# Lebanon Crisis Response Plan

*Annual Report 2019*

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

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# List of acronyms

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3RP | : | Refugee-Resilience Response |
| AAP | : | Accountability to Affected Populations |
| AFP | : | Acute Flaccid Paralysis |
| ALP | : | Accelerated Learning Programme |
| AMR | : | Antimicrobial Resistance |
| BML | : | Beirut Mount Lebanon |
| BMZ | : | Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| CAS | : | Central Administration of Statistics |
| CB-ECE | : | Community-Based Early Childhood Education |
| CBRN | : | Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear |
| CERD | : | Curriculum Development, Training and Research |
| CNRS | : | National Council for Scientific Research |
| CPIMS | : | The Child Protection Information Management System |
| DGPS | : | The Directorate General of Personal Status |
| DOPS | : | Department of Scholar Pedagogy |
| DRM | : | Disaster Risk Management |
| DRR | : | Disaster Risk Reduction |
| DRRM | : | Disaster Risk Reduction and Management |
| ECHO | : | European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations |
| EPHRP | : | The Emergency Primary Healthcare Restoration Project |
| EPI | : | Programme on Immunization |
| EU | : | European Union |
| FAO | : | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FBS | : | Farmer Business School |
| FSS | : | Food Security Sector |
| GBV | : | Gender-Based Violence |
| GBVIMS | : | Gender-Based Violence Information Management System |
| GDE/DOPS | : | General Directorate of Education/Department of Scholar Pedagogy |
| GIS | : | Geographic information system |
| GRF | : | Global Refugee Forum |
| GSO | : | General Security Office |
| HCT | : | Humanitarian Country Team |
| HDC | : | Higher Defense Council |
| HH | : | Household |
| HIS | : | Health Information System |
| IA | : | Inter-Agency |
| ILO | : | International Labour Organization |
| INGO | : | International Non-Governmental Organization |
| IPV | : | Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) |
| IS | : | Informal settlement |
| ISF | : | Internal Security Forces |
| ISO | : | International Organization for Standardization |
| ISWM | : | Integrated Solid Waste Management |
| IYCF | : | Infant & Young Child Feeding |
| LAF | : | Lebanese Armed Forces |
| LARI | : | Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute |
| LBP | : | Lebanese Pound |
| LCRP | : | Lebanon Crisis Response Plan |
| LGBTI | : | lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LOUISE | : | Lebanon One Unified Inter-Organizational System for E-cards |
| M&E | : | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MEB | : | Minimum expenditure basket |
| MEHE | : | Ministry of Education and Higher Education |
| MERA | : | Mobile EPI Registry Application |
| MHPSS | : | Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support |
| MMR | : | Maternal Mortality Rate |
| MMU | : | Mobile Medical Units |
| MNCAH | : | Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health |
| MoA | : | Ministry of Agriculture |
| MoE | : | Ministry of Environment |
| MoET | : | Ministry of Economy and Trade |
| MoEW | : | Ministry of Energy and Water |
| MoIM | : | Ministry of Interior and Municipalities |
| MoL | : | Ministry of Labour |
| MoPH | : | Ministry of Public Health |
| MoSA | : | Ministry of Social Affairs |
| MPC | : | Multi-Purpose Cash |
| MSMEs | : | Micro Small and Medium Enterprises |
| MSR | : | Mechanisms for Stability and Resilience |
| MSS | : | Mechanisms for Social Stability |
| NCD | : | Non-communicable diseases |
| NCLW | : | National Commission for Lebanese Women |
| NFE | : | Non-Formal Education |
| NGO | : | Non-governmental organization |
| NLWE | : | North Lebanon Water Establishment |
| NMR | : | Neonatal Mortality Rate |
| NOR | : | National Operation Room |
| NPTP | : | National Poverty Targeting Programme |
| NSSF | : | National Social Security Fund |
| NSSP | : | National Social Solidarity Programme |
| NYP | : | National Youth Policy |
| OCHA | : | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| OOSC | : | Out of School Children |
| OPV | : | Oral Polio Vaccine |
| PCM | : | Presidency of Council of Ministers |
| PDM | : | Post Distribution Monitoring |
| PHCC | : | Primary Health Care Centre |
| PHEOC | : | The Public Health Emergency Operations Center |
| PIST | : | Support to Public Institutions in Lebanon |
| PM-ToT | : | Protection Mainstreaming Training of Trainers |
| PMU | : | Project Management Unit |
| PRL | : | Palestine Refugee in Lebanon |
| PRS | : | Palestine Refugee from Syria |
| PSD | : | Personal Status Department |
| PSEA | : | Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse |
| PSS | : | Psychosocial support |
| PSSC | : | Protection sub-sectoral committee |
| PUI | : | Premiere Urgence Internationale |
| PV | : | Photovoltaics |
| PVE | : | Preventing Violence and Extremism |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PWD | : | People with Disabilities |
| PwSNs | : | Persons with specific needs |
| QMS | : | Quality Management System |
| QTL | : | Quality Teaching and Learning |
| RACE | : | Reach All Children with Education |
| RAIS | : | Refugee Assistance Information System |
| REBAHS | : | Reducing Economic Barriers to Accessing Health Services in Lebanon |
| RH | : | Reproductive Health |
| RHUH | : | The Rafik Hariri University Hospital |
| RIMS | : | Referral Information Management Systems |
| RNA | : | Rapid Needs Assessment |
| RRP | : | Refugee Response Plan |
| RWH | : | Rainwater Harvesting Systems |
| SBCC | : | The emerging Social and Behavioural Change Communication |
| SDC | : | Social Development Centre |
| SDG | : | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SGBV | : | Sexual and Gender-Based Violence |
| SMEB | : | Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket |
| SOP | : | Standard Operating Procedures |
| SWM | : | Solid Waste Management |
| ToT | : | Training of Trainers |
| TVET | : | Technical and Vocational Education and Training |
| UN | : | United Nations |
| UNDP | : | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNEP | : | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNFPA | : | United Nations Populations Fund |
| UNHCR | : | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | : | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNIFIL | : | United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon |
| UNRWA | : | United Nations Relief and Works Agency |
| UNSCOL | : | Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon |
| UNSF | : | United Nations Strategic Framework |
| USD | : | United States Dollar |
| VASYR | : | Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon |
| WASH | : | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene |
| WB | : | World Bank |
| WE | : | Water Establishment |
| WFP | : | World Food Programme |
| WHO | : | World Health Organization |
| YMCA | : | Young Men's Christian Association |

# Executive Summary

Since 2017, the Syria crisis response in Lebanon has been guided by a multi-year Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), jointly developed by the Government of Lebanon (GoL) and the aid community (United Nations, national and international NGOs and donors). The LCRP provides an integrated humanitarian and stabilization framework to support the most vulnerable people affected by the crisis and to address Lebanon's challenges in a holistic and comprehensive manner.

The response aims to ensure protection and provide immediate assistance to the most vulnerable populations, primarily displaced Syrians, Lebanese communities, Palestine refugees in Lebanon and from Syria. It also aims at strengthening the capacity of national and local service delivery systems and expanding access to basic services, while striving to reinforce Lebanon's economic, social, and environmental stability.

**Funding in 2019**

Humanitarian aid flows to Lebanon remained stable in 2019, with $1.43 billion available for programming - including carry-over - towards the $2.62 billion appeal. With 55 percent coverage, the LCRP remains one of the best funded appeals globally. However, in terms of new funding received in 2019, the appeal was funded at 47 percent, leaving a significant gap in partners' capacities to meet needs. While these funds are mainly provided to meet short-term humanitarian and stabilization needs, some progress has been made to ensure more predictability with an increase in multi-year funding from 30 percent in 2018 to 41 percent in 2019. The direct allocation of funds to NGOs remains consistently low, with 4 percent to national NGOs and 18 percent for international NGOs.

Though donors are largely fulfilling their pledges made at the Brussels Conference, a substantial proportion of needs identified under the LCRP remain unmet. The funding of assistance is also unbalanced, with some sectors consistently being prioritized over others, which undermines the ability of the LCRP to provide comprehensive support. Significant and consistent funding gaps persist in the shelter and livelihoods sectors.

Support to public institutions[1] under the LCRP has continuously increased from $171.5 million in 2015 to more than $245 million in 2019. Support provided by local and international NGOs and UN agencies was channelled to the public sector so as to build capacity in service delivery and policy development as well as ensure institutional stability.

Despite a 10 percent decrease in funds, education institutions remained the most supported in 2019, receiving $133.6 million or 54 percent of the total amount provided in support to public institutions. As a result, 444,247 children aged 3-18 years were enrolled in formal education during the 2018-2019 school year.

Unions of Municipalities and municipalities benefited from the largest increase in 2019, receiving $33.7m compared with $26m in 2018. These funds were provided through direct and indirect assistance. Funds provided to Lebanese community projects and municipal projects went for solid waste management, wastewater management, water management, flood risk management, recreational spaces, road infrastructure and community infrastructure. Technical, operational and financial assistance was also provided. In 2019, $8.2 million was channelled through agriculture institutions, a $5.4 million increase compared to 2018.

**Impacts of the economic situation**

The economic situation in Lebanon continued to deteriorate during 2019, leading to increased economic vulnerabilities of refugees and vulnerable Lebanese, loss of employment and income, and higher debt. Poverty and extreme poverty levels among displaced Syrian households have increased. Three in 4 households live below the poverty line and more than half of all households live in extreme poverty.[2] There are high levels of disparity between

1- An overview of support to public institutions has been integrated into the LCRP's annual report this year, rather than published in a separate report. Details of activities are included in the Annex.

2- The percentage of households living under the poverty line (less than US$ 3.8 per day) increased to 73 percent in 2019 (2018: 68 percent), while 55 percent of households lived in extreme poverty (less than US$ 2.9 per day) (2018: 51percent). It should

governorates, with the poverty rates in Akkar, the Bekaa and Baalbek/El Hermel more than twice as high as in Beirut. In addition, some 26 percent of Lebanese households classified themselves as poor or very poor.[3]

Employment for vulnerable populations became an even greater challenge amidst the economic crisis. With LCRP support, some 2,174 Lebanese Micro-, Small- and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives reported increased performance and expanded market access (i.e., new clients, contracts and market access). A total of 4,203 jobs were created or maintained, and 12,000 vulnerable persons were employed through public infrastructure and environmental assets improvement. Despite this progress, unemployment among Syrians increased in 2019 by 9 percent, with 59 percent of Syrian households having at least one family member working during the past seven days (down from 68 percent in 2018). The unemployment rate was higher for Syrian women (37 percent) than for men (30 percent). The main sectors of work for Syrian households remain construction (21 percent) and agriculture (17 percent).

Vulnerable populations faced increasing difficulties to meet their immediate basic needs. Shelter conditions continued to deteriorate in 2019, with 57 percent of Syrian households living in inadequate shelter conditions, compared to 55 percent in 2018. Despite gains made in 2018, access to an improved drinking water source decreased by 3 percent in 2019 to 88 percent of individuals.

Food security improved in the first half of 2019, with 75 percent of individuals food secure or marginally food secure, up from 67 percent in 2018. Inflation and higher food prices cause food security to deteriorate in the last quarter of 2019. The food basket price in WFP-contracted shops, which averaged LBP 37,134 during January-September, reached LBP 48,401 in December 2019. Ten thousand vulnerable Lebanese households, representing 72,000 individuals, received food assistance through NPTP from January to November 2019, while in December food assistance was extended to 12,892 Lebanese households, representing 91,200 individuals.

Under these circumstances, cash-based assistance remains a necessary tool to provide relief to struggling families and prevent a further decline in poverty levels. The multi-purpose cash assistance programme reached 67,777 households in 2019 contributing to alleviating poverty.

It is vital that predictable support to longer-term programmes and more sustainable solutions is stepped up. This is particularly important at a time of great economic uncertainty, where additional investment in social safety nets is as necessary as humanitarian support lifelines.

**Access to services**

The first half of 2019 was marked by an increase in identity controls and arrests, mostly due to a lack of legal residency. Despite the importance of legal stay documents, the percentage of displaced Syrians aged 15 years and older with legal residency continued to decline, from 27 percent in 2018 to 22 percent in 2019. In contrast the rate of official birth registration of refugee children at the Foreigners' Registry continued to increase, with to 30 percent of children born in Lebanon registered in 2019, compared to 21 percent in 2018 and 17 percent in 2017. Further progress is expected in 2020.

The protests and roadblocks in the last quarter of 2019 interrupted public service access across Lebanon. Syrian children's school enrolment remains low, with 69 percent of children aged 6-14 years enrolled in elementary schools and 22 percent of children aged 15-17 years enrolled in secondary schools. Increased transportation and school supply costs hindered enrolment, and children aged 15-17 years faced increasing pressure to work due to the economic situation.

There was a significant increase in demand for primary health care (PHC) services among Syrian families, with 63 percent of households reporting requiring PHC services during the past six months, up from 54 percent in 2018. Some 90 percent of those in need of PHC services received care. The main barrier to accessing both primary and hospital care was by far the cost, including doctors' fees, and treatment and transportation costs. Persons with specific needs also faced challenges to access essential services and livelihoods.

be noted that data for VASyR 2019 was collected in April/May 2019, and economic vulnerabilities have likely risen by year-end.

3- Labour Force and Household Living Conditions Survey 2018-2019 Lebanon, CAS.

**Social stability challenges**

The quality of relations between displaced Syrians and Lebanese communities continued to deteriorate during 2019, with 'competition over lower-skilled jobs' the most-cited factor causing tension, followed by 'competition for services and utilities'. As in 2018, significant concerns were expressed about the level and quality of public services, including medical care and electricity as well as access to jobs. The level of satisfaction with environmental services has steadily declined.

Solid waste management remains critical within the LCRP response, not only in terms of impact on the environment and public health, but also in terms of social stability. Despite policy and guidelines developed at the national level,[4] gaps persist in solid waste management infrastructure and operational capacity. This has resulted in dumping of waste in open sites throughout the country, which has caused environmental risks and tensions between displaced and Lebanese communities.

At the same time, the Environment Task Force (ETF) introduced an "environmental marker" in 2019 to ensure that humanitarian actions are aligned with national environmental safeguards. In coordination with the Ministry of Environment, the Task Force continued to address environmental complaints and followed up on six new complaints in 2019, and continued to work on unresolved, complex complaints.

The LCRP will remain a key platform for achieving humanitarian and stabilization outcomes and will require continued support from the global aid community to uphold its expected objectives.

*Syrian refugee Awatef goes door to door in her neighborhood to raise awareness about recycling - part of a recycling initative supported by UNHCR, Zahle – © UNHCR/ Diego Ibarra Sanchez*

4- Adoption of Law 80/2018 on Integrated Waste Management Systems and the approval of the Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) Road Map adopted by the Council of Ministers on 27 August 2019.

# Reference map

## Governorate, Caza and major towns in Lebanon

- Capital
- Major Towns
- Waterways
- International Boundaries
- Governorate Boundaries
- Caza Boundaries

# Overview of the 2017-2020 response

## PLANNING FIGURES FOR 2019

**3.2 m** People in Need

**2.7 m** People Targeted

- **1.5 m** Displaced Syrians
- **1 m** Vulnerable Lebanese
- **180,000** PRL, **28,800** PRS

**2.62$ b** Funding required

**133** Appealing UN & NGO Partners

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

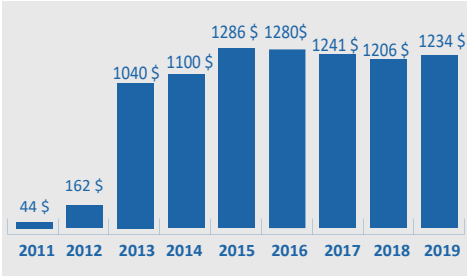
- Ensure protection of vulnerable populations
- Support service provision through national systems
- Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations
- Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability

## 2019 POPULATION REACH AND FUNDS UTILIZED PER SECTOR

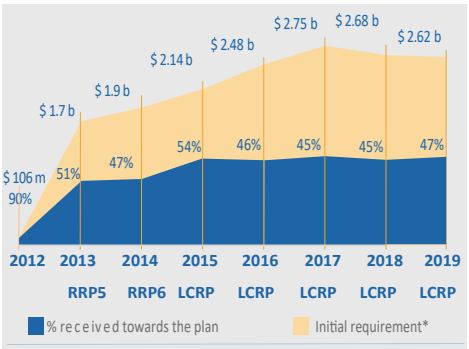
| TARGETED | VS REACH | SECTOR | APPEALED | VS RECEIVED (US$) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2,156,137 | 76% | Social Stability | 125 m | 54% |
| 1,884,800 | 100% | Protection | 174 m | 108% |
| 1,563,800 | 58% | Health | 268 m | 54% |
| 1,388,451 | 60% | Water | 214 m | 55% |
| 1,023,911 | 122% | Basic Assistance | 477 m | 46% |
| 1,017,821 | 101% | FSS | 509 m | 61% |
| 694,480 | 30% | Shelter | 157 m | 23% |
| 678,487 | 1% | Energy | 99 m | 2% |
| 497,171 | 100% | Education | 381 m | 66% |
| 49,662 | 116% | Livelihoods | 214 m | 43% |

## EVOLUTION OF DONOR CONTRIBUTION

(in $US million)



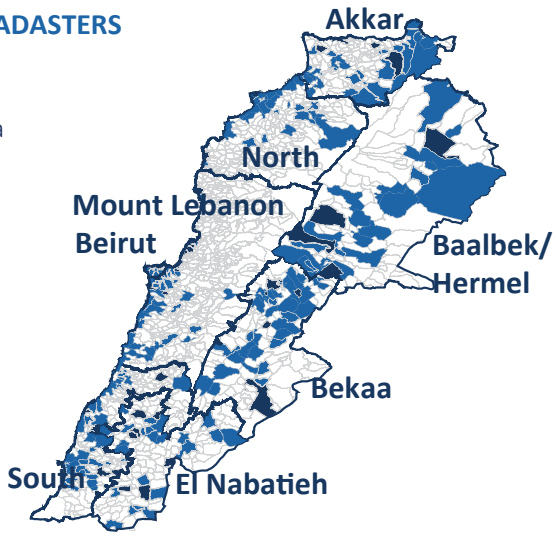

## FUNDING TRENDS




*includes GoL requirement The figures are as of 31 December 2019
Source: Funding figures used are from FTS and LCRP financial tracking.

## MOST VULNERABLE CADASTERS

251 Most Vulnerable Cadastres host
87% Displaced from Syria
67% Deprived Lebanese




* The map will be reviewed and updated based on an agreed methodology for targeting as part of the LCRP Mid-Term Review process scheduled for the second quarter of 2019.

● Most Vulnerable Cadastres

# 2019 at a glance

## KEY FACTS

$455 Million of cash based interventions injected by LCRP partners in the local economy

$19.1 million disbursed in support of National Poverty Targeting Programme

210,000 Non Lebanese children supported with enrollment into basic education

273,600 Lebanese children supported with enrollment into basic education

1,002,200 Individuals received food assistance, both in kind and cash based

1,728,689 subsidized primary health care consultations provided

4,203 jobs created or maintained in Lebanese Businesses and 12,000 people engaged in labor intensive public work programmes

67,155 individuals at risk of SGBV or survivors accessed various psychological support activities

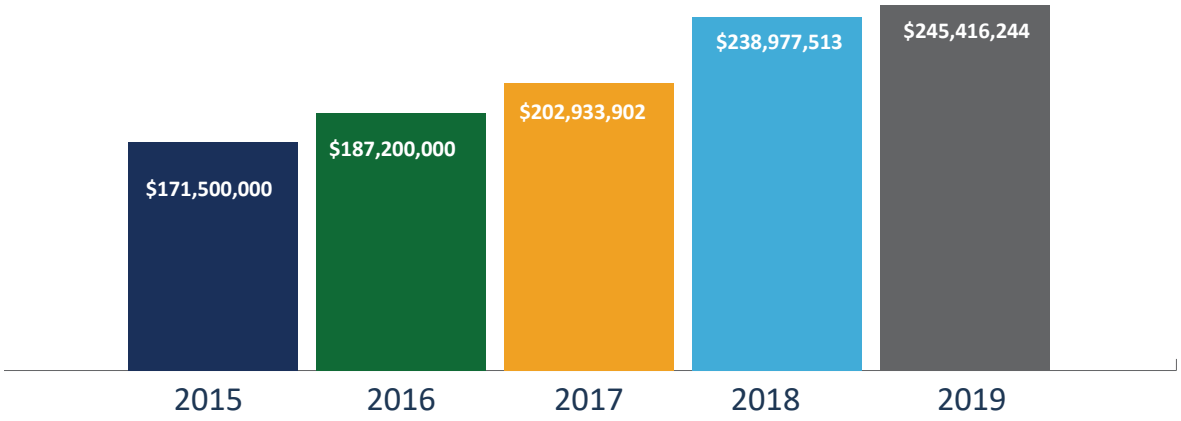
72,231 persons benefited from counselling, legal assistance and legal representation regarding civil registration (including birth and marriage registration)

175,213 displaced people assisted in keeping their temporary shelters weatherproofed, repaired or otherwise maintained.

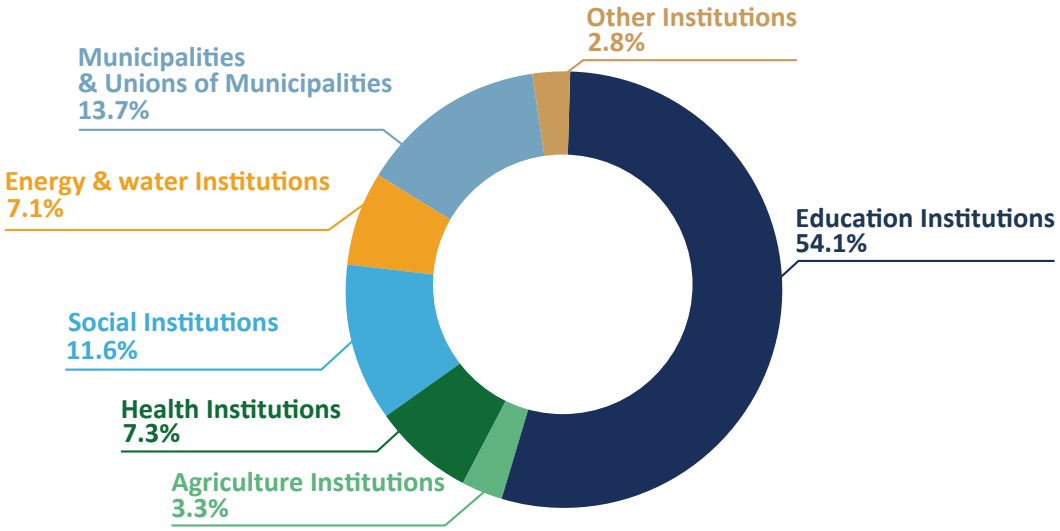
19,750 youth participated in community engagement and other inter-community dialogue initiatives

$245.4 Million channeled to public institutions to strengthen service delivery, policy development, capacity building and institutional stability

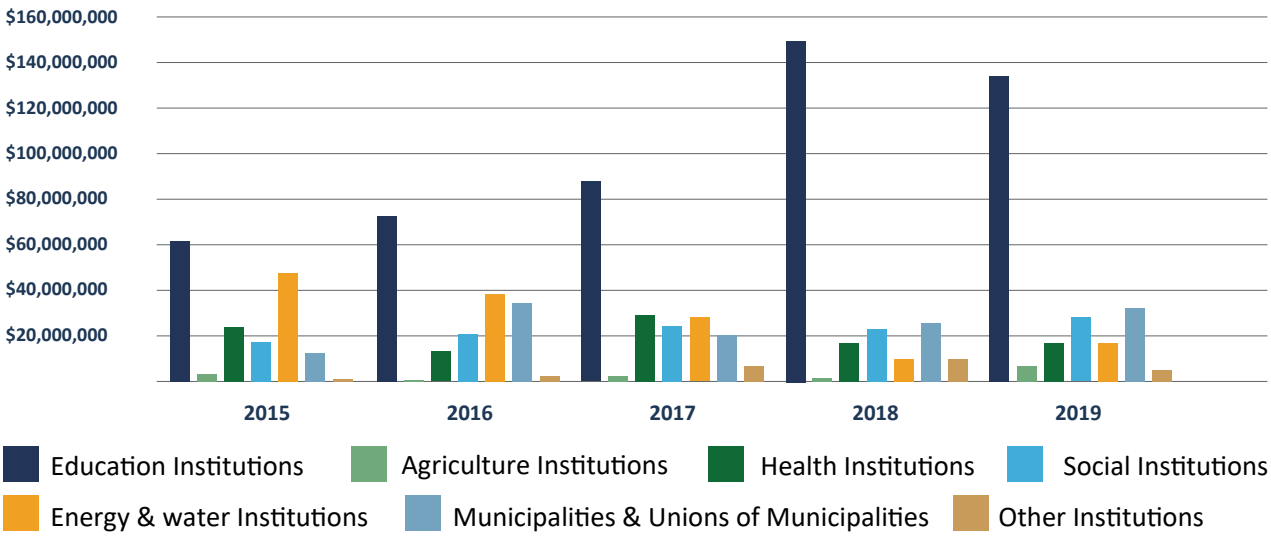
## Support to Public Institutions from 2015 to 2019




## Distribution of support provided per type of institution




## Evolution of Support per Institution from 2015 to 2019



*Palestinian refugee students from Syria have fun during the learning support program (LSP) at Media School in Tripoli - © UNRWA/ Maysoun Mustafa*

# Evolution of context

The Government of Lebanon has taken measures to increase access to legal residency and simplify procedures. The General Security Office (GSO) announced in March 2017 the waiver of fees for Syrian refugees' annual legal residency renewal and overstay.[5] In July 2017, a fee waiver was also made available to Palestinian refugees from Syria who entered Lebanon legally before September 2015. International partners have continued to support these efforts by increasing technical support to the GSO, which has taken measures for more consistent implementation of the residency fee waiver. Nevertheless, the percentage of displaced Syrians aged 15 years and above with legal residency continues to decline, from 27 percent in 2018 to 22 percent in 2019. Only 10 percent of Syrian households have all members holding legal residency in 2019, down from 58 percent in 2014. Women and female-headed households are less likely than men to have legal residency, as are refugees under the age of 30. The reasons reported for decline in legal residency include varying levels of implementation of the fee waiver; associated costs; arriving after 2015; and previously renewing residency based on sponsorship. Refugees also cited being asked to obtain a Lebanese sponsor while registered with UNHCR as another main reason.

There has been an improvement in the registration rate according to Foreigners' Registry data, with 30 percent of births of children born in Lebanon registered in 2019, compared with 21 percent in 2018 and 17 percent in 2017. A more simplified birth registration process was introduced in March 2018 for displaced Syrian children and Palestinian refugee children from Syria above one year and born in Lebanon between 1 January 2011 and 9 February 2019. Children born after this period, Palestinian refugee children from Lebanon and Lebanese children (and other children not born in Lebanon) continue to be subject to standard birth registration procedures, including a one-year deadline for registration at the Nofous, after which court procedures are required to finalize birth registration.

A slight improvement was recorded for marriage registration in 2019 with 26 percent of married couples registered with the Foreigners' Registry, compared to 20 percent in 2018. The procedure was simplified in September 2017, requiring only one spouse to have legal residency to register the marriage. Lebanon's efforts to improve access to civil registration are good initiatives and need to be sustained. Recent policy changes coupled with an increased awareness of the importance of birth registration are key contributing factors to this upward trend.

Despite these positive steps forward, decisions by the Higher Defense Council and the Directorate General of GSO in April and May 2019 are leading to the deportation of displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees from Syria who are apprehended for lack of legal residency and found to have entered Lebanon irregularly after 24 April 2019 to be deported and handed over to the Syrian immigration authorities. Nation-wide protests since 17 October and Lebanon's major economic and financial crisis have also presented new challenges for the more economically vulnerable Syrian households who were already less likely to have legal residency.

Demolitions of unauthorized permanent structures in informal settlements that started in April has had a deep and lasting impact on affected communities, exacerbating feelings of uncertainty and insecurity. Furthermore, the enforcement in 2019 of existing Lebanese regulations to ensure compliance with work permit regulations for foreign workers led to a series of closures of illegal shops and businesses. Many poor and displaced families who were working informally, either within or outside the authorized sectors, were affected by the decision. Palestinian refugees from Lebanon have a special labour-status in Lebanon but still face barriers in terms of access to work. While they are required to obtain a work permit, they do not benefit from the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and are still prevented from employment in 39 professions, including medicine, law and engineering.

5- The waiver applies to Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR prior to 1 January 2015 and who had not renewed their residency previously based on tourism, sponsorship, property ownership or tenancy.

Despite ongoing efforts, mitigation of environmental issues in informal settlements remains complex. There are no formal camps established in Lebanon. Informal settlements are the result of private arrangements between landlords and displaced people who rent a plot of land for their shelters. Wastewater is collected primarily in pits, holding tanks and septic tanks, which require frequent desludging and trucking to a very limited number of wastewater treatment plants that can process it. In 2019, requests from the Litani River Authority were made to relocate informal settlements that were close to the riverbank due to environmental concerns. Steps were taken to address the concerns and a response plan was developed. It remains a challenging issue as a result of policy limitations for partners to move from providing direct humanitarian assistance (i.e., water trucking, desludging and weatherproofing) towards more sustainable solutions with improved development outcomes.

## GRAND BARGAIN COMMITMENTS

LCRP partners continue to make progress on the Grand Bargain commitments[6] as follows:

### Greater transparency

The LCRP's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework is an important step towards greater transparency. Data on results and resources is published on a regular basis along with quarterly financial tracking of all funds received against the LCRP appeal. The LCRP undertook a mid-term review in 2019 to enhance learning and build in feedback loops for improved planning and programming.

### More support and funding tools for local and national responders

The tracking of support to public institutions shows a steady increase in funds supporting national service delivery. In 2019, partners reported $245 million in support to public institutions, indicating a 40 percent increase since 2015. Despite this, more efforts are needed to support local capacities and to ensure that they receive direct funding. This will be particularly important in 2020 as local organizations try to adapt to the deteriorating socio-economic situation in Lebanon. In 2019, funds were channeled through 75 of 123 appealing partners, primarily to UN and international NGO partners. National NGOs received only 4 percent of the funding under the LCRP.

A new system for LCRP funding reporting was rolled out using ActivityInfo where additional features were included to enhance the accuracy, reliability and usefulness of financial reporting, including by better capturing multi-year and earmarked/unearmarked funding and providing breakdown of funding by sector per project.

### Increase the use and coordination of cash-based programming

Lebanon has one of the largest cash assistance programmes in the world, with $455 million of response funding delivered through cash (32 percent of the total LCRP appeal) in 2019. Cash interventions are implemented within a multi-agency framework, fully standardized and harmonized across the relevant sectors. LCRP partners have further harmonized delivery mechanisms and have joined efforts to deliver regular year-long and seasonal cash support, including multi-purpose cash, seasonal winter cash, cash-for-food, cash-for-education and child-focused grants through the common platform Lebanon One Unified Inter-Organizational System for E-cards (LOUISE), which reduces transaction costs and contributes to other efficiencies. An informal Social Safety Net Forum is being convened in Lebanon to discuss the links between cash and safety net programming and to inform the response moving forward.

### Reduce duplication and management costs with periodic functional reviews

Regular reviews of the LCRP's coordination structure have been completed at the national and local level since 2017. These have been mainly carried out through a coordination survey and lessons learned exercises with a wide range of partners and in the various forums within the LCRP structure. Lessons learned have been used to address challenges and

6- Signed at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, the Grand Bargain is an agreement between some of the largest donors and aid providers, which aims to get more means into the hands of people in need: https://www.agendaforhumanity.org/initiatives/3861.

ensure processes and structures are adapted in a timely way given the evolving context. The 2020 LCRP planning process incorporated many of the lessons learned from the 2019 mid-year review, such as using more inter-sector analysis, cross-sectoral priorities and joint work to inform the development of the 2020 situational analysis and programmes.

## Improve joint and impartial needs assessments

With the M&E framework in place, the information needs and assessments required to report on outcome and impact level data have been identified and partners have committed to timely implementation. Work is currently underway to strengthen the evidence base for the response, capitalizing on existing assessments and surveys, such as perception surveys on social tensions. The 2019 mid-term review indicates that inter-sector analysis needs further improvement, and this will remain a priority in 2020.

A website for the Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR)[7] was launched in 2019 to make data more accessible and strengthen analytical capacity among Inter-Agency partners. It includes a wide range of resources and data sets not published in the report along with additional tools to support humanitarian actors to develop similar assessments.

## A revolution in participation: increasingly involve people receiving aid in making the decisions which affect their lives

While the level of communication and engagement with affected communities remains a cornerstone of the response, participatory planning processes need to be strengthened. A workplan was developed to address this and is being implemented to better incorporate the voices of persons of concern into the Inter-Agency coordination structure. A *Mapping of Risks and Resources* was conducted by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) in collaboration with municipal stakeholders and has been used to inform inter-sector analysis and planning processes. Inter-sector data analysis workshops were extended to include refugees where possible. The objective of these workshops was to validate and contextualize findings using local knowledge, while reflecting on its impact on refugees and vulnerable Lebanese communities. Findings were used to inform the situational analysis which fed into the 2020 LCRP update. The LCRP's M&E framework was also used to categorize qualitative data for a more comprehensive understanding of refugees and vulnerable Lebanese communities. Direct engagement with refugees in decision-making processes remains a challenge for some programmes, and the Protection Sector will continue to support other sectors on this in 2020.

## Increase collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding, and reduce the earmarking of donor contributions

As noted above, the level of multi-year funding is low despite having a multi-year response framework in place. Furthermore, partners are not yet witnessing a reduction in earmarking by donors. With the establishment of the LCRP M&E framework and joint reporting calendar, considerable efforts have been made to ensure that the sector log frames complement each other and that all indicators are linked to the LCRP's expected impacts, strategic objectives, outcomes and outputs at the sector level. Partners must still fulfill individual reporting obligations to donors and to the UN Strategic Framework, where applicable, often using similar, yet not fully comparable indicators, which adds a considerable reporting burden on partners.

## Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors

LCRP response management needs to evaluate its structures and processes to allow for greater collaboration and engagement with actors that do not formally appeal under the LCRP, including the Government of Lebanon's Capital Investment Plan, and funds committed through the Global Concessional Facility and other bilateral development initiatives. LCRP partners will also need to review how the response can best support the Government of Lebanon's efforts to scale up its work on the Sustainable Development Goals.

7- http://vasyr.org

# Response management

Several key changes in response management have taken shape in 2019:

## Adapting the coordination structure to an evolving response

A joint mid-term review of the LCRP and the UN Strategic Framework (UNSF) was conducted during the second quarter of 2019 to ensure resource efficiency and benefit from recommendations on how to optimize the links between the two frameworks. The LCRP coordination architecture was reviewed by an evaluation team, including its interface with the UNSF, and actions were assessed for increased efficiency, stronger accountability (including accountability to affected populations) and the operationalization of the humanitarian-development nexus. The questions guiding the review were:

- What progress has been made towards expected outcomes and impacts? Is it on track?
- Which key factors are contributing to the realization and non-realization of the intended results?
- How has duplication been prevented?
- What innovation has the response triggered in service delivery systems, public policies?
- Is the LCRP M&E system sufficiently robust?
- How has the LCRP been impacted by the modalities used to fund it?
- What capacities are built within national institutions, communities and at individual level? What steps are taken to ensure a coherent exit and/or transition?
- Has the response operationalized the humanitarian-development nexus? What are the key success factors or constraints?

The conclusion of the review was that the value and clear purpose of the LCRP as a fundraising tool, planning and coordination framework was recognized by government, donors and partners in the response. Its identified strengths include: government engagement; integrated and multi-year nature; use of national systems to implement interventions; innovation used in programming approaches; ability to collect and utilize data across sectors; and structured approach to monitoring and reporting. The LCRP was also found to have continued to deliver at scale. The review emphasized that the LCRP is under stress, with significant humanitarian needs and gaps, increased tensions, lack of data on vulnerable Lebanese communities and competing narratives and concerns. The main recommendation was for the LCRP to ensure a narrative that better reflects achievements and limitations, adjust accountabilities under the LCRP (i.e., Government of Lebanon to ensure enabling policies, a more coherent donor approach, and capacity development by UN and NGOs), and to have a greater focus on the enabling environment and broader development efforts supported by data.

## Enhancing mainstreaming efforts and cross-cutting interventions in the response

Efforts were intensified throughout 2019 to better support the articulation of cross-cutting priorities at the strategic level and ensure these priorities are also operationalized throughout the response. This will require:

**Strengthened analysis:** In 2019, a series of VASyR workshops were organized at the national and field levels to provide in-depth interpretation of the assessment results, consider regional variations, identify and validate key findings and provide recommendations. A wide range of qualitative and quantitative data was used to ensure a more comprehensive understanding of the situation by all partners.

Efforts were also made to better analyze and use existing data, including to: support preparedness efforts by better anticipating areas in which a flood response would be needed during the winter months; and monitor impacts of the economic crisis since it began in October. Two situation updates on the impacts of the operational environment were produced, which also identified risks and mitigation measures to ensure ongoing access to services for vulnerable refugee and Lebanese communities.

Thematic discussions with partners were organized to enhance understanding of available data, which also facilitated lessons learned discussion and building on best practices to adapt and maintain implementation throughout the crisis.

Sector-specific protection risk analysis were conducted by the Basic Assistance, Heath and WASH Sectors. This analysis has helped to shape sector response plans and interventions by defining potential protection risks posed by sector strategies or planned activities. The analysis will be extended to the Food Security, Social Stability and Shelter Sectors in 2020. The Inter-Agency Referral Monitoring platform is also being expanded to all sectors involved in the response, which will generate nationally representative referral trend analysis improving accountability for referrals and partners' understanding of local contexts.

**Enhanced cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration:** Focus was placed on having cross-sectoral and thematic discussions with partners on key areas of interest to improve the effectiveness of the LCRP's coordination structure and facilitate the development of more comprehensive solutions. Sectors have been working more closely together to analyze data on various thematic topics, such as evictions.

The 2020 LCRP planning process included a series of multi-stakeholder and Inter-Sector workshops which allowed for a collective understanding of the context and key trends, space to review how partners work together, and the identification of entry points for improved engagement. The M&E framework was revisited to ensure it remained fit for purpose and an inter-sector theory of change was formulated to better analyze links between sectors. This enabled sector work plans and 2020 sector strategies to be more aligned and complementary, which supports mainstreaming of cross-sectoral themes across the response.

**Mainstreaming initiatives:** Significant efforts have been made to strengthen the centrality of protection, including through integrating considerations for accountability to affected populations, gender and sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV), conflict sensitivity and the environment.

A dual approach was used in 2019 to mainstream protection. At the strategic level, protection principles and approaches are incorporated throughout the LCRP programme cycle. The Protection Sector worked closely with the Inter-Sector to identify relevant tools and resources to guide integration of protection into response analysis and planning. At the operational level, protection principles have been incorporated through the project cycle. A protection mainstreaming roadmap was endorsed by the Inter-Sector Working Group based on extensive field consultations at the field and national levels. The Protection Sector also conducted several Protection Mainstreaming Training-of-Trainer workshops as an initial step to bolster in-country protection mainstreaming capacities within national and international organizations across Lebanon. These were opened to protection and non-protection staff working at all field office locations.

A series of field based LCRP workshops on ethical and professional behaviour were organized by the Inter-Agency Team in September and October to increase accountability to affected populations, including sessions on ethical behaviour, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, fraud and corruption, and accountability, feedback and complaints mechanisms. Several recommendations were made during these workshops, including the establishment of a focal point list among the LCRP partners to spread awareness on these issues and provide feedback and inputs on proposals and measures. These will be followed up in 2020.

As for conflict sensitivity mainstreaming, each sector strategy includes analysis on potential adverse effects on local conflict dynamics and how the sector support social stability, which partners use to plan programming. Partners also receive regular information on tension trends and risks, as well as research on the impact of different types of LCRP programming on tension levels. The Social Stability Sector organized training sessions at the national and field levels on conflict sensitivity considerations in the design and implementation of LCRP programmes. The Sector also reviewed the WASH, Livelihoods and Food Security sector strategies for conflict sensitivity considerations, which was then reflected in each sector's workplan.

The environment remains a priority for the LCRP

and a key mainstreaming area. During 2019, the Environmental Task Force finalized guidance to better track and monitor the response's environmental impacts. An environment marker was introduced to strengthen accountability on environmental management issues. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Litani River National Plan was developed on blackwater and greywater, solid waste management and relocation to ensure ongoing follow up and reporting on these issues.

The Shelter Sector also organized a roundtable on area-based approach to targeting in September in order to promote a shared understanding amongst partners and identify good practices. This approach will be further explored in 2020 as a joint Inter-Sector priority.

## Bolstering response to ensure readiness in large-scale emergencies

The process of updating the 2020 HCT Contingency Plan, led by UNHCR and OCHA, moved into its final phase after a revision of assumptions and planning scenarios. Field-level discussions were held to update area-level contingency plans based on a harmonized template. The focus was on identifying risks and ensuring emergency preparedness in case of a major event. Processes that were put in place include communication trees, Standard Operating Procedures and minimum preparedness measures and tools. A process is also underway to develop risks and operational modalities considering the impacts of Lebanon's economic crisis.

Emergency preparedness and response to medium-scale emergencies improved significantly throughout 2019. An emergency response workflow was harmonized across regions, Standard Operating Procedures were implemented in all areas of Lebanon and Situation Reports were produced regularly. A harmonized tool was also developed that allows field offices to flag sites at risk of dismantlement or flood, conduct profiling of vulnerable sites, facilitate needs assessments and track the response. This tool is now being used nationwide to respond to medium-scale emergencies and can be monitored in real time via a dynamic map and dashboard online. A household-level Rapid Needs Assessment for the dismantlement situation was also developed. This tool now allows for greater efficiency, harmonization and effectiveness of the response.

## Better tracking the impact of the response through the Inter-Sector Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework

Since 2017, the analysis, planning and targeting capacity of the LCRP's coordination structure has gradually improved, and several important new studies and assessments have been developed and implemented. In 2017, an inter-sector M&E framework was developed outlining how the different sectors are contributing to the four strategic objectives of the LCRP. The framework enables stronger analysis at the outcome and impact levels. The framework was further strengthened in 2019 through:

1. Finalization of key evaluation and research questions at the inter-sector and sector levels and identification of external researchers and academics who could contribute to addressing knowledge gaps;[8]
2. Reporting on new qualitative indicators started in 2019 to help assess the level of engagement of beneficiaries in the response;
3. Introduction of a specific monitoring framework for commitments made by the international community and the Government of Lebanon at the Brussels II Conference;[9] and
4. Finalization of the mid-term review with the use of findings to support strategic planning and decision-making.

8- The questions are now available online at the Lebanon Information Hub.

9- The framework was presented by Lebanese stakeholders as a pledge at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF). Progress will be reported to the LCRP Steering Committee on a yearly basis.

