

Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (2017-2020)

ANNUAL REPORT - 2017



**Inter-Agency
Coordination**
Lebanon

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3RP	Refugee-Resilience Response
ALP	Accelerated Learning Programme
ATM	Automated teller machine
BLN	Basic Literacy and Numeracy
BTS	Back to School
CB-ECE	Community-Based Early Childhood Education
CERD	Curriculum Development, Training and Research
CoC	Code of Conduct
DOPS	Department of scholar pedagogy
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EdL	Electricité du Liban
ETF	Environment Task Force
EWARS	Early Warning and Alerts Response System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBVIMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
GIS	Geographic information system
GoL	Government of Lebanon
GSO	General Security Office
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HH	Household
IAMP	Inter-Agency Mapping Platform
ICLA	Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance
ISF	Internal Security Forces
IS	Informal settlement
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
LCRP	Lebanon Crisis Response Plan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEB	Minimum expenditure basket
MEHE	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoET	Ministry of Economy and Trade
MoEW	Ministry of Energy and Water
MoIM	Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
MoL	Ministry of Labour
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MoSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
MPC	Multi-purpose cash
MSMEs	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
NCD	Non-communicable diseases
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NPTP	National Poverty Targeting Programme
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODK	Open Data Kit
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFC	Occupancy Free of Charge
OOSCI	Out of School Children Study
PHC	Primary Health Care Centre
PMU	Project Management Unit
PRL	Palestine Refugee in Lebanon
PRS	Palestine Refugee from Syria
PSD	Personal Status Department

PSEA	Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse
PSS	Psychosocial support
PwSNs	Persons with specific needs
RACE	Reach All Children with Education
RNA	Rapid Needs Assessment
RRP	Refugee Response Plan
SDC	Social Development Centre
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SMEB	Survival minimum expenditure basket
SO	Strategic Objectives
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
T&D	Transmission and Distribution
TPA	Third Party Administrator
TTCM	Teacher Training Curriculum Model
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VASYR	Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon
WAP	Water Assessment Portal
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WEC	Water Executive Committee
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The response to the Syrian crisis is guided by the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), jointly developed by the Government of Lebanon (GoL) and the humanitarian community (United Nations, national and international NGOs and donors) and currently covering a four-year period from 2017 to 2020. It provides an integrated humanitarian and stabilization framework to tackle Lebanon's challenges holistically, taking into account the vulnerability of all people affected by the crisis. The LCRP aims to ensure protection and to provide immediate assistance to the most vulnerable populations, primarily the displaced population from Syria, the Lebanese host community and the Palestine refugees in Lebanon. The crisis response plan also aims at strengthening the capacity of national and local service delivery systems to expand access to and quality of basic services. Lastly, the plan strives to reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability.

In 2017, 3.3 million individuals were in need of assistance and 2.8 million were specifically targeted by implementing partners. The LCRP was less than half funded. Out of an overall funding appeal of \$2.75bn, \$1.24bn was received to support the activities of 65 LCRP partners. Forty percent of this was delivered to vulnerable individuals through a range of cash-based programmes. The funding also includes more than \$207 million to strengthen service delivery, policy development, capacity building and institutional stability in the public sector (a 20 percent increase since 2015). Overall, in 2017, 2.3 million individuals effectively benefitted from the Response (82 percent of the target). Despite large outreach efforts, the response was not able to provide the required level and quality of assistance to the target population.

Throughout 2017, partners have mitigated deteriorating of vulnerabilities across ten target sectors of intervention, but have not halted them completely. LCRP impact monitoring shows the following key trends and results¹:

Protection risks of the vulnerable population remain high, with a lack of legal status among displaced Syrians (74 percent of them did not have

a legal residency permit, as of May 2017) and low level of birth registration (17 percent of displaced Syrian families completed the registration process). Children were still engaged in child labour (5 percent of Syrian children aged 5 to 17) as well as affected by violent disciplinary practices (78 percent of them suffered from some form of violence). Early marriage remained high, with 22 percent of displaced Syrian girls aged 15 to 19 married. Overall, trend analysis shows a worsening of protection risk among Syrian households.

Meeting basic humanitarian needs continues to be difficult. The percentage of displaced Syrians living in poverty rose from 71 to 76 percent over the course of one year; shelter conditions deteriorated, with 53 percent of displaced Syrians living in inadequate shelters compared to 46 percent in 2016; 91 percent of them have had a level of food insecurity, slightly improving compared to 2016 (93 percent) and 78 percent had access to improved drinking water sources in 2017, thanks to significant effort made by the humanitarian community.

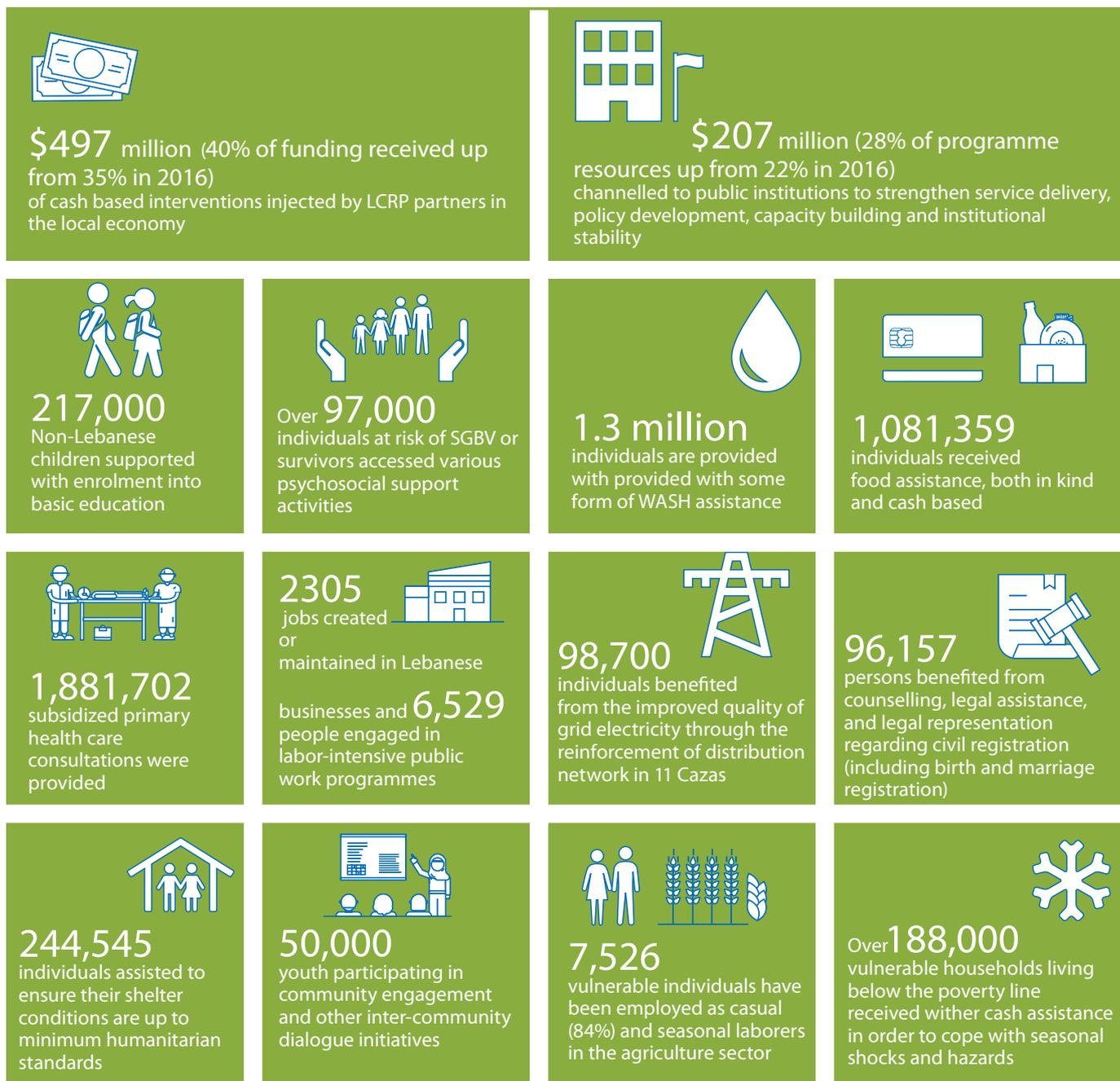
Access to basic services improves yet remains low. Access to education services improved, with around 430,000 students enrolled in formal public education across the country for the 2017/2018 school year, an eight percent increase compared to the 2016/2017 school year; access to primary health care improved, as 46 percent of displaced Syrian households required primary health care in 2017, and 89 percent of them effectively accessed these services, compared to 84 percent in 2016. Yet, secondary health care services remained difficult to provide; access to improved sanitation facilities has stabilized since 2016, with 86 percent of displaced Syrian households accessing them in 2017.

The employment status of the vulnerable population deteriorates, with only 56 percent of displaced Syrian men aged 15-64 doing some work in 2017. Several research studies indicate a worsening of the employment status compared to 2016. In average, those who worked only did so for 14 days per month. This remains insufficient to cover daily expenses, and as a result 90 percent of families had accumulated debt, at an average of \$840 in 2017. The main areas of work, as in previous years, were informal labour in agriculture and construction. 15 percent of households were involved in agricultural livelihood activities, and agriculture was reported as the first source of income in nine percent of households.

Host community fatigue increases.

The percentage of Lebanese who did not report any inter-community tensions dropped from 40 percent to a mere two percent between 2014 and 2017. Yet, a resilient Lebanese society prevailed with 81 percent of people living in vulnerable areas expressing a sense of solidarity in their community, and 91 percent of Syrians and Lebanese agreeing that Lebanese have been generous hosts to displaced Syrians since 2011.

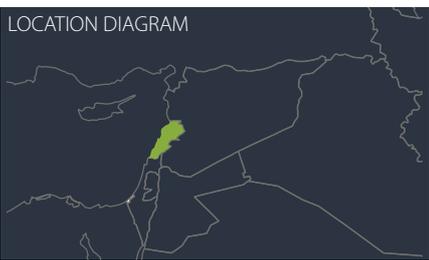
Across sectors, immediate assistance was provided to the most vulnerable populations and key achievements have been made. Some examples:



Despite these achievements, more sustainable solutions and predictable funding for longer-term support are required to reverse the downward trend in vulnerability as the crisis becomes more protracted and people further deplete their savings and assets to cope with the crisis.

REFERENCE MAP

Governorate, Caza and major towns in Lebanon



- ★ Capital
- Major Towns
- Waterways
- International Boundaries
- Governorate Boundaries
- Caza Boundaries



OVERVIEW OF THE 2017-2020 RESPONSE

The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan required \$2.75bn in 2017 to:



1- Ensure protection of vulnerable populations



3- Support service provision through national systems



2- Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations



4- Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability

POPULATION IN NEED:



1.5 m
Vulnerable
Lebanese



1.5 m
Displaced
Syrians



31,500
Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS)
277,985
Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

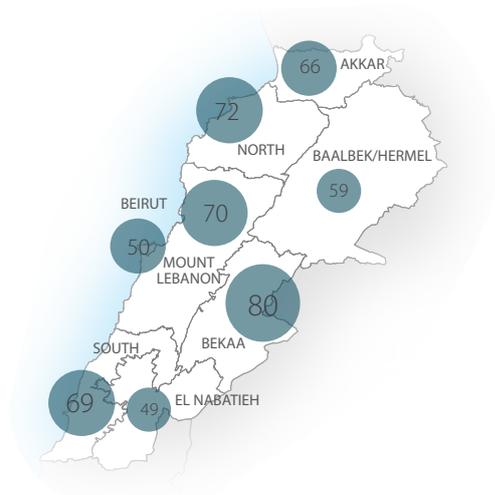
TARGETED POPULATION: 2.8 million



PARTNERS

Number of partners per governorate

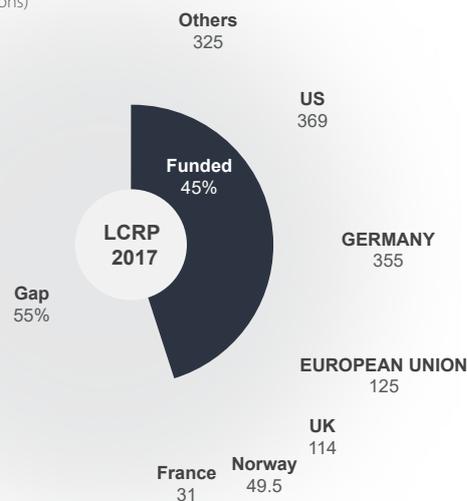
Source: ActivityInfo as of December 2017



FUNDING

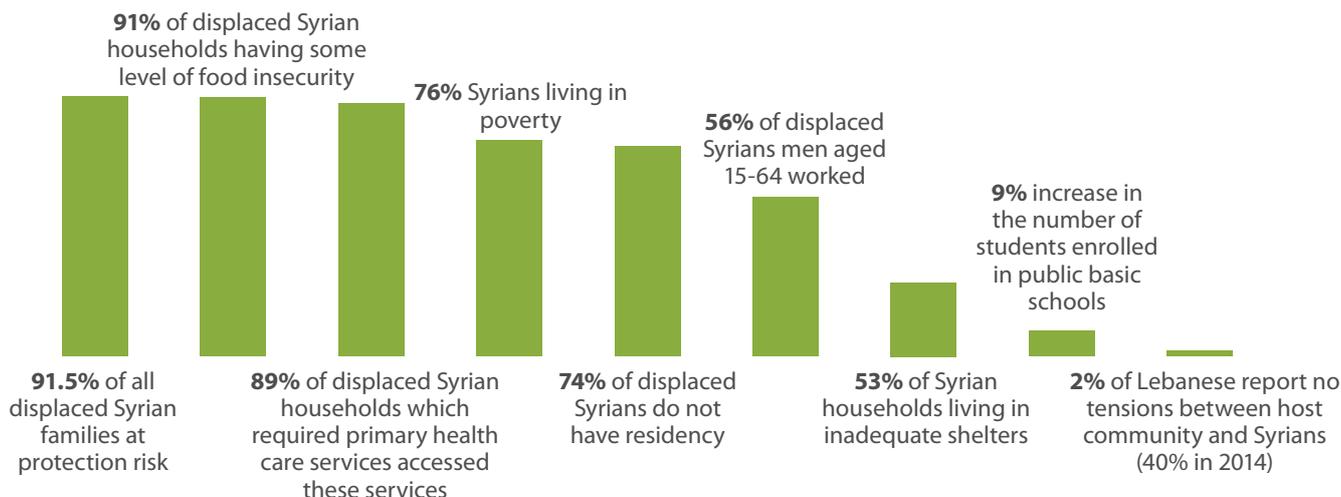
Top 6 LCRP 2017 Donors

(in US\$ millions)



Source: FTS and LCRP financial tracking as of Jan 2018

AT A GLANCE



\$497 million of cash based interventions injected by LCRP partners in the local economy

217,000 Non-Lebanese children supported with enrolment into basic education

98,700 individuals benefited from the improved quality of grid electricity through the reinforcement of distribution network in 11 Cazas

1,081,359 individuals received food assistance, both in kind and cash based

1,881,702 subsidized primary health care consultations were provided

2305 jobs created or maintained in Lebanese businesses and **6,529** people engaged in labor-intensive public work programmes

Over **97,000** individuals at risk of SGBV or survivors accessed various psychosocial support activities

96,157 persons benefited from counselling, legal assistance, and legal representation regarding civil registration (including birth and marriage registration)

244,545 individuals assisted to ensure their shelter conditions are up to minimum humanitarian standards

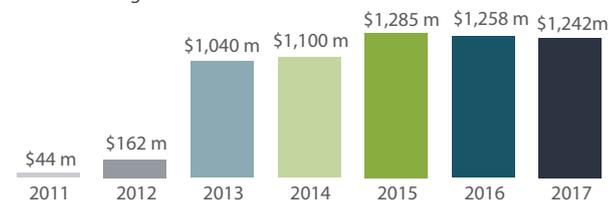
50,000 youth participating in community engagement and other inter-community dialogue initiatives

7,526 vulnerable individuals have been employed as casual (84%) and seasonal laborers in the agriculture sector

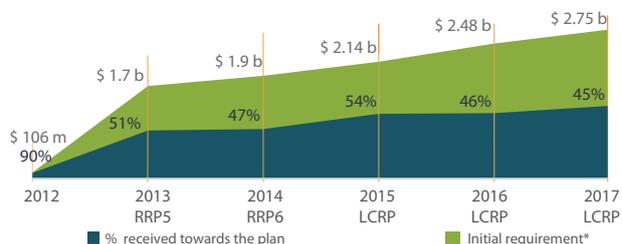
\$207 million channelled to public institutions to strengthen service delivery, policy development, capacity building and institutional stability

DONOR CONTRIBUTION

Overall Funding Received



FUNDING TREND



The figures are as of 31 December 2017
Source: Financial Tracking Service (FTS) and LCRP financial tracking.

*Includes GoL requirement
Source: Funding figures used are from FTS and LCRP financial tracking.

EVOLUTION OF CONTEXT

Financial Overview

Humanitarian aid flows to Lebanon remained at a stable and high level for 2017, with \$1.24bn received against the \$2.68bn appeal through 65 partners. With 45 percent coverage, the LCRP remains one of the best funded appeals globally. Overall, partners have received \$3.9bn since the launch of the LCRP in 2015 and a total of \$6bn since the start of the crisis in 2011. However, 16 percent of the funding was received in the last quarter of 2017, causing challenges in securing a consistent level of service provision throughout the year. Funding gaps were seen particularly in the areas of water, child protection and SGBV.

Furthermore, funding remains focused on short-term humanitarian needs and limited progress has been made in attracting predictable and multi-year funding. At the end of 2017, 20 partners reported \$211m in multi-year funding for 2018 - 2020 programming, with more INGOs receiving multi-year funding in 2017 than in previous years. However, virtually no local NGOs were able to attract multi-year funding.

Overall, though donors are largely fulfilling their pledges made at the Brussels Conference, a substantial proportion of needs identified under the LCRP remains uncovered. Recognizing the need to maintain direct humanitarian assistance, there remains a need to step up for predictable support to longer-term programmes and more sustainable solutions.

The LCRP remains the main funding vehicle for humanitarian and development partners in Lebanon. Overall, donors disbursed \$1.37bn to Lebanon in 2017, 90 percent of which was in support of the crisis response. In addition, since 2016, donors have contributed \$357m to the Global Concessional Financing Facility for Lebanon, with two projects now approved for implementation. It is expected that with the launch of the Government of Lebanon's Capital Investment Plan, further development

financing and investments will be made available for larger scale projects. Nevertheless, the LCRP will continue to be the key platform for investing in humanitarian and stabilization outcomes over the next few years and will require continued support from the global aid community to achieve its expected objectives.

Policy Environment

Over the past year, a number of positive policy developments have taken place:

To increase access to legal residency and simplify procedures, the General Security Office (GSO) announced in March 2017 the waiver of fees for legal residency renewal and overstay (\$200 per person aged 15 and above per year). The waiver applies to Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR prior to 1 January 2015 and who had not renewed their residency previously based on tourism, sponsorship, property ownership or tenancy in 2015 or 2016. Data from May 2017 shows that only 26 percent of Syrian refugees over 15 years of age have legal residency.² A UNHCR survey on legal residency, conducted in December 2017 among 11,586 refugees, highlighted that 67 percent of those who managed to submit an application with the GSO (i.e. 16 percent of the total sample) was able to renew their legal residency free of charge. However, 61 percent of refugees who approached GSO were in fact not able to renew, with the main obstacle being that the GSO centres could only process a limited number of applications or because of daily quotas applied by some GSO offices, resulting in refugees being asked to come back another time. More equipment support in 2018 will help addressing these issues.

