2023 EoY SECTOR DASHBOARD
Social Stability
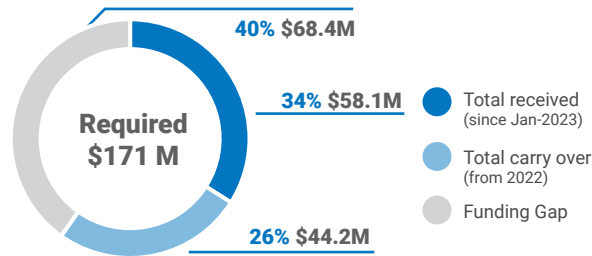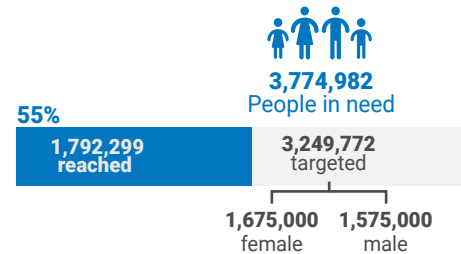
This dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Social Stability Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Strengthen municipalities, national and local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure, reduce resentment, and build peace; OUTCOME 2) Strengthen municipal and local community capacity to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts; OUTCOME 3) Enhance the LCRP's capacities on tensions monitoring and conflict sensitivity.
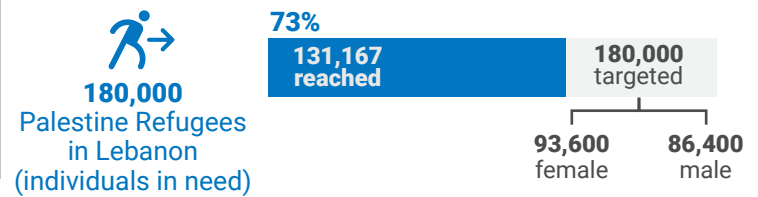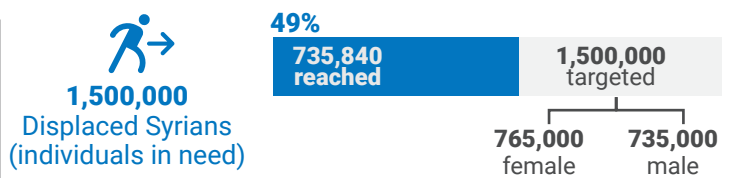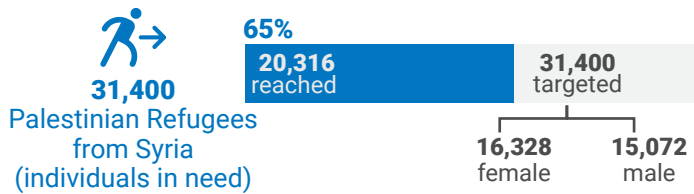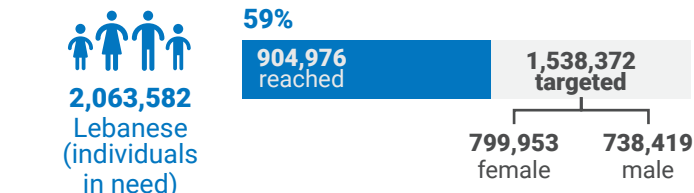
2023 Sector funding status
As of 31 Dec

Required $171 M

- 40% $68.4M
- 34% $58.1M — Total received (since Jan-2023)
- 26% $44.2M — Total carry over (from 2022)
- Funding Gap

2023 Population reached

3,774,982 People in need

55%
1,792,299 reached | 3,249,772 targeted

1,675,000 female | 1,575,000 male

2023 population figures by cohort

2,063,582 Lebanese (individuals in need)
59%
904,976 reached | 1,538,372 targeted
799,953 female | 738,419 male

1,500,000 Displaced Syrians (individuals in need)
49%
735,840 reached | 1,500,000 targeted
765,000 female | 735,000 male

31,400 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (individuals in need)
65%
20,316 reached | 31,400 targeted
16,328 female | 15,072 male

180,000 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (individuals in need)
73%
131,167 reached | 180,000 targeted
93,600 female | 86,400 male

Progress against annual targets

Key achievements

of Community Support (CSPs), Basic Services (BS), and Solid Waste Management (SWM) Projects Implemented
237 / 400

# of municipalities received CSPs/ BS excluding SWM
181 / 275

# of municipalities implementing/using integrated solid waste management systems & approaches
219 / 125 *

# of municipalities with self-functioning conflict mitigation mechanisms established
61 / 328

# of youth empowerment initiatives implemented
747 / 450 *

youth engaged in social stability initiatives
56,791 / 45,000 *

USD invested in municipal and community support projects including SWM
29.8 M / 66.25M

local participatory planning processes conducted through municipalities
88 / 100

Outcomes

|	LCRP 2017 Baseline		December 2023		2023 Target
	SYR	LEB	SYR	LEB	
OUTCOME 1: % of people reporting positive impact of municipalities on their lives*	45%	64%	13%	18%	35%
% of people living in vulnerable areas reporting competition for municipal and social services and utilities as source of tension*	22%	34%	27%	47%	30%
OUTCOME 2: % of people living in vulnerable areas able to identify conflict resolution mechanisms/ actors in their community they would turn to*	92%	92%	97%	96%	95%
OUTCOME 3:					
% of partners reporting that they have their own mechanisms to ensure conflict sensitivity**	75%		NA		80%
# of LCRP sectors taking steps to include social stability consideration in their work***	1		10		10