## Creating greater accountability across the response through improved complaints and feedback mechanisms and tracking of referrals to services

Efforts have been made to strengthen communication and feedback mechanisms for refugees and affected communities across all interventions, as well as ensuring that affected communities participate in each stage of the project cycle. Three complementary tools have been developed by the Inter-Agency Team as part of the effort to strengthen referrals and ensure greater accountability:

i. An online Inter-Sector Service Mapping to capture all services and assistance in all governorates, including referral pathways, 5Ws information and complaints and feedback mechanisms. The platform facilitates the referral of at-risk individuals and households to relevant service providers and coordination of services and assistance across partners and sectors within governates. The tool will be rolled out to partners in 2020.

ii. The Inter-Agency Referral Minimum Standards guidance to support a consistent understanding and approach for the safe identification and referral of people and communities to service providers. Guidance training sessions for partners will take place in 2020.

iii. The Inter-Agency Referral Monitoring as a key accountability tool for the Protection Sector by supporting quarterly monitoring on partner effectiveness and responsiveness when receiving referrals. This system has also been expanded to other LCRP sectors, and efforts are underway to strengthen analysis on individual referral tracking, such as the Referral Information Management System (RIMS) or the shelter referral pathway on the Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS).

## Moving towards a more comprehensive understanding of risk and vulnerability to strengthen multi-sectoral approaches

The term "most vulnerable" is currently defined within each sector, mainly using socio-economic, geographic or categorical concepts of vulnerability. In 2019, the sectors were encouraged to revisit these concepts with the aim of creating a multi-dimensional understanding of vulnerability and facilitate a more multi-disciplinary and integrated approach incorporating different perspectives and a wider range of actors. The sectors explored different circumstances and factors at the individual, community and institutional levels that can increase vulnerability and/or reduce coping capacity. More work will be done on this in 2020 so that programming and population targeting can be informed by a comprehensive analysis of risk and vulnerability.

## Operationalizing the humanitarian-development nexus for longer-term and sustainable solutions

The response has evolved significantly over the last five years from a refugee-focused response to an integrated response that integrates stabilization elements and longer-term dimensions. As the situation becomes more protracted amid Lebanese community fatigue and rising social tensions, more work is needed to bridge the humanitarian-development nexus and identify sustainable support and solutions for refugees and Lebanese communities in Lebanon.

A high priority has been placed on expanding the LCRP's strategic engagement with different humanitarian and development actors and initiatives. The LCRP continues to work on resource mobilization strategies to encourage multi-year funding and engages in advocacy for sustained humanitarian and development support to the Government of Lebanon and its people. Key to this is further engagement of development actors, including the World Bank and the European Union (EU), as well as local academia and research institutions.

At the technical level, the LCRP structure, including reporting and coordination mechanisms, strives to be aligned and coordinated with the UNSF where possible in order to foster coherence and impact. There is regular engagement between both structures, with the World Bank regularly participating in the Livelihoods Working Group and other relevant Sector Working Groups, and United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) attends the Social Stability Working Group. Ad-hoc joint coordination meetings are also organized on specific topics of common interest, for example on support to municipalities, social safety nets and job creation.

There have also been advances in discussions around concepts of humanitarian social safety nets and social protection, which build on previous work to enhance multi-purpose cash assistance and explore linking complementary services from other sectors. Efforts to assess and strengthen alignment between humanitarian actors and the Government's Social Safety Net Program – the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP) – are being considered in different forums, including in an informal Social Safety Net discussion with the World Bank and the EU. The LCRP is an active member of these discussions to support links with existing efforts.

While advances are being made in several areas in terms of operationalizing the humanitarian-development nexus in Lebanon, several key challenges remain, including funding, policy and coordination constraints.

Mohamed, a young refugee carries blankets distributed by UNHCR staff responding to Storm Norma, Bar Elias - © UNHCR/ Diego Ibarra Sanchez

# Inter-sector results analysis

## LCRP OUTREACH

Table 1: Planning population figures and population reached in 2019

| Population | Population in Need | Population Targeted | Population reached |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **3,208,800** | **2,708,800** | **1,629,963** |
| Vulnerable Lebanese | 1,500,000 | 1,000,000 | 368,319 |
| Syrian refugees | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,200,000 |
| Palestine Refugees | PRL:180,000<br>PRS:28,800 | PRL:180,000<br>PRS: 28,800 | 61,644 |

Table 2: Sectors' outreach in 2019

| Sector/cohort | In need | Targeted | Reached | Reached vs. Targeted | Sector funding coverage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Basic Assistance | 1,456,346 | 1,023,911 | 1,253,522 | 122.4% | 45.9% |
| Education | 1,232,883 | 497,171 | 508,744 | 102.3% | 65.9% |
| Energy | 2,035,461 | 678,487 | 8,357 | 1.2% | 2.0% |
| FSS | 2,079,800 | 1,017,821 | 1,027,394 | 100.9% | 60.7% |
| Health | 2,473,800 | 1,563,800 | 905,747 | 57.9% | 54.5% |
| Livelihoods | 171,183 | 49,662 | 57,753 | 116.3% | 43.5% |
| Protection[10] | 3,208,800 | 1,884,800 | 1,877,825 | 99.6% | 108.0% |
| Shelter | 1,362,300 | 694,480 | 207,081 | 29.8% | 22.9% |
| Social Stability | 3,208,800 | 2,156,137 | 1,645,035 | 78.6% | 54.4% |
| Water | 2,688,072 | 1,388,451 | 828,084 | 59.6% | 55.1% |

## **Strategic Objective One:** Ensure protection of vulnerable populations

### Impact One: Displaced persons from Syria and vulnerable populations live in a safe protective environment

Progress towards Impact One is measured through a Protection Risk Score[11] at household level. This score considers the risks associated with the following five conditions:

1. Not having legal residency in Lebanon
2. Not having his or her birth registered
3. Being engaged in child labour
4. Being married before 19-years-old
5. Being affected by violent disciplinary practices

VASyR 2017, 2018 and 2019 data, weighed by district, was used to determine the overall proportion of displaced Syrian households with a protection risk. In 2019 we notice a small decrease of the protection risk score compared to previous years, from 91.5 percent in 2017, 91.9 percent in 2018 to 89.9 percent in 2019. The overall protection risk score decrease is mainly due to significant improvements in birth registration (from 21% in 2018 to 30% in 2019) and the reduction in the use of violent disciplines (from 73% in 2018,

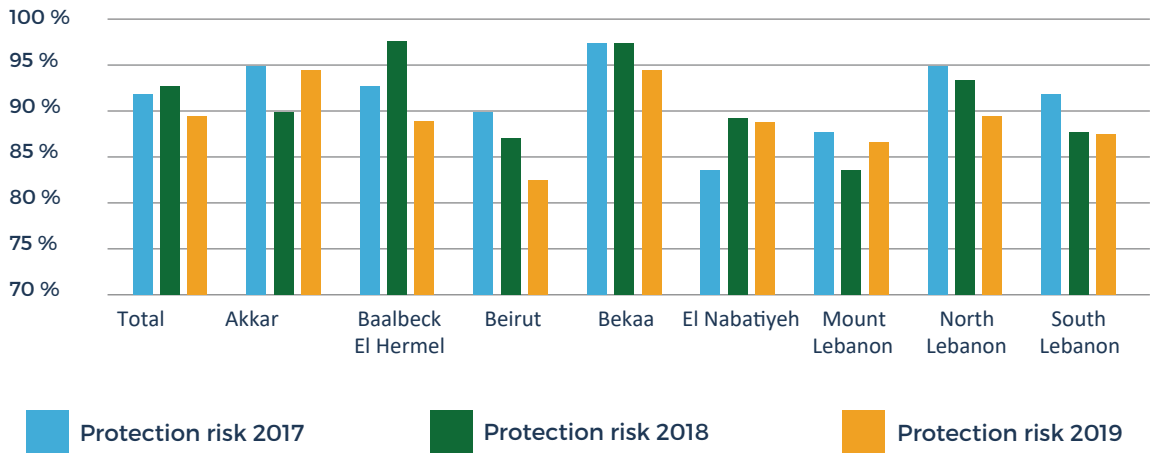
10- The outreach for Protection refers to the number of services provided.

11- Previously, the Protection risk score was used to measure progress towards Impact One. This score works as an index, one component being the fact to be engaged in child labour. However, many issues are linked to the calculation of child labour and the data collected was proven to be underestimated, affecting the results of the overall score. The IA decided to suspend the use of the Protection score for 2019 and open discussion on reliable and accurate way to measure Protection score.

to 64% in 2019). However, the percentage of individuals with legal residency went from 27% to 22%. Child labour, child marriage remained the same.

We still observe important regional disparities, Beirut having in 2019 the lowest protection risk score at 82.4 percent, followed by Mount Lebanon at 86.6 percent. The Bekaa has the highest protection risk in 2019 at 94.6 percent, just after Akkar at 94.2 percent. Looking at governorate differences from previous years, the highest decrease is observed in Baalbek El Hermel (-8.5 points) with 89.5 percent in 2019 compared with 98 percent in 2017; while the highest increase is observe in Akkar (4.2 points) with 94.2 percent in 2019 compared with 90 percent in 2018.

## Protection Risk from 2017 to 2019




**The percentage of individuals aged 15 years and above holding legal residency permits** has decreased by 5 points in 2019 from 27 percent in 2018 (26 percent in 2017) to 22 percent in 2019. This is of concern, since it has a direct implication on refugee protection, mobility, access to essential services and on their exposure to risks of arrest and deportation. Trends vary by governorate, Akkar having the lowest percentage at 13 percent and the South and El Nabatieh the highest with 39 percent each. The most important decreased between 2018 and 2019 is observed in Baalbek with 14 percent in 2019 compared to 38 percent in 2018. This is followed by 54 percent in the South and 48 percent in El Nabatieh in 2018, compared to 39 percent in 2019. This can be explained by the differing levels of implementation of the waiver, and by exacerbated accessibility and mobility challenges in parts of the country.

There is different access to legal residency depending on the age group and sex. Youth and younger adults (under the age of 25) have notably lower rates of legal residency than adults over 25 years old. Women across all age groups have lower rates of legal residency compared to men. Combining both factors (age and sex), 43 percent of men aged 45 to 49 years have legal residency, compared with 21 percent for women. Similar to 2018, there is a higher risk for individuals who are part of female headed households to not have legal residency (23.4 percent) compared with 14.7 percent for male headed household. Renewal of legal residency is often deprioritized by women who are often perceived by their communities as less likely to be arrested for lack of legal residency, mobile or in need of a work permit.

**The percentage of children born in Lebanon with birth registration (i.e. registered at the level of the Foreigners' Registry)** increased significantly in 2019 compared to 2018, from 21 percent to 30 percent. No differences were noted in birth registration rates when comparing boys and girls. Despite this improvement, 70 percent of Syrian children born in Lebanon remain at risk of becoming stateless. However regional differences remained high, ranging between 84 percent of birth unregistered in the Bekaa and 35 percent in Beirut. These differences can be explained by easier access to the civil registry offices in the capital, while refugees in other governorates may have higher associated costs (including transportation) and mobility concerns. There may also be insufficient capacities of some local institutions and inconsistent administrative practices. This overall high number of unregistered births can be nuanced by the fact that 97 percent of Syrian children born in Lebanon have some form of documentation to attest to their birth.

**Child labour remains stable but remains a concern,** with 2.6 percent of children between the age of 5 and 17 having performed either economic activities or household chores during last week for more than the age specific numbers of hours[12] (2.1 percent in 2018). Economic activities are to a large extend responsible for child labour (6 percent) compared to household chores (0.4 percent). Among children engaged in economic activities, 27 percent are working in agriculture. There is a clear gender difference with boys being almost 7 times more likely to be involved in child labour than girls (4 percent for boys vs 1 percent for girls). These differences are linked to social/gender norms with boys being the primary providers. It may be misleading however to conclude that boys are more affected by child labour as girls are often engaged in a more hidden type of labour, such as household chores. Regional disparities are also important with child labour ranging from 1 percent in Baalbek to 5 percent in El Nabatieh.

**In 2019, 27 percent of adolescent girls between the age of 15-19 are currently married**. This is a slight decrease compared with 29 percent in 2018 but remains higher than 2017 with 22 percent. There is almost no difference between adolescent girls and boys. There are however regional disparities, with 34 percent adolescent girls being married in the North, while in Baalbek is 20 percent. The recent Labour Force and Household conditions survey conducted by the Central Administration of Statistics, showed that 7 percent of girls living in Lebanon[13] between the age of 15-18 are married, compared to 0.4 percent for boys.

The use of violent discipline remains high with **64 percent of children under 18 years old having experienced at least one form of violent discipline**[14] in the last year. This rate shows a significant improvement, with a decrease of 14 percent of violent discipline over the last two years (73 percent in 2018 and 78 percent in 2017). The most common form of discipline reported was the use of psychological aggression (58 percent), followed by any physical aggression (49 percent); while a much lower proportion of parents used severe aggression (12 percent).

Children in the street, Tripoli - © OCHA/ Sebastian Brandt

12- Current definition of child labour also includes exposure to hazardous conditions during economic activity or household chore Age specific number of hours, should be understood as: Economic activities: aged 5-11: 1 hour or more; aged 12-14: 14 hours or more; aged 15-17: 43 hours or more; Household chores: aged 5-14: 28 hours or more; aged 15-17: 43 hours or more.

13- The survey covered the population of Lebanon (Lebanese and non-Lebanese) living in residential dwellings in the time period from April 2018 to March 2019.

14- Violent discipline is any form of psychological, physical, or severe aggression

## *Brussels Commitments – Protection*

| Commitments | Results achieved |
|---|---|
| 47. Recognizing that resettlement to third countries constitutes an important alternative solution for refugees, international partners commit to continue efforts to increase resettlement opportunities and to create complementary pathways, such as humanitarian admission programmes, accessible family reunification procedures, scholarships and work visas. | 7,442 Syrians were resettled<br>9,588 submissions (Syrians) for resettlement |
| 41.Recalling the outcome of the London conference, the Government of Lebanon and its international partners reiterate that the main durable solution for Syrian refugees in Lebanon is their safe, dignified and non-coercive return to their country of origin, in accordance with international law and the principle of non-refoulement. The international partners recognize that the stay of refugees in Lebanon is temporary and commit to continue to provide support to both host communities and refugees. The international partners expressed their support for UN-facilitated returns. | 22,728 voluntary refugees return from Lebanon to Syria (the numbers reported are only those verified or monitored by UNHCR and do not reflect the entire number of returns, which may be significantly higher) |
| | Pursuant to international standards, the principle of non-refoulement requires an independent judicial or administrative review of each case before a decision on deportation is taken and executed. Deportations of Syrians who have entered or re-entered irregularly after 24 April 2019, based on the Higher Defence Council decision and related GSO instruction, have been implemented without the prior court review required by Lebanese law and international obligations. |
| 42. The Government of Lebanon with the assistance of its international partners commit to ensuring that all eligible refugees can renew their residency free of charge, by further upscaling the capacity of the offices of the General Security to process a higher number of applications, and by applying the waiver to all. Furthermore, international partners request the Government of Lebanon to consider measures to cover all categories of refugees in an inclusive manner through the expansion of the residency fee waiver to categories of refugees currently not covered. | 146,574 Syrian refugees have been reached through awareness sessions on legal documentation |
| | 30 percent Syrian children born in Lebanon have had their births registered (at Foreigner's registry level - PSD) |
| | 72,231 Syrian refugees have benefitted from counseling, legal assistance, and legal representation regarding civil registration including birth registration, marriage, death, and divorce. |
| | 22% of Syrian refugees, aged 15 and above are holding legal residency permits |
| | 28% of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR have valid residency |
| | 14% of UNHCR registered Syrians have legal residency based on UNHCR certificate |
| 43.The international partners will continue to support the Government of Lebanon in increasing the number of persons with civil documentation, most notably birth and marriage registration, to ensure that refugee children born in Lebanon receive appropriate documentation and are not at heightened risk of statelessness. Support also needs to continue for outreach and legal aid activities by agencies to assist refugees in benefitting from the above Government measures. | 2 new policies/laws/ administrative instructions have been adopted to facilitate access to civil documentation |
| | % Syrian children born in Lebanon who have had their births registered. From<br>Hospital or midwife: 97%<br>Mukhtar: 81%<br>Noufous: 48%<br>Foreigners' Registry: 30%<br>Stamped by MoFA: 27%<br>Stamped by Syrian Embassy: 22%<br>Civil extract: 13% |

| | |
|---|---|
| 44.The Government of Lebanon acknowledges the importance of having accurate data and statistics on the refugees present on its territory. The international partners' support to the residency renewal system will assist in this regard. International partners furthermore underline that the resumption of registration by UNHCR would also contribute to generate updated statistics and would help facilitate solutions in the form of resettlement to third countries and the safe, dignified, non-coercive returns of refugees, when conditions permit. Accurate data will also allow UNHCR to carry out appropriate monitoring of refugees upon return to their country and assist in designing reintegration programmes by the international community. | No decision has been adopted by the Government to allow UNHCR to resume registration |
| 45.The international partners commit to continuing to support vulnerable Lebanese communities, facing similar difficulties to access limited resources and public services and deserving decent lives.<br><br>46.The government of Lebanon and its international partners note the importance of supporting and upholding the rule of law so as to preserve a dignified stay for the refugees. They agreed that promoting preventive measures is needed to reinforce social stability. | $245,416,244 has been channeled through national public institutions in 2019: $133,588,019 to Education Institutions, $8,222,646 to Agriculture Institutions, $18,037,871 to Health Institutions, $28,696,227 to Social Institutions, $17,621,999 to Energy, Water and Environment Institutions, $33,693,385 to Municipalities and Unions of Municipalities, $5,556,097 to Others Institutions (MoIM, MoSDA, MoFA, MoL, CAS, NCLW) |

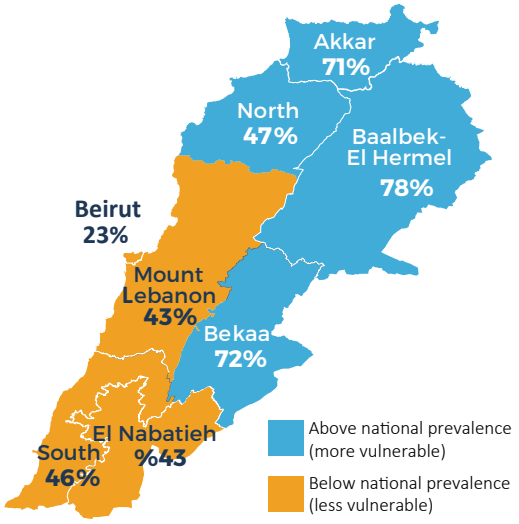
# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO:
## Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations

### Impact Two: Immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations are met

Progress towards Impact Two is measured through an analysis of poverty levels and based on the following selection of immediate humanitarian needs: shelter, food and water, as well as seasonal needs. In 2019, there is a noted improvement in food security and access to adequate shelter, while there was a slight decrease in access to safe water. Following an improvement in 2018, the economic vulnerability increased in 2019.

**The percentage of households who are severely economically vulnerable** increased from 51 percent in 2018 to 55 percent in 2019 (58 percent in 2017). Severe economic vulnerability is calculated based on households spending less than US$ 2.9 per day. Following the same trend, economic vulnerability (households spending less than US$ 3.8 per day) also increased from 68 percent in 2018 to 73 percent in 2019.

**Percentage of households below SMEB by governorate**




*Source: VASyR 2019*

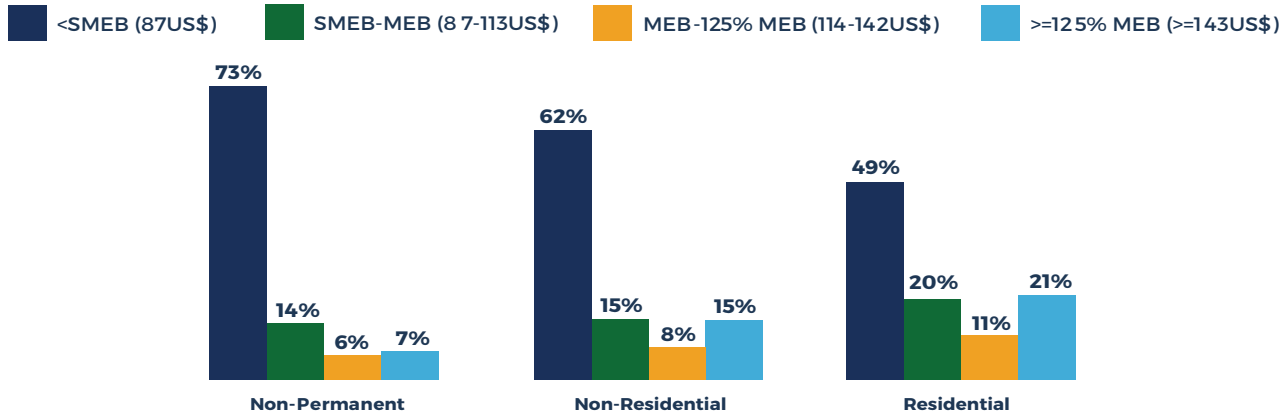
There were also high disparities between governorates with Akkar, Bekaa and Baalbeck El Hermel having more than 70 percent of households below SMEB (71 percent, 72 percent and 78 percent respectively) while Beirut has 23 percent of households below SMEB. Employment, inflation, rent, debt, and diminution of cash-based assistance had an impact on the economic vulnerability of refugees. Much higher rate of economic vulnerability is expected for 2020. The CAS survey highlighted that 18 percent of Lebanese households earned below 650,000 LBP and that 26.3 percent of households self-classified themselves as poor or very poor.

**Shelter conditions continued to deteriorate with a decreasing percentage of households living in adequate shelter conditions from 45 percent in 2018 to 43 percent in 2019 of households.** In 2019[15], the proportion of households living in adequate conditions is lower for households living in non-permanent shelter (22 percent) than in households living in non-residential shelter (30 percent) or residential shelter (51 percent). A direct link is observed between economic vulnerability and shelter conditions. In 2019, there was a larger proportion (73 percent) of households with expenditures below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), living in non-permanent shelters, as compared to those living in other shelter types. This is similar to 2018 trends, where households living in residential shelters were less poor than those in non-residential shelters, followed by non-permanent shelters.

**Food security has improved in the first half of 2019** with a decrease in the percentage of severely- and moderately food insecure household by 5 percent in 2019 (67 percent in 2018 vs 71 percent in 2019). Furthermore, only 1 percent of households was severely food insecure in 2019, compared to 3 percent in 2018. This decline is broadly a result of increased food consumption levels and adoption of less severe livelihood strategies to cope with lack of food or lack of money to buy food. In fact, three out of four Syrian refugees have an acceptable food consumption. **The share of households with adequate food consumption continues to increase throughout the years (from 62 percent in 2017, 67 percent in 2018 to 75 percent in 2019).** Despite this improvement, 25 percent of displaced Syrians households still have a poor or borderline food consumption. Additionally, the share of expenditure on food has increased in 2019, which indicates **increased economic vulnerability.**

15- Indicator from VASyR is of households living in shelter conditions which are overcrowded, substandard and/or in dangerous conditions

Expenditure level by shelter type

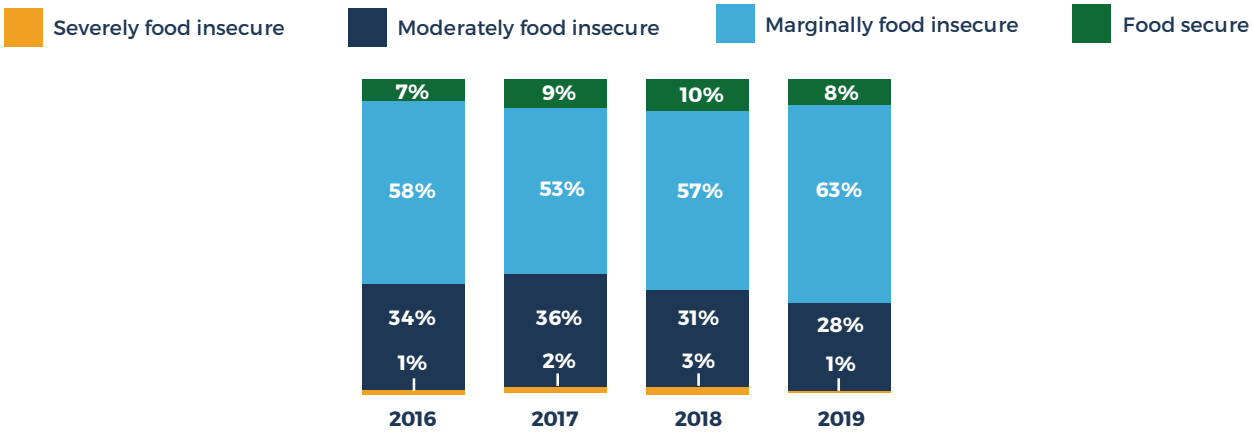



**Women-headed households remain more food insecure than men-headed households** (35 percent vs 28 percent respectively were severely or moderately food insecure). This is a similar trend to 2018, where 40 percent of women-headed households were food insecure, compared to 32 percent of men-headed ones.

Between January and September 2019, the food basket price in WFP contracted shops was on average LBP37,170 but reached 48,400 in December 2019[16]. High levels of food insecurity are usually associated with high economic vulnerability: almost 69 percent of severely and moderately food insecure households fall below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), this can be partially explained by the fact that food represents a high proportion of the monthly expenditure per capita (severely food insecure HHs spend 79% of their monthly expenditure on food, while moderately food insecure HHs spend 50% of their expenditure on food).

In 2019, a **slight decrease in access to Water** was observed, with 88 percent of individuals having access to improved drinking water source (91 percent in 2018 and 81 percent in 2017). The reliance on bottled water remains similar to the 2018 level at 42 percent. There is however a large difference in the use of bottled mineral water as a source of drinking water per shelter type with the highest prevalence in residential shelters. There is a link between economic vulnerability, shelter type and use of bottled water with 14 percent of people living in non-permanent shelter using bottled water compared to 51 percent of people living in residential shelter. In addition, 86 percent of displaced Syrians reported that they use basic drinking water services (77 percent in 2017 and 85 percent in 2018).

**Food insecurity trends 2016 - 2019**




16- WFP – Lebanon VAM update on Food Price Trends – January 2020

Children at a Syrian camp, Tyre - © WHO/ Hala Habib

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE:
Support service provision through national systems

### Impact Three: Vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national system

Progress towards Impact Three is measured based on the level of access to the following basic services: education services, health care and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. Available data indicates that public services delivered at scale yet require sustained attention. This is illustrated by the following key trends.

**Access to health services has improved in 2019**. A significant increase in the demand for primary health care was observed among Syrian refugees families with the number of households reporting requiring PHC services in the past six months increasing from 54 percent in 2018 (46 percent in 2017) to 63 percent in 2019. There was also an increase of 3 percentage points of households who received PHC among those who needed it (90 percent in 2019, 87 percent in 2018, 89 percent in 2018). This is linked to an improved awareness of the vulnerable population regarding the availability of the services. Further analysis is needed to establish the link between the increased awareness, increased need for PHC and inability of patients to seek care at the hospital level instead of approaching the PHC centres. The access to hospital care remained stable in 2019 with 22 percent of households reporting to have needed hospital care in the past six months. Of those seeking secondary health care, 81 percent were able to receive the needed care. However large disparities are visible between governorates both for primary and secondary health care. In term of primary health care, Mount Lebanon is the governorate with the lower access at 74 percent, followed by Beirut with 88 percent, while all other governorates are at 92 percent or above. Regarding hospital care, households in Mount Lebanon (68%), Baalbek-El Hermel (76%) and South (82%) have the lowest access, while El Nabatieh and Akkar households reported the highest levels of access at over 90%. Mount Lebanon is reported to be the governorate with the lowest access to hospital care mainly due to the limited availability of beds in the contacted hospitals and to the highest patients share compared to other governorates.

**Access to education** remains stable. Nearly 3 out of 4 children aged 6 to 14 are enrolled in elementary school. This proportion remains like previous years at 69 percent in 2019 (68 percent in 2018, 70 percent in 2017). However less than 1 out 4 children are enrolled in secondary school (22 percent as in previous years). Cost of transportation remains the main barrier to enrolment for both elementary and secondary aged children followed by the cost of educational materials. As in previous years, work is cited as the third reason for children between 15-17 not being enrolled in schools. For the school year 2018/2019, a total of 444,247 children aged 3-18 were enrolled in formal education (49 percent Lebanese, 48 percent Non-Lebanese, 3 percent in UNRWA schools). Despite the successes in reaching large numbers of children, many remain out of school. Forty four percent of compulsory school aged Syrian refugee children (6-14-year-old) are out of formal education (46% percent in 2018) and 36 percent are out of any type of learning. An estimated 30 percent[17] of Lebanese children remain out of school.

Palestinian refugee students from Syria have fun during the learning support program (LSP) at Media School in Tripoli - © UNRWA/ Maysoun Mustafa

17- This estimate is based on CRDP 2019 as well as the LCRP Population Package, where number of Lebanese enrolled in Public/ Private/Semi-Private schools is around 911,000, while the 3-18 years-old population of Lebanese is around 1,300,000.

## *Brussels Commitments – Health*

| Commitments | Results Achieved |
|---|---|
| Commitment 48. The Government of Lebanon and its international partners reaffirm their commitment to support the health sector to maintain its resilience recognizing the additional strain and demand for services and to prevent the deterioration of the health status of vulnerable populations in Lebanon. | 2 assessments and plans carried out by UN agencies in support of MoPH's priorities and based on Health National strategy: Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VASyR) & Health Access & Utilization Survey (HAUS) |
| | 1 decision-making meeting of the National Health Steering committee was organized with the support of UN agencies (organization, secretariat etc.) to endorse the LCRP chapter |
| | $149 million was received by LCRP Health partners in 2019 |
| | 6 new implementing partners have entered the Health sector |
| | no new donor has entered the Health sector |
| Commitment 48 (continued). Access to a quality, affordable and predictable health care must be ensured for all displaced Syrians and the most vulnerable Lebanese. | 2 initiatives/projects have enhanced people-centered care in PHCCs: MADAD Reducing Economic Barriers to Accessing Health Services in Lebanon Project and WB Project |
| | Different meetings/briefings are conducted by different UN agencies to donors. One meeting was conducted by Health sector prior to measles outbreak. |
| | 52 PHCCs have been accredited |
| | 238 PHCCs are in the MOPH network |
| | There is a 14.5 percent increase of Lebanese and a 6.5 percent increase of Syrians consulting at PHCCs. |
| Commitment 49. (…) The increased demand for primary health care* and hospital services due to the presence of refugees requires investments to address large maintenance backlogs, the deterioration in quality equipment, and costly repairs. | $10,993,150 was channeled through MoPH and $7,044,721 was channeled through PHC under the LCRP. |
| | 142 new staff were seconded/ supported at MoPH under the LCRP |
| | approximately 2000 staff have been trained. |
| | UNHCR has supported the hospital care of Syrian refugees in 40 contracted hospitals (private & governmental). Lebanese under MoPH for hospital care are not part of the LCRP |
| Commitment 50. The capacity-building and the system strengthening of the health sector need to be reinforced and further enhanced in order to maintain its resilience. | 4 projects have addressed capacity building and system strengthening (UNICEF, UNFPA, EPHRP, EU Madad) |

# *Brussels Commitments – Education*

| Commitments | Results Achieved |
|---|---|
| 36. The Government of Lebanon and its international partners reaffirm their commitment to the London Syria conference goal of every child having access to a quality education, and the objectives of RACE 2 reaching all children and youth with education, while strengthening the public education system for an improved quality of education. Both agree on a continued and renewed effort to address barriers to education, bring down the number of children outside any form of learning, and retain children who are already in the formal system.<br><br>37. Building on RACE 2 achievements and with support of the international community, the Government of Lebanon is to develop and implement a long-term vision on the education sector set out in annual operational plans. The Government of Lebanon, through its various interventions, takes into account inclusivity and the learning needs of children and youth, focusing on the most vulnerable so as to improve quality of public education services and related learning outcomes. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education regulated Non- taking into consideration the children's age, academic abilities, and period of dropout for a possible reintegration into formal education. | Long-term vision and its operational plans adopted: Process ongoing. Consolidated workplan 2019/20 and five-year plan (2021-2025) both scheduled to be shared first half 2020.<br><br>44% of compulsory school aged refugee children (6-14-year-old) are out of formal education and 36% are out of any type of learning An estimated 30% of Lebanese children remain out of school.<br><br>444,247 children aged 3-18 were enrolled in formal education year (49% Lebanese, 48% Non-Lebanese, 3% in UNRWA schools).<br><br>More than 6,000 students with special needs identified & enrolled in 191 schools: 41% in Mount Lebanon; 71% in Prep ECE and C1<br><br>64,497 children enrolled in Non Formal Education |
| 37 (continued). The Government of Lebanon and its international partners will seek to strengthen the system on the basis of sound performance measurement, cost-efficiency, and transparency of financial and delivery data.<br><br>Specific attention should be given to tracking the quality of education and the number of children who drop out, as well as improving literacy and numeracy for all children. | RACE II Fact Sheet Issues March and September 2019. Publication of RACE fact sheets on MEHE/ RACE website |
| 38. The Government of Lebanon also commits to engaging a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector in the development, finalization and adoption of a draft National strategy and action plan for technical and vocational education and training. Furthermore, the Strategy will endorse a system for technical and vocational education and training that is efficient, innovative, practice-oriented, modular and adaptable to the needs and preferences of trainees and the labour market, whilst ensuring that it addresses all population groups, in addition to youth. | Only one of the National TVET-Strategic Framework action plans has been endorsed (MoL), 4 more are in finalization/waiting for endorsement |

WFP's school meals programme is funded by Italy and Canada and is implemented in 37 double shift schools across Lebanon jointly with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. ©WFP/ By Mazen Hodeib (6)

# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR:
## Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability

### Impact Four: Mitigated deterioration in the economic condition of vulnerable populations

Progress towards Impact Four is measured through an analysis of extreme poverty level, employment status of vulnerable individuals, and income-generating opportunities they benefit from. Accessing the labour market continued to be difficult in 2018. This is demonstrated by the following key trends.

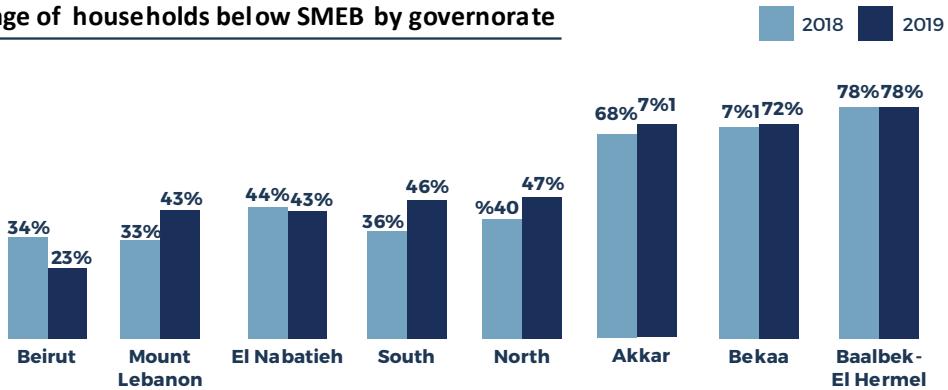
In 2019, almost **3 out 4 Syrian households are economically vulnerable** while more than half of the households are extremely vulnerable. In fact after a decrease in 2018 (68 percent in 2018, 75 percent in 2017 under MEB) the percentage of households below the MEB level[18] (less than $3.8 per day) rose to 73 percent, while the proportion of those under SMEB (less than $2.9 per day) rose from 51 percent in 2018 to 55 percent in 2019 (58 percent in 2017). Despite the LCRP intervention in 2019, the economic situation of Syrian households is worsening, linked to the economic crisis affecting Lebanon since the beginning of 2019 which accelerated in September 2019[19]. It is important to highlight large regional differences with 23 percent of Syrian households in Beirut under the SMEB, while this percentage rises to 78 percent in Baalbek.

**Unemployment increased in 2019** with only 59 percent of households with at least one member working in the past 7 days (68 percent in 2018). The increase is affecting mostly male headed households with 61 percent of them having at least a member working in the past 7 days in 2019 compared to 73 percent in 2018, while 47 percent of women headed households had at least a member working in the past 7 days in 2019 compared to 45 percent in 2018. Unemployment increased in all governorates except for Beirut which had the highest percentage of households with members working (81 percent in 2019, 72 percent in 2018) Baalbek El Hermel, on the other hand, had the lowest percentage (30 percent in 2019, 47 percent in 2018).

At the individual level, **Syrian women are more affected by unemployment**[20] than men, with 36 percent women who are part of the labour force being unemployed, as compared to 30 percent for men. It is, however, important to note that the labour participation of women (11%) is much lower than that of men (66%)[21]. The recently released CAS/ILO labour force survey, provides similar trends for the population of Lebanon (Lebanese and non-Lebanese) with 14.3 percent female unemployed compared to 10 percent for male.

The main source of income for Syrian refugees in Lebanon remains WFP assistance through e-cards (24 percent), with the highest frequency in the Bekaa (52 percent), Akkar (51 percent) and Baalbek (47 percent). Reliance on WFP e-cards is more prevalent among women-headed households (37 percent) as compared to men-headed ones. Not surprisingly, slightly more than half of households living in non-permanent shelter (51 percent) were reliant on e-cards as main source of income compared to households living in non-residential (25 percent) and residential (16 percent) shelters.

**Percentage of households below SMEB by governorate**




*Source: VASyR 2019*

18- The Minimum Expenditures Basket (MEB) is an indicator of the cost of the food and non-food items needed by a Syrian refugee household of five members over a one-month period.

19- VaSyr data was collected in July, therefore the consequences of the economic crisis are not captured through this data.

20- Calculated the percentage of the labour force that is unemployed.

21- Outside of labour force: number of working-age individuals (aged 15 and above) who were not employed in the past seven days for at least one hour, who are not available for work immediately and/or who have not actively searched for work in the past 30 days.

## Brussels Commitments - NPTP

| Commitments | Results Achieved |
|---|---|
| Commitment 34. The Government of Lebanon and the international community will also support the development of Lebanese social protection systems, with a particular emphasis on reforming and expanding the National Poverty Targeting Programme, drawing from the experience of humanitarian social safety nets, and emphasising a graduation approach into active labour market participation. | UN Agencies & partners: |
| | Scale-up of the NPTP e-card was launched in the second semester of 2019 - By December 2020, the scale up covered approximately 12,900 households |
| | Technical Assistance was provided to enhance the institutional capacity of the NPTP & put in place comprehensive mechanisms for M&E, grievance redress and communications amongst others. The Technical Assistance started in 2019 and continues in 2020. |
| | Communication tools are being rolled out (but not yet completed) for the scale-up in 2019 based on a communication strategy developed jointly with MoSA. |
| | The M&E system is not in place – A design is already with MoSA but not yet operational. |
| | The targeting methodology is not yet reviewed There is ongoing discussion on this since Nov 2019 with WB, other UN agencies, and other donors. |
| | The design of a grievance redress mechanism has been submitted to MoSA but not yet established and operational. |
| | Donors |
| | Multi-year funding is being provided – with EU and BMZ (Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany))- to support the e-card component of the NPTP. Discussions are on-going with the WB. |
| | Technical assistance to MoSA/NPTP is to facilitate capacity-building for NPTP is ongoing with support from EU and BMZ (through WFP). |
| | Government of Lebanon: |
| | The governance mechanisms for NPTP are not yet in place |
| | The Joint Accountability Framework is not yet formalised and adopted |
| | GoL has not yet undertaken a review of non-targeted subsidies. |
| | No domestic resources have been mobilised by GoL for the e-card component of the NPTP |
| | No piloting of alternative delivery modality |

## Brussels Commitments - Livelihoods

| Commitments | Results Achieved |
|---|---|
| Commitment LC p.3 [… Recognizing] that an expansion of economic opportunity will diminish the need for humanitarian assistance as growth will result in jobs for Lebanese and Syrians (...) the Government is proposing a new combination of interventions that aim to stimulate the economy by investing in several areas that will provide a solid foundation for sustained economic growth and trigger business expansion at the same time as directly providing additional job opportunities for both Lebanese and Syrians. (...) [A]n estimated total of 300,000 to 350,000 jobs are expected to be created, 60 percent of which could be for Syrians. | **UN Agencies & partners:** |
| | 4203 jobs have been created in 2019 under the LCRP |
| | 17433 people have benefited from temporary employment through labour-intensive investments in productive public municipal infrastructure and environmental assets under the LCRP |
| Commitment LC p.3 (…) support for projects at municipal levels that create job opportunities and contribute directly to fighting poverty[, in particular] solid waste management and liquid waste treatment, renewable energy and transportation. | **UN Agencies & partners:** |
| | $15,148,794 has been invested in municipal infrastructure rehabilitation. |

Norma storm leaves damages across the tents of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in the Nahri Camp, West Bekaa - UNRWA/ Rabie Akel

## Impact Five: Social stability is strengthened in Lebanon

Progress towards impact five is measured through 2 indicators reflecting the sense of solidarity and the tensions in vulnerable communities. Additional data from the UNDP & ARK perceptions survey is also used to capture social stability in Lebanon.

Progress towards Impact Five is measured through an analysis of data and evidence produced by the existing tensions monitoring system. Over the years, Lebanese community fatigue has increased. The quality of Lebanese host-community and Syrian refugee relations has continued to deteriorate (percent perceiving relation as positive: 24.9 percent in august 2019, 27.9 percent in June 2019, 29.9 percent in September 2018). 40 percent of Syrians cited competition over lower-skilled jobs are the main factor causing tension with Lebanese (48 percent in 2018 and 56 percent in 2017). Among Lebanese, 3 factors have increased in 2019, the unfair distribution of aid at 8.3 percent (5.12 in 2018), the political situation with 26.4 percent (25.8 percent in 2018), and competition for higher skilled job with 15 percent (14.5 percent in 2018). There is a decrease in the sense of solidarity[22] among vulnerable populations. 70 percent of displaced Syrians and 84 percent of Lebanese reporting a sense of solidarity in their community, compared to 80 percent displaced Syrians and 93 percent Lebanese in 2018.

**The frequency of contact is widening.** Research indicates that the proportion Syrians reporting that they have 'daily' or 'regular' social interactions with Lebanese communities remained stable in work situations around 70 percent but decreased by 7 percent in social circle private situations in 2019, from 52 to 45 percent. This follows a pre-existing trend with a decrease of 18% of these interactions in 2018. This is particularly concerning considering the importance of interactions between displaced and Lebanese community in maintaining positive relations.

## Impact Six: Mitigated environmental impact of the Syrian crisis, to avoid further degradation of the natural eco-system and ensure its long-term sustainability

Progress towards Impact Six is measured through environmental assessments conducted by LCRP partners and the Environmental task force at the Ministry of Environment. Despite the significant developments at the national level in term of policies and guidelines, solid waste management remains critical within the LCRP response, not only in terms of impact on environment and public health, but in terms of social stabilization.

