

1. Protection (Child Protection / SGBV)

- The Lebanese General Directorate of General Security (GSO) has confirmed the lifting of the pledge not to work as part of the residency renewal requirements, and its replacement with a pledge to abide by Lebanese laws; the USD 200 fees remain. This new requirement is being progressively implemented. In addition, advocacy remains on ensuring that all GSO offices accept UNHCR registration certificates instead of sponsors, which is reported to be a means of exploitation.
- Following the aftermath of the Al Qaa attacks and the negative media reports concerning refugees, the Protection and Social Stability Sectors developed key messages on xenophobia to be used as an advocacy tool in the host communities, and with key Government and civil society actors. The messages recognize the generosity of the Lebanese government and people; note that it is more important than ever that the communities stand together in the face of divisive forces, who promote chaos and poverty rather than peace and prosperity; and, that both the Lebanese and Syrian communities share the same desire to live in peace.
- In collaboration with the Protection Sector, HelpAge International carried-out a training on the “Inclusion and Protection of Older People in Emergencies.” The two-day training included both frontline workers and program managers from protection partners and resulted in strengthening the participants’ ability to identify key protection needs of elderly during periods of crisis and for partner programmes to be older people-sensitive. Due to the Syrian refugee crisis, traditional family structures have often collapsed, leaving some elderly persons neglected and in a vulnerable situation without adequate care. Training will help bridge gaps between the need for specialized care arrangements (i.e. hygiene, help with every day chores, companionship, and preparation of meals) and rehabilitation, and current services provided by agencies and NGOs.
- Under the “Investing in Teenage Girls” theme, the 12 July World Population Day was marked by: rally papers in Chouf Area; youth peer support events in Saida and Qob Elias, individualized sensitization in Jezzine; and video spot against early marriage launched over social media. These initiatives highlighted the importance of empowering adolescent girls and increasing their participation in the development of their communities.

2. Health

- In collaboration with UNHCR, the MoPH Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (ESU) conducted trainings targeting health and general Outreach Volunteers (OVs) to raise their awareness on Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP), Measles and Cholera and to support them in the identification and referral of suspected cases within

their communities. This initiative also helps in enhancing the reporting of other communicable diseases and the surveillance system.

- The preliminary results of the 2016 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR, 2016) indicate that out of the total population that needed access to primary health care, 83% were able to access care. With respect to the malnutrition status of refugee children, results of the assessment showed that the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) among Syrian children age 6-59 months seemed to be stable at around 2%, which falls under the “Acceptable” category under the WHO Crisis Classification system.
- The Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) conducted a medical mission in the North and Bekaa areas through which 515 Syrian refugees received a medical consultation and 81 Syrian refugees underwent surgery free of charge. Specialties covered as part of the mission included urology, cardiology, gastroenterology, Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT), oncology, pulmonology as well as pediatrics.
- 200 front-liners were trained on the MoPH National Mental Health Programme Crisis Management Protocols. These protocols provide guidance to frontline humanitarian staff on how to best assist persons in crisis in a safe and supportive manner, determine their most pressing concern, and activate the mechanisms that can most appropriately address that concern.

3. Education

- Preparations for the Back-to-School Initiative continued in July through outreach planning workshops and follow up meetings held with education partners across the country. Initial outreach plans were developed and sector partners jointly agreed on a distribution of geographical areas to best ensure that all outreach capacities be expanded and all geographical areas covered. Two BTS Orientation Workshops were also organized for organizations planning to be involved in outreach, one for education partners and one for the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE).
- For the new school year, it is expected that the number of second shift schools will increase and thus improve the access to education for refugees and vulnerable Lebanese children and youth.
- Summer programs, summer language classes and reading clubs are taking place in learning centers and refugee communities all over the country motivating and preparing the children to (re-) enroll in school in the 2016/17 school year.
- The third Higher Education roundtable was held to prepare for the next academic year. The meeting focused on outreach and data sharing. The mapping of Higher Education opportunities was updated and a mapping on the partners outreach capacities was undertaken.

- A second meeting took place of the NGO Sub-Committee. Led by the Head of the PMU, the committee is currently finalizing its TORs and role which conceivably includes community mobilization and data collection from the field.

4. Basic Assistance

- The Basic Assistance sector in consultations with different partners and stakeholders endorsed the new targeting approach. The new approach uses demographic variables based on the biodata collected during the registration process to allow an immediate scoring and ranking of total registered refugee population at once without the need for further households' visits. Accordingly, 71% of the total refugee populations were identified as poor and therefore eligible for assistance. The sector will be prioritizing the poorest threshold corresponding to 50% of the population. The new approach allows predicting the overall economic vulnerability of the total registered population based on pre-selected indicators from the registration database - ProGress. The operationalization of the new approach will implicate the immediate inclusion of 10,000 households in cash assistance as of August 2016 and the discontinuation of a least vulnerable group. The sector, and with support from Protection, is also finalizing a communication strategy that should couple the roll out of the new system. Further, a referrals pathway and qualitative appeal mechanisms have to be defined to make sure no poor family is left behind.

