

HIGHLIGHTS

- National ownership of government through development and implementation of MoSA National Plan for Children and Women, which delivers multiple child protection services through Social Development Centres, and provides greater investment into community-level hubs and structures to strengthen referral mechanisms.
- Development and endorsement of standardized tools for psychosocial support programmes (PSS) to reduce duplication and ensure similar and consistent approaches and delivery of quality programming across Lebanon. Tools include: Focus group discussion guides for use with children, caregivers, and animators; checklists to ensure safety and quality of activity sites; standardized job descriptions for animators; and memoranda of understanding for property use.
- Agreement and endorsement by all sector members to use internationally validated tool (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire) to measure improvements in psychosocial wellbeing in children participating in structured PSS programmes.
 - To date, over 73,000 girls and boys have participated in structured psychosocial activities: those are programmes with a regular, recurring interval over a period of time that engage the children in a structure curriculum or programme.
- Coordinated approach to systems-building, linking emergency response and longer-term development programming from an early stage.
 - For example, 'emergency' alternative care work will be the first steps to a multi-pronged approach to developing a long-term alternative care system for Lebanon.
- Strong capacity building programmes open to all organizations have resulted in high-quality case management coaching programmes available to all case workers, providing consistent and shared learning. The practical guidance for case management and the capacity building of actors has been developed in line with the national law and will be fully integrated and factored in the national standards operations procedures and its case management tool.
- Sector agreement and initiation of the process to contextualize the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.



FUNDING

(in Million \$)



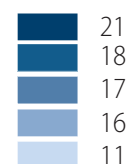
PEOPLE

Target



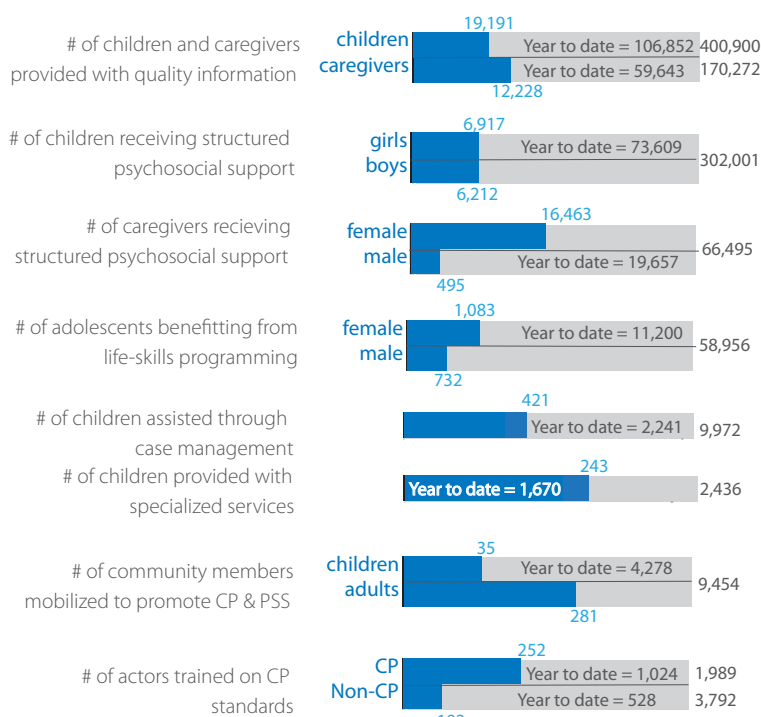
PARTNERS

31 partners in Lebanon
Count of partners per area of operation



PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

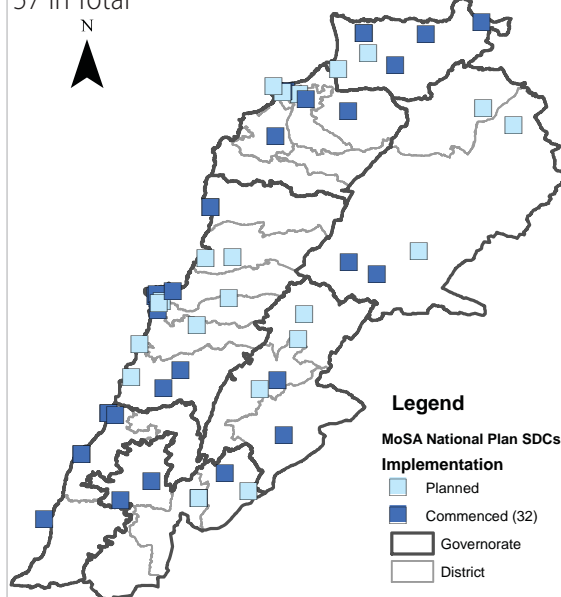
January - June progress



MoSA National Plan

Social Development Centres (SDCs)

