

1. Protection (Child Protection / SGBV)

- Due to their irregular residency status, and as a consequence, their self-imposed reduction of movements, refugees continue to face difficulties in accessing legal counselling and assistance services provided by partners. As such, partners have increased mobile outreach services by providing legal counselling including on legal residency renewal and birth and marriage documentation. Also, in the Bekaa, a mobile Sharia court was piloted by a Protection Sector partner for marriage registration and establishment of kinship (required for birth registration), which has helped address the documentation needs of refugees; a total of 20 cases benefited from this exercise. The mobile Sharia court has proven to be an effective mechanism in reaching out to individuals who are unable to move freely due to lack of residency permits.
- 170 newly elected Mukhtars benefited from partner-run workshops to understand better their role with respect to the issuance of birth and marriage certificates for refugees and the specific obstacles that the latter face. Mukhtars made several recommendations, with respect to the fees attached to the issuing of civil documentation and additional support they may require to perform their duties efficiently.
- New Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) on SGBV Prevention and Response in Lebanon have been rolled-out in Lebanon. The SOPs illustrate how protection partners must coordinate referrals of SGBV survivors to ensure safe, timely, and appropriate (survivors-centered) interventions, including legal, medical assistance and emotional support. Main survivors of violence involve cases of domestic violence, including sexual abuse, as well as early and forced marriages. SGBV prevention measures will include the mobilization of religious and community leaders to promote protection of women and girls and to speak out against SGBV. This includes informing them about the health-related risks related to early pregnancy, the limitations that such marriages have on girls' access to education and other potential risks related to domestic violence. Through these opinion-makers, it is expected that refugees will have a better understanding of the risks associated with early marriage.
- Partners involved in engaging with Youth on Gender Equality and SGBV prevention celebrated the International Youth Day (IYD) on 12 August. Activities were organized around Lebanon by the Youth Peer Educators, such as a painting exhibition in Chouf area, street performances in Saida and peer-to-peer sensitization activities in Jezzine. The activities provided an opportunity for Syrian refugee and Lebanese youth to socialize with one another, helping to break any barriers, while promoting tolerance and social stability.
- Efforts have continued in capacitating MoSA Social Development Centres for effective child protection prevention and response services. From January to July

2016, 150,805 children and caregivers have been sensitized on child protection and psycho-social support. 89,012 girls and boys have benefitted from structured PSS and life skills programs, and high-risk children have received focused PSS programs.

2. Health

- In the context of the OCHA Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) 2nd Allocation for 2016, 3 projects by IOM, IMC, and Relief International, were recommended and approved for funding out of 16 projects submitted. The projects aim at increasing access to primary health care through the provision of support to 20 health centers (MoPH-PHCs and dispensaries) in the North (8 centers), Beirut/Mount Lebanon (7 centers), the South (4 centers) and the Bekaa (1 center). Beneficiaries of the project are primarily Syrian refugees, regardless of registration status, as well as members of the Lebanese host community depending on various vulnerability criteria. In partnership with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and UNFPA, the Lebanese Order of Obstetrics & Gynecology conducted 11 trainings on the newly developed Service Delivery Guidelines for Reproductive Health targeting a total of 291 individuals; 226 medical and paramedical staff from MoPH and 65 staff from academic institutions. The expected impact of the training is that PHC beneficiaries will receive reproductive health services in a standardized way, regardless of their entry-point.
- The UNHCR/Medivisa network of contracted hospitals was expanded; refugees can now access the Baalback governmental hospital as well as the Lebanon Heart Hospital in Koura.
- Through the EU Neighborhood Fund, WHO and MoPH in partnership with YMCA implemented refresher training workshops on the rational use of medicines, the management of medicines and the role of health workers for 178 doctors, pharmacists and health care workers in PHCs benefiting from chronic medications through YMCA. The trainings aimed to address medication mismanagement observed in some centers.

3. Education

- In August, preparations continued for the Back-to-School (BTS) Initiative to be launched in September. The outreach and capacity mapping initiated in June was finalized and all areas in Lebanon are now covered by at least one partner committed to do outreach. In total 34 partners have made a commitment to refer children in their area to formal public education for the school year 2016/2017. Trainings on 'Interpersonal Communication and Social Mobilization' were rolled out in August throughout the country to build the capacity of front line workers that will be part of the outreach.
- The final list of second shift schools was published, as well as the Q&A, the advocacy tool, the front liner tool

and the transportation note. For the new school year 330 schools will open for the number of second shift. This is a significant increase compared to the 238 schools last year, allowing for an increased access to education for refugees and vulnerable Lebanese children and youth.

