Construction of four schools is also ongoing. The sector also supported through the distribution of 156 kits in the new inclusion schools (both AM and PM shifts) with learning and playing materials to facilitate inclusive learning. Assistive devices, tablets, and didactic materials are issued to children according to their individual needs.

Output 2.1: Teachers, education personnel and educators have enhanced capacities to provide quality, learner-centered education in public schools or learning spaces.

The aim of the sector is to provide technical support to all 110 piloted inclusion schools (90 schools with a.m. shift and 20 schools with p.m. shift) with four specialists (a special educator, psychologist, psychomotor therapist, and speech and language specialist). As of September 2023, a total of 218 out of 440 paraprofessionals were deployed (91 psychologists, 40 psychomotor therapists, 60 speech therapists, and 27 special educators). The Centre for Educational Research and Development (CERD) trained a total of 152 newly recruited paraprofessionals and special educators, 1,404 teachers, and 84 school principals in 65 inclusive schools on differentiated learning, inclusive education, and inclusion and leadership (CERD-certified modules).

In addition, partners provided training to nearly 7,000 teachers and educators within the non-formal education programmes and another 1,600 teachers and educators for the provision of retention support to children attending schools.

Output 2.2: Learning spaces and their communities are capacitated to contribute to an inclusive, safe, healthy and protective environment that is conducive to learning.

357 out of the targeted 384 education community liaison volunteers were deployed inside schools during the second shift to establish an avenue for dialogue between families and the school administration. The overall aim of this programme is to ensure a safe enabling environment that supports learning for all students, in addition to following up on absenteeism, referring at-risk children to remedial programmes and promoting harmonious community relationships between host and refugee communities.

Output 2.3: Children in learning spaces have enhanced academic and non-academic competencies (PSS, life skills, social and emotional learning, recreational/extra-curricular activities)

During this period, partners also engaged with 38,000 parents in awareness-raising sessions to improve access to education and address relevant barriers to educational achievement, such as mental health and a lack of psychosocial support, especially for those children with disabilities.

Output 3.1: Sector supporting MEHE An effective unified education data management system is developed and administered.

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and partners further prioritized the operationalization of the unification of data collection protocols and a compliance system under the Student Information Management System (SIMS). This unified data management system will be adopted by all departments at MEHE and Centre for Educational Research and Development (CERD) with the overall aim of collecting, processing, and reporting all relevant student, teacher, and school information via SIMS.

Output 3.2: Evidence-based policy frameworks developed, revised, endorsed, and implemented to regulate education programs and services

In June 2023, MEHE, supported by key partners, the National Policy on Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs in Lebanon was launched. The policy aims to provide a national framework for inclusive education implementation in Lebanon, based on the lessons learned from the Inclusive Education Programme and international best practices.

Referral Trends

There were 15,201 referrals to formal and non-formal education in Q3. This is 12.5 percent of the total referrals made by 40 partners from other sectors, such as protection and health. This number of partners have increased from previous reporting periods. The increase in the number of referrals could be attributed to the additional number of partners who joined the sector following the MEHE expression of Interest (add month), which in turn led to availability of more services. Another factor is the starting of the new scholastic year during Q3. Most referrals (51.5.6%) were made in the Mount Lebanon governorate, followed by the South (29,5%), North region (3.9%) and finally, the Bekaa (3.2%). Despite the relatively high referrals' acceptance rate of 55.9 percent, the sector is following up with the partners to understand the reasons behind the non-acceptance and non-acknowledgement of 27.2 percent of referrals keeping in mind that it is most likely related to the summer period.

Mainstreaming activities

As part of the capacity development initiative for partners, the sector has been working with specialized organizations on conflict-sensitive programming to ensure that conflict sensitivity and do no harm concepts are mainstreamed across programs implemented by the partners within the sector. The sector also works closely with the Child Protection sector to ensure improved geographic targeting based on the needs of the most vulnerable, using Child Protection and Education indicators.

3. Key challenges of the sector

The economic collapse has resulted in intermittent teacher strikes that caused repeated school closures for prolonged periods of time, resulting in such a significant loss of school days that it has not been possible for the full curriculum to be delivered to children. These interruptions have a cumulative impact on learning outcomes, with only 2.9 percent of children in Grades 2 and 3 in public schools being able to read at grade level. Whether or not the education system is able to solve the challenges related to funding, teacher salaries, capacity and quality, and the impact on children and their educational achievement will be felt for years to come. In the immediate future, with the worsening economic situation, over half a million children are at risk of missing out on learning for the fifth consecutive. Therefore, the main challenge is to keep public schools open for the school year 2023-2024 and ensure that funding is secured. The uncertainty surrounding the opening of schools in the last year has resulted in the unexpected movement of students from public to private schools, which most households cannot afford.

In addition, an estimated 490,000 (27%) of school-aged children are out of school, of which 70,000 are in non-formal education. This leaves around 420,000 children without any kind of educational support. The main barriers to education remain the transportation fees, school materials, and administrative constraints. The sector therefore needs to intensify both its support for children that may be able to re-attend school and for the increasing number of children in non-formal education (those that have been out of schools for more than two years and cannot enter formal education).

