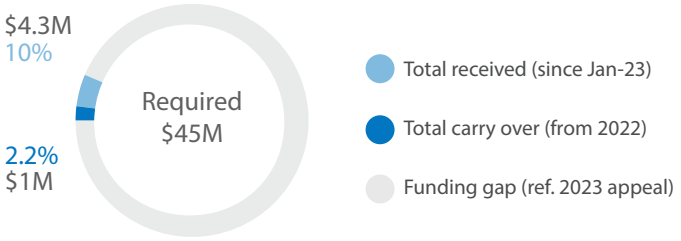
2023 3rd QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD
Nutrition

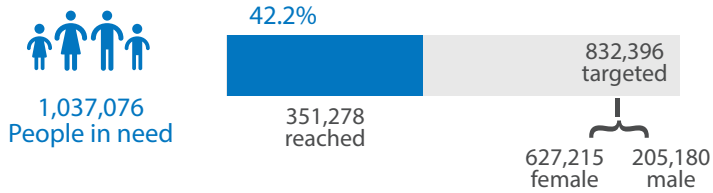
Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

Upon the endorsement of the LCRP steering committee on Dec 13th 2022, the Nutrition sector has been activated as a standalone sector under LCRP. Nutrition sector has identified four main outcomes for the sector strategy in 2023. These outcomes are defined based on the sector's analysis of the context and the nutritional vulnerabilities across the life cycle. They are informed by the guideline principles that the prevention comes first and that multiple delivery platforms must be held accountable and utilized to deliver essential nutrition interventions to prevent all forms of malnutrition. The four outcomes are as listed below: Outcome 1: Young children and their caregivers have access to and demand for services aiming at prevention of all forms of malnutrition and the associated developmental risks (0-5 years of age). Outcome 2: School-age children and adolescents have access to and demand for services aiming at prevention of all forms of malnutrition – particularly among girls. Outcome 3: Women have enhanced access to and demand for services aiming at the prevention of all forms of malnutrition – particularly during pregnancy and lactation. Outcome 4: Children have access to growth monitoring, screening, early detection and treatment of wasting in early childhood.

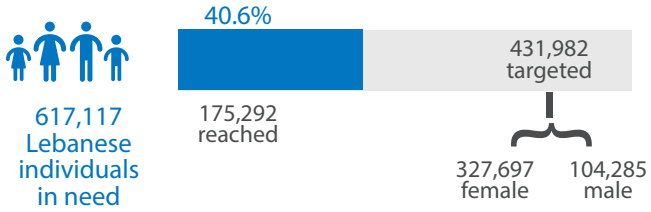
2023 Sector Funding Status
As of 30 Sep 2023