57 in Total



Commenced: Tarik El Jdeideh , Mazraa, Msaybeh, Borj el Barajineh, Borj Hammoud, Baakleen, Anout, Choueifat, Bab el Tebbeneh, Donniyeh, Bakhoun, Qobbah, Wadi Khaled, Bireh, Rahbeh, Hissa, Qob Elias (sub-center), Rafid (sub-center), Rachaya el Wadi, Talia, Chmestar, Kfarsir, Hasbaya, Bint Jbeil , Nabatiyyeh, Marjeyoun, Saïda, Sarafand, Beysarieh, Tyr , Shehabiyeh, Haret Saïda
Planned: Chiyah, Gobeiry , Salima, Achkout, Aley, Barja, Haret ElNehmeh, Hay ElSellom, Jbeil, Jounieh, Sahit el Nejme, Mina, Minieh, Halba, Bebnin, Hermel, Zahle (Howch el Oumara), Jeb Jennine, Baalbak, Marj, Qaa, Khiam, Shebaa, Mays El Jabal



Situation analysis and change in context

There have been several notable shifts in 2015 to the protection context within Lebanon that are having significant impacts on children and the ability of families, communities, and child protection actors alike to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

The change in regulations for admission for Syrians introduced in January 2015, and similar to those in place for Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) since May 2014, have reportedly contributed to an increased number of unaccompanied children – that is children living on their own, having been separated from their parents and other relatives who would normally care for them. Separations are resulting from children in Syria being unable to join their parents already in Lebanon, unaccompanied children unable to seek protection in Lebanon, or parents who are in Syria – either because they initially remained or they returned briefly – who are now unable to re-enter Lebanon. Unaccompanied children are especially vulnerable and at increasing risk of abuse and exploitation.

In addition, changes in the registration policy and renewal status of Syrians and PRS alike are negatively impacting children. The lack of legal status, including for the majority of Palestinians, has resulted in reduced mobility for fear of being stopped and receiving deportation orders. This impacts the ability of children and their families to access essential services, like health and mental health programmes. For newborn infants, it prevents their parents from registering their births, which impacts their ability to access services in the near-term, and has long-term consequences on their life outcomes. There is an increased need for mobile services and outreach, particularly those in the most vulnerable and hard to reach communities.

The limited mobility of parents is restricting their ability to work and access livelihoods opportunities. Consequently, parents are reduced to sending their children to work instead, placing on them the burden of taking on the role of primary breadwinners. With renewals for Syrians being tied to signing a pledge not to work for anyone over age 15, child protection actors report that younger and younger children are being sent to work to support their families.

The need to send children to work is in some cases contributing to secondary separations as children commute long distances to urban areas in order to work. These issues are increasing and the ability of child protection actors to address them comprehensively is limited without greater availability of livelihood opportunities for parents, and social protection programmes to support vulnerable families. Reduced funding for humanitarian assistance that considers the specific needs of children will only exacerbate these issues.

Changes in the security sector, including raids, arbitrary arrests, and evictions on informal settlements, are increasing distress on children and creating new risks for adolescents in particular. Families are experiencing multiple displacements, and children are losing the fragile stability and consistency of surroundings, place, and people that provides them a sense of safety and security. All these compounded changes have created new operational challenges for child protection actors, making children harder to reach, more vulnerable to specific, acute risks, and weakening the overall protective environment.

Progress to date

Child protection actors are progressing on implementation of the LCRP, noting the major constraints of a diminishing protection space and funding availability. The MoSA National Plan, which plans to provide health and child protection services for children and women in 57 Social Development Centers (SDCs), is currently being implemented in 32 SDCs across Lebanon. Of these, 23 SDCs have child protection case management and specialized services. For the remaining 25 SDCs, Local Action Plans are under development that include capacity building plans for the SDC and its staff.

Child protection actors continue to provide services available to all vulnerable children in need in Lebanon. Since January, 1,427 children have accessed specialized services through case management, of whom 57% are Syrian, 26% are Lebanese, and 17% are Palestinian. Over 59,000 children have participated in structured psychosocial support programmes. Of these, 75% of children are Syrian, 8% are Lebanese, and 8% and 9% are Palestine Refugees from Syria and Lebanon, respectively. However, there are geographical disparities between these.



Both adolescent boys and girls are participating in structured PSS and life-skills programmes, with slightly more girls than boys in each: of 12,709 adolescents in structured PSS programmes, 55% are girls and 45% boys. Similarly, of the 9,946 adolescents participating in life-skills programmes, 59% are girls and 41% boys.

In support of capacity building and systems strengthening initiatives, highly technical trainings focused on skills needed to work with complex case management cases have been undertaken with 198 social workers, of whom 82% are Lebanese. In addition, 692 child protection actors and 327 non-child protection actors have received training in areas such as how to do safe identification and referral of children and other technical areas..