- The enrollment and start of classes for the academic year 2016-2017 for Lebanese and refugee children in public schools is ongoing in both first and second shift classes. Public education that will start in September for this academic year is also free of charge (Basic and Secondary). The financial assistance provided by UN agencies will cover enrollment (i.e., parents' contribution into school fund and parents' council fund) in Lebanese public schools and is provided directly to the Ministry of Education. Students between 13 and 24 years old, who have completed Grade 7, can also enroll for free in public vocational and technical schools where vocational classes are available and certified by the Government of Lebanon.

4. Basic Assistance

- In August, the Basic Assistance sector started operationalizing the new targeting approach – based on the proGres desk formula – as a way forward for targeting for cash assistance. As a result, around 7000 households were included/identified in the August caseload bringing the total number of households receiving cash assistance to 46,000 – 19% of the total registered population. In addition, more than 160,000 poor refugee households were identified for winter targeting.
- A 6 months' roll out phase was proposed that includes inclusion of 10,000 newly identified households, discontinuation of around 6000 households, establishment of referrals and appeals mechanisms, as well as a communications strategy.
- By the end of the year, the sector expects to finish this roll out phase, and assist 25% of the total registered population – 55,000 households – with multi-purpose cash. All newly included families are severely vulnerable and have the lowest economic scores according the ranking made by the desk formula.

5. Food security

- In August, 720,690 persons were reached with food assistance through various modalities (such as vouchers/cash/in-kind). Beneficiaries assisted include 642,491 displaced Syrians, reached through e-cards (99%) and vouchers. 28,596 Palestine refugees from Syria were provided with food assistance through ATM cards and 2,928 with vouchers. 504 Palestine refugees in Lebanon were assisted through vouchers. In July 2016, WFP has received a contribution from Germany for funding the food voucher component of NPTP. Based on the decision taken in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the NPTP number of beneficiaries will be gradually increased. As a result, in August 32,316

vulnerable Lebanese were 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 13,855 refugees and host communities.

- The Food Security Sector (FSS) sector conducted an exercise to capture the most up to date information on the funds received by each partners as per the sector established priorities. The aim of this exercise is to develop a stronger advocacy message to ensure that the proper funding is allocated to cover all sector established goals as well as improve accountability for the provided funds against implemented operations.
- The FSS is currently setting up what will be the FS Sector steering committee per agreements with the Government of Lebanon (GoL). The FSS steering committee will be the highest decision making body of the sector reviewing the sector strategy and will be monitoring the sector's performance. To date FAO, WFP and IOCC accepted to be part of the steering committee.
- The FSS working group responded to the eviction incident that occurred in the North by activating its contingency plan of internal displacement. More than 160 evicted households were provided with food parcels by two FS partners, 79 in Bebnine and Mhammara by the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) and 57 in Bhannine by Dar El -Fatwa (DAF).

6. Shelter

- The month of August witnessed several eviction cases, mainly in the North, where some 170 HH (approx. 1,000 individuals) were forced to move from seven informal settlements located in Minieh (Tripoli area). The majority of the affected households have been assisted by the shelter partners through the provision of shelter materials. Those who couldn't find relocation land (mainly in Bhanine and Mhamara), are hosted by Lebanese families, staying with relatives or temporarily renting shelter in substandard buildings.
- Shelter partners are continuing to assist vulnerable families living in substandard buildings through rehabilitation activities. In preparation of the upcoming winter season, shelter partners are finalizing the needs assessment in informal settlements where vulnerable families will be assisted through distribution of various weatherproofing kits.
- In collaboration with the Directorate General of Civil Defense, a national fire risk reduction assessment was conducted through an international consultant named Operations Florian. This initiative, led by SCI, aims to review and strengthen resources and mechanisms in place to better prevent fire incidents and mitigate such risks for vulnerable groups living in substandard accommodations. In addition, this exercise raises awareness among different actors and sectors for recommendations and efforts towards fire prevention. The preliminary findings and recommendations presented to the fire risk reduction task force are

related to collaboration and coordination among stakeholders, planning and preparedness, prevention and mitigation measures, and response mechanism.