* Source: UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey wave XVII
** Source: Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Survey
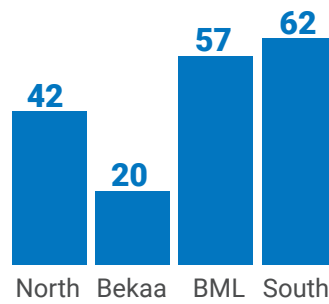*** Source: LRP 2024 planning process

🔍 Analysis

# of municipal and community support projects implemented
(excluding SWM-related projects)

North	20
Bekaa	28
BML	29
South	63
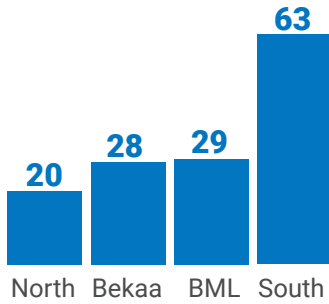
 # municipalities benefiting from completed BS & CSP project(s)
(excluding SWM-related projects)

North	42
Bekaa	20
BML	57
South	62

# of youth empowerment initiatives implemented *

North	156
Bekaa	123
BML	111
South	117
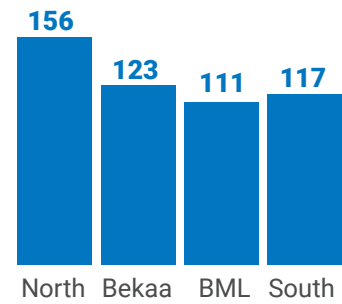
* In addition, there are 240 Initiatives are not geographically desegregated

Multi-sectoral situation update:

In 2023, Lebanon continued to grapple with a complex social stability landscape, marked by fragile communal relations driven by economic woes, compounded crises, and service deterioration. The escalation of violence on the southern border since October 2023, against a backdrop of economic decline and political instability, heightened insecurity and uncertainty across all populations. Economic circumstances worsened for most households since 2019, with border district residents reporting a particularly significant decline (58.2% claiming "worse or much worse")[1].

Anti-refugee rhetoric increased, with stringent measures and negative social media sentiments towards Displaced Syrians emerging and mirroring the offline tension. Displaced Syrians-host community relations deteriorated, with 45 per cent reporting negative inter-communal relations in October 2023, up from 37 per cent in August 2022. Negative sentiments were pronounced in specific regions, driven by resource pressure, competition for goods and services, and community insecurity. "Competition for lower-skilled jobs" remained the main source of tensions (54%), followed by "competition for services and utilities" (44%) and "establishment of businesses" (38%).

Intra-Lebanese relations also deteriorated, with 32 per cent reporting negative relations as of October 2023, particularly in West Bekaa, Minnieh-Deniyeh, Aley, Hermel, Saida, and Beirut. Economic competition became the most reported tension (60%), surpassing political and sectarian conflicts (53%). The online space mirrored these tensions, reflecting existing cleavages amid a political vacuum, with unresolved root causes of issues and tension resurfacing.

Perceptions of basic services deteriorated, becoming a pressure point for tensions, with 44 per cent citing services as a tension driver in October 2023. Solid waste management issues increased, with 56 per cent expressing dissatisfaction in October 2023, leading to various problems such as SWM service halting threats, access issues, and environmental concerns, as well as, clogging water canals with uncollected waste, leading to flooding during storms in the winter season. Access to food, clean water, electricity, and medical care became increasingly challenging, contributing to worsening perceptions of physical safety and security. Feelings of unsafety reached 71 per cent, with 81 per cent worrying about the threat of desperate crime, often scapegoating Displaced Syrians for increased insecurity, specifically in mostly populated areas.

Municipalities continued to face severe challenges in delivering basic services including municipal police services and solid waste management, due to limited funds, affecting trust in institutions and increasing pressure on services and resources. Gender dynamics played a crucial role, with women and men expressing similar concerns but facing communal and cultural backlash, as well as, with continuous limitation of women's participation in tension mitigation and local Governance. Efforts were made to address gender disparities through the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security endorsed by the Government of Lebanon, to promote an enabling environment for the establishment of several women peacebuilding groups and networks both at the local and national level[2].

In addition, the Social Stability sector will build on existing resources and lessons learned in 2023, to strengthen gender mainstreaming under Social Stability interventions moving forward in 2024.

In this multifaceted and challenging environment, the economic downturn, political instability, and service deficiencies pose ongoing threats to Lebanon's social stability. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive strategies, considering economic, social, and strategic dimensions, with a particular focus on resolving root-causes conflicts, mitigating tensions, and empowering youth, women, and PwD's engagement in collaborative Governance and community-based services.

1. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Throughout 2023, partners of the Social Stability sector have continued to work to prevent and mitigate intra- and inter-communal tensions by supporting municipalities to deliver services and alleviate resource pressure, supporting communities to foster dialogue, as well as mainstreaming conflict sensitivity within the overall Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (including expanding tension monitoring and analysis).

For outputs under Outcome 1: "Strengthen municipalities, national and local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure, reduce resentment, and build peace", interventions were mainly related to capacitating municipalities and Unions of Municipalities (UoMs), and supporting them to be able to deliver basic services, including support to the municipal police and broader support to applicable National institutions.