Another important step was taken in September 2017 when the Personal Status Department announced a simplification of birth and marriage registration procedures, namely that valid legal residency of the parents of a newborn is no longer required for birth registration and only one spouse is required to have valid legal residency in order to register their marriage.

In line with its Vision for Stabilization and Development, presented at the 2016 London Conference, the Government of Lebanon lifted its 'pledge-not-to-work' requirement for Syrian

refugees and reformulated it into a 'pledge to abide by Lebanese laws and regulations' in 2017. Coupled with the annual Ministry of Labour decision which confirmed the exemption of Syrian refugees from the list of professions reserved for Lebanese nationals in the sectors of construction, agriculture and environment, the Government of Lebanon has taken positive steps to ease access to the labour market.

The ratification in August 2017 of the Public Private Partnership Law by the Lebanese Parliament is expected to strengthen investments and entrepreneurship particularly in public infrastructure. Furthermore, a budget law was passed in October 2017 in an effort to put the budget cycle back on track.

Despite a number of positive steps, however, key policy challenges remain for partners to move from providing direct humanitarian assistance (in the form of, for example, water trucking, desludging and weatherproofing), primarily in informal settlements, towards more sustainable solutions with strengthened development outcomes.

Grand Bargain Commitments

At the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, 22 donors and 31 major humanitarian actors signed an agreement to get more means into the hands of people in need.

Within the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, partners are working to make progress under each of the ten Grand Bargain commitments:

Greater transparency

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for the LCRP is an important step towards greater transparency. Coupled with quarterly financial tracking of all funds received against the appeal, data on results and resources is published on a regular basis. Moving forward, the LCRP is committed to produce both a mid-term review as well as a final evaluation of the response, to enhance learning and build in feedback loops for improved planning and programming.

More support and funding tools for local and national responders

The tracking of support to public institutions

has shown a steady increase in funds supporting national service delivery. In 2017, partners reported \$207m in support to public institutions which constitutes 17 percent of the overall response and represents an increase of 8 percent each year and 18 percent since 2015. Furthermore, 781 staff were supported to enhance crisis response capacities within the public institutions, up from 600 staff reported in 2016 (an increase of 68 percent). Nevertheless, partners can do more to ensure local capacities are in place and facilitate direct funding of local actors, and this should be a focus in 2018. In 2017, funds were channelled through 65 of the 104 appealing partners, with a focus on the larger UN agencies and international NGOs.

Increase the use and coordination of cash-based programming

Lebanon has one of the largest cash programmes in the world. In 2017, 40 percent of the \$1.24bn response was delivered through cash, up from 36 percent in 2016. Several partners have joined efforts to deliver multi-purpose cash, cash for food and cash for education through a common platform entitled LOUISE ("Lebanon One Unified Inter-Organisational System for E-cards"), with the aim to reduce transaction costs and further increase efficiencies. An ad hoc task force has been convened to discuss the linkage between cash and safety net programming to better inform the response moving forward.

Reduce duplication and management costs with periodic functional reviews

The LCRP Steering Committee launched in November 2017 a review of the coordination structure to address a number of challenges identified. The outcome of this review will be presented to the Steering Committee in 2018, with the aim to implement changes ahead of the planning process for 2019. With increased investments in long-term development and the risk of reduced humanitarian funding, the need for good coordination to leverage each partner's comparative advantage will only become more pressing. The coordination review will be discussed in more detail below in the Response Management section.

Improve joint and impartial needs assessments

With the M&E framework in place, the information needs and assessments required to report on

outcome and impact level data for the response have been identified and partners have committed to their timely implementation. The response plan is developed based on commonly identified needs by sector and an agreed upon strategy to address those needs. Work is currently underway to fill most critical data gaps and address the Lebanese population cohort. A multi-deprivation index (MDI) using data collected through past and planned surveys such as the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS, UNICEF) will support joint vulnerability assessment efforts. Additional surveys, such as the perception surveys on social tensions, or the Reality check studies, are also contributing to a strong evidence base for the response. Nevertheless, results from the coordination review indicate that joint gap analysis and cross-sectoral prioritization are areas which need further improvement moving forward.

A participation revolution: include people receiving aid in making the decisions which affect their lives.

Although the level of communication with affected communities is relatively solid, participatory planning processes need strengthening. The Mapping of Risks and Resources, conducted by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) in collaboration with municipal stakeholders, is a good example and lessons learned could be drawn to inform similar targeting and planning processes. Direct engagement with refugees in decision-making processes remains a challenge for some programmes, and the Protection sector will support other sectors in this regard in 2018.

Increase collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding, and reduce the earmarking of donor contributions

As noted above, the level of multi-year funding is low despite having a multi-year response framework in place. Furthermore, partners are not yet witnessing a reduction in earmarking by donors.

Harmonize and simplify reporting requirements

With the establishment of the LCRP Monitoring & Evaluation framework and reporting calendar, considerable efforts have been made to ensure that each sector logframe is complementary to the others and that all the indicators are linked to the results

chain moving from the four over-arching strategic objectives, through to the impact statements, and outcomes and outputs at sector level. However, partners still have to fulfill their individual reporting requirements to their donors and in the case of the UN to the UN Strategic Framework, often using similar, yet not fully comparable indicators. This adds a considerable burden on partners.

Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors

The first parameter of the coordination review launched in November 2017 is to reflect the integrated nature of the response. Feedback from the review process has revealed the ambition to further bridge the humanitarian – development nexus. With the launch of the Government's Capital Investment Plan, the funds committed through the Global Concessional Facility and other bilateral development initiatives, the LCRP response management will continuously need to evaluate its structures and processes to allow for greater collaboration and engagement with actors that do not formally appeal under the LCRP.



RESPONSE MANAGEMENT

A number of key changes in the response management have taken shape in 2017.

Strengthening the coordination structure to support operationalization of the response:

In the first part of 2015, an external review was conducted in order to assess the relevance of the coordination structure following the evolution from Refugee Response Plans (RRPs) to an integrated Refugee Resilience Response (3RP/LCRP). This followed several other reports and reviews on the subject. The final report, however, did not lead to substantive changes in the coordination structure, as there was little consensus on the formulated recommendations, and the GoL was not as engaged at the time as it is today. Reflection on the subject nevertheless continued among the partners in Lebanon.

In November 2017, the LCRP Steering Committee launched a review of the coordination structure. The objective was to obtain feed-back on the most efficient and effective structure and ensure buy-in through a review conducted by the LCRP team itself. The general consensus among partners is that there is scope for improved efficiency, streamlining and overall effectiveness within the coordination architecture. There is broad agreement on the need to update the coordination structure in Lebanon, as coordination structures are meant to expand, and contract based on changes in the operational context.

A proposal has been tabled by the Humanitarian Coordinator, and consultations are ongoing at the national and field level to come to an understanding about the changes needed within the coordination structure to better ensure an effective operational response. The aim is for a proposal to be presented at the LCRP Steering Committee mid-2018 for approval.

Bolstering response to ensure readiness in large-scale emergencies: As part of an increased accountability to affected communities, procedures for safe and ethical referrals will continue to be strengthened along with the expansion of the

inter-agency system to track the status of referrals, established under the Protection sector, to other sectors. This will support timely and effective management of individual needs through the provision, when necessary, of specialized services complementing community-based interventions, as well as timely identification of gaps in services across sectors.

Better tracking the impact of the response through the Inter-sector Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework:

Over the years, the coordination structure has gradually strengthened its analysis, planning and targeting capacity, and several important new studies and assessments have been developed and implemented. This progress was further consolidated throughout 2017 by an extensive M&E review process, leading to the development of an inter-sector framework outlining how the different sectors are contributing to the four strategic objectives of the LCRP, and a comprehensive review of the logical frameworks, indicators and means of verifications of all ten sectors. The LCRP is now able to provide stronger analysis at outcome and impact level through its M&E framework.

Creating greater accountability in the response through improved tracking of referrals to services:

As part of an increased accountability to affected communities, procedures for safe and ethical referrals will continue to be strengthened along with the expansion of the inter-agency system to track the status of referrals, established under the Protection sector, to other sectors. This will support timely and effective management of individual needs through the provision, when necessary, of specialized services complementing community-based interventions, as well as timely identification of gaps in services across sectors.

Finding new methods to prioritize and target the most vulnerable individuals in a context of increased needs:

Throughout 2017, funding limitations constrained the capacity of agencies to provide assistance consistently. Fluctuations and shortfalls have pushed agencies to conduct strict measures to prioritize those identified to be the poorest of the displaced population throughout the country.

Given the fact that more than half of the displaced population in Lebanon is living in extremely

difficult conditions, a targeting system for cash assistance is now in place to be able to rank households according to a formula which uses an economic vulnerability score. Referrals for inclusion in assistance programmes are facilitated through field-based mechanisms to ensure that no duplications occur and, at the same time, targeted assistance is reaching the most vulnerable people in different regions in a symmetric and proportional fashion. There are limitations to the formula in light of the fact that nuances between individuals scoring extremely vulnerable are extremely tenuous and difficult to justify to families not eligible for assistance. Outreach and dialogue with refugees and Lebanese communities will be further strengthened in 2018.

A prioritization and targeting approach has also been developed related to water and sanitation services. An online, interactive live GIS database, the WASH Assessment Platform (WAP) is now in place to assist in determining, through a weighted scoring system, which informal settlements are the most WASH-vulnerable and which specific factors contribute to this vulnerability. The database has been populated by 14 partners which have conducted the 100+ question-and-observation survey for each of the nearly 5,000 sites targeted by the Water sector, establishing the first such national baseline. This enables the sector to more accurately target emergency interventions, in 2018 and beyond, and to guide and prioritize investments.

Exploring the humanitarian-development nexus for longer-term solutions: Multi-purpose cash assistance is helping poor households to mitigate multiple economic pressures. Yet, these interventions cannot lead to impactful results unless they are supplemented by complementary interventions from other sectors. The Basic Assistance sector is engaging in technical discussions with the Livelihoods, Food Security and Protection sectors on areas related to the graduation out of poverty. Graduation approaches aim at moving chronically poor households out of their extreme situations through a combination of social services, livelihood opportunities, and financial assistance instruments. These discussions are in the initial stages, addressing technical issues relating to targeting, information needs, profiling of beneficiaries, and programmatic complementarity/synergies, using a protection-centered approach.

Given that this is considered as one of the longer-term solutions for the Basic Assistance sector, the sector will focus on establishing the basis for such graduation programmes by better understanding who among the poorest of the population should be able to make it on their own, when linked with livelihoods opportunities. The population group that is unable to generate sufficient income will then be considered for safety nets, in which case direct cash assistance could be maintained.

INTER-SECTOR RESULTS ANALYSIS

LCRP outreach

In 2017, 2.8 million people, out of 3.3 million people in need identified in the planning figures, were specifically targeted by the sectors, and 82 percent of them (2.3 million) were reached. Despite high-level outreach, the response was not able to provide the required level and quality of assistance to the target population due to funding and operational constraints.

Beneficiary outreach varies from sector to sector. The Food Security and Livelihoods sectors are the only two sectors that overshot their beneficiary target, respectively by 15 and 5 percent. Food Security partners have provided cash-based and in-kind food assistance to a much higher number of individuals than originally planned, whereas they fell short in delivering other types of longer-term assistance. Overall, the Food Security sector was funded up to 62 percent of its 2017 appeal. As for the Livelihoods sector, its focus on the supply side of the labour market continued to expand in 2017 and partners provided short-term market-skills trainings to a higher number of people than initially planned. Continuous improvement of the quality and impact of these trainings on beneficiaries' economic conditions is a key priority of the sector in 2018.

Outreach in other sectors fell short compared to their 2017 targets, as the following table shows.

Table1: Sectors outreach in 2017

Sector / cohort	In need	Targeted	Reached	Reached vs. Targeted	Sector funding coverage
Basic Assistance	2,241,000	1,276,000	943,530	74%	32%
Education	1,232,883	543,616	526,712	97%	70%
Energy	3,309,487	1,119,171	114,290	10%	3%
Food Security	2,013,213	961,388	1,103,627	115%	61%
Health	2,445,986	1,535,297	985,013	64%	33%
Livelihoods	661,516	65,557	68,939	105%	33%
Protection	3,212,192	1,887,502	1,802,022	95%	68%
Shelter	749,175	536,002	244,545	46%	30%
Social Stability	3,309,487	2,236,299	2,987,358	133%	39%
Water	3,740,499	1,959,428	1,359,627	69%	31%

Source: LCRP 2017-2020, sector end-of 2017 reports

Strategic Objective One: Ensure protection of vulnerable populations

Impact One: Displaced persons from Syria and vulnerable populations live in a safe protective environment

Progress towards Impact One is measured through a Protection Risk Score at household level. This score considers the following five key protection risks:

1. Legal status of individuals
2. Birth registration
3. Child labour
4. Early marriage
5. Children affected by violent disciplinary practices

VASyR 2017 data, weighted by district, was used to determine the overall proportion of displaced Syrian households with a protection risk. As a result, 91.5 percent of all displaced Syrian families were found to be with a protection risk in 2017, illustrating the high protection risk environment that displaced Syrians are facing in Lebanon. At Governorate level, the highest protection risk of displaced Syrian families was found in the Bekaa (97 percent), whereas the lowest one was in Mount Lebanon (84 percent).

Table 2. Protection risk of displaced Syrian households per Governorate

Governorate	Protection risk
Bekaa	97%
Baalbeck El Hermel	95%
North Lebanon	95%
Akkar	93%
El Nabatiyeh	92%
South Lebanon	90%
Beirut	87%
Mount Lebanon	84%

Source: VASyR 2017 and Inter-agency calculations

At each protection risk level, the following trends were shown:

Displaced Syrians' legal status deteriorates. There has been a 26 percentage points increase between 2016 and 2017 in the percentage of Syrian families with no household members having a valid

residency permit, from 29 percent in 2016 to 55 percent in 2017. At the individual level, 74 percent of displaced Syrians did not have legal residency in 2017.

In order to obtain and renew a residency permit, substantive obstacles still exist, including financial constraints, making it difficult for displaced Syrians to seek renewal of their residence permits. However, in early 2017 the Government decided to apply a waiver on fees for overstay and renewal of legal residency. The full impact of this decision on the legal status of the refugee population will be captured in 2018.

As described in the Protection sector section (see section 8.7 below), despite the underfunding of the Protection sector as a whole (68 percent funded), LCRP partners have continued to provide a wide range of assistance services such as legal counselling and representation regarding legal residency, including through MoSA's network of Social Development Centres (SDCs).

The majority of Syrian children born in displacement in Lebanon are at risk of becoming stateless. As in 2016, only 17 percent of displaced Syrian families registered the birth of their children with Lebanese authorities in 2017, completing at least the four minimum steps required.

The Government took positive actions to facilitate birth registration in late 2017 and early 2018, through the simplification of procedures for birth and marriage registration. For instance, valid legal residency of parents is no longer required to register births with the Foreigners' Registry office, while only one spouse requires legal residency or an entry card to register a marriage.

As a result, it is expected that these new regulations will benefit more than 50,000 children above one year, who have been born in Lebanon to displaced Syrians, and will facilitate the registration of their births without having to go through the costly and complex judicial procedure.

Child labour remains a concern. VASyR 2017 data indicates that five percent of Syrian children aged 5 to 17 reported working in 2017. From 2009 to 2016, another study revealed that the proportion of Syrian children and Lebanese children engaged in child labour increased respectively from 4 to 6.7

percent and from 2 to 6 percent. New data collection is planned in 2018 to assess trend of child labour for all cohorts.

LCRP partners have continued providing assistance to boys and girls, including highest risk children, accessing specialized psychosocial support and/or assisted through child protection case management services. This remains a high priority for partners. Recent evidence shows that there has been a slight increase of displaced Syrian households involving their school children aged 6 to 15 years old in income generation activities (from 4 percent in 2016 to 5 percent in 2017) as a livelihood coping mechanism. Twenty-five percent of registered Syrians and 39 percent of Syrians living in informal settlements think that the minimum working age in Lebanon is 18 years.³

Early marriage remains prevalent. Despite the lack of comparable data, VASyR 2017 data indicates that 22 percent of displaced Syrian girls aged 15-19 in Lebanon were married, whereas some previous research shows that 27 percent of the same population group were married in 2016. From 2009 to 2016, the proportion of Lebanese girls aged 15-19 married or in union has increased from 2.6 to four percent. Early marriage among Syrian girls varied geographically, with some recent research showing much higher rates in certain areas.

Partners have continued their efforts to mitigate further deterioration in early marriage. This must remain a priority, as 36 and 40 percent of registered Syrians and Syrians living in informal settlements still did not believe that marriage under age 18 had any negative consequences, and 33 percent of displaced Syrians thought that girls usually get married in their communities at age 16.⁴

The number of children affected by violent disciplinary practices is alarming.

VASyR 2017 data indicates that a large majority (78 percent) of Syrian children below 18 years old were subject to violent discipline in 2017. Another survey, carried out in 2016, shows that violent discipline was widespread across population cohorts, with 65 percent of Syrians, 57 percent of Lebanese, 82 percent of PRL and 77 percent of PRS⁵ children affected. LCRP partners continued to engage caregivers in positive parenting skills and support programmes to reduce the use of violent disciplinary practices. This remains a priority, as 29

percent of vulnerable populations still do not know that it is wrong to hit children.⁶

Strategic Objective Two: Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations

Impact Two: Immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations are met

Progress towards Impact Two is measured through an analysis of poverty levels and based on the following immediate humanitarian needs: shelter, food and water, as well as seasonal needs. In 2017, there is an overall deterioration of the situation for the most vulnerable populations. This is demonstrated by the following key trends.

Displaced Syrians in Lebanon are getting poorer and have fewer resources. There has been a five-percentage points deterioration between 2016 and 2017 in the percentage of displaced Syrian households reporting expenditures below the minimum expenditure basket (MEB, considered as the poverty line). The percentage of Syrians living in poverty increased from 71 percent in 2016 to 76 percent in 2017. In parallel, the situation of households living in extreme poverty (having expenditures below the survival minimum expenditure basket, or SMEB) deteriorated as the percentage went from 53 to 58 percent over the same period.

As one of the key supporting sectors in poverty relief, the Basic Assistance sector has been one of the least funded sectors in 2017, with only 32 percent funding coverage. LCRP implementing partners have injected into the local economy up to \$232 million in (seasonal and regular) cash assistance, or 49 percent of its target. The funding shortfall has also resulted in a decrease in the number of individuals who benefited from seasonal cash assistance during the 2017/2018 winter.

Shelter conditions deteriorate. Over the past year, there has been a seven percentage points increase in the proportion of Syrian households living in inadequate shelters that do not meet the minimum humanitarian standards, from 46 percent in 2016 to 53 percent in 2017.

The Shelter sector was the second least funded sector in 2017 (30 percent funded). Funding shortfalls had a significant impact on the sector, resulting in some targets not being met and a stricter targeting of the assistance provided. For instance, the number of individuals benefitting from conditional cash for rent exceeded the sector's target, whereas only 26 percent of the sector's target was met for those benefitting from weatherproofing and/or maintenance of sub-standard residential and non-residential buildings.

