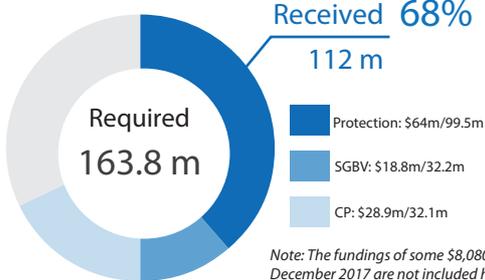




The end year dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Protection Sector in Lebanon aims to achieve the following results: OUTCOME 1) Persons displaced from Syria have their basic rights respected and fulfilled, and enjoy access to justice and have a valid legal residency ; OUTCOME 2) Community-based interventions are strengthened to contribute more effectively to referral pathways, access to services, and the identification of vulnerabilities and protection concerns; OUTCOME 3) Access to protection and services is ensured to the most vulnerable women, girls, boys and men identified and resettlement/other form of humanitarian pathways is realized; OUTCOME 4) SGBV risks are reduced and access to quality services is improved; OUTCOME 5) Boys and girls at risk and survivors of violence, exploitation and abuse have access to an improved and equitable prevention and response.

2017 Funding Status as of 31 December 2017



Note: The fundings of some \$8,080,284 for SGBV and \$18,760,663 received in late December 2017 are not included here are counted as 2018 funding in our tracking system.

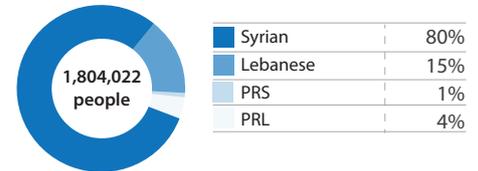
Programmes are funded by a combination of flexible/unearmarked funds and funds specifically earmarked to the sector.

Targeted Population groups

3.2 m (People in Need)¹



Population reached by cohort

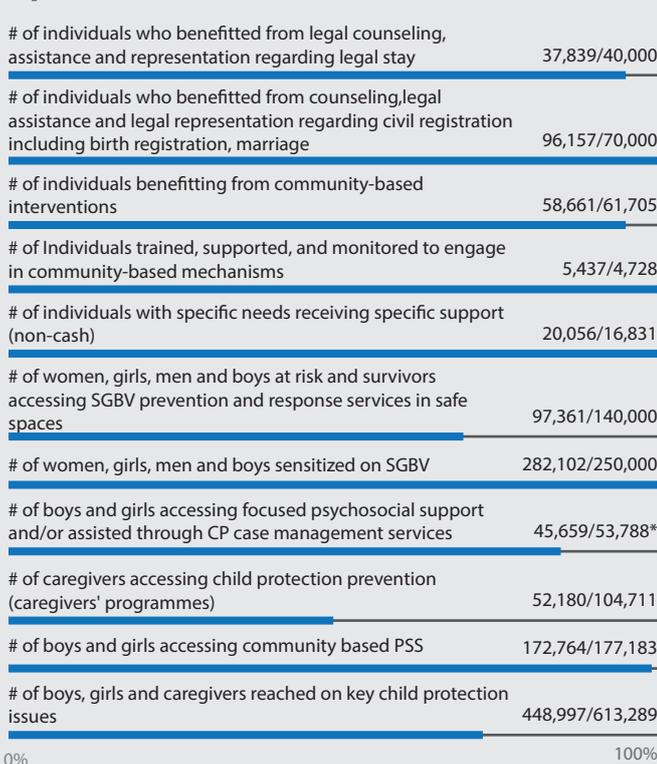


¹ These figures are for the whole sector, which includes general Protection, SGBV and Child Protection.