Given the operational and socio-economic challenges, including the impact of the situation in the South starting October 2023, on projects implementation in affected areas, sector partners reached, in 2023, a total of 400 municipalities, across the country, with 237 basic service delivery projects **(output 1.1)**[3] and Solid Waste Management (SWM) interventions **(output 1.2)**[4], against the annual target of 400 municipalities and 400 projects[5]. These achievements in 2023 reflect significant progress in comparison with 268 municipalities supported in 2022, 119 municipalities in 2021, and 67 municipalities in 2020. The amount invested in these projects is USD 29.8M in 2023 compared to USD 23.8M in 2022, and USD 8.95M in 2021. However, there is still a large funding gap for this component compared to the annual target of USD 66,25M, hampering achieving higher results, noting that some delayed interventions due to the escalation of hostilities in the South will have to be carried over into 2024. It is worthy to note that the nature of projects under socio-economic development may need more than one year to achieve expected results. Through these projects, supported communities and municipalities are better able to ensure the continuity of services at the local level, contributing to sustainability and stabilization overall.

The above mentioned achieved projects have been selected based on 88 participatory needs assessments of local priorities against the annual target of 100, conducted jointly by municipalities and the local community, fostering transparent and collaborative governance. In total, 807 participants participated in these processes (353 females and 454 males) in 2023, compared to 532 participants in 2022, including municipal and public institution officials, and community and civil society members.[6]

Despite the challenging context, and based on lessons learned from previous years, preparedness measures were put in place before the start of the season, and winter-focused interventions were conducted in all regions across the Basic Assistance, Shelter, WASH, and Social Stability sectors, as part of a multi-sectoral response. A briefing paper setting out an overview of Winter Preparedness & Response 2023-2024 has been published showcasing key initiatives and gaps including under the Social Stability sector.

Under capacity building and staffing support within Output 1.1, 21 staff were seconded to municipalities and UoMs in 2023, mainly in the Baalbek – El Hermel area for technical and administrative support, community engagement, and management of resources. In addition, 173 officials (55 females and 119 males) have been trained in 2023, compared to 36 officials trained in 2022, on community engagement and mediation, strategic planning, and service delivery, at municipalities, UoMs, and public institutions. Worthy to note that some of the reached municipalities include more male officials, which would explain the higher number of male trainees. However, sector partners will be further encouraged and supported by the sector, to ensure a gender balance in reaching officials in future capacity-building activities to municipalities and public institutions.

The 237 achieved projects under Output 1.1, included 97 SWM interventions, noting that solid waste remains a key source of tension and, therefore a key priority for the sector (under Output 1.2), to advocate for donors and partners to mobilize funds and ensure geographic balance. The 97 achieved SWM projects included: 219 SWM awareness sessions and trainings to communities and authorities on sorting at source and best practices, the provision of 16,382 waste bins, the collection and sorting of 1,021 tonnes of waste, and the recycling of 412.3 tonnes, as well as, other activities such as provision of equipment, etc. In addition, one SWM facility was established and equipped in 2023, at Hbeline village in Jbeil district (Mount Lebanon) with a 600-ton solid waste composting capacity per year.

Under Output 1.3[7] - A total of eight Governors' offices were supported with capacity building (data management, analysis, coordination, and strategic planning), mainly related to disaster risk management and other functions, as essential in playing a key role in enhancing social stability at the local level, and provided with stationery and IT equipment. Four officers have been seconded[8] to four Governors' offices, for a duration of six months in 2023, to support on data management and administrative work in relation to disaster risk management (DRM) functions and Cholera response. At the local level, three UoMs[9] were supported in Mount Lebanon with the provision of firefighting equipment, trucks & training sessions under DRM support. In addition, 14 staff members (12 female and 2 male) were trained by sector partners at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM), to support municipalities in information management, coordination, participatory planning, and local governance. In addition, 17 municipalities have been trained on environmental protection, mainly in the North and Akkar, to support the Ministry of Environment in natural resources management and ensure the protection of the environment through the implementation of projects; this was accompanied by the development of a guideline document on environmental risks mitigation.

Under Output 1.4[10] - The implementation of the municipal police reform framework[11] continued in 2023, in the transformation of municipal police work into services to the population, through five main elements[12] , covering 80 municipalities, compared to 63 covered municipalities in 2022, and overreaching the annual target of 50 municipalities in 2023. Under this programme, partners supported the issuance of unified municipal police IDs by the Directorate of Municipalities of the MoIM, and provided 14 workshop sessions to 398 municipal police members (with more than 50 female police participants), engaging 241 municipalities across all districts. These sessions took place in collaboration with the ISF (Internal Security Forces) Academy and with the support of Governors and KaemMakams, to train police on standardized accountability templates and their correct application, aiming to optimize administrative work and promote accountability of the

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municipal police units. In addition, the first round of the basic training for the municipal police was completed, covering 59 municipal police officers representing 23 municipalities in Lebanon that are now better capacitated on human rights and positive community relationships. The sector will follow up on contextual developments in 2024, taking into consideration the current context of rising crime such as desperate theft and high insecurity sentiments for women and girls, highlighting the importance of enhancing municipal policing services accordingly.

Under OUTCOME 2: "Strengthen municipal and local community capacity to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts", achievements are under three outputs as per the below.

Under Output 2.1[13] - In 2023, 61 dialogue and conflict prevention initiatives/mechanisms have been established (compared to 83 established mechanisms in 2022), with the support of sector partners, through municipalities and including municipal/public institutions officials and all community representatives, aiming to reduce tensions at the local level[14], In total 1,842 people (1,070 female and 772 male), including civil servants[15], community representatives[16], and youths[17], engaged in these mechanisms[18]. In addition, 179 events[19] (festivals, sports, etc.), were implemented in 2023 (vs. 142 events in 2022) by the "Conflict Prevention Mechanisms", including 10,834 participants from the community (9,274 Lebanese and 1,509 Syrian). As per previous experiences, such approaches did contribute to reducing conflicts between people in Lebanon, specifically during emergencies and difficult times. In addition, the sector will capitalize on these mechanisms to mobilize them as local human and technical resources not only in tension mitigation but also in supporting their communities through volunteering towards basic service delivery for the municipality.

