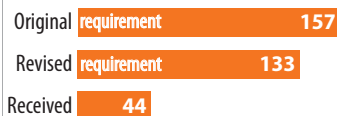


HIGHLIGHTS

- The sector is now working in 185 of the 251 cadasters identified as most vulnerable.
- The 36 conflict mitigation mechanisms established so far have engaged over 1,173 community representatives, with a good participation of women (40%), providing communities with a space and mechanisms to deal with tensions.
- Nearly 3,000 youth from all communities have been engaged through 138 initiatives promoting tolerance, civic engagement and peaceful conflict resolution.
- The sector has also successfully adapted its approach to supporting municipalities as the key local institutions able to maintain social stability at the community level.
- 1,778 host community members have been engaged in participatory processes to identify priority needs and source of tensions in 124 communities.
- 211 municipalities are receiving capacity building support, this is an increase of 71 municipalities since 2014.
- Inter-agency survey shows that while LCRP partners are generally well informed on tensions and conflicts, but that very few have a mechanism in place to ensure their programme is conflict sensitive.



FUNDING (in Million \$)



PEOPLE (In Need/Target)

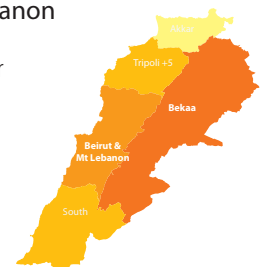
251 (Communities in Need)

251 (Communities Targeted)