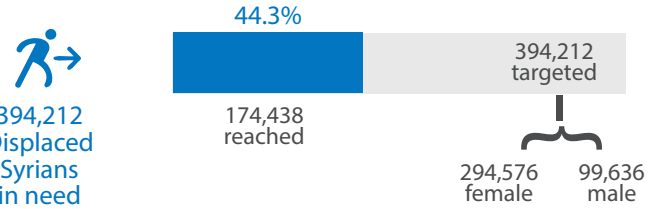


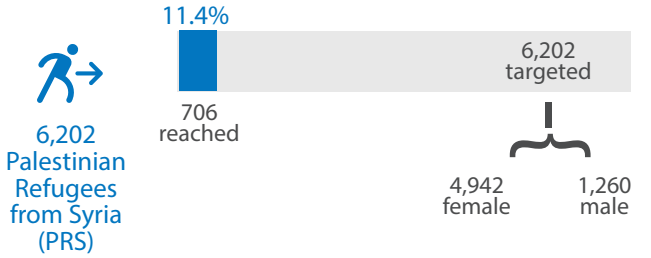
2023 population reached



2023 population figures by cohort

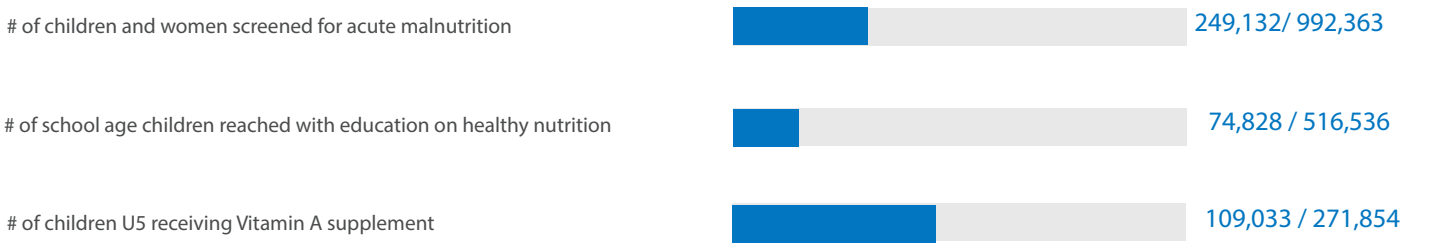






Progress against targets

Key Achievements



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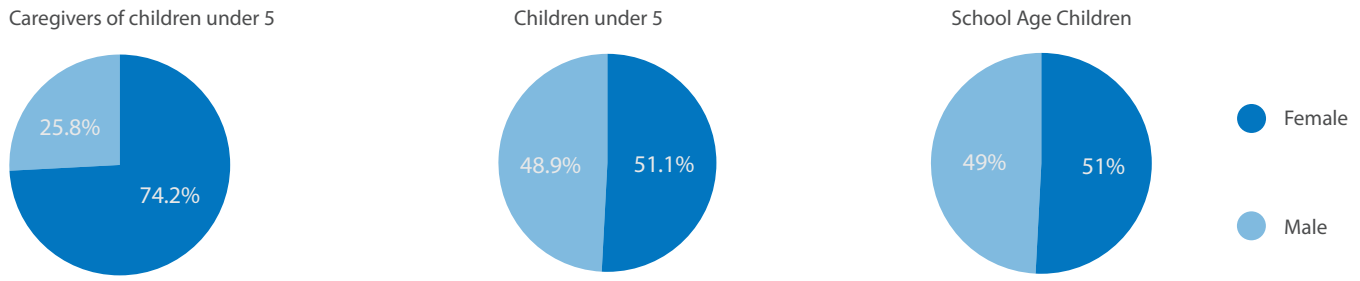
Gender Breakdown by different age groups



1. Multi-sectoral situation update

The economic situation in Lebanon remains dire in the third quarter of 2023, resulting in significant challenges for individuals and families. In August 2023, the annual inflation rate recorded a 229.8 per cent increase compared to August 2022, the 38th consecutive month of hyperinflation since the beginning of the crisis. The cost of living, as measured by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which includes expenses for food, essential goods, and services, reached LBP 30,472,087 in July 2023, a slight increase from June and up by 142 per cent compared to the SMEB cost in January 2023. The average price of bottled water in Lebanon up to September 2023 has witnessed a remarkable 16 per cent increase in USD value and a 2598 per cent increase in Lebanese pound (LBP) value compared to the prices in January 2021. Similarly, water trucking costs have soared dramatically, with a significant 297 per cent increase in USD value and 1665 per cent increase in LBP value over the same period. These soaring prices highlight the acute economic challenges faced by the population. In August 2023 alone, there was a significant price spike, with bottled water prices rising by 54 per cent in USD value and 57 per cent in Lebanese pound value, and water trucking prices increasing by 26 per cent in USD value and 29 per cent in Lebanese pound value. These steep price increases pose substantial challenges to access clean water in Lebanon. At the beginning of Q3, a temporary decrease in raids undertaken by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) targeting displaced Syrians in informal settlements was witnessed compared to Q2. However, a shrinking protection space was observed in August and September with an increase in raids in Bekaa, movement restrictions and an uptick in border pushbacks. On 12 September, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM) addressed another circular to all Governors in Lebanon, to be further disseminated to municipalities and Mokhtars, regarding the presence of displaced Syrians. The circular included instructions to, inter-alia, conduct a data survey of displaced Syrians, report suspicious movements and gatherings of displaced Syrians and to request from all organizations, especially foreign ones, to coordinate their activities with the ministries, municipalities, and military and security agencies. Restrictions of movements including through curfews and searches at check points as well as confiscation of items such as internet routers, solar panels, and motorbikes were reported significantly impacting the feeling of safety and security and psychological wellbeing of displaced Syrians. The fear of deportation because of lacking legal residency was particularly reported by men, resulting in their limitations of movement and an increase of engagement of women and children in labour activities, accumulation of debts and other harmful coping mechanisms. In Q3, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) partners continued to observe rising trends in women and girls being exploited and exposed to sexual harassment and assault when working in farms and as domestic workers or in the streets. A spike in anti-gender rhetoric was observed resulting in a shrinking space to advocate for women's rights, diversity, and gender-based violence prevention and response programs. Qs of July, inter-communal relations in Lebanon eased slightly after having experienced a peak in negative sentiments in the first and second quarter of 2023. Some 34 per cent of respondents now report negative inter-communal relations as compared to 46 per cent in March 2023 as per the UNDP-ARK Perception Survey. The main tension drivers continue to be economic such as competition for lower-skilled jobs and services such as electricity, healthcare, and waste management. Relations between Lebanese on the other hand have slightly deteriorated with 34 per cent rating intra-Lebanese relations as negative, compared to 21 per cent in March 2023. For the first time ever, economic competition was quoted as the main tension driver among Lebanese (58%),