The adoption of Law 80/2018 on Integrated Waste Management Systems, and the approval of the Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) Road Map on August 27, 2019 by the Council of Ministers (CoM) –constitute significant advancements in the structuring and definition of the solid waste sector; however Lebanon continues to lack sufficient solid waste management infrastructure and operational capacity which has resulted in the continuation of dumping in open sites throughout the country. Estimates indicate that there are nearly 900 open dumpsites remain scattered throughout the country; most of which are still being used. Lebanon produces approximately 6,500 tons of municipal solid waste per day across the country. The incremental quantity of attributed to displaced population is about 887 tons flow of the displaced population, accounting for 13.6 percent of the total waste generated in Lebanon. In addition, there has been a 40 percent increase in municipal spending on waste management since the beginning of the war in Syria in 2011. This situation has caused several environmental risks as well as tensions between displaced and lebanese communities.

22- Calculate through 3 indicators: (1) people around here are willing to help their neighbors; (2) people in this area can be trusted, (3) if some of your neighbors got into a fight would someone intervene to resolve it?

## *Other Brussels Commitments – Funding, Coordination, Facilitating the work of NGOs*

| Commitments | Results Achieved |
|---|---|
| **Funding**<br><br>26. International partners will endeavor to provide sustained, predictable multi-year funding to strengthen Lebanon's stability and development. | Amount (USD) of funding received per sector in 2019: Food security: $309M; Basic assistance: $219M; Education: $251M; Health: $146M; Livelihoods: $93M; Water: $118M; Protection: $188M; Shelter: $36M; Social Stability: $68M; Energy: $2M |
| | 4% of total LCRP funding was allocated to local and national actors |
| | 4 inter-sector funding updates produced and disseminated |
| **Coordination**<br><br>23. The Government of Lebanon and its international partners commit in the first instance to reviewing the appropriateness and impact of the current response model | The Mid-term review report of the LCRP was published in September 2019 |
| **Facilitating the work of NGOs**<br><br>24. The Government of Lebanon will continue to carry out reforms and investments in its own public service delivery structures, as well as to facilitate INGO activity through the issuance of work permits, entry visa, residency permits, and INGO registration in accordance with Lebanese law. | At September 2019 there were 14 organizations with pending registration. One had recently closed operations. |
| | Current in July 2019: majority of visa applications for INGO staff being processed |

Abou Hussein lives with his family in an olive grove outside Beirut. They receive multi-purpose cash which is available from ATMs to spend on food, rent, healthcare or their other essential needs.By Mazen Hodeib. © WFP

# SECTOR RESULTS ANALYSIS

## BASIC ASSISTANCE

| Funding | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Required | $572,000,000 | $542,300,000 | $477,000,000 |
| Received | $186,000,000 | $247,500,000 | $219,000,000 |
| Received in % | 33% | 46% | 45% |

| Outreach | | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population in Need | | 2,200,000 | 2,200,000 | 1,456,346 |
| Targeted | | 1,276,000 | 1,354,000 | 1,023,911 |
| Reached | Total | 943,530 | 908,790 | 1,253,522 |
| | Syrians | 94% | 94% | 90% |
| | Lebanese | 1% | 1% | 7.5% |
| | PRS/PRL | 5% | 5% | 2.5% |

| Key Outcome level indicators | Baseline | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| % population that is severely vulnerable | 53% | 58% | 51% | 55% |
| % of assisted severely economically vulnerable households report being able to meet their basic survival needs | 90% | n/a | 69% | 73% |
| % of assisted households affected by seasonal shocks who are able to meet their additional basic survival needs | 90% | 90% | 92% | 90% |

| Key Output level indicators | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| # of households receiving regular cash transfers – every month (Syr, Leb, Pal) | 88,503 | 93,612 | 67,777 |
| Total USD amount distributed as regular cash transfers (Syr, Leb, Pal) | $118m | $ 141.3m | $129.3 m |
| # of Syrian households receiving multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers (every month) | 56,820 | 62,627 | 57,763 |
| # of Lebanese households receiving multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers (every month) | 1,269 | 912 | 916 |
| # of Palestinian households receiving multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers (every month) | 9,672 | 9,674 | 8,347 |
| # of Syrian households receiving child focused cash transfers (every month / unique) | n/a | 20,399 | 2,420 |
| # of households receiving seasonal cash grants or vouchers | 188,706 | 181,758 | 288,957 |
| Total amount of seasonal cash distributed in USD | $ 114.5m | $ 69.1 m | $ 91.4 m |
| Total USD amount injected into economy in forms of cash assistance so far in 2018 (seasonal + regular) | $232.4m | $ 210.4 m | $ 220.7 m |

### Key achievements in 2019

**67,777 severely economically vulnerable households from different population cohorts had improved access to essential basic goods and services available in local markets and critical to their survival on a regular monthly basis.**

To achieve this result in 2019, 58,090 Syrian households ( 62,627 in 2018) 8,771 PRS households ( 9,674 in 2018) and 916 Lebanese households ( 912 in 2018) identified as living below extreme and survival monthly expenditure levels[23] were supported with multiple types of unrestricted, unconditional cash-based interventions[24] on a monthly basis. 36 percent of the households targeted have been reach (vs. 39 percent in 2018). This decrease between 2019 and 2018 corresponds to the diminished number of agencies providing regular cash support[25] due to limited funding opportunities.

As highlighted by a recent outcome monitoring reports[26], displaced Syrians receiving multi-purpose cash are using the grants to pay rent (43 percent of total cash received), followed by buying food or covering health expenditures (40 percent), as well as repaying debts with an average of $20 per month. The report demonstrates the positive impact of cash assistance as assisted families have lower average debts than non-assisted ($1,059 vs. 1,248). It also shows that the proportion of families who borrow money to pay rent is significantly lower among those receiving cash-assistance (39 percent vs 60 percent).

The total value of the regular assistance provided in forms of direct transfers was $129.3 million by end December 2019. In addition to improving the ability of vulnerable households to meet their basics survival needs, the cash support also represents an important injection of cash into the local economy with a multiplier effect varying between 1.6[27] and 2.13[28] for every dollar spent based on existing literature.

**In 2019, 288,957 vulnerable Syrian, Lebanese, PRS and PRL households strengthened their ability to secure additional basic survival needs.**

During the winter months of 2019 (Jan, Feb, March, Nov, Dec) vulnerable households have been confronted to several small-scale emergencies due to heavy rains, snow, and low temperatures. The livelihoods of nearly 60,000 families, mainly living in informal settlements in the eastern and northern parts of the country, were affected by successive severe storms and adverse weather conditions during the first two months of 2019.

During the specific responses to these localized emergencies, basic assistance partners distributed core relief items to affected families, combined with other interventions such as weatherproofing and insulation kits, dislodging, floor raising, and site improvements implemented by partners from the Shelter and Water sectors.

By December 2019, 288,957 households had received winter support in the form of cash-based interventions, fuel cards, and core relief items such as high thermal blankets, stoves, mattresses. These families and given their economic vulnerability levels were identified to require additional support the meet the additional needs and better cope with cold temperature, heavy rain, and snowstorms.

In addition, and given the deteriorating economic situation that Lebanon started witnessing as of the second half of the year, which resulted in additional heavy economic burdens on families, many partners scaled up winter support this year to reach more vulnerable families across different population groups. Some $91.4 million were injected in the local markets through various forms of seasonal cash and vouchers assistance, contributing to local economy.

**National system for social assistance strengthened.**

Since its establishment in 2015, the Basic Assistance sector has been supporting through its operational partners existing national system to strengthen the

23- Syrian households Expenditure Baskets thresholds: Minimum expenditure levels: $571/family of five/month; Survival minimum expenditure levels: $435/family of five/month;

24- Multipurpose cash assistance for Syrians and Lebanese $175 and $100 for Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS).

25- CLMC, Solidar Suisse, and UNICEF are no longer providing financial assistance at the same scale. The major drop in the caseload is due to the discontinuation of the UNICEF child focused grants programme (Min – Ila), that used to reach 20,300 Syrian households during the 2017 / 2018 scholastic year. CLMC and Solidar Suisse used to reach nearly 1,000 cases together.

26- UNHCR Outcome Monitoring Report, December 2018, Round 3, published on the 8th of May 2019.

27- *Impact of Humanitarian Aid on the Lebanese Economy;* UNHCR, UNDP, 2015; https://www.lb.undp.org/content/lebanon/en/home/library/poverty/impact-of-humanitarian-aid-undp-unhcr.html

28- *Emergency Economies: The Impact of Cash Assistance in Lebanon;* International Rescue Committee, 2014; https://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/document/631/emergencyeconomiesevaluationreport-lebanon2014.pdf#page=32&zoom=100,164,945

delivery of social assistance to Lebanese. At the end of 2018, the Ministry of Social Affairs, with the support of UNICEF, developed a roadmap to guide the country's move toward a national framework for social protection. While this is still a work in progress, MoSA organized a national dialogue on social protection in 2019, in addition to several consultations and technical workshops, engaging relevant ministries and government institutions as well as development partners and agencies. Moreover, a third party[29] was contracted to conduct the technical work and was tasked to develop the overall social protection policy framework

## KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACTS

Severely vulnerable people with limited economic means had improved access to basic goods and services essential to their survival.

In 2019, the Basic Assistance sector has contributed to enabled displaced families to better protect themselves by reducing risks associated to economic vulnerabilities. The interventions contribute to LCRP impact two (Strategic Objective 2)[30] and Impact Three (Strategic Objective 3)[31].

For the 67,777 vulnerable households (86 percent Syrians, 13 percent Palestine refugees, and 1 percent Lebanese) supported, the regular and seasonal cash-based interventions under the LCRP represent the primary source of income, used to cover basic needs mostly food, rent and health expenditures.

The cash-based interventions are contributing to meeting the immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations (LCRP Impact One). In fact, more than 73 percent of households receiving multi-purpose cash assistance reported improved ability to meet basic needs[32].

A decrease in the level of assistance would increase families' risk of becoming more vulnerable, given that recipient households are currently living with limited economic means to access basic goods and services critical to their survival.

Even though resources available for programming did not drastically change between 2018 and 2019, an increase in the economic vulnerability levels of displaced Syrians was witnessed due to many exogenous factors such as limited access to employment and shrinking protection space due to increased restrictive measure and an overall worsening of social and economic conditions which impacted the entire country.

On the other hand, and under LCRP Impact 3 (vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national (public and private) systems, the Basic Assistance sector and through its existing partnership with the National Poverty Targeting Programme is supporting the existing systems through the identification of Lebanese households eligible for cash based interventions implemented by various partners. Moreover, partners are engaging with NPTP in broader discussions on social protection systems and frameworks. In the medium to long term, strengthening national safety net can only be done through strengthening NPTP and establishing sustainable operational and technical linkages.

## CHALLENGES

Overarching challenges related to the context, from the deterioration in the overall economic situation in the country, to the shrinking protection space for displaced Syrians had negative consequences on the vulnerability of families already living in poor conditions.

Levels of economic vulnerability remained high among the affected population from different population cohort in the first half of the year. Findings of VASyR 2019 indicated a slight increase in the percentage of Syrian displaced population living in poor conditions: 73 percent of households were identified to be poor, i.e. living below the minimum expenditure basket, an increased by 4 percent from 2018, and 55 percent estimated to be living in extreme poverty, i.e. below the survival minimum expenditure level.

29- A national institution (Beyond Reform & Development) along with an international consultant were contracted to carry out the technical work.

30- Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations, to support them in meeting their basic needs.

31- To strengthen service delivery and access to vulnerable groups service provision will be supported through national systems.

32- UNHCR's Outcome Monitoring, 2019.

In addition, up to date information on the vulnerability and poverty levels of Lebanese remains an information gap. Nevertheless, estimates from the world bank indicated an increase in the percentage of Lebanese living in poverty during 2019, with an expectation to reach 40 percent during 2020 (around 10 percent increase since 2011).

The deterioration of social and economic conditions led to massive demonstrations and civil unrest erupting as of October. The banking sector has had limited operations functions since then, roadblocks were witnessed, and an overall constrained private and public sector functionality.

The unprecedented prevailing economic crisis featured a rapid increase in prices, supply shocks, informal devaluation of the exchange rate, and loss of livelihoods for many households from different population groups. Additional consequences were portrayed by an immediate degradation in purchasing power, contributing to a decrease in the ability of individuals and families to meet their basic needs, even those who are being assisted through the sector.

Humanitarian actors were also challenged and operational delays in transfers and upload / withdrawal of assistance resulting in interrupted operations (card issuance, distributions) was noted during the last three months of the year.

Since October 2019, the Basic Assistance sector has been monitoring key indicators (such as assistance redemption rates, inflation, and informal exchange rate values) to serve as proxies of the impact of the current situation on households and programmes. Yet, programme adaptation and related resource mobilization remains an issue for further discussion in 2020.

## KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN IN 2020

In 2020, Basic Assistance sector partners and others working under the LCRP will have one main goal: to manage the impact of the Syria crisis in Lebanon within an economic crisis with a wider protection and social impact.

The current funding levels will not be enough to tackle the additional needs that have emerged due to the ongoing situation. Pre-crisis achievements of regular targeted assistance has never reached more than one third of prioritized households with a major gap in extending assistance to vulnerable Lebanese.

Moreover, and in the case of Syrian households supported, cash-based assistance has always been calculated based on a local market-based expenditure basket and transferred in local currency. With the 30 percent increase in the price of the food basket and local currency losing more than 35 percent of its value by end-December, the contribution of the cash and food assistance package to the most economically vulnerable (71 percent pre-crisis) in meeting the survival minimum expenditure basket level has decreased leading to wider livelihoods gaps and further unmet needs. It is worth mentioning that these market dynamics have affected all population cohorts and pushed them to change their expenditure patterns, incur more debts, and apply severe coping mechanism.

With negative market-based outlooks regarding inflation and the value of the local currency in 2020, there is a growing risk that the assistance provided will no longer be sufficient and impactful as its value decreases, coupled with a diminishing purchasing power and more limited informal income generation opportunities.

Moreover, to date, the available funds for 2020 remain limited. In 2019, the Basic Assistance sector was funded at 45 percent, contributing to gaps in the response. For 2020, additional funding would be needed to ensure an appropriate response to the increasing needs. While managing the current situation is an integral part of the ongoing interventions of the Basic Assistance sector, meeting existing gaps such assistance to vulnerable Lebanese through NPTP is equally important. Lastly, as sector partners are entering 2020, there are many existing information gaps that needs to be met. Such questions seeking answers include how the ongoing situation is impacting the welfare of different population groups, changes in expenditure patterns, negative coping mechanisms, and programmatic adaptation by partners.

# CASE STUDY

58,090 poor displaced Syrian households benefited from the unconditional, unrestricted multi-purpose cash assistance porgrammes implemented by partners under the Basic Assistance sector[33]. For the fourth consecutive year, the Basic Assistance sector still maintains this critical type of support to the most economically vulnerable Syrian families at a large scale. Multi-purpose cash assistance is provided together with food assistance[34] with the aim to deliver a meaningful package of assistance to families with poor financial means who are unable to meet their basic needs on their own. This meaningful package is meant to cover 71 percent of the survival expenditure basket ($435 / LBP652,500) for a family of five members.

Since economic vulnerability overlaps with other types, a typical poor displaced household identified to receive this type of assistance usually live in low quality unprotected shelters, require spending on medication, food, clothing for their children, and repay parts of the burdening debt.

Fatima[35], a mother of six children, lives in the middle of an industrial city in a one room structure shelter. In order to afford the rent and cover food needs for her family, Fatima sold all available appliances and assets she owned gradually.

Without the support of any family member, Fatima joined other vulnerable women in picking potatoes in a nearby field, having to leave her children home alone. Fatima receives multi-purpose cash assistance from WFP that she withdraws from an ATM and allocates modest portions to be fully spent on debt repayment, rent, school transportation fees, and food. For most vulnerable families in Lebanon, like Fatima's, survival is possible only thanks to multi-purpose cash contributions.

Poor families across Lebanon struggle to meet their needs, especially during the cold winter months when opportunities for informal income generation linked to seasonal work decrease. On average, vulnerable families need between $66 and $150 to cover heating, fuel, winter clothing, weatherproofing and extra food needs to survive winter months.

Every year, sector partners deliver a large-scale winter campaign with cash being the primary modality for assistance. In some cases, additional distributions of in-kind core relief items are required to cover the specific needs of vulnerable families leaving at high altitudes, especially during storms.

As a part of UNICEF's response to the current economic and social crisis gripping the country, over 27,000 winter clothing kits have been provided for poor and vulnerable children across Lebanon in December 2019.[36]

3-year-old Mariam's face lights up on discovering what's inside her UNICEF winter clothing kit. She is one of 5,000 Lebanese children throughout the Bekaa, who has benefitted from UNICEF's December initiative, and has received a supply of heavy winter clothes – gloves, scarf, jacket, boots, and even pyjamas.

Mariam's mother, Amani said "This year, more than in any year, we're turning the heater off earlier in the night. We're preparing for harder times ahead and keeping our children warm is a priority. UNICEF's provision for our children will help keep them a little safer, and a little healthier this winter!"

Basic Assistance sector partners ensure a blanket coverage of poor households during similar response plans. This year and given the severe economic conditions the country is witnessing, large scale cash and in kind assistance were carried out to respond to the growing critical needs.

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33- ANERA, ICRC, IOM, Lebanese Red Cross, OXFAM, Relief International, UNHCR, WFP.

34- Provided by WFP under the Food Security Sector

35- "Putting the Furthest Behind First" / Edward Johnson, WFP, July 2019 / https://insight.wfp.org/putting-the-furthest-behind-first-5a316516f034

36- "UNICEF's winter programme provides warmth and support for Lebanon's most vulnerable children" / Simon Balsom, UNICEF, December 2019 / https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/stories/unicefs-winter-programme

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# FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

| Funding | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Required | $507,000,000 | $507,000,000 | $508,600,000 |
| Received | $311,000,000 | $299,000,000 | $309,331,397 |
| Received in % | 61% | 59% | 61% |

| Outreach | | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population in Need | | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 2,079,800 |
| Targeted | | 961,388 | 920,821 | 1,017,821 |
| Reached | Total | 1,103,627 | 1,033,210 | 1,027,394 |
| | Syrians | 86% | 85% | 83% |
| | Lebanese | 8% | 12% | 11% |
| | PRS/PRL | 6% | 3% | 6% |

| Key Outcome level indicators | Baseline | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| % of targeted HH with borderline or acceptable food consumption score | 49% | 62% | 83% | 59% |
| % of HHS with increased agricultural livelihoods | 33% | 24% | 14% | 32% |

| Key Output level indicators | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| # of vulnerable people reached with cash-based food assistance | 968,439 | 963,368 | 779,148 |
| Total USD amount of cash for food transferred through vouchers, ATM cards and e-cards | $258,940,000 | $235,800,000 | $234,800,000 |
| # of farmers with enhanced farming production | 2,305 | 3,124 | |
| # of people supported for employment in the agriculture sector | 3,797 | 2,269 | 11,153 |

## Key achievements in 2019

The Food Security and Agriculture sector (FSS) has two overarching objectives: i) to reduce food insecurity by 2020 and ii) to improve the resilience of the agricultural sector to the impacts of the Syria crisis.

At the output level, FSS interventions aim at improving food availability and food access for affected populations. Food availability is achieved, among others, through the provision of in-kind food assistance and agriculture production support, while food access is achieved through cash-based food assistance and agricultural livelihoods interventions. In 2019, the sector provided food assistance, through in kind and cash modalities, to a total of 1,002,200[37] individuals ( 223,052 through in-kind food assistance and 779,148 through cash based food assistance) out of a target of 908,206,[38] inclusive of all populations cohorts, reaching well beyond the cumulative targets set for 2019.

This increase can be explained by two factors: increased food needs during winter storms and food

37- The source of all figures is ActivityInfo

38- This target figure differs from the 913,406 figure mentioned in the mid-year dashboard as the targets for PRS were amended from 34,000 to 28,800 under output 2.1.

distributions during the holy month of Ramadan. The winter storms in January and February 2019 ravaged a number of informal settlements and collective shelters and left displaced Syrians with no access to food. As a result, several partners mobilized emergency funds and provided in-kind food assistance, which had not previously planned.[39] In addition, the main bulk of the in-kind food assistance was provided in May 2019 during Ramadan distribution.

The higher amount of in-kind food assistance contributed to the emergency response and additional needs of the vulnerable population, exceeding the targets set for 2019.

In 2019, the immediate food needs (in-kind and cash-based food modalities) of 30,832 vulnerable Palestinians Refugees from Syria (PRS) were met, despite a limited funding to support PRS. The initial targets on food assistance to vulnerable Lebanese through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) were exceeded by the end of 2019. By then, 91,239 Lebanese had benefitted from food e-cards, a 60 percent increase versus the target due to increased support to the government of Lebanon social safety nets. Furthermore, 8,536 Lebanese received in-kind food assistance.

It is important to note that 170,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees, under the survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB), did not receive humanitarian cash assistance to meet their basic food needs due to limited funding. By December 2019, sampled non-assisted households, despite maintaining their food consumption, had to resort to the use of debt as coping strategy and reported changes in the sources of income, possibly because of the economic downturn, decreasing in turn their overall expenditures to continue to meet their needs.[40]

Under the objective to improve the resilience of the agricultural sector to the impact of the Syria crisis, Lebanese farmers had the opportunity to attend trainings whose objective was to increase their skills and competencies on a wide range of topics. To this end, 942 Lebanese farmers were trained in sustainable agriculture production (crop and livestock), water use conservation practices, access to markets and on pests and diseases control measures. These trainings contributed to raise farmers' awareness on the adoption of good agricultural practices in all aspects of the value chain. In particular the trainings on water use efficiency encouraged farmers to use modern irrigation techniques (i.e. drip irrigation) that use water efficiently avoiding the traditional flooding method which uses large amounts of water and favors weeds and pests. Training results showed different range of adoption of water conservation practices with good results for the targets of the training sessions.

Farmers were also trained on the use of the Integrated Pest Management which objective is to reduce the use of agro-chemicals in farming practices and pollution of natural resources (soil, air and water). The result of these trainings showed an important decrease in the use of the fertilizers for 10 potato pilot fields ranging from 18 to 40 percent and an increase in yield ranging from 10 to 40 percent. In addition, a reduction between 6 and 50 percent in the expenses for fertilizers was observed.

Furthermore, 138 farmers or members of cooperatives were trained on the management of soil resources, pest management and efficient use of water resources. The training aimed at supporting members of cooperatives in adopting and managing sustainable agricultural practices which will benefit their cooperatives and would have a positive impact on their products and helping market them with an added value. Always under the support to cooperatives, 41 facilitators attended a training on Business Plan Development through Farmer Business School (FBS) where 84 percent exhibited signs of increased knowledge in relevant field allowing 25 of them to be selected as facilitators.

To promote private agriculture investment, 808 small-scale farmers received financial grants, agricultural inputs and technical assistance. The grant schemes distributed to farmers mainly for

39- That would also include a partner that mobilized emergency funds to provide hot meals to children in a community center when their houses were being dismantled in the aftermath of the Higher Defense Council's declaration on semi-permanent structures.

40- WFP, Food Security Outcome Monitoring, December 2019

land reclamation and water reservoirs construction through the Green Plan, provided new farmers with an additional source of income. In addition, 28 percent of attending farmers were productive in 2019 and this is expected to increase to more than 90 percent in 8 years as per an impact study done for the Green Plan. It is to be noted that the grant contributed to 42 percent of the farmers' initial investment and that the impact study showed a leverage ratio of 6.

It is worth mentioning that in 2019, 9 Farmers Business Schools were established within the land reclamation intervention. The aim was to coach farmers on how to calculate profitability of their farms, keep their farm records, assess and find market information and make feasibility study and business plans for their farms. Training evaluation showed that the majority of farmers (>95 percent) were able to implement the FBS approach on their farms.

In 2019, under the non-formal education agricultural training programme, 17 short-term course modules were organized and targeted 1,960 students (60 percent of which girls and 34 percent young displaced Non-Lebanese participants). These short-term courses offered new technical learning opportunities for youth (aged between 15 and 25 years old) in the agricultural sector, providing Lebanese and displaced youth a chance to access better jobs in the agriculture and agro-industry labor market.

The enrolment in formal education (technical agricultural schools under MoA), showed in the first academic year an increase of 26 percent in comparison to previous years due to large communication outreach. A tracer study will be organized to assess the impact of interventions in helping students to access employment and fill the needs of the labor market.

Livelihoods programmes employed more than 11,000 individuals as casual or temporary workers, including more than 6,500 participants that built/ rehabilitated small agriculture infrastructure and worked in reforestation/forest management projects. In exchange for their work, the families of the 6,500 workers, almost 35,000 vulnerable beneficiaries, received more than USD 2 million worth of cash transfers.

Out of the 11,000 workers, 4,570 (35 percent Lebanese, 64 percent Syrian and 1 percent other) were employed under the land reclamation and water reservoir intervention. The casual laborers earned a total of USD 1.63 million[41].

Besides, around 700 Lebanese farmers (77 percent men and 23 percent women) were part of interventions aiming at rehabilitating agricultural infrastructure and/or communal assets (including agricultural roads, irrigation networks, forests, hill lakes, water reservoirs …) or establishing new ones, with a total of 442 worksites improved and almost USD 2 million invested.

More than 18,000 vulnerable participants attended a wide range of skill development trainings (digital literacy, market-based skills training, support to agricultural cooperatives and agro-food processing). Half of the participants benefitted from a food assistance for trainings programme, of which the majority was Lebanese (52 percent). Their families, about 45,000 vulnerable beneficiaries, received USD 3 million in cash transfers.

The sector takes stock of these positive achievements under casual/temporary labour in agriculture that provide a lifeline and skill development opportunities for Syrians and Lebanese alike. However, a significant gap is witnessed in the achievement of the other outputs related to direct support to Lebanese farmers, which has been constantly well below targets since 2017. That result pinpoints the challenges faced by the sector that are explored at length in section 3 and that can be explained here by the fact that the bulk of financial resources is targeting humanitarian assistance (in-kind and cash-based food assistance) rather than support to farmers, which requires longer term agricultural development interventions.

The food utilization pillar, under outcome 3 in the sector logframe, continues to have a limited amount of activities as there are only a few sector partners working on nutrition: 445 individuals were trained on food preservation and transformation technologies and on food safety and quality

41- The casual laborers were on average employed for 10 days, with daily wage of USD 45 for Lebanese, and USD 31 for Syrians.

measures of which 72 percent were Syrians. The few partners that monitor results at outcome level, report very little improvement from 2018 in women's minimum dietary diversity score based on the Household Diet Diversity Scale (HDDS).

In terms of support to institutions, under output 4.2, the sector, through its partners, continued providing its support to national institutions and their staff, both at central and regional levels. In this context, interventions targeted mainly the Ministry of agriculture (MoA) and its institutions (Green Plan, General Directorate of Cooperatives-GDC, extension staff and agricultural schools). The Ministry of Social Affairs with its Social Development Centers (SDCs) was also target of interventions to strengthen system and delivery of services.

Support to MoA covered capacity building and trainings on: (i) FBS training sessions drafting the Arabic manual and in coaching the FBS implementation (ii) Monitoring and Evaluation principles, concepts, methodology, and tools; (iii) orchard implementation and on irrigation network design ; iv) curriculum elaboration and development for teachers of the agricultural schools including competency-based training; v) workshops on the ISO 9001 standards and establishment of a Quality Management System (QMS) to identify the necessary gap analysis, needs assessment and define a roadmap for the support and work facilitation of the staff in the future. In addition, 29 government staff (26 from MoA and 3 from General Directorate of Cooperatives) have been trained on FBS approach adapted to the cooperative work enabling them to facilitate sessions to agricultural cooperatives members.

At local level, a total of 113 MoA extension staff in the agricultural centers were trained on different technical topics such as the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices, Integrated Crop Management and on agro-climatic information and guidance to make agricultural production systems more resilient. These trainings covered the practical aspect of crops growing and not only theoretical aspects which provided the technical staff with field experience essential to confidently advise farmers in the field.

Institutional support to the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM) was continued in order to strengthen the implementation and fund raising of the food assistance component of the NPTP. MoSA is now equipped with monitoring tools using mobile data collection applications. Two hundred MoSA enumerators have strengthened capacities on data collection through four rounds of technical and operational trainings that have greatly reduced the time spent in data collection.

## KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACTS

The FSS contributes towards the LCRP impact under Strategic Objectives 2, 3 and 4. Under the Objective 2 of the LCRP (provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations), 223,052 vulnerable people, benefitted from short term in-kind food assistance in 2019. Increased emergency in-kind food assistance during weather storms (107,633 beneficiaries of food parcels in January 2019) and longer-term monthly cash-based assistance programmes both provided a lifeline to refugees' families, and vulnerable Lebanese under the NPTP, for a total of 779,148 people. Furthermore, cash-based programmes directly injected USD 234.8 million into the economy through the e-card modality, especially supporting the local economy.

Sector partners increased access and availability of food to vulnerable populations, yielding results on their food security in the first half of 2019. However, in the last quarter of 2019 the economic and financial crisis with the national currency losing in the black-market 64 percent of its value versus the official exchange rate have been taking their toll on households' purchasing power. Between September and December 2019, the monthly average price of the food basket under the SMEB increased by 28.4 percent, from LBP 37,700 to LBP 48,400.

The abovementioned contraction in households' purchasing power has started to impact the food security of displaced Syrians. The preliminary results of the Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) conducted by WFP in December 2019 showed a deterioration in the food consumption of Syrian refugees' households receiving monthly food assistance, in particular a drastic reduction

of the acceptable food consumption score (FCS) between July and December 2019. The decrease in food consumption score is due to the reduction in consumption of vegetables, meat and dairy as compared to July 2019 which has been met with an increased consumption of the cheaper alternative. The deterioration in food consumption was accompanied by the use of negative food-based coping strategies and an increase in the use of in the second half of the year. Livelihood- based coping strategies include purchasing food on credit, borrowing money, reducing health expenses and withdrawing children from school.

Under the Strategic Objective 3 of the LCRP (supporting service provision through national systems) the sector, through the interventions of its partners, aims at strengthening the capacity of national and local service delivery and reinforcing the stability of public institutions. Partners continued their support to national systems through capacity building aimed at increasing the number of vulnerable Lebanese having access to basic services through national systems. In 2019, WFP deepened its capacity building support to MoSA to ensure the Ministry is equipped with the main building blocks to effectively implement the NPTP, the Government's safety net program. As a result, the programme was scaled up to reach 12,892 households, representing 91,200 individuals, aiming to reach 15,000 households by February 2020. Furthermore, WFP assisted MoSA in developing a digital verification instrument which enabled the profiling of the new household beneficiaries which allowed to update household information for the 5,000 households targeted for the scale up and check their eligibility to receive the food assistance component of NPTP.

Thanks to FAO, AVSI, ILO, UNICEF and WARD support, the seven agricultural technical schools of MoA have now an improved curriculum and learning conditions: the Baccalauréat technique (BT) programme has been upgraded to provide student with higher quality education. The schools were rehabilitated, through the procurement of technical facilities and other laboratory materials. The enrolment of young Syrian and Lebanese students increased by 26 percent. The support to schools will allow in turn young Lebanese graduates to have a better chance in accessing the job market and will provide young displaced Syrians the necessary technical qualifications and official diplomas to use once they return to Syria. This is in addition to putting in place an operational modality for work-based learning in consultation with the potential employers and project partners and draw up policy implications to the Lebanese government.

In 2019, MoA, with FAO support, initiated the dialogue on the formulation of the Agriculture Sector Strategy for 2021-2025 by organizing a high-level workshop under the Prime Minister patronage under the theme: "Transforming Lebanon's Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities". The workshop aimed at paving the way for a clear agriculture vision 2030. It should serve as a framework for fostering the sector competitiveness in a sustainable manner, accelerating growth, and diversifying employment opportunities in rural areas. The process has however been delayed because of the political and economic upheavals.

The sector also supported the Ministry of Education and Higher Education through the provision of school snacks to more than 32,000 students, both Lebanese and displaced Syrians, enrolled in 56 public schools to enhance school attendance and retention rates.

The sector through its partners supported as well the North Lebanon Water Establishment (NLWE), to improve its performance and capacity in planning and management of water resources and better water outcomes to end users. Staff capacity building was reinforced together with the equipment of water quality labs and real-time monitoring equipment that generates water resources information at Water Establishment level and calibrate outputs of the remote sensing.

Under Strategic Objective 4, the sector has been active in trying to strengthen the agriculture productive sector and expand economic and livelihoods opportunities in agriculture. Sector livelihoods programmes, mapped under an interactive dashboard and a brief, show good results in terms of assets building/rehabilitation, temporary/casual labour and trainings conducted, as explained under the previous section. Notwithstanding these efforts, the sector is far from

reaching the targets set at output and outcome level on Lebanese farmers. Partners lament limited funding on longer term support to agricultural livelihoods activities, which limit the number of vulnerable Lebanese farming families reached and have a negative impact on their agricultural livelihoods.

## CHALLENGES

While important steps were taken in 2019 towards reducing the food insecurity of the different population cohorts, meeting funding requirements is crucial in order to maintain food security gains and ensure wider coverage for Syrian refugees in Lebanon, of which 170,000 still do not benefit from food e-vouchers or cash transfers, despite their vulnerability ranking. While in 2019 the FSS was financed at 61 percent of its budget, the funds received for cash-based food assistance represented almost 80 percent of the total funds received, showing funding constraint for the support to agricultural production and agricultural livelihoods.

The sector activities therefore remain somehow unbalanced with funding and beneficiaries mainly benefiting from food assistance, although, as compared with 2018, the sector has witnessed an increase of participants to the construction or rehabilitation of assets and trainings. Notwithstanding, some partners faced difficulties in enrolling and retaining Lebanese participants in agricultural livelihoods activities.

The short-term nature of funding mechanisms do not always support longer-term initiatives aimed to improve the resilience of the agricultural sector to the impact of the Syria crisis and adequately support the long-term, structural challenges faced by Lebanese agriculture, cooperatives and small-scale farmers, such as building market linkages and supporting value chains development, which require time and investments. The performance of the indicators related to support to farmers and agricultural production as well as agricultural livelihoods in general, well below their targets, demonstrates this absence of multi-year funding.

The dearth of socio-economic data on Lebanese remains a challenge at the basis of assistance to lebanese communities, made more evident by the economic crisis and uncertain financial outlook since October 2019. The current crisis compounds the state of agriculture and vulnerability of Lebanese and the bifurcation between the labor market needs and trainings programmes devised by partners. Furthermore, the crisis is affecting partners working on agriculture that face several challenges in programme delivery and running of operations, especially due to currency fluctuation and banking constraints.

In a wider context of limited resources for stabilization initiatives, the establishment in the last quarter of 2019 of regional working groups and the technical working group on agricultural value chains, in cooperation with the Livelihoods sector, aim to help partners to better plan for interventions and increase coordination of activities at field level.

## KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN IN 2020

The key change in strategy between 2019 and 2020 is to ensure a more focused and structured approach to cross-cutting issues that pertain vulnerable populations. For example, in 2020 the sector plans to set up a referral system for the sector on the basis on partners' available services for referrals to vulnerable displaced Syrians. Also, the sector plans to support the design of programmes that are more sensitive to the prevention of conflict and social tensions. The sector will also include a renewed focus on tackling child labour within the agriculture sector. This cross-sectoral focus is of particular relevance to enable a deeper and contextualized understanding of the extent of potential tensions and potential protection risks related to food assistance and livelihoods activities, which are very relevant in the current situation.

The unfolding of the current economic and financial crisis and its impact on agriculture and particularly on vulnerable Lebanese farmers, reinforces the 2020 priorities of the sector, already mentioned in the strategy. This crisis is negatively affecting farmers as it is more difficult to purchase agricultural inputs (e.g. seeds and fertilizers, other inputs) through seasonal credits, which are usually paid back to suppliers at the end of the agricultural campaign. In parallel, prices of agricultural inputs

have exponentially increased and farmers are requested by suppliers to pay in cash and in foreign currency, which in turn makes it challenging for many of them to continue cultivating their lands, especially seasonal crops.

The stabilization component of the strategy and the adoption of a food system approach that focuses on agricultural value chains remain key priorities of the sector. The impact of the crisis on an already ailing agriculture sector will increase the urgency of allocating funds and resources to support the current agricultural campaign, to invest in multi-year funding for programmes to develop strategic value chains, notably in agriculture and food products, and to implement labour intensive projects that create temporary employment for vulnerable people and are of value for the food security and livelihoods of displaced Syrians and lebanese communities. In this regard, strengthening collaboration as well as partnerships and mutual learning will be pursued in 2020 through the technical working group on agriculture value chains, in collaboration with the livelihoods sector.

The strategy already foresees increased food assistance to vulnerable Lebanese (through increased targets for the NPTP and school feeding). However, with a persisting volatile and unpredictable situation, concerns are growing that refugees will become even more vulnerable and more Lebanese will fall below the poverty line.

The sector will therefore continue to regularly monitor banking services, market functionality, food prices and the purchasing power of vulnerable populations. It will undertake preparedness measures including mapping the interventions by NGOs outside the LCRP providing food assistance to vulnerable Lebanese; support the conduct of assessments on the vulnerability of Lebanese and of small scale farmers and the enhancement of the technical assistance to the NPTP and MoSA, and to MoA for the formulation of the new agriculture sector strategy.

# CASE STUDY

PLEASE NOTE: This story first appeared on WFP Insights. It was written by WFP staff Edward Johnson and it is published with WFP's permission.

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Leaning on a card and a stick: Mostafa walked through the door at 9 a.m. sharp leaning heavily on his walking stick. He is 65-years-old and has lived his entire life on the outskirts of Lebanon's second-largest city, Tripoli. Life was never easy for Mostafa. He has always grappled with health issues, moved from job to job and constantly struggled to make ends meet to support his wife and nine children. In August 2019, Lebanon's Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) invited Mostafa to one of the World Food Programme's (WFP) distribution sites so he could be enrolled to receive support for his family. One humid September morning, he arrived at the El Mina site in Tripoli, armed with the ID he was asked to bring and his walking stick, which he is now entirely dependent upon.

Under the Government's National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP), 10,000 of Lebanon's most vulnerable families receive financial assistance for food, healthcare and education through a white e-card. The technical system supporting the NPTP was developed by WFP in Lebanon and given to the Government. Currently, Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is financing the food component of the programme.

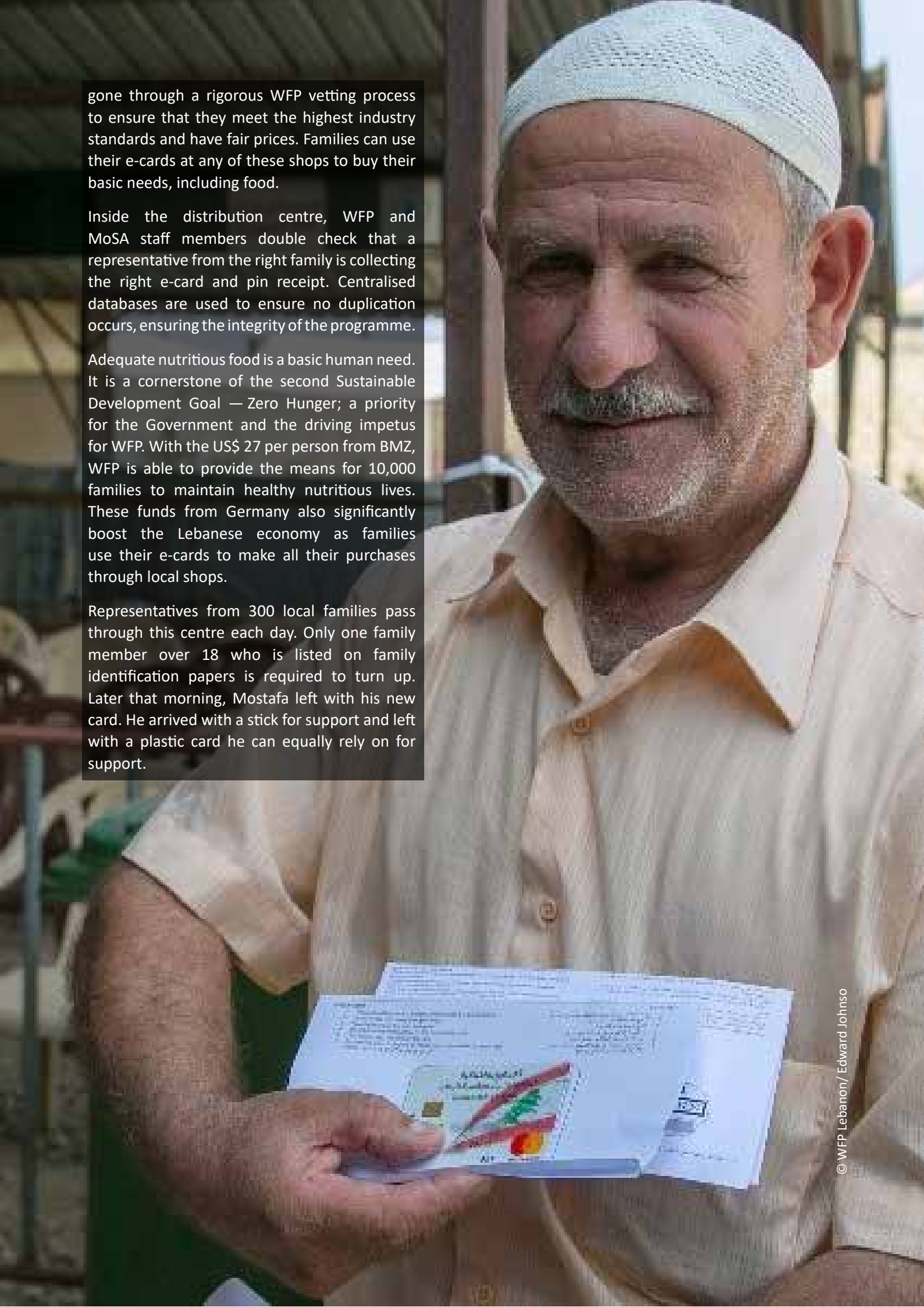
WFP's local partner Lebanese Red Cross manages distribution centres in the north of Lebanon, facilitating access and the movement of individuals through the process. Staff are also responsible for giving briefings on how to use the NPTP benefits, whether in shops, hospitals or schools. Mostafa's back and heart ailments require treatment that costs US$ 250 each month. His new medical entitlements will ease part of that financial burden. Individuals attending distributions of new e-cards are handed a list with the names and locations of 500 shops throughout Lebanon. They are shops which have

gone through a rigorous WFP vetting process to ensure that they meet the highest industry standards and have fair prices. Families can use their e-cards at any of these shops to buy their basic needs, including food.