Displaced Syrian households in Lebanon have a high level of food insecurity in 2017.

Although there has been a two percent improvement overall in terms of food security among the displaced Syrian population, from 93 percent in 2016 to 91 percent in 2017, this remains at an alarmingly high level. Between 2016 and 2017, there has been a seven percent worsening in the proportion of displaced Syrian household having moderate and severe food insecurity. Since 2014, moderate and severe food insecurity has increased from 12 percent of displaced Syrian households in 2014 to 38 percent in 2017.

With a 62 percent funding coverage in 2017, Food Security partners provided up to \$259 million in cash-based food assistance through various modalities (vouchers, ATM cards and e-cards). Both food availability and food accessibility were successfully promoted with a number of beneficiaries that exceeded annual targets.

Access to water improves, with 78 percent of displaced Syrians reporting access to improved drinking water sources. There have been improvements in terms of increased average daily water quantity and improved water quality, but the vast majority of households in Lebanon (64 percent) still are not able to access safely managed water, as reliability, safety and availability on premises are persistent shortcomings.

As in the other sectors, LCRP partners have been affected by funding limitations, as the Water sector received only 31 percent of its appeal. Yet, LCRP partners have provided a range of assistance and services that resulted in more than one million individuals assisted with access to an adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic use, and more than 200,000 people benefitting from access to improved safe sanitation in temporary locations, exceeding the sector's target.

Strategic Objective Three: Support service provision through national systems

Impact Three: Vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national system

Progress towards Impact Three is measured based on the following services: water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, education and health care. Available data indicates low, yet stable, access to basic services for most vulnerable populations in 2017. This is demonstrated by the following key trends.

Access to education services improves significantly in 2017. School enrolment figures from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) indicate that around 430,000 students enrolled in formal public education across the country for the 2017/2018 school year, representing a nine percent increase in compared to 2016 (14 percent increase for non-Lebanese children). For the first time, the 2017/2018 school year has more non-Lebanese than Lebanese students in those schools. VASyR 2017 data align with this trend, showing a 37 percent improvement in the proportion of Syrian children aged 6-14 enrolled in schools, from 52 percent in 2016 to 70 percent in 2017.

The Education sector was the best funded LCRP sectors in 2017, receiving 70 percent of its appeal. Partners have provided a range of services and assistance in support of the back-to-school campaign, out-of-school children, school rehabilitation, and covering both formal and non-formal education programmes.

Yet, reaching the most vulnerable remains a priority for the sector, as recent evidence from the KAP survey shows that 33 percent of caregivers (Lebanese, Syrians and Palestine Refugees) still do not know how to enroll children in formal schools, and 94 percent of Syrian and Palestine Refugees have no knowledge of non-formal education opportunities. It appears that transportation costs are a major barrier for the enrolment of registered Syrian children in public schools. Eleven percent of displaced Syrian families have withdrawn their children from school as a livelihood coping strategy in 2017, down from 14 percent a year before.

The proportion of displaced Syrian households being able to access primary health care services when required improved by five percent.

According to VASyR 2017 data, 46 percent of displaced Syrian households required primary health care in 2017, and 89 percent of them effectively accessed these services (compared to 84 percent in 2016). There was also a seven percent increase in the number of individuals receiving chronic disease medications through 420 facilities, reaching 175,000 individuals in 2017.

Despite this improvement in access to primary health care services last year, LCRP partners have been affected by the underfunding of the Health sector (33 percent). Many patients did not receive needed hospital care as they were not able to pay for these services. Hence, access to secondary health care services suffered from this short-fall of funding.

The 2017 KAP survey indicates that the main barriers to accessing health care services are financial, as well as lack of awareness of available services. For instance, even though a majority (64 percent) of Lebanese, Syrians and Palestine Refugees know that children need to be brought to a health facility at least six times for vaccinations, there is limited awareness (especially among Lebanese and Syrians) of available health services that are covered by the Government and the right to receiving such services.

The percentage of displaced Syrian households reporting access to improved sanitation facilities remains stable, at 86 percent in 2017. In addition, the KAP survey indicates that 62 percent of all population cohorts do not share their toilet or latrine with individuals who are not from their household (55 percent among displaced Syrian families).

Despite the underfunding of the Water sector (31 percent), partners have continued efforts to expand access to WASH services. Over 1.3 million individuals benefitted from some sort of WASH assistance in 2017, 10,000 new households were connected to water supply systems, and 208 km of public water supply networks were constructed or rehabilitated to improve service delivery.

The amount of support provided to public institutions in Lebanon continues to increase. has been a consistent and increasing trend since

2015, with more than \$207 million channelled to public institutions in 2017 to strengthen service delivery, policy development, capacity building and institutional stability in 2017. This represents 17 percent of the total funding received by LCRP partners. This public institution support has increased by 20 percent since 2015.

**Strategic Objective Four:
Reinforce Lebanon's economic,
social and environmental
stability**

Impact Four: Mitigated deterioration in the economic condition of vulnerable populations

Progress towards Impact Four is measured through an analysis of employment and income-generating opportunities. Accessing the labour market continued to be difficult in 2017. This is demonstrated by the following key trends.

The employment status of displaced Syrians remains low. 2017 VASyR data indicates that 56 percent of displaced Syrian men aged 15-64 worked (in the past 30 days) in 2017. In 2016, 70 percent of the 18-65 aged group reported working.

The employment rate of displaced Syrian women remains very low at 7.6 percent in 2017, up from 7 percent in 2016. In the sectors where Syrians are legally permitted to work, employed men were mainly involved in construction (33 percent), agriculture activities (22 percent) and services (16 percent), while employed women were mainly involved in agriculture (55 percent) and services (24 percent). On average, 15 percent of households were involved in agricultural livelihood activities, and agriculture was reported as the first source of income in nine percent of Syrian households.

Partners from the Food Security and Livelihoods sectors have continued their efforts to facilitate, create or maintain employment opportunities for the most vulnerable populations. However, underfunding in both sectors (respectively 62 and 33 percent) resulted in lower levels of achievement than expected. For instance, the number of individuals supported for employment in agriculture activities and the number of individuals supported

for seasonal agricultural or casual labour achieved 38 percent and 7 percent of the annual targets respectively.

In the Livelihoods sector, even though providing short-term opportunities through labour-intensive projects remains a key pillar of the sector strategy to provide access to income, only 6,529 individuals (out of 37,000 targeted) were enrolled in public works projects and engaged for a total of 71,000 work days in 2017. Findings showed that ongoing assistance is focusing on smaller-scale interventions, including technical assistance, training, capacity development, studies and assessments, and provision of equipment. Partners supported 2,738 businesses in 2017, a four-fold increase compared to 2016, and a six-fold increase from 2015. As small businesses are the main job creators in the Lebanese labour market, these interventions did lead to creating or maintaining 2,305 jobs, but there is limited evidence that they have had an impact on overall, sustained economic growth yet.

On the supply side of the labour market, however, efforts have continued to expand significantly in 2017, with more than 35,000 Lebanese, Syrians and Palestine refugees having completed market-based skills training, nearly a two-fold increase from 2016. Employability was further strengthened, with all MoA technical schools supported and around 3,800 youth enrolled in both short- and long-term courses to receive trainings on agriculture, employability skills, and basic literacy and numeracy. In 2018, a key priority is to match skills training and workforce employability with a robust job creation strategy and scaled-up investments in the demand-side of the labour market.

Impact Five: Social stability is strengthened in Lebanon

Progress towards Impact Five is measured through an analysis of data and evidence produced by the existing tensions monitoring system. Over the years, host community fatigue has increased. Tensions between Lebanese host communities and displaced Syrians remain pervasive, and they are growing to be more complex and localized, while propensity for violence is rising nationally. This overall trend is further reflected below.

The percentage of Lebanese who did not report any inter-community tensions dropped from 40

to 2 percent between 2014 and 2017. The impact of population pressure on host communities, access to jobs, services and infrastructure remains a key underlying factor of instability and tensions. Several instances of inter-community disputes occurred throughout 2017, a serious warning to the various stakeholders of the continuous fragility of Lebanon's current stability. There is a high degree of geographical variation, with tensions being higher in the Bekaa and Akkar, lower in the South and in Nabatiyeh, and varying within other governorates. The perception of competition for lower-skilled jobs has emerged as a key driver of inter-community tensions (64 percent) in 2017, especially in areas hosting many refugees such as the Bekaa.⁷

Yet, a resilient Lebanese society prevailed and resisted the attempts to conflict. 81 percent of people living in vulnerable areas have expressed a sense of solidarity in their community in 2017, and 91 percent of Syrians and Lebanese agreed that Lebanese have been good hosts to displaced Syrians since 2011.

Funding coverage of the Social Stability sector reached 39 percent in 2017. However better funding is required deliver greater impact on sources of tensions across Lebanon.

Impact Six: Mitigated environmental impact of the Syrian crisis, to avoid further degradation of the natural eco-system and ensure its long-term sustainability

Progress towards Impact Six is measured through environmental assessments conducted by LCRP partners. Over the past year, measurement methodologies at impact and outcome level were further defined, and critical data collection and analysis need to take place in 2018 to update previous trend analysis done in 2014 and fill data gaps. Previous research has demonstrated that the Syrian crisis has had an impact on the environment, especially on solid waste, water resources, land use and emissions of air pollutants.

The incremental quantity of solid waste attributed to displaced populations is about 324,000 ton per year, equivalent to 15.7 percent of the total solid waste generated in Lebanon prior to the crisis. This leads to the overburdening of the existing solid waste management infrastructure and an increase in open dumping and open

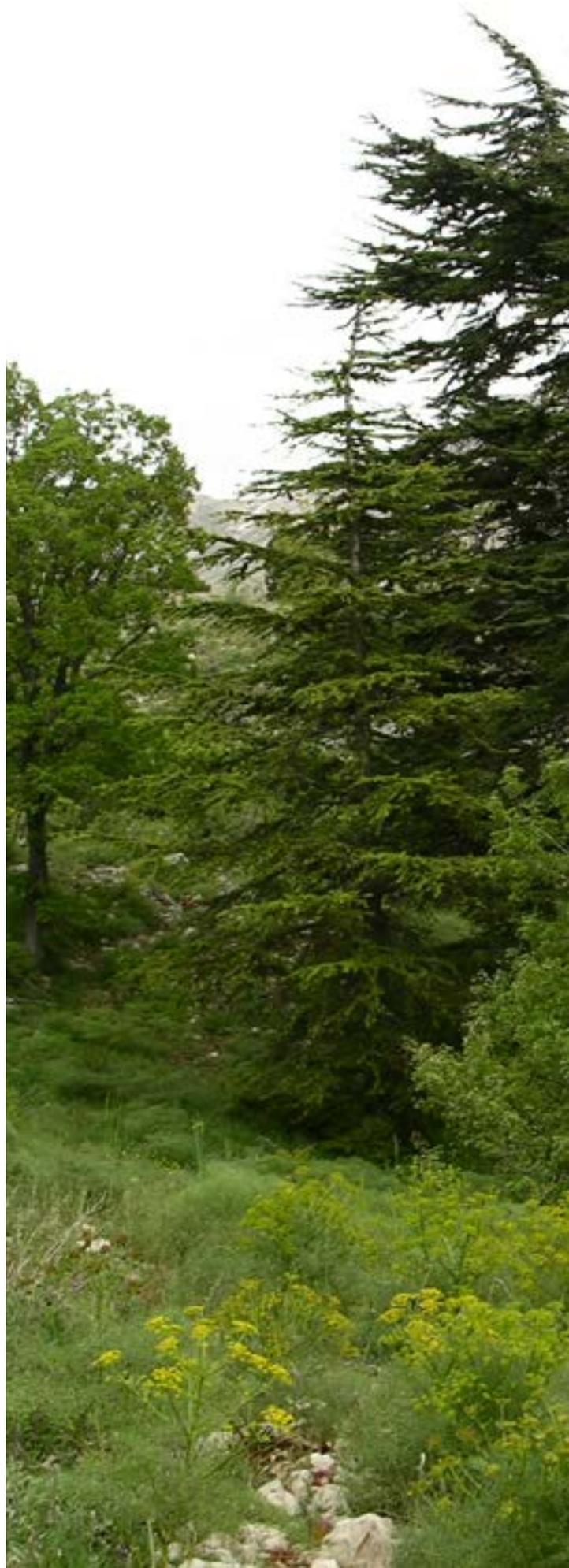
burning, increased contamination of land and soil, as well as surface and groundwater pollution. In 2017, the KAP study shows that between 11 and 27 percent of respondents, depending on the affected population (Lebanese, Syrians, Palestine Refugees), reported that they dump solid waste randomly in the environment.

The increase in water demand by displaced populations was estimated between 43 to 70 million m³ per year, equivalent to an 8-12 percent increase in the national water demand. The increase in wastewater generation by displaced populations was estimated between 34 to 56 million m³ per year, corresponding to an increase of 8-14 percent in the national wastewater generation rate. This leads to an aggravated burden on water resources, specifically on groundwater resources, and to increased pollution from wastewater discharges.

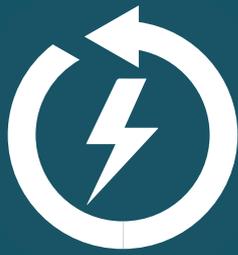
The Syrian crisis has resulted in an increase of around 20 percent in emission of air pollutants in Lebanon leading to a significant degradation of air quality. The main sources of air emissions resulting from the Syrian crisis are on-road transport, electricity generation and open-burning of solid waste. The latter leads to the release of toxic and carcinogenic compounds, negatively affecting the health of the population living in the vicinity of open dumps.

Land use and ecosystems have been affected since the beginning of the crisis. Lebanon's population density has increased by around 37 percent, i.e. from 400 to 520 persons per km². This has led to a saturation of the housing market and to haphazard and accelerated construction in all affected host communities.

In 2017, an Environment Task Force (ETF) was established at the level of the Inter-sector Working Group, led by the Ministry of Environment, in coordination with MoSA, UNHCR, UNDP and OCHA. The ETF aims to ensure the mainstreaming of environmental priorities in the LCRP and to identify environmental interventions for the following priority sectors: Social Stability, Food Security, Water, and Energy.







BASIC ASSISTANCE

Key achievements in 2017

240,276 households (HHs) were identified as severely vulnerable, i.e. living below the extreme poverty line of \$2.9/person/day, to be targeted with multi-purpose cash throughout 2017, of which:

- 195,776 are Syrians
- 9,000 are Palestine refugees; and
- 35,500 are Lebanese.

88,503 severely vulnerable HHs received regular monthly multi-purpose cash (MPC) assistance (\$175 grants), to improve their access to basic goods and services essential for their survival, of which:

- 56,820 are Syrians;
- 9,672 are Palestine refugees;
- 1,269 are Lebanese; and
- 20,742 vulnerable displaced Syrian households received additional education-specific cash grants (around 60 percent of them also received the regular monthly \$175 MPC grant).

188,706 vulnerable (Lebanese, Syrian and Palestine) households, living below the poverty line of \$3.86/person/day, were supported with winter cash assistance in order to cope with seasonal shocks and hazards and to increase their ability to secure heating, shelter weatherproofing, food and other needs:

- 176,000 are Syrians;
- 9,618 are Palestine refugees; and
- 3,088 are Lebanese;

\$232,397,607 was the overall amount of cash-based interventions injected by Basic Assistance partners in the local economy to support the access of vulnerable families to markets throughout the country on a regular and seasonal basis, of which:

- \$114,413,297 in the form of winter cash assistance during January, February, March, November and December 2017.
- \$117,984,310 in the form of multi-purpose cash assistance in support of those 88,503 severely vulnerable families.

Key contributions towards LCRP impacts

Immediate humanitarian assistance has been provided to more than 88,000 (Syrian, Palestinian, Lebanese) of the most vulnerable households targeted under the Basic Assistance sector in the form of cash-based interventions.

These households were reached with regular monthly multi-purpose cash assistance (MPC) grants (amounting to a total of \$117.9 million), which improved their access to basic goods and services essential to their survival. In addition, 20,742 vulnerable displaced Syrian households received additional education-specific cash grants to support them in sending their children to schools.

The support provided by the sector helped to ensure that the percentage of Syrians living below the poverty line (\$3.86/person/day) deteriorated only slightly to 76 percent in 2017 (from 71 percent in 2016), compared to the significant worsening of living situations witnessed in previous years, where the percentage of households living in poverty went from 49 percent in 2014 to 69 percent in 2015. In 2017, 58 percent of displaced Syrians were deemed severely economically vulnerable, living below the \$435/month threshold which is the minimum needed for a household of five to survive, up from 53 percent in 2016. Some 46 percent of these severely vulnerable households received regular multi-purpose cash assistance.

To respond to the increasing vulnerabilities, the sector has been scaling up assistance in a harmonized manner. This has been achieved through improving the joint targeting approach adopted for both cash and food assistance and its respective application.

A redistribution of the assisted caseload was done in the fourth quarter of 2017 to ensure that the most vulnerable families, with the lowest vulnerability scores, were prioritized for cash assistance. At the same time, the caseload of households receiving food assistance under the Food Security sector was redistributed to target all those identified as severely vulnerable.

This allowed for the poorest households, identified as the most vulnerable of the population, to receive both multi-purpose cash and food assistance. Almost 98 percent of households receiving multi-purpose cash are also receiving food assistance, up

from 83 percent in 2016. This increases the impact of assistance provided and responds to increasing households' needs in a better impactful manner. Households reported during distribution monitoring that, thanks to the monthly multi-purpose cash grants, they were able to secure basic needs and purchase additional food, pay rent and repay part of their outstanding debts, and cover health expenses.

In addition, more than 90 percent of Palestine refugees from Syria, as well as 28 percent of the Lebanese population, are also considered poor (below \$3.8/person/day) based on existing poverty estimates. Almost all poor Palestine refugees from Syria are receiving regular year-long cash assistance. Nevertheless, assistance to vulnerable Lebanese under the sector has been limited in 2017, similar to previous years.

During winter, and specifically during the months of January, February, March and November and December, sector partners intensified their distribution of assistance to ensure the highest possible coverage of the poor. The seasonal upscale of assistance (both in cash and in-kind) mitigated additional winter expenses for families, such as for heat, shelter weatherproofing and clothing. More than 188,000 vulnerable households were supported with winter cash assistance and core relief items.

The total amount of cash assistance distributed in 2017 under the Basic Assistance sector has exceeded \$232 million, combining both regular and seasonal assistance. Assistance provided to households is also helping local markets by stimulating demand, restoring livelihoods and improving resilience of both targeted households and their surrounding communities through improved economic interaction.

Challenges

Funding limitations in 2017 caused a fluctuation in the number of people targeted with regular cash assistance (mainly displaced Syrians enrolled in the multi-purpose cash programme), and limited assistance that could be provided in winter.

Sector partners maintained support to 48,000 displaced Syrian households during the first half of the year, but this decreased to less than 32,000

households during the third quarter. A dramatic drop in funding led to the closure of the Lebanon Cash Consortium (with a caseload of almost 16,000 households) at the end of May 2017, along with other cash actors closing down programmes.

Severely vulnerable displaced Syrians for whom this assistance was a critical last resort, given their high levels of debt, depletion of assets and savings, and limited access to informal labour, were left without any support for more than three months, before being re-included into other programmes later in the year.

