Child Protection Working Group - Lebanon

Monitoring Children's Situation - End of Year 2023 Dashboard

February 2024

In 2023, Lebanon grappled with a deepening economic crisis, leading to a decline in the overall protection space for all population cohorts in the country. hhAs a result, families encountered increasing difficulties in accessing their rights and essential services and to meet basic needs, resulting in debt accumulation, and compelling them to adopt harmful coping mechanisms, such as debt accumulation, child marriage and child labor. In addition, the political and security instability in the country manifested through heightened hostilities within Palestinian camps and at the Southern border, resulting in the displacement of over 80,000 individuals. This exacerbation of existing protection risks and the emergence of new threats notably impacted the physical and psychological well-being of vulnerable groups, including adolescents and children.

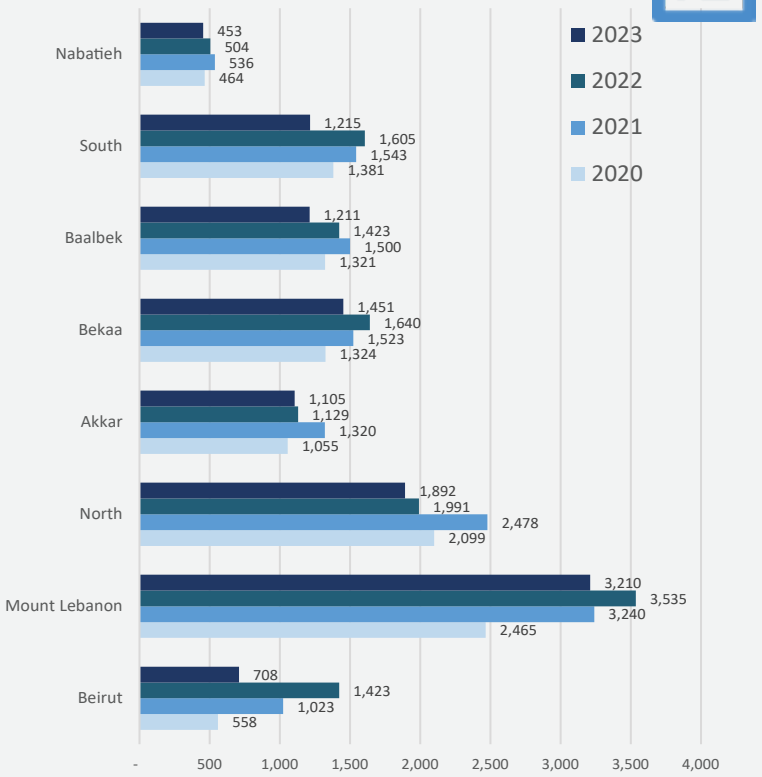
Similar to the trends observed in 2022, the most prevalent child protection issue in 2023 continued to be exploitation, particularly the worst forms of child labor. Child protection agencies identified child labor and street-related work as the primary child protection concerns in Lebanon, closely followed by instances of physical and emotional abuse against children. In response to these challenges, Child Protection actors provided case management services to a total of 11,245 children. Notably, 64% of these services were extended to boys, while 36% were directed towards girls.

In parallel, efforts were sustained at the prevention level to encourage meaningful community engagement in addressing the root causes of harmful behaviors against girls and boys. Child protection actors collaborated closely with influencers, including traditional & religious leaders, caregivers and children to challenge harmful social practices that expose children to violence, abuse, neglect as well as to child labor, child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence. These efforts translated into the implementation of 538 social and behavioral change initiatives, surpassing the annual target of 450 and engaging over 1729 influencers across different communities.

Furthermore, the identification of households and children in need was strengthened through the reception of 245 monthly new requests for assistance on average per NGO in 2023. Additionally, the existing referral system facilitated the receipt of a total of 14,224 referrals, constituting 9.3% of all referrals exchanged between agencies in Lebanon in 2023. These figures underline the ongoing challenges and the critical role of child protection actors in mitigating the impact of the multifaceted crisis on vulnerable populations in Lebanon.

Case Management

Case management (CM) services received by children (comparison between Jan-Dec. 2020 and 2023).