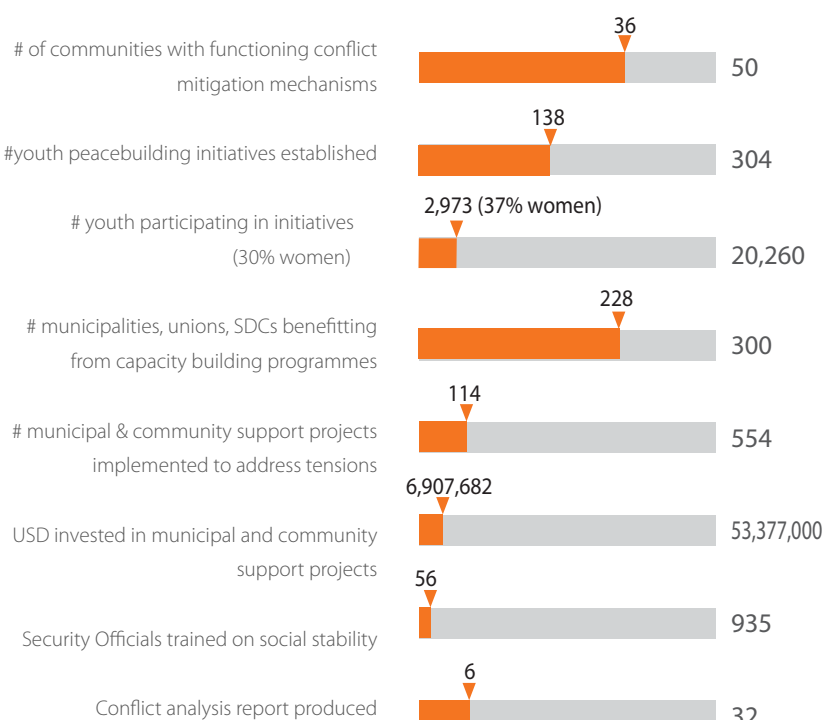
PARTNERS 15 in Lebanon

count of partners per
area of operation

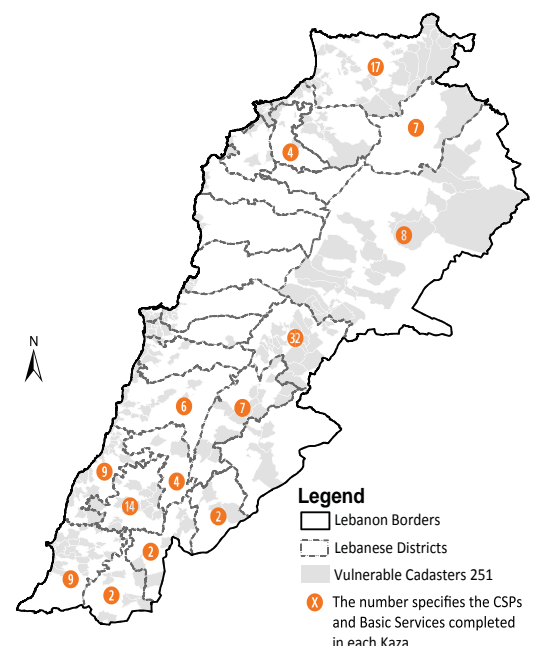


PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

January - June progress



Completed Community and Municipal Support Projects





Situation analysis and change in context

The context in terms of social stability and inter-community tensions has generally remained stable over the first five months of 2015. Recent assessments paint a complex picture of tensions. In a recent survey, up to 91% of host communities consider that the presence of Syrian refugees poses a security threat. However, they also do not necessarily report that this is a rising trend. An overwhelming majority of respondents consider the situation stable, and perceptions of the other communities remains 'neutral' or 'positive'. In the most affected communities, social fragmentation (multiple causes of division within and among communities) and lack of confidence in public institutions remain the primary potential source of tensions. Pressure on resources is affected by seasonal variations (access to water generating more tensions over the summer, access to shelter in the winter), but competition for jobs is of primary concern. This is exacerbated by high distrust and increased segregation of communities outside of daily economic interaction. Restrictions on the refugees remain common, with data collected suggesting that where such guidelines have been established for displaced populations, they have strong support from hosting communities.

The work of the social stability sector remains entirely dedicated to tackling both the cause and the expressions of tensions, and has a complementary role to other sectors. Evidence of the impact of the work of the sector is emerging. A recently concluded impact assessment by AKTIS strategy of DFID funded projects implemented by UNDP showed that support to municipal services have reduced the sense of conflict in targeted communities increased the sense of cooperation between residents, and enhanced perceptions of the capability of municipalities. A lessons learnt workshop also demonstrated that training and capacity building on conflict resolution provided to staff of public institutions such as health centres were also successful in changing attitudes and behaviour of individuals, relationship between community members, and institutional practices towards more tolerance, and a better ability to deal with tensions.

This provides solid ground for the work of the sector for the rest of the year. In the first half of 2015, partners have been particularly successful in community mobilization initiatives, bridging the gap between communities and between communities and institutions. The importance of the 111 participatory planning processes engaging 1,578 host community members to enhance the ability of municipalities to identify and respond to needs cannot be underestimated - in particular the 96 of these processes led by the ministry of social affairs. This is the first time that such activities happen on such scale in Lebanon and this is a crucial support to the decentralization of the country. 114 projects targeting sources of tensions identified through these processes have already been completed, complementing the work of other sectors notably by addressing needs around infrastructure repair (23 projects) or construction of recreational spaces (15 projects). However, there is a need to maintain this level of effort and complement them with capacity building programmes to sustain these gains. The sector has been struggling to expand existing capacity building and support programmes significantly compared to last year, with only 71 new municipalities receiving additional support on top of the 140 supported previously. Recent impact assessments have also shown the risk of raising residents' expectations through these project, which if not sustained through new projects might make the situation worse than it was prior to interventions. New needs are also continuously emerging – for example, the recent fires in Informal Settlements also illustrated the lack of fire response capacities by local municipalities.

The work of the sector to engage community members and in particular youth in peacebuilding initiatives remains globally on track. Other key areas of intervention such as working with municipal police is only being initiated and will take time to show results.

The sector has also remained active in supporting other sectors contribution to social stability. 6 new reports providing up to date and context specific analysis of particular hotspots were produced so far this year, highlighting structural and pre-existing challenges that partners need to take into account in their interventions to be conflict sensitive. Yet a recent inter-agency survey on social stability mainstreaming showed that if partners claimed having a good level of information on conflict trends and issues, only a third of them had a mechanism in place to ensure their programmes were conflict sensitive. The sector will organize trainings on conflict-sensitive programming to address this challenge and collect lessons learnt on promoting social stability to further guide partners' interventions.