Additional resources were mobilized during the fourth quarter, and by December 56,820 displaced Syrian households received cash assistance again. The focus during the last quarter was on ensuring that the most vulnerable displaced Syrians were being reached by using a refined targeting tool, a recalibrated desk formula, which ranked households based on specific demographic and socio-economic indicators.

Furthermore, there was limited predictability for seasonal assistance which led to a delay in the definition and harmonization of the winter assistance packages, pushing the start of assistance distributions to late November.

Organizations providing winter assistance adapted to the funding shortage by providing only \$75 for a three-month period to those not receiving other forms of cash assistance, instead of the standard package of \$147 for five months. This helped to ensure that support was provided to the largest possible number of families, despite the funding shortfall.

In order to prioritize vulnerable households who were not being supported by other cash programmes for survival of the harsh weather conditions, households receiving regular cash assistance were not initially considered for winter assistance. As additional funding was secured towards mid-December, some of these households were nevertheless supported with winter assistance, prioritizing the severely vulnerable.

More efforts need to be made to ensure that more of the most vulnerable are supported. Currently, only 46 percent of displaced Syrian households which have been identified as severely vulnerable

receive assistance, constituting 29 percent of those identified as “poor” and eligible for assistance. Moreover, only four percent of vulnerable Lebanese households identified as extremely poor by the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) were supported in 2017. Gaps in assistance to vulnerable Lebanese are also related to funding. However, support was ensured throughout the year for all Palestine refugees from Syria who had been identified as poor.

Key priorities and gaps foreseen in the first half of 2018

The Basic Assistance sector strategy for 2018 is considered to be an extension of 2017, focusing on the same operational objectives: (1) scaling up direct multi-purpose cash assistance to the most vulnerable on a regular basis, (2) ensuring a blanket coverage of the poor households with seasonal winter assistance, and (3) providing technical support to the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP).

The 2018 sector strategy includes some additional areas for exploration, mainly focusing on social protection as a framework to deliver assistance while making possible linkages and alignments to existing safety nets in the country.

Based on the current planning, assistance to displaced Syrians through the multi-purpose cash programme is expected to remain stable until the end of March 2018.

Nearly 63,000 households, or 50 percent of those identified as severely vulnerable, have been identified to receive assistance. This will be the highest coverage of vulnerable families with regular multi-purpose cash assistance under the Basic Assistance sector since the start of the crisis.

In addition, the latter will allow better understanding of the linkages to the activities of the Basic Assistance sector and how they could be applied in Lebanon to ensure more long-term impact of programming. This will in turn be fed into the Humanitarian Coordinator’s Task Force established on cash-related issues.

Furthermore, the revision of the current targeting model (desk formula) is expected to start soon. The process will be taking place within the context of the

2018 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR).

Lastly, the issue of funding cuts affecting the support for Palestine refugees provided by UNRWA is alarming to the Basic Assistance sector. The results of this funding shortfall will have devastating results on the livelihoods of the nearly 10,000 Palestine households supported with regular assistance.

CASE STUDY

A total of 56,820 severely vulnerable Syrian households received multi-purpose cash assistance in 2017. Yet, this number constitutes only 46 percent of the total number of severely vulnerable cases identified and prioritized by the Basic Assistance sector, and a mere 29 percent of the total poor households eligible for assistance. These households live in unacceptable living conditions, with no financial means to secure the basic minimum income required for the well-being of their families. Cash assistance provided in such cases, and despite being modest amounts, can help to improve some aspects of their lives. Post-distribution monitoring conducted by different cash actors confirm these findings. Households used the \$175 grants to cover part of their most critical needs: additional food, rent, debt repayment, and health costs. The average debt for households receiving cash assistance was found to have decreased significantly: \$551 in 2017 compared to \$739.



Anwar, a 23-year-old female head of household with three young children, originally from Idlib, is currently living in Ez-Zeytoun informal settlement in North Lebanon. Anwar is currently enrolled in the multi-purpose cash assistance programme of UNHCR; she says that her family cannot survive without this assistance, which helps cover part of

the costs of food, rent, health care, and clothing. "When I didn't have the [cash] assistance, I hated myself," she says. "Imagine not having money to eat or drink. Now I can buy food, take my children to the doctor, and buy them clothes," she notes. Anwar is one of 26,000 female-headed households assisted by the Basic Assistance sector partners. Female-headed households represent 47 percent of the total number of households receiving multi-purpose cash.



The Skati family, originally from Aleppo and living in Lebanon since 2012, is supported with multi-purpose cash assistance by Relief International. This family is as poor as Anwar's and their vulnerability, just as any other extremely poor household, has its own unique story. Abou Ahmad, the head of the household, lives in a makeshift home which he constructed with the help of Nadia, his wife and the mother of their 10 children. The makeshift is surrounded by banana trees and lies right beside a highway leading to the governorate of Mount Lebanon. During the summer, unbearable heat prevails, and during the winter, floods pour their home away.

This family has many needs and through the cash assistance provided, they are able to prioritize their spending in the way they see fit. "This year was the first in six years that I was able to buy my children new clothes for Eid. The first year they felt close to normal and felt that we actually celebrated. After the war, we never celebrated Eid..." says Nadia.

Throughout 2017, funding limitations constrained the capacity of agencies to provide assistance consistently. Fluctuations and shortfalls have pushed agencies to conduct strict measures to prioritize those identified to be the poorest of the displaced population throughout the country. Coordinated assistance is based on a bottom-up

inclusion or referrals tactic. Given the fact that more than half of the displaced population in Lebanon is living in extremely difficult conditions, systems in place allow for ranking households according to an economic vulnerability score. Referrals for inclusion in assistance are hence facilitated through field-based mechanisms to ensure that no duplications occur, and, at the same time, targeted assistance is reaching the most vulnerable in the various regions in a symmetric and proportional manner.

The achievements described in this report are the collective work of the following 35 organizations: MoSA, ACF, ACTED, ADRA, ANERA, Care, Caritas Lebanon, CISP, Dar El Fatwa, Dorcas, DRC, HDA, HWA, ICRC, Intersos, IR Lebanon, IRC, Lebanese Red Cross, Makhzoumi, MEDAIR, NRC, Oxfam, PCPM, PU-AMI, RI, SCI, SIF, Solidar Suisse, Solidarités international, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, URDA, WFP, WVI.





EDUCATION

Key achievements

217,263 Non-Lebanese children and **209,409** Lebanese children supported with enrolment into primary education for the 2017/18 scholastic year and **3,905** non-Lebanese students supported with enrolment into public secondary education.

36,775 Palestine refugee children enrolled in 66 UNRWA schools in Lebanon in primary and secondary education at the start of the 2017-18 scholastic year, out of which 5,482 are Palestine refugees from Syria.

26,750 children enrolled in the regulated Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP)

68,970 children enrolled in other non-formal education programmes such as Community-based Early Childhood Education (CB-ECE), Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN) basic and youth.

Key contributions towards LCRP impacts

The overarching aim of the Education sector strategy was that vulnerable school children and youth between 3 and 18 years affected by the Syria crisis are able to access quality formal and non-formal learning opportunities in safe and protective environments. To reach this overall objective, the sector has identified three outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Ensuring equitable access to educational opportunities
- Outcome 2: Improving the quality of teaching and learning
- Outcome 3: Strengthening national education systems, policies and monitoring

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), the Education sector partners have taken forward the emergency response strategy for the Syrian crisis through the five-year "RACE II" plan. Structured over three outcome areas – Improving Access, Quality, and Systems of Education – the first year of the RACE II resulted in many successes.

Outcome 1: Ensuring Equitable Access to Educational Opportunities

MEHE and Education partners continued to implement formal and non-formal education programmes for vulnerable Lebanese and non-Lebanese children. A total of 426,672 children were provided access to quality basic education through the distribution of teaching and learning material, the rehabilitation of schools, full or partial subsidization of school costs, the opening of 349 second shift schools, and transportation. In addition, 3,905 non-Lebanese youth were supported to access formal secondary education.

The Education partners were also committed to support Palestine refugee children and youth gain appropriate knowledge and skills by providing universal primary education. A total of 36,775 Palestine refugee children were provided access to quality basic education through the employment of critical teaching staff, distribution of learning materials, rehabilitation of schools, and distribution of back-to-school kits and textbooks.

Education partners have also extended support to children out of school. The majority of these out-of-school children required substantial educational support to prepare them for (re)integration into formal education. To bring these children back to learning, MEHE, in partnership with Education partners, defined and formalized alternative pathways to education in Lebanon enabling children to acquire the needed skills before accessing the appropriate education programme tailored to their age. More than 95,000 children were supported through non-formal education programmes in 2017. All of these children enrolled in non-formal programmes have received learning materials and, if eligible, transportation support to ensure their continuous attendance and completion of the course work.

In preparation for the 2017/18 school year, MEHE, with support of sector partners, launched a national Back to School (BTS) outreach campaign to mobilize and sensitize vulnerable communities with information about school enrolment. Over 69,000 households, including 182,000 children and youth (0.6 percent of whom have disabilities), were reached with education messaging. As a result of these concerted efforts, the 2017/18 school year witnessed a 13 percent increase in enrolment of non-Lebanese children and a three percent increase

in enrolment of Lebanese children in public basic education schools, in comparison to the previous school year. In addition, a 26 percent increase was observed in secondary education enrolment.

The BTS campaign also targeted the Palestinian refugee population in Lebanon. Home visits were conducted throughout the country, covering all camps in addition to 14 gatherings and reaching a total of 19,063 households and 40,151 children from 3 to 18 years old. As a result of these efforts, a total of 231 new PRS students and 456 PRL students joined UNRWA schools in the 2017/18 school year, totalling 687 new PRS and PRL students.

In order to improve the school environment, a total of 123 public school buildings have been rehabilitated, including improvement of WASH facilities and play areas. Of these 123 schools, 55 were specifically rehabilitated to include accessibility components to mainstream children with specific needs into existing classrooms. Furthermore, Education partners extended support to equip 19 public vocational schools and provided learning material to secondary public schools to improve access and learning environment for youth. Ten Palestinian refugee schools were also rehabilitated to improve WASH facilities, school canteens and play areas. Partners continued facilitating access to tertiary education for a number of refugee youth, through a series of scholarships provided to youth to pursue their higher education. In 2017, a total of 350 refugee youth were supported with scholarships by higher education providers.

Outcome 2: Improving the Quality of Teaching and Learning

The quality assurance branch at MEHE, the Département d'Orientation et Pédagogique Scolaire (DOPS), is responsible to ensure that teachers are delivering with quality within public schools. DOPS, in partnership with the Project Management Unit (PMU), extended this quality assurance function to all second-shift schools, where the majority of displaced Syrian children are enrolled, to maintain equal quality standards and ensure that teaching staff adhere to national performance standards. Reports from DOPS academic counsellors, who regularly visit schools, are fed back to MEHE to continuously improve service delivery in public schools. As a result of these visits, improvements in teaching methodologies are in process, such as interactive teaching, development of lesson

plans, and implementation of standardized class management rules. In addition, the PMU has also deployed health and psychosocial personnel into second-shift schools.

In partnership with MEHE's institution mandated for Curriculum Development, Training and Research (CERD) a Teacher Training Curriculum Model (TTCM) was designed, based on the national Lebanese competency framework and quality standards. Workshops for 240 Master Trainers have been completed with a view to train 5,000 teachers on the three developed modules having a child-centred pedagogical approach at their core.

To further reduce the number of children who are excluded or who are unable to attend formal learning or certified education, an "Inclusive School" project was piloted, which comprises 30 public schools. This includes hiring and training special educators, paraprofessional teams, and therapists. Piloted over the next two scholastic years, this pilot project will inform an inclusive education policy for Lebanon.

Under MEHE's guidance, partners are supporting at-risk children in public schools to improve their skills in order to remain and succeed in school. Partners adopted the CERD unified package that helps develop children's skills on literacy and comprehension in Arabic and foreign languages, and Math. The Retention support programme includes the Homework support (during the academic year- in winter) and the Remedial support during summer.

Community-based programmes supporting school retention remain an important element of the education response in 2017. The Education partners continued supporting community-based education programmes contributing to school retention such as homework and foreign language support to children at risk of dropping out and facing protection risks. Through community-based activities, partners help communities in creating a favourable community environment which prevents children from dropping out of schools.

Under UNRWA's broader learning support programmes, 678 PRS and 3,451 PRL students attended the summer learning programmes – a two-week English summer camp for students promoted to grades 5 and 6. The purpose of the

English summer camp was to provide students with an opportunity to improve their English skills during the summer vacation.

Outcome 3: Strengthening National Education Systems, Policies and Monitoring

The CERD, in collaboration with technical experts from education partners, developed the content and guidelines for Community-Based Early Childhood Education (CB-ECE) and Retention Support programmes. The roll-out of the CB-ECE package was crucial to supporting 3-5-year-old children with access to quality early learning. The roll-out of the remedial and homework support packages, especially in the context of the refugee children learning in foreign languages, helps retention and continuation of education in formal education.

An important policy contribution was the development of an inter-ministerial Child Protection Policy which provides an integrated, systematic approach to improving the protection of children, inside and outside of public schools. The policy lays out legal referral pathways that the concerned ministries (Social Affairs, Education and Higher Education, and Justice) are meant to coordinate in support to children who have been victim of violence and/or abuse in and outside of public schools.

Challenges

An unknown number of unregistered Syrian learning centres are operating throughout the country. Many refugee children and youth have been enrolled in these unregistered centres following the Syrian curriculum. Despite their role in providing education to refugees, there is no official framework to regulate or mainstream these learning centres. The recognition of student certification issued by Syrian learning centres poses significant barriers and can halt access to further education and livelihood opportunities.

Key priorities and gaps foreseen in the first half of 2018

Over the past seven years, MEHE and partners have performed well in expanding access to formal and non-formal education opportunities. However, it remains a challenge to ensure the provision of quality education. To support the increased demand, the partners will continue to support

subsidies for Lebanese and non-Lebanese children enrolled into public formal education, both in first- and second-shift schools.

Analysis from focus group discussions and vulnerability surveys showed that poverty and negative attitudes to education are among the primary bottlenecks for vulnerable children, preventing them from enrolling in schools or non-formal learning. In response, MEHE, in partnership with the Education partners, led a national year-long Back to School campaign with specific efforts to target children and youth in hard-to-reach areas and children with special needs. Cash assistance has helped families to overcome some of their financial barriers in order to prioritize formal and non-formal education for their children. It is expected that a future BTS outreach campaign will focus on targeted outreach based on VASyR and Out of School Children (OOSC) survey data.

It is needed to expand the provision of formal secondary education and skill building programmes targeting youth, to provide relevant learning opportunities for this age group and to avoid the youth's involvement in risky behaviour and conflict. The BLN Youth Package has been developed, and a training plan is currently being agreed with MEHE's Project Management Unit (PMU).

CASE STUDY

Firstly, there is the language. In Lebanon, the curriculum is taught in French and English, while students in Syria learn in Arabic. Secondly, many displaced Syrian families live in overcrowded and often basic conditions. In Lebanon, around one million displaced Syrians are scattered throughout more than 2,100 urban and rural communities, many living in substandard shelters. For a young person trying to concentrate on homework, peace and quiet are scarce commodities.

For those lucky enough to encounter volunteers like Noor Ismail, however, it has become less of an ordeal.

Homework support groups were introduced by UNHCR and several of its partners as a way of helping refugee students keep up with schoolwork and encouraging them to attend regularly. At present, there are 325 active homework support groups in Lebanon – in tents, shelters, community centres, living rooms, and even outdoors.

Besides UNHCR, Save the Children, Caritas, Terre des Hommes and the International Rescue Committee are also involved in running activities in venues that children can attend. The unpaid volunteers, most of whom have backgrounds in education, are often refugees themselves, but Lebanese such as Noor have also become involved.



A 22-year-old Lebanese university student majoring in political science, Noor heard about the homework support sessions from a friend who was already volunteering. She first started helping out at a support group run by Caritas in the town of Saida, in southern Lebanon, in October 2016. “I’ve been a facilitator ever since,” she says.

Twice a week, she works with groups of children aged between 10 and 15, not just to help them with homework, but also to talk about any problems they might be having in class.

She cares strongly about her new responsibilities, aware of the pressures for refugee children, particularly girls, to support their families.

“I consider them as my siblings and want them to thrive.”

More than 2,500 children attended homework support programmes in Lebanon in the 2016/17 academic year. About three-quarters of the groups continued throughout the summer, even after school was over. The volunteers and students went over what was covered in lessons to make sure the children were ready to move on to the next grade.

One of Noor’s students, 10-year-old Maria, found the transition from the Syrian education system to her Lebanese school difficult because of the language barrier. “When I was in Syria, our curriculum was all in Arabic, but here it is mostly in English. When I came here, I didn’t know a word of English but Noor taught me everything. I love these sessions.”

For Noor, the sessions are about more than school work. “I give them moral support,” she says. “I talk to them about their future and the importance of education.

“Education is their only weapon”.

Source: <http://www.unhcr.org/lb/11547-homework-groups-help-syrian-pupils-stay-top-studies.html>

ENERGY

Key achievements

- The Energy sector invested approximately **\$5 million** in 2017, having had **\$4.6 million** of carry-over from 2016 and **\$2.6 million** received in 2017.
- In 2017, the Energy sector laid out four key outputs under the LCRP and reached **114,250** persons out of **1,119,172** target population.
- **2,715** households in 6 cazas (Akkar, Baalbek, Chouf, El Nabatieh, Metn, Miniye-Danniyeh, Sour, Trablous, West Bekaa) now use Pico Solar PV system to light their homes (Output 1.1).
- In total **42** municipalities have the access to off-grid solar street lighting (Output 1.1).
- Approximately **98,700** individuals are now benefiting from the improved quality of grid electricity through the reinforcement of distribution network in 11 cazas (Akkar, Aaley, Baabda, Baroun, Chouf, Jbayl, Koura, Miniye-Danniyeh, Trablous, Zgharata) (Output 1.4).
- National utility company Electricité du Liban (EdL) is now capable of recovering cost from 403 households through the establishment of a legal and proper electrical connection at the household level (Output 1.4).

Key contributions towards LCRP impacts

The overarching objective of the Energy sector is to improve access to electricity at agreed minimum standards to households affected by the Syrian crisis and across sectors providing vital services. The sector aspires to provide electrical services to Lebanese host communities and displaced Syrians in an equitable manner, while also reducing the negative impact on the environment and limiting the fiscal impact on the Lebanese Government and consumers. This objective is summarized in the following statement:

By the year 2020, all vulnerable populations in Lebanon will have improved, equitable and gender appropriate access to electricity in terms of quality, quantity and sustainability.

By enhancing electrical services and capacity at the national and local level in a sustainable manner, the Energy sector contributes to the LCRP's third objective of supporting service provision through national systems, and the fourth objective of reinforcing Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability.

In 2017, five partners actively implemented projects through the Energy sector under LCRP. Across four outputs defined in the 2017 response plan, the projects implemented by these partners focused on the installation of renewable energy equipment (Output 1.1: "Increase in electricity production through implementation of renewable energy") and the rehabilitation of the electric distribution networks (Output 1.4: "Improve access to electricity through implementation of reinforcement and rehabilitation works on the distribution network").