Inside the distribution centre, WFP and MoSA staff members double check that a representative from the right family is collecting the right e-card and pin receipt. Centralised databases are used to ensure no duplication occurs, ensuring the integrity of the programme.

Adequate nutritious food is a basic human need. It is a cornerstone of the second Sustainable Development Goal — Zero Hunger; a priority for the Government and the driving impetus for WFP. With the US$ 27 per person from BMZ, WFP is able to provide the means for 10,000 families to maintain healthy nutritious lives. These funds from Germany also significantly boost the Lebanese economy as families use their e-cards to make all their purchases through local shops.

Representatives from 300 local families pass through this centre each day. Only one family member over 18 who is listed on family identification papers is required to turn up. Later that morning, Mostafa left with his new card. He arrived with a stick for support and left with a plastic card he can equally rely on for support.



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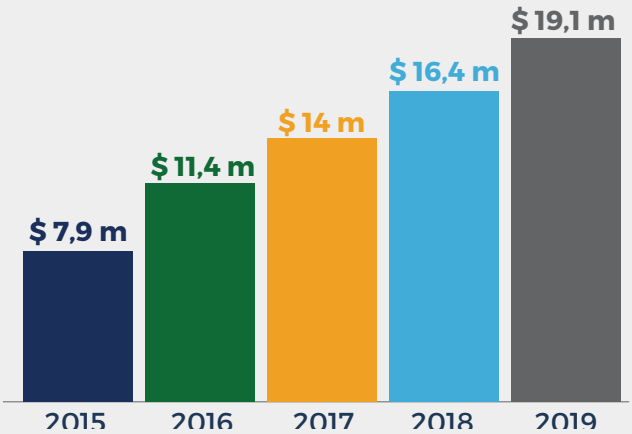
# Support to *Social Institutions*

The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) has been mandated by the Government of Lebanon to lead the response to the Syrian crisis, with the financial, technical and operational support of the international community. As in previous years, the assistance provided to MoSA played a critical role in strengthening its leadership and coordination capacities as well as in improving the delivery of protection, health and social services through its extended network of Social Development Centers (SDCs) .

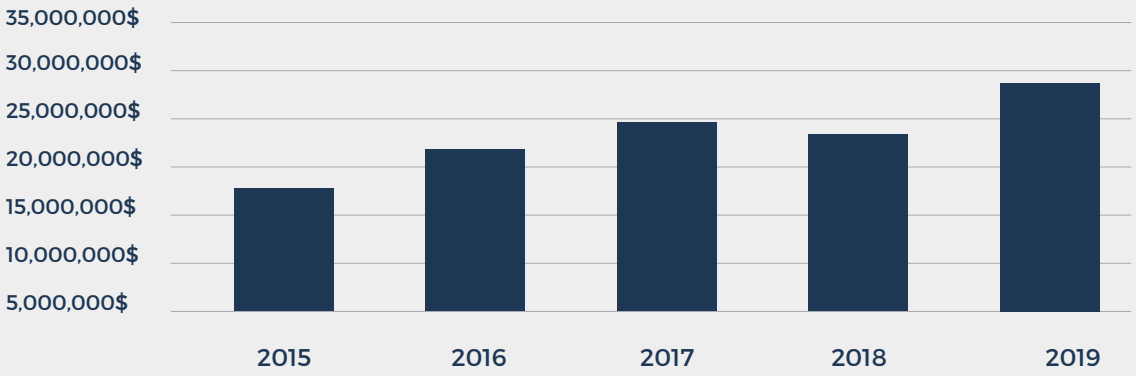
In 2019, $28.7 million was mobilized in support to Social Institutions, including MoSA and its network of SDC, an increase of 24 percent from $23.1 million in 2018. Support provided to MoSA represents almost 12 percent of the overall support provided to public institutions in 2019 ($245 million). 79 percent of the support to Social Institutions was provided in support to service delivery, 19 percent in support of Policy making and system strengthening and 2 percent in support of capacity building initiatives. Some $19.2 million was provided in support of the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) to support the provision of food assistance to some of the most vulnerable Lebanese households. Through this support, from January to November 2019, 10,000 vulnerable Lebanese households, representing 72,000 individuals, received food assistance, while in December food assistance was extended to 12,892 Lebanese households, representing 91,200 individuals. Staff support remained substantial with 272 staff positions provided and/ or incentivized to MoSA and its SDCs.

## Support to NPTP over the last 5 years

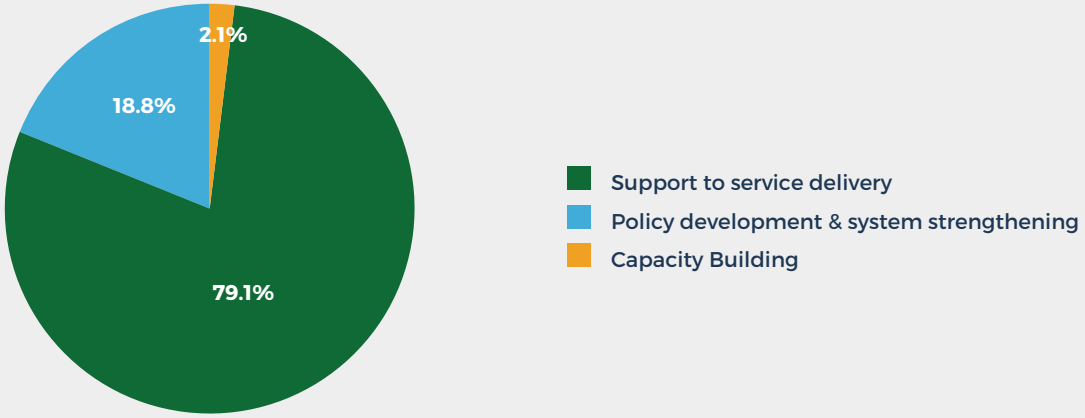



- ✔ $28.7m in support to MoSA and SDCs, an increase of 24 percent compared to 2018.
  - 12 percent of total support channeled through public institutions in 2019 ($245 million)
  - Includes $19.1 million in support to the NPTP, a 17 percent increase compared to 2018
- ✔ 10,000 Lebanese households, representing 72,000 individuals, received food assistance through NPTP, extended in December 2019 to 12,892 households representing 91,200 individuals
- ✔ 47 SDCs assisted through system strengthening and capacity building activities.
- ✔ 112 Mechanisms for Stability and Resilience in 112 communities were completed with participation of more than 3000 individuals.

## Support to social institutions from 2015 to 2019




## Breakdown of support provided to Social Institutions in 2019

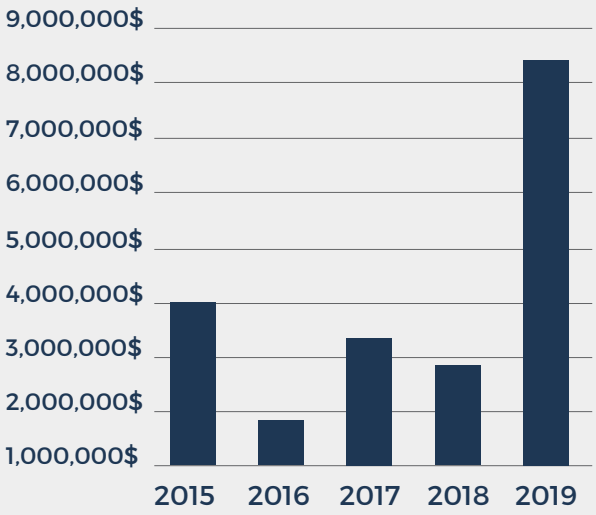


# Support to *Agriculture Institutions*

As the fourth largest area of employment in Lebanon, agriculture is a key economic sector which has a direct impact on food security and livelihoods opportunities for the most vulnerable communities. In line with the Ministry of Agriculture's Strategy, LCRP partners have continued to provide institutional support to institutions involved with food security and agricultural livelihoods, including but not limited to Ministry of Agriculture offices, its agricultural centres, the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI), the Green Plan, the agricultural and technical schools.

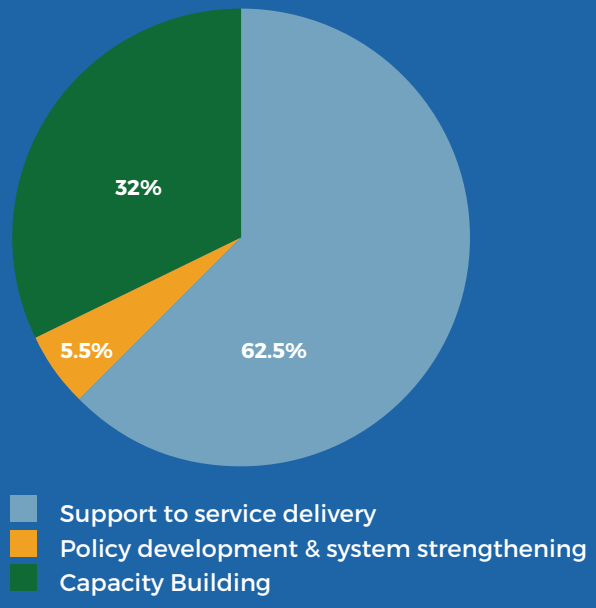
In 2019, $8.2 million was channeled through Agriculture Institutions, a $5.4 million increase compared to 2018. Among the $8.2 million, $2.6 million was provided mostly in support of the Chamber of Commerce of Zahle but also for cooperatives, while $5.6 million (68 percent) was channeled through the Ministry of Agriculture. Some 62 percent of the total amount provided to Agriculture Institutions was in support to service delivery, 4 percent was in support of policy development and system strengthening and 34 percent related to capacity building.

**Support to Agriculture Institutions from 2015 to 2019**




- $8.2m in support to Agriculture Institutions, including $5.6m in support to MoA (including staffing, technical and material assistance), compared to $2.8m in 2018.
- 3.3 percent of total support channeled through public institutions in 2019 ($245 million)
- 263 MoA staff and teachers trained including 65 technical agricultural schools teachers trained on different topics including technical agricultural topics, pedagogic and decent work (50 percent women).

**Breakdown of support provided to Agriculture Institutions in 2019**



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# EDUCATION

| Funding | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Required | $373,000,000 | $366,300,000 | $381,000,000 |
| Received | $260,000,000 | $272,500,000 | $251,000,000 |
| Received in % | 70% | 74% | 66% |

| Outreach | | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population in Need | | 1,232,883 | 1,100,000 | 1,232,883 |
| Targeted | | 543,616 | 532,682 | 497,171 |
| Reached | Total | 526,712 | 554,834 | 508,744 |
| | Syrians | 59% | 57% | 53% |
| | Lebanese | 41% | 41% | 44% |
| | PRS/PRL | 0.6% | 2% | 3% |

| Key Outcome level indicators | Baseline | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| # of students (age 3-18) enrolled in formal education | N/A | N/A | N/A | 444,427 |
| % of out of school children | N/A | 44% Syrian refugees | 46% Syrian refugees | 44% Syrian refugees; 30% Lebanese (estimates) |

| Key Output level indicators | Baseline | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Children (age 3-5) participating in community-based early childhood education (CB-ECE) | N/A | 37,247 | 30,716 | 28,924 |
| Syrian displaced children & youth benefited from Language programmes in community venues | N/A | 3,830 | 5,033 | 4,182 |
| Youth (15 to 20) participating in functional basic literacy and numeracy programme (Youth Basic Literacy and Numeracy ) | N/A | 11,077 | 8,752 | 7,894 |

## Key achievements in 2019

The Education sector's response to the Syria crisis, draws on the MEHE's RACE II strategy (2017-2021), with the objective to increase demand for and access to education, improve the quality of formal and non-formal education, and improve equity and relevance to reach most vulnerable. For the school year 2018-19, approximately 210,000 non-Lebanese and 277,000 Lebanese children, including Secondary level students, were enrolled in public schools[42], with the most significant uptake of new entrants enrolling in preparatory ECE. In addition, around 104,000 non-Lebanese children are enrolled in private schools, including ones managed by UNRWA. 56 percent of non-Lebanese refugee children aged 6-14 were in school during the scholastic year 2018-2019, 45 in public schools and 11 percent in private and semi-private schools.

The overall sustained levels of enrolment in public schools has been achieved by continued commitment of MEHE to reach all children with education, especially the most vulnerable children, targeted outreach and facilitating efforts by education partners, and consistent donor support.[43] The MEHE/ RACE-PMU has already

42- As of July 2019, over 1 million children and youth aged 3-18 years old in Lebanon, from all nationalities, are enrolled in formal education in public, private and subsidized schools and institutes, out of which over 722,000 children belong to the compulsory age group (6-14 years).

43- Fourteen donor countries and funds, four UN agencies, and more than 45 national and international NGOs have provided financial, operational, and logistical support to facilitate access to education.

rolled out several Non-Formal education programs to bridge the access to formal education namely: Accelerated Learning Program (ALP), Preparatory Early Childhood Education (Prep ECE), Community Based Early Childhood Education (CB-ECE), Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN Basic and Youth). More than 64,000 children who were not eligible to join formal schools were enrolled in regulated non-formal education.

To improve the quality of teaching, a handbook for quality teaching and learning was developed in partnership between CERD, MEHE, Ana Aqra and Lebanese University- Faculty of Education. The endorsed quality teaching and learning handbook, which draws on the lessons learned through the retention support regulated program and includes a full chapter on field implementation guidelines, is expected to support educators working in emergencies and vulnerable communities with teaching and learning approaches, teacher training, and coaching.

Prep-ECE volunteers have been introduced to improve the school environment – especially for pre-primary. The UN has been supporting MEHE's prep-ECE program with deployment of over 600 volunteers in Second Shift public schools. The role of the volunteers has been essential to help teachers in managing the classroom, close supervision and care of the young children to ensure child safety, and increasing community involvement.

The Center for Educational Research and Development (CRDP/CERD) Pre-service and In-Service Training Bureau (PIBT) developed and conducted training modules in response to identified needs and to support the ongoing agreed upon projects such as the Inclusive Schools Pilot project and the Child Protection Policy project. In addition to the training of 11,245 teachers in 2018, in 2019, CRDP-PITB conducted 421 training sessions for 7,594 public school teachers (over 80 percent females) across all Lebanese governorates according to the following disaggregation: 5602 teachers trained on Child Protection, 1,457 teachers trained on Teaching with Technology and 535 teachers trained on inclusion-related modules.

MEHE Child Protection Policy in Schools, developed with technical support from UNICEF, was rolled-out in 300 schools, with two focal points per school nominated to support the operationalization of the policy. The focal points and school directors received induction on key principles, commitments and strategic objectives of the MEHE policy, as well as on their roles in the referral mechanism of child protection cases. 50 roving PSS counsellors of GDE-DOPS also visit schools for prevention and response to child protection concerns and gender-based violence, and coach the CP Focal Points. MEHE, in collaboration with UNICEF is developing an Operational Framework for the Policy, which outlines the main actions and to ensure schools are safe and protective of children. A hotline and email address are established in MEHE for reporting cases of violence.

CERD in coordination with the MEHE/PMU reviewed and approved "The Better Learning Program (BLP) approach to be implemented in public schools", proposed by the Norwegian Refugee Council. BLP is an evidence-based psychosocial intervention to support children cope with stress and improve their study skills, built on research and years of implementation experience. The materials, with a professional development package for all second shift PSS counsellors and a number of first shift Arabic teachers in cycles 1 and 2, was rolled out at the beginning of school year 2019/2020. The first phase of the project, training Master Trainers on the BLP, started in all second shift schools and in the assigned first shift schools. In addition, PSS activities to develop social-emotional learning of children, are being conducted in second shift schools by fixed PSS counsellors.

## KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACTS

The Education Sector is committed to further the equitable right to a quality and relevant education for all vulnerable children and youth between 3-18 years of age in Lebanon, by addressing policy, systems, quality service-delivery, and demand bottlenecks at the national, subnational, and community levels. In an effort to decrease the number of out-of-school children, the partners conducted targeted outreach for out-of-school children including most vulnerable and those

living in remote areas. MEHE and civil society actors supported more than 64,000 children who were not ready or eligible to join formal schools through regulated non-formal education. For the 2020 coming year, the sector strategy will continue to address enhancing access to, and demand for, equitable formal education or regulated non-formal education for children, youth, and their caregivers in Lebanon.

In 2019, the Education sector supported in strengthening National Education Systems, policies and monitoring. In addition to the roll out of the Child Protection Policy in 300 schools, another key systems strengthening efforts to support vulnerable children was the success of the on-going pilot of inclusive education in 30 schools, to integrate children with learning difficulties and disabilities in formal public schools. The pilot includes teacher trainings, support of paraprofessional teams, provision of technical supplies to the schools and the children, etc.

Lastly, MEHE launched its Non-Formal Education National Policy which sets up prospects to meet the diverse learning needs for the marginalized children and youth. The policy supports efforts to address quality education for all children and to work towards supporting cohesion and harmony, avoiding conflict and promoting coexistence among the most vulnerable as well as the refugees. Likewise, it provides evidence for how non-formal and lifelong learning could feed together into a coherent framework for the regularization of all education. Its elaboration is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, Education Agenda 2030, the long-term development priorities and existing successes driven by Lebanese Government. With a new vision of learning, reflecting national and local contextual realities, each child and youth in Lebanon, regardless of their origin, could become an agent of positive change in society.

## CHALLENGES

Despite the successes in reaching large numbers of children, many remain out of school. 44 percent of compulsory school aged refugee children (6-14-year-old) are out of formal education and 36 percent are out of any type of learning. These children are missing the critical years of education during their displacement, and are at an increased protection risk including exploitation, physical or sexual violence and discrimination. Working children, particularly those involved in the worst forms of child labor, are among the most vulnerable. These children and families face economic difficulties that hinder their access to education and require support and system that can accommodate their needs, help to overcome economic barriers, and increased absorption capacity in schools. Data has shown that around one third of the children (approximately 39,000) who have been enrolled during the school year 2018/2019 did not show up for the scholastic year 2019-2020[44].

The beginning of 2019-2020 academic year (late 2019) saw additional challenges. With deteriorating economic situation, the number of children registering in public school has significantly increased, as did the number of teachers' protests. This trend is expected to continue, while putting additional pressure on public sector, which is already under-funded. The weeks long lockdown due to large scale protests against economic deterioration and corruption, forced schools closures and delays in re-opening of formal schools and non-formal education programmes, which were to have effect on 2019-2020 academic year.

Poverty is known to incentivize the entry of children into the labor market instead of attending school, also hampering the demand for education. Almost 30 percent of Lebanese households were categorized as poor before the current economic crisis,[45] along with 76 percent of Syrian households. The negative perceptions of poor Lebanese and non-Lebanese parents and children regarding the value of education in terms of income-earning potential also contribute to low demand. An Out-of-School children mapping[46] and profiling of 70,000 mainly non-Lebanese refugee children facing multiple vulnerabilities, highlighted the main barriers that prevented them from sustaining access to school

44- Some of these children enrolled in private schools.

45- Lebanese Population Planning Figures, LCRP 2017.

46- Out of School Profiling exercise, March 2019.

- Labor has been cited by 6 percent of the 6-14 age cohort and at 25 percent by the 15-17 cohort as a barrier, while 8 percent of 6-14-year-old and 11 percent of 15-17 year-old children indicated negative perception of the value of education.[47]

Demand-side barriers and family priorities have driven many displaced Syrian adolescent girls into child marriage (approximated at 7 percent from VASyr 2019 findings) resulting in girls not continuing their education; the risk of child marriage, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and other negative coping mechanism remains high. Young men work to support their families at the expense of continued education. Likewise, enrolment in post-basic education remains low, with only around 8 percent of secondary-school age non-Lebanese youth enrolled in public secondary and TVET schools.

While efforts for inclusive public education system continue, children with disabilities continue to face considerable barriers in accessing education opportunities, including prevailing social norms and attitudes towards disability, a lack of budgetary allocations to strengthen public education system, limited teacher capacity, a lack of effective teaching strategies to provide appropriate instruction, and limited access to schools with adequate facilities. Effort continue to address these barriers such as intervention for new training approaches targeting special needs, public school renovations, and specialized services.

## KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN IN 2020

The key priority response areas for 2020 will be to continue building on the existing education programme and work further toward improving access, addressing retention barriers, improving quality, equity and inclusiveness and strengthening national capacities and systems through achieving three overarching objectives. The PMU will continue to coordinate with several entities including UN agencies, donors, the NGO sub-committee, and academic institutions, in addition to the high-level engagement at the RACE Executive Committee (REC) and the Education sector. The PMU will ensure inter-departmental coordination within the MEHE so that RACE II implementation is guided by coherent decisions from the relevant MEHE institutions.

Some public schools and learning centers especially in underserved areas in Lebanon require physical improvements and to be adequately equipped to ensure a safer learning environment that complies with international Child Protection Standards, including proper accessibility and equipment for children with special needs. Retention remains a gap and is a priority for education sector follow up in the coming months.

Gender parity in outreach to children seeks to provide both girls and boys with equal opportunities for enrolment in public schools. The Education sector is also looking into strengthening collaboration with other sectors, to jointly achieve goals on SGBV risk reduction, including training on CP for school staff; training on safe identification and referrals for child survivors; advocacy on early marriage; protection interventions (safety monitoring of routes/transportation options to/from schools); and WASH and shelter interventions (safe school/ latrine rehabilitation and maintenance; distribution of hygiene kits/menstrual hygiene management Menstrual Hygiene Management materials to adolescent girl students).

The shortage of reliable and predictable funding is hampering efforts to increase the number of second shift schools in the areas with high concentration of school-aged children. A priority is to improve the understanding of the underlying drivers of access and retention in public schools (enrolment-learning-transition continuum) and of the educational problems of OOSC which is ongoing. In addition, there are no funds to cover the need for retention support and remedial support which will be high priority due to the interruptions facing the 2019-2020 school year given COVID-19 health crisis and Lebanon's socio-economic condition.

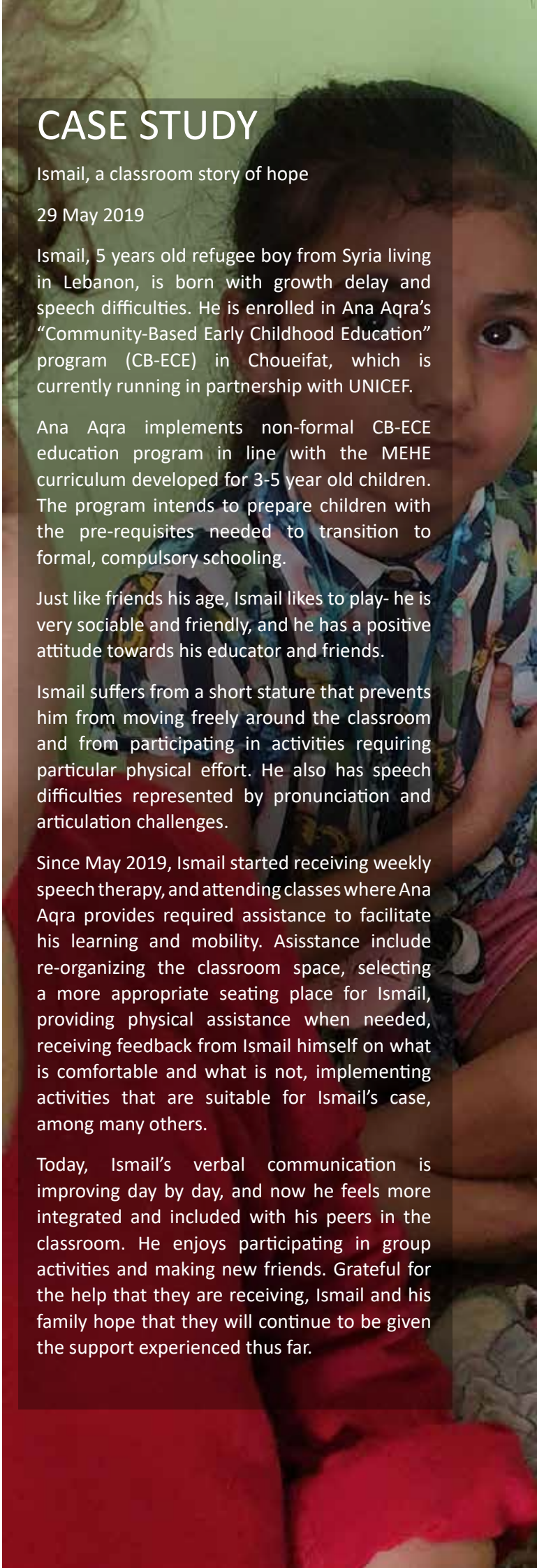
One of the major sector gaps is timely national education data that can be meaningful and used for programming or policy interventions. An integrated data management system at student level between Non-Formal Education programs and

47- Out of School Profiling exercise, 2019.

Formal education to track learning and transition is in progress by PMU and will be given priority. In spite of the many efforts done by NFE partners to enhance children's well-being (through PSS, SEL, etc.), the sector as a whole is still missing a standardized approach to most NFE content and minimum quality criteria to ensure that the sector is delivering the same level of quality learning to all children in NFE. This is coupled with educators not being constantly trained on NFE content.

Despite the increasing number of students completing basic education and moving into secondary education and growing demand, opportunities for non-Lebanese youth in post basic education remain scarce. There is a need to better understand circumstances, needs and gaps for this age group, including the need for young people to work to support their families at the expense of continued education, to better inform interventions, and to increase support to access formal secondary education and other post-basic learning opportunities.

The education sector lacks adequate contingency plan to respond to potential emergency that might affect Lebanon, including financial crises and civil unrest, which might disrupt schools and NFE activities, thus affecting the quality of learning for the children.



## CASE STUDY

Ismail, a classroom story of hope

29 May 2019

Ismail, 5 years old refugee boy from Syria living in Lebanon, is born with growth delay and speech difficulties. He is enrolled in Ana Aqra's "Community-Based Early Childhood Education" program (CB-ECE) in Choueifat, which is currently running in partnership with UNICEF.

Ana Aqra implements non-formal CB-ECE education program in line with the MEHE curriculum developed for 3-5 year old children. The program intends to prepare children with the pre-requisites needed to transition to formal, compulsory schooling.

Just like friends his age, Ismail likes to play- he is very sociable and friendly, and he has a positive attitude towards his educator and friends.

Ismail suffers from a short stature that prevents him from moving freely around the classroom and from participating in activities requiring particular physical effort. He also has speech difficulties represented by pronunciation and articulation challenges.

Since May 2019, Ismail started receiving weekly speech therapy, and attending classes where Ana Aqra provides required assistance to facilitate his learning and mobility. Asisstance include re-organizing the classroom space, selecting a more appropriate seating place for Ismail, providing physical assistance when needed, receiving feedback from Ismail himself on what is comfortable and what is not, implementing activities that are suitable for Ismail's case, among many others.

Today, Ismail's verbal communication is improving day by day, and now he feels more integrated and included with his peers in the classroom. He enjoys participating in group activities and making new friends. Grateful for the help that they are receiving, Ismail and his family hope that they will continue to be given the support experienced thus far.

© UNICEF / Anna Aqra Association

His educator, Nadia Hassouna, said proudly "I am glad to start seeing improvement in Ismail's case. When I first met him Ismail seemed clever but too sensitive. I noticed his nice handwriting. He used to hide under the table whenever he feels upset. I was very keen to show him that I treat him just like his friends. Now Ismail is no longer hiding under the table and he is able to express himself in a better way".

Inclusive education is at the heart of the Ana Aqra's education strategy, which aims to address the needs of all children, to foster their growth and realize their potential, regardless of their socio-economic status, gender, intellectual, physical and psychosocial strengths or challenges.

Thanks to UNICEF, Ana Aqra was able to open the doors for Ismail and his friends, among other children with special needs- working together for a safe, inclusive space for all children, including Syrian refugees.

# Support to *Education Institutions*

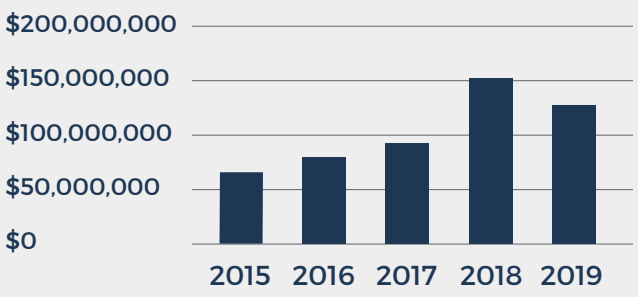
Nine years after the Syria crisis, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), in collaboration with sector partners, continues to provide access to formal and accredited non-formal education to the vulnerable Lebanese and non-Lebanese children.

Under the leadership of MEHE, the Education sector partners implemented the Lebanon's Education response plan through the RACE II Strategy. Structured over three pillars – Improving Access, Quality, and strengthen the Systems of Education, the second year of the RACE II witnessed many achievements.

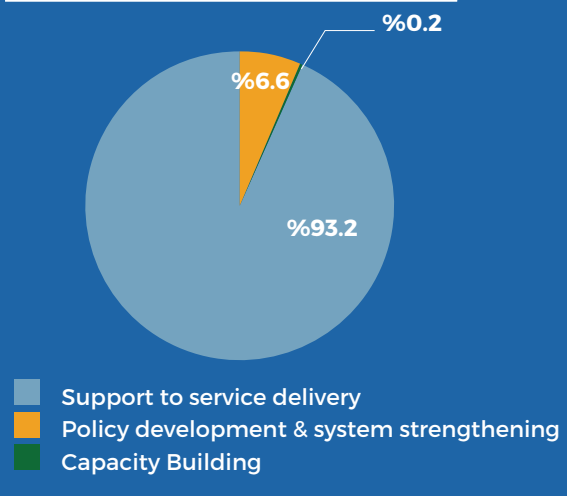
While support provided by LCRP partners to Education Institutions decreased in 2019 to $133.6 million from $148.5 million in 2018, it is significantly higher than $87 million provided in 2017. Despite the decrease, Education Institutions remained the largest recipient of institutional support, representing 54 percent of all support provided. Among Education Institutions, MEHE received more than 99 percent of the support. As the previous year, over 93 percent of the assistance supported service delivery, while 6.6 percent was allocated to policy development and systems strengthening, and 0.2 percent to capacity building.

- ✔ **$133.6m** in support to MEHE and public schools, including for the enrollment of children
- ✔ Education institutions received **54 percent** of all support to public institutions." ($245 million)
- ✔ **438,308 children and youth** whose registration fees for public formal education and UNRWA schools was partially or fully subsidized for 2018-2019 and an additional 64,500 children and youth whose registration fees for NFE were fully or partially subsidized for 2019.
- ✔ **11,711 children** enrolled in Accelerated Learning Programmes in 2019
- ✔ **346 schools** functioning as second shift schools in 2018-2019 school year
- ✔ **More than 32,000 vulnerable Lebanese and displaced Syrian Children** benefitting from school meals

**Support to Education Institutions from 2015 to 2018**




**Breakdown of support provided to Education Institutions in 2019**



# ENERGY

| Funding | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Required | $99,000,000 | $99,240,000 | $99,200,000 |
| Received | $3,000,000 | $900,000 | $2,000,000 |
| Received in % | 3% | 1% | 2% |

| Outreach | | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population in Need | | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 | 2,035,461 |
| Targeted | | 1,119,172 | 1,119,172 | 678,487 |
| Reached | Total | 114,290 | 334,575 | 8,357 |
| | Syrians | N/A | 33% | 16% |
| | Lebanese | N/A | 67% | 84% |

| Key indicators | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| increase in megawatt hour resulting from installed capacity through renewable energy sources (megawatt hour /year) | 221 | 1,741 | 89 |
| # of persons reached through installation of necessary equipment to reinforce the transmission network & the distribution network | 100,715 | 20,255 | 820 |

## Key achievements in 2019

In 2019, the projects implemented by Energy LCRP partners (two partners in total reported on their projects this year) focused on the installation of renewable energy equipment (Output 1.1: Increase in electricity production through implementation of renewable energy, one partners) and the rehabilitation of the electric distribution networks (Output 3.2: Improve access to electricity through implementation of reinforcement and rehabilitation works on the distribution network, one partners). Due to the lack of funding, no intervention was implemented for Output 2.1 (Households and institutions have access to energy efficient products), Output 3.1 (Transmission network reinforced through the installation of High Voltage/Medium Voltage transformers) and Output 4.1 (MoEW staff specialized in different areas of the Energy sector provided).

Regarding renewable energy (Output 1.1), four types of intervention were implemented that contributed to improving the access to electricity of the most vulnerable public and non-governmental organizations while mitigating their financial burden.

The off-grid street lighting has been installed in 6 municipalities, where it was found that street lighting was limited, or the available public infrastructure has fallen into disrepair before the intervention. While increasing the production of renewable energy, the street lighting plays an important role in reducing crime and vandalism, and making residents and pedestrians feel safer during the night.

Given the significant power outages that Lebanon experiences, more than 12 hours in the rural areas, the need for basic electricity services for indoor lighting is of real importance for people's general well-being.

400 Lebanese households benefitted from the installation of solar home system in the most vulnerable areas of Dinniyeh and Akkar. The selection of households was done in coordination with the municipalities choosing households from the list of the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP). The kits installed in each household is lighting up to 3 rooms and provide USB auxiliary power charging supply, ensuring that some of

the basic needs of the households are met while saving on the household spending.

To support public schools in vulnerable areas to benefit from solar lighting systems and reduce their administrative costs, the upgrading the already existing solar photovoltaics systems in public schools were undertaken. The activity has upgraded the existing solar photovoltaics systems, with new batteries banks, solar chargers, and address other issues defects. The total 20 schools are targeted for this activity in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. In addition, the awareness workshops on importance and benefits of use of renewable energy for school students, from grades 10, 11 and 12 in two schools which have been recipients of photovoltaics systems under this activity were also conducted.

Finally, two biomass briquetting plants were upgraded to promote bioenergy use for heating (See Section Case Study for more detailed information).

The reinforcement of the distribution network is one of the key interventions aiming to increase the capacity to deliver quality electricity to additional end-users, especially to the most vulnerable people and communities (Output 1.4). To this end combatting illegal connections is crucial as it damages the distribution network and could cause fire accidents. Through a project that aims at the prevention of illegal connections, a total of 164 legal electrical connections, along with net metering systems, have been installed in Bekaa, Akkar, Baalbek, and the North in 2019.

## KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACTS

By enhancing electrical services and capacity at the national and local level in a sustainable manner, these interventions contribute to Strategic Objective 3 of supporting service provision through national systems, and the Strategic Objective 4 of reinforcing Lebanon`s economic, social, and environmental stability. By its nature, these interventions benefit both genders equally.

## CHALLENGES

The main challenge of the sector remains to raise funds and to advocate for the importance of the sector. Electricity in Lebanon remains a controversial issue: the challenges that the sector faced before the Syria crisis have been severely exacerbated by the extra consumption of electricity. Ministry estimated that the installation of approximately 700 new medium and low voltage transformers are needed to accommodate the demand increase while the partners have installed 122 transformers to date. Because upgrading of the distribution network is a capital-intensive activity, it is a difficult challenge to raise sufficient funds to reach the most vulnerable communities in need.

## KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN IN 2020

The 2020 Energy sector strategy remains the same as in 2018 and 2019. To reach as many beneficiaries as possible under constrained budget, the partners should prioritize the following interventions : increase in electricity production through implementation of renewable energy (under Output 1.1) as well as reinforcement of distribution network through the installation of MV/LV transformers (output 3.2).

Regarding the installation of renewable energy, given solar photovoltaic positive return on investment, and immediate and sustainable monetary saving, the possible solutions for this are to; 1) mainstream renewable energy and energy efficient projects in other sector's strategic interventions, especially support to public institutions, and; 2) leverage private investments through technical and financial support with grant. For example, if 1 million USD is put in the installation of solar PV system (c.a. 1 megawatt capacity), the quantitative impacts would be 1) creation of approximately 30-45 jobs (or 6,600-9,900 workperson-days) in construction, engineering, manufacturing and finance[48], 2) possible mobilization of private capital around 300,000 to 800,000, and 3) macro-economic benefits by circulating money within Lebanese economy that would have, otherwise, been outflowed as fuel purchases.

48- UNDP (2018). *Renewable Value-Chain in Lebanon - Unpublished.*

# CASE STUDY

Biomass is an untapped renewable resource in Lebanon, which has a vast potential in creating jobs and promoting money circulation within local communities[49]. According to the National Bioenergy Strategy[50], forestry and agricultural residues were identified as the most promising and sustainable source of bioenergy for heating. Given this finding, the biomass briquettes plants (300 tons/year production capacity for each plant) were previously implemented in Bkessine (South) and Aandket (Akkar) during 2017. The plants use the forestry residues from the pruning done by the two respective municipalities in order to preserve their pine forests from the increasing risks of wildfires and to ensure the sustainable growth of the trees. Residues are collected by the municipality team and transported to the plant to treat and produce briquettes for heating during the winter season.

In terms of economic and social impact, the Bkessine biomass plant has secured approximately 5 full time employment (at the plant itself) opportunities and many other seasonal opportunities (in pruning). Furthermore, up to $200 annual savings (depending on alternative fuel costs) accrue to each of the estimated 600 households benefitting from the use of biomass briquette. There is also environmental impact. Assuming that the displaced courier for heating is diesel, the overall benefits of the biomass briquettes per plant with 300 ton/year production capacity is approximately 500,000 kg of $CO_2$ emission reduced annually. Reduction of the risks of forest fires cannot be measured, however the biomass briquettes plant definitely reduces this risk given that it is the dry material from the forest that is collected.

In 2019, to scale-up these impacts, the feasibility study of two biomass projects in Lebanon was conducted with the help of an international consultant, and as a result the upgrading of the existing briquetting plants in Bkessine and Aandket was recommended. The upgrading of the briquetting initiated to automate the process by doubling its yearly production through the provision of packaging and wrapping equipment and increase storage space for the finished product. Two steered loaders and external shedding for raw material were ordered to be installed in the respective facilities. These facilities use wood fillings (residues) gathered from local forests. The briquetting plant in Bkessine and Aandket are operating through a private company in a public-private partnership agreement signed with both municipalities.

After the upgrading, the production capacity of plan has increased to 450 tons/year and the production cost has decreased from approximately USD$ 200 to 150 per ton of briquette.

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49- UNDP (2018). Value Chain Assessment and Analysis – Renewable Energy Sector in Lebanon.

50- UNDP (2012). The National Bioenergy Strategy for Lebanon.

# WATER

| Funding | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Required | $280,000,000 | $250,000,000 | $214,000,000 |
| Received | $86,000,000 | $102,000,000 | $96,000,000 |
| Received in % | 31% | 41% | 45% |

| Outreach | | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population in Need | | 3,740,000 | 3,300,000 | 2,688,072 |
| Targeted | | 1,959,428 | 1,560,550 | 1,351,624 |
| Reached | Total | 1,359,627 | 738,403 | 828,084 |
| | Syrians | 32% | 50% | 56% |
| | Lebanese | 47% | 49% | 44% |
| | PRS/PRL | 1% | 1% | |

| Key Output level indicators | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| # of affected people assisted with improved access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and for domestic use | 1,127,887 | 467,131 | 584,880 |
| # of affected people assisted with temporary access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and water for domestic use | 231,740 | 271,272 | 243,204 |
| # of affected people with access to improved safe sanitation in temporary locations | 203,368 | 254,051 | 264,177 |
| # individuals who have experienced a WASH behaviour change session/activity | 247,903 | 245,651 | 297,747 |

## Key achievements in 2019

In regards of the achievements of the sector at the output and activity level, it could be summarized as follow: Water sector contributed to strengthen the National institution by supporting Ministry of Energy and Water to update of National Water Sector Strategy in collaboration with UNICEF, a delay in launching the strategy was mainly due to the resignation of the government and the situation in the country. The strategy is expected to be launched in the first quarter of 2020. In addition, Water sector support to Water Establishments strengthened the partnership and framework to manage resources at field levels. Provision of materials, tools, studies, capacity building and communication plans have been accomplished between January and October 2019. The socio-economic situation faced between October and December 2019 resulted in additional short-term support to the Water Establishments not actually planned under the strategy of 2019. Some partners provided fuels and consumables to the four Water Establishments to be able to maintain the operation.

For outputs 1.2 and 1.3 related to the water and wastewater facilities at informal settlements, the sector achieved more than 100 percent of the targeted population. Contributing to the mitigation of environmental impact on Litani river, water sector improved water and sanitations conditions in the temporary location, it increased the quality, quantity and reliability of equitable services in the displaced community: 243,204 affected people were assisted with temporary access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and water for domestic use, the target achieved exceeded the target planned at the beginning of the year equal to 241,550 people. In addition, 264,177 affected people had access to improved safe sanitation in temporary locations, this exceeded the initial target of 262,150 people. Furthermore, 2411 latrines were rehabilitated to meet environmentally friendly practices, the target achieved is doubled of the initial target equal to 1,193 latrines.

Furthermore, the sector contributed to WASH changing behaviours, raised hygiene awareness and increased responsible use of water services in the most vulnerable host and displaced communities, through fully reach of the target of the soft activities consisted of changing the WASH behaviours of individuals, 297,747 individuals (33 percent women, 21 percent men, 23 percent girls and 23 percent boys) pursued WASH awareness sessions contributed to changing their behaviours compared to 275,800 individuals as planned at the beginning of the year. The percentage of women participating in awareness raising session is 10 percent higher than men, however the percentage of men participating in WASH livelihoods opportunity is 70 percent higher than women (85 percent of men and 15 percent of women. Additional work has to be done to promote the position of women as equal TO men for WASH related livelihood work.

In regard of Output 1.2: Quality, quantity and reliability of equitable water and wastewater services for the most vulnerable of hosting and displaced communities increased; 584,880 individual (51 percent of targeted people) were assisted in permanent locations with improved access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic use, construction and rehabilitation of water and wastewater infrastructures, the partial achievement is due to the duration of the stabilization projects. In other words, the stabilization projects are mainly implemented during two or three years and consist of constructing big infrastructures that usually are not finalized in the first year of the project in 2019 (planning phase).

## KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACTS

The water sector contributes to the immediate support of vulnerable people through assistance humanitarian WASH activities during evictions, mitigating WASH-related disease outbreaks, and ensuring immediate and temporary service delivery in Informal Settlements, in addition Water sector continues the support for provision through national improvements to water and wastewater systems that are primarily managed by the Water Establishments, while also supporting MoEW strategic planning. Furthermore, Water sector contributes to the reinforcement of Lebanon environmental stability through mitigating negative environmental consequences through improvements to management of wastewater, protection of water sources, and treatment of water supply.

## CHALLENGES

Two main challenges occurred in 2019: the first challenge was the eviction of 48 percent in Q1 as a result of anti-pollution campaign implemented by Local authorities. In respond to the request of the Government of Lebanon, temporary sanitation infrastructures in IS's were installed in some IS's, 2411 latrine changed to more environmentally friendly connections to abide by the Lebanese environmental laws, and detailed assessments are being conducted to prioritize all the IS's in the country.