Under the same output 2.1, sector partners have also capacitated 230 CSOs (civil society organizations) vs. 57 CSOs in 2022, including 156 local CSOs, and 74 national CSOs. Capacity building included training sessions on collaborative governance, resources and project management, youth empowerment and mobilization to support their communities, as well as, conflict mitigation activities. The supported CSOs are now better equipped to implement social stability projects and reduce tension at local and National levels.

Under Output 2.2[20] - In total, 747 youth empowerment initiatives and quick impact projects (mainly active citizenship, peacebuilding, and sports activities), were implemented by sector partners in 2023, compared to 778 achieved initiatives in 2022 and 609 achieved ones in 2021, overreaching the annual target of 450 initiatives in 2023, due mainly to investing more last three years, under youth empowerment initiatives and mobilization in community services to engage positively in their communities. The sector will revise the annual target for 2024 based on the needs and achievements of the past years, as well as, follow up on funding gaps, and ensure coordination, advocacy, and accurate reporting of these types of interventions. Youth empowerment activities aim to prevent youth marginalization and adoption of negative coping mechanisms and to cope more positively in their communities. They also include capacity-building support on life skills and conflict resolution. Up to 56,791 female and male youths and children from diverse nationalities have been reached under these initiatives (compared to an annual target of 45,000 in 2023), reflecting progress specifically in comparison with 23,222 youth reached in 2022, and 37,400 reached in 2021. One of the key achievements includes the creation of a digitalized "peace-building toolbox"[21] to

integrate peacebuilding into educational channels in public high schools, and mainstreaming conflict mitigation through peace-building tools[22] in the North and Beqaa. Furthermore, these initiatives also included violence-free schools/communities (incl. youth with disabilities), and sector partners developed and shared related resources with education actors and institutions, to mainstream social stability in formal and non-formal education systems, with modules for all seasons including summer education programmes, aiming to promote dialogue and mitigate tensions among youths.

Under Output 2.3[23] - In 2023, 777 individuals (455 female and 322 male), have been trained and sensitized on objective reporting and countering fake news on media and vs. an annual target of 550 individuals, showing progress compared to 159 reached individuals in 2022. These activities targeted journalists, media students, local authorities, and other individuals, to foster objective reporting, facing online and offline negative rhetoric and hate speech. It is worthy highlighting that the Arabs Fact Checkers network has selected "Sawab" - a fact-checking media platform developed by Social Stability partners in 2023- as among the top five fact-checking networks in the Arab world. Sawab has seen significant growth in its followers, with an additional 1,000 individuals engaging with their content. The sector will follow up on upcoming material to be produced and published by different Social Stability actors such as the "Salam Wa Kalam digital" platform and other, serving as a hub for affected communities to engage through uplifting stories and collaborative projects.

OUTCOME 3: "Enhancement of the LCRP capacities on early warning & conflict sensitivity", includes achievements under one output as below.

Under Output 3.1[24] - Achievements focused on generating analysis related to tensions and communal relations and disseminating it to partners through various channels.
In 2023, the focus was to roll out the Lebanon-specific guidance notes published in 2022 and support sectors and their partners in the uptake. These notes include: i) Getting Started with Conflict Sensitivity in Lebanon; ii) Conflict Sensitivity throughout the Project Design Cycle in Lebanon; and iii) Conflict-Sensitive Procurement, Recruitment, and Accountability in Lebanon.
In addition, three new Lebanon-specific conflict sensitivity toolboxes were launched during 2023, based on a consultative process with stakeholders, and were presented in different fora including LCRP sectors Working Groups covering: 1) Conflict Sensitive Cash Assistance in Lebanon; 2) Conflict Sensitive Engagement with Local Authorities in Lebanon; and 3) Institutionalizing Conflict Sensitivity at the Organizational Level.
The published results of the data to capture the perceptions around the social stability of 5,000 respondents (across populations) on quarterly basis, including results of the latest Wave XVII of the UNDP/ ARK regular perception survey on social tension, were disseminated in 2023 (Tension Monitoring Dashboard), across all LCRP sectors, to support partners with data and analysis on tensions and inform their programming. In total, some 30 tension overview presentations have been provided in 2023, across LCRP sectors at the national and sub-national levels. Three thematic tension reports, eight governorate factsheets, and eight tension briefs have been published. This includes the development of a briefing note on Water-related Tensions in Lebanon[25]. In addition, the unique tensions monitoring thematic report, titled "Services in the Spotlight - The Role of Public Service Access in Shaping Communal Relations" informs specifically on how the ongoing

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[13] "Municipalities & local actors have improved capacities for dialogue and conflict prevention".
[14] worthy noting that these mechanisms are considered longer interventions; hence, the establishment of further mechanisms is expected to be reported upon completion in 2024.
[15] Civil servants: They are officials or employees from local government structures (such as municipalities, schools, health centers, SDCs…).
[16] Community representatives: They include civil society members, community/traditional leaders (Mukhtars), and other community focal points.
[17] and most participants in 2023 were Lebanese (1,629), followed by 137 displaced Syrians, and 76 Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon.
[18] These mechanisms include a systemic conflict analysis process, that aims at identifying the root causes of tensions and mitigating local conflicts through municipalities and community focal points.