In terms of the installation of renewable energy, off-grid street lighting has been installed in 42 municipalities, where it was found that street lighting was limited or the available public infrastructure had fallen into disrepair before the intervention. While increasing the production of renewable energy, street lighting plays an important role in reducing crime and vandalism, and making residents and pedestrians feel safer during the night. 2,715 rural households in six cazas (Akkar, Baalbek, Chouf, El Nabatieh, Metn, Miniye-Danniyeh, Sour, Trablous, West Bekaa) now use Pico Solar Systems (SHS), a small-scale DC current solar system, to light their homes during power outages.

The reinforcement of distribution networks is one of the key interventions to improve the quality of electricity. The current distribution networks are overloaded and damaged, due to a sudden surge of the population connecting to the electricity network. Rehabilitation of existing equipment or installation of new transformers and relevant parts was conducted in the vulnerable communities, and approximately 98,700 individuals are now benefiting from the improved quality of grid electricity. Through a project that aims at the prevention of illegal connections, EdL is now able to recover costs from 403 households in the Bekaa, Akkar, Baalbek and North region.

Overall, the Energy Sector reached 114,250 individuals out of the 1,119,172 target population. Notably, all projects under the Energy Sector are

coordinated closely between the agency/NGO, MoEW, EdL and the local authorities in line with the national plan. In addition to this, MoEW and EdL have continued its efforts to implement the national plan on electricity. Since 2010, 715 MW of electricity generation capacity has been added, while an additional 486 MW is needed to cover the demand of host communities and displaced populations alike.

Considering this, the sector's key priority for the first quarter of 2018 is further reinforcement and upgrading of the distribution network in critical areas. Although large funding gaps remain in the sector, the Energy sector will address this challenge through more effective advocacy and coordination with the other sectors and stakeholders, including development actors.

Challenges

The main challenge for the sector remains to raise funds and to advocate for the importance of energy. In addition, the understaffing in the governmental institutions is also a critical challenge given the increased service demand due to the crisis. Electricity in Lebanon remains a controversial issue: the challenges that the sector faced prior to the Syrian crisis have been severely exacerbated by the extra consumption of electricity, causing more losses to the Government and to the Lebanese population. This situation makes fundraising for the Energy sector more challenging. Since the overall funding situation is expected to worsen in the coming years, the Energy sector needs to use its limited funds more strategically to achieve the sector's expected impact. This may include better private-public partnerships to mobilize private capital through blended financing, reducing risk, or providing project support. It is also critical to strengthen the energy-related investment climate and attract private and international financial institutions. To this end, the sector's major challenges are further prioritization of activities and strategic positioning of its roles in the context of both the LCRP and the national plan for electricity.

Key priorities and gaps foreseen in the first half of 2018

The interventions in the Energy sector will have both direct and indirect benefits for the vulnerable communities, while also contributing to the implementation of national plans. Improved electricity quality and supply will benefit not only vital services such as hospitals and schools, but also the business climate in Lebanon because unreliable electricity supply and high production costs have significantly hampered local economic development and job creation in Lebanon. Last year, the rehabilitation of the distribution network positively impacted more than 90,000 beneficiaries.

CASE STUDY

The projects for reinforcement of the distribution network illustrate how the Energy sector responds to the crisis, while also improving long-term resilience and sustainability of Lebanese systems in close collaboration with the national partners.

A study by the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) and UNDP proposed key interventions to overcome identified energy-related problems in a manner that is technically, financially and environmentally sustainable. One of such proposals entailed the reinforcement of electricity distribution networks. The energy supply-demand gap in Lebanon is not only due to a deficit in power generating capacity, but also due to excessive losses from the transmission and, more acutely, from the distribution network. Technical losses from the transmission and distribution (T&D) networks in Lebanon are approximately 15 percent, compared to international benchmarks (such as for OECD countries) where losses stand at approximately 6 percent. Transformers are a key component of the distribution network. Adding and upgrading transformers will improve the efficiency of the power supply by 1 to 2 percent. Based on this assessment, several implementing actors, such as UNDP and Mercy-USA, have installed transformers in vulnerable localities in coordination with MoEW and Electricité du Liban (EDL). The installation has improved the quality of electricity supply at household-level and mitigated the overload on the distribution network. The benefits of the project are felt by local people. "Electricity is a main factor for activating industrial, economic, and agricultural trading work. The installation of new transformers will enable people to save money, especially given that the cost of Kilowatt supplied by the government is cheaper than that of private generators," the head of Barja municipality said. He continued:

"The residents reacted positively, particularly in the neighbourhood of Jal Al-Bir, after their long suffering from weak status of electrical supply from the nearest transformer (almost 800 meters away). However, now, and after the installation of the new transformer, the electricity reaches their homes on a regular basis without interruption. This project is the most beneficial and successful because electricity is as essential to the people of Barja as water."





Providing renewable energy, Saida - UNDP

FOOD SECURITY

Key achievements

The Food Security sector aims at reducing the percentage of food insecurity among all vulnerable population groups in Lebanon. In 2017, sector partners were able to support more than one million individuals from all population groups with both food assistance and agricultural livelihoods interventions.

The assistance provided has helped stabilize the situation – ensuring poor and food insecure families can meet their basic food needs. **1,081,359** vulnerable individuals were reached with food assistance through various modalities (such as vouchers, cash and in-kind), of which:

- 968,439 persons were reached through various cash-based modalities (such as vouchers/e-cards/ATM):
- Beneficiaries include **884,667** displaced Syrians, reached through e-cards (99 percent) and vouchers.
 - 50,747 vulnerable Lebanese were also supported: 50,642 were reached by the cards within the framework of the National Poverty Targeting Programme, the remaining 105 through food vouchers.
 - 32,598 Palestine refugees from Syria were provided with food assistance through ATM cards while up to 2,897 received additional food vouchers.
 - 427 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon were assisted through vouchers.
- In-kind food parcels and hot meals were provided to complement the food assistance reaching up to 112,920 individuals from all population groups.

In support of the most vulnerable Lebanese, the sector partners increased interventions to assist 5,120 farmers to promote sustainable agricultural and livestock production, energy and water conservation technologies, postharvest management, food losses and monitoring of plant

and animal diseases through capacity building activities and distribution of agricultural inputs and tools.

To improve the employability in the agricultural sector, all seven of the Ministry of Agriculture technical schools were supported, where nearly 3,800 youth were enrolled in both short and long-term courses receiving trainings on agriculture, employability skills and basic literacy and numeracy.

7,526 vulnerable individuals have been employed as casual (84 percent) and seasonal labourers in the agriculture sector.

5,783 individuals (both Lebanese and displaced Syrians) were supported for improved nutritional practices, of which 4,998 through the introduction of micro-gardening activities at household level and around 785 through food preservation and transformation techniques and kits.

In support of national institutions, the capacities of 42 staff were strengthened on various topics including food security, information management and statistics, monitoring of plant diseases, etc.

Key contributions to LCRP impacts

During 2017, the Food Security sector contributed to the LCRP Strategic Objectives (SO) number 2, 3 and 4. Under SO Two: "Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations" 1,081,359 individuals received food assistance, both in-kind and cash-based assistance. This represents a 115 percent achievement against the established target of 939,710 individuals. By providing assistance to those families and removing the worry about where the next meal will come from, combined sector activities have instilled a sense of hope and allowed families to focus on their day-to-day activities. Under SO Three: "Support service provision through national systems", support to government institutions was provided mainly to regional offices of the Ministry of Agriculture (7), agricultural centres (30), agricultural technical schools (7) and the Green Plan central office and regional offices (8), to strengthen their implementation of service and technical support to vulnerable Lebanese farmers in enhancing their capacities and productivity; improve their information management for enhancing interventions and policies, and improve the educational system and

support enrolment to improve the employability of youth. Similarly, MoA, along with the Customs Authority, were supported in monitoring and controlling of plant diseases under the umbrella of disaster risk management. The Ministry of Social Affairs, through its social development centres (SDCs), was supported to enhance its delivery of social welfare and services under the NPTP, the main direct aid process for vulnerable and poor Lebanese. Under SO Four: "Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social, institutional and environmental stability by (i) expanding economic and livelihood opportunities benefiting local economies and the most vulnerable communities and (ii) promoting confidence-building measures within and across institutions and communities to strengthen Lebanon's capacities", 7,526 jobs were created in the agricultural sector, both as casual and seasonal labour, and businesses were supported to generate income for local economies across Lebanon with a special emphasis on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), including WFP-contracted shops, women cooperatives and community kitchens.

Special emphasis was undertaken in mainstreaming and emphasizing interventions towards most vulnerable groups such as women, youth and children, support to enrolment of youth in vocational agriculture schools and supporting the National Action Plan of the Ministry of Labour in combating child labour specifically in agriculture.

It remained a sector priority during 2017 to ensure that the distributions conducted for the food assistance activities were, and continued to be, organized in a way which overcame potential barriers to food access faced by persons with specific needs. Special attention was given to the inclusion of people with disabilities into the agricultural livelihood activities. Moreover, the sector took into consideration the increased vulnerability of people with specific needs, including female heads of household, when targeting for food assistance.

The targeting for agricultural livelihoods activities is done on an equal coverage for men and women, despite the fact that women only represent 9 percent of the total farming population (based on MoA census 2010). This is done to ensure women's livelihoods are supported, given the patriarchal nature of the country, where productive assets such as land and livestock are registered under the male

household member, even if the main worker is the female member.

Challenges

Food insecurity in 2017 was mainly associated with high economic vulnerability and limited income earning opportunities. Fifty-eight percent of households were unable to cover their survival minimum expenditure per month, while 76 percent fell below the poverty line (\$115.2 per person/month), compared to 71 percent in 2016. In addition, 40 percent of displaced Syrians households still rely on WFP food assistance as a source of income.

The main challenge of the Food Security sector remains the transition from a humanitarian emergency to a stabilized development context. To overcome this, the sector will explore the possibilities to link with other sectors, with the aim of strengthening social safety nets for displaced persons and Lebanese alike.

In the context of this transition, the sector's partners will focus on the feasibility of transition schemes to empower vulnerable families to graduate out of poverty and become self-reliant, in a combined action across different sectors such as food security, basic assistance, livelihoods and protection. Any transition mechanism will have to be fully aligned with government policies, be in synergy with the NPTP and aim to equally benefit displaced persons as well as vulnerable Lebanese.

The VASyR 2017 results showed a slight deterioration in the food consumption and dietary diversity of refugees. In 2017, 38 percent of refugee households had an inadequate diet. For female-headed households, the percentage of inadequate consumption even reached 49 percent, compared to 36 percent for male-headed households. Consumption of nutrient-rich healthy food groups, including vegetables, dairy products and eggs, remained low in 2017.

While humanitarian support contributed to keeping the situation stable, the lack of sufficient funds did not allow for a drastic change to the situation, especially for activities supporting the access of food by improving the livelihood and creating income generating opportunities. The percentage of households borrowing money remained extremely high (87 percent), and approximately

75 percent of households borrowed money to buy food. Forty-three percent of households have a debt above \$600.

Key priorities and gaps foreseen in the first half of 2018

The VASyR 2017 showed a slight decrease in the percentage of food insecure households compared to 2016: 91 percent of the Syrian population is now food insecure to some degree, against 93 percent in 2016. While the percentage of mildly food insecure households decreased, the percentage of households with moderate and severe food insecurity increased in 2017, with 38 percent of the households falling under these two categories.

Vulnerability to food insecurity is affecting 10 percent of Lebanese households. Ninety-four percent of the total population of Palestine refugees from Syria are food insecure. The agricultural economy and food production capacity have been affected all over Lebanon. Farmers who have traditionally relied on agricultural inputs and services at subsidized/cheaper rates from Syria currently face an increase in input costs and are struggling to keep up production.

The Food Security sector will continue to play its humanitarian and stabilization roles to ensure availability of and accessibility to food for the most vulnerable through a dual approach with both the provision of cash-based or in-kind assistance and the support to agriculture livelihoods. Based on the current situation, the Food Security sector priorities remain the provision of direct and critical food assistance, through cash-based transfers for food and also in-kind assistance where appropriate, in support for highly vulnerable groups among the large population of displaced Syrians, Lebanese and PRS; promote agricultural investment to improve agricultural opportunities for Lebanese small-scale farmers to protect their assets, stabilize their livelihood opportunities and enhance long-term competitiveness as well as to create adequate job and livelihood opportunities for men and women; support national and local food security systems, including social safety nets, capacity building and social protection to promote stabilization.





CASE STUDY

The agricultural sector in Lebanon, and particularly the dairy sector, is a major source of income for poor rural communities, including those hosting the largest numbers of displaced Syrians. This is especially the case for households who do not own land. Almost 60 percent of livestock farmers in Lebanon depend on dairy as their main source of living, and over 80 percent of dairy farmers are categorized as vulnerable.



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, has implemented a project targeting dairy producers and women dairy processors to increase their income through improved quality and safety of milk and dairy products in order to safeguard the consumer and improve the selling prices of these products.

The two-year project was funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and targeted 270 direct and 500 indirect beneficiaries, covering the most vulnerable host communities in seven Lebanese governorates: Akkar, Baalbeck-Hermel, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, Nabatiyeh, North Lebanon and South Lebanon.

As part of the project, FAO conducted eight comprehensive technical trainings around good practices in milk production, including farm management, feeding, disease prevention, milk processing, food safety and hygiene, as well as different home processing cheese recipes. The trainings were attended by 238 participants, including 150 women. All beneficiaries received two manuals to further ensure good practices regarding dairy processing: "Safe and Healthy Milk Production" and "Good Practices to Produce Home Processed Dairy in Lebanon".

Following these trainings, the beneficiaries received 130 pieces of small-scale dairy home processing equipment, 10 pieces of medium-scale equipment for women cooperatives and 130 farm processing units in order to enhance the quality of their products and increase their income.

At the beginning of the project, FAO conducted quality tests on 54 random samples of raw milk, labneh and cheese collected from the project's beneficiaries. After the project was completed, the same 54 tests were conducted and indicated a 70 percent improvement in the quality of dairy products.

The achievements described in this report are the collective work of the following 36 organizations: ABAAD, ACF, ACS, ACTED, AMEL, AUB, AVSI, CCP, JAPAN, CLMC, CONCERN, DAF, Dorcas, DRC, FAO, Intersos, IOCC, IR, ISWA, LOST, LRC, LSESD, MCC, MoSA, PU-AMI, QRCS, Safadi Foundation, SCI, SHEILD, SIF, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOCHA, UNRWA, WFP, WVI.



Women training in COOP, Rana Sweidan - UNDP

HEALTH

Key achievements

- In 2017, the Health sector was able to maintain the same level of funding compared to the previous year, with approximately \$100 million received at a time when socio-economic vulnerability levels of displaced Syrians have increased. The sector remained underfunded, however, having received only 32 percent of the appeal.
- Health partners were able to maintain their support to displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) in accessing primary health care. A total of 1,881,702 subsidized primary health care consultations were provided, at both fixed health facilities (MoPH-PHCs and dispensaries) and mobile medical units, reaching 85 percent of the sector's target of 2,214,286 subsidized consultations.
- Health partners were able to maintain and increase access to chronic disease medication for vulnerable groups through the national MoPH/YMCA system. A total of 175,276 patients (displaced Syrians 18,014, vulnerable Lebanese 155,838 and other nationalities 1,424) were provided with medication for chronic diseases.
- Health partners were also able to maintain and increase their support to displaced Syrians, PRL and PRS in access to hospital care for specific conditions. A total of 92,843 persons was financially supported to access hospital care, representing 71 percent of the sector's target of 130,202 persons.
- Health partners were able to save lives by maintaining support to 110 dialysis patients and mobilize additional funds to support around 60 dialysis patients.
- Health partners were able to support the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) with 240 staff at the national, peripheral and primary health care centre level. This has supported in strengthening MoPH at district level, the Epidemiological Surveillance Unit, the National

Mental Health Programme, Health Information Management as well as service delivery within national tuberculosis centres across the country and within governmental hospitals. The support has also helped to reduce the burden associated with high influx of patients at facility level.

Key contributions towards LCRP impacts

In 2017, the Health sector continued to provide financial support to displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestine refugees from Syria and Palestine refugees from Lebanon in accessing health care through the national health system, and it continued to implement activities aimed at strengthening service delivery.

Access to primary health care services was improved by partners providing a total of 1,881,702 subsidized consultations compared to 1,662,881 subsidized consultations provided in 2016. Subsidized consultations were provided primarily to displaced Syrians (76.4 percent), followed by vulnerable Lebanese (15.4 percent), PRS (8 percent) and PRL (0.3 percent). Overall, 77.4 percent of subsidized PHC consultations were provided through fixed health outlets, while the remaining 22.6 percent was provided through mobile medical units (MMUs). Of those consultations subsidized through fixed health outlets, 37 percent were provided through Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) primary health care centres (PHCs), six percent through Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) social development centres (SDCs), 47.5 percent through other health outlets, and 9.3 percent through UNRWA clinics.

Obstetric and emergency/life-saving care was provided to displaced Syrians with 82,720 hospitalizations supported from January to December 2017. This represents a 12 percent increase compared to the number of supported hospital admissions in 2016 (73,951 admissions) and a 41 percent increase compared to 2015. Through UNRWA, 4,605 Palestine refugees from Syria received in-patient hospital care, which was comparable to 2016. Lives were saved through continued access to dialysis for 110 displaced Syrian patients with chronic renal failure and an additional 60 patients who had either stopped receiving support from MoPH in the first quarter of 2017 or were on partners' waiting lists for support. On a more limited basis, and covering a smaller number of patients, medical missions or projects were

organized targeting specific surgeries, such as cleft lip/palate surgeries and surgeries for congenital orthopaedic malformations. This resulted in an important increase in the quality of life for those individuals requiring specialized care.

The Health sector provided institutional support to MoPH through the procurement of vaccinations, medication, reproductive health commodities, medical supplies, personal protective equipment (PPEs) for acute respiratory infection surveillance, swabs for specimen collection, protective equipment from hazardous materials and items, and lab reagents. Also, support was provided to MoPH through staffing, trainings for improved service delivery as well as equipment. In terms of staffing support, various health partners contributed to supporting MoPH with a total of 240 staff at the central and peripheral level, as well as MoPH-PHCCs level. Trainings to MoPH staff and/or MoPH-PHCCs staff were done on a variety of topics, including: Infection Prevention & Control, Anti-microbial Resistance, Mental Health, Reporting on DHIS23, Pharmacy Management, Family Planning & Counselling, Reporting to MoPH and MoPH SOPs.

Challenges

In 2017, the Health sector faced various challenges which were similar to those in 2016:

- As a result of insufficient funding, many referrals of patients in need of secondary health care or specialized diagnostics were not covered by partners. These included serious chronic diseases and catastrophic illnesses. As a result, many patients did not receive the hospital care they needed as they were not able to pay for the fees. This has further negatively affected their health status.
- For displaced Syrian patients in need of in-patient psychiatric care, admission was often delayed because of the limited number of hospital beds.
- Access to routine vaccination for children under five years of age remains a concern for the Health sector, as the results of the WHO Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Cluster survey point to areas of low vaccination coverage. This is further validated by the Accelerated Immunization Activities (AIA) by

MoPH/UNICEF/WHO and partners which started in the last quarter of 2017 and which indicate that indeed many children under five have not completed their vaccinations as per the MoPH routine vaccination calendar and are at risk of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Similar to previous years, access for displaced Syrian women to ante-natal and post-natal care remained relatively low. It is thus important to enhance their knowledge of available services through intensified awareness-raising on the location of health facilities which provide subsidized primary health care services.