Second, the socio-economic situation in the country at the end of the year, coupled with a financial crisis, led to roadblocks, closure of public institutions and municipalities. As a result, almost one-month delay occurred in the provision of some services, mainly in the construction of new wastewater system in IS's. In addition, the partners faced challenges in settings new agreements with suppliers. Furthermore, the inflation caused an increase in the prices of services provided by partners and affected the initial financial plan of the activities.

Social tensions against Syrian refugees rose, particularly targeting the 300,000 living in Informal Settlements, as being the most "visible" part of the refugee presence in Lebanon. In this context the provision of wash services contributes to improve the health of Syrian refugees and reduce the environmental risks, while contributing to reducing social tensions between refugees and host communities. UNICEF has therefore focused efforts on maintaining temporary WASH services for the most vulnerable Syrian refugees living in Informal Settlements. Through LCRP interventions, more than 184,000 Syrian refugees (43,000 females, 37,000 males, 54,000 girls, 50,000 boys) have access to temporary safe water and wastewater services in IS.

On second hand, the economic challenge accompanied with protestation revealed the

mistrust of citizens in the public institutions, reject of reforms promises and demand the government to resign, affected the ability of citizens to pay the fees for Water Establishments and thus negatively impacted the subscription campaign of the partners. For instance, Water Establishments were used to have the highest percentage of collection fees in the last quarter of the year, however the percentage of collection has sharply decreased in 2019 Q4. This affected the purchasing/financial capacity of the WEs as fees collection is the only income source for WEs to maintain the operation and obliged the partners to freeze the communication activities with the community. As a result, the partners are reformulating the communication messages and strategy to reach out the community in collaboration with the Water Establishment Communication Working Group.

In term of coordination, the unstable context related to the humanitarian intervention in Lebanon required an extensive intra and inter coordination for the humanitarian activities, this resulted in prioritizing the coordination for the implementation of the activities at Informal settlements over the stabilization interventions in the sector. The Water sector, in collaboration with the partners, reconsidered the approach and created six thematic groups aimed at improving the technical discussion and coordination among all partners and ensure equitable consideration for the humanitarian and stabilization parts of the sector strategy.

## KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN IN 2020

At the service delivery of wastewater at informal settlements, the priority in 2020 is to develop a more comprehensive environmental consideration service. This will be done through the development of an environmental model which prioritizes the sites where immediate cost efficient and environmentally friendly wastewater system will be implemented when possible. Ultimately, it will aim to protect the environment and reduce reliance on desludging. In addition, evaluation of the WaSH committees at IS's level is prioritized in addition to the update of the community mobilization strategy at IS's level, hygiene promotion and community engagement remains key activities in WASH intervention to ensure safe and hygienic living conditions. Moreover, the mainstreaming of protection and the increase of accountability is prioritized to improve the level of service provided in line with joint inter-sector priorities.

At coordination level, a priority is given for maintaining the technical discussion and collaboration with partners for the stabilization interventions in addition to the development of lessons learned related to specific part, construction and rehabilitation of water and wastewater infrastructures of the accomplished interventions.

At institutional level, the priority is given to launch the drafted National Water Sector Strategy developed by Ministry of Energy and Water, support the Water Establishments (WEs) in the implementation of Water Safety plans and capacity building of the WEs staff. Moreover, increasing the accountability of WEs towards the community is prioritized in 2020 to ensure addressing the referrals and the complaints received by the WEs. As a result of the deteriorated economic situation in the country, WEs are facing lots of challenges mainly financially and logistically to keep the service provision. Several mitigation measures were taken by the establishments but not sufficient. Thus, an immediate support for WEs should be mobilized to be able to maintain the service provision.

# CASE STUDY
# ACTED Rain-Water Harvesting

ACTED is promoting integrated water management through the installation of rainwater harvesting systems in line with the Ministry of Energy and Water Guidelines, as a complementary non-potable water supply to increase water availability and decrease pressure on water groundwater and networked water supplies and the cost of water for households. With the support of the Berqayel municipality, ACTED started its first rainwater harvesting pilot in Akkar in January 2019 under EU MADAD funding, and as part of the Water Access and Development Consortium. 35 systems were installed for households and the municipality in Berqayel, an area relying on shared boreholes and water trucking. This benefited a total of 707 people and reduced household expenditure on water per month during winter by up to $100. An additional 20 residents and the local school in the village self-financed a rainwater harvesting system after witnessing the success of the intervention.

The improved coordination between the municipality and the people living in the village was one of the best outcomes of the project. The people in the area are very poor, and the project gave hope to people that they are not forgotten. Our municipality was the link between ACTED and the HHs: we helped by being physically present with ACTED staff to visit with the HHs and introduce them, monitor the contractor and support in following up. Lots of people were not close to the municipality while after the project they know that they can visit us and request help and this is what happened. We received lots of demands to replicate the system.

They were very happy with the project and it made people think about harvesting rainwater as a new solution. Additionally, with the economic crisis happening now in Lebanon, people are feeling the impact of the project more as it allows them to save money by using the water from the system instead of paying for water trucking and fuel.

This project helped to raise awareness among people and link water to money as most of the time they are used to pay to water trucks as it was the only solution. Now they know that there are a new cost-efficient solution that they can replicate. Adding to that, people trust the municipality more and its work related to water management.” Omar, Municipality of Berqayel.

# CASE STUDY

## Empowering Female Community Technical Volunteers-Oxfam

"If I had the chance, I would go outside the camp and work as a plumber, why not!", says Fidda Al Ahmad from Al Raqqa. The 40-year-old mother of three is the only breadwinner in her family after her husband was unable to work after suffering from heart disease. She said that she spends all the money she earns from working in the fields on her daughter's health, who is also suffering from various ailments that Fidda preferred not to elaborate on.

Like most residents in her informal settlement located in the Northern Bekaa village of Saidi, Fidda is a seasonal worker in the nearby fields. She might work only one week per month, and the situation gets harder during the winter. "The situation before was better, there was less competition and they (Lebanese landlords) used to pay us double what we earn now", said Fidda. Despite the challenges she faces in securing the daily expenses of her family, she decided to be an active member of her community. She said that she wanted to help her family and her neighbours in improving their living conditions.

She volunteered to be one of the Community Technical Volunteers (CTVs) with Oxfam's WaSH, Protection and Livelihood response to the Syria Crisis in Lebanon project, funded by Global Affairs Canada. "I was trained on installing taps and maintaining latrines and hose pipes", she says. Fidda dedicates a great part of her time providing technical help to her neighbours by installing and maintaining water tanks and latrines. Residents of her informal settlement usually come to Fidda as a representative of Oxfam and ask her about water vouchers and how to register newcomers, which adds extra load on her shoulders. Even though she comes from a conservative community, Fidda took the initiative to play a role that's usually reserved for men. She finds herself capable of conducting her duties, which might need physical strength and dealing with various suppliers.

Fidda insists that the additional work doesn't come at the expense of her family. She still has time to prepare her two sons for school, cook their meals and take care of her plants. She misses her life before the war in Syria when she had the freedom to work in Saidi village during the agricultural season, then go back to her hometown in Raqqa for the cold season.

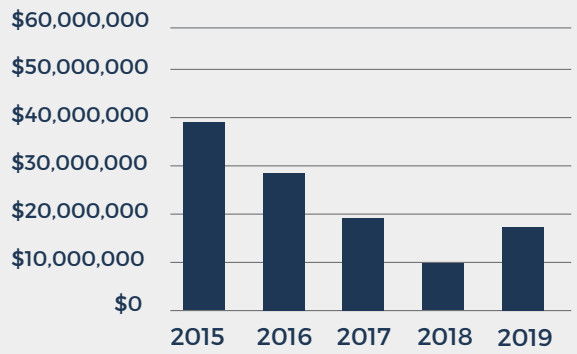
© FAO Lebanon, Fouad Choufany

# Support to *Energy, Water & Environment Institutions*

In 2019, an increase in partners support was recorded. This includes support to the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) and the Water Establishments as well as other government institutions from national to local level that are responsible for various aspects of water, sanitation and hygiene related service provision.

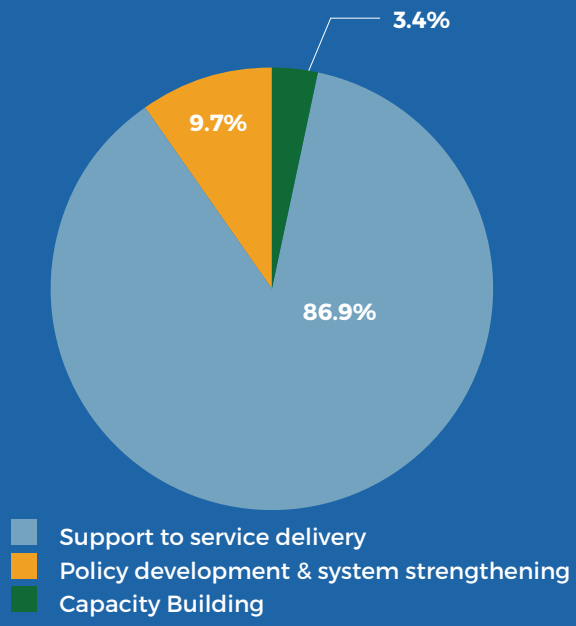
Some $17.6 million was channelled through Energy, Water and Environment institutions for service delivery and infrastructure, representing a $7 million increase compared to $10.7 million in 2018. More than $13 million was channelled through the MoEW and through water establishments, while $4.5 million was channelled through the Ministry of Environment. Around 87 percent of the support was provided for service delivery, 9.7 percent was in support of policy development and system strengthening and 3.4 percent related to capacity building.

**Support to Energy, Water & Environment Institutions from 2015 to 2019**




- **$17.6 million** in support to Water and Energy institutions for service delivery and infrastructure, representing a $7 million increase compared to $10.7 million in 2018
- **7.1 percent** of total support channeled through public institutions in 2019 ($245 million)
- **6 municipalities** benefiting from the improved quality of grid electricity

**Breakdown of support provided to Energy, Water & Environment Institutions in 2019**



# HEALTH

| Funding | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Required | $308,000,000 | $290,000,000 | $267,500,000 |
| Received | $100,000,000 | $134,000,000 | $143,564,819 |
| Received in % | 32% | 46% | 54% |

| Outreach | | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population in Need | | 2,400,000 | 2,400,000 | 2,473,800 |
| Targeted | | 1,535,297 | 1,564,800 | 1,563,800 |
| Reached | Total | 985,013 | 1,033,210 | 905,747 |
| | Syrians | 82% | 85% | 67% |
| | Lebanese | 15% | 12% | 30% |
| | PRS/PRL | 3% | 3% | 3% |

| Key Outcome level indicators | Baseline | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| % of displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) accessing primary healthcare services | 89% | 89% | 87% | 90% |
| # of functional EWARS centres | 50 | 50 | 656 | 668 |

| Key Output level indicators | Baseline | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| # of subsidized primary healthcare consultations | 1,591,197 | 1,881,702 | 1,623,233 | 1,728,689 |
| # of patients who received chronic disease medication | 151,477 | 173,852 | 185,231 | 203,650 |
| # of PHCCs within MoPH PHC network | 208 | 218 | 218 | 238 |

## Key achievements in 2019

In 2019, the Health sector continued to provide equitable and quality primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare to displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL) through direct service delivery and health system strengthening. Support was provided all over Lebanon while focusing on the most vulnerable cadastres and gap areas.

In 2019, 1,728,056 subsidized consultations were supported by partners, including 541,176 consultations for vulnerable Lebanese, 1,076,311 for displaced Syrians, 107,913 for Palestinian Refugees from Syria and 3,289 for Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon contributing to improving their access to primary health care services. This represents a 6.5 percent increase from 2018 when partners provided a total of 1,623,233 subsidized consultations. This rise can be explained by the increasing needs and the improved quality reporting by Health partners supporting primary healthcare services. Overall, 61.5 percent of subsidized consultations were provided to females and 38.5 percent to men. **In 2019, the percentage of vulnerable Lebanese benefitting from subsidized consultations increased by 14.5 percent which can be explained by the deterioration of economic conditions for the Lebanese population considering the 2019 economic crisis.**

In 2019, 90.5 percent of subsidized consultations were provided through fixed health outlets (compared to 91.5 percent in 2018), while the remaining 9.5 percent were provided through Mobile Medical Units (MMUs). Although, the

sector strategy aims to shift towards strengthening the health system, the percentage of consultations provided through MMU slightly increased because of the mobile consultations provided during the period of the nationwide protests[51] when the access to fixed outlets was jeopardized. Out of the consultations subsidized through fixed health outlets, 73.5 percent were provided through Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs), 15.3 percent through other health outlets, 6.5 percent through UNRWA clinics and 4.6 percent through Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) Social Development Centers (SDCs). The primary healthcare services provided through MoPH-PHCCs increased by 32.5 percent in 2019 (41 percent in 2018) which reflect the expanded network, the increasing shift toward health system strengthening and strengthened institutional resilience. Regarding chronic disease medication provided at PHC level, a total of 203,760 displaced Syrians and vulnerable Lebanese are registered at the MOPH/YMCA chronic medications program at PHCCs and dispensaries. At least 60 percent, of these 203,760 persons registered (57 percent female, 43 percent male), have been attending PHC on monthly basis for medications. This constitutes a 10 percent increase from 2018 (185,231) and is likely due to people being more aware of the availability of these medications in the health facilities; it can also be due to the deteriorating economic crisis in the country.

In 2019, 73,147 hospitalizations for displaced Syrians related to obstetric and emergency/life-saving care were supported by UNHCR.[52] This represents a 17 percent decrease in the number of supported hospital admissions from 2018. The considerable decrease is explained by a change in health seeking behaviors at the hospital level that might be due to the new referral policy imposing a higher patient cost-share. Another possible explanation is the noticeable decrease in deliveries. It could also be partially due to the unofficial return of certain groups back to Syria as well as a probably increase in home deliveries. Through UNRWA, 1,919 Palestinian Refugees from Syria received hospital care, which represents a 3.2 percent increase from 2018 which is a result of the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund support. 177 displaced Syrians with chronic renal failure continued to receive free dialysis care, which enhanced their quality of life. 35,478 caregivers across Lebanon benefitted from awareness campaigns on maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health. These campaigns provided the caregivers with improved Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) best practices, and health integrated messages through community mobilization and referral. 12 hospitals across Lebanon were engaged in the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI). In 2019, vulnerable people from all nationalities benefitted from specific surgeries such as ophthalmological interventions, cleft lip/palate surgeries and surgeries for congenital orthopaedic malformations among others which contributed to extensively increasing their quality of life.

The Health sector continued to provide support to the national health system by procuring vaccinations, medications, reproductive health commodities, as well as other medical supplies and equipment to facilities including MoPH-PHCCs and dispensaries. Accelerated Immunization Activities were strengthened in light of the emergent measles outbreak while a national measles campaign was launched by the MoPH on December 06, 2019. Support was provided to the national health system through 20 staff at the MoPH-PHCCs level which constitutes a considerable decrease from 2018 linked to multifactorial considerations represented mainly by political consideration and instability. As part of health system strengthening and to ensure more sustainable service delivery, trainings and coaching visits continued with a focus on immunization, Clinical Management of Rape (CMR), Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI), Infant & Young Child Feeding (IYCF), interpersonal skills, surveillance and response related to the measles outbreak among others.

51- In October 17, 2019, country wide protests were initiated by the civil society in Lebanon. The protests resulted in continued roadblocks on the international highways and other vital parts of the country and therefore, restricted private and public sector functionality and limited banking operations.

52- Obstetric and emergency life-saving care is covered by UNHCR based on its Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) through a network of public and private hospitals contracted by a third-party administrator.

## KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACTS

The activities implemented by the health partners under the LCRP have affirmed that improved access to comprehensive primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare services, improved outbreak and infectious diseases control and improved adolescent and youth health are key to providing the target population with inclusive and equitable access to quality health services through the national health system.

In 2019, the Health sector has launched a research committee with the objectives of decreasing duplication of assessments, channelling available research resources towards information gaps and not merely to academic interest, and ensuring ethical considerations are accounted for when the assessments or research target displaced population and vulnerable communities. The committee has started to work in 2019 and should be officially established in 2020 which will directly contribute to strengthen public health knowledge and evidence-based practices.

The Health sector partners continued to work in 2019 on strengthening the national health system to better account for the needs and ensure access to services for vulnerable population. The achievements of the partners have led to an increased equitable access to quality healthcare services while ensuring a safe and inclusive environment.

Direct service delivery was ensured by the Health sector partners, to provide emergency health services for critical life-saving cases. This is mainly applicable for providing financial support to life-saving hospital care for displaced Syrians and primary healthcare services for vulnerable population through mobile medical units. Direct service delivery has led to decreasing the rates of morbidity and mortality and helped the government to carry the burden of the high demand for healthcare.

## CHALLENGES

The biggest challenges to Health sector partners in the implementation of the sector strategy in 2019 were: **Funding**, **Economic Crisis** and **Communication with the Community**. As a result of insufficient funding, many referrals of patients in need of secondary healthcare or specialized diagnostics were not covered by partners. These include serious chronic diseases and catastrophic illnesses. As a result, many patients did not receive needed hospital care as they were not able to pay for the fees themselves. This has further negatively affected their health status. For displaced Syrian patients in need of in-patient psychiatric care, admission was often delayed because of the limited number of hospital beds. In addition, at the primary healthcare level, the unavailability of funds challenged the accessibility of people in need to timely quality care.

Furthermore, the deteriorating economic situation in the country has affected the health sector at two levels: institutions and individual. At the institutional level, the crisis has hindered the transfer of funds, which reflected in a decrease in the number of MoPH staff supported by health partners and in severe shortages in medications for chronic and acute diseases. As contingency funds were not available and the 10 percent buffer stock was rapidly consumed, it was challenging to secure funds to fill the gaps in a timely manner. At the individual level, the crisis, has severely affected the financial ability of both displaced Syrian and Lebanese community to pay for their basic needs including healthcare.

An additional challenge remains the lack of knowledge regarding available services: access of Lebanese population to primary healthcare remains below 50 percent and displaced Syrian women's access to ante-natal care and post-natal care is relatively low. it is important to enhance the knowledge of all population in need of available services through intensifying awareness raising on the location of health facilities providing subsidized primary healthcare services. In addition, increasing reports on home-based deliveries reflect a need to monitor the situation more closely. Based on previous trends, it is estimated that for 2019 the Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) among displaced Syrians will continue to be higher than the NMR and MMR among Lebanese. This could be attributed to the lower levels of ante-natal care visits among

displaced Syrians, the higher rates of adolescent pregnancies, the higher frequency of home-based deliveries, and the delayed access to obstetric care.

## KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN IN 2020

At the primary healthcare level53, the Health sector prioritizes the support to MoPH with complementarity models that offer more coverage of people in need and complements existing services. In addition, the sector aims to improve outbreak and infectious disease control through strengthening and expanding the Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS) to 1000 institutions with surveillance data at the source and by strengthening the national tuberculosis and AIDS programmes. The sector aims as well at improving adolescent and youth health through the school health programme by targeting 1275 schools. At the secondary and tertiary healthcare level, the sector is focused on improving access to hospital care to displaced Syrians and Palestinian Refugees from Syria, and therefore is dedicated to sustaining and increasing financial support to hospital care. The Health sector prioritizes the mainstreaming of institutional support to promote country ownership and sustainability; scale up solutions considering the current crisis and promote greater efficiencies in health investments. In light of the aggravated economic crisis, at the end of 2019, the Health sector started to monitor specific indicators to study the impact of the situation on different population cohorts. The sector will advocate for additional funds to ensure implementation of services that tailors to the increasing needs for both Lebanese and displaced population.

WHO Rep Dr Iman Shankiti giving child vaccine drops during national measles campaign at an informal settlement, Yammouneh - © WHO, Ali Zneit

53- Primary healthcare includes access to vaccination, acute and chronic medication, family planning, pregnancy care, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) care, mental healthcare as well as laboratory diagnostics through both support of primary healthcare centres for the provision of subsidies and community outreach.

# CASE STUDY

Reducing Economic Barriers to Accessing Health Services in Lebanon (REBAHS)

Primary Health Care

By International Medical Corps (IMC)

In response to the Syria crisis, the increasing needs of vulnerable displaced population and host community, and the over stretched health care system, International Medical Corps (IMC) in a consortium with Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI) and Fundacion Promocion Social (FPS), developed and implemented an innovative new model, the Flat Fee Model (FFM), to provide primary health care to vulnerable populations in Lebanon. This approach , through the support of the European Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syria crisis, the European Union "MADAD54" Fund is employed as part of a two-year pilot project titled 'Reducing Economic Barriers to Accessing Health Services in Lebanon' (REBAHS). The project is implementing a model of primary health care tailored to fit into the privatized health care system in Lebanon, and able to reduce both the barriers to accessing health care and the vulnerability of crisis affected populations, both displaced and local communities, through the provision of subsidized quality primary health care services including mental health and disability services across Lebanon. For a flat fee of 3,000 LBP ($2), vulnerable populations receive a consultation, laboratory imagery and diagnostics tests, and mediation, thus benefiting from affordable, timely, and quality health care—a key strategic objective of the health sector response.

Hadeel and Madlene[55] are two Lebanese sisters who live in Labwe, a border town in Northern Bekaa. Both diagnosed with cerebral palsy at a very young age, Hadeel is now 20 years old and Madlene, five. Living in the small northern village means they had little access to health care services in the area. Their family have no monthly income and they struggle to make ends meet. Earlier this year, thanks to word of mouth in the village, Hadeel and Madlene's father visited an EU Madad Fund-supported primary health care clinic in Labwe. At the clinic, International Medical Corps's team of specialists gave the sisters a subsidized consultation and assessed their conditions and needs. They were subsequently provided with cerebral palsy wheelchairs, which, according to their father, was a "dream come true". Before this intervention, the sisters had to be carried everywhere—both physically and emotionally difficult for the entire family. Now, with the wheelchairs, they can enjoy freedom of movement. "The wheelchairs have given the sisters confidence and independence" confirmed the parents.

For a single fee[56], beneficiaries receive subsidized quality health care that includes the consultation, diagnostic and laboratory tests, and medications. Services cover acute, non-communicable disease care, reproductive health and maternal and child health. These services were made available at 54 Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)-supported health care centers and dispensaries, as well as Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)-supported social development centers across Lebanon. Services were made accessible to all displaced Syrians and vulnerable Lebanese who sought health care without discrimination or restrictions. 245,708 individuals were supported through services in 2019. These services were also coupled with community health activities in the catchment areas of the supported primary health care facilities, and information disseminated in informal settlements, collective shelters, and through home visits, about available services and referrals. Mental Health services were integrated within supported centers with Mental Health consultations, psychosocial support and awareness raising p.rovided free of charge.

54- https://ec.europa.eu/trustfund-syria-region/content/home_en

55- The names of the subjects have been changed to protect their privacy.

56- The fee is equal to LBP 3,000/€1.8/$2

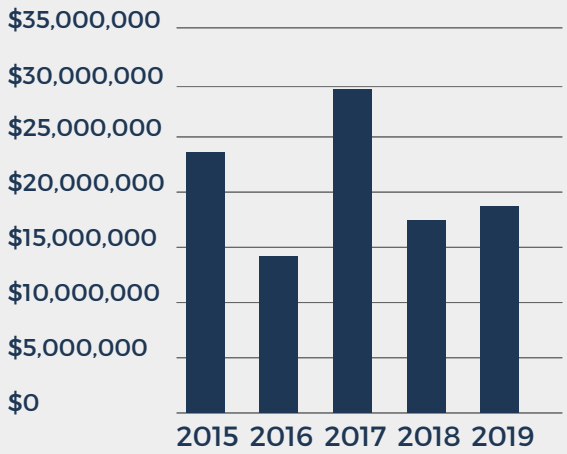
LCRP 2019 end of year Health Sector dashboard

# Support to *Public Health Institutions*

In 2019, health sector partners under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), continue to provide their financial, technical and operational support to the public health system to increase access to quality health services for displaced Syrians and vulnerable Lebanese and to strengthen healthcare institutions and enable them to withstand the pressure caused by the increased demand on services and the scarcity of resources.

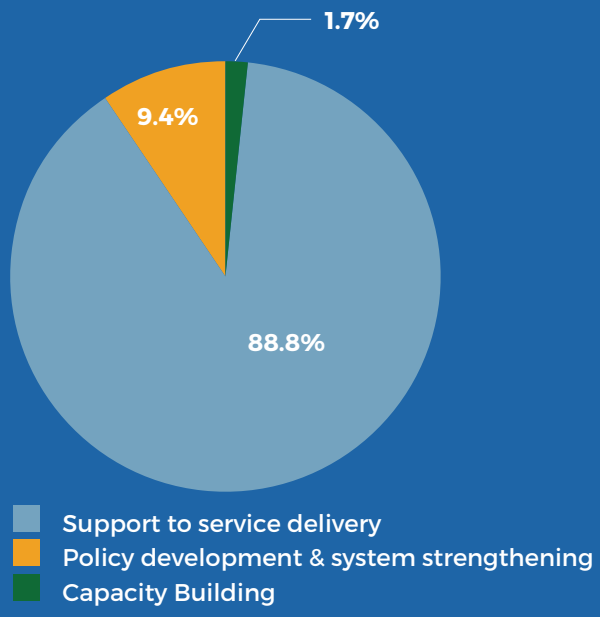
Overall, the $18 million provided in 2019 was injected to support the Ministry of Public Health at central, peripheral, and healthcare centers level (including PHCCs and hospitals). This represents a slight increase compare to the $17.3 million injected in 2018. Most of the support is channelled through MoPH ($10.5 million, 60 percent of total support), while the remaining 40 percent is channelled at the local level through the PHC. Almost 88.8 percent of the support is provided in support of service delivery, while 9.4 percent goes to policy development and system strengthening and 1.7 percent to capacity building.

**Support to Health Institutions from 2015 to 2019**




- $18 million in support to MoPH and Healthcare Centres, up from $ 17.3 million in 2018
- 7.3 percent of total support channelled through public institutions in 2019 ($245 million)
- 203,760 Individuals received Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) medications
- 799,772 Individuals received acute disease medications supported by health partners through 420 facilities
- 1266 health workers trained on various health topics

**Breakdown of support provided to Health Institutions in 2019**



# LIVELIHOODS

| Funding | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Required | $196,000,000 | $208,000,000 | $214,400,000 |
| Received | $64,000,000 | $67,000,000 | $93,000,000 |
| Received in % | 33% | 32% | 43% |

| Outreach | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Population in Need | 661,516 | 182,169 | 171,183 |
| Targeted | 65,558 | 60,663 | 49,662 |
| Reached | 68,939 | 55,987 | 57,753 |

| Key Outcome level indicators | Baseline | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| # total number of job created/maintained | 494 | 2,305 | 2,365 | 4203 |
| # of job seekers placed into job | N/A | 4,634 | 763 | 1522 |
| # target Lebanese MSMEs and cooperatives that report increased performance and expanded market access (new clients, contracts, market access) as a result of programme activities | N/A | 1440 | 986 | 2174 |

| Key Output level indicators | Baseline | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| USD value invested in public work projects | $2,362,127 | $2,943,543 | $8,438,973 | $419,680 |
| # of MSMEs/ Cooperatives supported through cash & in-kind grants | 648 | 1,688 | 587 | 2452 |
| # of targeted vulnerable persons employed through public infrastructure and environmental assets improvement | 7588 | 6529 | 10,819 | 12000 |

## Key achievements in 2019

In 2019, around 631 businesses, i.e. Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), cooperatives and social enterprises, received cash and in-kind grants and technology transfers (out of a target of 3,670). The economic slowdown and financial situation made it difficult to create new job opportunities, thus meeting the targets. To respond to this situation, livelihoods partners have focused on supporting businesses with potential to survive the crisis to ensure their sustainability. To improve the employability and self-resilience of displaced individuals and host community members, particularly women, 30,836 individuals participated in soft skills and technical trainings exceeding the targets for 2019. Female participation in technical trainings was around 9,517 compared to male which was around 7,853. Much emphasis is given to promote women's roles and resilience in their communities. As the economic crisis is deepening, the livelihoods sector had to re-prioritize trainings in order to ensure that trainings are responsive to market-demands. Nevertheless, through the efforts of the Ministry of Economy and Trade, the livelihoods sector has managed to update the National Business Development Service Map for partners to use to avoid duplication of services.

Despite the increasing economic challenges in 2019, livelihoods partners were able to impact the lives of around 57,753 women and men and succeeded in providing short term employment opportunities to 17,433 beneficiaries through public works project, benefitting indirectly more than 70,000 beneficiaries. Furthermore, around 15,481,000 USD was invested in labor-intensive efforts that have not only provided 12,000 temporary job opportunity for the most vulnerable but also addressed the priorities of local municipalities and brought

tangible results to the local host communities. Yet, the unpredictability of the 2019 socio-economic situation has caused higher level of stress and increasing tensions between host communities and displaced communities, particularly over the competition for low-wage jobs and the higher cost of living.

In 2019, 36 value chains were valorized or upgraded in order to generate wealth and create jobs. Agro-industry value-chains is generally considered to be amongst the promising economic sectors for the country, which the livelihoods sector continuously aims at boosting. To this end, in 2019, in close collaboration with the foods security sector, the livelihoods sector developed a national online mapping system of value-chains interventions which will ultimately strengthen coordination and information sharing among cross-sectorial partners operating at national and field level.

## KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACTS

The Livelihoods sector aims at strengthening productive sectors in expanding economic and livelihoods opportunity to the most vulnerable communities.

2019 has been a year which required the Livelihoods sector to respond to increasing vulnerabilities while pursuing efforts to generate new employment opportunities, both short and medium term. Livelihoods have throughout the year created/maintained, 4,203 jobs out of a target of 5,777. These jobs have been created or maintained through the support to MSMEs, who have been able to hire and/or maintain employees. In addition, livelihoods partners have reported that around 2,174, out of a target of 2,899, Lebanese MSMEs and cooperative have improved performance and expand market access after six months of support. MSMEs are still perceived as key economic engine for economic growth and job creation in Lebanon and the livelihoods partners continues their effort to support their capacities to respond to market demands and generate income for local economies in poor areas.

To improve workforce employability of vulnerable women and men, livelihoods partners provides career guidance and work-based learning, and technical skills trainings to match the demand of the labour market. In 2019, around 1,522 vulnerable men and women have been placed into jobs and around 284 women and men have used the skills gained to initiate home-based income generation, out of which 50 percent are women.

In 2019, Lebanon ranked 143 out of 190 economies on the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index whereas in 2017 Lebanon ranked 126. This development indicates the need of focusing on regulations that support the development of SME-friendly employment, legal, regulatory and taxation frameworks to enhance business activity and stimulate economic growth. In 2019, there were no improvement in business regulations.

## CHALLENGES

The economic downturn has exacerbated pre-existing fragility, increasing poverty and social tensions between different communities and deepening the Lebanon's socio-economic disparities. The crisis is causing businesses to close and people to lose their jobs and working conditions to deteriorate, adding to the challenges of the livelihoods sector. The unpredictability of the situation increases the concerns around growing vulnerabilities, which is why the livelihoods sector will regularly monitor business closure and working conditions.

The crisis also let to disruption in services due to roadblocks, the financial restrictions and devaluation of the Lebanese pound prevented partners from accessing finance and provide cash-services to beneficiaries. Particularly beneficiary's mobility and access to soft-skill and technical trainings, and labour-intensive work were limited. Livelihoods partners experienced delays or suspension of their operations and were therefore not able to meet their targets. Livelihoods partners had to request no cost extensions by the donors and adapt new administrative measures to cope.

As of 2019, the Livelihoods sector remained the second least funded sector under the LCRP with only $93m available for programming, of which $26.9.5m was a carry-over from 2018. With only 42 percent funding available in 2019 for livelihoods

interventions, partners have not been able to scale-up investments required to boost the demand side of the job market or offer short-term employment opportunities for the most vulnerable. In addition, MSMEs continue to be hampered by a range of factors including access to start-up or expansion capital and inadequate labour market information or skill gaps, as well as challenging procedures for setting up a business. Another significant and recurrent barrier within the Livelihoods sector is the unavailability of multi-year funding opportunities. The short-term nature of funding mechanisms does not support longer-term livelihoods efforts aimed at reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience. Neither does it adequately support long-term and structural challenges experienced by Lebanese MSMEs, cooperatives and small-scale farmers, as investments in value chains development and market linkages require sound and long-term funding.

## KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN IN 2020

Displaced Syrians are becoming more economically vulnerable with the proportion of them spending less than $US 2.90/per day increasing from 51 percent to 55 percent in 2019. At the same time, the Lebanese host communities are also struggling as the economic crisis is compounding existing vulnerabilities. This development also fuels the perceptions of competition in the job market which continues to be the most commonly cited cause for rising tensions between host and refugee communities, as well as between Lebanese communities. This is evident in the UNDP/ARK Perception Surveys on Social Tensions throughout Lebanon Wave VII, which shows that access to jobs remain the primary source of tension for both Lebanese and Syrians (60 percent), followed by electricity (19 percent), medical (8 percent) and shelter (5 percent).

To address these challenges, the key priority of the the Livelihoods secto in 2020 is to foster local economic growth in the most vulnerable areas through labour intensive projects that can support short-term employment and address the needs of affected municipalities. Through the efforts of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Labour, the Livelihoods sector will work towards the endorsement of the Employment Intensive Projects in Lebanon Guidelines to guide partners on how to mainstream and implement decent work conditions in labour intensive interventions. The sector will work towards creating stronger linkages with ministries and other stakeholders involved in ensuring decent work conditions, as the crisis might increase informal work and exploitation.

In addition, the sector will resume supporting MSMEs and value chains development to foster job creation by expanding and improving the productivity and quality of businesses to ensure self-sufficiency. Yet, the impact of the crisis on an already challenging economic situation increases the urgency of allocating multi-year funding and resources to support the development of strategic value chains that can foster job creation, especially in agricultural, agro-food and waste recycling value chains. In this context, strengthening collaboration as well as partnerships and mutual learning will be pursued in 2020 through the technical working group on agriculture value chains, in close collaboration with the food security sector.

Improving employability remains a priority as well, however, the Livelihoods sector will focus on adapting skills training to market demands. Lebanon would benefit from a national labour market assessment as such assessment would guide partners on industries that have potential for growth and where there are skills gabs. Resources should be allocated to produce such assessment by the livelihoods sector.

The downturn is particularly affecting people with specific need such as female-led household, disabled and elderly. The livelihoods sector is coordinating closely with the protection sector to address inequalities and/or protection risks through the upcoming Inter-Agency referral system in order to ensure timely and relevant livelihoods support to the most vulnerable groups while ensuring the security.

# CASE STUDY

Rural Delights is a hub that supports over 40 women-led cooperatives in rural areas across Lebanon in promoting women's economic leadership, challenging stereotypes, and providing economic opportunities for as many women as possible.

"So many of us benefit from this van: some women prepare the raw materials, others prepare the food, and local women and youth participate in the events taking place in their hometowns," says May Traboulsi, the Chairperson of Rural Delights.

To enhance the capacity of these cooperatives' access to the market, UNDP provided Rural Delights with a refrigerated food van, as well as a training on using social media platforms to promote their products, with support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The van, which is at the disposal of eligible cooperatives free of charge for the first year, plays a significant role in enhancing access of Women Cooperatives to new markets; by preserving the quality of the food and easing the transportation process, cooperatives are more likely and able to participate in events and exhibitions across the country. Incorporating the van, in turn, foresees a 20 percent increase in the cooperatives' general income – specifically at least a 20 percent increase per exhibition or event. Additionally, it's eye-catching display attracts more visitors while reducing the cost of renting transportation vehicles, tables, chairs, and kitchen equipment.

By participating in events across the country, the cooperatives are now able to build a wider network to improve their reach and long-term revenue stream.

"We created a fresh new concept of street food that is healthy, tasty, and traditional," May proudly states.

@UNDP Lebanon/Rana Sweidan

# PROTECTION

| Funding | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Required | $164,000,000 | $172,000,000 | $174,100,000 |
| Received | $112,000,000 | $162,000,000 | $170,200,000 |
| Received in % | 68% | 94% | 98% |

| Outreach | | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population in Need | | 3,200,000 | 3,200,000 | 3,208,800 |
| Targeted | | 1,887,502 | 1,890,000 | 1,884,800 |
| Number of services provided | Total | 1,804,022 | 1,315,172 | 1,877,825 |
| | Syrians | 80% | 84% | 91% |
| | Lebanese | 15% | 9% | 6% |
| | PRS/PRL | 5% | 6% & 1% other | 3% |

| Key Outcome level indicators | Baseline | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| % of persons with legal stay | 26% | 26% | 27% | 22% |
| % of children born in Lebanon whose birth is registered at the level of the Foreigners' Registry (Personal Status Department) | 17% | 17% | 21% | 30% |
| % of women (15-19) married | N/A | 22% | 29% | 27% |
| % of children 2-14 years who experience violent disciplinary practices | N/A | 78% | 73% | 64% |
| % of children aged 5-17 engaged in child labour | N/A | 4.8% | 5% | 2.6% |

| Key Output level indicators | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| # of individuals who benefitted from legal counselling, assistance and representation regarding legal stay | 37,410 | 33,556 | 28,764 |
| # of individuals who benefitted from counselling, legal assistance and legal representation regarding civil registration including birth registration, marriage | 95,794 | 74,675 | 72,231 |
| # of women, girls, men and boys at risk and survivors accessing SGBV prevention and response services in safe spaces | 99,096 | 83,660 | 67,155 |
| # of women, girls, men and boys sensitized on SGBV | 294,403 | 193,519 | 142,347 |
| # of caregivers accessing child protection prevention (caregivers' programmes) | 52,180 | 52,997 | 38,572 |

## Key achievements in 2019

At the end of 2019, 146,574 refugees and vulnerable Lebanese had increased awareness on legal issues that are critical to ensure, in particular, their access to civil documentation, their ability to regularize their stay and to have security of tenure. To achieve this result, the Protection sector organized information sessions and disseminated awareness raising material. Some 72,231 persons, mostly displaced Syrians, benefitted from tailored counseling, legal assistance and legal representation on civil documentation, an increase of 34 percent in comparison to 2018. This assisted them in the registration of their marriage or divorce, the birth of their children or the death of relatives. 28,764 refugees also benefited from legal aid to obtain or

renew their legal residency, mostly in the form of individual counselling, legal representation and legal assistance, including through accompaniment to the General Security Offices. Some 41 percent of the beneficiaries were women, a group that is more difficult to mobilize concerning this topic, since there are often perceived by their communities as less likely to be arrested for lack of legal residency, or less in need to be mobile or to secure a work permit.

In 2019, persons with specific needs continued to benefit from the support of the protection sector. Indeed, 12,372 of them received individual counselling, case management and psychosocial support, an increase of 22 percent compared to 2018, to overcome the compounded challenges and risks that they face. The majority of the beneficiaries were women (7,324) with specific vulnerabilities in relation to their age, disability, medical condition or family situation. In addition, 5,979 persons benefited from specific cash programmes, as part of a holistic and beneficiary-centered approach, in response to acute protection incidents or risks, or emergency situations including extreme weather conditions, homelessness or eviction. 277,915 persons received crucial information on access to services, contributing to community empowerment, with community members becoming increasingly able to access services without the support of external partners. This represents an increase of 28 percent in comparison to 2018. Moreover, 54,051 individuals participated in activities or received assistance in community centers and SDC, contributing to foster access to services for women and girl and offering them a safe space to interact with each other; they represent 62 percent of the beneficiaries under this indicator.

The SGBV sector continued to ensure quality services to its beneficiaries. In 2019, a total of 67,155 women, girls, men and boys at risks and survivors (including 54,482 Syrians, 11,562 Lebanese, 1,111 Palestine refugees) accessed SGBV prevention and response services in safe spaces. And 93 percent of women and girls who participated in the evaluation responded that they felt empowered after the SGBV actors' interventions. It is noteworthy that this exceeded the 2019 target by 8 percent, which clearly indicates that the good quality of SGBV services had a positive impact on survivors and at-risk population. On a similar note, 89 percent of women and girls who participated in the evaluation also responded that they felt safer after the SGBV actors' interventions, which again exceeded the 2019 target by 29 percent.

The sector also continued to provide support to public and local institutions to build their capacities in addressing SGBV. The capacity of a total of 107 MoSA SDCs and local organizations providing SGBV services was strengthened through the support of the sector for infrastructure, staffing, equipment, material, operational and structural needs. A total of 619 institutional actors (127 male), including law enforcement officers, were trained on SGBV and 62 percent of them clearly demonstrated increased knowledge of SGBV. In addition, to further strengthen a systemized approach to SGBV at the national level, three SGBV guidance notes, a national GBV SOP, and a GBV Case Management Curriculum were developed with the support of the sector.

In terms of the community sensitization, a total of 142,347 (16,925 male) women, girls, men, and boys were sensitized on SGBV, including SGBV referral pathways, women's rights, and other relevant SGBV issues.

The Child Protection Sector through its national and international partners and in close cooperation with ministries continue to deliver a comprehensive package of services (including psychosocial support services - PSS, case management and caregivers' programmes) for preventing and responding to child protection violations in Lebanon. In addition, child protection has been mainstreamed during 2019 in key line ministries, namely within MoJ for strengthening justice procedures for children, within MEHE for rolling out and operationalization of the Child Protection Policy in schools and to enhance institutional capacity to both prevent and respond to child protection concerns within the education sector, within MoPH for the health sector.

Overall, the sector has achieved its targets and overachieved in key response-related services such as Focused PSS and Case Management, which is an indication of rising needs of children at risk and in need of more tailored and specialized services.

12,235 children, 4,772 girls and 7,463 boys, for a target of 8,000 have received individual case management and specialized services in 2019, with the majority being Syrian (79 percent), followed by Lebanese (16 percent) and PRL/PRS (4 percent). At the same time, 20,958 girls and boys have received specialized / focused PSS, while the 2019 target was 16,000. The proportion of children engaged in child labour and its worst forms represents 45 percent of the total target, which is a validation that child labour and exploitation remain among the key vulnerabilities and risks faced by the most vulnerable children in Lebanon. In addition, regarding child labour, a more tailored and adapted package of services has been developed by the sector and implemented by partners, which included child protection and education joint planning and interventions for targeting at risk and working children who are out of school. In order to improve the quality and sustainability of the results for children, a participatory approach to case management was used, with children and caregivers actively engaged in identifying appropriate solutions for protecting and empowering children.

At the level of prevention, community-based child protection activities and caregivers' programmes remain key for disseminating information about child rights and reinforcing knowledge for preventing and addressing key child protection violations. Through increasing children's awareness, they are better able to mitigate risks and build resilience to cope with the ongoing changes/challenges. During the year, a total of 78,245 children (50 percent boys and 50 percent girls) have been engaged in community-based child protection activities and 38,572 caregivers (86 percent female and 14 percent male) have been engaged in activities to promote the well-being and protection of children. In addition, a total of 292 community initiatives have been conducted by community members and key stakeholders to address key child protection issues identified in their communities.

