2022 2nd QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD Social Stability



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





에 Analysis

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North

of municipalities with newly established dialogue and conflict prevention initiatives **# of municipal and community support projects implemented** (excluding SWM-related projects) # of youth empowerment initiatives implemented



Multi-sectoral situation update:

In the second guarter of 2022, families across Lebanon continued to face depleting purchasing power, affecting vulnerable peoples' ability to meet their basic needs. 94 per cent of refugees surveyed through May protection monitoring reported that they had difficulties buying food due to lack of money, while 81 per cent reported an inability or increased difficulty in paying rent. By May 2022, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) had increased by more than 150 per cent since the same time in 2021. Based on WFP price monitoring, in mid-June 2022, the food SMEB sat at 770,000LBP per person (an increase of 50,000LBP compared to the previous week), while the non-food basket reached 1,400,000LBP per family of five. The price of combustible fuel continued to increase, while a rapid increase was noted in gasoline, despite the fact that in Q2-2022, gasoline remained the only commodity for which the Central Bank provides USD through Sayrafa for its import. Food availability continued to be affected, including an 18 per cent decrease in unloaded food imports through the Port of Beirut when comparing the first five months of 2022 with 2021, and a 33 per cent decrease compared to 2020. WFP-contracted shops however saw some stability in stock availability, with 79 per cent of shops reporting at least two weeks of stock coverage by May 2022. During Q2, the exchange rate averaged 27,988 LBP to the USD, peaking at 38,000 LBP in May. According to a Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) 2022 survey, Lebanon reported an all-time high unemployment rate of

29.6 percent. A World Economic Forum report published in 2022 shows that women's economic participation stands at almost 20 percent, placing Lebanon a concerning 132nd in the world ranking.

Lebanese parliamentary elections were held on 15 May 2022, in the midst of ongoing economic turmoil in Lebanon. Voter turnout stood at 49 per cent, on a par with the 2018 parliamentary election. The ARK/UNDP perceptions survey revealed that 58 per cent of Lebanese were concerned in advance about the threat of electoral violence, however the overall process took place in a generally calm and organized climate with no major security incidents reported. In terms of inter-communal tensions, however, monitoring data from May shows that negative perceptions remain extremely high, with 49 per cent of Lebanese and Syrian respondents report that they perceive inter-communal relations as negative, an increase from 24 per cent in January 2021. Negative sentiments expressed online regarding the presence of Syrian refugees in Lebanon spiked in Q2-2022 including in response to political statements made around the Brussels VI Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region, held in May 2022. Despite fears that funding and international attention may be diverted from the Syria crisis response given escalating needs associated with the crisis in Ukraine, the Conference delivered financial pledges at an equivalent level to 2021 for the response in Syria and across the region.

1. Key achievements of the sector at the output level

Throughout the second quarter of the year, under the Outcome 1, (strengthening municipalities, national and local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure), interventions were mainly related to services provided at the municipal level to alleviate resource pressure, reduce resentment, and build peace.

Under Output 1.1, 18 Basic Services (BS) and Community Support projects (CSPs) were implemented compared to 13 in Q1, and against an annual target of 300. Some 2,162,394 USD versus an annual target of 84,500,000 USD were invested in Q2 (compared to 174,000 USD in Q1), implemented in seven municipalities (against an annual target of 200). This figure shows a critical gap under this type of activities, which is mainly due to a reporting gap but also to delays of implementation because of operational factors. One of these factors is the shortage of resources at municipalities level, affecting/delaying the implementation of projects in terms of operation, management, and sustainability. In addition, the sector expects an increase of achieved results under this specific type of projects during the Q3 and Q4 compared to previous years. Furthermore, the sector will ensure that all key partners will be reporting their activities progress starting July 2022, specifically under this Output.

Under Output 1.2, 21 integrated solid waste management (SWM) systems and approaches were implemented versus an annual target of 50, across 21 municipalities against an annual target of 60 municipalities. Through the support of such projects, communities and municipalities are now better equipped to ensure the continuity of services at the local level. Within the current context, such projects are particularly crucial as many municipalities are facing challenges in maintaining solid waste management services due to shortages of resources. Solid waste remains a key driver of tensions and competition over resources, in particular between displaced Syrians and host communities.