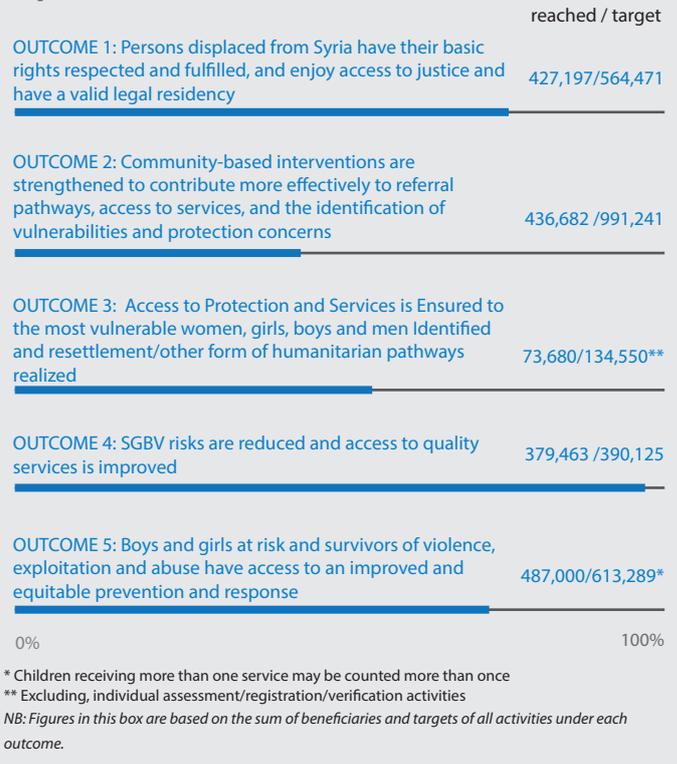
Progress against targets



Key Achievements

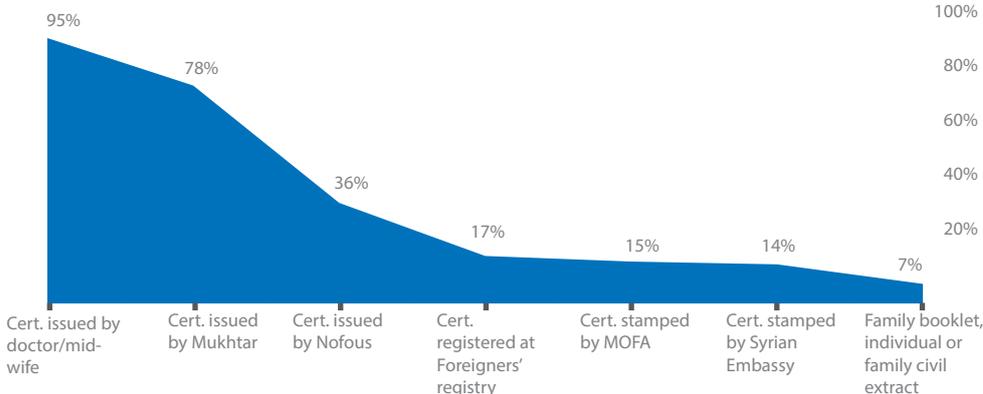


Population reached by outcomes

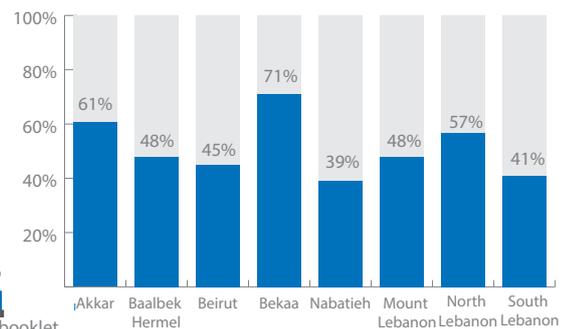


Analysis

Households that have completed each step in birth registration for Syrian children born in Lebanon¹



Households with no members having legal residency¹



Sources:
1 2017 Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees VASyR



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

37,839 persons have received legal counselling, assistance, and representation regarding legal stay, reaching 95 percent of the target.

96,157 persons benefited from counselling, legal assistance, and legal representation regarding civil registration (including birth and marriage registration), reaching 137 percent of the target.

58,661 persons benefited from community-based interventions (i.e. management and support to outreach volunteers, referral of persons at risk, and youth life skills activities), reaching 95 percent of the target.

97,361 women, girls and boys, including SGBV survivors and persons at risk received psycho-social, medical, and legal services, which resulted in 84 percent of women and girls accessing safe spaces feeling empowered.

A pool of **150 specialized social workers**, including from the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) are now equipped to support SGBV survivors, helping them to access the services they need. Impact evaluation of SGBV capacity building for institutional actors indicates that 82% of trainees demonstrate increased knowledge of SGBV.

172,764 children, including out of school children, received regular community based psycho-social support, reaching 97.5 percent of the target.