5. Food security

- In July, 721,460 persons were reached with food assistance through various modalities (such as vouchers/cash/in-kind). Beneficiaries assisted include 637,187 displaced Syrians, reached through e-cards (99%) and vouchers. 39,167 Palestine refugees from Syria were provided with food assistance through ATM cards and 2,896 with vouchers. 344 Palestine refugees in Lebanon were assisted through vouchers. 27,208 vulnerable Lebanese were also supported by the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). In-kind food parcels and hot meals were provided to complement the food assistance to more than 14,658 refugees and host communities. Among those assisted, 125 households were served through community kitchens. During the period of Ramadan, 14 partners distributed assistance (food and cash-based) to approximately 76,000 individuals between Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese across the country
- During the regular Food Security Sector working group meeting, FAO presented the ongoing studies on child labour in the agriculture sector in Lebanon. The recently produced manual, guidelines and legislation were presented to the partners given the fact that the agriculture sector is considered a key sector offering employment of opportunities to Syrians refugees.

- As a result of the H5N1 April outbreak in Nabi Sheit/Saraain, MoA updated partners on the Government response to avoid the further spread of the virus. This included monitoring farms that could have the virus, ensuring that workers dealing with poultry have appropriate protection and that sick animals are slaughtered. Given the fact the sector partners may be interested in investing in poultry as a possible livelihood opportunity for vulnerable population it is particularly important to ensure that partners follow MoA instructions and precaution measures to safe guard production and avoid worsening of the situation.

6. Shelter

- The VASyr 2016 preliminary findings released in July 2016 indicated no major change in the shelter distribution of the refugee population. While almost 60% of the refugee households live in apartments, the remaining 40% are scattered in informal settlements and substandard buildings. The biggest load of refugee households living in Informal Settlements is concentrated in Bekaa, Baalbeck-Hermel, and Akkar. The VASyr findings indicate also that 12% of the refugee households changed their accommodation in the six past months mainly because of non-affordable rent, evictions, overcrowding, and bad shelter conditions.
- In July, around 11,000 living in substandard vulnerable people were assisted to improve their shelter conditions to better standards. 3,000 living in substandard buildings had their shelter rehabilitated, and around 8,000 living in informal settlements had their shelters weatherproofed or their sites improved against floods and other risks.

7. Energy and Water

- The Ministry of Energy and Water has undertaken a mid-year review of funding progress by projects of sector partners which has highlighted that only 9% of the USD 391m appeal amount has been received since the beginning of 2016, furthermore only 20% of this is addressing stabilisation needs. Priority infrastructure projects have therefore been identified in critical localities and the necessary tender documents have been prepared to enable rapid implementation.
- South Lebanon Water Establishment has been working with the Ministry of Environment and sector partners to design improved wastewater management systems in the Marj El Khokh Informal Settlement in Marjeoun. Final review is being undertaken by the Ministry of Energy and Water. The new design using removable septic systems will significantly reduce the risk of water-borne disease and pollution to the environment in particular the underground water resources which are part of the local water supply.
- Assessments of the sanitation situation were carried out by the sector partners that are providing WASH support to around 1,600 people in four Informal Settlements in Zahle Caza, Bekaa. This is in response to concerns raised

by the Ministry of Environment through the concerned municipalities of environmental pollution from wastewater and solid waste from these sites. Site plans are being prepared with topographical surveys in order to design the improved sanitation systems.

- A total of 126 HHs (530 people) were evicted from Informal Settlements in Akkar and Miniyeh. Partners have implemented the emergency WASH assistance and gradually started the full WASH support which shall be completed during August.

8. Livelihoods

- Livelihoods partners are reviewing the sector's key achievements under the LCRP 2015-2016 and exploring the way forward towards 2017-2020. While short-term activities remain strong with 23,000 direct beneficiaries since 2015, longer-term activities are developing, with a 60% increase in support to small business (467 in total, with 1.1m USD in financial support provided) and the strengthening of seven value chains. One of the key challenges identified, in addition to the chronic underfunding of the sector, is the limited engagement of the private sector in the response.
- A private sector engagement mapping exercise has been conducted by MoSA to assess the support provided so far to Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and value chains by LCRP partners and scale up their collaboration. Overall, 1,055 engagements of private sector in livelihood programming were reported by partners so far). The key objective, beyond information sharing, is to enhance the design of activities and install recommendations to improve the private sector engagement for more impactful livelihood programming.

9. Social Stability

- The Maps of Risks and Resources (MRR) are being released following the launch ceremony organized at the Grand Serail on 11 July 2016 under the leadership of MOSA. The MRR is a participatory conflict-sensitive methodology which engages the municipalities and the communities in a development dialogue to identify local priorities. The MRR and the list of villages, key results and poverty data are accessible either through MOSA website (www.socialaffairs.gov.lb) or through <http://4wslebanon.net:8080/lhsp/portal>.
- Under the frame of the LCRP planning process, the sector is reviewing progress to date and perspectives for 2017-2020. The aim is notably to identify the main issues to address in social stability programming and explore ways in which to overcome them in the next period, in particular through increased engagement with the Government. Results to date indicate that the sector's support to municipalities remains strong, with 518 projects worth 22mUSD since 2014, MRR in 251 cadastres and 50 municipalities receiving capacity building support. In addition, softer activities are being scaled up with over 7,000 youth and children

participating in 280 initiatives and no less than 65 dialogue mechanisms ongoing. The sector remains nevertheless one of the most underfunded within the response, which will most probably impact the sector's achievements under the next four-year plan.

- International Alert and Lebanon Support have released a research report entitled "Crisis and Control: (In)Formal Hybrid Security in Lebanon" which analyses the respective role played by formal and informal security providers. The report highlights the importance of scaling up the support provided to security forces to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of security services across the country.