

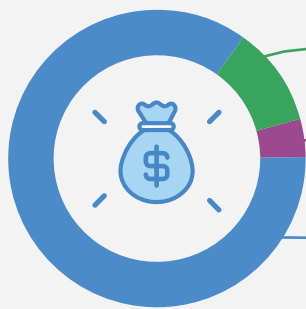


The 2024 Annual Protection sector dashboard summarizes the progress made by Protection sector partners involved in the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP), identifies key challenges and priorities, and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Protection sector in Lebanon is working on achieve three outcomes: OUTCOME 1) Individuals at heightened risk from all affected populations in all their diversity, including age, gender, and disability, have their fundamental rights respected and have access to an effective justice and protection system; OUTCOME 2) Individuals at heightened risk from all affected populations in all their diversity, including age, gender, and disability, are safe, supported, and empowered in their community to contribute to positive change; OUTCOME 3) Individuals from all affected populations in all their diversity, including age, gender, and disability, at heightened risk have safe, inclusive, and targeted access to specialized protection services and are resilient to shocks.

2024 Sector Funding Status

As of March 31st

\$207M
Required



11% \$23M
Total received (since Jan-24)
4% \$8M
Total carry over (from 2023)
85%
Required (ref. 2024 appeal)

2024 Population Reached

3,179,911