2. Key achievements of the sector at the output level

Figure 1. Essential Nutrition and Child Development Actions

Outcome 1: Nutrition and child development during early years

To respond to the deteriorating nutrition situation in Lebanon, the Nutrition sector has advocated and supported the integration of nutrition and child development through multiple delivery platforms. This has resulted in the activation of an integrated nutrition and child development initiative "Rising". Rising utilizes common multiple platforms (Primary Health Care (PHC) centers, community initiatives on health and education), to simultaneously address immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition and early childhood developmental deprivations and impairments among the most vulnerable children to prevent stunting, other forms of malnutrition, and associated cognitive deprivations to help all children reach their growth and development potential. The Rising Initiative relies on key essential nutrition and developmental interventions that aim to enhance adequate diets, provide nurturing and responsive care practices, and provide nutrition and child development services to prevent all forms of malnutrition and developmental deprivations and delays. During the reporting period, the sector has reached over 66,785 caregivers (48,014 Female, 18,771 Male) of children under the age of five were reached with messages on breastfeeding, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), responsive care and feeding, healthy diets, and maternal nutrition and 7,025 primary caregivers (6,598 Female, 427 Male) of children between the ages 0-23 months received IYCF and nutrition counseling. Compared to last year's progress on numbers reached with Social Behavior Change (SBC) and counseling an increase of 20 per cent is observed during the same quarter. To address the micronutrient deficiencies among children, 53,143 children (26,962 Female, 26,181 Male) under the age of five were provided with multiple micronutrient supplements powders for point-of-use food fortification, while over 109,033 (55,607 Female, 53,426 Male) have received vitamin A supplementation.

Lastly, to measure the nutritional and developmental status of young children in Lebanon and to identify the drivers of children's developmental status and vulnerabilities across nurturing care domains Nutrition sector in collaboration with Harvard University, Groundwork has designed the first ever national Lebanon Integrated Micronutrient, Anthropometric and child development (LIMA) survey. The data collection started in July 2023 and have reached 76 per cent of its progress by late September. The results of this survey will inform decision making for future multi-sectoral actions promoting children's nutrition and development in Lebanon.

Outcome 2: Nutrition of school-age children and adolescents

In coordination with the Food Security & Agriculture sector, Nutrition sector is supporting the Ministry of Education and High Education (MEHE) to revise or upgrade existing national guidance for a nutritious and safe school food environment. In addition, an agreement was signed with MEHE to support the ministry to undertake an integrated school health, nutrition, and child development screening and referral during the next scholastic year. Nutrition sector is also supporting revitalization of the national scholastic health and nutrition screening; national social behavior change program to enhance the healthy nutrition practices among school age children and adolescents as well as prevention and control of micronutrient deficiencies among adolescent girls.

Outcome 3: Nutrition of women

The Nutrition sector has supported gender-responsive plans and projects to prevent malnutrition in women during pregnancy and breastfeeding. These projects support interventions to improve women's nutritional status before and during pregnancy and while breastfeeding. During this reporting period, the Nutrition sector's Social Behavior Change (SBC) strategies have reached over 3,201 women to promote nutritious, safe, affordable, and sustainable diets during pregnancy and lactation. In addition, about 51,252 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) are reached with essential nutrition interventions including screening for acute malnutrition among which 1,482 have been identified with acute malnutrition and admitted to program for treatment. 191,48 PLW have been also provided with adequate multiple micronutrient or iron folic acid supplements.