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Under Output 1.4, 35 municipalities were supported to implement the municipal police strategic reform framework, against the annual target of 35. In the context of rising tensions, security needs, and shortage of municipalities' human resources (notably municipal police), increasing countrywide adherence to the reform framework is critical to ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable provision of community security services at municipal level, and preventing alternative security arrangements from taking hold. Upscaling the municipal police reform consists of support to an increased number of municipalities to implement the core elements of the reform, based on community security standards. In the context of Lebanon today, reform elements focused on behavioural change and institutionalization of common professional standards being complemented by support to the municipal police to deliver on its basic mandate and uphold community security. Gender mainstreaming is applied throughout the municipal police reform. However, due to the current situation regarding the lack of resources and complete stop of new recruitments in the municipal police across the country, no new female municipal police have been hired during the reference period.

Under Outcome 2, related to strengthening municipal and local community capacity to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts, achievements throughout the second quarter include that 39 municipalities now have self-functioning conflict mitigation mechanisms (against an annual target of 165; Output 2.1), predominantly with 17 in the North and 13 in the Bekaa. For Output 2.2, 124 youth empowerment initiatives were implemented, against the annual target of 400. Such initiatives reached a total of 8,457 youth versus an annual target of 40,000 (including 4,278 females and 3,949 males, while 230 are children with unspecified gender). Through these interventions, youth are now better equipped to engage positively and participate actively in their communities. The sector will follow up on achievements versus the annual target during the Q3 and Q4 and adjust the target for 2023 if needed upon achieved results by end of the year.

Under Output 2.3, 18 media and social media entities were engaged in initiatives to defuse tensions against an annual target of 100. All the reporting under those activities have been done during the first quarter, hence there is no progress in Q2, and the sector will follow up during Q3 and Q4 to monitor related progress and adjust the annual target for 2023 if needed. In total, 108 journalists, media students and academic were trained or engaged versus an annual target of 275, aiming at mitigating tensions through positive messages, commitment to objective reporting, or countering misperceptions.

Under Outcome 3, enhancement of the LCRP's capacities on tensions monitoring and conflict sensitivity, and as part of conflict sensitivity mainstreaming, 150 partners staff from all LCRP sectors were trained on conflict sensitivity, against the annual target of 350.

The number of early warning/conflict analysis reports published is 8 versus the annual target of 24; such reports were disseminated across the response.

Three key workshops were also organized to build conflict sensitivity mainstreaming capacities: one on conflict-sensitive cash assistance; one on engaging with local authorities; and one on working in the online space. Each workshop was attended by some 50 key LCRP partners.

The workshop on online space and social media allowed participants to explore tools and concepts that can be used to analyse, intervene, and prevent conflicts and tensions online. The workshop was attended by 35 participants from 26 organizations working across the LCRP sectors, ranging across communications, advocacy, and managerial roles within the Lebanese context; related lessons will be integrated into the response in Q3.

Mainstreaming activities

The Sector started scaling up the mainstreaming of gender analysis as part of conflict analysis through different activities during the second quarter. The SoST Sector rolled out the Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) training, organised by the Inter-Agency coordination Unit and the Gender Working Group in Lebanon. A total of 34 (8 men, 26 women) sector partners participated in the training with the aim to strengthen gender mainstreaming throughout SoST programming and activities. The training was initiated in Beirut and was rolled out to other Lebanese Governorates.

Referral trends

In Q2, the sector received 125 referrals (48% were accepted) mostly from Medair, and other organizations including DRC, NRC, and INARA. 36% of referrals were in Mount Lebanon, 18% in Beirut, 18% in the Bekaa. Among the main challenges is the fact that the Social Stability sector's referrals are a bit different than other sectors, as it only accepts referrals related to youth empowerment. Efforts are being made to enhance the process including promotion of Social Stability services for referrals at all LCRP sectors' working groups.

2. Key challenges of the sector

As in Quarter 1, Social Stability sector partners continued to face challenges during the second quarter related to the **shortages of financial and human resources in municipalities**, particularly the municipalities' inability to ensure operations, management and sustainability of projects and services. This affected partners' interventions in all areas, leading to delays for most projects and suspension of some. Most challenges municipalities are facing are related to gaps in services such as solid waste, water and wastewater. Despite partners' efforts to bring substantial and vitally needed support, inter-communal relations are deteriorating and are currently at the lowest point since the beginning of the tension monitoring in May 2017 as shown in the UNDP/Ark Perception Survey from April 2022.

