



2023 1st QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD

Protection including Child Protection and GBV

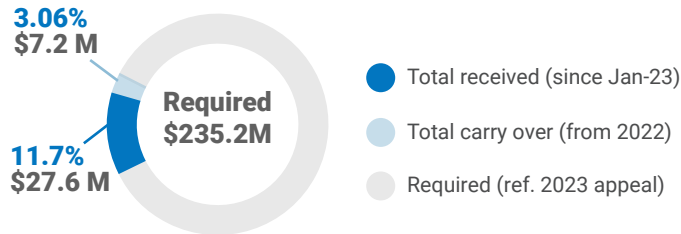


Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

This dashboard summarizes progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Protection sector in Lebanon aims to achieve the following results: OUTCOME 1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and access to an effective justice and protection system ; OUTCOME 2: Women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity are safe, empowered and supported in their communities ; OUTCOME 3: Women, girls, men and boys in all their diversity live with dignity and are resilient to shocks.

2023 Sector Funding Status

As at 29 May 2023



Progress Against Targets

Key Achievements

Protection

of persons who benefitted from counseling, legal assistance, and legal representation regarding legal stay.



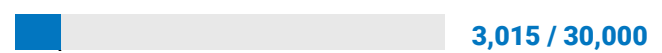
of households who benefitted from counseling, legal assistance, and legal representation regarding civil registration including birth registration, marriage, divorce and death



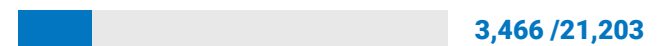
of unique persons participating in community centers and SDCs (includes mobile activities done outside the center)



of persons receiving protection case management (PCM).



of persons with disability and older persons receiving individual specialized rehabilitation support.



of children and adults reached through awareness raising activities and community mobilisation interventions on PSEA. ²

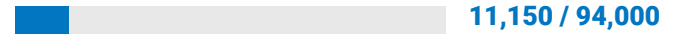


Gender-Based Violence

of women, girls, men and boys who participate in targeted gender equality and empowerment activities in safe spaces or at community level as part of GBV prevention programs

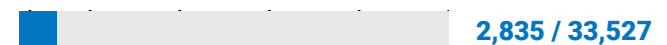


of women and girls accessing safe spaces

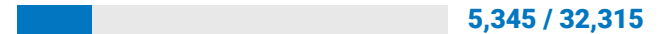


Child Protection

of caregivers engaged in activities to promote well-being and protection of children



of girls and boys and caregivers receiving specialized/focused psychosocial support¹



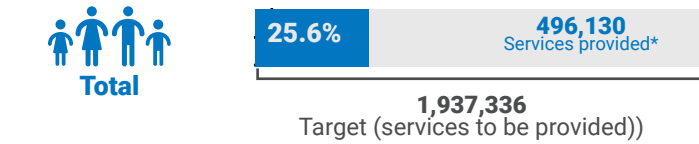
of girls, boys engaged in community-based Child Protection activities



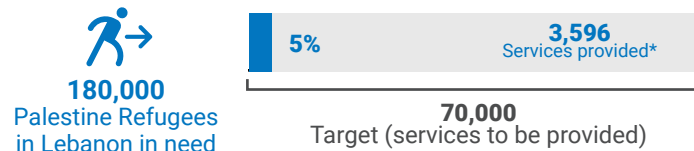
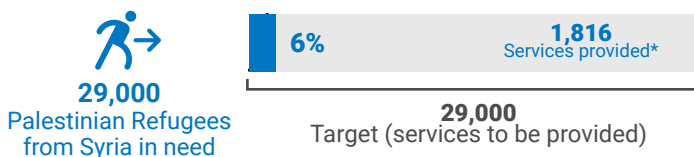
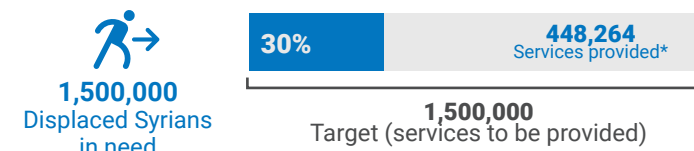
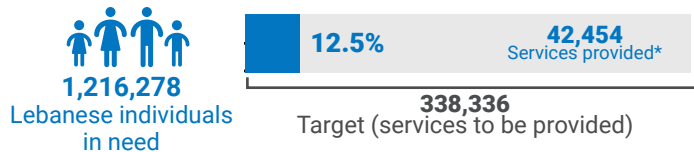
¹ Children receiving more than one service may be counted more than once