- In 2017, there was anecdotal information pointing to an increase in home-based deliveries. Assessments showed that the main reasons for giving birth at home included not having anyone to care for the other children, a midwife being available, fear of having a C-section, lack of transportation, and inability to pay the hospital fees. MoPH data pointed to a significant increase in maternal mortality in 2017 compared to the previous year, with many maternal deaths being a result of delayed access to care.
- There was also an increase in newborn deaths among displaced Syrians, comparatively higher than neonatal mortality among Lebanese. This may be explained by poor levels of ante-natal care among displaced Syrians.

Key priorities and gaps foreseen in the first half of 2018

Similar to previous years, the Health sector strategy for 2018 is focused on improving access to comprehensive primary health care for displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) and Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL). This includes access to vaccinations, acute and chronic medication, family planning, pregnancy care, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) care, mental health care, and laboratory diagnostics, both through support for primary health care centres in providing subsidies and through community outreach. The sector is also focused on improving access to secondary health care for displaced Syrians and Palestine refugees from Syria, through the provision of financial support for hospital care. Similar to previous years, the sector also aims to

improve outbreak control through strengthening and expanding the EWARS system. Lastly, the sector aims at improving adolescent and youth health through the school health programme.

Funds have been secured for the support to primary health care facilities in providing subsidies or free-of-charge primary health care services during 2018, key priorities for the first quarter of 2018 relate to the continued provision of free vaccinations and as acute and chronic medications (including psychotropic medications).

Another priority is the continued provision of secondary health care services to both displaced Syrians and Palestine refugees from Syria, an additional response system for improved outbreak control (EWARS), and the strengthening public primary health care and public hospital service delivery.

CASE STUDY

Meeting the needs for medication for non-communicable diseases for the most vulnerable Lebanese and displaced Syrians

Since the start of the Syria crisis, the number of beneficiaries from the MoPH/YMCA chronic medications programme for non-communicable diseases (such as hypertension, diabetes, gastric ulcers, musculoskeletal diseases, and endocrine diseases) has doubled, jumping from 78,000 beneficiaries in 2012 to 168,000 in 2017. Fifty-seven percent of the beneficiaries are female, and 43 percent are male. Syrian beneficiaries who benefitted from the programme represented 28 percent of this increase. MoPH covered around 73 percent of the Lebanese beneficiaries, whereas displaced Syrians and the rest of the vulnerable Lebanese beneficiaries were covered by external donor support. The graph below shows the percentage of Lebanese and Syrian beneficiaries covered by external donor support (European Union, Japan, Kuwait).

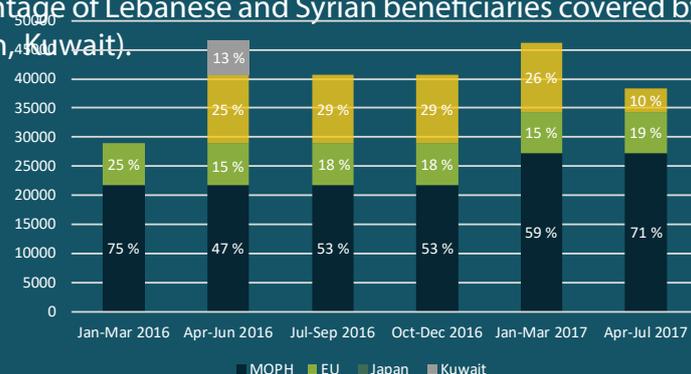


Fig1- Donor support to non-communicable disease medications (WHO/YMCA/MoPH 2017)

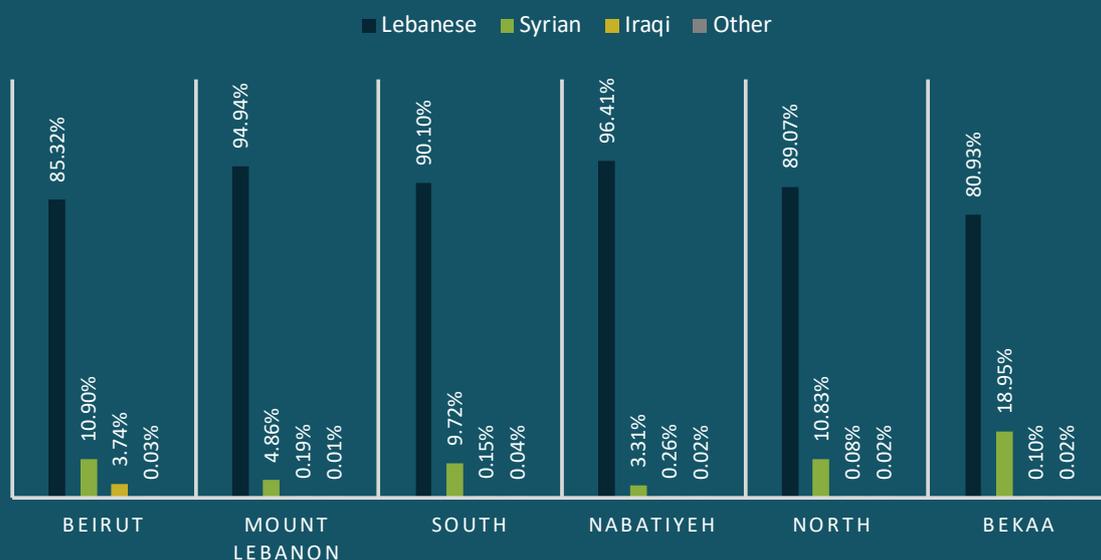


Fig 2- Geographic distribution of beneficiaries of chronic medications programme (YMCA/MoPH, 2017)

Lebanese beneficiaries are almost equally distributed in all governorates, with a higher concentration in Mount Lebanon and Nabatiyeh, while Syrian beneficiaries are mostly concentrated in the Bekaa, followed by Beirut and the North.

WHO, with the support of donors, was able to ensure uninterrupted supply and provision of medication throughout 2017. The wide geographical distribution of the primary health care facilities, supported by the YMCA/MoPH chronic medications programme, facilitated easy access across the country. No shortages of those medications were formally reported.

Ensuring access to affordable and quality medication for non-communicable diseases contributed to the prevention of disabilities due to chronic diseases and, consequently, the improvement of quality of life for many vulnerable Lebanese and displaced Syrians. Due to access to these medications, patients were able to prevent the deterioration of their health and did not need hospitalization; it also contributed to reducing the vulnerability of displaced Syrians and poor Lebanese, by reducing out-of-pocket expenditures on health. The humanitarian support for access to health care in general, and to medication in particular, reduced competition for these services among the most vulnerable host and refugee communities and is therefore believed to have contributed to reducing the social tensions. Close and timely coordination between partners within the humanitarian community can indeed produce results and impact - as illustrated by the joint support to the non-communicable disease medication programme.

All 46 organizations mentioned below are contributing to the achievement of Health Outcomes prioritized under the LCRP.

MoPH, MoSA, UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, IOCC, UNRWA, YMCA, URDA, ICRC, IMC, Orienthelper, Global Smile Foundation ME, LAECD, Beyond, Caritas Lebanon, HDA, LRC, MAP, MSF-Switzerland, MSF-Belgium, PCPM, PU-AMI, Nabad (as IP of UNFPA), HI, RI, Restart, UoB, CCP-Japan, Abrivekst/AbriAid, ACF, AMEL, FPSC, LPADE (as IP of HWA), Humedica, LPHU, Medair, MdM, MTI, Makhzoumi, Blue Mission, Dorcas/Tabitha, MSSCF (as IP of UNFPA), LPADE (as IP of UNFPA).

SDC Renovatoion, Rana Sweidan - UNDP



LIVELIHOODS

Key achievements

- **2305** jobs created or maintained in Lebanese businesses during 2017, a 466 percent increase compared to 2016.
- **9** Value Chains being valorized.
- **6,529** vulnerable people engaged in labour-intensive public work programmes.
- **4,634** out of 36,410 beneficiaries of skills training programme accessed employment or income opportunities.
- **2,738** Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperatives supported to improve productivity and profit, and access new clients and markets.

Key contributions towards LCRP impacts

2017 has been a positive year for the Livelihoods sector. The sector was able to deliver significant results to support vulnerable populations in accessing work and income, under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs. This was possible thanks to a considerable increase in available funding (\$44 million, +28 percent compared to 2016), in the number of active partners (45 active partners) and in the quality of programmes implemented. This constituted the beginning of a promising trend that would need to be significantly scaled up for the efforts of the sector to reach the necessary scale to contribute to reducing socio-economic vulnerabilities and to increasing stability in Lebanon.

First and foremost, the sector's main achievement this year was its increasing impact on job creation. Yet, the sector target of 8,000 jobs was far from achieved, primarily because of a continued lack of resources (75 percent funding gap, despite the positive trend of 2016-2017). The support provided by Livelihoods partners to private sector entities, mostly small businesses, through a variety of business development services, grants and technology transfer, including through value chain approaches, resulted in helping these businesses to preserve or create new jobs. This included work through value chain approaches on potatoes and leafy greens in the North, complemented by work to develop three more local value chains for both products as well as tomatoes in Akkar.

Partners have also worked on the furniture value chain in the North, the dairy one in Bekaa, and – nation-wide – on solid waste and handicrafts. Work on traditional Syrian handicrafts was concluded, while partners identified organic agriculture and renewable energy as priority areas and are picking up work from USAID on other agro-food value chains.

In total, Livelihoods partners supported 2,738 businesses, a four-fold increase compared to 2016 and a sixteen-fold increase compared to 2015. This rapid increase validates the sector's strategy to focus on small businesses as the main job creator in Lebanon, in line with the Ministry of Economy's SME strategy. This was directly translated into practice with partners reporting that their support resulted in creating or preserving 2,305 jobs, also a four-fold increase compared to 2016. However, most (71 percent) of these jobs were maintained rather than created. This is mostly because partners predominantly supported nano-businesses (77 percent of the total number of supported businesses), which typically only have one or two employees and are therefore more likely to safeguard existing jobs than create new ones.

While very encouraging, these results in terms of job creation remain limited in terms of the number of people directly impacted, in a context where poverty is affecting 76 percent of refugees and 28 percent of Lebanese. In this context, providing short-term opportunities through labour-intensive projects remains crucial to provide access to income. Unfortunately, the decreasing trends observed in the past years have continued in 2017 in this regard, with only 6,529 individuals engaged for a total of 71,000 work days. Yet, these projects still benefitted 113 municipalities, through the rehabilitation of roads and canals, or the renovation of 59 public buildings and over 300 public spaces. Several larger-scale projects are currently in the design phase which should help the sector bridge the gap towards its annual target of 36,000 individuals, while also contributing to implementing infrastructure needs identified in national master plans.

The sector's focus on the supply side of the labour market has continued to expand significantly in 2017 and remains the main activity of the sector in terms of people supported. Over 35,000 Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians have completed short-term market-based skills training in 2017, nearly a two-

fold increase compared to 2016 and a 175 percent over-achievement of the sector target.

About 21,000 of these beneficiaries also benefitted from employment services, such as career guidance, and/or from internship schemes. However, the overall impact of such activities on improving the livelihoods of beneficiaries remains limited, with only six percent of them accessing employment and seven percent benefitted from home-based opportunities. Now that these activities have reached such a scale, improving the quality and impact of these trainings will be a key priority of the sector in 2018 (see below).

Overall, these achievements constitute conclusive evidence of Livelihoods partners' ability to contribute to the LCRP impact statement of maintaining Lebanon's economic stability by mitigating the deterioration in the economic condition of vulnerable populations.

In total, the sector improved the lives of 13,468 households, or over 67,000 people, in 2017. The fact that the sector has already secured more funding for 2018 (\$56 million) at year-end, than in 2017 also demonstrates donors' buy-in into the approach and the capacity of the sector.

Challenges

The main challenge affecting the work of the Livelihoods sector remains the degrading environment related to relations between communities and competition in the labour market. The beginning of 2017 was marked by a series of close to 30 local protests, demonstrations and/or municipal regulations against alleged competition by Syrian workers, particularly the ones running shops. This trend was confirmed by the Stabilization Monitoring Perception Surveys⁸ which showed that perceptions surrounding competition for lower-skilled jobs were identified as the main source of inter-community tensions by both Syrian and Lebanese respondents in all districts of the country.

This crystallization of tensions on an issue related to livelihoods led to more pressure on the programming for livelihoods partners, who had to take very careful steps to not only ensure acceptance by the host community of any project including refugees, but also that their programme would be conflict-sensitive and not raise tensions or fuel confusion.

On the other hand, this general development reiterated the crucial importance of the work of the sector from a stability perspective, as any programme benefitting host community livelihoods or creating more opportunities for refugees in the three sectors in which they are allowed to work would contribute to defuse frustrations related to the lack of livelihood opportunities. Partners made the necessary adjustments to their programmes to take this new reality into account and support the regulations of the labour market. This included sensitizing some 1,000 beneficiaries on labour laws and regulations and the specific framework for Syrians and supporting the labour inspection department of the Ministry of Labour with the secondment of additional inspectors.

Key priorities and gaps foreseen in the first half of 2018

While the work initiated with ministries to improve overall skills training system will be a key priority for the sector, important gaps persist in scaling up the job creation part of the livelihoods strategy. As mentioned above, the funding prospects for 2018 are promising for the sector, as it has already more funding secured than in the whole of 2017. However, the funding level remains at only 26 percent of the appeal and scaling up is urgently required to allow partners to build on promising results and deliver on target. In particular, the sector would like to ensure better balance between supporting the demand and the supply side of the labour market. The 2017 livelihoods strategy had been carefully crafted to emphasize the need to match the focus on skills training and workforce employability with a robust job creation strategy, taking into account that the Lebanese economy is creating very few jobs, especially in vulnerable areas. The fact that only 25 percent of the job creation target has been achieved, while 175 percent of the training caseload was reached is a cause of concern, as partners run a real risk of raising the expectations of beneficiaries and fostering competition in an already tense environment.

The expression of interest from partners for 2018 revealed that all 65 sectors partners were keen on implementing skills training programmes in 2018, which would further increase the total caseload of the sector. At this stage, it is therefore crucial for donors to prioritize funding for the demand-side of the labour market, where partners have

demonstrated their capacity achieve results over the past two years. In particular, this should include scaling up value chain development interventions to support strategic economic sectors with a high potential in terms of job creation and economic growth.

As mentioned above, on top of the nine value chains currently being upgraded, partners have identified several new sectors where value chain work could be continued or initiated. This includes agro-food value chains, where up to 18,000 jobs could be created and where several USAID interventions need to be followed upon.

On a more innovative note, partners are also increasingly interested in environmental value chains, such as recycling, upcycling, but also renewable energy.

Other priorities of the sector for the first quarter will focus on the enabling environment for job creation, notably by developing more linkages with ministries and other stakeholders involved in ensuring decent work conditions in the labour market, considering the level of informality and exploitation that has been exacerbated by the crisis. Similarly, the sector needs to further strengthen its linkages with the private sector, notably through lessons learnt events with key existing private sector partners.





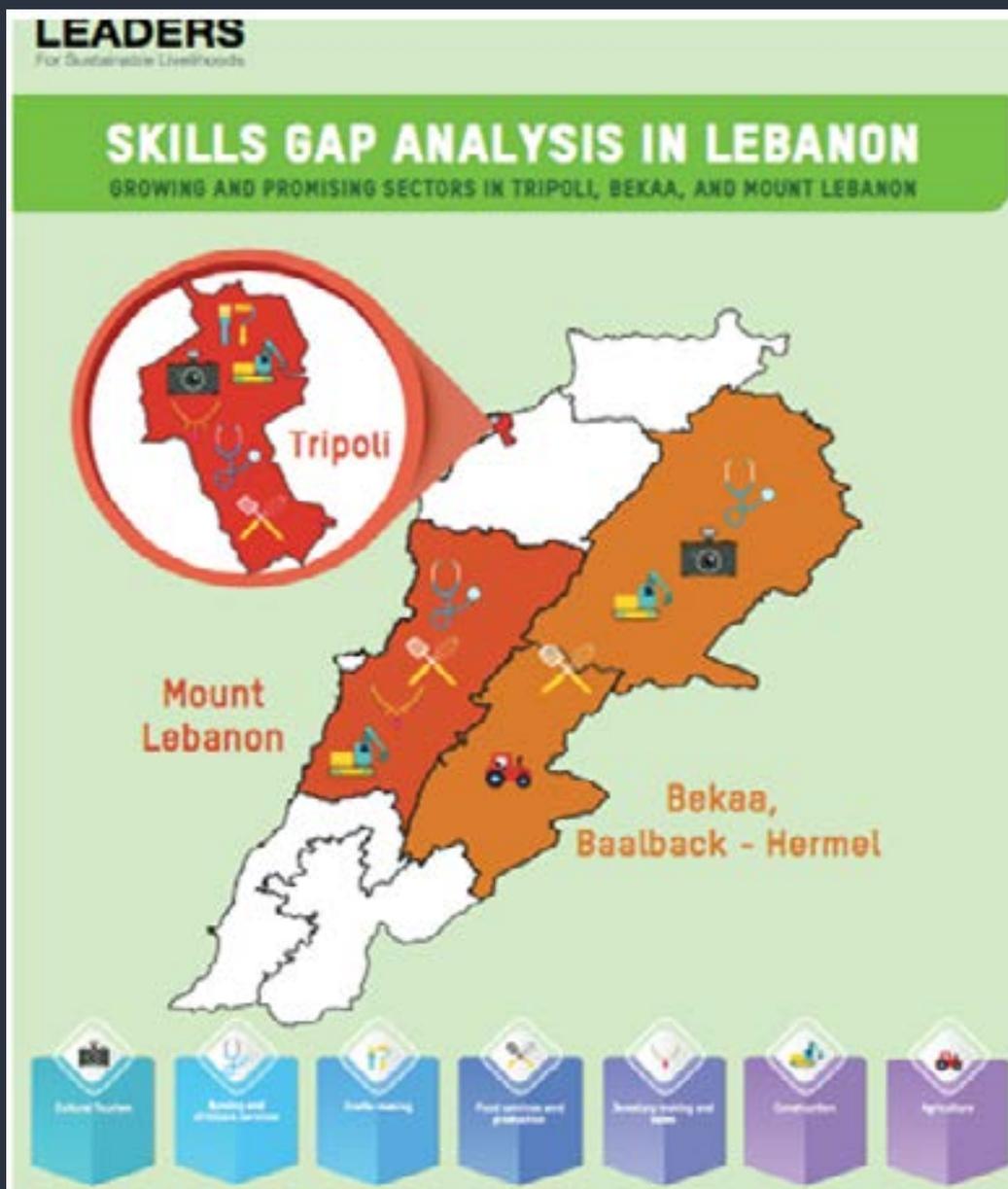
CASE STUDY

Improving skills training

The sharp increase of the number of beneficiaries of short-term skills training has been a key feature of the work of the sector in 2017. Yet, this important achievement is also creating challenges, particularly in terms of creating an imbalance within the sector strategy: only 13 percent of the people trained eventually find a job or generate income.

Therefore, the vast majority of beneficiaries of skills training do not see an immediate improvement in their livelihoods. However, these challenges should not outshine the important efforts of partners to improve the quality of such training programmes. Partners are increasingly making sure that skills training programmes are part of a 'package' of services to improve employability of beneficiaries. This is a positive trend that should be built upon in 2018.