[19] Community events: One-off events/initiatives (festival, sports competition, commemoration, celebration, etc.) organized/-facilitated by the "Conflict Mitigation Mechanisms" to improve social stability and defuse tensions.
[20] "Youth enabled to positively engage and participate in their communities".
[21] The overall objective is to build the capacity of students and teachers to deal constructively with differences, understand violence and conflicts, and provide them with needed tools and skills to deal with conflicts.
[22] The overall objective of the training is to develop capacities to deal with differences, understanding violence and conflicts, dealing with conflicts, non-violent education, and the non-violent management of the classroom.
[23] "National, local, & social media engaged in defusing tensions".
[24] "LCRP partners have improved skills & practices for conflict sensitivity supported by tensions monitoring analysis".
[25] by the Tension Monitoring System in coordination with the Water Sector, to support partners to better prioritize interventions that can mitigate, and diffuse tensions related to water quality, access, and scarcity and ensure more conflict-sensitive interventions in the context of increasing constraints.

Syria & Lebanon socio-economic crises have influenced perceptions of the quality of public services, including the subsequent impact on communal relations and social stability within the country.[26]

The sector also engaged in the preparedness for the response to the cross-borders hostilities situation in the South during the last quarter of 2023 and onwards, in particular, in monitoring online and offline tensions, and sharing analysis with relevant partners to inform the response. The sector has also developed a Conflict Sensitivity guidance note on Rapid Onset Emergencies in Lebanon, to guide partners under all sectors on ensuring conflict sensitive interventions during emergencies.[27]

Furthermore, sector partners trained 1,023 partners staff (725 female & 298 male) on conflict sensitivity mainstreaming in their operations, reflecting a significant progress compared to 188 trained staff in 2022 and overreaching the annual target of 350 trainees in 2023. This overachievement comprises trainings of trainers in Arabic language and trainings that took place at the local level in 2023, including Heads of centers and social workers at PHCCs (primary health care centers), who were trained on how to mainstream conflict sensitivity and social stability by frontline officers in health facilities[28], aiming to facilitate dialogue within community-based activities. Trained staff will be able to integrate conflict sensitivity in their programming, including training of trainers in Arabic, to expand reach of knowledge on conflict sensitivity, to maximize positive impacts and minimize negative impacts of interventions under all the LCRP sectors.

Refferal Trends

In 2023, the sector has discussed ways forward to improve the referrals process under Youth Empowerment activities, through the Social Stability Sector, including cross-sectoral referrals among key sectors. The sector has been working closely with

partners to ensure their services are updated on the Inter-Agency Service Mapping and report referrals they make through the sector.

Mainstreaming activities & AAP

In 2023, the sector has also followed up with the appointed gender & and GBV risk mitigation focal point (International Alert), which will support the implementation of gender and GBV priorities in the sector's annual work plan for 2024, including the mapping of gender-related activities and followed by actions based on sector needs.

The sector discussed M&E (monitoring and evaluation), and CFM (complaints and feedback mechanisms)-related mapping, challenges, and ways forward in 2023[29]. This falls under enhancing the overall contribution of the sector to the collective AAP (accountability to affected populations), building also on the recently shared CFM/AAP In-Focus in 2023, and existing AAP resources under the Social Stability sector. The sector will seek

further technical consultation with M&E focal points jointly with the Conflict Sensitivity mainstreaming team, to identify mitigation measures and share guidance on how to implement conflict sensitive M&E systems.

The Environmental Task Force (ETF)[30] at the Ministry of Environment (MoE) published material in2023, to raise awareness and improve knowledge on environmental management in response actions, as follows: 1) Environmental Package, 2) Natural Resourc-es Management Training, and 3) Solid Waste Management (SWM) Training. The sector provided online trainings in 2023 on SWM, and environmental management to Social Stability partners, on Water and Wastewater Management.

2. KEY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SECTOR TO LCRP OUTCOME AND IMPACTS

Despite the challenging context, Social Stability sector partners made important strides in terms of contributing to primarily Strategic Objective 4 of the LCRP, by reinforcing Lebanon's economic, social, and environmental stability. Given the Sector's strong focus on support to municipalities, it also directly contributed to Strategic Objective 3 by supporting service provision through national systems. Despite the impact of the socio-economic crisis, the sector fulfilled most of the targets contributing to Strategic Objective 4 (Outcomes 2 and 3 of the sector logframe), as well as to Strategic Objective 3 (through Outcome 1).

Under Outcome 1, across the country, the percentage of people reporting positive impact of municipalities on their lives has now dropped to 18 per cent for Lebanese and 14 per cent for displaced Syrians in 2023, compared to 81 per cent for Lebanese and 74 per cent for displaced Syrians in 2018. This deterioration could be attributed to a number of factors mentioned in the first section (i.e., inability to deliver basic services due to shortage of resources, lack of funds for financing services and salaries, economic crisis and increased communal insecurity). Although trust has deteriorated, municipal authorities are amongst the most widely trusted institutions in Lebanon, especially in comparison to ministries and other national institutions. Through improved service delivery, trust in

municipalities and public institutions can be strengthened, hence mitigating tensions and contributing to overall stabilization in Lebanon.

The 237 service delivery and SWM activities implemented by Social Stability partners through participatory approaches in 400 municipalities in 2023, have contributed to maintain a higher level of trust in municipalities relatively to other national institutions throughout the year. In addition, the creation of 61 mechanisms for social stability have contributed to mitigate a worsening situation at local level and foster good governance. The mechanisms aim to identify root causes of tension and mitigate conflicts through municipalities and include all community representatives. Interventions under Outcome 2 have translated into positive results with more than 94 per cent of surveyed Lebanese host communities and 88 per cent of displaced Syrians living in vulnerable areas, reportedly being able to identify conflict resolution mechanisms in their communities[31].