Finally, during 2019, MoSA with the support of UNICEF and along with sector partners launched the first National Social and Behavioural Change Communication Plan to Prevent Violence Against Children and Women, Child Labour and Child Marriage. The roll-out of the strategy started during the second semester of 2019 through multi-stakeholders' consultations for drafting the action plan, which will be implemented in 2020.

## KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACTS

In 2019, the Protection sector kept fostering access to rights for refugees and vulnerable Lebanese, through close collaboration with line ministries and national and international partners. Notable progress was achieved in the area of civil documentation, with an increase to 30 percent of births of children born in Lebanon registered at the Foreigners' Registry level in 2019, compared to 21 percent in 2018. This achievement is the combined result of simplification measures adopted by the GoL to facilitate the access of displaced persons from Syria to birth registration, of capacity building of national institutions, and of awareness raising and legal aid programmes offered to beneficiaries. Birth registration is essential in order to ensure children's rights including legal identity and access to essential services such as education. Despite the sector's steady efforts, the percentage of displaced Syrians aged 15 years and above having legal residency continued to decrease, from 27 percentin 2018 to 22 percent in 2019. Women are less likely than men to have legal residency (18 percent and 27 percent respectively), as are refugees under the age of 30. In addition, a direct link exists between economic vulnerability and legal residency, as an increased economic vulnerability of a Syrian household elevates the risk for household members to lack legal residency. Uneven practices at General Security Offices, including requests to provide a Lebanese sponsor for UNHCR certificate-holder, were mentioned by refugees as the main reason for not being able to renew their legal stay. This is of particular concern, since it has a direct implication on refugee protection, mobility, access to essential services and on their exposure to risks of arrest and deportation.

The SGBV sector provided support from three different angles, including the capacity-building of public institutions, community-based intervention, and protection of vulnerable populations, as required by the LCRP. Amongst other interventions, it continued to strengthen its partnership with MoSA, including by building its capacity and working on the

national action plan on child marriage, national GBV SOPs, and the GBV Case Management Curriculum. It also collaborated with NCLW and OMSW Ministry of Economic Empowerment for Women and Youth (EEWAY) in the development of a national strategy and action plan on GBV and enhancing national capacity in the SGBV field. The sector's community interventions and protection services also proved to have increased the beneficiaries' sense of safety and empowerment as evidenced by its relevant performance in 2019. This increased sense of safety and empowerment indicates that the SGBV actors provided quality SGBV services both from the prevention and response side.

Integration and joint planning within the protection sector (with CP, SGBV and PRT) has made some progress during the year through the Protection sub-sectoral committee (PSSC) by identifying the key priorities (child labour, child marriage and disability) and the key activities to be delivered through an integrated and comprehensive approach. The Committee will be further rolled out in 2020 across the three sectors and will be measured through key implementing actors. Similarly, the CP sector has identified key areas of integration with the Education sector that include systemic referrals and targeting by partners of the most vulnerable, working and out of school children.

## CHALLENGES

The shrinking of the protection space throughout the year coupled with the political and socio-economic situation in the last quarter posed major challenges for the protection sector. Access to the Lebanese territory for Syrians continues to be limited by strictly identified visa and residency categories, with registration of refugees still suspended. Following governmental decisions, displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees from Syria –men, women and children– found to have entered Lebanon irregularly after 24 April 2019 have been subject to deportation and handed over to the Syrian immigration authorities. The Higher defence Council's decisions had additional negative consequences as they affected access to the territory for family members of refugees who had obtained legal residency based on sponsorship. It further restricted access to the labour market and directly impacted the refugees' right to safe and adequate housing following the dismantlement of hard structures used as shelter in certain parts of the country.

The rise in the politization of the refugee question and in community tensions also greatly affected refugees' protection, including through increased collective evictions. Coordination on advocacy strategy took place to address these issues, and communication campaigns and specific counselling lines were put in place in addition to other cross-sectoral response activities to inform refugees about the risks and the advisable mitigations measures. The operational modalities were regularly monitored and discussed to keep reaching those most in need, despite increased accessibility issues due to self-restriction of movements and roadblocks.

SGBV partners experienced several operational challenges in 2019. In 2019, only 62 percent of case management agencies reported that they had sufficient resources and capacities to run SGBV programs, which heightened partners' needs to have more dedicated and sufficient SGBV workforce and resources. This situation was further exacerbated by the dire economic conditions in the country and following civil unrest, which resulted in a series of restriction of movement and limited access to services across the country. Although partners adapted their operational modalities to the evolving situations in the country and continuously re-strategizing interventions, these changes in the environment highly disrupted the SGBV situation in the country, reducing women and girls' access to safe space and SGBV actors' access to beneficiaries, communities, and public institutions.

Child Protection partners are facing challenges in certain areas and locations to reach adolescents at risk in prevention activities, such as community-based PSS activities. This is mainly attributed to the responsibilities imposed on this group (such as child labour or other household responsibilities) by their households and communities, often as a result of the fact that they are no longer considered "children," a result of displacement and other social factors. In this regard, the sector will aim for enhanced programming and integration with the livelihood sector working with this group

and to ensure that adolescents are engaged in programmes tailored to their needs.

## KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN IN 2020

Cornerstone activities for the Protection sector remain to ensure that displaced persons have access to registration and legal stay, and that mechanisms are in place to guarantee non-refoulement. In addition, ensuring access to civil documentation, empowerment of displaced and host communities to enhance resilience, inclusion and participation, as well as improvement of the direct delivery of quality and inclusive protection services to persons with specific needs (PwSN) will be critical priorities for 2020. The sector will also keep supporting an integrated strategy at national level for addressing violence against children, child marriage, child labour, and for addressing the needs of persons with disabilities.

The current situation of the country will continue to result in gaps in achieving set target goals, given that a number of indicators, by their nature, are related to the partners' engagement with relevant government authorities and beneficiaries on the ground. Noting this, the sector will need to prioritize innovative outreach activities and the capacity-building of communities on emerging SGBV issues. Increasing linkages and joint activities with other relevant sectors will also be prioritized in order to avoid duplications of efforts, address gaps and ensure that protection is a leading concern in the overall response. The Child Protection sector will also advance on the roll out of the National Social Behavioural Change Communication Strategy and its QUDWA-related activities. Increased coordination with the Social stability sector will aim to ensure the mainstreaming of the do no harm principle and conflict sensitivity in all activities, given the particular risks created by the politization of the refugee issue and the on-going economic crisis.

# CASE STUDY

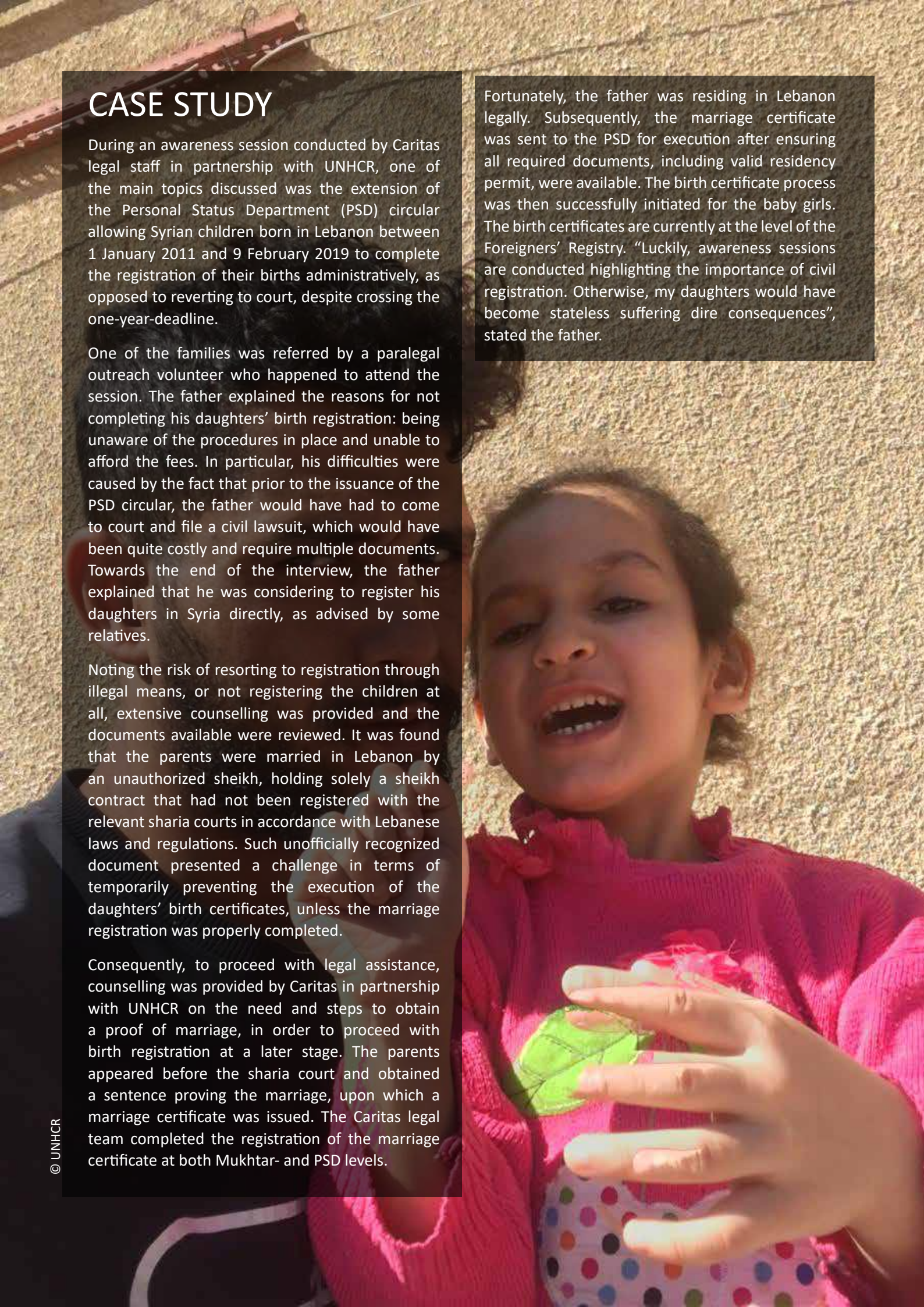
During an awareness session conducted by Caritas legal staff in partnership with UNHCR, one of the main topics discussed was the extension of the Personal Status Department (PSD) circular allowing Syrian children born in Lebanon between 1 January 2011 and 9 February 2019 to complete the registration of their births administratively, as opposed to reverting to court, despite crossing the one-year-deadline.

One of the families was referred by a paralegal outreach volunteer who happened to attend the session. The father explained the reasons for not completing his daughters' birth registration: being unaware of the procedures in place and unable to afford the fees. In particular, his difficulties were caused by the fact that prior to the issuance of the PSD circular, the father would have had to come to court and file a civil lawsuit, which would have been quite costly and require multiple documents. Towards the end of the interview, the father explained that he was considering to register his daughters in Syria directly, as advised by some relatives.

Noting the risk of resorting to registration through illegal means, or not registering the children at all, extensive counselling was provided and the documents available were reviewed. It was found that the parents were married in Lebanon by an unauthorized sheikh, holding solely a sheikh contract that had not been registered with the relevant sharia courts in accordance with Lebanese laws and regulations. Such unofficially recognized document presented a challenge in terms of temporarily preventing the execution of the daughters' birth certificates, unless the marriage registration was properly completed.

Consequently, to proceed with legal assistance, counselling was provided by Caritas in partnership with UNHCR on the need and steps to obtain a proof of marriage, in order to proceed with birth registration at a later stage. The parents appeared before the sharia court and obtained a sentence proving the marriage, upon which a marriage certificate was issued. The Caritas legal team completed the registration of the marriage certificate at both Mukhtar- and PSD levels.

Fortunately, the father was residing in Lebanon legally. Subsequently, the marriage certificate was sent to the PSD for execution after ensuring all required documents, including valid residency permit, were available. The birth certificate process was then successfully initiated for the baby girls. The birth certificates are currently at the level of the Foreigners' Registry. "Luckily, awareness sessions are conducted highlighting the importance of civil registration. Otherwise, my daughters would have become stateless suffering dire consequences", stated the father.



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# SHELTER

| Funding | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Required | $129,000,000 | $137,000,000 | $157,000,000 |
| Received | $39,000,000 | $34,000,000 | $36,000,000 |
| Received in % | 30% | 25% | 23% |

| Outreach | | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population in Need | | 749,175 | 1,720,000 | 1,362,300 |
| Targeted | | 536,000 | 596,144 | 694,480 |
| Reached | Total | 244,545 | 238,833 | 207,081 |
| | Syrians | 92% | 96% | 95% |
| | Lebanese | 7% | 3% | 4% |
| | PRS/PRL | 1% | 1% | 1% |

| Key Output level indicators | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| # displaced people assisted in keeping their temporary shelters weatherproofed, repaired or otherwise maintained | 180,715 | 195,799 | 175,213 |
| # displaced people benefitted from upgrading of residential shelters to minimum standards | 63,768 | 33,429 | 25,669 |
| # of displaced people benefitted from conditional cash for rent | 26,993 | 9,605 | 8,352 |
| # of displaced people benefitting from fire risk mitigation programs in settlements and buildings | 95,799 | 65,530 | 95,718 |

## Key achievements in 2019

In 2019, 219,579 vulnerable individuals from different population cohorts benefitted from shelter assistance in the form of weatherproofing, repairing or maintaining homes to contribute to improved protection environment and physical living conditions of vulnerable households. (Implemented activities contribute to LCRP Strategic Objective 2.)[57]

165,193 individuals received shelter kits (weatherproofing) in informal settlements to improve physical living conditions, including 33,854 individuals who benefited from emergency weatherproofing assistance following emergency events in informal settlements, such as fire, flood, evictions and the hard structure dismantlement. 6,204 individuals benefitted from minor repair of their non-residential shelters (e.g. garage, shop, warehouse), and a further 3,816 individuals benefited from weatherproofing of their substandard buildings to improve physical living conditions. 95,718 individuals benefited from the distribution of firefighting kits as well as fire prevention and awareness training to reduce the risk of fire emergencies as well as to improve preparedness for emergency fire response. 22,130 individuals benefited from site improvements activities in informal settlements to mitigate shelter flooding risks and to reduce barriers to circulation for individuals and services. Due to the high percentage coverage of winterization needs of the population living in informal settlements, site improvements and fire prevention, two activities that are also implemented in informal settlements, are not counted in the overall population reached to avoid double counting.

17,825 socio-economically vulnerable households were assisted with upgrading their homes to reach minimum humanitarian standards, including 2,718 individuals belonging to a female-headed household, having protection concerns or having specific needs (PwSN). This contributed to improving their accessibility to safe and livable shelters. Also, 8,352 individuals benefited from conditional cash for rent to support their

57- Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations, to support them in meeting their basic needs.

security of tenure in physically adequate shelters.

In line with the sector's commitment to increase access to adequate shelter stock in disadvantaged areas, 7,844 individuals benefitted from upgrading of their residential shelters as a contribution to a multi-sectoral approach that includes complementary WASH and Protection components. (Implemented activities contribute to LCRP Strategic Objective 4) .

Ten area-based multi-sectoral assessments were completed to encourage coordinated, multi-sectoral interventions alongside shelter partners that contribute to social stability. (Implemented activities contribute to LCRP Strategic Objective 4).

Four research reports providing evidence on the shelter and housing situation in Lebanon were published. These reports, along with other guidelines and analysis produced by the sector, will serve as a foundation to strengthen the capacity of national institutions and organizations to support the shelter response. (Implemented activities contribute to LCRP Strategic Objective 3).

## KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACTS

In 2019, 209,234 individuals benefitted from interventions implemented by eighteen Shelter sector partners, reaching 30 percent of the sector's targeted population with 23 percent funding. The population targeted in 2019 exceeds the population targeted in 2018 target by almost 100,000 individuals. However, the population reached in 2019 was 13 percent less than the total reached in 2018 as a whole (239,000 individuals). This will inevitably translate into further deterioration of shelter conditions with knock-on effects on protection, health, safety, water and sanitation and other vulnerabilities.

Of the total displaced Syrian population, 20 percent live in makeshift structures in informal settlements and another 11 percent in shelters not designed for human inhabitation, known as 'non-residential' buildings. Residents of these typically precarious shelter types are targeted under the sector's Outcome 1 'Reduce immediate protection-related shelter needs of most vulnerable households. In 2019, 131,339 displaced Syrians living in informal settlements benefitted from weatherproofing assistance to maintain their temporary shelters in habitable conditions with improved resilience to adverse climatic events. This included assessing all informal settlements in the country where assistance eligibility was determined at 70 percent of all settlements. In terms of the geographical distribution, the majority of beneficiary families are located in Baalbek/Bekaa (67 percent), a significant number in Akkar (26 percent), and a few in the North (2 percent), Mount Lebanon (4 percent) and Nabatiyeh (1 percent). In non-residential buildings, 6,204 individuals benefitted from minor repair of their shelters to improve living conditions and enhance safety and privacy to the extent possible (e.g. garage, shop, warehouse), and a further 3,816 individuals benefited from weatherproofing of their substandard buildings, in the form of plastic sheeting and timber distribution, to improve physical living conditions.

In addition to regular weatherproofing activities in informal settlements, sector partners responded to the needs of 33,854 individuals following emergency events including fires, flooding, or eviction. This was an increase of 400 percent compared to 2018 total where 8,235 individuals were reached. This drastic increase in emergency response needs was to a large extent a result of the Higher Defense Council's decision in May to enforce the dismantlement of hard-structure shelters in informal settlements, with the initial attention being focused on Aarsal and then the North. A total of 1,387 shelters were dismantled nationally. This required $3m to procure kits and distribute them over and above the yearly winterization budget. The response also called for a new type of intervention that created fire breaks between dismantled back-to-back shelters. Fire breakers were custom designed by the sector to delay the spread of fire in settlements where such shelters were found. The installation of the breakers also helped in sound proofing and providing more privacy for families.

Activities to improve site conditions were undertaken in 188 informal settlements, benefitting 22,130 individuals. Such assistance can help mitigate water inundation in winter, which can limit safe access to and circulation around shelters for service providers and individuals, with particular implications for those with compromised

mobility, as well as result in damage to personal belongings. Site improvement activities also contribute to reducing health risks associated with the contamination of drinking water and storm water with grey and/or black water. To improve physical safety of vulnerable households, 95,718 displaced Syrians residing in informal settlements and buildings have been sensitized to the risks of fire, how to respond to such risks and how to use firefighting materials distributed to them.

A total of 17,825 socio-economically vulnerable individuals, including 2,718 individuals' belongings to female-headed households, households with protection concerns or households with at least one PwSN members benefited from the residential shelter upgrading programme. This also included tailored assistance that was provided to 577 Syrians, Lebanese, PRL and PRS individuals who are elderly and/or are from households affected by physical disability. Activities included shelter adaptations that facilitate mobility within and around shelters. However, an extremely low 13 percent of the year's target was reached linked to the progressive decrease in funding secured by partners. Partners have also provided 'cash for rent' assistance to severely socio-economically vulnerable households residing in physically adequate shelters but who are not benefitting from Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance. This small-scale programme reached 8,352 individuals in 2019.

Under Outcome 2 and as part of the sector's commitment to 'Contribute to multi-sectoral upgrading of disadvantaged areas for enhanced stability', 7,844 vulnerable people from both displaced and host communities living in disadvantaged areas were assisted with upgrading their residential structures to minimum humanitarian standards as part of a coordinated multi-sectoral, area-based approach. As such, achievements under this development-oriented Outcome of the Sector remain critically low at four percent assisted of the sector set target. It should be noted that the needs for shelter interventions in disadvantaged urban areas are high but due to very limited funding. The sector continued its commitment to enhancing access to adequate shelter for vulnerable households.

Under LCRP Strategic Objective 4, sector partners are continuing their work on area-based multi-sectoral assessments as a basis for interventions that integrate other sectors complementary to the shelter sector. Partners have produced a total of ten such multi-sectoral assessments, which are being used as evidence bases for programming and fundraising.

## CHALLENGES

Due to the rising needs, the overall appeal figure for 2019 ($157m) is higher than the appeal for 2018 ($137m), however the Shelter sector only received ($36m) for 2019, a slight increase from the $34m received in 2018. In terms of funding distribution across the three shelter types, the limited available funding has mainly affected urban-dwelling vulnerable households in residential and non-residential buildings. These make up the overwhelming majority of those in need of shelter assistance – a population who has been largely unreached in 2019. Due to this funding gap, it is becoming increasingly challenging to prioritize amongst the 26 percent (12,000 HH) who belong to a female-headed household or a household with PwSN members amongst those living in substandard urban shelters (47,000 HHs) when received funding barely covers 4,000 HHs (2019).

In addition to the above and because of the economic and financial crisis that hit the country in the fourth quarter of 2019, the local currency devaluation has led to a cost increase of construction material required to improve shelter conditions. This has caused severe constraints on shelter agencies implementing residential shelter upgrades, an intervention that heavily depends on cash transfers to landlords, contractors or refugee families, depending on the followed approach. Overall, there is a high risk that the current situation will result in an increase of households living in deteriorated shelter conditions, both due to the sector's inability to assist families already living in such conditions as well as families relocating to deteriorated shelters for subsidized rental costs. Furthermore, it is highly likely that vulnerable households would downgrade shelter types, relocating from urban shelters to non-residential shelters and informal settlements to decrease burden of rental costs. This would result in an

increased need to provide unsustainable assistance such as short-term weatherproofing, water trucking and sanitation services.

As of end of January 2020, only one shelter partner (INTERSOS) has confirmed receiving funding to cover shelter needs in Beirut and Mount Lebanon. This is linked to the limited funding of urban shelters interventions, while in BML 98 percent of displaced Syrians live in urban shelters outside of informal settlements. The funding gap has led several partners to close their shelter operations in the area. As the number of families living in substandard shelters increases, it is coupled with a high risk of vulnerable households resorting to negative coping mechanisms, especially female-headed households, children, and girls at risk and PwSNs. Considering the current situation and due to the high visibility of significant aspects of shelter activities in informal settlements, there is an increased risk of contributing to social tensions prompted by the assistance delivered to non-Lebanese households. Hence, as shelter activities require heavy physical presence of partners in the field, it is recommended to adopt practices that limit partner/assistance visibility in the field, in order to avoid escalating social tension, and at the same time, increasing emphasis on risk mitigation and social tension risk assessments of activities.

## KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN IN 2020

As the proportion of displaced Syrians moving to informal settlements is increasing, a key priority is to halt or slow down this trend whilst simultaneously improving the understanding of the underlying motivations for these moves. Assessments show that higher rents outside informal settlements may be a push factor and, at the same time, higher certainty of receiving assistance may be a pull factor. This priority implies effective operation of sector modalities that target all three shelter types.

Due to the economic crisis, a temporary Shelter sector technical committee has been convened to assess the impact of local currency devaluation on implementation of shelter activities. Indicators were set to monitor, on a quarterly basis, the price variations of shelter interventions, possible rental cost variation and evictions as a result of the latter. The results will determine the need to re-evaluate implementation modalities (e.g: reassessing the value of implementing landlord, beneficiary or contractor-led approaches; switching between cash-based and in-kind assistance) in order to mitigate shortfalls and delays in assistance delivery caused by devaluation.

The Shelter sector will share lessons learned on area-based approach with the Inter-Sector in order to establish a collective understanding of the approach amongst the different sectors. The next step is to set up a coordination structure responsible to develop minimum implementation guidelines with involvement of Water, Protection, Livelihoods and Social Stability as core sectors. The sector coordination continues to seek to direct partners to cover gaps in under-served geographical areas, particularly BML, as well as into urban settings more generally as gap-filling exercises.

Partners are currently engaged in a round of finalizing or updating almost all of the sector's nine Technical Guidelines in an effort to harmonize approaches whilst capturing and mainstreaming best practice in the field. These will take account a range of concerns, including sensitization to environmentally sound disposal of plastic sheeting in informal settlements, as well as principles and standards of area-based approaches.

# CASE STUDY

(From right to left) Hassan, his sister-in-law and his wife in front of his tent in an ITS in Masharia Al Qaa, North Bekaa.

Finding a home, a basic human right unmet - by Marta Castillo and Cesar Araktingi, Gruppo di Volontariato Civile

“We left Beirut because we didn’t have a job to sustain us anymore and we couldn’t afford paying the rent”, Hassan explained. He has been living and working in Lebanon since 1997. Hailing from Syria, Hassan was going back and forth between both countries until 2014 when he moved permanently with his family to Beirut due to the security situation in Syria. He lived in a small apartment in Beirut for five years with his wife, brother, sister-in- law, and their children.

Hassan and his brother were employed by a car wash company and they both lost their jobs in October 2019 due to the protests and socio-economic downturn. “My husband is still trying to get the money of his last salary from his employer. He didn’t pay him for his last days of work”, said Amira, Hassan’s pregnant sister-in-law. They moved from Beirut to Qaa (North Bekaa), where they have relatives, in the hope of finding a stable and safe environment to raise their children. The protests in Beirut were concerning them. “We didn’t feel safe anymore”, said Hassan. However, the shift to the new location has been fraught with challenges.

“We have been living in a borrowed tent since we arrived here. And now our friend, that is the owner, wants it back together with his water tank that we are also using because he needs it”, said Hassan. Bekaa region is known for its harsh conditions in winter, especially in the informal settlements (ISs) inhabited by Syrian refugees. The Lebanese government does not allow for permanent infrastructure in these settlements resulting in cyclical interventions. These include desludging and water trucking due to lack of access to solid waste facilities and basic drinking water and replacement of plastic and plywood sheeted structures called home to the 20 percent of Syrian refugee population that live in the settlements (VASyR 2019). These shelters are prone to floods and fires, lack basic heating and privacy and cannot withstand the storm-like winter weather that is the norm in Lebanon.

“The floor regularly floods, the stove is not working, and water is leaking inside. We need a proper shelter, but the municipality has not given us permission to put a new tent”, said Hassan pointing to the issues within his temporary home. The small tent where he is living used to be shared by Hassan and his brother’s family. However, his brother recently received permission to build a new tent and moved out of the shared accommodation. When he got the permission, he called GVC’s helpline to ask for assistance. After an assessment, he was supported by GVC, as part of the Lebanon Protection Consortium (LPC) funded by ECHO, who provided him with a shelter kit to erect his own home.

Hassan his sister-in-law and his wife in front of his tent in an ITS_Masharia Al Qaa North Bekaa
© UNHCR/ Cesar Araktingi

# SOCIAL STABILITY

| Funding | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Required | $124,000,000 | $110,000,000 | $125,350,000 |
| Received | $49,000,000 | $62,000,000 | $31,900,000 |
| Received in % | 40% | 57% | 43% |

| Outreach | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Population in Need | 251 Municipalities | 251 Municipalities | 251 Municipalities<br>3,208,800 persons |
| Targeted | 251 Municipalities | 251 Municipalities | 251 Municipalities<br>2,156,137 persons |
| Reached | 183 Municipalities | 227 Municipalities | 214 Municipalities<br>1,645,035 persons |

| Key Outcome level indicators | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| % of people living in vulnerable areas reporting positive impact of municipalities on their lives | 45% (Syrians)<br>64% (Lebanese) | 74% (Syrians)<br>81% (Lebanese) | 67% (Syrians)<br>71% (Lebanese) |
| % of people living in vulnerable areas reporting competition for municipal and social services and utilities as source of tension | 22% (Syrians)<br>34% (Lebanese) | 24% (Syrians)<br>39% (Lebanese) | 15% (Syrians)<br>28% (Lebanese) |
| % of people living in vulnerable areas able to identify conflict resolution mechanisms/actors in their community they would turn to | 21% (Syrians)<br>20% (Lebanese) | 82% (Syrians)<br>75% (Lebanese) | 82% (Syrians)<br>95% (Lebanese) |
| % of people living in vulnerable areas identifying factors that could improve inter-community relationships | 79% (Syrians)<br>49% (Lebanese) | 82% (Syrians)<br>69% (Lebanese) | 89% (Syrians)<br>77% (Lebanese) |

| Key Output level indicators | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| # of municipalities with self-functioning conflict mitigation mechanisms | 51 | 101 | 122 |
| # new dispute resolution and conflict prevention mechanisms established | 50 | 115 | 25 |
| # youth and children engaged in social stability initiatives | 47,808 | 24,378 | 19,750 |

## Key achievements in 2019

Social Stability partners fulfilled some of the output targets set for their activities in 2019, though faced numerous contextual challenges - including nationwide protests starting from 17 October, emerging events that delayed implementation be it environmental or contextual dynamics - and a lack of new funding that hampered their impact. The sector expanded its reach, covering 242 communities by the end of the year, which is a 7 percent increase from the 227 reached in 2018. This expansion was primarily driven by a significant increase in basic service and community support projects that address resource strains and infrastructure needs at the community level. At the same time, the sector faced challenges in implementing new dialogue

mechanisms that seek to address the root causes of conflict due to the exacerbation of social tensions especially in the second half of 2019.

In 2019, the number of municipal and community support projects implemented to address priority needs through participatory processes increased significantly. With 349 new projects completed, partners exceeded the target of 200 projects by a large margin due to the shift towards this type of programming, which had been recommended at Inter-Sector Level to respond to the greater needs of infrastructure and – in particular – solid waste management initiatives. These initiatives are designed to be implemented in areas experiencing chronic underinvestment in services and infrastructure to relieve competition over those services. To that end, these projects are concentrated in 110 cadastres, the vast majority of which are in the 251 most vulnerable cadastres. While good progress has been made in this regard, the funding invested (USD15.4M) still falls considerably short of the estimated USD66.3M required to comprehensively address the needs of the most vulnerable in Lebanon.

In terms of coverage, sector partners have comprehensively covered the different Governorates across the country, particularly in the North and Akkar where 116 projects have been completed. In 2020, partners should also concentrate on the Bekaa and Baalbeck-Hermel, where only 64 projects (or 18 percent of the national total) are being implemented.

In terms of outputs, less positive progress was made in 2019 in terms of the sector's softer components, including dialogue forums and establishing youth initiatives. In total, just 25 new initiatives aimed at addressing grievances through dialogue were established, far short of the target of 135. This contrasts starkly with the output level achieved in 2018, when 115 initiatives were established and running across the country. This decrease can be explained by the fact that many of the partners who were running dialogue mechanisms pivoted towards implementing basic service and community support projects, following a significant rise in competition over services and utilities that was observed in 2018. Given research highlighting the importance of conflict dialogue mechanisms to reduce propensities to violence, further work to bring communities together to jointly discuss grievances remains a priority of the sector.

A number of partners continued to prioritize youth in 2019. Although the sector did not reach the same number of youths as in 2017 (near 50,000) and 2018 (24,378), the sector partners still reached 18,318 youth, constituting a significant part of the social stability sector's target population. Taking a gender analysis perspective, with 8,969 male and 9,349 female youth, the sector partners achieved fairly balanced gender parity. Indeed, it is vital that these initiatives involve both young men and women as both are affected differently by tensions and the propensity for violence. Continuing with this programming in 2020 will be important, especially as youth have emerged as having the most polarized views on other community groups.

An area of continued success in the sector in 2019 was increased awareness of conflict sensitivity with a total of 161 individuals trained from different organizations across all LCRP sectors. A sizeable proportion of partners (89 percent) now state that they take steps to ensure knowledge is captured from analysis and is translated into programmatic changes. In addition, 86 percent of partners now state that their sector is conflict sensitive, an increase from 46 percent when compared to 2018. These figures point to a strong foundation which has been laid for partners to expand this area of work as a key focus in 2020.

## KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACTS

A significant achievement was made by the partners on the first outcome "Strengthen municipalities, national and local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure" by implementing activities such as community support projects, solid waste management and support to national government institutions. And that contributes to the to the LCRP's third objective of supporting service provision through national systems to ensure stability.

At the same time, partners made relatively less progress on the sector's second outcome, 'strengthen municipal and local community capacity to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts'. Given that this outcome contributes to the LCRP's first objective, by creating a favourable environment for the protection of

vulnerable groups, further work in 2020 on this outcome is required.

The sector's third outcome is to 'enhance LCRP capacities on tensions monitoring and conflict sensitivity'. Given the strong progress on this front, significant contributions are being made also to the delivery of programming designed to promote Lebanon's stability by partners in other sectors, thus also contributing to the Strategic Objective 3. One of the primary contributions is the Tensions Monitoring System with its 9 units of information inflow that are translated into informing the LCRP architecture and decision makers on key issues, risks, and recommendations. In 2019, the Social Stability Sector and the Tension Monitoring System provided technical advisory support to the Livelihoods, Water and Food Security sectors to ensure that those strategies account for conflict dynamics in Lebanon. Training and mentoring on conflict sensitivity: Training and mentoring on conflict sensitivity have reached a broad set of participants across the LCRP, including 161 participants across 62 partners in 2019. Practical guidance on lessons learnt in conflict sensitivity: Results from the annual Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Survey demonstrate that partners are seeking guidance on do's and don't's in terms of conflict sensitive programming in Lebanon

Finally, due to the continued support to host communities and the nature of its activities, the Social Stability sector in 2019 also served Lebanon's longer-term development goals by contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 16.

## CHALLENGES

A series of major contextual challenges occurred in 2019 that hampered progress for sector partners. Beginning in January, severe storms hit Lebanon bringing extreme weather conditions that necessitated an emergency response that led the sector to postpone the stabilization infrastructural and dialogue projects due to the emergency and the accessibility during the severe storms, etc. Social Stability partners monitored the situation, in particular offering support on conflict sensitive responses to host communities.

Following the storms, a number of decisions were taken by the Higher Defence Council (HDC) that enforced regulations regarding legal regulations of refugee household structures. The decisions included an order to demolish hard structures that refugees were residing in informal settlements. Tensions were heightened during the implementation of this decision which caused significant disruption in terms of rubble management, particularly in Arsal.

On 17 October, nationwide protests erupted with host community members voicing their grievances against the Government of Lebanon. Despite the significant disruption, sector partners largely managed to maintain the implementation of projects through their networks with local communities. However, issues with roadblocks meant that delivery of equipment, for instance hardware needed for solid waste management, struggled to arrive at times at the needed localities.

For host communities, limited access to cash and ongoing precariousness over employment is compounding vulnerabilities and resulted in a short-term spike in crime. This is in turn impacting refugees who are perceived increasingly by some host community member as the recipients of cash that should be also be provided to vulnerable Lebanese. In addition, for refugees, the difficulties in sustaining their livelihoods has led to defaults on rental fee payments and thereafter cases of eviction threats by landlords and local authorities.

In addition to this contextual challenge, the sector continues to suffer from a lack of new longer-term funding. The aforementioned issues had a clear impact on the tensions landscape nationally that continued to materialize with causes being socio-economic and/or access to services & jobs. Multi-year funding would allow much greater planning and more ambitious projects to maintain social stability.

## KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN IN 2020

Tensions grew in 2019, not only between refugees and host community members, but also between different host community groups.

Although the national protests that began in October initially seemed to unify certain Lebanese groups, though entrench divides amongst others

– carrying with it implications on how perceptions of refugees may change over time and geography. Investing in research and analysis on understanding the new dynamics will be a key priority if programming tailored to the local contexts are to be implemented. The Tensions Monitoring System managed to develop understanding of the nature, geographic variation, and trajectory of tensions between Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities. And, enhance engagement with the LCRP to ensure a response that works to prevent violent conflict in a conflict-sensitive manner.

In an atmosphere of heightened scrutiny over the nation's finances, sector partners can also be expected to come under closer examination from host community members. In this context, another key priority will be to continue the work on mainstreaming conflict sensitivity and 'do no harm' and ensure continuous monitoring of the trends to inform decision making and programming. Understanding how the recipients, location and modality of assistance in 2020 will affect conflict dynamics will be vital if operational space is to be preserved. This analysis is complemented by conflict sensitivity mainstreaming and do-no-harm interventions led by the Social Stability Sector which aim to ensure that a response that works to prevent violence in a conflict-sensitive manner and enhance LCRP capacities on tensions monitoring and conflict sensitivity through sector level advisory, trainings, practical guidance, and strengthening linkage with the inter-sector.

Finally, a foreseeable gap for 2020 is in terms of funding. The economic crisis facing the country is creating new challenges and needs, with vulnerable host community members having emerged more clearly than previously as a particularly underserved group. Social Stability remains the LCRP Sector with the highest number of beneficiaries being host community members, and thus, the Social Stability sector will require greater funding if it is to lead assistance delivery to these groups. These services include implementation of basic service projects, infrastructural support, enhanced capacities on solid waste management, and the setting up of local dialogue committees. The importance lays in all three different outputs of the sector, including the analysis and trends that help inform the coordination structure hence response.

Preparation at the YMCA warehouse © G. Beh

# CASE STUDY

Mercy Corps' IJMAA programme, funded by the UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), is a two-year programme that aims to reduce tensions amongst and between Lebanese communities, refugees, and local government bodies, by encouraging dialogue and implementing peacebuilding mechanisms such as mediation and dispute resolution, and providing rapid stabilization responses, particularly in relation to solid waste management. The programme is implemented in two Unions of Municipalities: The Union of Municipalities of Minnieh in North Lebanon and The Union of Municipalities of Bouhayra in the Bekaa.

Through vertical peacebuilding, the program aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of the unions and selected municipalities within them. Fifteen municipalities and the two unions have received municipal management sessions provided by one of the programme's partners, NAHNOO. The sessions have been followed-up with one-on-one coaching to provide contextualized skills application. Additionally, the programme provided representatives from each of the entities with two-day "Good Governance" training sessions that are followed up with individual coaching to further delve into each individual entity's approach to good governance.

In parallel, Mercy Corps' implementing partner MAGENTA has provided participating municipalities with social media awareness training, to better promote transparency and accountability through media platforms. MAGENTA has led on formative research within both areas and will be working on developing a communications campaign with stakeholders within both unions.

As part of horizontal peacebuilding, the program aims to strengthen communities' capacities to foster dialogue and address sources of tension. In Jeb Jennin, Jihad El Zaarour, a schoolteacher of Syrian origin who has earned the nickname mukhtar el kil (roughly translated as "everyone's chief"), has personified this dire need for building peace within the Bekaa. Jihad is an activist and has been mediating disputes within the municipality for the past three years. This year, Jihad and thirty-eight other local mediators in the Bouhayra Union of Municipalities enrolled in an academic course on nonviolent communication and mediation (supported by Mercy Corps' IJMAA). The course aims to strengthen the capacities of Syrian and Lebanese key focal mediators by building their dispute mediation skills. Thirty local mediators within the Minnieh Union of Municipalities also participated in the course, led by Mercy Corps implementing partner, the Academic University of Nonviolence and Human Rights (AUNOHR).

"I am now able to resolve disputes using several different approaches, especially among youth groups, without making one party feel inferior to the other. I learned to engage different groups in nonviolent communication without alienating any single person," said Zaarour. "I've always been proud to play this 'unifying' role in my society, but now I have a proper set of skills to assume this role more effectively," he added.

At the level of youth, IJMAA is supporting participatory needs assessments in ten municipalities in Bouhayra UoM. The activity will join youth, municipalities and key stakeholders to discuss the main issues faced by the communities and to detail possible causes, challenges, solutions, and other relevant information related to the identified themes as a framework for future interventions in the area.

Finally, gaps in basic services, including solid waste management, continue to be a principal driver of tensions between communities and local authorities. IJMAA has identified the need for union-level strategic planning and is working towards developing a new collection strategy for the Bouhayra Union that will include refugee communities. Additionally, the programme is supporting the development of a leachate treatment system study and an odor control system study for the local waste facility. Both measures will help reduce potential tensions and concerns around waste management. In 2020, the programme will support the Bouhayra Union through the provision of the leachate treatment system identified in the study.

"This is a time when peace is precarious, seemingly dependent on the hearts and minds of a handful of dedicated people from local communities and our municipalities," said Yehya Daher, the Head of the Union of Municipalities of Bouhayra. "The IJMAA programme is turning this dedication into solid skills," he added.

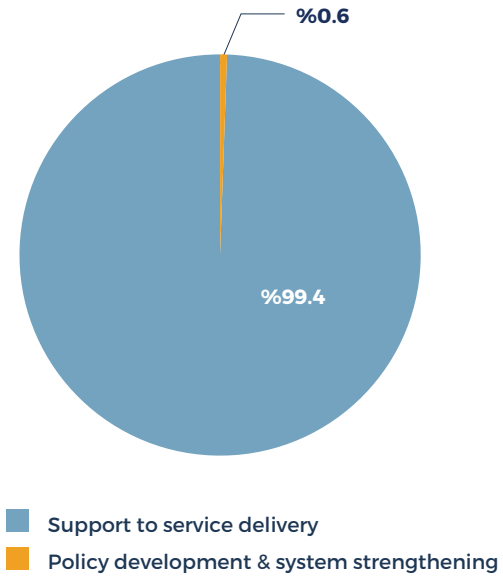
# Support to *Municipalities and Unions of Municipalities*

Municipalities benefited from the continuous support and guidance of LCRP partners. In 2019, 326 villages have improved infrastructures and environmental assets through labour intensive interventions for a total of $15.5million invested. These interventions directly contributed to raising the confidence and trust placed in local institutions.

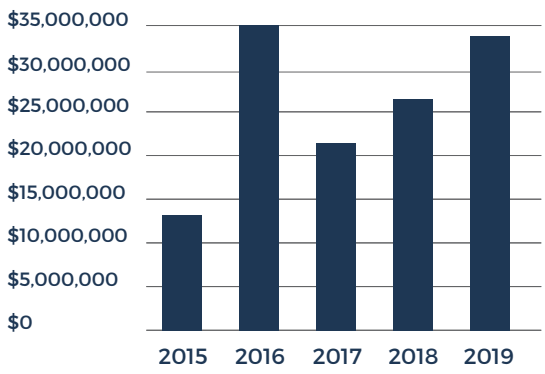
In 2019, $33.7 million was invested into the work of Unions and municipalities at different levels, up from $26 million in 2018 representing an increase of 30 percent. Support to municipalities and Unions of Municipalities represents 13.6 percent of total support provided to institutions ($245 million). Almost all the support provided (99.4 percent) was channelled through support to service delivery while the remaining 0.6 percent contributed to policy development and system strengthening.

- ✔ $33.7m in support to municipalities and unions, up from $26m in 2018 (+30 percent).
- ✔ 326 villages have improved infrastructures and environmental assets through labour intensive interventions for a total of $15.5m invested.
- ✔ 35 historic buildings rehabilitated in 2 municipalities together with 110 housing units for $1.2m.
- ✔ Overall, 28,552 tons of solid waste sorted and/or recycled through environmentally sound sorting facilities over the last three years.