Source: LCRP Activity Info CP reporting

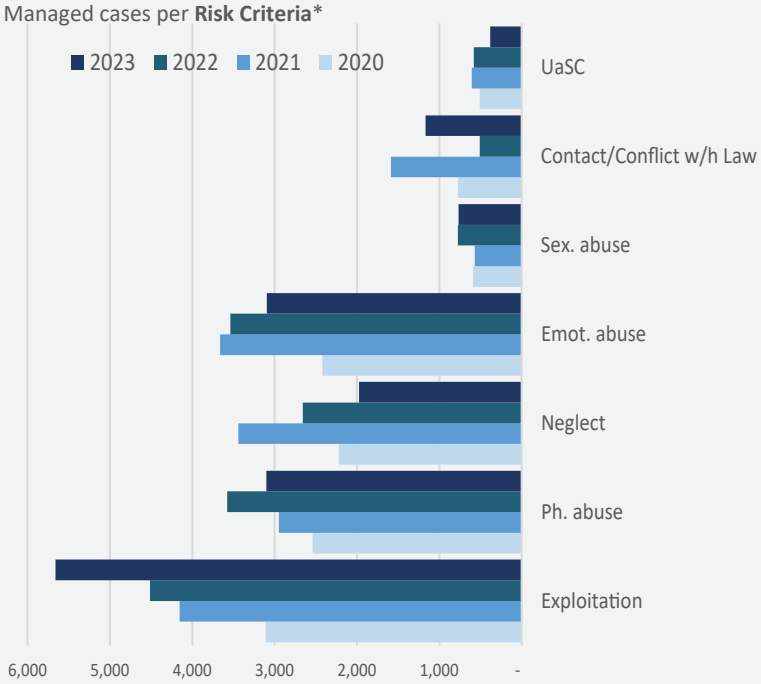
11,245

is the number of children, who have received case management services in 2023 (13,250 in 2022).

This is **15% less** than in **2022** however it is **5% more** than in **2020**

The highest number of children were served in **Mount Lebanon** and **North.** While these services were minimal in **Nabatieh** and **Beirut**

Managed cases per **Risk Criteria***



*A Case Management file is opened based on either one of the above risks, and a child may be reported here with one or multiple risk criteria, regardless of the child's vulnerability; i.e. a child may be vulnerable but living in a caring environment with no risks at all.

Top 3 criteria for providing CM services to children in 2023 were **Exploitation (incl. WFCL)**, **Physical abuse** and **Emotional abuse**.

Noting that, compared to 2022, Children in contact/conflict with law, as a risk criteria for CM, has registered the highest increase (+130%), followed by Exploitation (+25%).

Same as in previous years, the majority of CM services were provided to boys, with only +1% increase for boys in 2023 (compared to 63% in 2022).

64% **36%**

Source: LCRP Activity Info CP reporting

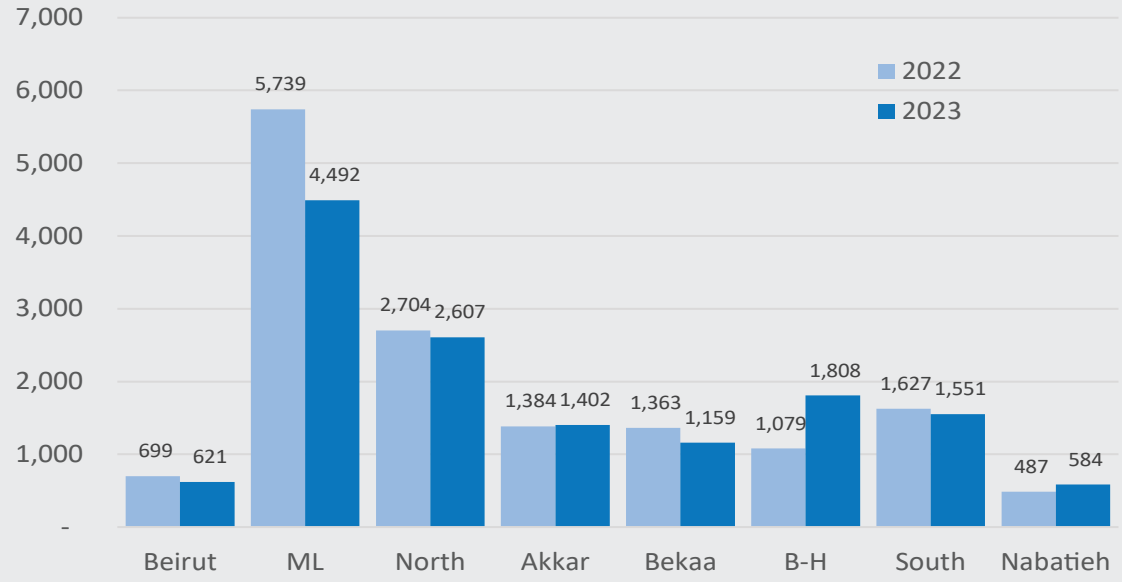
Child Protection Working Group - EoY 2023