However, the overall situation in the country is hampering progress towards outcome level results in other areas. Regarding the propensity for violence, results were more contrasted. In October 2023, 80.5 per cent of the population is worried about the

[26] The report includes a comprehensive longitudinal analysis based on data collected between 2017 & 2023, through 15 quarterly waves of the "UNDP-ARK Regular Perception Surveys" on Social Tensions.
[27] including on the preparedness and response to the situation in the South.
[28] in Al Khiam, Tyre, and Al Bazourieh areas in the South & Nabatieh Governorates.

[29] Worthy highlighting key data collection and analysis challenges, affecting the quality of CFM data in informing/influencing the response based on populations' feedback, are as follows: 1) accessibility issues to CFM channels, 2) low trust in CFM outcomes, safety concerns specifically for non-Lebanese beneficiaries, 4) Limited human, technical and financial resources specifically, 5) Difficulty in closing the loop.
[30] has developed an "Environmental Marker Guide" here to ensure the reduction of any negative environmental impact caused by response activities including Social Stability interventions.
[31] Idem

threat of crime sometimes, often, or all the time (increase from 57.1 per cent in 2017). Throughout 2023, violence was mainly related to violent crimes, at increased rates; political related violence; and violence related to access to public and private services, and recently aggravated by the escalation of hostilities in the South. Gaps in community security are leading to an increasingly insecure environment. As living conditions continue to deteriorate, this will almost certainly place additional pressure on already-strained relations between different Lebanese groups and between Lebanese host-communities and displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees, thereby also increasing the potential for further violence. This suggests a need to ensure service continuity at the municipal level to limit the competition for resources and services between individuals and communities, hence, mitigating violence and tensions.

Youth-led initiatives are conducive to better dynamics in the community, and youth committees have contributed to better linking the communities to municipalities. However, partners reported negative perception towards displaced Syrians' participation in some activities, especially in community committees, which hampered Social Stability activities under Outcome 2 and specifically regarding the establishment of Social Stability mechanisms (Output 2.1) and youth empowerment activities (Output 2.2). An additional factor is the continuous hate speech specifically on media, scapegoating displaced Syrians for insecurity, spread of diseases and economic situation, hence increasing inter-communal tensions.

As for Outcome 3, as of the end of 2023, all LCRP sectors take steps to ensure including conflict sensitivity in their strategies and delivery of work plans -compared to one sector in 2017 - i.e. by including specific activities related to tensions in their strategy or in the approach.

3. CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Throughout the year, partners faced several challenges under the Social Stability sector, multiplied by the compounded crises affecting Lebanon, with an overall increase in violence related mostly to the economic and political situation, aggravated by the escalation of hostilities in the South, including negative consequences on their operations as detailed below.

Most municipalities are still unable to provide basic services due to a shortage of resources, which is leading to gaps in services with negative effects on the environment, tensions, and the protection space. The continuous deterioration of municipalities' situation has further exacerbated the operational challenges for sector partners. In addition, the demotivation and shortage of human resources and technical skills at municipalities' level, also affected Social Stability projects, in some cases, and led to delays in implementation, and/or lack of technical engagement in quality assurance of projects. It has also affected municipal police's capacity to control the security situation, due to e.g. lack of fuel and vehicle maintenance[32]. The Situation in the South affected most projects in affected areas, where partners either suspended the implementation specifically in the SLR (South Litani River), shifted to other geographic areas, or partially suspended implementation. The expectation is to resume in 2024 upon the current scenario of a "controlled conflict situation", and to prepare within the contingency plan to engage in case of a "massive-scale scenario".

This has posed more expectations on Social Stability partners to reduce pressure on services and resources, mitigate conflicts and support municipal police to better control the security situation. Partners have coped through the continuous provision of capacity-building, aiming to enhance municipalities' collaborative governance, management of resources, maintenance of vehicles and machinery, and engagement in projects. Technical support is key for municipalities and aims at compensating the shortage of local skills and troubleshoot technical challenges and repair/maintain machinery at a lower cost. However, balancing support to municipalities between mid-term and long-term service delivery development and building on previously implemented projects is essential to ensure they are functional and well maintained. Interventions need to adopt sustainable and innovative solutions such as low-cost maintenance projects, energy to generate electricity for services, and adding income generation components to projects, as well as, replicating successful models, and adopting a geographic clustering approach, has become crucial to enhancing

strategic planning and operational capacity, and reaching larger populations and geographic areas.

Solid waste management remains a top operational priority impacted by the current situation. Key solid waste challenges as identified in the SWM Task Force meetings at regional level, included halting waste collection in certain areas, increased backlash related to operations and management challenges, and accumulation of waste leading to pollution and clogged water canals and flooding during storms, including in areas with high concentration of informal settlements and Palestinian gatherings and camps. The sector will build on current mapping and tools to systematize data analysis of hotspot areas and trends and ensure effective local-level coordination. Moreover, the sector will build on the existing Quarterly SWM Task Force meetings, to prioritize areas of interventions and SWM solutions including priority types of activities, based on identified trends, gaps, and partners mapping of capacities, as well as advocate to mobilize funds and ensure cross-sectoral collaborations with relevant sectors (WaSH, Shelter, Livelihoods, etc.) to optimize the response in 2024.

It is Worthy to highlight winter preparedness and response challenges under the Social Stability sector, including the limited Municipalities' and Civil Defense capacities to be operational to respond to opening clogged canals and blocked roads. This increases pressure beyond the current capacities of donors and partners. To better support partners, the sector will follow up at donors, partners, and authorities' levels on winter-related preparedness priorities through sustainable and environmentally sound solutions, and prioritizing storm-sensitive areas with weak winter related infrastructures, O&M (operation and management) challenges, and poor waste collection. The aim is to support municipalities and public institutions in the prevention of flooding and roads blockages based on lessons learnt from 2023's storms.