People in Need



248,117 16%
Reached
1,579,467
Targeted
Male **767,115**
Female **812,351**

2024 Population Figures by Cohort

1,403,587
Lebanese
individuals in need



76,610 21%
Reached
371,537
Targeted
Male **182,053**
Female **189,484**

1,500,000
Displaced
Syrians in need



157,568 14%
Reached
1,086,998
Targeted
Male **532,629**
Female **554,369**

23,026
Palestinian
Refugees from
Syria (individuals)
in need



1,318 6%
Reached
22,625
Targeted
Male **11,086**
Female **11,539**

43,290
Palestine
Refugees in
Lebanon
(individuals)
in need



3,156 7%
Reached
22,078
Targeted
Male **21,212**
Female **22,078**

73,289
Migrants
(individuals)
in need



5,940 1%
Reached
42,647
Targeted
Male **14,074**
Female **28,573**

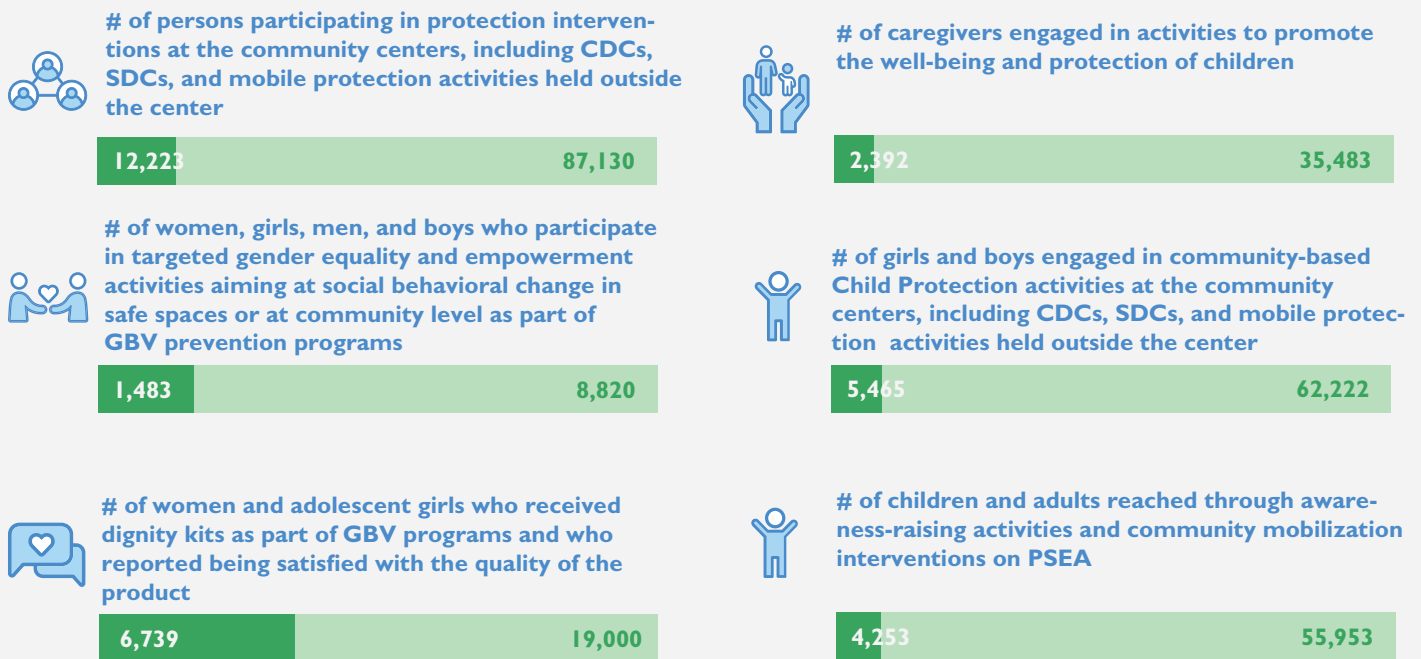


Progress Against Targets

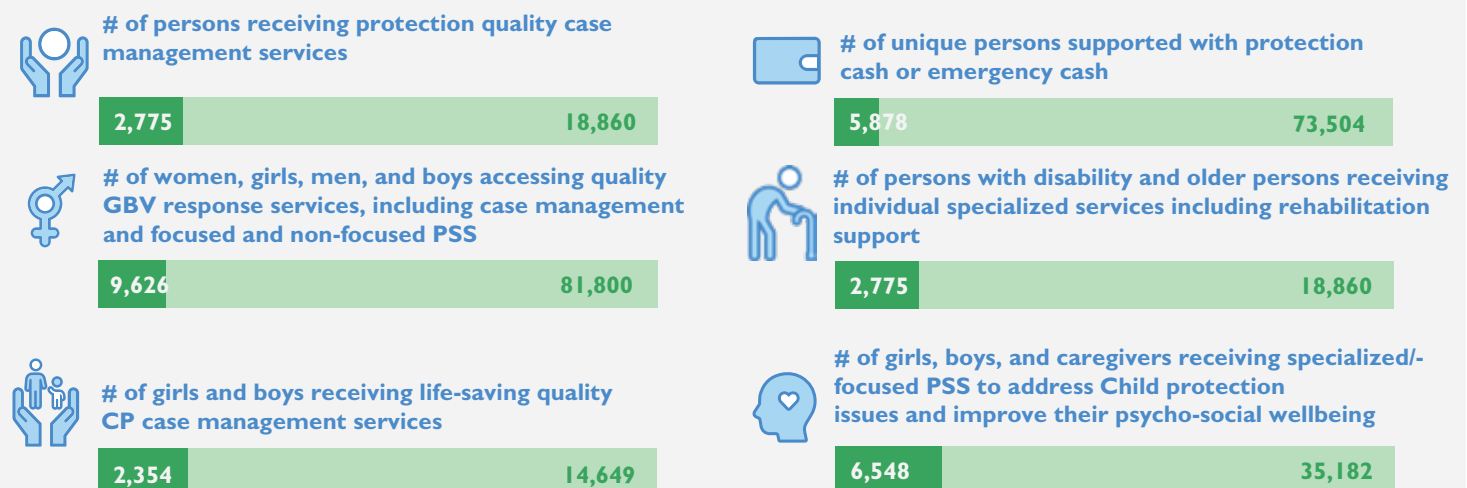
Outcome 1: Individuals at heightened risk from all affected populations in all their diversity, including age, gender, and disability, have their fundamental rights respected and have access to an effective justice and protection system.



Outcome 2: Individuals at heightened risk from all affected populations in all their diversity, including age, gender, and disability, are safe, supported, and empowered in their community to contribute to positive change.



