2024 Q1 Sector Dashboard

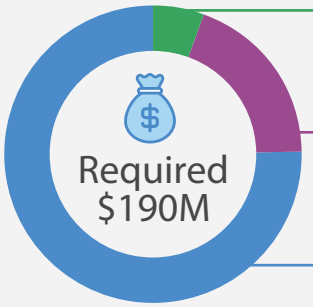
WaSH

The first quarter of 2024 WaSH sector dashboard summarizes the progress made by WaSH sector partners involved in the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP), identifies key challenges and priorities, and highlights trends affecting people in need. The WaSH sector in Lebanon is working to: Outcome 1: Strengthen national, regional and local public institutions' capacities to deliver improved public policies, goods and services (water and sanitation). Outcome 2: More vulnerable people in Lebanon are using safely managed drinking water and sanitation services whilst reducing health and environmental risks and improving water quality by increasing the proportion of wastewater that is safely treated.

The Lebanon Response Plan is pending endorsement by the LRP Steering Committee. This dashboard is based on information reported by WaSH sector partners operating under the sector strategy discussed with and endorsed by the Ministry of Energy and Water.

2024 Sector Funding Status

As of March 31st



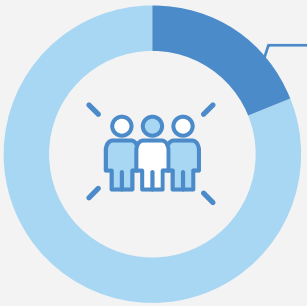
6% $11M
Total received
(since Jan-24)

19% $36.4M
Total carry over
(from 2022)

75%
Required
(ref. 2024 appeal)

2024 Population Reached

2,582,109
People in Need



312,345 19%
Reached

1,635,000
Targeted
Male 797,930
Female 837,070

2024 Population Figures by Cohort

1,270,752
Lebanese
individuals in need

116,406 13%
Reached

900,000
Targeted
Male 432,000
Female 468,000

1,121,176
Displaced
Syrians in need

195,881 30%
Reached

660,000
Targeted
Male 330,000
Female 330,000

23,026
Palestinian
Refugees from Syria
(individuals)

15 0.1%
Reached

15,000
Targeted
Male 7,230
Female 7,770

75,503
Palestine
Refugees in
Lebanon
(individuals)

31 0.1%
Reached

50,000
Targeted
Male 25,200
Female 24,800

97,408
Migrants
(individuals)

12 0.1%
Reached

10,000
Targeted
Male 3,500
Female 6,500

For more information, please contact: washsectorlebanon@gmail.com

1. Analysis of Achievements of the Sector at the Output Level

The work on updating the National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS), the priority projects for each Water Establishment, and the inclusion of the five-year water sector recovery plan within the main strategy document continued during the first quarter of 2024. The updated NWSS will be published in Q2. In terms of supporting water institutions' operations and building their capacity [Output 1.2], the sector partners continued to second technical staff to the Water Establishments and trained 11 employees of the South Lebanon Water Establishments.

The WaSH sector partners provided temporary access to safe water for drinking and domestic use (output 2.1) to over 151,500 individuals, 95 per cent of whom were displaced Syrians in informal settlements. Approximately 261,200 cubic meters of water were provided through the water trucking modality. The support, however, fell short of the agreed minimum standard of 35 litres per capita per day, averaging at around 20 litres per capita per day. This is primarily attributed to the funding constraints affecting the sector's programs in temporary locations. In addition, 6,561 Lebanese affected by the cross border conflict escalation in the south of Lebanon have been supported with temporary access to water.

For permanent locations under Output 2.1, stabilization projects continue to benefit all population groups. Under the 2024 LRP response framework, eight sector partners reported solarization activities at 10 water stations, benefiting approximately 115,662 people (64,728 Lebanese and 50,934 Syrians). In total, 1,260 kW of photovoltaic panels have been installed. Water infrastructure repair and maintenance support was very limited and focused mainly on emergency support to the South Lebanon Water Establishment linked to the ongoing cross-border conflict escalation.