² This is a cross cutting indicator, includes Child Protection & Gender-Based Violence

2023 population reached



2023 population figures by cohort



*To be noted that one person can benefit from several services

Partners

49 contributing partners: ABAAD, AMEL, AND, Borderless, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CLDH, CONCERN, DRC, Handicap International, HelpAge, Himaya, Imam Sadr Foundation, IMC, Intersos, IOCC Lebanon, IRC, KAFA, Key of Life, LAW, LECOR-VAW, LOST, Magna Lebanon, Makhzoumi, Mouvement Social, Nabad, Near East Foundation, NRC, OXFAM, Plan International, PU-AMI, Rahma Association, RI, RMF, SAWA Group, SCI, SHEILD, SIF, Tabitha-Dorcias, TdH-It, TdH-L, Test, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, UPEL, WCH, WRF, YNCA

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MULTI-SECTORAL SITUATION UPDATE

In the first quarter of 2023, families across Lebanon continued to face diminishing purchasing power, affecting vulnerable peoples' ability to meet basic needs. The Lebanese Pound continued to fluctuate, reaching average levels of LBP 134,900 to the dollar in the month of April. Lebanon's annual inflation rate jumped to 264% in March of 2023 from 190% in the previous month. This was the highest inflation since comparable records began in 2008. The Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) increased by 36% from January to February 2023, reaching almost LBP 18,000,000 per family per month. This is the largest monthly increase noted since June of 2020. Over the last year, the price of water delivered by private water tankers increased by 330 %, while the price of bottled water, still used by most as a main source for drinking, increased by 250 %. An increased number of people from all population groups reported not having access to enough water, with the heaviest impact on the most unprivileged families.

Protection monitoring demonstrates that average refugee household income remains well below the SMEB, with greater aid dependency reported. Reduced spending on food, rent, medicine, and healthcare is reported by most households and gaps in meeting survival needs drive harmful coping mechanisms. Concerningly, protection monitoring demonstrates growing debt and eviction threats with the highest recorded so far in the first

quarter of this year. These challenges are driven by inability to meet basic needs which in turn lead to a number of harmful coping strategies and protection risks. Meanwhile in March, fuel prices transitioned to USD further impacting the ability of people to afford transportation costs especially those with specific transportation needs such as persons with disabilities. Inter-communal relations are the most negative that they have been since 2017, as reported through the regular UNDP-ARK perception survey. As of March 2023, 46% of respondents cite that the relations between Syrians and Lebanese are 'negative' or 'very negative', compared to 37% in August 2022. The primary driver for inter-communal tension is competition over lower-skilled jobs, cited by 60% as the key tension driver, an increase from 50% in August 2022. The second most cited tension driver is competition for services, particularly electricity and solid waste management, cited by 31% as a source of tension. Women and girls continue to report their exposure to Gender Based Violence (GBV) at homes and in public spaces. Girls also report feeling unsafe and at risk of GBV on their way to school, but the incidents remain underreported. Female headed households, LGBTIQ+ persons and other vulnerable groups are at heightened risk of exploitation often living in sub-standard shelter conditions. Financial constraints and limited livelihood opportunities have also resulted in reduced access to menstrual hygiene products for women and girls.

1. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Outcome 1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have access to information on their rights and legal procedures (Output 1.1, 1.2, 1.3)

In the first quarter, 31,307 women, men, girls and boys were provided with legal counselling, assistance and representation on civil status (14% of annual target), legal residency (33% of annual target) and Housing Land and Property (HLP) (11% of annual target). The Director General of General Security (DG-GS) issued several policy extensions related to legal residency and entry regulations specifically addressing the regularization of Syrian nationals who overstayed their visas and residencies in Lebanon until 30 June 2023. However, it is important to note that these extensions are not expected to facilitate most refugees in obtaining legal residency.

Unfortunately, legal actors continue to report inconsistent practices by General Security (GS) offices, particularly those in North and Bekaa governorates, where legal residency files are processed only one day per month or one day per week. This has posed a significantly obstacle to the timely renewal of legal residency, creating difficulties for affected individuals. Despite these challenges, partners have made efforts to expand their legal aid services on legal residency, resulting in a higher number of beneficiaries (43% female) compared to the same period in the previous year. This demonstrates a commitment to protecting vulnerable individuals through legal means.

The Protection Working Group has also developed advocacy messages concerning legal residency in advance of the Brussels Conference for Syria, scheduled for June 2023, aiming to address the legal needs and rights of the displaced and advocate for their inclusion and protection.

Regarding civil status documentation, the Directorate General of Civil Status issued circular No.9 in February to facilitate the payment of stamp fees, which was expected to improve access to documentation. However, lower than expected results were observed due to persistent strikes by employees of the Personal Status Department in the first quarter. These strikes have hampered progress in this area and affected the ability of individuals to obtain essential civil status documentation.

In addressing specific legal issues faced by at-risk individuals and survivors of **gender-based violence (GBV)**, legal actors provided valuable legal assistance and representation to 444 persons, 443 of whom were female. Lebanese nationals accounted for 49 per cent of beneficiaries, followed by displaced Syrians (43%) and migrants (7%). Notably, 27% of these services were provided to adolescent girls, with a focus on areas such as child marriage and other aspects of GBV. This highlights the importance of targeted legal support for vulnerable populations, particularly those at risk of GBV.

Moreover, the sector produced 11 products to underpin advocacy efforts and 356 institutional staff were trained on protection topics, including GBV case management to enhance survivor-centered capacity of existing case managers and on the National Child Protection Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Case Management Tools.

Overall, the efforts made by legal actors in providing legal aid and representation in various areas demonstrate a commitment to protecting the rights of individuals and addressing their legal needs. However, challenges such as inconsistent practices, limited processing days, and strikes by relevant departments highlight the ongoing obstacles in achieving comprehensive



legal assistance. Addressing these challenges will be crucial to ensure greater access to legal support and protection for affected individuals.

Outcome 2: Women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity are safe, empowered and supported in their communities (Output 2.12.2, 2.3)

The sector aims to help foster a community environment that is safe, inclusive, participatory, and empowering for refugees, vulnerable Lebanese and socially excluded groups. Access to reliable and timely information remains crucial in ensuring that people can exercise their rights and make informed decisions. In this respect, a total of 66,188 individuals (15% of the annual target, 65% women, 3% older persons) benefitted from mainly in-person information and awareness sessions on accessing services. However, engagement with persons with disabilities and older persons have remained low.

Through partnerships with community support structures, an average of 1,729 active community focal points provided information, outreach, feedback, and referrals for persons of concern on a monthly basis in Q1, reaching 20 per cent of the annual target. Positively, partners are working with an increasing numbers of volunteers from the Lebanese and Palestinian community. Community centres, including mobile activities conducted outside the centres, continue to attract high participation from Lebanese individuals (23%) and women (80%) with 23,904 individuals reached in Q1 (16% of the annual target). Additionally, a growing number of older persons (3%) and persons with disabilities (6%) out of a total of 256,374 individuals accessed partner complaint and feedback hotlines in Q1.