45,659 boys and girls, including highest risk children, accessing specialized psychosocial support and/or assisted through child protection case management services, reaching 85 percent of the target.*

* Children receiving more than one service may be counted more than once

77% of children age 6 to 17 years reported an increase in their psycho-social wellbeing following their participation in the focused PSS activities. (Source: 2017 Sector SDQ report)



Facts and Figures

997,552

Total registered Syrian refugees¹

81%

Percentage of Syrian refugees who are women and children¹

19%

Percentage of Syrian refugee households reporting that all members have legal residency permits²

74%

Percentage of Syrian refugees aged 15 and older who did not have legal residency²

66%

Percentage of households reported having at least one member with specific needs²

(the term 'specific needs' refers to household members with (i) physical or mental disability, (ii) chronic illness, (iii) temporary illness or injury, (iv) serious medical condition, and (v) people who need support in basic daily activities)

79,778

Number of individuals participating in activities in community centres and SDCs (2017)³

1,126

Number of institutional actors trained who demonstrate increased knowledge of SGBV(2017)³

24%

of children receiving case-management support were engaged in child labor and **17%** of children were on contact with the law³

Sources:

1 UNHCR refugee data as of 31 December 2017

2 2017 Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees VASyR

3 Activity Info Partner Reports - January - December 2017



KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACT(S)

In February and March 2017, the General Security Office (GSO) announced the Government's decision to waive fees for overstay and renewal of legal residency (USD 200 per year per person aged 15 years and above). The waiver applies to Syrian refugees who were registered with UNHCR before 1 January 2015 and who had not renewed their residency previously based on tourism, sponsorship, property ownership or tenancy in 2015 or 2016. Following the waiver announcements, protection partners intensified their support to refugees to help ensure that eligible refugees would benefit. Also, in order to adequately respond to refugees' increased access to legal residency, UNHCR significantly strengthened its registration capacity to deliver housing attestations and renew expired registration certificates, in addition to providing technical and material support to the GSO. The hope is that this will result in more refugees having legal residency and the 2018 Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VaSyR) will be a good benchmark to assess the waiver's impact.

Through legal awareness and counselling sessions, refugees are better informed on procedures required in order to obtain legal residency and civil documentation, including birth and marriage registration. Legal residency enhances the protection of refugees by helping prevent exploitation, arrests, and detention. Also, it enables freedom of movement to access basic services, such as health and education.

In September 2017, the Personal Status Department (PSD) issued a memorandum to facilitate birth/marriage registration of Syrian nationals and Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS). Accordingly, parents are no longer required to have legal residency (as was the case previously) in order to register the birth of their child, and only one spouse is required to have legal residency for marriage registration (as opposed to both previously). The PSD memo materialized after sustained advocacy by protection partners with the respective Government authorities. The easing of these civil documentation requirements should allow more refugees to obtain birth and marriage registration, enhancing their protection in Lebanon and helping facilitate access to essential services, such as health and education and preventing situations of statelessness.

The availability of quality, easily reachable and survivor-centered services, is critical to ensure that Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) survivors feel confident to seek support. If these conditions are not met, survivors will not take the risk of reporting at the cost of bearing long lasting medical and emotional consequences. Over 97,000 individuals at risk of SGBV or survivors accessed various psychosocial support activities in static and mobile safe spaces, which have contributed to enhancing their protection and well-being.

As of September 2017, 18 percent of reported SGBV incidents involved children. Through life skills and recreational activities, sector partners have improved the self-confidence of adolescents and youth, and increased their knowledge of how to access required services. To mark the closure of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in Lebanon, the Sexual, and Gender Based Violence Task-Force (SGBV-TF) organized an advocacy event focusing on adolescent girls, their talents, skills, how they want to be recognized and valued. The event included pictures, videos and drawings produced by adolescent girls in Lebanon that asked for a more protective environment, free from all forms of violence.

SGBV-TF's sustained capacity building efforts have had a positive impact, with data indicating that 61% of community member participants showed improved knowledge and attitudes towards SGBV. This demonstrates the importance of continuing these activities. Also, the regular evaluation of trainings on SGBV core concepts, prevention, and response measures for institutional actors (such as social workers from MOSA, members of ISF, partners' staff) indicates that 82% of trainees demonstrate increased knowledge of SGBV.

Five-hundred and fifty Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) school counsellors were trained on MEHE's 2017 Child Protection Policy and psycho-social support skills to enhance children's well-being at school and create a stronger protective school environment. In addition, 110 MoSA Social Development Centre (SDC) staff also received child protection training, including on early identification and referral and best interest determination for refugee children in order to find the most appropriate and sustainable arrangements for children's care and well-being.

Child Protection targeted the most vulnerable children in Lebanon and prioritized services to high risk children, which resulted in 10,825 children (males 60 percent, females 40 percent) receiving individual case management services. This is the highest number of children to receive case management in a 12 month time frame since the beginning of the crisis, despite the sector not reaching its target. The Sector's ability to provide high quality case management services was improved with the training of 11 Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) staff and 99 civil society actors on the National Standard Operating Procedures for Juvenile Protection. In addition, 140 case managers and case workers received case management coaching throughout 2017. Case management services work to reduce the risks faced by children, such as child labor, child marriage and violent discipline) by identifying and coordinating supports to mitigate these risk and keep children safe (see example of case study).