Referrals to Child Protection*

In 2023, there has been a total of **14,224 referrals to CP**, a decrease of -6% compared to the 2022 (15,082 referrals). While the highest decrease was registered in Mount Lebanon (-22%) and Bekaa (-15%), referrals in the governorates of Baalbek-El Hermel have registered an increase of +68%, rising from around 1,000 in 2022 to more than 1,800 referrals in 2023. These referrals are done by 44 Sector Partners** (the majority of them being Mount Lebanon followed by the North), compared to 50 Partners in 2022.
It is worth noting that the share of referrals to CP has increased continuously since 2020: from 5% of total referrals in 2020 to 9% in 2023.

*The info presented in this section is derived from the Inter-Agency Referrals Monitoring database, i.e. this includes referrals performed through DRC's Referrals Information Management System (RIMS).
** Data extracted from Activity Info may not be final for Quarter 4 2023, as the Inter-Agency has not yet finalized the process of data collection for Q4.

Number of Referrals to CP per Governorate between (in 2022 and 2023).



9%
of total inter-sectoral referrals are done to the Child Protection Sector (compared to only 5% in 2020).

72%
of referrals are either accepted or acknowledged (against around 65% in 2022).

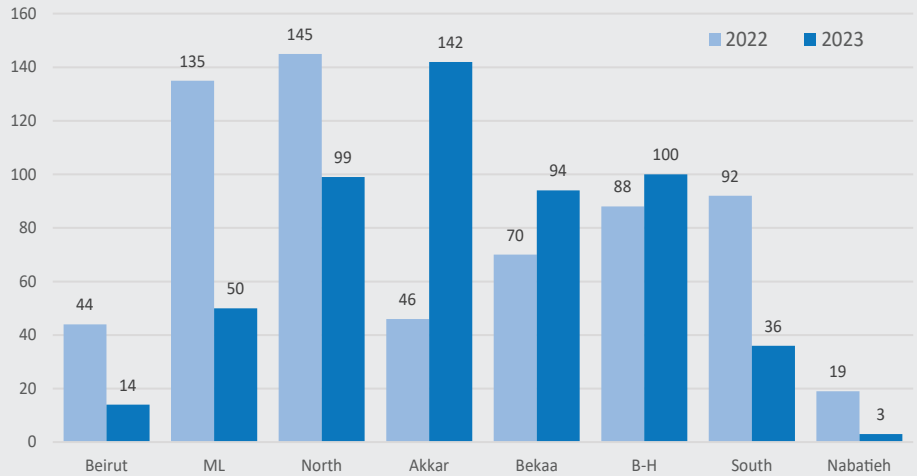
Referrals that were not accepted were mainly due to reason related to **Eligibility Criteria** as well as **Partner Capacity**.

Source: LCRP Activity Info CP reporting

Community engagement and Social Behavior Change (Qudwa)

538 community engagement initiatives have been implemented so far in 2023 (down from 639 in 2022, i.e. decrease of 16%), the highest number being held in Akkar and North, followed by Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa.

Community engagement activities in 2022 and 2023.



77% of the activities were Qudwa initiatives

1,729 influencers, including traditional & religious leaders have actively participated in community (70% Syrians amd 22% Lebanese).