For solid waste, several challenges are arising and impacting the operational environment under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan for vulnerable populations as well as partners, due to municipalities' inability to provide operational support and the lack of an integrated SWM plan and interventions. Below are key local challenges compiled through Regional SWM Task Forces, SoST Core Group and other discussions:

- Accumulation of non-collected waste on roads and random throwing at dumpsites, leading to tensions, access issues for partners, eviction threats and serious environmental and health consequences.
- Burning of waste and dumping in water channels. This is affecting the environment as well as the public health situation, but also increasingly leads to inter-communal tensions.
- Drop-out of children from schools to become scavengers of plastics and other recyclable materials. This is also leading to excavation of waste with negative effects on the environment.
- Increase of requests from municipalities in general related to maintenance and operational costs to partners, often beyond the capacity of partners. In addition, municipalities are focusing on the international community, to take responsibility of the generated waste by the displaced Syrians community and provide the related operational support.

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Lack of information on the quantity and quality of waste

generated by all residents. This makes challenging to estimate gaps and plan interventions, which affects the adequate response by stakeholders, specifically regarding the waste generated by displaced Syrians and resulted tensions.

The sector is working on an In-focus document to elaborate on the SWM situation based on SWM Task Force meetings and other discussions, that will be shared with key stakeholders in Q3. The brief will include major SWM challenges with geographic trends, mapping table of SWM initiatives/capacities under the LCRP SoST sector, and ways forward on the level of authorities, partners and donors.

Partners are also reporting challenges faced with ensuring the engagement of youth in support activities. Specific challenges are difficulties in covering transportation costs, demotivation of youth and the prioritization of income generation activities, leading to outreach issues and increased dropout rates, difficulties to mix youths from different backgrounds due to socio-cultural differences etc. The Sector compiled best practices from partners through a thematic discussion by end of May 2022, and the major lessons learnt to support better the youths under Social Stability interventions are listed below:

 Advocacy, sensitization, and pre-implementation preparations
Mainstream awareness raising about youth engagement and empowerment schemes. Incorporate topics into the formal educational curriculum on youth-led initiatives. Organize trainings ahead of sessions to set up a common ground, • introduce basic concepts and tolerate differences and others.

Collaboration and inclusion - Collaborate with youths' clubs and local partners to standardize approaches. Create youth groups from several towns/villages to ensure diversity. Establish a coordination committee for youth empowerment at the local level. Revive Municipal youth councils through volunteerism and active citizenship activities. Promote for and train youth on disability inclusion and integration. Include Palestinian youth in • target groups etc.

Motivation and Livelihoods - Combine income generation activities to life skills trainings, to respond to most immediate needs, and demonstrate the benefits of youth support in the professional success. Reimburse realistically all costs associated to youth participation. Adjust timings of initiatives to exams periods, working hours of employed youth, etc. Integrate in-kind support • (equipment of centers) to foster soft activities.

Wellbeing - Allow space for wellbeing and peer-to-peer support, • to address psycho-social needs of youths.

Communication - Create online platforms for social dialogues to • engage youths and voice their concerns.

Referrals - Strengthen the sector referral pathway including Social Stability partners and other sectors under the LCRP, e.g., Livelihoods, Protection etc.

3. Key priorities for the following quarter

In 2022, the Social Stability sector continues to implement work under all three sector outcomes, taking into consideration the rising tensions as well as the increasing challenges faced by local authorities to provide services under their mandate. Priorities for Q3 include:

1) Continue to support municipalities to deliver Basic Services and Community Support projects (including Solid Waste Management) - targeting 200 municipalities by the end of the year.

The Sector will continue to follow up with key actors on the major gaps under this type of activities, viewing the critical needs for support to municipalities in covering basic services delivery. To better map these gaps, the sector is leading on developing two In-focus Thematic Briefs in close coordination with other key sectors, partners and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM). The first brief's title is "Municipalities' shortage of resources and its impact on the operational environment", and the second one's title is "Solid Waste Managemente situation in Lebanon and the impact on the operational environment of the LCRP". To date, extensive data collection and discussions with key partners have taken place, including with key municipalities and UoMs in all areas in Lebanon with the support of the MoIM's coordination unit and other relevant Ministries including the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and Ministry of Environment (MoE). The briefs should be issued in August 2022 and will include practical recommendations for partners under all sectors to move forward with the support to municipalities and SWM situation. In addition, the sector will monitor the progress under these types of projects in Q3 and Q4 and adjust the target for 2023 if needed through the sector's strategy review process, including number of targeted municipalities, number of CSP and BS projects etc. As only seven municipalities have been covered till present, this issue will be addressed during Q3 and Q4 with pragmatic actions for 2022 and 2023. In specific, the Sector will

review the achieved targets through the mid-year review process that will be conducted in July 2022 and propose adjustment and recommendations that will be implemented starting Q3 and mostly in the 2023's sector strategy review.