- The shelter sector is also analyzing the 2016 VaSyR findings to refine its planning figures for the upcoming gap analysis, in preparation of the winter and the shelter sector strategy for the LCRP 2017 – 2020.

7. Energy and Water

- Two Environment projects with a total budget of 1.8M, 1 Energy project (1.1M) and three Water and Wastewater projects (3.5M) will shortly commence implementation to address priorities and gaps in the sector through the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund.
- 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 (IS) 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. Several options will need to be considered due to the many site specific constraints, including limited space and high water table. In the agricultural lands in Zahle Maalaqa and Haouche El Oumara the Zahle municipality is not collecting solid waste from the IS. Partners, MoE and MOSA are collaborating with the municipality to find solutions. Community mobilization and awareness sessions will be implemented by partners in the IS to encourage the refugees to pay for waste collection by the municipality.
- There is a gap in WASH services for approximately 3000 individuals in Aarsal and two partners are completing discussions with donors and assessing if they can provide assistance.
- A number of Informal Settlement sites were evicted during August, which affected almost 1000 individuals in Minnieh. Evictees moved to 16 new & existing sites in Mhammara & Bebnine in Akkar & in Zouk Bhanine in the North. E&W partners provided emergency intervention for the newly established sites in Mhammara & Bebnine in Akkar whilst full interventions in Zouk Bhanine are on-hold waiting the approval of local authorities. In order to unify the response during emergencies, the field working group developed an SOP for WASH emergency response focusing on evictions.
- Water quality issues are being faced in several locations. In Sarasir Informal Settlement (Saida District) for example, water bacteriological contamination was related to several health cases i.e. diarrhea, abdominal pain. Action is taken on case by case basis. Guidance material on water quality is also under development, initiated in the Bekaa field working group. The group has also developed a Winter Preparedness Plan which begins in September and will run until the end of

March 2017. This plan aims at mitigating flood risks, communicating important awareness messages, and ensuring vital services are provided in timely manner to refugees in case of storm or flood

8. Livelihoods

- The Livelihoods sector reached its highest number of active partners to date with 23 organizations reporting implementing activities in over 224 vulnerable cadasters. However, progress in the summer months has been quite uneven, and has primarily focused on accelerated skills training programmes. The sector has doubled its progress to date over the last two months, with over 7,000 beneficiaries reached (which is already 66% more than in 2015). Interestingly, there is also a rebalancing of the gender of these beneficiaries – while traditionally 85% of beneficiaries were women, the current proportion is down to 70%, due notably to a diversification of the courses offered by partners.
- Livelihoods partners also started brainstorming on the sector strategy for the next phase of the LCRP. One of the main recommendations from partners was to use the “graduating out of poverty” approach to address the multiple constraints of the extreme poor and help them move out of poverty by sequencing support from basic assistance to entrepreneurship or other livelihoods support. This would also strengthen the link with the government since the National Poverty Targeting Programme is already using this approach.
- IRC published ‘Finding Economic Opportunities in the City’ looking at cash and livelihoods interventions in Urban contexts in Lebanon, which remains a gap in the current sector’s response. Recommendations include the need for bundled, flexible, and creative programmes, striving to achieve multiple outcomes. Collaboration and trust building with local, municipal, community-based, and private sector actors support efficiency, sustainability and adapt programmes to the local context.

9. Social Stability

- The Bekaa, North, and South field working group presented in the last national coordination meeting the outcome of an exercise to map ‘areas of tensions’ at field level (the Mount Lebanon Working Group is initiating a similar exercise). The aim of this process conducted over the past few months was to build on partners’ knowledge of their areas of interventions to build a joint analysis of which municipalities experience more social tensions and the reasons behind this. Pressure on resources and competition for jobs were the more commonly identified source of tensions but the lack of interaction between communities as well as pre-existing political/religious divisions are also an important factor. Due to the sensitivity of the exercise, results/maps are only available upon request to national/regional coordinators.

- Preparing for the start of the planning process for 2017-2020, social stability working groups initiated a brainstorming on changes in the sector strategy for the forthcoming years. Partners stressed the importance of demonstrating impact of interventions on social stability, as well as the need for closer engagement and work with local civil society networks such as the Lebanese Red Cross and the Lebanese Scouts. In terms of programmatic interventions, one suggestion was to refine the work of the sector with youth, differentiating initiatives building on the positive contribution of youth to civil society from the ones targeting youth-at-risk (of engaging in violence and/or risky behavior such as drugs), which should be of a more preventive nature.