Outcome 3: Individuals from all affected populations in all their diversity, including age, gender, and disability, at heightened risk have safe, inclusive, and targeted access to specialized protection services and are resilient to shocks.





Key Achievements of the Sector at the Output Level

In Q1, the Protection sector, including legal, community-based, child protection and gender-based violence activities reached a total of 248,117 people across populations reaching 16% of the total target which presents a decrease of 9% compared to Q1 2023 (25% of the Q1 2023 target reached). There was a 7% increase in Lebanese reach and a 15% decrease in Syrian displaced reach compared to Q1 of last year.

Outcome area 1 on Protection and legal framework including access to legal and protection services

Output 1.1: Individuals at heightened risk from all affected populations in all their diversity including age, gender and disability have increased knowledge on their rights and have access to effective legal aid services including counseling, assistance and representation.

With an increasingly tight protection space for Syrians, legal awareness, counseling and assistance has been a critical demand and response to the needs of displaced Syrians. In Q1, a total of 20,523 people (60% women, 40% men) attended legal awareness sessions on topics such as the current regulations to renew residency and birth and marriage registration. **25,098 individuals** (41% women, 59% men) benefitted from legal services on topics related to legal residency (42%), civil documentation (35%), Housing, Land and Property (HLP) (15%), labor regulations, and detention reaching 14% out of the total target for 2024. GBV and legal actors also provided more specialized counseling, legal assistance and representation to **341 individuals** across nationalities to address marriage, divorce, custody and property related aspects for survivors of GBV. Q1 witnessed a slight decrease in persons reached with legal assistance which the sector mainly associates to the reduced funding as well as increased access challenges.

In January 2024, for the first time since the mid-2000s, the **Lebanese parliament adhered to the schedule for discussing a proposed budget draft**, which was legislated and published in February. The new budget law introduced **significant tax amendments and a substantial increase in legal fees** including the ones for civil documentation (i.e the Mukhtar stamp fees were increased to 50,000 LBP instead of 5,000 LBP, registration to obtain a certificate at the Nofous increased by 200% to 400,000 LBP instead of 20,000 LBP in 2023). In March 2024, the GSO agreed to re-adopt previous regulations of accepting the housing attestation to the housing certificate of the Mukhtar for those renewing their residency based on the UNHCR certificate. Accordingly, GSO accepted both the UNHCR-issued document as well as the housing attestation from the Mukhtars. The GSO also introduced a new service fee of LBP 4,900,000 for certain procedures, such as mercy requests, changing pledge of responsibilities, and validation/clearance required for some entry categories, including the ones referred by their Embassies.

In March 2024, the legal actors within the Protection Working Group developed their annual risk factors matrix which highlighted the main risks related to the increase of legal fees, strikes and reduced capacities of courts and public administration which actors anticipate to have moderate and severe impact depending on the case. The legal actors group also developed their annual work plan which will focus on building the capacity of non-legal actors on key legal issues and messages, developing a brief on the impact of external factors such as judicial and administrative strikes, shortage of stamps, increase in costs on legal service provision, provision of technical support to the National Action Plan for Birth Registration and monitor and sharing practices at public institutions and in relation to authorities & judiciary as well as policy changes to underpin advocacy.

Output 1.2: Protection and legal frameworks are

strengthened and barriers to accessing legal procedures are addressed

Building on the progress made towards developing policy frameworks for the protection of women, children and other at-risk groups, and to foster its commitment to advance national action plans and policies, in March 2024, Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) conducted a workshop with the national legal actors to introduce the **draft National Birth Registration plan**. Currently, the plan is being reviewed for endorsement by the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM). Once endorsed, coordination and follow-up are underway between MoSA and the MoIM, as well as the Sunni Supreme Court, to officially launch the birth registration pilot project in the Bekaa region. One of the challenges encountered involves addressing the fees associated with Mukhtars, which requires ongoing coordination and harmonization which is a key aspect of the action plan on birth registration.

With the aim to continue enhancing the protection response and advocacy efforts, sector partners provided capacity building training to 209 staff members from governmental entities (104 staff members) international and national organizations (105 individuals) on protection topics, child protection, gender-based violence and humanitarian principles.

