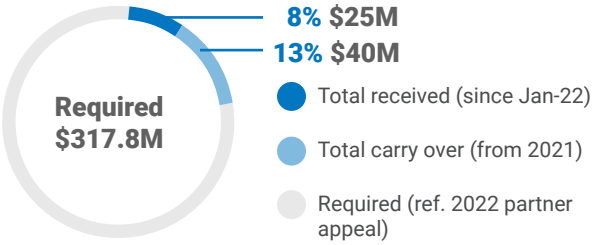
2023 1st QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD
Health

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

The 2023 1st Quarter Health sector dashboard summarizes the progress made by Health sector partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), identifies key challenges and priorities, and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Health sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Improve access to comprehensive primary healthcare (PHC); OUTCOME 2) Improve access to hospital (incl. Emergemcy Room (ER) care) and advanced referral care (advanced diagnostic laboratory & radiology care); OUTCOME 3) Improve outbreak & infectious diseases control; OUTCOME 4) Women, men and youth (children, boys and girls, Person with Disabilities (PWD)) have their fundamental rights respected and have access to basic services and information.

2023 Sector Funding Status
As of 31 March



2023 population reached

3,625,403
People in need

16% — **419,784** reached — **2,690,000** targeted (**1,390,000** female, **1,300,000** male)

1,365,000
Displaced Syrians in need

14% — **185,396** reached — **1,365,000** targeted (**701,610** female, **663,390** male)

106,369
Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (individuals)

17% — **3,425** reached — **20,000** targeted (**9,920** female, **10,080** male)

2023 population figures by cohort

2,122,634
Lebanese individuals in need

18% — **230,689** reached — **1,273,580** targeted (**662,262** female, **611,319** male)

31,400
Palestinian Refugees from Syria (individuals)

1% — **274** reached — **31,400** targeted (**16,265** female, **15,135** male)

Progress against targets

Key Achievements

# of subsidized primary healthcare consultations	801,098 / 5,379,961
# of patients who received acute disease medication	378,673 / 1,613,988
# of patients who received chronic disease medication	281,261 / 230,000
# of Children under 5 receiving routine vaccination	131,973 / 445,560
# of cases receiving financial support for improved access to hospital care among targeted population	22,301 / 181,593
# of new PHCCs added to MoPH-PHC network	7 / 71
# of primary health care staff receiving salary support at MoPH - PHCcs level	29 / 30
# of functional EWARS centres	1,308 / 800
Number of beneficiaries receiving TB medication through NTP	287 / 1200
Number of beneficiaries receiving ARV medication through NAP	1991/ 2,000

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1. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Despite the growing needs, the Health sector -under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP)- remains committed to ensuring an equitable continuation of quality healthcare for displaced Syrians, vulnerable host Lebanese community, Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS), Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL), and displaced populations from other nationalities. The LCRP activities and targets are complemented by the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for the Lebanese population, PRL, and migrants.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

In the first quarter of 2023, vulnerable populations continued to benefit from a comprehensive package of primary healthcare that includes consultations, medications for acute and chronic diseases, vaccination, sexual and reproductive health, mental health (including medication), and nutrition services, as well as urgent dental services and basic laboratory testing and imaging.

Subsidized Consultations

15%
801,098 reached
5,379,961 targeted

# of subsidized primary healthcare consultations

43% **317,988** male
60% **483,110** female

57% out of total Lebanese
458,827 reached
43% out of total non-Lebanese

Reproductive Health

12%
50,392 reached
410,638 targeted

# of subsidized ante-natal care (ANC) consultations

31% out of total Lebanese
15,677 reached
69% out of total non-Lebanese

Mental Health

13%
34,333 reached
268,988 targeted

# of subsidized mental health (MH) consultations

45% **15,417** male
55% **18,916** female

43% out of total Lebanese
14,835 reached
57% out of total non-Lebanese

Vaccination

30%
131,973 reached
445,560 targeted

# of children U5 receiving routine vaccination

Chronic Disease Medications

122%
281,261 reached
230,000 targeted

# of patients who received chronic disease medication

76% out of total Lebanese
213,489 reached
24% out of total non-Lebanese

# of patients who received chronic disease medication Through YMCA
60%
137,498 reached

# of patients who received chronic disease medication Outside YMCA
63%
143,763 reached

Ranim, Medair's pharamcist provides medication to a member of the Lebanese community at the social development center in Lebanon's Baalbak Hermel Governorate.Photo Credit: Medair/ Abdul Dennaoui.