80 events were organized by Qudwas to promote the protection of children/ women from harmful practices

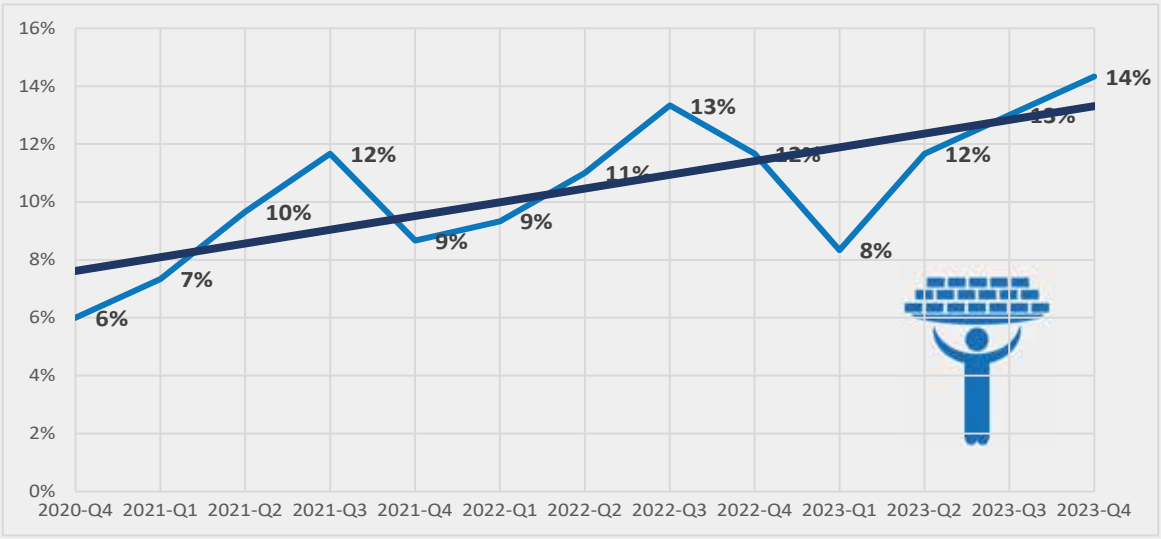
13,765 beneficiaires were reached out through Qudwa events

Source: LCRP Activity Info CP reporting

Child Protection Working Group - EoY 2023

Children engaged in child labor

as reported by IRC through the monthly Protection Monitoring (in % of respondents responding "Working Children" in the household).



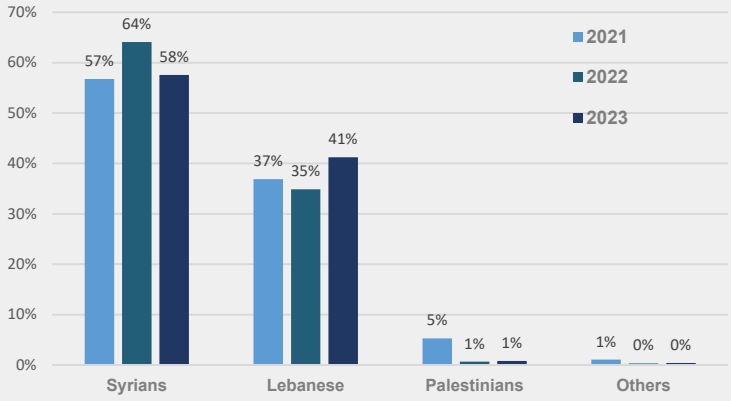
In 2023, the percentage of households with at least one child engaged in Child Labor has increased on average from 8% to 14% between Q1 and Q4. Compared to Q4 2020, this represents an increase of around 133% (6% in Q4 2020).

** Source: Protection Monitoring Report - IRC (Dec. 2023)*

245

is the number of monthly new requests for assistance on average per NGO in 2023, lower than last year by 19% (302 requests in 2022).

41% were received from Lebanese households, against 35% in 2022.