Outcome area 2 – Community engagement, accountability and empowerment

Output 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 - The sector aims to foster a community environment that is safe, inclusive, participatory, and empowering across populations including Lebanese, refugees, Syrian displaced and migrants. Outcome objective 2 aims at sharing reliable information to the affected population to increase access to assistance and to foster community empowerment and decision making. In that regard, since January 2024, the Protection sector supported **40,049 individuals (69% women, 31% men, 3% PWD)** (reaching 16% of the total target) to access reliable and timely information on assistance and services through the dissemination of regionally specific, accessible, and up-to-date information on services, assistance, and protection-related issues.

Through ongoing partnerships with community support structures including CDCs, SDCs and mobile protection activities held outside the center, an average of **1,483 active community focal points (82% women and 18% men)** provided information, outreach, feedback, and referrals for persons of concern on a monthly basis, reaching 17% of the annual target (decreased by 3% compared to Q1 2023). Q1 also witnessed a slight increase in persons engaged in the assessment, development and monitoring of programs at community level reaching **4,688 people** in Q1. Mapping of community centers - a new indicator introduced in 2024 - for which additional training needs to be provided to partners to enhance the mapping of communal center structures. 13 Women and Girls Safe Spaces are currently mapped providing safe and dignified spaces for women to engage, disclose and receive services. Specific support was extended to **seven grass root organizations** (Community-based Organizations and small-scale Civil Society Organizations) including which are PWD led, were supported in Q1 to provide CP/GBV/PRT quality services.



Community centers including CDCs, SDCs and mobile protection activities held outside the center continued offering services reaching **12,223 individuals** (14% annual target). There was a noticeable increase in reporting **male participation and engagement** in activities, **rising to 49%** compared to 20% in Q1 of the previous year, and among the Lebanese community, reaching 15%. Moreover, there was an increase in the engagement of older persons, rising from 3% in 2023 to 7% in 2024.

Child Protection: 5,465 children (51% girls and 49% boys) engaged in community-based child protection activities at the community centers including CDCs, SDCs and mobile protection activities held outside the center, representing 8.5% progress against the annual target. In parallel, **155 Social and Behavioral Change (SBC) initiatives** (31% of the annual target) were conducted to address the root causes of harmful social practices in an integrated and holistic manner, by targeting the most vulnerable localities and strengthening the meaningful engagement of Municipalities, landowners, employers, religious leaders and CBOs to prevent child marriage, child labour and violence against boys and girls.

Prevention of Gender-based violence through to be implemented by GBV actors aiming at contributing to attitude and social behavior change to reduce GBV. In the first three month of the year, **GBV partners reached 7,613 persons** (90% women; 4,487 Syrians and 2,541 Lebanese) who participate in targeted gender equality, and empowerment activities aiming at social behavioral change in safe spaces or at community level as part of GBV prevention programs. Reaching and recording access to GBV services for persons with disabilities remains a challenge to be addressed by GBV actors. Through GBV and other protection actors, **2,374 persons were also informed and sensitized on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).**

Outcome area 3 – Response and specialized services including protection cash assistance

Output 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 on case management, a total of **2,775 individuals** at heightened risk (64% women and 36% men) received tailored protection interventions in Q1 2024 reaching **15%** of the annual target for protection case management. With enhanced engagement and collaboration with the Disability and Older Persons Working Group and specialized Organizations for Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), an increase in reach of older persons and persons with disability was reached (each 10% of the total).

Child Protection Case Management: In addition, **2,354 children (37% girls and 63% boys)** at high risk received life-saving quality CP case management as per National Case Management SOPs, including both non-judicial and judicial protection services, reaching 16% of the annual target. Additionally, **specialized focused psychosocial support (PSS) was provided to 6,548 girls, boys and caregivers**, including 46 persons with disabilities, in order to address child protection issues and improve their psycho-social wellbeing, reaching 19% of the annual target.