A key element in improving the impact of skills training programmes is to link them to pathways to employment such as career guidance, job referrals, on-the-job training and internship schemes. This is now almost systematically the case. More importantly, partners are increasingly relying on advanced market studies as the basis for developing such programmes, ensuring that the curriculum designed for beneficiaries is indeed suited for market needs. This is crucial to ensure that beneficiaries who complete such programmes have indeed good chances to find and retain employment.



Since the beginning of the crisis response, 37 market research studies have been undertaken, such as overview of SME needs, skills gaps or labour market analysis, or business climate assessment. Sixteen of these were completed in the last two years and ten more are ongoing, a testimony to the growing interest of partners (a map and table of all these assessment is available on the Livelihoods page of the inter-agency portal). These studies offer the right combination of both national and local research into a variety of economic sectors (agro-food, construction, energy, tourism, ICT, etc.) to identify skills gaps to develop sound curricula for their programmes.

This effort can also support longer term economic development in Lebanon by identifying key niche opportunities in the market such as decoration, painting wallpaper services, carpentry and furnishing in the construction sector in Tripoli, chef and sous-chef in hotels and restaurants in Mount Lebanon, or jewellery machine operators and craft makers in glass blowing or soap making in Tripoli (LEADERS Consortium 2017 Skills Gap Analysis – see infographics).

In addition, partners have also worked on innovating the delivery of their training programme. This notably includes involving the private sector in curricula design and training provisions linked to a placement scheme for trainees and involving businesses in pre-enrolment test of trainees or in the certification of their skills upon training completion. Overall, the job placement rate of partners who combined these different innovative practices with sound market research and pathways to employments is between 25 and 30 percent, or twice the average achievement of the sector. As mentioned above, policy work is underway to bring other training programmes to this standard. The sector will support the development of an overall TVET Roadmap with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education through the creation of a task force on accelerated skills training, also involving other key ministries such as MoSA, MoET, MoA and MoL.

The achievements described in this report are the collective work of the following 41 organizations: ACA, ACF, ACTED, AMEL, ANERA Lebanon, AVSI, AlMajmoua, Avsi-Cesvi, BIAT, Basmeh & Zeitooneh, CARE, CESVI, CONCERN, DOT, DRC, GVC, Hilfswerk, Austria International, ICU, IECD, IRC, Injaz, LOST, LebRelief, Lebanese League of Women in Business, MSL Lebanon, Mercy Corps, Near East Foundation, OXFAM, PU-AMI, RMF, SAFADI, SCI, SIF, TDH, The Nawaya Network, UN-Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, YFORD.

PROTECTION

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 psychosocial, 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) is 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 percent of trainees demonstrate increased knowledge of SGBV.
- **172,764** children, including out of school children, received regular community-based psychosocial 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.⁹
- **77** percent of children aged 6 to 17 years reported an increase in their psychosocial well-being following their participation in the focused PSS activities.

Key contribution towards LCRP impacts

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 (\$200 per year per person aged 15 years and above). The waiver applies to displaced Syrians 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 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 of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (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. It also allows for 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, helping to facilitate access to essential services such as health and education, and preventing situations of statelessness.

The availability of quality, easily reachable and survivor-centred services, is critical to ensure that survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) feel confident to seek support. If these conditions are not met, survivors will not take the risk of report-

ing 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 and 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 percent 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, partner staff) indicates that 82 percent of trainees demonstrate increased knowledge of SGBV.

Five-hundred and fifty school counsellors from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) were trained on MEHE's 2017 Child Protection Policy, psychosocial support skills to enhance children's well-being at school, and the creation of a stronger protective school environment. In addition, 110 staff from MoSA social development centres (SDCs) 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 labour, child marriage and violent discipline, by identifying and coordinating support to mitigate these risks and keep children safe (see example of case study).

Group-based interventions in the form of focused psychosocial support (PSS) were provided to 34,834 children (51.3 percent female; 48.7 percent male) as part of an integrated package of support. PSS peer support models can provide an source of resilience for high-risk children, additional to individual case management support. In parallel, 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, building 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 towards refugees and the high pressure on some communities.

Several eviction orders and threats took place in 2017, including in Zahle municipality, Miziara town, Bcharre municipality, and Hadath municipality, exacerbating difficulties already being faced by refugees in Lebanon. Evictions in March 2017, ordered by the Lebanese Armed Forces for persons residing near Riyak Military Airbase, are still ongoing and have affected some 12,665 persons. A total of 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 arrangements, and increased vulnerabilities due to depleted resources. Apart from evictions, municipal restrictions such as increased curfews, taxes, fines and business closures, are hampering the ability of refugees to provide for themselves.

Seventy-four percent of displaced Syrians are still without legal residency, despite enhanced awareness of legal residency procedures through protection partner activities. Based on partner observations, the GSO still lacks sufficient capacity to process all 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 displaced Syrians) with legal, psychosocial 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, only 1,854 persons with disabilities received support from sector partners in 2017, 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 the capacity of service providers 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 Protection sector experienced a drastic funding shortfall, which impacted service provision in several areas of the country, as a result of which the number of persons accessing safe spaces per month dropped from approximately 7,000 to 3,000 individuals.

The disclosure of incidents of SGBV remains extremely challenging for several reasons, including 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, 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 the first quarter of 2017, 47 percent of survivors declined legal assistance services, compared to 40 percent in the same quarter in 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 well-being and development. Finding effective and sustainable solutions to prevent child labour, such as alternative sources of income for families who have limited livelihood opportunities, is a key challenge. Lack of specialized services persists in many parts of the country, such as mental health services, support to parents to improve their capacity to care for and protect their children, and adequate support services for children with disabilities. Appropriate and family-based alternative care options for unaccompanied children and children in contact with the justice system also remain

extremely limited, depriving children of the care and protection that a family environment can provide. Furthermore, nation-wide support is needed to ensure a child-friendly justice system is in place 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 in the first half of 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 has ensured coverage for these areas 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 and support the development of dedicated curricula promoting positive and non-violent behaviour within households and the community.

Finalizing the review of the MoSA National Plan to Safeguard Women and Children in Lebanon 2014-

2016 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 to 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 a 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 mechanisms 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 refugee 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 to 4pm to support her mother and three siblings. Street and working children such as Lamia are among 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 coordinated with other sectors and agencies to provide Lamia and her family with the multiple interventions and support needed to improve her safety and well-being. This included food assistance, emergency cash assistance, medication, health services including immunizations, winterization and hygiene kits, and referrals to more sustained assistance (such as WFP and protection cash assistance). As a result of this support, Lamia was able to stop working and attend school instead. 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 psychosocial services. Additionally, parents and caregivers of children in case management programmes are prioritized for positive parenting skills training and parenting support.

The achievements described in this report are the collective work of the following 58 organizations. ABAAD, ACTED, ADRA, AMEL, AND, Beyond, BZRD, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CLDH, Diakonia, Dorcas, DRC, DRC/LRC, GVC, HDA, Heartland, HelpAge, HI, Himaya, IMC, Intersos, IOM, IR, IRAP, IRC, IRD, KAFA, LECORVAW, MAG, Makhzoumi, Mercy Corps, mosaic-mena, Mouvement Social, Naba'a, Nabad, Near East Foundation, NRC, OXFAM, PU-AMI, RDFL, RESTART Lebanon, RtP, SaJ, SCI, SHEILD, SIF, Solidarités, TdH-It, TdH-L, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WCH, WRF, WVI, YNCA



SHELTER

Key achievements

- In 2017, the 22 partners of the Shelter sector assisted 244,545 individuals, of whom 92 percent displaced Syrians, 7 percent vulnerable Lebanese, 0.3 percent Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) and 0.1 percent Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL), ensuring that their shelter conditions are meeting minimum humanitarian standards.
- 165,508 individuals (approx. 33,100 vulnerable households) in informal settlements received shelter kits to better protect themselves against harsh weather conditions.
- Access to approximately 6,000 shelters was made safer, and the risk of flooding reduced, through site improvement of informal settlements.
- Approximately 13,000 homes of 63,767 vulnerable individuals were rehabilitated and their lease agreement ensured.
- Fire kits were distributed, and fire awareness sessions delivered to 95,799 individuals. This was vital considering that there were around 130 fire responses in informal settlements alone in 2017.
- All 5,014 informal settlements, home to 258,601 individuals, were mapped and surveyed on a quarterly basis under the Inter-Agency Mapping Platform (IAMP). This data serves as a key information source for planning and targeting assistance to the 17 percent of displaced Syrians residing in the settlements.
- Three multi-sectoral profiles have been completed in urban neighbourhoods in the cities of Tripoli, Beirut and Tyre to better inform an integrated response.

Contribution towards LCRP impacts

The Shelter sector works towards ensuring that vulnerable population groups have access to affordable shelter at minimum standards. For displaced Syrians, this was measured by the number of households living in adequate shelters. According to the annual Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR). In 2016, 44 per cent of households lived in adequate shelters. In 2017, this increased to 68 per cent - still below the 2017 target of 84 per cent.

Humanitarian assistance is provided to the most vulnerable individuals living in informal settlements and non-residential buildings. This was mainly achieved through the distribution of weatherproofing and insulation kits that protect against severe weather conditions. In 2017, 15,207 individuals (approx. 3,000 households) living in non-residential, substandard shelters and 165,508 individuals (approx. 33,100 households) in informal settlements were assisted. This includes emergency assistance distributed in response to evictions, including the Riyak eviction when some 750 shelter kits were distributed. The main Shelter partners conducting activities in these areas were Medair, SCI, Solidarités, PU-AMI, URDA, QRC, Concern and DRC.

The Shelter sector also aims to ensure that affordable shelters at adequate conditions are made available to vulnerable displaced and host communities through three activities: 1) rehabilitation of substandard shelters (in residential and non-residential structures) to minimum standards, 2) upgrading of common building areas and 3) the provision of 'Cash for Rent'. Combined, these three activities reached 34 percent of the target of 266,726 individuals.

Rehabilitation of substandard buildings is the Shelter sector's main stabilization activity and is implemented by 15 shelter partners. In addition to bringing shelters up to adequate standards, this activity simultaneously enhances tenants' security of tenure by requiring a written occupancy agreement from the landlord in return for upgrades. Where possible, a rent-free or rent-freeze component is included in the occupancy agreement, providing some economic relief for tenants. This activity has the added benefit of boosting the local Lebanese economy by injecting money into the local market through the procurement of building materials and employment of contractors. In 2017, 63,767 individuals (approx. 12,800 households) benefited from this activity, representing only 25 percent of the 2017 target.

Beneficiaries included displaced Syrians (47,965 individuals), Lebanese host community (14,135), Palestine refugees from Syria (1,117) and Palestine refugees in Lebanon (551). Shelter partners face increasing challenges in securing rent-free or rent-reduction occupancy agreements, especially in urban areas where the low-cost housing market is

under pressure. The main partners conducting this activity were NRC, PU-AMI, Solidarités and SCI.

The 'Cash for Rent' programme, a smaller-scale intervention, reached 26,993 individuals, or 135 percent of its 2017 target. This programme, implemented mainly by PCPM, subsidizes the rent of families in particularly vulnerable situations, economically or otherwise. A total of \$1,741,950 was distributed to both Syrian (55 percent) and Lebanese (45 percent) beneficiaries.

Upgrading of common areas in buildings, a new activity this year, was slow to get started and reached only seven percent of its 2017 target of 30,000 individuals.

Finally, the Shelter sector also aims to ensure protection against hazards through site improvement and fire mitigation. A total of 95,799 individuals in substandard buildings and informal settlements received fire-fighting kits and awareness sessions, representing 93 percent of the 2017 target. Site improvement of informal settlements through the implementation of water inundation mitigation measures (e.g. site levelling, graveling, installation of French drains) benefitted a total of 27,771 individuals, or 62 percent of the 2017 target.

The Shelter sector's response strived to enhance the coordination with, collaboration between and contribution of local authorities and national organizations. The Shelter sector was not successful in convincing local partners or local authorities to get involved in the response. National NGOs are more active in the Protection, Health and Education sectors, and were not actively involved in the Shelter Sector in 2017. Their involvement could have been strengthened by including in agreements with international partners a requirement to build the capacity of national NGOs. This component has been strengthened in the 2018 appeal; six national shelter partners have appealed, and some international NGOs have partnered with local NGOs for capacity building. In 2018, the Shelter sector plans to build the capacity of local authorities as part of area-based shelter and WASH programmes.

Finally, three multi-sectoral neighbourhood profiles have been completed in the cities of Tripoli, Beirut and Tyre to better inform the response. These will contribute to building a national database that can

be used for understanding and monitoring urban dynamics in the most vulnerable urban areas.

Challenges

The Shelter sector was confronted with a drop in funding in 2017, receiving a total of \$39 million, or 30 percent of the total appeal target of \$129 million. This meant that the number of active partners decreased from 29 in 2016 to 20 in 2017. The funding decrease particularly affected assistance to Palestinian camps and gatherings, and directly impacted the sector's ability to assist the most vulnerable.

The decrease in available funds most significantly impacted the winterization programme for informal settlements. The Shelter sector was forced to target assistance even more strictly, meaning that many families who were in need of a new shelter kit did not receive one. Additionally, most kits distributed were less robust and had a shorter expected lifespan than in previous years.

The difficulty of concluding rental agreements with landlords continued to be a major challenge, especially in the coastal and densely populated urban areas. The success of the rehabilitation programme relies on the willingness of landlords to allow rehabilitation works in exchange for reduced rent or occupancy free of charge for a certain time period, thereby alleviating the economic burden on the vulnerable population groups.

Key priorities and gaps foreseen in the first half of 2018

In 2018, the Shelter sector will be shifting its strategy regarding the substandard building rehabilitation programmes to one that mitigates economic decline of the vulnerable populations. This requires a greater emphasis on ensuring a minimum rate of return on all rental agreements secured through the rehabilitation programme. This should be through rent-free or rent-reduction agreements for vulnerable populations.

In the South and Baalbek El Hermel governorates, the lack of partners and funding will result in significant gaps in assessing and providing assistance to families residing in informal settlements through providing weatherproofing kits.

Fire prevention and preparedness programmes nationally will be limited by the lack of funds. A significant number of sites have not received fire kits and awareness sessions; other sites that did receive this assistance require periodic inspections and refills. This leaves sites at great risk of fires spreading, with residents unequipped to respond.

In 2018, the sector aims to strengthen the shelter-related capacity of local and national organizations through training and collaboration. The sector will also be assessing the capacity of public institutions and private corporations to provide affordable housing. Additionally, the sector aims to form a body where all housing and urban studies will be centralized and accessible to all relevant actors in the housing market. This would include contributions from national institutions and organizations, the academic sector and NGOs.

CASE STUDY

Seeking a better life

“We were not rich people in Syria. I used to work in agriculture fields with my family, but we were happy and satisfied,” said Omar. He describes the life they had in Syria as safe and healthy. In 2012, Omar, and his family fled to Lebanon after the security situation in Syria had deteriorated.



Like many other displaced Syrians in Lebanon, finding affordable and adequate housing was one of the hardest challenges for Omar. “At first we lived in an apartment without paying rent as I worked for the landowner. However, one day he told us to leave. Our only option then was to share accommodation with my parents who lived in another village in the South”. Hearing about NRC’s Occupancy Free of Charge (OFC) programme, Omar’s family sought assistance from NRC’s shelter team a few months later. They met with the Social Field Assistant responsible for the area they were residing, who visited them in order to explain the OFC programme and assess their vulnerability condition. The first visit’s purpose was to meet with the family, understand their needs and complete household eligibility and vulnerability assessments, complemented by ‘Desk Formula’ scoring.

A few days later, the technical assistant, with the help of the other social staff and in coordination with the local authorities, was able to find a suitable ‘two-housing unit’ (2HU) unfinished property.

Following agreement with the homeowner, the house was contracted and rehabilitated to meet minimum shelter standards, so that Omar’s family could live without paying rent for 12-months. Works included the installation of windows and doors (both internal and external), electrical wiring and lighting, the installation of a kitchen sink and a toilet, as well as external plastering for further weatherproofing. When the upgrades were completed, Omar was informed that he could move in to his new home. After settling down, a joint Shelter and Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) team visited the property to facilitate the signature of the OFC security of tenure agreement between the landlord and Omar’s family, specifying the roles and responsibilities of the two parties, including utility costs.



Even though Omar now lives in a rent-free home, difficulties continue. They have lived in the same village for four years now, but they are still considered strangers. The municipality has issued curfews for Syrians after 06.00 pm. “If one

of my children gets sick, we have to wait until the morning to get them the health care they need," says Omar.

Throughout the occupancy period, the ICLA team has visited the family regularly, to support them in accessing information on services in their area of residence, on legal registration and housing, land and property rights. The WASH team also visited Omar during the hosting period, to ensure the family has access to safe and sufficient water supply and to provide awareness sessions on various hygiene topics.

Omar continues, "We are thankful for the assistance from NRC but as long as I'm unemployed, I can't provide for my family. We don't eat decent meals and my wife is embarrassed to ask her friends over because she can't offer them coffee or dessert." However, despite the hardship they face, Omar and Sahar try to remain positive to motivate their children who are now enrolled in a local school. "Our eldest daughter remembers what happened in Syria, but we try to make her focus on school. She gets good grades and helps out with her siblings," says Sahar.

The achievements described in this report are the collective work of the following 22 partners: ACTED, AVSI, CARE, CISP, CONCERN, DRC, GVC, HDA, Intersos, MEDAIR, MoSA, NRC, PCPM, PU-AMI, QRC, SCI, Solidar Suisse, Solidarités, TdH-It, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, URDA



SOCIAL STABILITY

Key achievements

- **169** municipal services projects implemented in 83 municipalities, aimed at alleviating resource pressure and enhancing service delivery, in total worth more \$10m.
- **100** municipalities and unions benefitting from capacity building and mentoring programmes to improve community outreach and strategic planning.
- **285** SDC staff trained to facilitate local dialogue and conflict prevention initiatives.
- **51** new dialogue and conflict prevention mechanisms established, bringing the total number of municipalities with functional conflict prevention mechanisms to 100.
- **50,000** youth participating in community engagement and other inter-community dialogue initiatives.
- **210** tons of solid waste sorted and/or recycled through environmentally sound sorting facilities.

Key contributions towards LCRP impacts

2017 saw a relative shift in the evolution of the Social Stability sector, following two years of expansion and consolidation of its activities with a particular focus on supporting municipalities. The principal shift was in decreasing support to municipalities, while expanding many other elements of the sector strategy.

While the sector increasingly prioritized supporting the most vulnerable municipalities in alleviating resource pressure and addressing priority host community needs over the past two years, this trend has slightly reversed in 2017. Indeed, while a total of 169 projects were completed this year, this represents a marked decrease in terms of the number of projects (-25 percent), the amount of investment (\$10m vs. \$17m, or -40 percent), and in terms of the number of municipalities benefitting (83 vs. 100, or -17 percent). Moreover, these figures include solid waste interventions which were not previously part of the sector's activities. 168 of the most vulnerable localities have therefore been left without tangible support this year. This is a concerning trend in a context where 35 percent of

Lebanese now identify competition for services as a source of inter-community tensions – an increase of 12 percent compared to three months ago – and 85 percent feel that vulnerable Lebanese have been neglected by international assistance (ARK-UNDP Perception Surveys).