Group based interventions in the form of focused psycho-social support (PSS) were provided to 34,834 children (males 48.7 percent, female 51.3 percent) as part of an integrated package of support. PSS peer support models can provide an additional source of resilience for high risk children in addition to individual case management support. In parallel, a total of a total of 52,180 caregivers were regularly supported to strengthen their resilience to adversity using positive coping skills and to reduce harmful parenting practices to better support themselves and their children. Furthermore, Community based interventions reached a total of 621,761 individuals, in order to build a safer environment for children through increasing awareness and implementation of child protection prevention and response strategies.



CHALLENGES

Preserving an adequate protection space for refugees was a significant challenge in 2017 with growing prevalence of municipal restrictions in the form of evictions, curfews and raids, driven by a complexity of factors including rising negative attitudes toward refugees and the high pressure on some communities.

In 2017, several eviction orders and threats took place including in Zahle municipality, Miziara town, Bcharre municipality, and Hadath municipality, exacerbating difficulties already being faced by refugees in Lebanon. Evictions in March ordered by the Lebanese Armed Forces for persons residing near Riyak Military Airbase is still ongoing and has affected some 12,665 persons; 156 families have been forced to relocate to different locations, with some 224 remaining behind. Protection partners have stepped up their advocacy efforts to urge authorities not to evict, especially when the eviction is considered unlawful. Partners have mobilized resources to address the needs of the most vulnerable.

The growing prevalence of evictions is resulting in several protection challenges for refugees including: homelessness, secondary displacement, exploitative housing arrangement, and increased vulnerabilities due to depleted resources. Apart from evictions, municipal restrictions including increased curfews, taxes, fines and business closures, are hampering the ability of refugees to provide for themselves.

Seventy-four percent of Syrians are still without legal residency despite enhanced refugees' awareness of legal residency procedures through protection partner activities. Based on partner observations, the GSO still lacks sufficient capacity to process all of the applications for residency renewal in an efficient manner and is applying the fee waiver in an inconsistent manner. For example, refugees who are working or perceived to be working are often not allowed to renew their residency free of charge, based on a UNHCR certificate, but are requested to obtain legal residency through sponsorship, which is not in line with the March 2017 waiver.

Many Syrians, lacking valid residency permits or any identity documents, were subject to arrest at checkpoints or during raids, and transferred directly to the retention centre of the General Security Office (GSO RC), reportedly being released following a few days of administrative detention. Detention continues to represent a significant protection risk for Syrians, mainly resulting from immigration-related offences, such as illegal entry and lack of legal residency. In 2017, Sector partners provided 1,079 persons (651 Syrian refugees) with legal, psycho-social and material support in detention facilities.

Limited access to and availability of specialized rehabilitation services has aggravated the marginalization of persons with specific needs (PwSNs). Due to the lack of adequate services, in 2017, only 1,854 persons with disabilities received support from Sector partners, representing a mere 20 percent of the sector target.

Predictable and long term funding is critical to ensure continuity and increased availability of psychosocial, medical, protection and legal services to SGBV survivors. Lack of predictable funding affects service providers' capacities to support survivors on a regular basis, at the risk of undermining the well-being of those who have the courage to step forward and seek help, particularly survivors of domestic violence and child marriage.

During the last quarter of the year, the sector experienced a drastic funding shortfall, which impacted service provision in several areas of the country, whereby the number of persons accessing safe spaces per month dropped from approximately 7,000 individuals to 3,000 individuals.

Disclosing incidents of SGBV remain extremely challenging for several reasons, including a widespread acceptance of violence, fear of retaliation, religious beliefs, or belief that no one can help. Additional barriers still prevent women, girls, men and boys accessing needed SGBV services,



CHALLENGES

including: disruption of services due to humanitarian funding gaps; documentation requirements; restrictions on mobility, high costs and limited availability of specialized services, such as legal and mental health services, limited availability and strict criteria for admission to long term residential safe shelter, mental health, and lack of employment opportunities. This is further explained by data reported through the Gender- Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), which indicated that in quarter one 2017, 47% of survivors declined legal assistance services, while 40% in quarter one 2016. Data analysis shows that access to security/protection services remains challenging for marginalized groups.