With the rising inter- and intra-communal tensions related to the compounded crises[33], existing guidance notes are continuously updated to remain pertinent and context specific. Partners are also encouraged to consult the LCRP conflict sensitivity guidance notes here, specifically on Conflict Sensitive Engagement with Local Authorities in Lebanon. In addition, partners advocated in 2023 for the need to enhance the geographic targeting modality by clustering locations, to better prioritize assistance considering limited funds and increased tensions and hostilities[34].

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[32] facing the insecurity sentiments, high crimes, theft, and robberies rate, and inter-communal tensions.
[33] the sector will continue to focus on monitoring tensions and mainstreaming Conflict Sensitivity (CS) across the response, with the aim of providing ad-hoc sectoral guidance, mainstreaming support to inform planning for 2024 as well as training organizations and donors on key areas in Conflict Sensitivity.
[34] This will help partners in prioritizing better their assistance across populations and with improved geographic balance and coordination of interventions moving forward in 2024.

3. CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Youth support was also impacted by gaps in funding in 2023, leading partners to prioritize minimal-cost activities and cut quick-impact projects and creative ideas due to budget constraints. To cope with this situation, the sector consolidated advocacy messages on the importance of funding youth empowerment initiatives and encouraged the exchange of resources and creative ideas fostering innovative approaches, such as mobilization of skilled youth under community support and active citizenship projects, through online platforms e.g., "NAHNO" platform, enabling them to become effective positive agents of change and development in their communities and municipalities. Lack of motivation of youths affected their engagement in social stability youth empowerment projects mainly due to prioritizing income generating activities. This has affected the outreach process of youths and increased drop-out rates in related programmes, specifically the longer-term ones. One of the key lessons learnt is to ensure a safe space for communication and expression of emotions, to motivate youths and ensure their retention despite their socio-economic situation. In addition, provision of transportation and livelihoods opportunities would ensure better retention of youths, specifically when realizing the positive impact on enhancing their employability. Furthermore, the modality of support can reduce drop-out rates like the online modality, which is favored by youths in general, specifically in activities that don't require necessarily a physical presence. On the other hand, partners faced difficulties reaching youth in specific villages, prompting the selection of applicants from nearby areas. Involving local committees from different areas was found to attract more youth applicants, highlighting the importance of broader community engagement.

The sector will build on previous thematic discussions in 2023 on youth empowerment to organize further in-depth discussions on youth platforms and initiatives that foster youth mobilization in active citizenship and volunteerism activities under community support initiatives and quick-impact projects, supporting their communities and municipalities. This includes lessons learned and ways forward on the mobilization of youths as local resources in emergencies at the local level[35].

4. CASE STUDY from Youth RESOLVE 2 - Empowering Youth for Social Stability in Lebanon

Implemented between August 2020 and September 2023, in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and Beqaa and Baalbeck/ El Hermel, the Youth RESOLVE 2 (YR2) programme aimed to address Lebanon's socio-economic challenges and the marginalization of youth from societal and community-based processes. The NGOs' consortium, comprising World Vision Lebanon (WVL), DPNA, UTOPIA, and GAME Lebanon, implemented this programme, and focused on empowering both displaced Syrian and Palestinian refugees and host community youth. Funded by the European Union through the Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syria crisis ("EU MADAD"), the program adopted an integrated, sustainable, and holistic approach to youth empowerment. The overarching goal of YR2 was to fortify social stability among youth, with specific objectives centred on fostering interaction between youth from different nationalities, and inspiring municipal decision-makers to implement youth-led propositions for change. Diverse Youth Committees, including individuals with disabilities, were established to promote dialogue and mitigate tension. The results of this programme succeeded to provide youth with the tools to create positive change in their communities, through advocacy activities and quick impact projects, aligning with the Social Stability sector strategic objectives, and specifically under Outcome 2[36], and Output 2.2: "Youth enabled to positively engage, participate in their communities, and build bridges with youth across dividing lines." Worthy to note that GAME Lebanon NGO played a pivotal role, engaging youth as playmakers, instructors, and role models in sports and cultural activities. The program also empowered young women and men, supporting their active engagement in youth-led activities. Comprehensive needs-based projects were implemented for communities, contributing to overall resilience of the community.

Within this programme, 6,631 youth (3,229 female and 3,402 male) were reached from all nationalities in 2023, one of which, Louay, 17 years old , collaborated with 10 other young individuals aged 16 to 25 to assess the most pressing needs in their city "Choueifet" in Baabda district (Mount Lebanon). After a thorough evaluation, they identified key priority actions one of which was implemented, which is the installation of a solar system with the municipality to address inadequate water supply caused by electricity cuts and provide energy for the city's water well. Louay stated that this project through life skills trainings, helped him become a more confident person with stronger non-violent communication skills and motivated to be a positive element supporting his community. Louay expressed his satisfaction with the project, stating, "I was really glad to be part of this project, which was a great learning experience, as it gave me an opportunity to create positive change in my city... It's just the beginning, and with similar projects, we can reach more beneficiaries. I urge young people like me to step up and volunteer, so we can create a better future for our country... and a better tomorrow".

Louay along with his fellow committee members in Choueifet area in Mount Lebanon, during the YR2 related community based activities in 2023.

Mr. Hassan Abou Faraj, a member of the Choueifet Municipality said "With the installation of 70 solar panels, this water well will provide water for over 25,000 individuals in the Qoubbeh district. On average, with families consisting of four to five members, this sustainable water source will cater to their needs. The solar panels will supply electricity from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm and in case of insufficient sunlight, the municipality will provide generators to ensure continuous electricity generation". He mentioned that the municipality will keep including the youth in their work and considering their ideas for new projects whenever possible. They truly believe in the potential of young people, and this project clearly demonstrates this belief.