Output 2.2, which aims to improve access to sanitation and safely managed wastewater services for the most vulnerable, 71,623 individuals in informal settlements (23% of the target) received assistance through, desludging, toilet rehabilitation and maintenance of sanitation facilities. Nearly 98,000 cubic meters of sludge have been removed from informal settlements and safely disposed of in wastewater treatment plants.

For permanent locations (Output 2.2), the EU-funded UNICEF program continued to support the operation of five wastewater treatment systems that handle the wastewater flow of around 174,000 individuals. Efforts are ongoing to restore the operation of seven additional wastewater systems, which should commence wastewater treatment in Q2.

In the area of access to hygiene items and WaSH behaviour change (Output 2.3), 82,414 individuals were supported. Of these, 70,377 benefited from hygiene items distributions, including 5,173 with menstrual hygiene, while 82,312 have participated in behaviour change and awareness-raising sessions. This represents about 20 per cent of the sector's target. Output 2.3 gender breakdown was as follows: 38 per cent women, 17 per cent girls, 15 per cent boys, and 30 per cent men. The hygiene item distribution activities in the South include raising awareness of unexploded ordnance, landmines, and white phosphorus by including LMAC-approved flyers in the hygiene item distributions.

Mainstreaming activities:

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):
As part of the sector's commitment to mainstreaming PSEA across all activities, the sector elected two PSEA Resource Persons to cover all regions of Lebanon. Their key responsibilities include engaging with and supporting affected populations by facilitating community-based awareness initiatives, emphasizing that assistance is never conditional upon sexual favours, and collaborating with NGO focal points to enhance awareness campaigns. The Resource Persons will ensure the visibility of the NGO Focal Points' identities, disseminate contact information for SEA reporting, and develop prevention strategies based on risk analysis. Their capacity-building efforts involve creating and implementing PSEA training programs for sector partners and collaborating with external organizations to bolster sector-wide capacity in addressing PSEA. In terms of coordination and partnerships, the Resource Persons will actively engage with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and other relevant bodies to share information, best practices, and challenges. They will also foster collaboration with other PSEA focal points to create a cohesive approach. Their documentation and reporting duties include maintaining accurate records of PSEA activities and analyzing lessons learned to inform ongoing strategy improvements.

Conflict Sensitivity:
The sector coordinated directly with the conflict sensitivity focal point and developed two maps:

1. Cadastre Prioritization Tool - Affected by IDP: This tool is designed to assist WaSH Sector partners in prioritizing cadastres affected by internal displacement. Its objective is to categorize these cadastres to provide insights for prioritizing WaSH interventions at the system level, including water/sanitation network maintenance and public water points.
2. WaSH Sector Tension Alert - ISs: This map presents the shift in tension dynamics, comparing conditions before and after the exclusion of specific cadastres from targeting. It provides an overview of the conditions of cadastres that may potentially face inter- and intra-communal tension due to budget cuts in WaSH services in Informal Settlements (ISs).

Gender and GBV Risk Mitigation:
The sector organised a gender and GBV Risk mitigation workshop attended by selected members. In addition, the sector developed a gender and GBV Tipsheet and gender analysis. A gender action plan was adopted and included in the Annual Work Plan.

Escalation of Hostilities in the South:

WaSH sector partners support individuals displaced in temporary collective shelters, those hosted by other households, and those residing in border areas. They also help in maintaining water and wastewater systems. During the first three months of 2024, almost 20,500 hygiene kits and cleaning items were distributed. This includes 18,698 family hygiene kits, 727 menstrual hygiene kits and 983 baby kits. Over 157,000 litres of bottled water were distributed, mainly in collective shelters, with some provided in the border areas and hosted IDPs, while 340 m^3 of water was delivered to collective shelters via water trucking modality. Most of the collective shelters have been equipped with potable water treatment systems (reverse osmosis or UV based). The total number of beneficiaries reached through the above-mentioned modalities is 48,181.

Shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WaSH) partners have finished assessing potential new collective shelters. The data is being analysed to categorise each shelter based on the type of improvements needed to meet minimum standards.