2) Establish and engage in Social Stability dialogue mechanisms and youth initiatives - targeting 40,000 youth beneficiaries by the end of the year.

The sector will focus on strengthening the referrals for youth empowerment initiatives towards Social Stability partners, through promoting these services for referrals at all LCRP sector working groups. The sector will also follow up with partners to ensure that youth empowerment services are included and updated on the online services mapping platform. Till present, 8,457 youths have been targeted through Social Stability interventions under this outcome, and the sector will monitor the annual target progress during the Q3 and Q4 of 2022 to propose adjustments of the target for 2023, if it will not be reached by end of the year. The sector is preparing a thematic brief on youth support through social stability interventions, based on a thematic discussion with key partners through the Social Stability WG meeting that took place in June 2022, with focus on mapping key initiatives to foster collaborations, identify major challenges and ways forward, to guide partners in better supporting youth under this type of interventions.

3) Continue tensions monitoring and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming

With the rising inter- and intra-communal tensions related to the compounded crises, the sector will continue to focus on monitoring tensions and incorporating such analysis in evidence-based planning for interventions. In Q3, tensions monitoring will continue to focus on perception survey, monthly incident monitoring, and





qualitative research that untap social tensions in specific hotspots.

The sector will continue to play a key role in mainstreaming conflict sensitivity across the response. Concurrently, four organizations will receive trainings to review their internal programmes from a conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm lens, following the conflict sensitivity trainings for some 150-frontline staff across all regions which were conducted this year. The work on ensuring conflict sensitivity in cash assistance will continue with the ultimate aim of

4. Case Study

The project of the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development's (ACTED), "Enabling Social and Solidarity Initiatives in Agriculture and Agro-food in North-Lebanon and Akkar", complements the strategy of the Social Stability Sector specifically under Outcome 1: "Strengthen municipalities, national and local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure, reduce resentment, and build peace". This is accomplished through setting up and maintaining local Governance structures in Akkar, using a multi-stakeholder approach to ensure the buy-in of all community members. ACTED worked with four municipalities in Akkar (Bebnine, Sir Dannieh, Akroum , and Kfarhabou), closely to identify the local actors and village committee members to be involved in the implementation of local projects, help identify the socio-economic needs and monitor the activities. Bringing together farmers, cooperatives, food processing actors and livestock growers in workshops, socio-economic briefs were developed to (1) categorize the challenges and problems most in need of interventions, and (2) identify constraints/ key opportunities and gaps in the scope of intervention in priority challenges and problems. The briefs were then reviewed during validation workshops and community consultation meetings. Four Steering Committees were set up to act as an advisory body to supervise and coordinate the evaluation of the proposed initiatives, discuss issues and support the aim of promoting solidarity in Agriculture/Agro-food sector, as well as to meet the project goals and deadlines.



Photo 1: Roundtable discussion with Sir Dannieh on 20 June 2022

publishing checklists in the third quarter of the year, in addition to ad-hoc sectoral guidance.

In addition, the sector started scaling up the mainstreaming of gender analysis as part of conflict analysis, to be developed through different activities during the third and fourth quarter. This would include focused capacity building to partners through trainings/workshops and development of guidance note on this topic in early 2023

The advisory body of the Steering Committee serves as a forum for inclusive discussions and coordination across local authorities, civil society, the private sector, youth and local communities. The project included 17 coaching sessions that were conducted to municipalities and local communities. In addition, field monitoring visits and routine visits were held to continually accompany the steering committees. The round table discussions focused on building trust with the steering committee and community, foster collaboration with civil society and local authorities, help resolve bottlenecks and challenges and present outcomes related to the implementation of the local projects. Lastly, the inclusion of women was a core aspect of the project, with six women being part of the steering committees, and seven women being members of the Social Solidarity projects.

Quote

Hicham Diab: Vice Chairman of the Steering Committee of Sir Dannieh:

"As a steering committee, not only have we gained skills through the programme to strengthen our operational capacities, but we have also felt empowered to take on the social, economic and solidarity initiatives."



Photo 2: Roundtable discussion with Bebnine on 10 June 2022





Partner Distribution Map



Note: This map has been produced by UNDP based on maps and material provided by the Government of Lebanon for Inter Agency operational purposes. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.