Outcome 4: Prevention and management of acute malnutrition

The Nutrition sector has aimed to enhance the quality and coverage of the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) by taking the stroke of progress and supporting the ministry and key partners to address the bottlenecks. So far 197,880 children under the age of five (107,970 Female, 89.910 Male) have been screened for malnutrition among which 3,852 are identified with stunting and referred for counseling services and 3,852 children with identified acute malnutrition are admitted to CMAM program. The recovery rate of the CMAM program for the first quarter of 2023 is 80 per cent.

When looking at trends, the admission to CMAM programme has increased by 50 per cent compared to the previous quarter, the same trend is observed for PLW. Over 60 per cent of children with acute malnutrition admitted to malnutrition programs are non-Lebanese, mainly displaced Syrians. And over 65 per cent of PLW admitted to the acute malnutrition program are non-Lebanese, as well. North and Akkar followed by BML, and Bekaa, Baalbek and Hermel regions have the highest rates of admission to malnutrition programs.

Referral trends: Between July and September 2023, the Nutrition sector received a slightly increased number of referrals: 704 referrals in the third quarter of the year when compared to the number of referrals in second quarter, which was 630. Among the number of referrals in quarter three, 87 per cent were accepted. At the geographical level, numbers of referrals are mostly in Bekaa with low referral rates in other governorates. To enhance the referrals within the Nutrition sector partners, the sector along with the Inter-Agency and the referral information management system (RIMS) teams organized a referral training for all Nutrition sector partners on the referral tools, services, and use of RIMS for the aim to strengthen and effective referral system using the available tools in place.

Mainstreaming activities

As part of the Nutrition sector work plan to scale up capacities of Nutrition sector partners to respond and refer GBV cases. The Nutrition sector has assigned a gender and GBV focal point to support the sector in incorporating gender equality measures into programming. The sector is planning for a gender and GBV mainstreaming training for sector members to ensure that the sector response does not perpetuate gender inequalities.

3. Key challenges of the sector

Despite improvements in funding status of the sector, yet the overall nutrition response remains underfunded. While significant resources have been allocated to food assistance in response to food insecurity in Lebanon, families are still confronted with difficult choices when it comes to providing optimal nutrition and feeding for their children. Donor decisions to allocate resources for addressing the nutritional crisis in Lebanon continue to be influenced by traditional narratives of nutrition, often underestimating the risks posed by less visible forms of malnutrition on the growth, development, and well-being of children and women. To tackle this issue, the Nutrition sector has devised an advocacy strategy aimed at mobilizing more donors, partners, and resources for nutrition initiatives. The forthcoming national nutrition and child development survey will provide fresh evidence to gain a deeper understanding of the overall nutritional status of the population, encompassing the less obvious forms of malnutrition and their potential impacts on the well-being, growth, and thriving of children, adolescents, and women, men, girls, and boys residing in Lebanon.

4. Key priorities for the following quarter

During the fourth quarter of 2023, the Nutrition sector will prioritize outcomes two (nutrition of school age) and outcome 3 (women's nutrition) given their slower progress compared to the other outcomes. In addition, the sector will accelerate efforts on the expansion of the Rising Initiative (integrated nutrition and child development service provision). This will be done by establishing and advocating for scaled-up partnerships, and capacity building of partners to serve the most deprived localities with integrated nutrition and child development interventions. In addition, a network of unsupported PHCCs will be equipped with resources and skills to deliver scaled-up nutrition and child development services through facility-based and community-based and outreach strategies through standardized practices for community health workers. In addition, the sector will support the completion of the first-ever Lebanon Integrated Micronutrient and Anthropometric Survey (LIMA) and the sector will also closely monitor the implementation of the advocacy strategy to mobilize more resources and to improve utilization of the referral system and follow up among all concerned sectors.

Nutrition sector will also initiate the process of upgrading and revising the national guidelines for management of acute malnutrition in line with the release of new global guidelines on prevention and management of wasting which will include supporting the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) for a landscaping exercise and upgrading the relevant chapters of the national guideline.