At the water and sanitation infrastructure level, the sector partners managed to access the main water station that was damaged due to hostilities and partially restored its functionality (e.g., Maisat station). South Lebanon Water Establishment has been supported with seven backup generators (e.g., Haret Saida pumping station), more than 150,000 litres of fuel for different stations in the South and Nabatieh governorates, spare parts and other consumables, as well as ad hoc emergency repairs to several stations. Total number of people reached through the system-level support has been estimated at 244,000.

Prioritization and Localization:

Given the unexpected and unprecedented funding reduction by several donors for WaSH in Informal Settlements, the sector has to prioritise the provision of life-saving services, determine Informal Settlements' eligibility for WaSH assistance, and address impacts on service quality. The quantity of water provided via trucking should not fall below the absolute minimum of 15 litres/capita/day (l/c/d); instead, partners should use the WaSH Assessment Platform (WAP) vulnerability scoring (developed and agreed upon in 2017/2018) to deprioritize sites from water trucking services, supplemented with secondary data such as epidemiological data from the MoPH Emergency Surveillance Unit, WaSH-related tensions, and local field knowledge. On-demand desludging should be prioritised, especially for sites near rivers and lakes, areas with a history of wastewater-related tensions, and regions with high groundwater vulnerability. Community engagement activities should be enhanced for sites that will be deprioritized from service provision before these activities are suspended by following the guidance for the phase-out period developed by the WaSH sector community engagement thematic group and outlining the key steps to ensure the involvement of the community and other relevant actors in the transition phase. In addition to that, the sector developed the tension map, in collaboration with the Conflict Sensitivity team, that might guide partners in targeting specific cadastres. This map illustrates the changes in tension dynamics, contrasting situations before and after certain cadastres' exclusion from service provision. It also offers insight into the status of cadastres that could potentially experience tensions within and between communities due to WaSH services reductions in Informal Settlements. As part of the south emergency response, and given the limited funds allocated for this emergency, the sector developed a cadastre prioritisation map which highlights areas impacted by internal displacement. Its aim is to classify these areas to offer guidance on prioritising WaSH interventions at the systemic level, such as maintenance of water and sanitation networks and public water access points.

2. Challenges, Risks and Mitigation Measures

The significant decrease in funding puts the vital WaSH services provision for informal settlements at risk, which may result in suspending water trucking and desludging services for a further 100,000 residents of informal settlements.

Since September 2023, no broader repair and maintenance support to Water Establishments has taken place and was mainly limited to emergency support to the South Lebanon Water Establishment linked to the ongoing cross-border conflict escalation.

Escalation of Hostilities in the South:

Water fee collection has fallen to nearly zero in the South and Nabatiyeh governorates, putting the South Lebanon Water Establishment in a very challenging situation, given that there is no substantial external support for this public utility. Support to maintain the functionality of water supply systems managed by the South Lebanon Water Establishment is urgently needed, with at least $500,000 per month required to keep the minimum level of water provision via the public systems. To date, at least ten water infrastructures have been damaged due to cross-border hostilities, impacting the water supply for over 100,000 residents in the South and Nabatiyeh. The sector has no funds to replenish hygiene consumables for people displaced outside of collective shelters with a regular, more blanket distribution modality approach.

3. Key Priorities For The Next Quarter

USD 25M is urgently required to bridge the WaSH gap in informal settlements. Funds currently available to the sector partners can only maintain limited WaSH services provision till July/August 2024.