Prevention of **gender-based violence** is a critical strategic priority for actors in the GBV Working Group in Lebanon, given the inherent patriarchal structures that contribute to root causes of violence against women and girls. Several civil society actors and women-led organizations are dedicated to fostering long-term attitude changes regarding gender, gender equality, power dynamics, women's right and attitudes on violence against women. Across all locations in Lebanon, targeted gender equality and empowerment activities were carried out in safe spaces or at the community level, involving 16,420 women, girls, men and boys, including 150 persons with disability. Participation in prevention activities has gradually increased throughout the first quarter involving 12,988 (78%) women and girls participating and 22% men and boys attending gender and GBV related awareness and presentation activities. Sector partners have reported

Gender-based violence (GBV) response services including case management, and linking women and girls at risk to critical services, remains a key sectoral priority often saving the lives of those at risk of GBV. A range of activities, including case management, are provided at safe spaces run by a variety of GBV actors, most of them local and international NGOs and women-led organizations. These safe spaces provide a safe environment outside the homes of women and girls, enabling them to access psychosocial support, information sharing, disclosure of protection incidents with trained staff as well as spaces for recreation, awareness raising, skill building and learning and socializing with peers and community members. In quarter one, 11,110 women and girls accessed safe spaces in the North, South, Bakaa, Elhermel, Beirut and Mount Lebanon. Among these accessing the spaces, 7,429 were displaced Syrians, followed by 3,625 Lebanese women and girls. Palestinians from Lebanon or Syria as well as migrants were less represented with a total of 96 persons.

In quarter one **child protection** case management and specialized services reached a total of 3,455 children (girls 1,267 and boys 2,188) out of the annual target 13,481. Additionally, specialized/focused psychosocial support (PSS) was provided to 5,345 girls, boys and caregivers (girls 2,228, boys 2,024 and caregivers 1,093).

challenges in engaging male participants, but Q1 witness an increase in male compared to Q4 of 2022. Specific engagement has been conducted with adolescent boys and religious leaders, undertaken through Qudwa and other prevention programs to increase male participation; however, further efforts will be necessary to ensure increased male engagement to prevent GBV. The majority of participants were Syrians (56% or 9,190), while Lebanese nationals accounted for 41 per cent (or 6,844) of beneficiaries of prevention programmes.

In the first quarter, community-based **child protection** activities reached a total of 9,893 children (girls 5,128 and boys 4,765) against the annual target 83,182. This included 2,838 caregivers (annual target of 33,528), engaged to promote well-being and protection of children. Furthermore, 12,731 Social and Behavioural change communication initiatives were implemented to prevent child marriage, child labour and violence against children and women in communities.

Outcome 3: Outcome 3: Women, girls, men and boys in all their diversity live with dignity and are resilient to shocks (Output 3.1, 3.2)

In the first quarter, a significant number of 18,219 persons at risk received individual tailored protection interventions. Although only 10 per cent of the annual target for protection case management was reached, there was a positive increase to specific groups, with 10 per cent being older persons and 22 per cent being persons with disabilities. This demonstrates improved efforts by partners to reach and assist these vulnerable populations. Moreover, 3,156 persons with disabilities and older persons (17% of the annual target) benefited from specialised rehabilitation support, showing an increase compared to the same period last year. Partners primarily worked with cases involving persons with visual (35%) and mobility disabilities (48%) disabilities. Receiving complementary services alongside both case management and specialised rehabilitation services can be critical to supporting these cases, often with multiple deprivations and complex issues. As such, 10,589 (17% of the annual target) received protection cash, with 100 per cent communicating that it contributed to addressing their protection risk/incident and 99 per cent that they received it safely. In quarter one the protection sector conducted a review of risk and mitigation measures regarding the of provision of protection cash in USD. As a result, sector partners have collectively recommended that giving beneficiaries the ability to redeem protection cash in dollars is the most effective way to address protection risks and they will work together to put in place mitigation measures.