Gender-based violence response services include a range of activities including survivor-centered case management and psychosocial support interventions. In Q1, **7,149 persons received comprehensive GBV response services.** In line with the available GBV Information Management System data on gender of survivors, **94% of all beneficiaries of case management services are women and girls.** A light increase in the reach for

survivors with disability was achieved in Q1 with 2.5% reached compared to an average of 1% survivors with disability reached in the previous quarters.

Specialized support including mental health and psychosocial support and rehabilitation services and support to older persons and those living with disabilities: 2,103 persons with disabilities and older persons were reached with specialized rehabilitation support, including 37% persons with visual impairments and 43% with mobility related disabilities. **1,849 (21% of the annual target) persons received structured and non-structured mental health and psychosocial support services** (74% women and 26% men). Receiving complementary services alongside both case management and specialized rehabilitation services can be critical to supporting these cases often which have multiple vulnerabilities and access constraints. Across the sector, challenges in outreach and inclusion and provision in services for persons with severe mental health and intellectual disabilities has been identified as a gap area that continues to raise concerns over limited resources and lack of response for those affected.

Protection cash assistance: 5,878 individuals (8% of the annual target) received protection cash, with 95% saying that they received it safely. Cash under the Protection sector is provided by protection, child protection and GBV actors as a critical intervention, most impactful when coupled with the provision of case management and psychosocial support services. The 2023 SOP on cash assistance under the Protection Sector was updated with an annex on the provision of cash in the emergency response for the south. SOPs, challenges and modalities are discussed in the ad-hoc Protection Cash Task Force led by the sector leads.

Under the Protection Sector, **gender, age and disability are systematically mainstreamed and disaggregated in the sectoral log frame**, strategy and activities. Due to the nature of some of protection risks and due to ongoing gender dynamics and structures in households and communities, across the sector, women make a higher share in the receipt of protection services. According to the qualitative information obtained through the sectors diverse working groups and core groups, including from national NGOs, access to services for women and girls has been impacted by negative attitudes against gender and GBV programs perceived to threaten the social and family dynamics in Lebanon.

The **socio-economic situation has further impacted on women and girls** as GBV and CP WG members shared increase in exposure to harassment and violence as well as exploitation during domestic work, in agricultural farming and for rent extortion/exploitation. In addition, limited economic resources have also been reported as a contributing factor to girls' school drop out and reduced access to safe menstrual hygiene products.

The rapid gender assessment undertaken by CARE as well as partner monitoring reports show that particularly the escalation of hostilities in the south have increased unequal power within households whereby women, particularly from rural areas, are less able to meaningfully influence decisions, e.g. on moving to another location, household assets, etc. Survivors or those at risk of gender-based violence in high-risk areas in the southern borders have faced challenges to access information and services in the south due to insecurity, partial closure and limited working hours of partners and de-prioritization of time and financial resources to access GBV and other protection services.

Through the dedicated Gender and GBV Focal Point for the Protection sector supported by CARE, a gender analysis was undertaken. The analysis is a resource tool for all sector members



and actors to inform their protection analysis and integrate relevant gender related data and information. In addition, a gender and GBV tipsheet was developed by the Focal Point presenting a second resource to inform all partners on the integration of GBV risk mitigation practices when planning and developing their programs.

In 2023, the Protection sector received the vast majority (over 50%) of the 150,000 referrals monitored through the Referral Monitoring Tool (accessible here). In Q1 of 2024, 1,093 referrals to Protection services have been added to the database which constitutes 34% of the total referrals made in Lebanon (3,210). The majority of referrals are made to UNHCR and partners seeking case management and Compared to Q1 of 2023, this presents a significant decline in referrals to protection services or use of the monitoring tool with over 17,000 referrals made in Q1 of 2023. Similarly for referrals to GBV and child protection actors, reported figures remain significantly lower in Q1 of 2024 than for previous years. Enhanced engagement with partners is required to address this shortcoming in reporting. The majority of referrals received as a protection sector are received in BML and the Bekaa areas, in line with trends previous quarters.