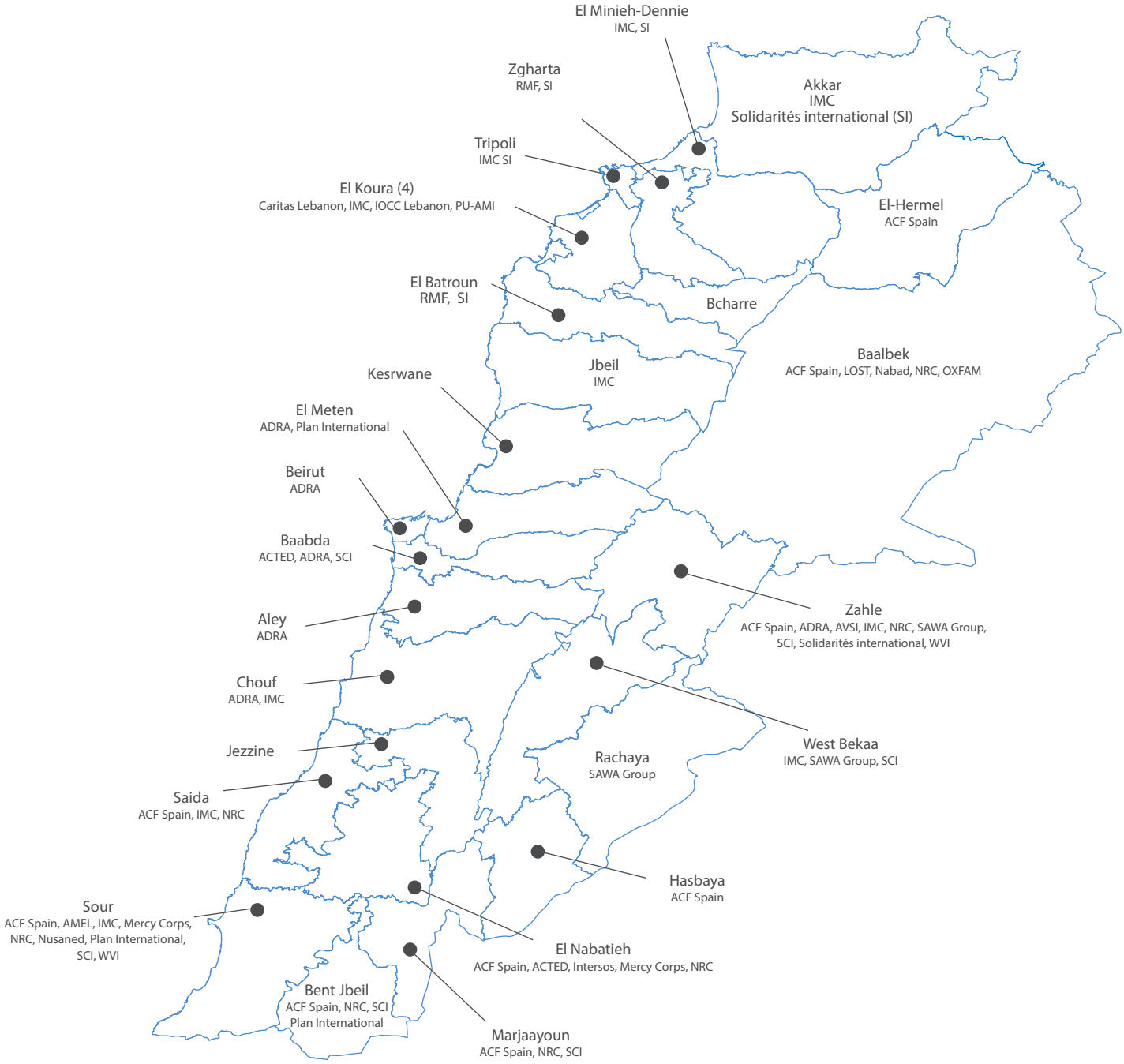
In addition, enhancing the sector capacities to the emergency response to the cross-border conflict related needs, as well as the repair and maintenance capacities of the Water Establishments, are the sector top priorities.

Progress Against Targets

2024 Q1 Sector Dashboard

WaSH

19 organizations mentioned below are contributing to the achievement of WaSH Sector Outcomes prioritized under the LRP and reporting under ActivityInfo:
ACF Spain, ACTED, ADRA, AMEL, AVSI, IMC, Intersos, LOST, Mercy Corps, Nabad, NRC, Nusaned, OXFAM, Plan International, RMF, SAWA Group, SCI, Solidarités international, WVI



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