In addition to more limited funding, the main reason for these decreases is the larger size of projects. Whereas the average size of the biggest investments in 2016 was \$100,000, this increased to \$150,000 in 2017. These larger projects, such as a larger solid waste management initiative involving multiple municipalities, are now necessary to create economies of scale and to deliver greater impact on sources of tensions, particularly in smaller municipalities. This approach stands in contrast to earlier years of the response, which were dominated by smaller interventions delivered in a more scattered manner. While larger interventions have their benefits, these interventions have a much longer design phase, especially as they often require collaboration between several municipalities.

Nevertheless, 60 such projects are currently ongoing and, when completed in early 2018, will nearly double the investments made in 2017. This type of investment is much needed to ensure that the sector is contributing to the LCRP objective to preserve social stability in Lebanon. The perception surveys conducted in 2017 confirmed that such investments are leading to positive impact, not only in strengthening municipalities as one of the country's most trusted institutions, but also because respondents who benefitted from assistance not only showed more positive perceptions of institutions, but also less prejudice towards other communities and a lower propensity to turn to violence.

On another encouraging note, other 'softer' interventions of the sector have been significantly scaled up throughout the year. This is notably the case for dialogue and conflict prevention mechanisms (typically local committees), which are now operational in 100 municipalities throughout the country. These mechanisms are increasingly linked to local systems and institutions, notably with SDCs, with nearly 300 staff trained to facilitate such approaches. Partners are also increasingly building the capacity of local civil society and grassroots groups to participate and take charge of these dialogue and confidence building processes, with

109 civil society organizations (CSOs) supported compared to only 12 last year. These initiatives also led to tangible local impact throughout the year, as municipalities were supported in defusing escalating tensions during particularly tense periods of the year – for example in mediating host community frustration with Syrian labour competition in the Bekaa, which manifested itself in protests and shop closures, or in preventing ripple effects of evictions in the Zgharta area following a murder in Miziara.

These core interventions of the sector were complemented by two other sets of interventions that have registered significant progress this year. First, the rule of law and community security component of the sector strategy built on the normative work done in 2016 (development of Code of Conduct and SOPs for municipal police) to starting implementation of pilot stations in up to 10 municipalities. Nearly 200 police officers have been trained on the Code of Conduct and SOPs in 2017.

In parallel, tailored efforts to empower youth to play a positive role in their community have reached an unprecedented scale. Over 7,000 youth have led 340 local initiatives (summer camps, sport/artistic activities) in half of the vulnerable cadastres, engaging a total of 50,000 youth. This constitutes an unprecedented number of participants for the Social Stability sector.

Overall, this suggests that the prospects are promising, especially as the sector's capacity (42 active partners vs. 34 last year, 60 expressing interest for 2018), reach (248 cadastres targeted in total in 2017 vs. 238 last year) and funding (\$40m already available for 2018, more than in the whole of 2017) are expanding.

Challenges

The main challenges faced by the sector in 2017 were the relative degradation of the public discourse on issues concerning displaced Syrians and the general rise of tensions in the country, in addition to the decrease in support to municipalities. Indeed, 2017 was marked by successive contextual developments which all contributed to degrading social stability. This includes the string of local demonstrations against Syrian labour competition at the beginning of the year, the political and media debate on potential returns, the army operations

in Aarsal in the summer, as well as eviction threats and measures at the end of the year in the Zgharta, Bcharre and Baabda areas.

While this reinforced the need for social stability programming, it made the work of partners more sensitive and difficult as the distance between refugee and host communities grew. In particular, this meant taking a more careful and conflict-sensitive approach to any activity involving interactions between communities, which are key in debunking misperceptions, but can also backfire if not properly implemented.

Another challenge was the increased politicization of restrictive measures taken by some municipalities against their local refugee population. In such cases, local authorities tended to be unreceptive to offers of support and assistance from the international community to help defuse tensions in their localities. Close cooperation and engagement with the lead ministries (MoSA as well as MoIM) proved more successful in cases where these obstacles were present.

Finally, the fact that tensions continued to rise in 2017 despite the extensive work undertaken by the sector and the response as a whole was also due to the growing concerns related to livelihoods. Competition for job opportunities – and in particular for lower-skills jobs – has now been identified by both Syrians and Lebanese alike in all districts as the main perceived cause of inter-community tensions (ARK-UNDP perception survey). While the focus of the sector on strengthening municipal legitimacy, opening dialogue spaces and facilitating opportunities for interaction remains salient, this finding also calls for increasing funding and collaboration for job creation opportunities undertaken by livelihoods partners to maximize their impact on the drivers of instability.

Key priorities and gaps foreseen in the first half of 2018

The immediate priority for the sector for the start of 2018 will be to complete the implementation of ongoing municipal support projects, in addition to identifying additional ones to be implemented throughout the year. Furthermore, as elections have been confirmed for May 2018, the sector will need to monitor the repercussions of electoral campaigning on inter-community dynamics very closely, together with protection partners. The issue

of refugees is very likely to feature prominently in campaigning, which may exacerbate local tensions. Field working groups and tension task forces will play a key role in monitoring these tensions and informing the response partners in this regard.

Finally, in terms of coordination, the sector needs to unpack and consolidate lessons learnt from the work on youth done by various partners. As mentioned above, such activities reached an impressive scale in 2017 and remain the area that attracts the most interest from partners. In particular, the sector will need to work closely under the leadership of MoSA to identify how the current work could support existing governmental strategies such as the national volunteer programme or the national youth policy.

CASE STUDY

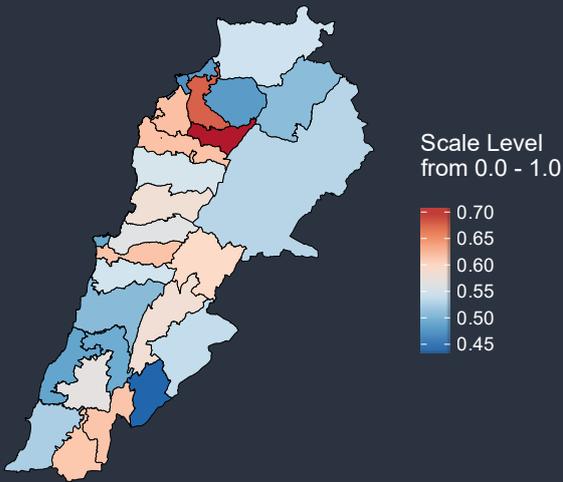
Monitoring stability and places of tensions in Lebanon.

One of the most significant achievements of the sector in 2017 was establishing the stability monitoring system to track the evolution of stability in Lebanon and to evaluate the impact of the response on key factors. While this has been a long-standing priority for social stability actors, the only available information had been incident tracking and one-off reports by partners limited to specific areas. This changed in 2017, notably with the introduction of regular perception surveys looking at proximate, intermediate and structural causes of tensions, and factors of conflict in Lebanon. The surveys are conducted on a quarterly basis with both Lebanese and Syrians throughout the country. This enables the sector – but also the wider response – to track the evolution of tensions over time, as well as to identify local specificities. The first two waves of surveying were key in identifying livelihoods as the primary source of tension, but also in confirming that municipalities remained highly trusted institutions, or that increased interaction was resulting in lower prejudice and propensity to violence and higher feelings of safety.

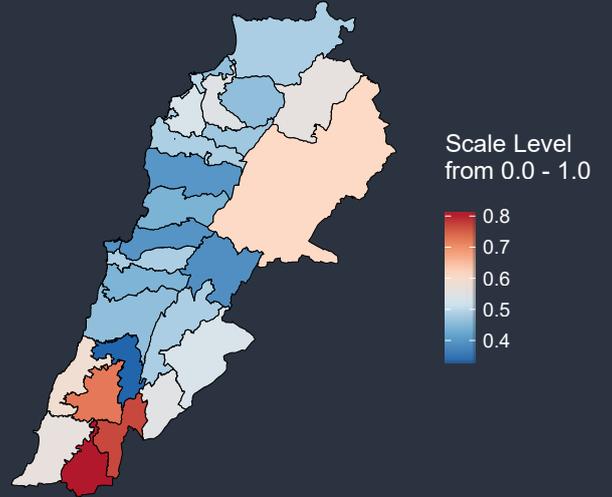
The general trends identified through the perception surveys have been both refined and operationalized through the work of the coordination structure, notably through the establishment of tension task forces that bring together key field partners to identify local hotspots and share information on incidents or negative developments. This system notably allowed the sector to react quickly to the labour protests earlier in 2017, organizing joint field visits between local MoSA representatives and field partners to local municipalities to prevent both spill-over of protests to new locations and instrumentalization of international assistance to deescalate situations.

This will prove crucial ahead of the 2018 electoral campaign. In addition, the analysis provided by partners served a wider conflict-sensitivity purpose, as it enabled the sector to provide tailored recommendations to other sectors on where their work would be more likely to contribute to increasing stability.

Lebanese Perception of Syrian Refugee Population Pressure, on scale from 0.0 - 1.0



Lebanese Dissatisfaction with Level of Service Provision, on scale from 0.0 - 1.0



Football field in Bekaa, Rana Sweidan - UNDP



WATER

Key achievements

Outcome 1:

- Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) and Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) national household water quality survey has been completed, highlighting extensive needs across the country and providing a baseline for the sustainable development goal (SDG6.1) for safely managed drinking water of 36 percent.
- A Rapid Assessment for Large & Medium Scale Waste Water Treatment Plants has been conducted, estimating a baseline of 3 percent of wastewater in Lebanon being treated for biological contamination before release into the environment, and suggesting key interventions which can significantly raise this proportion.
- A Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) national study has been completed, recommending communication interventions towards removing barriers to the adoption of positive practices and establishing baselines for WaSH-related behaviours.
- A comprehensive study on water supply to informal settlements has been conducted to recommend cost-effective solutions to water provision, complementing a study on wastewater handling in informal settlements in 2016.

Output 1.2:

1,127,887 people were assisted with sustained access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and for domestic use (64 percent of target) – this represents the total population reached with some form of service improvement and does not reflect holistic interventions guaranteeing access to adequate quantity, quality, and reliability of water supply, which remain compromised.

231,740 people were assisted with temporary access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and water for domestic use (119 percent of target).

203,368 people benefited from access to improved safe sanitation in temporary locations (105 percent of target).

Output 1.3:

247,903 individuals have experienced a WASH behaviour change session (76 percent of target)

133,848 individuals have adopted three key safe WASH practices (89 percent of target)

Key contributions towards LCRP impacts

Over 25 organizations have together reached more than 1.3 million people with some form of assistance. Of these, around 645,000 (47 percent) are Lebanese, and over 1.1 million benefitted from stabilization interventions, mostly focused on water supply infrastructure, expanding, rehabilitating, or introducing water production, storage, distribution, or treatment systems. Critical humanitarian interventions and continuous servicing of Informal Settlements has reached over 230 thousand people (88 percent of residents) with activities such as provision of water storage containers and water points, delivery of trucked potable water, installation of latrines, implementation and desludging of wastewater systems, and hygiene promotion. These activities, while essential, have proven largely unsustainable, and continue to hamper the sector's capacity (particularly financial) to transition beyond the emergency and into wider stabilization programming. Palestinian refugee camps also benefited from several improvements to water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure and management systems, reaching around 250 thousand people. Beneficiaries of the Water sector's response have seen improvements in the form of increased average daily water quantity or improved quality, but the vast majority (64 percent of all households in Lebanon) still do not access safely managed water (SDG 6.1), as reliability, safety, and availability on premises are persistent shortcomings. A communication strategy has been developed with and for Water Establishments (WE), to be implemented over the coming three years, with the aim of fostering trust, strengthening participation, and improving relations with customers and communities. Programs promoting hygiene awareness, safe practices, and responsible water use have reached around 240 thousand people (74 percent of target population), and a national Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) study has been completed, establishing a baseline and guiding future interventions.

A feasibility study was conducted to tackle cost-effective water supply to Informal Settlements through national systems. Coupled with hydrogeological studies completed in 2016, the sector aims to develop evidence-based approaches

to transitioning Informal Settlements out of emergency water and wastewater service modalities while avoiding adverse impact on the environment and quality of services to the host community. The Ministry of Energy and Water has established a Water Executive Committee (WEC) to provide a platform for strategic guidance, assessment, planning and review of investments in programmes and projects in the water sector in Lebanon to ensure achievement of national objectives related to LCRP, which has already expanded enabling environment for humanitarian to stabilization transition by approving cost-effective national solutions in Informal Settlements, subject to the do-no-harm principle and maintaining social stability.

The Water sector contributes to (1) protection of vulnerable populations through tailored WASH services for persons with special needs, (2) immediate assistance to vulnerable populations through humanitarian WASH activities during evictions, influxes and other emergencies of displaced persons from Syria, as well as mitigating WASH-related disease outbreaks, and ensuring immediate and temporary service delivery in Informal Settlements and Palestinian camps and gatherings, (3) supporting service provision through national improvements to water and wastewater systems that are primarily managed by the Water Establishments, while also supporting MoEW planning and implementation, monitoring and management processes, and (3) reinforcing Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability through projects that: (a) support livelihoods by generating construction related jobs for displaced Syrians as well as the host community; (b) increase service levels for all in underserved communities where conflict has flared over scarce resources; and (c) mitigating negative environmental consequences through improvements to management of wastewater, protection of water sources, and treatment of water supply.

Challenges

Whilst the enabling environment has improved significantly, with regards to partner readiness and MoEW approval, through the recently established Water Executive Committee (WEC), transitioning Informal Settlements out of dependency by scaling up holistic interventions has remained limited, curtailed by a chronic underfunding. Furthermore, the eviction trend in 2016 continued into 2017,

significantly affecting WaSH conditions in relocation sites and, consequently, stretching partners' capacity to respond to emergent needs in parallel with ongoing programs.

In anticipation of further funding decline the sector has developed a prioritisation and targeting approach built around an online, interactive live GIS database called the WaSH Assessment Platform (WAP) which determines, through a weighted scoring system, which IS are the most WaSH vulnerable and what specific factors contribute to this vulnerability. The database has been populated by 14 partners which have conducted the 100+ question and observation survey for each of the nearly 5,000 sites targeted by the sector, establishing the first such national baseline. This enables the sector, in 2018 and beyond, to more accurately target emergency interventions and guide and prioritize investment. Similarly, the overall impact on Lebanon's public service systems remains limited and scattered. An update to the National Water Sector Strategy and regional masterplans and action plans are behind schedule, requiring that partners coordinate projects on an individual, ad-hoc basis with relevant authorities, affecting their level of complementarity.

Key priorities and gaps foreseen in the first half of 2018

The key challenge for the Water sector remains the transition of Informal Settlements out of the dependency cycle and away from WaSH vulnerability. In the first quarter of 2018, significant underfunding for these sites, not only delaying prospects of the transition but even reversing progress made thus far, with critical interventions and services reduced below sector standards. Coupled with ongoing risk of evictions, Informal Settlements have the potential to degrade into more severe forms of vulnerability than in previous years. This also hampers the sector's capacity to channel resources towards investments in stabilization programming, slowing progress in infrastructure and system improvement for the wider community.

As it applies a tougher prioritization and targeting approach, the Water sector shall at the same time (1) pilot, monitor, and evaluate new support modalities, (2) identify sites and approaches suitable for transitioning Informal Settlements out of dependency, (3) explore mechanisms which reduce costs of current services while channelling them

through public systems, and (4) monitor the impact of reduced support on the population of concern. The sector will build on these analyses to inform future programming and prepare an evidence-based appeal for capital investment to donors at the end of the first quarter.

In parallel to investment in infrastructure, efforts to improve public water systems will focus on supporting the Water Establishments' capacity to expand, rehabilitate, operate, and maintain their assets, as well as ensure cost recovery. Communication strategies launched in 2017 with the aim of promoting the WEs customer-centric public establishments, coupled with tailored capacity building programs and institutional support in the form of human resources, equipment, and information.

CASE STUDY

Najla*, 40, did not have any other choice but to pay for water delivery by trucks, every week, due to water scarcity near the cow farm where she has been living with members of her extended family since they fled the conflicts in their besieged town in Syria five years ago. However, she no longer has to face that burden after International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) completed water infrastructure improvements in her hosting village, Mansourah, in West Bekaa, Lebanon, benefiting 7,000 Syrian refugees and 5,500 Lebanese citizens, who now have a more reliable water supply and increased knowledge of optimal hygiene practices.

As refugees with scarce resources, Najla, her husband, and four children needed water, a vital element to survive. Although her husband works as a daily labourer, and she helps out earning money by cleaning some houses, Najla's family could not afford many expenses. The water scarcity in Mansourah was also not helpful. She recounted, "I used to buy two gallons of mineral water for cooking and drinking, which would cost around \$4 daily." In addition, although there is a small borehole near the farm, it was not enough for household chores. Instead, Najla would pay about \$20 every couple of days, for water delivery by trucks—more in summer, due to the increased need. Najla recalled, "When I wanted to do laundry or other house chores, I would discover that there is no water. Sometimes, turning on the generator for the borehole pump was not possible as there was no electricity."

After IOCC's intervention in the village, Najla finally has enough water. IOCC constructed a 500 m³ communal water reservoir to increase water storage capacity in the area, installed a booster solar pump for better water supply, and connected 500 households in the village to a new water network to improve their access to water.



IOCC's hygiene-awareness work among host and refugee communities complemented IOCC's project by encouraging positive hygiene behaviour change and preventing the spread of diseases. Najla explained how attending awareness sessions on personal hygiene and food safety with IOCC dispelled some misconceptions and increased her knowledge of safe practices when handling kitchen utensils, introducing her to behaviours which could improve her family's health. Before, she said, "I used the same dish cleaning sponge until it was completely worn out. I did not know the effect it would leave when contaminated with germs and non-safe substances that leave a residue. Now, to prevent the spread of germs, I make sure to replace it every week. I also learned to use separate cutting boards for every kind of food, i.e. vegetables/chicken etc. ... to prevent cross-contamination."

Najla's youngest daughter, Nisma, did not wash her hands frequently. "Now, I ask my daughter if she washed her hands after using the toilet and playing, and before eating. I focus on that issue more now, after the awareness sessions that I attended," said Najla.

As reflected in the impact survey that IOCC conducted in Mansourah, 87 percent of the respondents have reduced their expenditure on water trucking by at least 30 percent and have an increase of water availability at their household level and an improved water accessibility at community level. All the respondents said that there is some behaviour change within their households related to hygiene practices. Also, 97 percent said that the hygiene awareness provided were relevant to their needs. IOCC's WASH project reduced expense burdens on the vulnerable Syrian and Lebanese communities, supported the Lebanese villages by strengthening and improving their infrastructures, raised awareness on hygiene related topics and successfully started to positively change behaviours.

* Names of the beneficiaries have been changed to protect their privacy.



Water Quality, WHO

ENDNOTES

1. Data sources used: "Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon", UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, 2016, 2017; "Baseline Survey", UNICEF, MoSA, 2016; "Perception Survey on Social Tensions", UNDP, 2017, 2018; Sector End-of-Year reports 2016, 2017, Financial Tracking System (FTS), UNOCHA, 2017.
2. In March 2018, the Personal Status Department waived late registration procedures for Syrian children born in Lebanon between January 2011 and 8 February 2018.
3. Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey, UNICEF, 2017.
4. Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey, UNICEF, 2017.
5. Baseline survey, UNICEF, MoSA, 2016.
6. Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey, UNICEF, 2017.
7. Perceptions survey on social tensions, UNDP
8. "Perception survey on social tensions", UNDP, ARK, 2017
9. Children receiving more than one service may be counted more than once.



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