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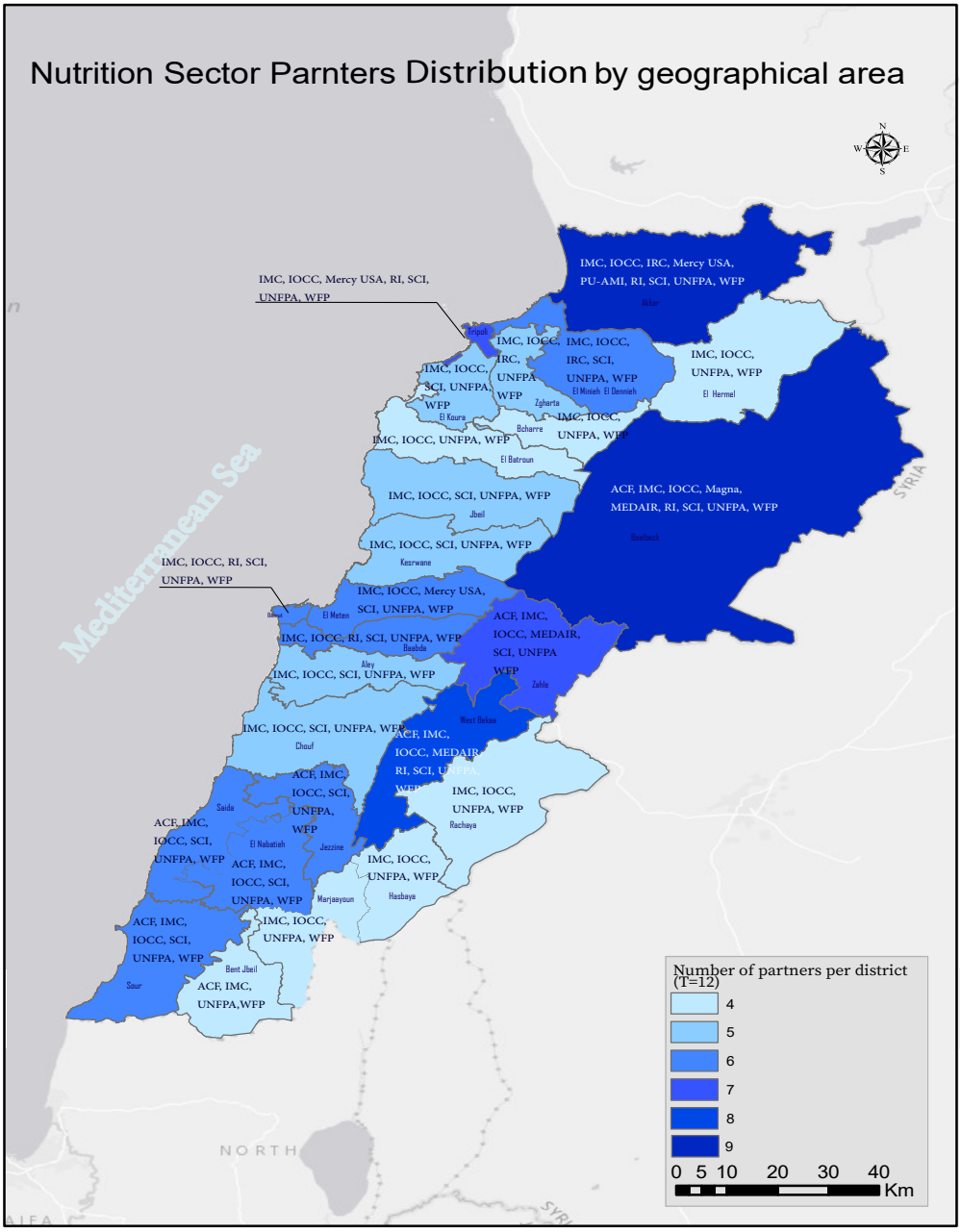
Case Study

Meet the resilient 4-year-old boy from Lebanon whose life underwent a remarkable transformation. Battling weight loss and a lack of energy to play, the child and his mother attended a nutrition awareness session delivered by Première Urgence Internationale (PUI) in Akkar. During one of PUI regular community health and nutrition awareness sessions coupled with the continuous efforts of malnutrition screening, one of the community health volunteers was able to identify the child's condition by measuring his Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC), revealing moderate malnutrition. Swiftly referred to the malnutrition center Al Amir primary health care center, the child received vital nutrients and guidance to alleviate his condition. The grateful mother exclaimed, "I never realized this could save my child from malnutrition. Thanks to PUI, my child is thriving once more!"

Child's mother is feeding her son with the supplements provided by the malnutrition treatment center

Partners per district

12 NGO Partners have reported their activities up to Quarter 2:
ACF, IMC, IOCC, IRC, MAGNA, MEDAIR, Mercy-USA, PU-AMI, Relief International, SCI, UNFPA, WFP