For more information, please contact:
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Compared to the same reporting period in 2022, the subsidized consultations including antenatal care and mental health consultation slightly decreased by 3.5 per cent. Considering the increased demand and the higher target set for 2023, additional resources and efforts and are needed from Health sector partners to respond to primary health care needs. The percentage of children under five receiving routine vaccination increased by 7.2 per cent compared to the same period in 2022. The percentage is expected to further increase in the second quarter of the year considering the measles vaccination campaign and the efforts of all Health sector partners to increase routine immunization coverage. The total number of patients who received chronic disease medication increased by 68 per cent compared to the first quarter of 2022. Additional partners are supporting in the provision of chronic disease medications; however, the Health sector is still facing some 18 per cent stock disruption for chronic disease medications and this is affecting the access of the vulnerable population to chronic disease medications in the 481 primary healthcare facilities.

The percentage of Lebanese benefitting from subsidized consultations remains at 57 per cent out of total population covered (compared to the last quarter of 2022) and is the highest since the beginning of the crisis (48% in 2021, 38% in 2020, 31% in 2019, 17% in 2018) which reflects the increased vulnerability among the host community and the need to maintain and expand support to people in need.

The Health sector continued to contribute in 2023 to strengthen the national health system by carrying out and supporting inter-related functions in human resources, finance, governance, capacity building, and health information systems. Support for procuring vaccines, essential medications, reproductive health commodities, as well as other medical supplies and equipment for facilities including Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) within the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) network and health dispensaries continues to be prioritized.

Seven PHCCs were added to the MoPH network in the first quarter of 2023. The number of MoPH-PHCCs reached 285 across Lebanon in 2022. 52 per cent out of the total are supported by Health sector partners to provide a comprehensive package of primary health care services.

HOSPITAL CARE

A total of 22,301 individuals received obstetric and emergency/life-saving care or twelve per cent of the yearly target of 181,593. Some 1,275 individuals out of the target of 76,415 are vulnerable Lebanese . Additional resources are needed for the Health sector partners to be able to increase hospital care support for the Lebanese population. Through UNRWA, around 213 PRS and 2,419 PRL received hospital care. Overall, women and girls accounted for 70 per cent of individuals supported with hospitalization. Staffing support was provided to the public hospitals to retain specialized doctors and nurses.

OUTBREAK & INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL

The Health sector supported the national outbreak and infectious diseases control through the expansion and reinforcement of the National Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) and the strengthening of the National Tuberculosis and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Programmes (NTP & NAP). 1,308 out of a target of 800 EWARS centres were functional in Q1, contingency stocks were made available at MoPH warehouses, 287 beneficiaries received tuberculosis medications through NTP (out of a target of 1,200), and 1,991 beneficiaries received antiretroviral (ARV) medications through NAP (out of a target of 2000).

HEALTH AWARENESS & INFORMATION

Health sector partners expanded efforts to ensure women, men, and youth (children, boys, and girls, Persons with Disabilities) have their fundamental rights respected and have access to health awareness and information. 62 PHCCs were engaged in health promotion and outreach activities (out of the target of 285). At the community level, 159,157 caregivers were reached with integrated health awareness messages out of a yearly target of 725,081.