Referral trends:

In quarter one, referrals of persons at risk to Protection Working Group protection partners made up 63 per cent (49% protection, 11% child protection and 3% GBV) of the total number of requests for assistance (36,115) across sectors. This is a significant increase compared to previous quarters. The majority of these were to partners in Mount Lebanon, Baalbeck and Hermal and the Bekaa, with a spike in referrals to general protection agencies conducted in March. Despite increased referrals being received, general protection partners maintained their ability to respond with 47 per cent accepted. However, there is a need to improve feedback provided to partners as only one in four referrals receiving feedback. The Protection sector intends to present and discuss these trends with working group members to identify bottlenecks and establish priorities areas for improvement.

Mainstreaming activities:

During the first quarter the Inter-Agency, supported by the Protection Sector, made updates to the Inter-Agency referral tools and developed a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents to address partner queries about the Inter-Agency Referral Tools, RAIS and RIMS. Furthermore, over 1,000 humanitarian staff members received referral orientation trainings, aiming to improve their understanding and utilization of the referral tools.

In order to enhance reporting under the **GBV** sector, 69 GBV Working Group members and reporting focal points were trained on the updated 2023 GBV log frame. This training aims to ensure consistent and accurate reporting practices in addressing gender-based violence.

2. KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

In quarter one, legal actors faced extensive challenges in providing legal aid services prompting actors to collectively explore the impact of external factors on their services and explore necessary adaptations. While legal awareness sessions and legal counselling have remained relatively unaffected by external factors, the provision of legal assistance and representation, particularly for criminal and child protection and GBV cases in civil courts, has been severely impacted by judicial strikes and public administrative strikes. Additionally, the high fuel costs have had a moderate impact of these services.

Meanwhile, the provision of legal assistance for civil documentation has been significantly impacted by stamp shortages and increased arbitrary legal administrative costs, particularly in the Bekaa and North regions. To ensure business continuity, partners have implemented positive adaptations. These include mobile Sharia courts, a focus on provision of legal counselling and sequencing the provision of assistance and representation and setting schedules based on the availability of public employees. Additionally, partners are providing cash for transportation and conducting meetings with persons of concern in their homes to support the submission of their documents. Meanwhile, agencies continue their advocacy efforts with the Ministry of Finance to resolve stamp shortages and other NGOs have purchased stamps in large supplies to mitigate the impact. Despite these challenges, actors are working to adapt their services and find alternative approaches to ensure continued support to individuals in need of legal aid.

The context demonstrates that vulnerable Lebanese women, men, girls and boys are often not aware of the protection services available. Meanwhile, Lebanese individuals only make up 10 per cent of the total number of persons reached by partners with information and awareness sessions and individual consultations on access to services, compared to 89 per cent of displaced Syrian. This disparity may be due to the reliance of partners on traditional community-based structures and outreach methods that inadvertently favour reaching displaced Syrians more effectively. Furthermore, outreach for persons with disabilities and older persons to attend community centres and mobile activities needs to be improved. It is essential to address this imbalance and ensure equitable access to protection services for persons with disabilities and older persons. This may include exploring alternative approaches to engage with local communities, such as partnering with local organizations,

utilizing social media platforms, or conducting targeted campaigns.

Gender inequalities and gender-based violence continues to impact the daily life of women and girls. The presence of socioeconomic constraints further exacerbates the GBV situation, and it continues to be underreported. GBV partners have highlighted that the lack of financial resources have in some families resulted in lack of access to menstrual hygiene products, particularly in the North/ Akkar/ Tripoli. Denial of resources in the form of preventing adolescent girls and women to purchase menstrual hygiene items has been mentioned by Child Protection and GBV actors. There were several reports of females being asked by males in the family to save on expenditures, such as food, diapers, sanitary pads and to stop using electricity.

Providing access to shelter for all survivors of GBV has been a challenge in all parts of the country. Partners have shared limitations on admission to shelters for GBV survivors with specific conditions, including those with mental health concerns, persons with disabilities and mother survivors of GBV who have boys above 10 requiring safe shelter. The sector is updating a mapping to identify the current list of shelters, including admission criteria and to identify alternative solutions to provide access to safe accommodation for survivors, including emergency housing and cash for shelter.