**Breakdown of support provided to Municipalities & Unions of Municipalities in 2019**




**Support to Municipalities & Unions of Municipalities from 2015 to 2019**

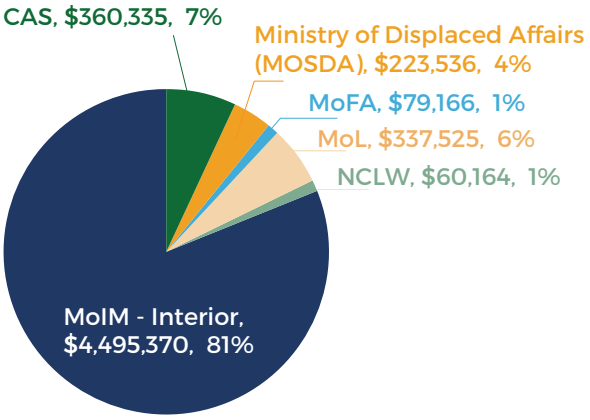


# Support to *Other Public Institutions*

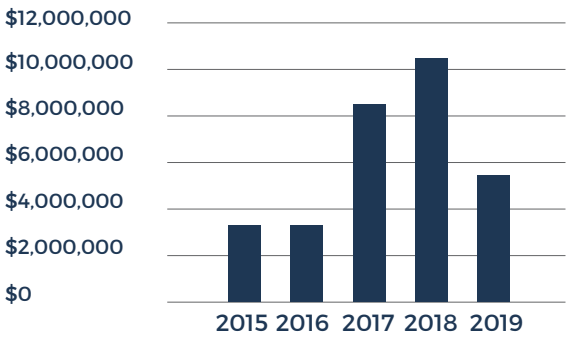
In 2019, financial contribution to other public institutions (Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, Ministry of State for Displaced Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Central Administration of Statistics and National Commission for Lebanese Women) reached $5.6 million, a decrease from $10.4 million in 2018. MoIM was the main recipient of this additional support with $4.5million representing 1.8 percent of the total support to public institutions ($245 million). Some 79 percent of the support channeled through MoIM was in support to policy development and systems strengthening.

- $5.6 million support to other public institutions in 2019, a decrease from $10.4 million in 2018
- 2.3 percent of total support channeled through public institutions in 2019 ($245 million)

**Breakdown of Support provided to Other Institutions in 2019**




**Support Provided to Others institutions from 2015 to 2019**



# Annexes

**Annex 1: Detailed Overview of Support to Public Institutions - Main Activities per Institution**

# Support to Social Institutions – Main activities

## Support to *the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)*

### POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

As part of the long-term support to MoSA, a roadmap was developed in 2018 to guide the country's move towards a national framework for social protection. This was followed by an orientation workshop on social protection to MoSA staff. A national Social Protection Coordinator was recruited to support the Ministry on the social protection agenda, including coordination of meetings and briefings, generation of necessary evidence and analyses, and drafting relevant documents and briefs.

In January 2019, a national dialogue on social protection took place, engaging relevant ministries and government institutions, as well as development partners and agencies. In mid-2019, Beyond Reform & Development (a national institute), along with an international consultant were contracted to develop the national social protection framework in close coordination with international partners. In August 2019, a workshop on the methodology of the national social protection policy framework was held for MoSA head of departments and programmes, with the aim of engaging the Ministry's staff and receiving their input and feedback on a regular basis.

Partners also supported MoSA to advance the ageing agenda at the national level through initiating an ageing strategy as well as generating and disseminating evidence on older people. At the end of 2019, the first draft of the strategy was developed and will be finalized in the second quarter of 2020.

The first phase of the MoSA digitization process was finalized in March 2019, aiming to enhance the processing of clients' requests and files, ensure better access to archived info, and guarantee the simplification and practicality of processes and implementation methods. During the first phase, the team organized meetings with all MoSA departments to understand their workflow and procedures; in addition to that the server room was upgraded and an assessment of the IT equipment was made. The second phase of the MoSA digitalization process will be focused on the simplification and automatization of the workflow within all the MoSA departments to generate one combined system and provision of IT equipment.

### SAFETY NET PROGRAMME: INCREASED FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE LEBANESE AND IMPROVED MONITORING

In 2019, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM) benefited from partners support in the implementation and fund raising of the food assistance component of the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP), targeting vulnerable Lebanese households. At the beginning of 2019, 10,000 households, representing around 72,000 individuals, received food assistance through a cash-based transfer with the amount of 40,500 LBP per household member, capped at 6 individuals in the family. By December 2019, the programme was scaled up to reach 12,892 households, representing 91,200 individuals, aiming to reach 15,000 households by February 2020.

To ensure that MoSA is equipped with the main building blocks to effectively implement the NPTP, capacity building support was also provided to the Ministry. In September 2019, as part of the expansion of the NPTP, a verification exercise of the 5,000 households targeted for the scale-up was jointly completed with MoSA. To do so, a digital verification instrument was developed by MoSA which enabled the profiling of the new household beneficiaries. The validation instrument was coupled with a tool to collect baseline information for post-distribution monitoring of the

new beneficiaries on food security, expenditures, and other cross-cutting indicators, which is used to measure the effectiveness of the NPTP food assistance component.

As part of the overall communication strategy to increase understanding and general public support of the NPTP, the Ministry readied communication tools for beneficiary orientations and general public information about the NPTP. The tools include basic operational and information materials such as the NPTP food ecard sub manual and Operation Plan, SDC posters, audio visual presentations for beneficiary awareness sessions, and booklets as general reference materials for beneficiaries and MoSA staff.

Furthermore, monitoring tools using mobile data collection applications was developed by MoSA with partners support and 200 MoSA enumerators were trained on data collection through four rounds of technical and operational trainings throughout 2019. The NPTP technical team was also supported on the data cleaning process to ensure proper data quality control. The first digital post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey was conducted in June 2019: Results showed improved overall consumption compared to the baseline in February 2018 (from 81 percent to 86.5 percent). Similarly, the consumption based coping strategy improved, compared to the baseline. Households headed by women witnessed a reduction in the coping strategies.

Additional resources for Technical Assistance to MoSA were approved in November out of the UNSDG Funds for a Joint Programme submitted by WFP, UNICEF, ILO, UNDP, and UN Women to develop Lebanon's social protection system and strategy. The technical assistance will serve to build operational systems at MoSA to improve program implementation and monitoring. Additional tablets will be provided to SDCs using these funds.

At the strategic level, a learning exchange to Latin America, Peru, was conducted with MoSA in September 2019. A total of 12 participants joined from the MoSA NPTP Unit and SDCs. Following the visit, MoSA NPTP team set an action plan inspired from good practices observed during the visit. The main action points of the plan are: ensuring effective coordination between the concerned ministries; Securing adequate financing through increasing the Ministry's budget allocations; Consider the mandatory ID card to implement programs and deliver the service, thereby facilitating access to a unified database between all ministries;

- Implement conditional cash transfer programs because they are effective and can cover the basic needs of the poorest families as cash transfer is one of the pillars of social safety nets; Enable social workers to assist and follow up vulnerable families in order to implement the case management mechanism (social case management); and
- develop programs that target elderly, such as the "Pension 65" in Peru, which focuses on capacity building of young generations by transferring the experiences of elderly to them so the elderly in return, receives conditional cash transfer;
- Investing in the child and working to develop him emotionally, educationally, psychologically, and physically through well-balanced nutrition to fight anaemia, in addition to practice hygiene modalities at schools.

# Support to *Social Development Centres (SDCs)*

Social Development Centres play an essential role as the primary providers of social services in Lebanon. Since the onset of the Syria crisis, their capacities to respond to the needs of vulnerable communities have been significantly challenged and their resources overstretched. In this fragile context, the assistance furnished by partners has been critical to increasing the quality and scope of SDCs' services to Lebanese and displaced communities.

## SUPPORT TO SERVICE DELIVERY

SDCs were supported for the outreach and referral of beneficiaries to ensure a community-based approach. In addition, three SDCs (Sarafand, Mazraa and Klayaa were also supported in providing social, recreational, health, coaching, and awareness

raising activities (including person with disabilities - PwDs) in order for them to become "Safe Spaces" for their communities.

In 2019, a Socio-Economic Development project was implemented in 9 SDCs in Tripoli, Akkar, Byblos, Kesrouan, Beirut/Mount Lebanon and Bekaa. 9 SDC social workers were trained on: selection criteria and screening, outreach, training scheduling, management and programming, monitoring and evaluation and reporting. Equipment was also provided to the 9 centers according to their vocational training needs. The equipment remains at the centres so the vocational project can continue after the lifetime of the project.

Social workers have also been trained in communicating with the private sector to find job and internships placement for the centers' vocational training graduates. They have learned to coordinate with other SDCs, discuss issues, exchange know how and problem solving in the presence of the NGOs and the INGOs who are also partnering with the SDCs.

## MORE EFFECTIVE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND CHILD PROTECTION

In 2019, the Government of Lebanon strengthened its ability to respond to incidents of child abuse and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), affecting both refugee and host community populations in Lebanon. As part of the coaching-program, this initiative aimed to improve the capacity of governmental actors to be able to train frontline workers, outreach volunteers, and other key community actors to safely identify and refer children experiencing or at risk of SGBV. Through this support, governmental actors increased their capacity on SGBV prevention and mitigation, including through the perspective of community engagement (20 representatives of government actors and non-government organizations were targeted). This programme also included working with and facilitating discussions with national entities on complex child protection issues in order to facilitate a more child-centred and inclusive social service system. This involved working with national entities such as UPEL, MoSA and other key national actors and facilitating monthly learning and technical development sessions on pre-identified topics identified by MoSA's Juvenile Unit to oversee, develop and strengthen its social work force. Six staff from MoSA Juvenile Unit participated in monthly learning sessions. MoSA's Juvenile Unit also developed tools including guidance and protocols to facilitate their ability to develop a more inclusive child centered social service.

The Protection of Juveniles in Lebanon (15 UPEL staff) also benefited from technical support. One core case management training was rolled out for 25 case workers from MoSA and UPEL. Two workshops were facilitated with 20 representatives from national stakeholders such as juvenile judges and general prosecutors to create a space to increase awareness about refugee specific child protection issues and BID processes for complex cases to identify durable solutions.

Two additional staff were supported at central level linked to the juvenile unit to focus on best interests of children in institution care. 11 field workers of MoSA were funded and based at UNHCR reception to process, responsible for the review and approval of 'add-ons' (new-born babies to be added to registration files). Furthermore, a Finance Officer and a Project Coordinator were supported within UPEL to enhance project management focused on children at risk and children in contact with the law.

Partners provided support to finalize and implement MoSA Strategic Plan on Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence that sets out the main priorities in order to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Ministry to fulfil its mandate on Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence. MoSA is also finalizing the Strategic Plan on the Protection on Women and Children 2019 – 2026

to include new emerging opportunities including some advancements in the alternative care reform agenda and advancing work against child marriage.

Progress was also made towards reforming Lebanon's alternative care system, with the intent to reduce number of children in institutional care and provide more viable options for family-based care. Different community-based care models were developed by partners in lieu of placement of children in residential care. Tools and technical guidelines were also developed for

case management of children at risk of separation. As part of the institutionalization of the support provided to MOSA, capacity building programmes were provided to MOSA staff. A total of 20 Social Development Centres (SDCs) and MOSA staff including social workers, clinical psychologists and directors were trained on the "Community Based Psychosocial Support – Basic Skills for Community Volunteers" as training of trainers to roll it out within the SDC's in different regions across the country.

The Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) continue to be supported by partners. The system was used by 9 local and international Child Protection organizations providing child protection Case Management (CM) in Lebanon.

Significant progress was also made in 2019 in advancing the preventive programming for social and behavioural change, moving towards a stronger social normative agenda, based on research and evidence for addressing violence against children and women in homes, child marriage and child labor. The emerging Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC)"Qudwa" Strategy not only provides more sustainable ways of shifting social norms and underlying drivers that perpetuate these practices, it also invites for more cross-programmatic efforts to address the issues at scale in a sustainable way.

Under the leadership of MoSA and the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC) , concrete steps were also taken in 2019 , to finalize the inter-ministerial child marriage action plan that aims at building greater cross-sectoral collaboration and engagement of key actors from several sectors such as Health, Education, Social Protection, Women's Affairs and Child Protection towards more harmonized and coordinated action for the prevention, mitigation and response to child marriage in Lebanon. 11 SDCs continue to benefit from GBV prevention and response services from partners.

The GBV Task Force in Lebanon trained 12 staff from MoSA, MEHE, and MoPH on GBV core concepts, and GBV data management. The National GBV SOP & the National GBV Case Management Curriculum were endorsed by MOSA, MoI/ISF, MoJ, MoPH, and NCLW in 2019. This will be officially launched in 2020.

## SDCS AS LIVELIHOODS ACTORS

The role of Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)-supported Social Development Centres (SDCs) as a local community actor and the nucleus of the community has been enhanced by increasing their capacity to provide livelihood trainings for individuals who reside in the vulnerable areas surrounding the SDCs.

Under the Alliance2015 Partnership, different organizations have supported MoSA SDCs to improve infrastructures and service provision, including market-based skills training programmes and provision of Market Resource Guides to a total of 18 SDCs (E.G. some VTs have also foreseen small renovation works for the venue the training was delivered in, such as restoration of old wooden furniture, refreshing of wall painting, replacement of old moquette, etc.). 5 SDC Directors have also received honorarium against participation in livelihoods activities in SDCs, and for overseeing the implementation of project activities related to the livelihoods service delivery.

## ENHANCED MECHANISMS FOR SOCIAL STABILITY (MSS) AND MECHANISMS FOR STABILIZATION AND RESILIENCE (MSR)

The Mechanisms for Social Stability (MSS) provide a safe and common space for the local groups to discuss their fears in public and to suggest mechanisms to resolve those concerns. In 2019, Mechanisms for Social Stability (MSS) were developed and finalized in 38 MSS communities hosting Syrian refugees in all governorates of Lebanon. MSS-related activities focused on: finalization of the internal MSS structures and of long-, and short-term action plans; finalization of the implementation of all projects and activities remained. The MSS also values and promote gender balance in its implementation with 40 percent of all participants throughout different MSS processes that were women. Another important component of MSS participants was youth. The project ensured its support for the participation of young people in

peace processes as agents of positive change in their own communities in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS). This was done through creating safe spaces, supporting the establishment of MSS committees led by youth, and encouraging their engagement in decision-making processes at local level.

Within the Education component, the Peacebuilding Violence Free School (VFS) programme made progress towards integrating and mainstreaming its methodology in peace education throughout the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), which was done through the training MEHE teachers' trainers on the Violence Free Schools methodology. Trainings were completed on 96 personnel from the MEHE, whereof in turn 40 will be selected to undertake in-depth TOT with the aim of working at implementing activities related to peace education inside selected schools. The project's engagement through building the capacities of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's staff, contributes to the efforts towards mainstreaming conflict prevention and peace education into the official education channels, in line with Violence Free Schools methodology.

The Peacebuilding project's Media component continued its important work towards strengthening the capacities of Lebanese media outlets and university students (including youth) as part of the project's efforts in fostering a culture and language of peace in line with the essential "Journalists' Pact" and also combatting the global negative phenomenon of fake news. The strengthening of media professionalism was done through a Thomson Reuters TOT training which trained 67 journalists, chief editors, editors, reporters (whereof 40 women), and news anchors from 19 national media outlets (TV, radio, newspapers and websites), and also 16 university students. The aim of the training was to reaffirm the Lebanese media's leading role in rejecting discrimination, promoting civil peace and respect for the rule of law, social responsibility, respect for people's dignity, and treating information with accuracy. Furthermore, these TOT trainings reflect partners aspirations in valuing the role of the media and youth in spreading a culture and language of peace throughout Lebanon. Another successful activity was the production of several campaigns to raise awareness on fake news and its impact on social stability as an integral part of a commitment to providing Lebanese citizens with evidence-based, non-partisan visual content. Finally, the Peacebuilding project's Media component also engaged people from the local communities in writing articles and stories. This was done throughout the three different News Supplements that were published during 2019 which treated different subjects related to peace, and the role of education, children, and women in peace building. Those news supplements are a space for a rationale and calm media discourse, and a space for writers and contributors with different views and opinions to come together.

In support to MoSA and as part of the Lebanon Host Community Support Programme (LHSP), 48 basic services projects were implemented with the aim of strengthening local actors' capacities in the delivery of basic services in 36 vulnerable communities, two union of municipalities and one institution all over Lebanon benefiting a total of 377,355 Lebanese beneficiaries and 183,318 Syrian beneficiaries. When targeting beneficiaries, the Programme ensures that no group, including women and PWD, is excluded from being considered a key part of the community. For this reason, the projects aim to address the needs for the entire community rather than a specific group. Inclusion of women has been ensured at all stages and the percentage of women involved in all type of activities were in average higher than 50 percent. A gender mainstreaming SOPs was also developed in 2019 and will be applied to all projects.

In partnership with MoSA and especially through the direct involvement of the MoSA coordinators in the preparation of the new Mechanisms for Stability and Resilience, 112 MSR in 112 communities were completed with participation of more than 3000 individuals. The new MSR process is the result of the merge of two processes: the MSS and the MRR. The merge of the two processes was necessary to ensure synergy between MSS and MRR at the process and outcome level in communities in order to achieve more efficient results.

## KEY CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

In 2019, some initiatives were slowed down due to the socio-economic and political challenges. The long processes to finalize agreements as well as the lack of clear monitoring and reporting systems also posed challenges to the timely implementation and monitoring of programmes. Slow recruitment procedures, delay in staff payments and limited flexibility at field the level due to the centralized system negatively impacted the support provided to enhance the capacities of SDCs. Increased transparency and communication from donors and NGOs supporting SDCs will be crucial to ensure a coordinated approach, reduce risks of duplication and maximize the impact of the support. Most capacity-building activities were put on hold during the protests that started on October 17th, due to demonstrations, roadblocks, national strike, political vacuum and uncertainty concerning the future.

Additional challenges were highlighted by partners in supporting social institutions including the lack of availability and access to data, lack of coordination among the different stakeholders within the Ministry, inefficient and lengthy administrative processes and limited capacity and resources within the Ministry.

Given the current socio-economic crisis and rising vulnerabilities, increased support to vulnerable Lebanese will be needed in 2020. However, one foreseeable gap for 2020 is funding as the economic crisis facing the country is creating new challenges, which require further support to medium term solutions and support to social institutions to move the wider social protection agenda forward.

In 2020, partners will continue to work closely with existing safety net structures (such as the National Poverty Targeting Programme) to reach the most vulnerable Lebanese and streamline assistance and programmes. At the same time, technical support (institutional and capacity building for staff) is also planned.

Partners will continue to provide institutional support to the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) at central and local level. Support will encompass material, staffing, and capacity-building to meet the identified needs. Equipment will be provided to social development centres (SDCs) to deliver child, adolescent-friendly, and gender-sensitive services and provide safe spaces for persons at risk, including persons with disabilities, older persons, socially marginalized groups, youth, women and children, and all SGBV survivors. SDCs have been selected in close collaboration with MoSA within the 251 most vulnerable cadastres. Resources will be allocated to ensure adequate coverage of host communities, mostly through support to MoSA SDCs.

# CASE STUDY

WFP: NPTP human interest story

Ahmad, a young man from Tripoli, north Lebanon, is a skilled man. He works as a fisherman, a lifeguard and even as a seller in a local fish market. However, even with all these jobs Ahmad is unable to provide for his family.

“I wake up and come to the sea. I first come to the fish market and then I go fishing,” Ahmad said, adding: “One day we come back with nothing while another we would make a profit. Often, I am forced to borrow money from the market owner to buy fuel.”

Ahmad not only supports his wife and four kids, but also supports his sister and uncle, both of whom are disabled and live with him and his elderly parents.

Things changed for Ahmad after benefitting from the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). Through the NPTP, he received cash to ensure that his family has enough to eat.

With the extra cash, Ahmad has one goal: to provide an education for his children. “I have two boys and two girls and my dream for them is to create a better future. I pray God gives me the strength so I can always be by their side.”

# Support to Education Institutions – Main activities[58]

## Support to *the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)*

Nine years after the Syria Crisis, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), in collaboration with sector partners, continues to provide access to formal and accredited non-formal education to the vulnerable Lebanese and non-Lebanese children.

Fourteen donor countries and funds, four UN agencies, and more than 45 national and international NGOs have provided financial, operational, and logistical support to facilitate access to education. This donor support to the Education sector has allowed MEHE to partially waive fees for all non-Lebanese children enrolled in basic education in public schools, while the Government of Lebanon continues to cover the large bulk of education costs.

Under the leadership of MEHE, the Education Sector partners implemented the Lebanon's Education response plan through the RACE II Strategy, structured over three pillars – Improving Access, Quality, and strengthen the Systems of Education, the second year of the RACE II witnessed many achievements.

### IMPROVED REGULATIONS FOR THE NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

In 2019, MEHE launched its Non-Formal Education National Policy, supported by Education Sector partners, which sets up prospects to meet the diverse learning needs for the marginalized children and youth. The aim of the policy is to move towards a more versatile and diverse education system to accommodate multiple locations and pathways for learning. policy provides an opportunity for Lebanon to address quality education for all children and to work towards supporting cohesion and harmony, avoiding conflict and promoting coexistence among the most vulnerable as well as the refugees. Likewise, it provides evidence for how non-formal and lifelong learning could feed together into a coherent framework for the regularization of all education. To do this, the policy sets priority actions which include providing disadvantaged children whose education pathways were interrupted to return to schools and catch up with the Lebanese educational system, provide children and youth with knowledge and skills responding to their needs in order to improve their quality of life, to strengthen a system for alternative pathways for learning which addresses the learning needs of every child in Lebanon.

In late 2019, MEHE launched a review process of the CB-ECE curriculum with the support of education sector partners, to be continued in 2020.

### STRENGTHENED TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) SYSTEMS

In 2019, MEHE, supported by the Livelihood sector (a) developed the National Strategic Framework document (b) disseminated it and (c) promoted its awareness and implementation through publications and promotional videos online. Moreover, workshops and capacity buildings on various technical issues related to management of VTs were conducted.

MEHE, in collaboration with the Livelihood Sector, is working to address some of the challenges (limited private sector engagement, growing informal sector, proliferation of skills based accelerated trainings without efficient support to access jobs, prevalent skills gab in labour market) of the TVET system. The Torino process launched in 2019 aims to address these challenges. The Torino process is an evidence-based approach to the analysis of Vocational Education and Training, based on country ownership and participation of stakeholders from public and private sector. It is focused on biennial monitoring of policy progress, through review of VET policies in countries,

58- Information as provided by sectors supporting Education Institutions

updating and expanding the pool of evidence and information on factors influencing demand for VET in the country, providing a robust base for the design, implementation and assessment of reform policies in VET, and finally raising the capacity of partner countries to set policy goals and adequate monitoring process to monitor the progress towards their achievement of goals. The Livelihood sector was highly engaged in the discussions, data/input collection and feedback whether through its leads, partners, or donors participating in workshops and overviewing the progress.

Support was provided to the Directorate General for Technical and Vocational Education and Training for the coordination of TVETs targeting vulnerable Lebanese and Syrians in 23 Lebanese technical public schools. This included the elaboration and development of 8 curricula and the training of trainers (TOTs) for the teachers. In addition, all 23 schools have been equipped with materials for the implementation of the courses.

## ENHANCED CHILD WELLBEING IN SCHOOLS

MEHE, in close collaboration and support from UNICEF, continues with its efforts to prevent and respond to child protection violations and gender-based violence in schools. In this regard, and following the roll out of the CP Policy in schools, MEHE has demonstrated its commitment to address violence against children in the school environment by enhancing the referral and collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) for cases of child abuse, and by making public commitments on making schools in Lebanon safe and inclusive. The commitment to children's rights was further confirmed through MEHE's advancements in rolling out the Child Protection Policy in Schools environment with the capacity building of school staff and counsellors and through beginning a new – and first of its kind - research on violence against children in schools The research is a significant step forward as it is an indication of public and formal recognition that violence against children in the Lebanon school environment is an issue that the Government of Lebanon wishes to address through evidence-based policies and actions.

In addition, partners facilitated a learning trip to the municipality of Paris during 18-20 November 2019 for five delegates from MEHE. The MEHE technical and administrative team had the opportunity to learn about the successful Parisian school feeding model and the frameworks under which it is implemented on the ground.

## BETTER QUALITY AND RELEVANCE OF EDUCATION RESPONSE

To improve the quality of teaching, a handbook for quality teaching and learning (QTL) was developed, in partnership between CERD, MEHE, Ana Aqra and Lebanese University- Faculty of Education, Caritas Switzerland and with the technical support provided by the PHZUG teacher college in Zug, Switzerland, based on the lessons learned through the retention support regulated program. This handbook is for all educators working in emergencies and vulnerable communities with focus on teaching and learning approaches, teacher training and teacher coaching and a full chapter on field implementation guidelines.

UNESCO launched the project "Supporting Francophone teaching and learning for vulnerable Lebanese and non-Lebanese students" which aims to promote the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning in French for vulnerable Lebanese and non-Lebanese students enrolled in public schools and is implemented in partnership with the MEHE. The project supports 300 public schools in five regions in Lebanon with a range of high quality, teaching and learning software materials and equipment focused on francophone education. Overall, the project benefits 143,600 children learning in public francophone schools across Lebanon in addition to the outcomes being disseminated to 500 policymakers and education partners through a series of workshops, seminars and producing learning materials and resources. It also builds the capacity of 600 coaches and counsellors in the DOPS at MEHE to support teachers in French medium schools.

## STRONGER EVIDENCE ON OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

The Out-of-School children mapping and profiling exercise, in close partnership between MEHE and

Education sector partners, which was conducted mainly with non-Lebanese refugee population and finalized in March 2019 allowed the profiling of around 70,000 children facing multiple vulnerabilities; and helped to determine the main barriers that prevented them from sustaining access to school.

### MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING CAPACITY OF MEHE SUPPORTED

As part of supporting the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) developmental objectives, specifically the decision making processes related to the identification of educational needs based on geographical information, LCRP partners supported the implementation of the final stage of roll-out of the Geographic Information System (GIS) Application at MEHE, which also included the training of 30 core MEHE staff on the utilization of GIS. Following discussions with MEHE, the GIS application was rolled-out through the secondment of a specialist for a period of one year.

## Support to *Public Schools*

### EDUCATION FEE AND ASSOCIATED COST SUBSIDIZED

For the 2018/2019 school years, LCRP partners partially or fully subsidized the registration fees of a total of 438,308 girls and boys for enrolment into formal education (KG to G12). LCRP partners also provided registration fees and support services including transportation for 11,711 girls and boys enrolled into the Accelerated Learning Programme

### HEALTHIER AND IMPROVED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Norwegian Refugee Council prosed "The Better Learning Program (BLP) approach to be implemented in public schools", to MEHE, and which CERD in coordination with the MEHE/PMU reviewed and approved. BLP is an evidence-based psychosocial intervention to support children cope with stress and improve their study skills built on research and years of implementation experience. The first phase of the project, training Master Trainers on the BLP, started in all second shift schools and in the assigned first shift schools in 2019.

Throughout 2019, MEHE with the support of partners implemented a school feeding programme in 39 public primary schools. More than 23,000 vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian students were supported with healthy snacks all produced in Lebanon. In December 2019, MEHE and its partners again joined forces to scale up the program to a total of 56 public primary schools and around 32,000 students.

Eight-hundred Lebanese students and 400 Syrian students benefited from 44 nutritional awareness sessions in the two schools. School-based health and nutrition interventions aimed at improving children's nutrition and learning ability. In addition to the food and health inputs, children need access to education that is relevant to their lives, of good quality, and effective in its approach. AAH integrated nutrition awareness sessions in the two public schools tailored to different age groups starting from KG1 to grade

During summer 2019, 20 Health & Nutrition Summer Camps were held across the WFP-supported schools, targeting more than 3,000 displaced Syrian and vulnerable Lebanese students, aged 11-14 years. These summer camps aim to spread awareness on adolescent health (physical, social and emotional) and healthy nutrition, while contributing to increase social cohesion between Lebanese and Syrian refugee students.

A nutrition learning package consisting of lesson plans and activities was developed by partners and reviewed by MEHE. The package includes 5 nutrition themes (food sources, importance of healthy eating, food groups, healthy food choices and healthy breakfast) adapted to different ages from KG1 to Grade 9. School health educators were trained on the use and implementation of the package using the discovery learning method in 3 workshops involving 49 health educators from 26 schools. During these workshops, the content, lesson plans and activities of each theme were reviewed, discussed and acted out by health educators in preparation to the delivery of nutrition sessions during the coming school year of 2019-2020.

To support public schools in vulnerable areas to benefit from solar lighting systems and reduce their administrative costs, the upgrading of the already existing solar PV systems in public schools were undertaken. The activity has upgraded the existing solar PV systems, with new batteries banks, solar chargers, and address other issues defects. A total of 20 schools were targeted for this activity in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. In addition, awareness workshops for school students, from grades 10, 11 and 12 in two schools which have been recipients of PV systems under this activity were also conducted.

Upon MEHE's approval, two school gardens in Qaa and Hermel public schools were established, comprising the creation of greenhouses and outdoor gardens; fruit and forest tree plantations; installation of irrigation systems and awareness sessions on nutritional practices, and water and waste management).

## ENHANCING SAFETY WITHIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education, with support from the partners through the Disaster Risk Management project piloted a project in 10 public schools in Akkar with the objective of increasing awareness of natural hazards, towards an increased protection and safety of children. The intervention aims to contribute to building the resilience of the most vulnerable children and their caregivers, by improving the capacity of management staff, teachers and children in DRRM, and by raising awareness on unsafe practices that can put children at risk in educational institutions. In specific the project targeted 10 public schools of Akkar with a total of 4,041 children from the morning shift. Actions included assessing school safety and conducting basic safety measures in 10 schools, establishing Disaster Risk Reduction committees in schools and training them on safety measures, developing contingency plans in schools, conducting disaster risk reduction awareness and evacuation plans.

## REHABILITATION OF INFRASTRUCTURES

Furthermore, the Water sector partners support was expanded in 2019 to schools under direct supervision of MEHE. Partners reinforced the capacity of MEHE through the development of standards, indicators and monitoring tools to feed MEHE national WASH in School strategy. In addition, the Public Health Education module has been updated and 1,000 Public Health Educators out of 1,200 have been trained on its utilization. Partners supported the WaSH conditions in public schools through the rehabilitation of 18 public schools

The rehabilitation of schools included upgrades on water and sanitation facilities, operation and maintenance training and hygiene promotion sessions targeted the school committees composed of students' representatives, association of parents, janitors, staff and Principal and water users at schools mainly staff and students.

An additional 45 schools benefitted from various type of rehabilitations and renovation from LCRP partners

## IMPROVED PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSIVENESS

The Education sector partners continue to work towards supporting inclusion in the public education system. Moving in the direction of all schools across Lebanon becoming fully inclusive, it is a step by step process and implementation is ongoing. While children with disabilities continue to face considerable barriers accessing education opportunities, including prevailing social norms and attitudes towards disability, a lack of budgetary allocations supporting inclusion to the public education system, limited teacher capacity, a lack of effective teaching strategies to provide appropriate instruction, and limited access to schools with adequate facilities, efforts have been and are continuing to be put in place in means of tackling these barriers such as intervention for new training approaches targeting special needs, public school renovations, and specialized services being offered.

In 2019, the Education sector supported in strengthening National Education Systems, policies and monitoring including the continued

implementation of a pilot project on inclusive education for 30 schools in Lebanon to include children with learning difficulties and disabilities in formal public schools. The pilot includes teacher trainings, support of paraprofessional teams, provision of technical supplies to the schools and the children, etc.

## 2020 NEXT STEPS

Priority response areas for 2020 will continue to build on the existing education programme and work further toward improving access, addressing retention barriers, improving quality, equity & inclusive and strengthening national capacities and systems.

Additional effort is required to **improve the quality of Formal Education and Non-Formal Education** in 2020. The key role of teachers and educators, the importance of school governance, and the potential of community engagement in learning are prioritized. Activities with school directors, teachers, and parents will focus on greater engagement, meaningful classroom instruction, and inclusive leadership in schools, in order to be more child friendly. Education Sector partners will continue to support MEHE's investment in strengthening existing systems (i.e., data collection, deployment of trained teaching corps and DOPS staff, developing teacher-performance and monitoring standards for formal education, data systems, administering the public-school system, and systemizing the assessment of school buildings).

**Enhancing access to equitable formal education or regulated non-formal education for children and youth** with a focus on girls and children with special needs. The sector will focus on school improvement plans to provide inclusive, safe, healthy, and protective environments (in second shift schools and regulated NFE learning spaces). The increase in demand for education will be accompanied by comprehensive subsidies by education services providers, based on availability of funds, to offset the opportunity costs of poorer children enrolling in education opportunities. This should include subsidies (both in formal and non-formal education) towards enrolment fees, transportation, textbooks, and learning supplies. The partners will also follow up on the roll out of the child protection policy in schools (iteratively across all schools in Lebanon), the training of public-school teachers on child-centred pedagogy (including modules in differentiated instruction, inclusion, gender, teaching with technology, etc.), and the opening of pilot inclusive schools to mainstream children with disabilities into public schools.

**UNRWA will continue to provide** enrolment support for formal basic education, inclusive education, psychosocial support for Palestine refugees' children and to engage with partners to expand support services for children to provide them with targeted support including psychosocial support, learning support, vocational training opportunities and referrals to alternative education pathways.

**Rehabilitation and construction of schools** will remain a priority, particularly in underserved areas and areas with a high concentration of displaced Syrians. The Education Sector partners will continue to support MEHE to adopt a comprehensive approach to school rehabilitation, building on best practices and lessons learned through various donors, Government and partner-led interventions to increase educational access, with a particular focus on girls and children with special needs. Selected schools will be equipped with gender-sensitive latrines and other facilities such as arts, music, sports, sciences, and Information Technology laboratories, based on the MEHE's standards. Partners will support the improvement of learning spaces – both public schools and NFE centers – by supporting the winterization of premises, rehabilitation of built spaces, and accessibility modifications, to name a few.

**Capacity to respond to emergencies/outbreaks** will be strengthened through the development of a sector contingency plan to respond to potential emergency scenarios that might disrupt schools and NFE activities this affecting the quality of learning for the children.

# Case Study

***New call centre supports child protection at schools in Lebanon***

Since 2010, UNICEF Lebanon has been a key advocate in support of child protection across the country. Children face multiple risks, and UNICEF partners with many governmental bodies and key stakeholders working to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation whether at home, in the community or at school.

Every child has the right to feel safe and to be protected throughout their days, and this is true nowhere more than at school. Lebanon's Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) is committed to ensuring their safety through the implementation of child protection policies in schools.

For Samar, director of the child protection program at the ministry, the benefits are obvious, "the safety that we help provide is reflected in the child's performance at school, and also in their state of mental health", she says.

"I want to be clear that our main focus is on the prevention of child protection cases. We're not here only to respond to them, instead everything we do is aimed at preventing them in the first place", Samar stressed.

"We work closely with schools and receive great support from them, empowering teachers to implement activities and to teach students in a way that supports them psychologically. We also promote safety among students themselves and between them and their teachers".

The latest initiative in support of this is through the opening in May 2018 of a national call centre at the MEHE in Beirut. Aimed at providing Lebanon's children and parents with a trusted focal point to report breaches, or potential breaches, of child protection, it adds another powerful tool towards ensuring that every child lives in a safe and risk-free environment.

The department has operated similar support to children and parents through email for the past two years. It was a positive period Samar feels. "It helped build a bond of trust and highlighted the ministry as a place to go when, perhaps, a parent has exhausted their efforts at a school, or they feel unable to make progress with their concerns there. The new call centre adds to our earlier success and enables direct contact between us and those we are responsible to. Here, we listen, we respond, we establish an action plan – guaranteeing confidentiality throughout the whole process".

Thanks to the ministry's constant commitment, and UNICEF's support, the nation's schools are happy and safe places.

Public schools are regularly visited by specially trained educational guidance counsellors who coach the children on protection risks and how to deal with them.

One such, Cherine Ajab, explained how, "We focus on activities that boost a child's self-confidence and communication skills while highlighting how to deal with risks, and we supervise the work of their educational mentors. We're also in a position to spot the warning signs for those who may be at risk, and to refer them to the appropriate support agency".

We asked six-year-old Majed – who wants to become a policeman, so he can arrest thieves - about his most recent session with Cherine. "She showed us photographs and asked us to choose one. I chose the leopard because if someone tries to hurt me, he will defend me. She teaches us about risk, and that whenever I feel at risk it's okay for me to say no. Then I have to hide. And then I tell my mother and father".

His classmates report similar awareness, with each also enthusiastically sharing positive stories of favourite lessons and favourite teachers. Given the ministry's extensive efforts, it's no surprise to find happy, secure and confident children in class. Children aware of potential risks and how to deal with them.

As good as things are in schools, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's new call centre is an acknowledgement that there can be no room for complacency. It is a positive step forward, and another layer in Lebanon's constantly evolving child protection strategy.

# Support to Energy, Water & Environment Institutions – Main Activities

## Support to *the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), and Water Establishments*

The MoEW continue to provide strong leadership in 2019 with the support of its partners.

MoEW has drafted an update of National Water Sector Strategy. This strategy provides a comprehensive road map for water, wastewater, and irrigation in Lebanon, including on infrastructure and management. It provides the parameters for improving services at national and regional level under the Water Establishments. The updated strategy includes an analysis on the impact of climate change and the Syrian crisis on the Water sector. Due to the resignation of the Lebanese government in October 2019, this strategy will be published in 2020.

MoEW with support of the Water sector partners approved the first version of Standards of Operation (SoP) guiding the wastewater interventions in IS's.

To support MoEW overall capacities a GIS specialist and advisor was seconded in the ministry as well as an advisor to ensure better coordination. Five of MoEW staff were trained on Water Safety Planning. The training aims to contribute to ensuring the safety of drinking water using a comprehensive risk assessment and risk management approach that encompasses all steps in water supply from catchment to consumer.

## Support to *Electricité du Liban*

The reinforcement of the distribution network is one of the key interventions aiming to increase the capacity to deliver quality electricity to additional end-users, especially to the most vulnerable people and communities. Through a project that aims at the prevention of illegal connections, over 160 legal electrical connections, along with net metering systems, have been installed in Bekaa, Akkar, Baalbek, and the North in 2019.

## Support at *the sub-national level*

**In term system strengthening**, to facilitate an interactive communication with customers, Call Centers, mobile application and Facebook pages have been established in the Bekaa, South Lebanon and North Lebanon Water Establishments. These Water Establishments have been supported and guided to produce a standardized services information kits and customer guide. These communication tools are critical to rebuild the dialogue between Water Establishments and customers considering the ongoing civil disobedience and mistrust towards public authorities. Moreover, to enhance the development and implementation of communication plans in the WEs, three communication experts were seconded to the Bekaa, South Lebanon and North Lebanon Water Establishments. In addition, a GIS specialist was also seconded in the Bekaa Water Establishment to gather and analyze data related to water quality. Two engineers were also seconded within the technical team in North Lebanon Water Establishment for a period of six months to validate and migrate data for Tripoli area to WaterCAD.

Capacity building activities contributed to improve the performance of the North Lebanon Water Establishment in planning and management of water resources and better water outcomes to end users. 10 female laboratory staff from the NLWE were also trained on quality of irrigation water.

The main activities included: the identification of a real-time monitoring equipment that generates water resources information at Water Establishment level and calibrate outputs of the remote sensing, the establishment of water parameters and key locations for quality testing with the aim to support improved management of environmental priorities at Water establishment/watershed level.

Capacity building activities for WE with municipal

staff have also been organized in 2019. A 5 day training was organized on the Bottleneck Analysis Tool (BAT) for 36 participants from WEs, Litani River Authority and NGO who became certified trainers and will be able to implement the tool at a decentralized level in 2020. The objective of this training is to identify the main weaknesses in water management and ways to tackle them using a participative approach. 9 staff working in Water Treatment Plant on Operation and maintenance of the chlorination units in Bekaa Water Establishment were trained on operation and maintenance of the newly constructed or rehabilitated infrastructure.

In term of support provided to the municipalities, staff of municipality of Berqayel in North Lebanon were trained on installation and maintenance of rainwater harvesting systems and staff of 25 municipalities in Al Ostuan River Basin in North Lebanon were trained on Integrated water management

contributing to the development of a joint plan. Chwaya municipal staff were trained on water conservation and the importance of Sustainable Development Goals.

Municipalities and WEs received support at different levels. Regarding water Infrastructure, MoEW partners constructed and rehabilitated 88.2 Km of Water, storm water and waste water networks but also rehabilitated the Ghadir Wastewater treatment plant, Equipped 13 wells, Installed 38 rain water harvesting system at municipalities, schools and social development centers, constructed 3 reservoirs with total capacity of 4300 $m^3$.

A notable intervention in 2019 was in Dunniyeh area (North Lebanon), where the **North Lebanon Water Establishment** in collaboration with partners, identified, assessed and prioritized a number of irrigation canals needed to connect to the main network in the area, in the villages of Nemrine and Btermaz. Nine irrigation canal sections were constructed in the two villages with a total length of 3,600 m. Upon completion of the projects, the canals were handed over to the Water Establishment, as ownership of the canals is under the WE authority, in presence and coordination of both municipalities who will be entrusted with daily maintenance of the assets. Successful collaboration between the various stakeholders was ensured, and assets were provided for the benefit of the community, ensuring reduction in irrigation water loss.

South Lebanon Water Establishment and Saida municipality also benefited from partners support to construct 300 meters culvert in Saida valley which prevented wastewater from flowing in open nature; the culvert works benefit more than 20,000 Lebanese and 1000 Syrian refugee. El Ghadir WasteWater Treatment Plant was rehabilitated, to ensure that the most important lifting pumps are operational and therefore used to reduce the quantity of wastewater directly discharged into the coastline. The rahabilitation included the provision of a new generator and fuel to cover the station's need for one year to ensure that the pumps is operational during electricity cuts. The screen system that ensures wastewater pre-treatment was also rehabilitated to filter and reduce the quantity of waste discharged into the sea. Maintenance equipment like the cranes were also rehabilitated.

Water establishments also received materials and equipment to ensure their functioning. This included:

- water system assets (pipelines) to extend the extension and rehabilitation of the water network in Bourj el Chemaly, South Lebanon;
- A pickup truck (for maintenance) to North Water Establishment and water truck to Union of Municipalities of the Southern Suburbs of Beirut.
- A submersible water pump to Bekaa WE.
- In the Bekaa, South Lebanon and North Lebanon water establishments, the repair equipment and a donation of 228 km of pipes to improve the capacity of WE to maintain water networks and to contribute to mitigate the customers' dissatisfaction towards water authorities.

In term of designs and plans of water infrastructure, several Water Sector partners supported the Water Establishments by assessments, designs of construction or rehabilitation of water infrastructures, such as but not limited to:

- assessment of the status of 54 chlorination

units in water treatment plant in Bekaa

- 4 municipalities were supported to design: two solar pumping projects in Maaroub and Koulileh; 400 household connections in Kafarroman; a 500m3 reservoir in Zebdine; awells in Taazaniyeh and Ghalbounin to Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment. The implementation of the intervention (hard activities) will be done in 2020.