The Protection sector has actively engaged with relevant actors and coordination structures to **enhance the integration and collaboration, ensure gender, age and disability-specific data** disaggregation and increased knowledge on the needs of persons with disability, older persons and other specific marginalized groups. UNHCR and NRC co-chairs of the Protection sector presented the Protection Sector Strategy for 2024 including the targets set to reach those living with disability and other at-risk groups. The sector has further advanced on the meaningful engagement with the Disability and Older Persons Working group, and other relevant OPDs providing specialized services including rehabilitation assistance. Dedicated disability-focused actors have been encouraged to maintain a strong role in the GBV Core Group and the Protection Core Group for 2024 – representing persons with disability across the sector.

With the increase in communal tensions in Q1, the Protection sector enhanced collaboration with UNDP leading the Social Stability sector to include conflict sensitivity in the sector strategy and to ensure close collaboration in the sectors common trend analysis.

In response to the urgent needs of affected and most vulnerable populations in the south, protection sector partners have amended their programs to address emergency needs. Prioritized activities include legal protection services on HLP, civil documentation and legal residency, multi-layered prevention and response for child protection risks, GBV prevention and response services, including PSEA awareness as well as integrated emergency and recurrent cash assistance. In Q1, most south response partners have used funding and resources carried over from 2023 to support protection, CP and GBV activities in urban areas and the currently 17 collective shelters. **905 individuals received legal awareness sessions on housing, land and property, civil documentation and legal residency related issues.** 144 women and girls were provided with specific legal aid on issues relating to gender-based violence. **6,357 men and women also received groups and individual psychosocial support**, including 344 who received case management services to address their risks. Multi-layered response to support children at risk reached 2,068 individuals have received information sessions on available services, covering key child protection and mental health topics, including risks related to explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnance.

Child Protection: A multi-layered set of services was provided to address the mental health and psychosocial needs of children and caregivers. This included PSS, both focused and community-based, which were availed to 713 individuals. Additionally, **252 caregivers took part in positive parenting interventions, and 281 children at risk or victims of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation** received support through case management services and referrals to specialized assistance

Gender-based violence: As part of GBV prevention and awareness raising activities, **3,654 women and girls of reproductive age received dignity kits to address the continuous needs to provide menstrual hygiene items** to ensure women and girls' involvement into social activities and schools. In addition, **1,909 individuals including 718 front liners and 1,191 community members were briefed on mechanisms, rights and reporting to enhance protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)** by humanitarians. A slight increase in requests and referrals for GBV services was observed in Q1. 1,322 women and girls received case management as well as focused and non-focused psychosocial and mental health support.

Prioritization and Localization:

Prioritization was a key aspect described in the sector's strategy for 2024 given the shift in the Protection sector's case prioritization framework and the shift from the vulnerability category-based approach to the Protection Analysis Framework (PAF) that allows for a more detailed prioritization process. Given the shortage in funding, partners also reported the need to focus on high-risk cases in Q1 with limited resources for low/ medium risk cases as well as for prevention programs.

Localization and integration of local NGOs has made a significant focus of the work of the sector in Q1, including through the Core Group election, presentation at WG meetings, the engagement with LHDF on enhanced collaboration as well as through dedicated protection programs run by the 20 local NGOs contributing to the sector. A total of 63 agencies have appealed under the protection sector for dedicated programs with an additional 14 agencies who have prioritized and mainstreamed protection-related programs in other humanitarian sectors, i.e. in Education, Basic assistance, etc. mainly through protection mainstreaming activities.



Challenges, risks and mitigation measures

The continuously shrinking protection space presents significant challenges for the sector to ensure the protection of affected people. With the increase in administrative instructions in place and the escalation of hostilities in the south, across populations, including Lebanese, Syrian displaced persons, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL), Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS), and migrants continue to face increased protection risks and an increased need to access protection services. Access issues have contributed to limited access to protection programs in some locations, specifically in the Bekaa and the south of the country. Q1 protection trends include an analysis of restrictive measures and other risks which including raids, curfew implementation, confiscation of items and implementation of fees and taxes, increase in rents and evictions. Community members mainly from the Syrian population share concerns over increased fears of detention and deportation.