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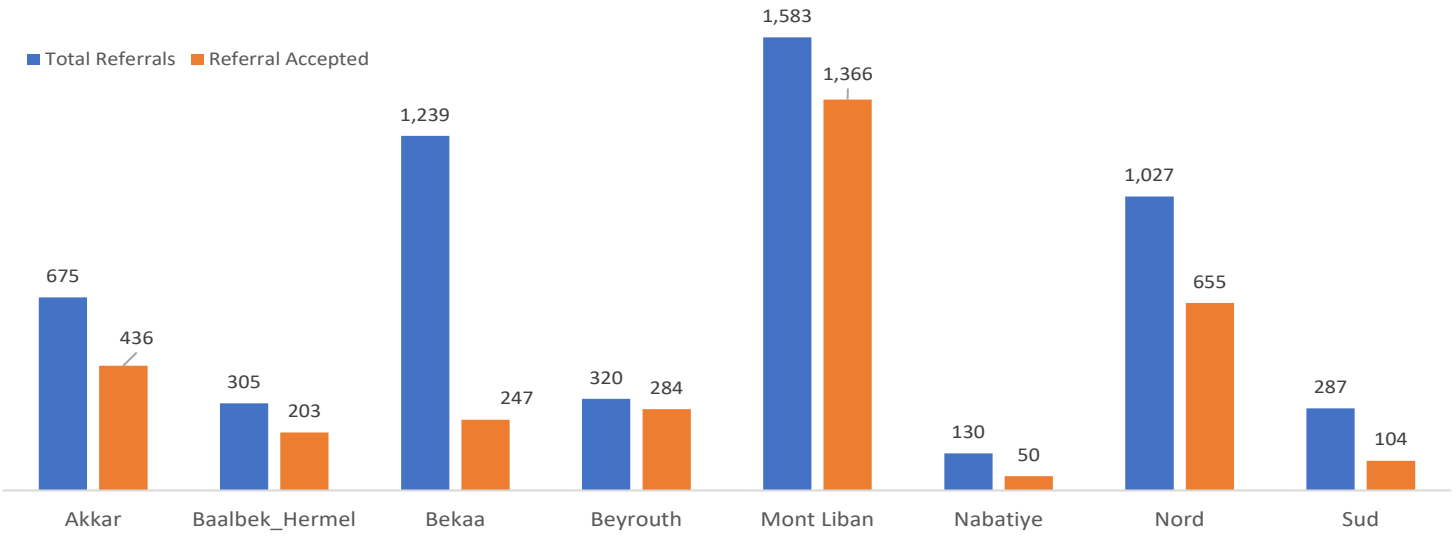
Referrals

5,566 referrals were made to the Health Sector in the first quarter of 2023 by 35 partners. 60 per cent of the referrals to the Health sector were accepted which indicates a very good response rate, while 10 per cent were not accepted and 67.3 per cent out of these not accepted referrals were for "other" reasons such as, 'the service is not available in the area of coverage' or 'the service is no longer needed'.



Gender and GBV risk mitigation mainstreaming

A new gender and GBV risk mitigation sector focal point was confirmed. The focal point will support the sector's coordinators to implement gender and GBV priorities included in the workplan.

2. KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

Aggravated barriers due to the compounded multi-layered crisis, have further impacted the meaningful access of displaced women, men, girls and boys and other vulnerable groups to primary and secondary health services. In the first quarter of 2023 the Lebanese Pound further devaluated and the need to access healthcare continue to increase across all population groups. Health sector partners were challenged to ensure business continuity due to the increased social instability, supply gaps, access challenges and closing operational spaces namely primary health care centres in North Bekaa.

Accessibility Challenges: Affordability including the direct and indirect cost of services remained the main challenge to accessing health care services. Additional barriers continue to hinder the accessibility and the timely use of health services in Lebanon. The supply and demand levels are mainly related to availability (e.g., services and supplies including medications), geographical accessibility (e.g., remote areas), and acceptability (e.g., social stigma). The revised Referral Care SOP implies a higher patient share and therefore adds strains on the displaced population to access hospital care. The needs of Lebanese for hospital care support continue to incr ease considering the growing numbers of uninsured individuals and the inefficiency of the national insurance schemes. Dialysis and blood disease support remain a gap for both displaced populations and vulnerable Lebanese. Health sector partners continue to increase efforts to remove accessibility barriers by subsidizing the comprehensive package of care in the primary heath care centers, providing awareness on health integrated topics, and supporting hospitalization bills for all populations groups despite the scare financial resources.