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[35] The sector will also unpack further the geographic specificities in terms of urban versus rural areas, and related specific challenges and opportunities, in shaping youth empowerment interventions under the Social Stability sector. The sector will actively follow up on donors' funding strategies for 2024 to inform decision-making and future planning and will also focus on strengthening the referrals for youth empowerment initiatives, through promoting these services for referrals at all sectors working groups.
[36] Strengthen municipal and local community capacity to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts.

Solar panels installation for the Local water well catering for over 25,000 individuals in Choueifet city, in 2023.

The program's evaluation indicated progress in Youth Engagement, with over 54 per cent of surveyed youth feeling engaged in their communities, and an increase in youth committee members participating in local advocacy actions. Challenges during implementation included the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the volatile Lebanese context, communal tensions, and economic challenges. However, despite facing challenges, YR2 significantly contributed to empowering youth, fostering community engagement, and addressing critical needs. The program's sustainability is contingent on the successful handover of projects to municipal authorities and continued support for youth committees and the National Youth Platform.

Partners by district

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 47 organizations shown in this map:

ACF Spain, ACTED, AICA, Al Midan, ALEF, AMEL, Arcenciel, AVSI, Caritas Lebanon, CELIM – Centro Laici Italiani per le Missioni, Civipol, COOPI, Dawaer Foundation, Design for Communities- D4C, DPNA, DRI - Democracy Reporting International, Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, ILO, International Alert, Intersos, IOCC Lebanon, LOST, Makhzoumi, Masar, Michel Daher Social Foundation - MDSF, NRC, Nusaned, PCPM, Right to Play, RMF, Salam LADC, SCI, SFCG, SHEILD, SIF, Tabitha-Dorcas, Tearfund, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNRWA, USPEaK, WVI, YMCA

Zgharta
AICA, Al Midan, Arcenciel, Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, ILO, SFCG, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA

Akkar
AICA, Arcenciel, Caritas Lebanon, COOPI, Dawaer Foundation, ILO, PCPM, RMF, SFCG, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF

Tripoli
AICA, Al Midan, Arcenciel, Caritas Lebanon, Civipol, Dawaer Foundation, IOCC Lebanon, Right to Play, SFCG, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA

Minieh-Dennie
AICA, Al Midan, Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, ILO, SFCG, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA

Hermel
Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, SFCG, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, USPEaK

EL Koura
AICA, Al Midan, Arcenciel, Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, SFCG, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA

Batroun
AICA, Al Midan, Arcenciel, Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, DRI - Democracy Reporting International, SFCG, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA

Bcharre
AICA, Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, SFCG, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA

Baalbek
ACF Spain, ACTED, Arcenciel, Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, ILO, LOST, NRC, SCI, SFCG, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, USPEaK, WVI

Jbayel
Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, ILO, Intersos, RMF, SFCG, Tabitha-Dorcas, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNOPS, YMCA

Kesrwan
Arcenciel, Caritas Lebanon, Civipol, Dawaer Foundation, Intersos, SFCG, Tabitha-Dorcas, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNOPS, YMCA

Beirut
ACTED, Arcenciel, AVSI, Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, Design for Communities- D4C, ILO, IOCC Lebanon, Makhzoumi, Nusaned, SCI, SFCG, Tabitha-Dorcas, Tearfund, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UNICEF, UNOPS

Metn
Arcenciel, AVSI, Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, Intersos, SFCG, Tabitha-Dorcas, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNOPS, WVI, YMCA

Baabda
ACTED, AMEL, Caritas Lebanon, Civipol, Dawaer Foundation, Intersos, Right to Play, SFCG, SIF, Tabitha-Dorcas, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNOPS, YMCA

Aley
Arcenciel, Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, ILO, Intersos, SFCG, Tabitha-Dorcas, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNOPS, YMCA

Zahleh
ACF Spain, Arcenciel, Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, ILO, IOCC Lebanon, Michel Daher Social Foundation - MDSF, Salam LADC, SFCG, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF

Chouf
Arcenciel, Caritas Lebanon, Civipol, Dawaer Foundation, DPNA, ILO, Intersos, SFCG, Tabitha-Dorcas, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNOPS, YMCA

West Bekaa
ACF Spain, Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, ILO, SCI, SFCG, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF

Jezzine
Caritas Lebanon, Civipol, Dawaer Foundation, DPNA, Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, SCI, SFCG, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, UNRWA

Rachaiya
Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, SFCG, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF

Saida
ACF Spain, Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, DPNA, Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, ILO, NRC, Right to Play, SCI, SFCG, SHEILD, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, UNRWA

El Nabatieh
ACF Spain, AMEL, Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, DPNA, ILO, SFCG, SHEILD, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat

Hasbaya
Caritas Lebanon, CELIM – Centro Laici Italiani per le Missioni, Civipol, Dawaer Foundation, DPNA, ILO, SFCG, SHEILD, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat

Sour
ACF Spain, AMEL, Arcenciel, Caritas Lebanon, Civipol, Dawaer Foundation, DPNA, Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, SCI, SFCG, SHEILD, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNRWA

Marjaayoun
AMEL, Arcenciel, Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, DPNA, SFCG, SHEILD, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat

Bent Jbiel
Caritas Lebanon, Dawaer Foundation, DPNA, PCPM, SFCG, SHEILD, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UNDP, UN-Habitat

Number of Reporting Partners

	1 - 5
	6 - 9
	10 - 13
	14 - 16
	17+