The widespread exploitation of children as labour continues to be one of the most prevalent concerns affecting their wellbeing and development. Finding effective and sustainable solutions such as alternative sources of income for families who have limited livelihood opportunities is a key challenge. Lack of specialized services in many parts of the country persists, such as mental health services to support parents to improve their capacity to care and protect their children along with adequate support services for children with disabilities. Appropriate, family-based alternative care options for unaccompanied children and children in contact with the justice system also remains extremely limited, depriving children of the care and protection a family environment can provide. Furthermore, nationwide support is needed to ensure a child-friendly justice system is in place for all children in contact with the law to reduce the number of children in detention and to ensure children's rights and protection needs are adequately addressed.



KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN - 1ST QUARTER 2018

Protection objectives regarding access to territory, justice, civil status documentation (especially for children born in Lebanon and early married adolescent girls) and legal residency remain a priority for all refugees. This also involves interventions for persons in need of international protection who require support for entry to Lebanon under the exceptional humanitarian admissions criteria of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). Increasing the number of refugees who have civil documentation and legal residency will remain a priority to mitigate protection threats such as statelessness, evictions, arrests, and detentions.

Referrals will continue to be strengthened, as part of increased accountability and through the inter-agency referral mechanism that was introduced in 2017. This will support timely and effective management of individual needs through the provision, where necessary, of specialized services complementing community-based interventions.

Continued provision of services to SGBV survivors and individuals at risk remains a key priority for the sector. The sector has identified critical areas where ongoing interventions are essential and ensured coverage until the end of March 2018. A gap and needs analysis will be conducted to inform advocacy and prioritization.

The reduction and prevention of SGBV will require the engagement of the whole community. The sector will complete a detailed mapping of ongoing initiatives to engage men and boys in preventing and responding to SGBV and will finalize a compilation of best practices in the Lebanon context as well as supporting the development of dedicated curricula promoting positive and non-violent behaviours within the households and the community.

Finalizing the review of the MoSA National Plan to Safeguard Women and Children in Lebanon 2014 -16 and of the new National Strategic Plan for Child Protection and Gender-based Violence will be a priority for early 2018. The Strategic Plan will be a foundation for all future work undertaken by the Protection Sector to protect the rights of women and children. It is likely that there will be further funding constraints in 2018 and there is a need to transition more sustainable funding models. Interventions will need to be more targeted and programming focused on the most marginalized locations. A greater emphasis will be placed on community based interventions to build protective environments for children and support longer-term positive change. Influential community members, municipalities, religious leaders, employers, and other key gatekeepers will be targeted by the Sector to work collaboratively to build this more sustainable protective environment using their influence as role models in inducing social change. Promoting non-violent ways to manage relationships within families and the communities, enhancing positive parenting skills and supporting positive coping mechanism that are not harmful to children will be the focus of these activities.



CASE STUDY

Sector partners, including ADRA, Caritas Lebanon, GVC, HelpAge International, IRC, INTERSOS, and Makhzoumi Foundation have strengthened assistance to both Lebanese and Syrian older persons, through life skills training, psychosocial support, medicine, rent support, and other forms of assistance in different community centres countrywide. Some partners employ a community-based approach whereby volunteers conduct daily visits to older persons living independently in their community. This approach has successfully set the foundation for, and promoted further social stability between both the host and refugees communities, as the majority of volunteers and beneficiaries are Lebanese and Syrians. Given that several of the older persons being visited live alone, with no caregivers and/or family – often for a prolonged period – and face dire emotional/physical conditions, partner interventions assisted older persons in cultivating an increased sense of social inclusion and improved their overall well-being.

Lamia is 8 years old and a refugee from Syria. Lamia used to sell tissue papers and gum on the streets in Amchit from 7am -4pm to support her mother and 3 siblings. Street and working children such as Lamia are some of the most vulnerable children in Lebanon as they are exposed to severe violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. During her working hours, Lamia was subjected to physical abuse from different perpetrators on the streets including other street children. Lamia was assessed and prioritized to receive case management services from IRC. Her case manager then coordinated with other Sectors and agencies to provide Lamia and her family with the multiple interventions and support needed to improve Lamia's safety and wellbeing. This included access to food, emergency cash assistance, medication, health services including immunizations, winterization and hygiene kits, and referrals to more sustained assistance (such as WFP and PCAP). As a result of this support, Lamia was able to stop working and instead attend school. As part of an integrated package of support, children receiving case management services are also able to access peer support and life skills development through focused PSS services. Additionally parents and caregivers of children in case management programs are prioritized for positive parenting skills training and parenting support.