4. Key priorities for the last quarter of 2023

In Q4 2023, under the umbrella of the MEHE five-year plan, the Education Sector will continue to prioritize the implementation of activities aiming to ensure an effective response to learning losses, expand coordination with new partners under the leadership of MEHE, strengthen the education system, and provide children with retention support. As well as support households with programmes such as cash for education. Moreover, responding to the increasing child protection risks, the sector will ensure cross-sectoral coordination, especially with the child protection sector, for the targeting, outreach, and referrals of children, as well as the implementation of activities.

While the sector will continue its efforts to keep children in school through the above-mentioned programmes, it will also continue its focus on supporting out-of-school children to ensure the overall target of 90,000 children by the end of the year is reached, especially when considering that the prolonged and repeated disruptions to education are expected to contribute to increasing dropout rates.

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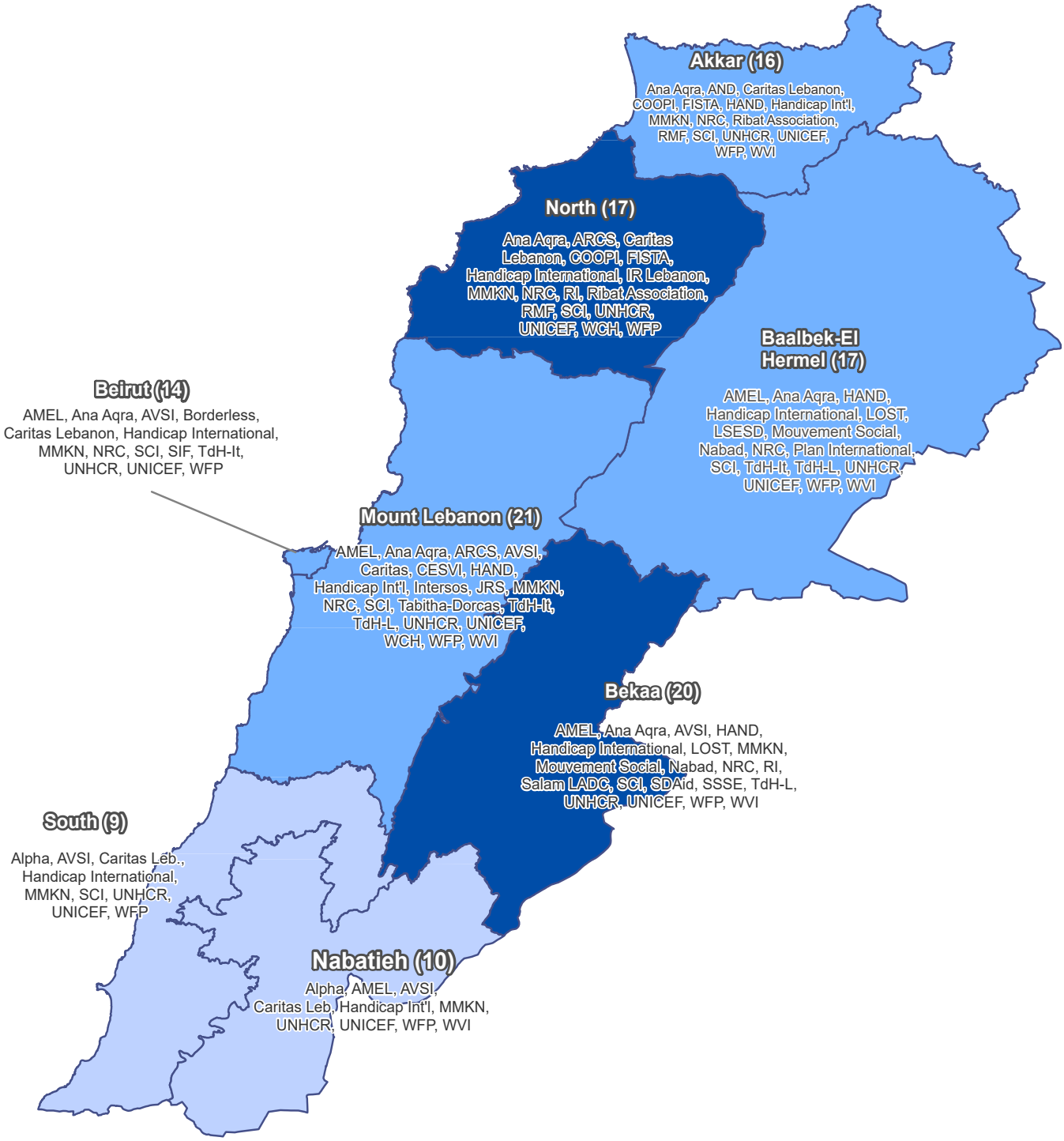
Partners per Governorate

The achievements presented in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 39 NGO Partners:
Alpha, AMEL, Ana Aqra, AND, ARCS, AVSI, Borderless, Caritas Lebanon, CESVI, COOPI, FISTA, HAND, H&I, Intersos, IR Lebanon, JRS, LOST, LSESD, MMKN, Mouvement Social, Nabad, NRC, PI, RI, Ribat Association, RMF, Salam LADC, SCI, SDAid, SIF, SSSE, Tabitha-Dorcas, TdH-It, TdH-L, UNHCR, UNICEF, WCH, WFP, WVI.



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