The justice system continues to face limited institutional capacity, increased legal fees, shortage of stamps, and the conflict in the south which have delayed or hindered the access to birth and marriage registration. Partners have continued to provide legal services using mobile Sharia courts, focusing on provision of legal counseling and sequencing the provision of assistance and representation and setting schedules based on the availability of public employees. Lack of financial means and overall limited resources also contribute to access challenges to protection services. Cash for transportation is being provided as well as meeting persons of concern in their homes to support the submission of their documents, meanwhile the agencies have continued to conduct advocacy with the Ministry of Finance to resolve stamp shortages while some NGOs have purchased stamps in large supplies. Announcements in the steep increase in legal fees will affect the ability of all affected people to access the justice system which will further be monitored by the sector's legal actors.

As for migrants, partners noted a surge in challenges associated with

the increase in new arrivals in 2024 compared to previous years, with several cases involving child migrants. Families with children face hurdles concerning registration and legal status, limiting their access to essential services, and there is widespread reluctance to return to their Country of Origin (CoO) due to limited employment opportunities. This situation has led to an upsurge in demand for legal and health services, particularly in matters concerning civil documentation, false accusations, and disputes with employers, including issues such as wage withholding and document confiscation. Additionally, there is an increased need for cash assistance, and migrants requiring medical support encounter difficulties accessing both medical services and assistance for repatriation.

As for children, the compounded socio-economic, conflict and political crises facing Lebanon has left social services weakened and interrupted, and families with less resources to ensure safe protective environments for children to thrive in. In the face of ongoing political instability, conflict and multiple socio-economic crises, children face greater protection risks including child labour, child marriage, children smoking and affected by drug addiction, onward movement of children including separated and unaccompanied children, to Cyprus and Europe, children in conflict with the law, as well as anecdotal reports of children's engagement in armed groups.

Comparing funding levels between Q1 of 2023 and Q1 2024, the sector witnessed a slight decrease in funds (27.6 million USD in Q1 2023 to 23.4 million USD in Q1 of 2024). Funding shortages and reprioritization of activities to support the south emergency have had impacts on the implementation of comprehensive programming.

Key priorities for the next chapter

Protection Working Group: Building on the annual work plan, in Q2, the Protection Working group will focus on engagement with local actors, supporting protection trend analysis accessible to all humanitarian actors, revision of key advocacy messages and the finalization of the protection case management SOPs. Informed by the Legal Actors' Group, the sector will also analyze the impact of increased fees for administrative and judicial procedures, including residency, birth and marriage documentation amongst others.

Child Protection: In the upcoming quarter, the CP WG will focus on the localization agenda, working on contextualizing and implementing the Global CP AOR localization tool kit to ensure the localization strategy is mainstreamed in the CP Sector; map out

capacity building initiatives and conduct a capacity needs assessment to develop a sector calendar and depository of available trainings and capacity development opportunities; and start the revision process of the unit costs for PSS and CPCM.

Gender-based Violence: in light of the increased risks reported on gender-based violence, in Q2, the GBV WG will initiate the GBV risk assessment (i.e. GBV Inter-agency Safety Audit) to inform better on risks, knowledge of services and community-based needs to prevent and respond to GBV. The sector will further build on initial workstreams to enhance the inclusion of national women-led organizations into the realm of the GBV WG.

3W Map at Governorate level

Protection Partners (48)

ABAAD, ACF Spain, AMEL, AND, ANERA, ARCPA, AVSI, Beit el Baraka, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CESVI, CONCERN, DRC, Fe-Male, HelpAge, Himaya, Imam Sadr Foundation, IMC, Intersos, IOM, IRC, KAFA, Key of Life, LECORVAW, LOST, Magna Lebanon, Makhzoumi, Michel Daher Social Foundation - MDSF, Nabaâ€™a, Near East Foundation, NRC, OXFAM, Plan International, PU-AMI, RI, RMF, SAWA Group, SCI, Seenaryo, SHEILD, Shift, Tabitha-Dorcas, TdH-It, TdH-L, UNHCR, War Child Holland - WCH, WRF, WVI.

Source: Sector reporting partners on ActivityInfo.