Partners have reported an increase in child labour cases, which can be attributed to the rise of out of school children, exacerbated by the teachers' strike from January – beginning of March. These cases often involve younger street-connected children, some as young as three-years, increased numbers of Palestinian children as well as more visible engagement of girls (CP CM partners). A gap to effectively address the increase of street connected children and child labour, particularly in the North and Akkar regions, can be linked to the reduced funding and limited capacity of CP partners to take on additional workload. Recognizing the severity of the situation, relevant sector actors have engaged in communication and identified advocacy efforts to put child labour high on political agenda. In quarter one, the child protection sector worked on assessing the impact of the school closure on the child protection situation in Lebanon. Focus group discussions were conducted with caregivers with school age children. The outcome of these discussions indicated increased levels of violence at home, distress and deterioration of the



academic level. Caregivers of children with disabilities reported increased depression levels among children, absence of social life – as going to school was the only option for them to leave homes and lost interest in studying. The socio-economic crisis further exacerbated the vulnerability of households, making basic needs unaffordable or inaccessible. Consequently, the well-being of children, regardless of their nationality, has been severely

compromised. This is coupled by decreasing State and non-State capacities to protect them that requires immediate attention and response by all sectors/stakeholders as otherwise, the safety and well-being of a large number of children will be threatened and their future lost.

3. KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER

In quarter two, a key priority for protection partners will be to collectively review the sector's Community-Based Protection approach in the current socio-economic context, drawing on lessons learnt and good practices. One of the aims of this exercise will be to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities and older persons as well as Lebanese and migrant communities in our outreach activities and to improve our communication of the impact of these activities. Further, given the growing demand for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services and shortage in available services the Protection sector will collaborate with the National MHPSS Task Force to organise training sessions. These training sessions will cover elements related to the protection staff on identification and referral of MHPSS concerns, including with elements of self-care and psychological first aid. Furthermore, putting in place mitigation measures for provision of protection cash in dollars will entail the development of an individual assessment to support partners to assess whether provision of cash in dollars is safe and suitable as well as provision of post-distribution monitoring indicators for partners.

Priorities for the **Gender-Based Violence sector** in Q2 include updating the referral pathway, agreeing on advocacy priorities and an analysis of gaps to improve access and quality of case management services for survivors of GBV across Lebanon. This will involve the implementation of harmonized procedures, in line with global standards. To ensure the satisfaction of survivors with the case management services provided, client feedback surveys have been initiated, enabling the sector to continuously improve and meet the needs of survivors more effectively. The sector will also review existing prevention activities and curricula, aiming to develop a comprehensive prevention strategy and adopted to the current socioeconomic context building on local NGOs, inclusive of all population cohorts. This review will be undertaken by the sector and include a repository of existing

good practices. Finding ways to enhance the participation and engaging men and adolescent boys will be critical to ensure longer-term behaviour and attitudes changes.

The **Child Protection sector** will continue to provide focused psychosocial support services targeting children and their caregivers across the country, while prioritizing locations with high severity of needs, namely North, Akkar and South governorates.

Efforts will also be made to safely identify and manage cases of children impacted by the continuous deterioration of the socio-economic situation, including children involved in child labour, street connected children and child marriage. Integrated child protection case management services will be provided to address their specific needs, including emergency cash assistance provided to address certain protection shocks. The Child Protection Working Group will ensure stronger linkages with the social protection programme to ensure that high risk and/or marginalized children receive social assistance and child protection services with the aim to facilitate the overall positive impact on children's wellbeing.

Scaling up social and behavioural change initiatives will be a core component of accelerated prevention and early intervention services with child protection. These initiatives will include community-level communication and awareness raising sessions aiming to prevent child protection violations and ensure the protection of children against all forms of violence, abuse and/ or neglect through close collaboration with other sectors, including mainly the Education, Nutrition and Health sectors.



Partner Presence by Governorate