System Challenges: As a result of the increased demand and scarcity of resources, the health system is expected to continue to be strained in 2023. The decreased capacity of the health system is associated with increased mortality and worsened health outcomes, and it indirectly links to protection concerns, and tensions. Health sector partners continued to contribute to strengthening of the national health system by carrying out inter-related functions in human resources, finance, governance, capacity building, information and health information systems, medical products including personal protective equipment, vaccines, and data technologies.

Funding Challenges: The Health sector in Lebanon needs significant financial assistance to overcome this deep humanitarian, social, and economic crisis and to respond to the growing needs of the vulnerable populations. The protracted nature of displacement coupled with other crises, increased demand for public health care, Lebanese pound devaluation, global inflation, and the prioritization of other emergencies in the region greatly affected the funding situation of the Health sector in Lebanon. Insufficient funding directly leads to reduced access and therefore to increased morbidity and mortality. Health sector partners are stretched and obliged to prioritize life-saving interventions in high-risk areas across Lebanon leaving behind less severe underfunded cases.

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3. KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER

The sector will continue to prioritize support to MoPH at the primary healthcare level with complementarity models that offer more coverage for people in need and match existing services. In response to the low coverage against the yearly target, the Health sector will increase advocacy for primary health care support and will encourage partners to increase the number of supported centers. The Sector will encourage Health partners to implement the National Unified Long-term Primary Healthcare Subsidization Protocol (LPSP) in the supported centers and to align with the upcoming Primary Health Care Roadmap. Special attention will be given to implement an efficient measles campaign and to maintain routine vaccination activities and ensure an adequate distribution of acute and chronic disease medications in the primary healthcare centers across the country.

At the secondary and tertiary healthcare levels, partners will remain committed to sustaining and increasing financial support for hospital care. Improved access to hospital care for vulnerable host Lebanese community will be prioritized and the sector will aim in 2023. The sector will also increase advocacy for dialysis and blood disease support that is interrupted due funding limitations and increased prices in the country. As the economic situation deteriorates, the Health sector will keep its focus on prioritizing sustainable life-saving services for vulnerable displaced Syrians and Lebanese.

The Health sector remains vigilant and in full preparedness to respond to any potential new wave of Cholera or other communicable diseases. This is through the assurance of contingency stock at the MoPH central warehouse, support provided to the Epidemiological Surveillance Unit, the continuous work of rapid response teams and capacity building of frontline workers.

One-year-old Nina, who has been crying constantly and has a mild temperature, is examined by Dr. Ahmad, the pediatrician on call at the Baalbek primary health facility. Nina's mother Nouran, a 35-year-old Syrian community member, brought the child in for an examination. Photo credit: Medair/ Abdul Dennaoui.