Health services, Food/NFI & Education

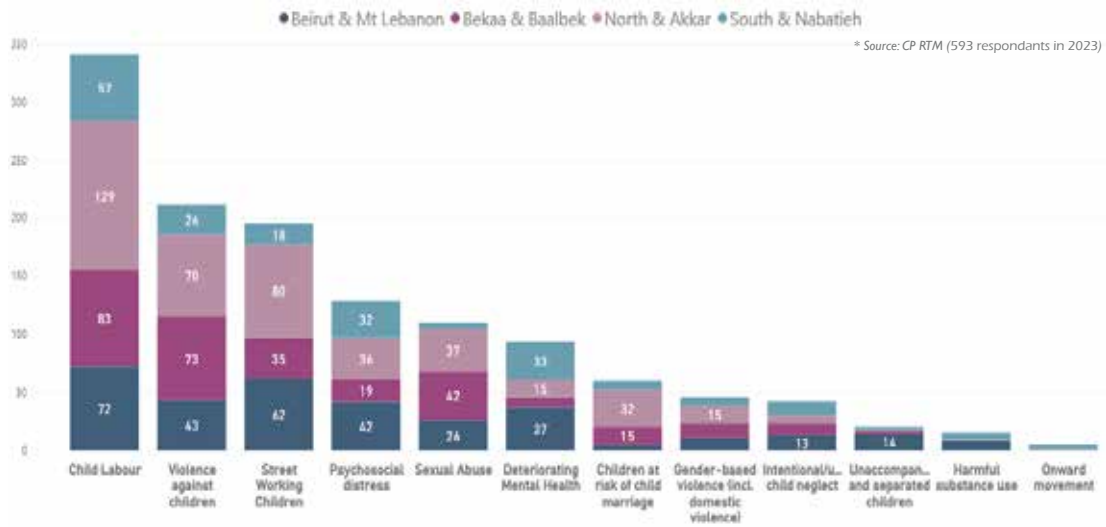
are the main services asked for by the households, similar to 2022.

** Source: CP Sector Real-time monitoring (CP RTM).*

Prevalence of CP concerns/negative trends

as observed by NGO's in 2023*

Most respondents have reported **Child Labour**, **Violence against children**, as well as **Street Working Children** as the main child protection concerns in Lebanon.



** Source: CP RTM (593 respondants in 2023)*

Abbreviations used in the document:

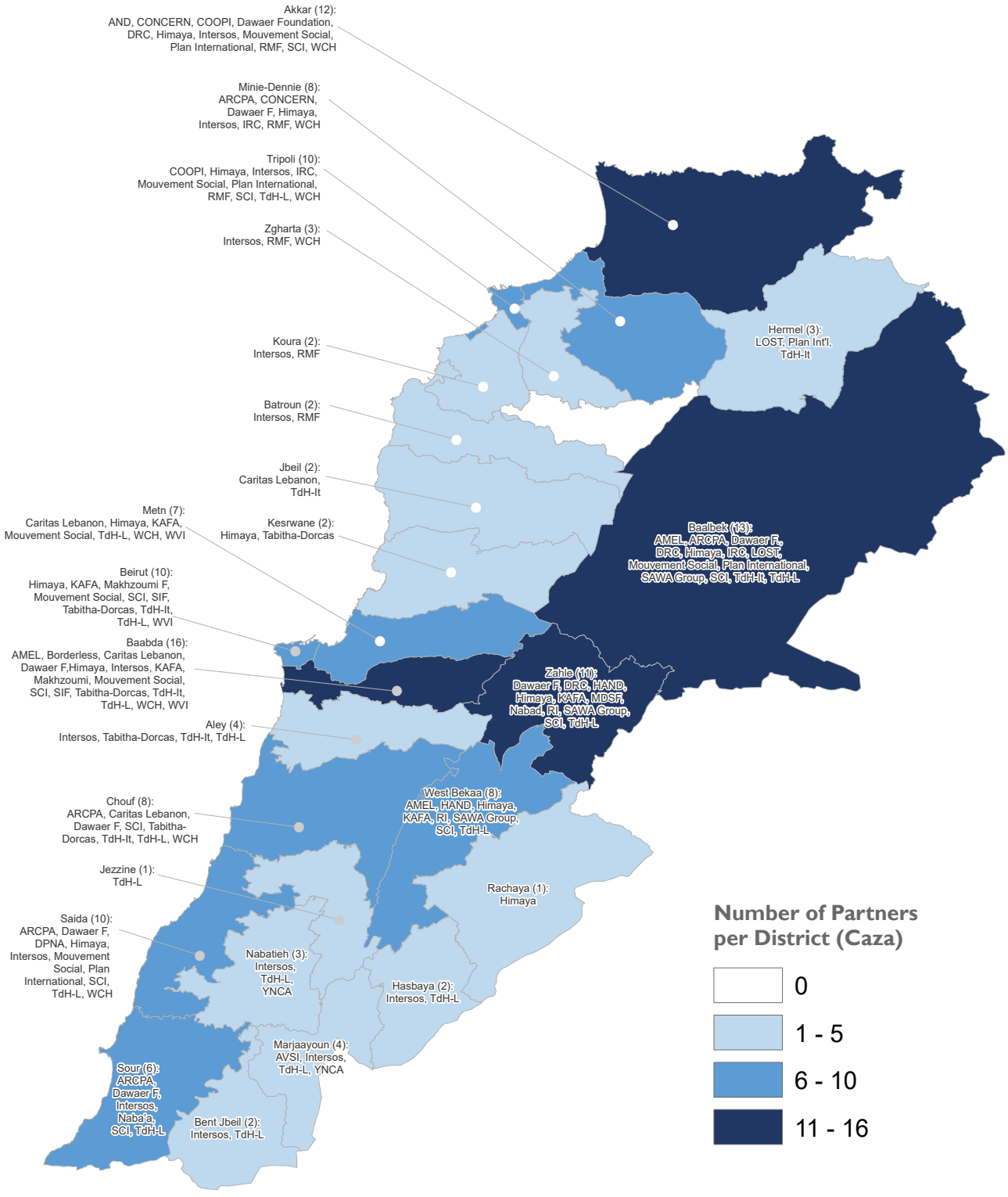
CBPSS	: Community-based psychosocial support
CL	: Child Labour
CM	: Child Marriage
CPWG	: Child Protection Working Group
F/NFI	: Food and Non-Food Items
FPSS	: Focused psychosocial support
GBV	: Gender-based Violence
GoL	: Government of Lebanon
RC	: Residential Care
RIMS	: Referral Information Management System
RTM	: Real-time Monitoring
SA	: Social Assistance
SAWC	: Street and Working Children
SUBT	: Use of Substances
UASC	: Unaccompanied and Separated Children
VD	: Violent Discipline
WFCL:	Worst Forms of Child Labour

We thank the following I/NGO's for their participation to the CP Real-time Monitotring surveys in 2023:

ACTED, Akkar Network for Development (AND), Akkarouna, Alawite Islamic Charity Association (AICA), Amel Association, ARCPA, Basmah&Zeitouneh, Borderless NGO, Caritas Lebanon, Dorcas/ Tabitha, DRC, Himaya, Himaya Daeem Ataa, Humanity and Inclusion, Intersos, IRC, KAFA, LebRelief, LOST, Makhzoumi Foundation, Mouvement Social, NABAD, PWHO, Rahma for special needs, Ribat Association, RMF, Sama for Development, Sanabel Al Janoub, Save the Children (SCI), Sawa Group, Tahaddi, TdH-Italy, TdH-L, TSS, UPEL, WCH, WVL, YNCA.

Child Protection Working Group Partners mapping

The achievements presented in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 36 NGO Partners:
AMEL, AND, ARCPA, AVSI, Borderless, Caritas Lebanon, CONCERN, COOPI, Dawaer Foundation, DPNA, DRC, HAND, Himaya, Intersos, IRC, KAFA, LECORVAW, LOST, Makhzoumi, Michel Daher Social Foundation - MDSF, Mouvement Social, Naba'a, Nabad, Plan International, RI, RMF, SAWA Group, SCI, SIF, Tabitha-Dorcas, TdH-It, TdH-L, UPEL, WCH, WVI, YNCA.



Data Source for the map:
- Lebanese Border, Caza and Cadastral Boundaries: NPMPLT 2005.
- Geographic Projection WGS 1984

For more info, contact CPWG Information Management Officer:
Vicken Ashkarian - vashkarian@unicef.org