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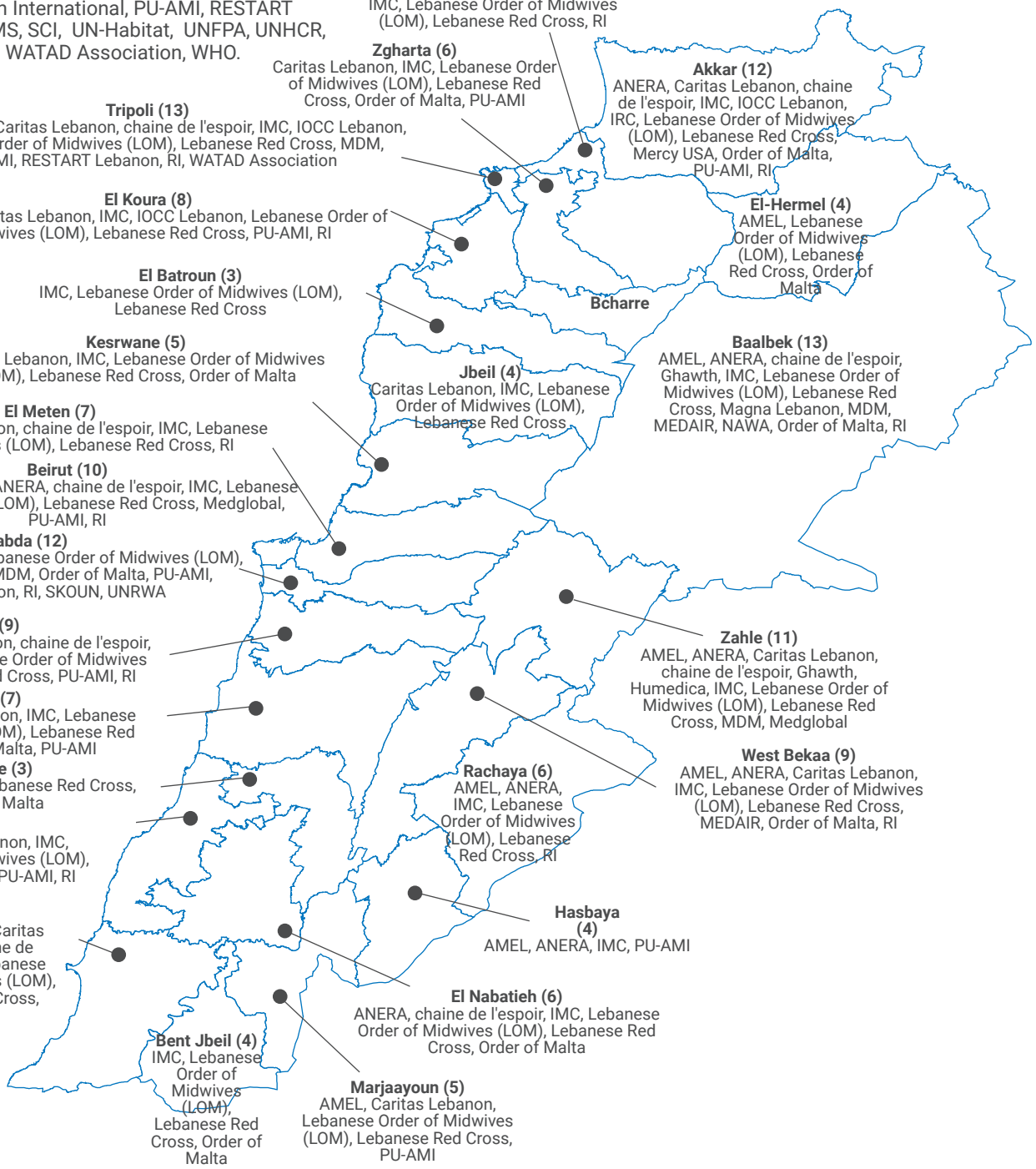
National (26)
Al Midan, ANERA, Caritas Lebanon, chaine de l'espoir, Children Cancer Center Lebanon (CCCL), Ghawth, Humedica, IMC, IOM, IRC, Lebanese Red Cross, Mercy USA, MoPH, Plan International, PU-AMI, RESTART Lebanon, RI, SAMS, SCI, UN-Habitat, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WATAD Association, WHO.



All 38 organizations mentioned below are contributing to the achievement of Health Outcomes prioritized under the LCRP and reporting under ActivityInfo:
AICA, Al Makassed, Al Midan, AMEL, ANERA, Caritas Lebanon, chaine de l'espoir, Children Cancer Center Lebanon (CCCL), Ghawth, Humedica, IMC, IOCC Lebanon, IOM, IRC, Lebanese Order of Midwives (LOM), Lebanese Red Cross, Magna Lebanon, MDM, MEDAIR, Medglobal, Mercy USA, MoPH, NAWA, Order of Malta, Plan International, PU-AMI, RESTART Lebanon, RI, SAMS, SCI, SKOUN, UN-Habitat, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WATAD Association, WHO.

According to the Q1 2023 financial update, the 10 donors to the health sector under the LCRP are listed below:
Germany, European Union, Private donors, United States of America, France, Canada, Netherlands, Norway, CERF, Switzerland.
datasource: **Q1 2023 financial update**

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