Four water quality labs of the water establishment in the North (Tripoli Central Lab, Minyeh Lab, Halba Lab, and Sir Al Dineyeh Lab) were assessed and equipped. Furthermore, land use/land cover maps of the area under study (Akkar and Miniyeh) were created, establishing water productivity scores using remote sensing technology with the purpose of generating more effective water management decisions.

Several water infrastructures have been rehabilitated by partners:

- Rehabilitation of 10 water infrastructures (reservoirs, network, wells...etc) in 10 different locations.
- Rehabilitation of 10km of water network in the 9 villages in the North of Lebanon connecting to the Bireh reservoir.
- Implementation of sewage network and waste water treatment plant (WWTP) in Mashta Hammoud,Mashta Hassan and Chadra
- Construction of 2 communal reservoirs that feed the villages by gravity
- IOCC: Borehole digging and equipping
- Construction of a water network + household connections
- BWE for the wastewater network and rehabilitation of the network in Ablah
- Rehabilitation/ Construction of irrigation canals
- Management of natural reserves
- Afforestation and reforestation projects in various municipalities, contributing to the 40 Million Tree programme
- Upgrading of irrigation canals in Akkar, North, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon and South
- equipment for a Water Monitoring System and equipment of 4 laboratories in North Lebanon for water quality testing and monitoring

# Support to *the Ministry of Environment (MoE)*

The Environment Task Force created in 2018 at MoE received the support of LCRP partners. The environment task force coordinator led on the collaboration with UNEP to establish the environmental markers which aim at better monitoring and evaluating the environmental impact of the interventions, in addition to follow up on environmental complaints. This is made the response more accountable and responsible towards the Lebanese citizens and institutions.

The Beach Cleaning campaign and Forest Fire prevention campaign was launched by MoE with partners support. Tools required for cleaning, trimming and for the implementation of the campaigns were provided and refugees mobilized to take part of this national campaign as part of Refugee Green Footprint.

Partners supported MoE implemented In implementing the agriculture infrastructure and forestry projects under the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme, and ensuringd all Cooperating Partners and potential projects follow the newly established procedures for environmental screening set by the LCRP Environment Task Force.

In addition, three nature reserves, Yammouneh, Ehden and Chouf, which fall under the authority of the Ministry of Environment, have been incorporated in ongoing reforestation and forest management projects. As per the MoE-Department of Ecosystems' directives, forestry activities were expanded to the areas surrounding the nature reserves to ensure viability and sustainability of the interventions. Native trees were planted in the nature reserves as well as in the larger surrounding area, accompanied by forest management activities to reduce risk of fires, in coordination with the Reserve committees.

## EMPOWERING FEMALE COMMUNITY TECHNICAL VOLUNTEERS-OXFAM

“If I had the chance, I would go outside the camp and work as a plumber, why not!”, says Fidda Al Ahmad from Al Raqqa. The 40-year-old mother of three is the only breadwinner in her family after her husband was unable to work after suffering from heart disease. She said that she spends all the money she earns from working in the fields on her daughter’s health, who is also suffering from various ailments that Fidda preferred not to elaborate on.

Like most residents in her informal settlement located in the Northern Bekaa village of Saidi, Fidda is a seasonal worker in the nearby fields. She might work only one week per month, and the situation gets harder during the winter. “The situation before was better, there was less competition and they (Lebanese landlords) used to pay us double what we earn now”, said Fidda. Despite the challenges she faces in securing the daily expenses of her family, she decided to be an active member of her community. She said that she wanted to help her family and her neighbours in improving their living conditions.

She volunteered to be one of the Community Technical Volunteers (CTVs) with Oxfam’s WaSH, Protection and Livelihood response to the Syria Crisis in Lebanon project, funded by Global Affairs Canada. “I was trained on installing taps and maintaining latrines and hose pipes”, she says. Fidda dedicates a great part of her time providing technical help to her neighbours by installing and maintaining water tanks and latrines. Residents of her informal settlement usually come to Fidda as a representative of Oxfam and ask her about water vouchers and how to register newcomers, which adds extra load on her shoulders. Even though she comes from a conservative community, Fidda took the initiative to play a role that’s usually reserved for men. She finds herself capable of conducting her duties, which might need physical strength and dealing with various suppliers.

Fidda insists that the additional work does not come at the expense of her family. She still has time to prepare her two sons for school, cook their meals and take care of her plants. She misses her life before the war in Syria when she had the freedom to work in Saidi village during the agricultural season, then go back to her hometown in Raqqa for the cold season.

## KEY CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

The main challenge in supporting energy institutions remains the lack of funds. Electricity in Lebanon remains a complex l issue and the challenges faced before the Syria crisis have been exacerbated by the extra consumption of electricity.

Regarding support to Water institutions, partners are facing many challenges, including a high turn-over among the temporary staff of Water Establishments; lack of financial and technical human resources at municipal and Water Establishment levels, this is a risk to the sustainability of the interventions; in some Water Establishments, the staff lack the motivation for working and collaborating with the partners.; knowledge gaps regarding the Water Establishments’ infrastructure, which makes coordination complicated and time consuming. ; lack of a clear communication map between the Water Establishments and the Water Sector.

In 2020, activities in support to Water institutions will aim at improving the quality, quantity and reliability of water and wastewater services delivered to vulnerable communities through national and regional systems. This will be ensured by implementing many activities across all water service areas, in strong and close collaboration and partnership with the local authorities Water Establishments, such as but not limited to constructing water networks, reservoirs, rehabilitating Water Pumping Stations, drilling and equipping wells. Furthermore, hard interventions will be coupled with soft interventions such as capacity building to MoEW and Waster Establihsments’ staff and piloting of Water Safety plans. Furthermore, interventions will also focus on supporting the Water Establishments capacity to handle the economic crisis.

Regarding Energy, the Ministry of Energy and Water estimated that the installation of approximately 700 new medium and low voltage transformers are needed to accommodate the demand increase

while the partners have installed 122 transformers to date. Because upgrading of the distribution network is a capital-intensive activity, it is a difficult challenge to raise sufficient funds to reach the most vulnerable communities.

# Support to Agriculture Institutions – Main Activities

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

In 2019 the MoA initiated the dialogue on the formulation of the Agriculture Sector Strategy for 2021-2025 by organizing a high-level workshop under the Prime Minister patronage under the theme: "Transforming Lebanon's Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities". The workshop aimed at paving the way for a clear agriculture vision 2030 and to place it in the new government economic vision. It should serve as a framework for fostering the sector competitiveness in a sustainable manner, accelerating growth, and diversifying employment opportunities in rural areas.

## SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

In coordination with **MoA** and its extension centers, partners contributed to MoA's 40 million Trees Programme by expanding in 57 locations reforestation, forest management and maintenance projects through its cooperating partners. In addition, two infrastructure projects, identified and assessed in collaboration with the Green Plan, were implemented in 2 localities linking the Green Plan Hill lakes through inlets and outlets to water sources and the irrigation network in the villages of intervention, for a total cost of USD 180,000.

The Green Plan and its eight decentralized offices, with partners support have been able to: (i) Finalize the technical guidelines on land reclamation and water harvesting/management (handbook) for engineers; (ii) finalize the impact assessment of the Green Plan; (iii) establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit within the Green Plan; (v) develop a Management Information System; and (vi) assess the GP gaps in relation to the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System requirements.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

In terms of capacity building of the staff**,** 8 staff were trained on irrigation network design and orchard establishment, 7 staff on Farm Business Schools (FBS) trained as core team and 24 staff from MoA Extension Service and TVET schools trained as facilitators on FBS. It is to be noted that FBS is an innovative curriculum-based approach, currently being piloted for the first time in the Arab Region. As a result of the FBS training, government staff acquired knowledge and capacity to work in the context of the FBS approach and facilitate future trainings. This will benefit them in the context of the implementation of this project and in the long run for future projects that would include the FBS approach. These facilitators will be able to train the project's beneficiaries on the FBS approach in the future.

In total, twelve farm business schools have been implemented in 2019 in different regions of Lebanon aiming at supporting farmers in their business decisions, and meeting the market demands and consequently increase their profitability. In addition, one-on-one Business Advisory Services have started to support farmers for running profitable market-oriented farm businesses.

With partners support, the MoA seven **technical agriculture schools**, has upgraded the Baccalauréat technique programme, while offering enrolment opportunities to young Syrian and Lebanese students and providing non-formal short-term trainings. The support to schools will allow in turn young Lebanese graduates to have a better chance in accessing the job market and will provide young displaced Syrians the necessary technical qualifications and official diplomas to use once they return to Syria. In the 2019-2020 academic year, 94 students were enrolled in the technical schools, of which 55 percent were girls.

Through the year, partners have organized a series of capacity building event targeting agricultural schoolteachers and extension and education staff of MoA.

- Sixty-five agricultural **schoolteachers and**

**extension and education staff of MoA** (50 percent of them women) have improved skills on the new elaborated BT curriculum, class management, finance, accounting, and school funds management, problem situation assessment, gender and decent work and youth protection following a Competency-Based Training Approach. In addition, teachers and staff also participated in technical trainings on Information Technology, agriculture principles and culture heritage, agro-food processing and plant production, medicinal and aromatic plants and organic agriculture. These additional acquired skills will allow teachers to be themselves trainers once the project ends, thus ensuring sustainability.

- 45 teachers were trained on how to deal with protection issues, challenging behaviours and PwD from the registration phase to class management.
- 58 teachers were trained on fair trade practices, distribution channels, sales strategy, types and process of certifications and cooperative management. The objective is for these teachers to transmit this knowledge to their students later on and hopefully implement this material in the curriculum.
- **staff of the Ministry of Agriculture** in Bekaa and Baalbeck-Hermel also benefited from capacity building to reduce the total amount of application of chemical pesticides and fertilizers by farmers in the upper Litani basin and Qaraoun Lake area. **Capacity building to the MoA staff** included as well a training on calibration of pesticides spraying equipment and their safe use where 36 participants (19 women, 17 men) attended from the following institutions: MoA, Litani River Authority and the American University of Beirut. In addition, around 20 MoA staff participated to the training on Integrated Crop Management in both Central and West Bekaa.

## COOPERATIVES AND COOPERATION WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

A new training space was set-up in the chamber of commerce in Zahle. In collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce in Zahle, farmers in the area were trained and received support. Through the Food assistance for Training programme, cooperatives and its participants participated in on-the job trainings focusing on strengthening agricultural value chains, such as small ruminants, climate-smart agriculture, and olive oil. Activities also included supporting local cooperatives, through the provision of in-kind support, capacity building, and strengthening market linkages. Following these trainings and support, six cooperatives have been able to export local products, such as vine leaves, olive oil, and rose water, to Poland through a Cooperating Partner. This initiative, if successful with the Polish market, could set-up a new export route for Lebanese products in the international market, as well as increase the capacities of the exporting cooperatives on producing on par with international standards and rethinking their business approach to agro-food processing.

Besides, a workshop gathering fishers' cooperatives and syndicates (23 participants) was held in April 2019. The aim was to initiate and strengthen dialogue between syndicates and cooperatives through a national platform which will be a forum representing all the fishermen and their cooperatives and syndicates. The platform will allow fishermen to talk about challenges, concerns, and obstacles of the fisheries sector and to transmit their voices to the authorities to push towards the adoption of the fisheries law.

Partners have been working with the private sector in the areas surrounding the agricultural technical schools in order to create a network between the schools, the Private Sector and the students/ beneficiaries (Abde, Fanar, Baaqline, Batroun, Khiam, Nabatiye el Faouqa, Nasriyet Rizq, Joub Jannine). As of today, a network of more 500 MSMEs are engaged in agriculture livelihoods projects. For instance, in 2019 close to 200 vulnerable youth have been placed in internships following the completion of their agriculture vocational trainings.

## KEY CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

In general, the unstable economic, financial and security situation prevailing in the country in last quarter of 2019 and related road closures affected

the implementation of field activities and support to institutions. They delayed procurement of supplies and several training sessions were put on hold in the last three months of 2019. Similarly, due to the unstable political situation, towards the end of the year support to policy and strategy development slowed down.

Partners highlighted a number of specific challenges in supporting public institutions in 2019:

- Public institutions' human and financial gaps. A number of institutions witnessed delays in programme delivery and response due to limited staff capacity to absorb regular day-to-day workload, which made the staff highly dependent on external support and logistics.
- Internal policy regulations and use of internet regulations, most specifically in decentralized offices, constrained the implementation of several supporting interventions.
- Lack of harmonization among and within public institutions. This is particularly true for local public institutions (i.e. example public schools or SDCs). This means that, for example, a tool to assess instructional needs has to be created and tailored to the needs of each institution. The lack of harmonization is also reflected in the time needed to receive formal approvals from relevant ministries to conduct needs assessments at the field level.
- Lack of coordination between different public institutions that can lead to inefficiencies and unexpected outcomes with an impact on partners' resources and time.

The FSS strategy in 2020 continues to support the LCRP strategic objectives 3 and 4 through a variety of stabilization-related interventions. The sector will focus the response on both humanitarian support and stabilization, with longer-term activities that provide livelihoods support to vulnerable Lebanese and displaced Syrians. The food system approach to stabilization intends to guide partners to intervene at different intersections of the food system be it in food production, food transformation or food consumption, identifying synergies among partners and facilitating the coordination needed to achieve them. Furthermore, the sector will promote institution capacity building/strengthening at national and local levels, and support to service provision through national systems through enhancing national institutions' policy development and system strengthening in agriculture and food security.

# CASE STUDY

## FAO: GREEN PLAN STAFF TRAINED ON ORCHARD ESTABLISHMENT

"The establishment of an orchard deserves planning and preparation and the seedlings need to be carefully selected to ensure good production," said Charbel Hobeika, a technical expert leading a training organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Lebanon.

Under the framework of the FAO project "Promotion of Agricultural Livelihoods and Employment through Investment in Land Reclamation and Water Reservoirs" funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the training took place in December 2019 and January 2020 as part of a capacity-building exercise for the benefit of the Green Plan (GP) staff. In fact, the GP staff are in direct contact with GP beneficiaries investing in land reclamation, 90 percent of whom opt to plant fruit trees on their lands. Eleven men and nine women participants were trained on orchard establishment, varieties and rootstocks selection for a number of main fruit species planted in Lebanon, in addition to estimating the costs and revenues of such investments.

*In order to sustain rural communities and to reduce rural exodus, the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) through its affiliated Green*

*Plan (GP), launched in 1963 a demand-driven support program allowing farmers to benefit from subsidies to invest in agriculture infrastructure including land reclamation for agriculture, soil and water conservation, planting of fruit trees, and other complementary works. The GP program has empowered a large number of farmers to invest in reclaiming their abandoned lands or rehabilitating/ upgrading low-productivity lands.*

"The training enabled us to acquire new concepts we didn't learn in the technical school", said Samah Badra from the North Bekaa office. For engineer Bassam Harb, the training is important to his work as it highlights important tips and guidelines to support the farmers.

The trainer shared practical demonstrations of orchards newly established using intensive systems, and of training and pruning of trees, removing weak crotch angles and tip-pruning long branches throughout the seasons in an interesting video. "The trainer is multidisciplinary. The training is well prepared and is based on demand from GP" said Georges Chemaly, Head of Mount Lebanon One regional office, adding "we can now better speak the farmer's language".

"I am eager to take part in the demonstration field days," said Zeinab Zahraman, from the North Lebanon regional office who found the training very useful.

This training session will be complemented in January and February 2020 with a tour of orchards where different orchards are newly established, and a number of varieties are grown.

# Support to Public Health Institutions – Main Activities

## Support to *the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)*

### BETTER SERVICE DELIVERY

In 2019, MoPH at central level received continuous support from health sector partners. The support is summarized as follow:

- With LCRP partners support, MoPH was able to procure Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) medications that benefitted 203,760 persons in 2019. In addition, in the last quarter of 2019, MoPH with partners support was also able to procure essential acute disease medications that benefited 799,772 individuals. In line with the National Health Response Strategy, promoting the use of existing systems of health services delivery, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), purchased and distributed the medications across all the 420 health facilities included in the YMCA network.
- MoPH, with partners support implemented the school health program in 5 schools located in two rural areas in the South and the Bekaa regions, in collaboration with Modern University for Business and Science (MUBS) and Champs Fund. A total of 822 students from the different cycles were screened for medical conditions. In parallel, 200 students benefited from the e–health modules (physical activity, anti-tobacco, reproductive health and HIV, and road safety) developed and adapted by WHO Lebanon. In addition, three health days for parents were organized where 296 parents attended sessions on topics related to physical activity, nutrition, and communicating with adolescents and children. Educational show about hand hygiene for children in schools around Lebanon was developed and reached 1,536 students in six schools located in different regions.
- With partners support MoPH procured essential acute disease medications for the PHC network and the routine vaccines of all 800 Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) points across the country, whereby a total of more than 1,618,000 doses of vaccine of various antigens were administered to children in need. The central warehouse benefited from real time monitoring of its dispatch through the ViVA application tool, facilitating the forecast and avoiding any stock out of vaccine throughout the year. MoPH received support to continue its systematic vaccination of children with Oral Polio Vaccine and Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) at the five borders vaccination sites points with Syria.
- With Partners support, MoPH delivered Reproductive Health (RH) services. This included the procurement of RH drugs and contraceptives distributed to primary health care (PHC) centers and dispensaries. In partnership with the Lebanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (LSOG), MoPH: Developed of a situation analysis on Sexually Transmitted Infections which findings were discussed in a national debate of experts and subsequently a policy brief on Sexually Transmitted Infections was developed; Developed of a draft policy brief on post abortion care; conducted an evaluation of the use of the RH service delivery guidelines in the PHC through focus group meetings with health care providers; reactivated the Salamit Hamlik journal which will be issued on quarterly basis and distributed in all MoPH-PHC centers; integrated WHO core competencies in the curricula of medical studies of the American University of Beirut ; Integrated FP counseling components in the midwifery curricula of the Lebanese University and the Sainte Famille University disseminated a Journal on women health and safe pregnancy in the MoPH-PHC centers.
- MoPH continued to implement its Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health (MNCAH) project with the support received from partners and reached 35,478 caregivers with health integrated messages and contributed as well to improving access to MNCAH services for 76,334 caregivers.

## STRENGTHENED SYSTEMS (SOPS, GUIDELINES, REFERRAL PATHWAYS, MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEMS OR CONTINGENCY PLANNING/ DRM)

Following the development and launching of the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) policy/ strategy in 2018, MoPH developed IYCF action plan that will be ready in 2020. With partners support, MoPH revised the Complementary Feeding training guidelines and adapt it to train health care providers for nurseries in most vulnerable localities. Furthermore, MoPH developed standards and indicators for WASH in Public Health Centers and nurseries and integrated them in the national accreditation.

As part of the National Mental Health Programme, MoPH with partners support, developed and conducted a capacity building proposal tailored for non-specialized health and social welfare/ protection care staff at all levels of care in collaboration with all relevant actors, with inclusion of the focused Psychological Support Services (PSS) emotional wellbeing curriculum for adolescents in the PSS approach. MOPH also developed mental health packages related to the integration of evidence based mental health promotion and prevention into maternal and child programmes, and the national protection programming in collaboration with Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA).

MoPH successfully shifted from a paper-based EPI registry application to an electronic EPI registry application, through the scale-up of the Mobile EPI Registry Application (MERA). PHCCs, dispensaries, vaccination sites at border and UNHCR vaccination sites were trained on MERA. In addition, MERA was used during Accelerated Immunization Activities by frontline workers to outreach children and enter their vaccination records on the platform, providing a unique barcode to each child that is used for immunization follow-up. In December 2019, MERA was also used in the measles national immunization campaign.

MoPH, through the local partner, Arc-En-Ciel developed a waste management guide for PHC centers.

Following the launching in December 2018 of the five years Family Planning (FP) strategy that aims to increase the demand and contraceptive prevalence rate namely among displaced Syrians, an advisory committee was established led by MoPH and co-led by UNFPA to follow up and support the implementation of the strategy.

## STRENGTHENED HEALTH SECURITY/ INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS

In 2019, MoPH received continuous support from Health partners to strengthen health security and International Health Regulations through:

**An assessment of the Health Information System (HIS)** in Lebanon was completed. Findings highlighted significant strengths of the current HIS and possible opportunities to enhance its the operations.

**An assessment of the water laboratories** established in eight governmental hospitals was conducted to assess their functionalities and propose corrective measures accordingly. The main findings and recommendations of the assessment include developing relevant SoPs and guidelines, provision of equipment and reagents to labs, capacity building for concerned staff on specific topics, development of water labs database software, and development of brochures on water lab services.

**The UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) country survey 2019** was conducted in collaboration with concerned ministries and institutions

. The 2019 survey focused specifically on policies, plans and national targets, with WASH finance being a major theme, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) agenda. GLAAS is the official UN vehicle for reporting on SDG targets 6a and 6b.

**Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) defense/ Hazardous Materials Management (HAZMAT):** In 2019 a HAZMAT team was established in the South and Nabatieh Governorate. In addition to procurement of

equipment, a team of 49 health and logistics workers from MoPH, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense/army, Lebanese Red Cross, and Local NGOs, was trained on safe response to CBRN hazards. This is the last hazmat team to be established, after the establishment of similar teams in Beirut, Tripoli, and Bekaa. The training was concluded by a drill and attended by high officials. Over the coming years, support to the MoPH in all HAZMAT activities will continue to enhance country level preparedness in Lebanon.

**The Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC)** action plan was developed and rolled out. The national Emergency Operations Center was also upgraded. The national Emergency Operations Center was also upgraded and is a part of the Emergency preparedness/ Disaster Risk Response cell established at the Prime Minister Office (PMO). Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment was procured to enhance the functionality of the PHEOC and support was provided for the recruitment of a consultant to develop the national PHEOC guidebook. Work is on-going with the Prime Minister Office to establish a connection between the PHEOC and the National Emergency Operations Center at the PMO. The software that will be developed will enhance information exchange during emergencies.

**Strengthening Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) surveillance: enhancing infection prevention and control:** Lebanon's National Antimicrobial Resistance action plan drafted in 2018 by the MoPH with partners support was finalized, costed with a detailed timetable, and endorsed in March 2019. Since its endorsement national activities have been implemented as part of the roll out of the action plan to tackle the AMR threat.

**The expansion of the Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS)** continue to be accelerated in 2019 paralleled by a steady reinforcement of routine surveillance. This included the automation of reporting forms at the health outlets using the District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2) software that is easily accessible using mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. Additional Information Technology (IT) human resources were provided to support further expansion of reporting automation to include all case-based forms. The introduction of DHIS2 system improved timeliness and completeness, which reached respectively 82 percent and 94 percent in hospitals, 58 percent and 87 percent in laboratories, 65 percent, and 78 percent medical centers, and 32 percent and 42 percent schools by the end of 2019.

**Measles Outbreak Surveillance and Response:** in response to the measles outbreak, MoPH with partners support conducted a situation and rapid risk assessment. MOPH also received lab support (including procurement of reagents and supplies and capacity building) for detection and confirmation and genotyping, at the measles referral lab in Rafik Hariri University Hospital (RHUH). With the support of its partners (funding, planning and implementation), MoPH launched the measles in December 2019, and will continue through 2020 until May, targeting around 1 million children between 6 months and 10 years of age.

**Enhancement of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) Surveillance:** 15 additional human resources were recruited to enhance MoPH capacity in Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) active surveillance and maintain AFP surveillance indicators up to international standards, with a clear phasing out plan finalized with the MoPH. With partners support, MoPH also developed IEC material for health workers on AFP surveillance.

**Polio Environmental Surveillance:** As a supplementary support to AFP surveillance in the national programme for poliovirus eradication and in line with the recommendation of global polio eradication programme, MoPH conducted monthly environmental surveillance to detect Wild Polio Virus (WPV), Vaccine Derived Polio Virus (VDPV), and Sabin viruses in four areas considered high risk for polio. In addition, with the support of its partners, MoPH is expanding and implementing its environmental surveillance plan to collect samples from sewage wastewater collection sites in high-risk areas. Technical support, provision of necessary specimen collection kits and supplies and the shipment and testing of samples collected, contributed to strengthen MoPH response capacities. No Vaccine Derived Polio Virus or wild polio virus have been detected to date.

**Communicable diseases surveillance and**

**management:** Further to the measles, AFP and polio, Standard Operating Procedures were developed, designed and printed for surveillance and management of 10 other diseases: mumps, diphtheria, cholera, rabies exposure, rabies, acquired rubella, congenital rubella syndrome, seasonal influenza, novel influenza, tetanus and tetanus neonatorum.

**Pandemic Influenza Preparedness:** The Epidemiological Surveillance Unit (ESU) at the MoPH and the National Influenza Center (NIC) located at RHUH in Lebanon continue the surveillance of the severe acute respiratory infection in eight sentinel sites. WHO support included: procurement of reagents and consumables, production and adaptation of IEC material, development of a monitoring and evaluation protocol, enhancement of the human animal interface and the adaptation and configuration of EMS in Lebanon for event documentation and communication.

## ENHANCED HUMAN RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF MOPH

### STAFFING SUPPORT

Staffing support increased in 2019 but remained one of the main challenges for the Health sector due to political and funding reasons, some health actors provided support to MoPH to fill the critical human resources gap and therefore support the delivery of quality healthcare services. In 2019, the main staffing support to MoPH at central level included:

- At central level, 21 staff have been supporting multiple MoPH departments including the Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance programme, the national NCD program, the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) as well as the response to the measles outbreak.
- To strengthen governance in the provision of services related to the EPI and Maternal, Child and Adolescent (MCAH) programmes, 8 staff were supported within the PHC department of MoPH, including central warehouse. This support is strengthening the immunization programme and reinforcing the information system towards a more evidence-based health programming. In addition, 3 staff were supported within the MoPH for the scale up of the Mobile EPI Registry Application (MERA) application throughout the EPI and during the first phase of the measles campaign
- application throughout the EPI and during the first phase of the measles campaign.
- With the aim to strengthen the capacities of MoPH in planning, monitoring, analyzing and documenting Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) outcomes, 4 programme/operations staff based centrally at the MoPH were supported by health partners.
- In line with the national strategic plan for Tuberculosis (TB) control and particularly to increase human resources at National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP), partners supported MoPH with 17 key staff. The support increased the capacity of the NTP to conduct diagnosis, treatment, and outreach activities in different communities across Lebanon.

### TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING AT CENTRAL LEVEL

As part of health system strengthening and to ensure more sustainable service delivery, trainings and coaching of staff reached around 1000 staff in 2019 including:

- Training to build the capacity of MoPH to address key public health issues such as: mental health, HIV, AMR, youth health, air quality monitoring, emergency preparedness and response for CBRN, control of NCD, surveillance of communicable diseases, pandemic influenza preparedness and national early warning systems. Additionally, around 400 staff members were reached in 2019 through partners training programmes.
- health workers were trained on quality EPI data management, strengthening information system towards near real time monitoring, Maternal, Child and Adolescent package including IYCF, GBV, Early Detection and Diagnosis (EDD), adolescent health, mental health and Inter-Personal Communication including outreach activities among vulnerable

population.

- 100 frontline workers were trained on all related MNCAH services and practices, through life cycle approach and 40 health care providers from 20 PHC centers were trained on Inter-Personal Communication skills to work with adolescents, and youth.
- The partnership between UNFPA and the Lebanese Order of Midwives was extended to continue the rollout of training and coaching to midwives on FP counselling at primary and secondary care. A series of training and coaching sessions on FP counseling were implemented targeting 60 certified midwives practicing at governmental hospitals across Lebanon.

# Support to *PHCs and public hospitals*

## INCREASED SERVICE DELIVERY

A multitude of Health sector partners contributed to increasing access to primary healthcare through the provision of subsidized consultations and laboratory diagnostics at primary healthcare level, spreading awareness amongst the community on the available services at the centers, supporting maternal and child health services at the facilities by hiring skilled midwives, providing one-on-one counseling sessions to pregnant and lactating women attending the primary healthcare facilities on antenatal and postnatal care, supporting mental health services through case management teams and topping up essential drugs in instances where there was a stock out of MoPH essential drugs among other activities.

MoPH EPI system was strengthened by the continuation of Accelerated Immunization Activities. Activities and actions implemented including the gratuity of vaccination resulted in 150,000 children under 15 of age reached by community frontline workers and their immunization data entered on MERA. Defaulters were followed up to complete their routine vaccination at nearest PHC center.

With the aim of increasing public understanding and support for IYCF in general and complementary feeding in particular, communities were mobilized to increase knowledge and awareness on breastfeeding and complementary feeding in seven governorates where 8,204 primary caregivers including pregnant and lactating women were reached on IYCF counselling at PHC centers or at household level.

After allegations of human rights violation in Al-Fanar hospital

, the National Mental Health Programme at the MoPH and WHO in collaboration with the "Opération 7ème Jour" at the Saint Joseph University and the International Medical Corps (IMC), transferred 166 patients beneficiaries (70 percent males and 30 percent females, the majority are of Lebanese nationality) to four facilities in the country, where emergency needs have been provided. In addition, few patients were admitted for hospitalization for emergency mental health and medical treatment.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

Health Partners provided staff support as well as equipment and renovation services, as follow:

## STAFFING SUPPORT

In addition to central staffing support, health partners supported the PHC department of MoPH by appointing 25 staff at district level (10 public health officers, 09 EPI district nurses, 06 MIS District officers) and supported 9 staff for the training on and monitoring of the ac Mobile EPI Registry Application (MERA) application update throughout the EPI and during the first phase of the measles campaign at district level. partners also supported the staffing of 40 vaccinators and supervisors at the five borders vaccination sites and four UNHCR reception centers throughout the country, providing a total of 50,150 measles vaccine to children under the age of one, 177,111 Oral Polio Vaccine doses, 20,761 IPV doses, and 100,904 MMR vaccine doses. 88 additional staff were funded by health partners in PHC throughout the country, including 7 certified midwives contributing to strengthening PHC capacities.

## CAPACITY BUILDING AT DECENTRALIZED LEVEL

In addition to financing staff in health facilities, capacity building of staff (trainings, on the job coaching) was also organized by MoPH with the support of partners in order to improve the quality of care provided to the population in 2019:

- 418 staff from 382 PHC facilities were trained on medication management.
- 25 staff were trained on assessing the quality and human rights aspects of facilities providing mental health care.
- 60 Emergency Room (ER) physicians of public hospitals were trained on clinical diagnosis and referral of patients to leishmania treatment centres, 10 centres were trained on clinical diagnosis and the use of punch biopsies.
- 660 personnel from PHC Centres, dispensaries, MoPH district offices, EPI point sat UNHCR registration sites and boarders were trained on MERA.
- 68 healthcare professionals/administrators were trained on providing quality health services to beneficiary populations including early detection and referral and clinical management of rape.
- 22 healthcare professionals/administrators were trained on providing quality health services to beneficiary populations.
- 13 staff were trained on GBV core concepts and safe identification and referral, communication with older persons and accelerated immunization actives.

## EQUIPMENT AND RENOVATION

Equipment and renovation of healthcare facilities in support of MoPH contributed to improving health care for the population:

- 3 vaccination points were rehabilitated, and 1 vaccination point was newly constructed at the official Lebanese borders;
- 515 PHC facility were equipped with tablets for Mobile EPI Registry Application utilization.
- medical equipment, supplies to primary healthcare facilities were provided in PHC supported by partners
- WaSH facilities were rehabilitated in five Public Health Centers
- in Bekaa. The rehabilitation included upgrades of sanitation facilities and training for the WaSH committees involving health centres staff, such as health centre principals, deputies, administrative staff, Health and social supervisors, nurses, and Doctors.

## TESTIMONY FROM PARTNER:

“This is a very important program. Beneficiaries cannot afford to buy essential medication that they need to take for the rest of their lives. The cost of these medications to the beneficiaries may even increase if they have to eventually take more, but there is never a situation where it may decrease. So, this program plays a very important role in supporting families in need, and now, displaced Syrian.” Said Mr. Issam Beshara, YMCA CEO.

## TESTIMONIES FROM BENEFICIARIES:

Nicolas has been enrolled in the program for 15 years. He has diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The essential medication he needs is expensive outside the centre. He said: “The centre is next to my house. I come and take my medications and I feel reassured that it’s the correct medication.”

“I am retired, and I depend on my children, so now they do not have to pay a lot for the medication.” - Maryam.

“This program is important for me and for my whole family.” - Beneficiary

“I trust the doctors and medications here.” - Beneficiary

“The chronic disease medications program run by these centers is helping a lot of people, especially since the economic conditions in the country are getting worse. More and more people rely on these centers and programs.” – Beneficiary

## KEY CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

A health system is defined as consisting of all people, institutions, resources, and activities whose primary purpose is to promote, restore, and maintain health. In Lebanon, after the onset of the Syria crisis and due to the increased demand on health services, gaps were faced in all core health system strengthening functions: human resources; health finance; health governance; health information; medical products, vaccines, and technologies; and service delivery.

Consequently, the key challenges faced by Health sector partners in supporting the above-mentioned functions are mainly related to: funding, staff turnover and socio-economic/political situation. As a result of insufficient funding, Health sector partners are not able to fulfil all the institutional gaps. Consequently, many referrals of patients in need of primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare or specialized diagnostics were not supported. In addition, in terms of chronic disease medications, the MoPH has a set budgetary allocation per year to cover the chronic disease medications. However, this allocation was not received in 2019 which jeopardized the availability of medications. Moreover, high turn-over of PHC staff hindered training efforts and made continuous and regular training a necessity. The instability in the country in 2019 has produced many hurdles in the implementation of projects that aim at supporting the MoPH.

In 2020, to continue to mitigate the risks, at the primary healthcare level, the Health sector prioritizes supporting MoPH with complementarity models that offer more coverage to people in need. In addition, and like previous years, the sector aims to improve outbreak and infectious disease control through strengthening and expanding the Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS) and by strengthening the national tuberculosis and AIDS programmes. The sector aims as well at improving adolescent and youth health through the school health program. At the secondary and tertiary healthcare level, the sector is focused on improving access to hospital care to displaced Syrians and Palestinian Refugees from Syria, and therefore is dedicated to sustaining and increasing financial support to hospital care.

The Health sector prioritizes the mainstreaming of institutional support to promote country ownership and sustainability scale up solutions considering current crisis and promote greater efficiencies in health investments.

# Case Study

Title: Chronic Disease Medication Support

Theme: Health System Strengthening

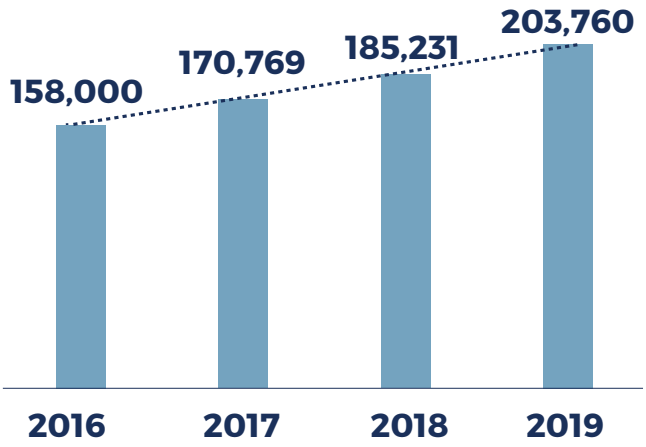
Author: WHO Lebanon

Over the past 8 years, the demand for chronic diseases medications in Lebanon has been progressively increasing. The crisis in Syria has had repercussions on the overstretched Lebanese health sector; the Primary Health Care (PHC) system has been significantly strained due to the increased demand and scarcity of resources.

Around 15 years ago, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) established a national network of Primary Health Care (PHC) centres, aiming at increasing coverage and quality of care. Today, this network accounts for 238 centers that have a contractual agreement with the ministry to provide a range of ambulatory health services. These services vary from drug dispensing only to a comprehensive package of services including vaccination, management of childhood illnesses, nutrition, reproductive health, non-communicable diseases, mental health, and the management of various acute conditions. These 238 centers in addition to 220 dispensaries approximately are part of the MoPH/Youth Men's Christian Association (YMCA) chronic disease medications program which is a partnership between the ministry and the association in Lebanon. Established in 1994, this program aims at supplying medications for chronic diseases to PHC centres and dispensaries, serving the most vulnerable. The MoPH contracts YMCA to procure through international bidding and manage the supplies of chronic disease medications. The YMCA is also responsible for storage, distribution and reporting of the medications at the facility level. Procurement follows the Lebanese essential drug list for PHC which is in line with WHO essential drug list.

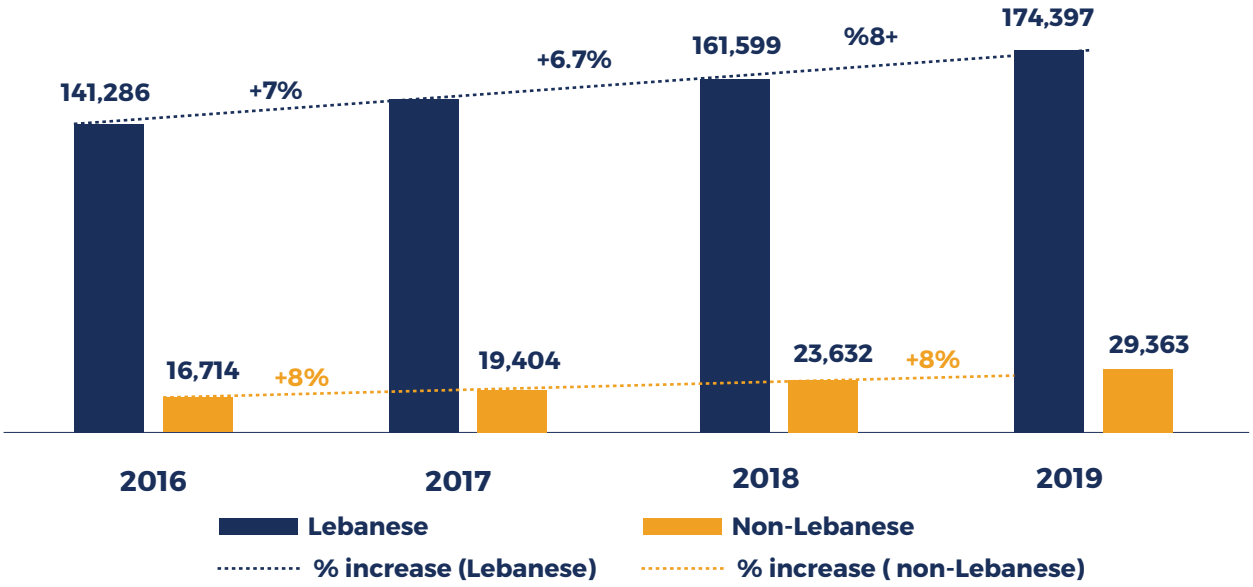
In 2011, at the start of the Syrian crisis, the chronic disease medications program served around 78,000 poor Lebanese beneficiaries. Currently the total number of beneficiaries has exceeded 200,000. Figures 1 and 2 below show the total number of registered beneficiaries in the chronic disease medications program from 2016 till 2019 segregated by nationality (total number and percentage) and showing the percent increase.

*Figure 1: Total number beneficiaries of the chronic medications program (2016-2019)*




Within increased needs and national budget constraints, WHO has been able to support this program and fill in the gaps with contributions from donors such as the European Union and the US. The most innovative feature of this program is bringing together public and private stakeholders in consensus-oriented networks, which is Lebanon's own model of "collaborative governance".

*Figure 2 - Number of beneficiaries of the chronic medications program by nationality (2016-2019)*



# Support to Municipalities and Unions – Main Activities

## BETTER SYSTEMS IN PLACE

Since the beginning of the Syrian armed conflict, Lebanon, has witnessed an increase in municipal solid waste quantity estimated at 33,000 tons/year which is equivalent to 15.7 percent of total solid waste generated by the Lebanese population prior to the crisis.

Despite these significant changes at the policy level, structural issues remain as waste accumulation exceeds the national capacity to address it. Indeed, Lebanon continues to lack sufficient solid waste management facilities which has resulted in the continuation of dumping in open sites throughout the country. Estimates indicate that there are nearly 900 open dumpsites are scattered throughout country.

Currently, and under the LCRP 2019, small municipal support projects were implemented whereas integrated solutions are much more needed in the sector. Social Stability Sector partners have provided technical and operational support to the central government through the Ministry of Environment, and several Lebanese Municipalities and Unions of Municipalities to improve the current Solid Waste Management situation in the country. This assistance was essential to withstand the pressure caused by the increased number of Syrian displaced. In 2019 over 150 reported interventions in the sector were recorded, covering different regions in Lebanon, targeting hosting communities. More than $35 million was channeled to strengthen the provision of solid waste management services.

Working in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, LCRP partners have implemented projects including trainings, awareness raising campaigns, capacity assessment, environmental studies, construction/rehabilitation of small-scale Solid Waste Facilities, provision of needed equipment, etc. These projects have led to enhance the capacities and infrastructure of around 90 municipalities all over the country. On the other hand, the different interventions have created new job opportunities for the Lebanese, giving them chances for new plans and innovations. Nevertheless, all implemented projects need sustainable actions, namely proper operation and maintenance services to ensure long-term success.

## REHABILITATION OF INFRASTRUCTURES THROUGH LABOUR INTENSIVE INTERVENTIONS

Support to service delivery

Four municipalities (Taran, Nemrine, Bakhoun, and Syr) and its staff received partners support in the implementation of different projects i.e backyard chicken project to train members of the municipality to run two egg hatcheries that would help tens of back yard chicken growers for expanding the free range egg production project in the area. The municipalities were supported in being more active in project development and selection of beneficiaries in Cheese making, solar drying of fruits vegetables and herbs, honey production, chicken raising, eco-tourism and marketing.

18 **municipalities** benefited from capacity building activities including rehabilitation of public infrastructure through labor-intensive interventions and trainings on first aid and work safety. The following municipalities have been engaged:

- Kfardnis, Mhaydseh, Baka, Kherbit Rawha, Bireh, Rafid, Ain Arab, Mdoukha, Aita Fakhar, Yanta, Deir Al Achayer Al Akabah, Al Manara (West Bekaa and Rachaya);
- Qlayaa, Debbine, Kfarshouba, Khiam (Marjayoun and Hasbaya);

Through the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) projects, **municipalities and Water Establishments received support** with the rehabilitation of public agriculture infrastructure assets (including reforested lands, irrigation canals and agricultural roads) across the country: 129 projects were completed in 67 municipalities, for a total cost of around USD 5.4 Million.

Support to municipalities was provided through labor intensive interventions in public

infrastructures. In total, $15,5 million were disbursed to works benefiting 326 villages from improved infrastructures and environmental assets ($15,148,794 invested in public infrastructure rehabilitation and $332,866 invested in environmental assets):

- public infrastructure rehabilitation: 131.05 km of canals/network were rehabilitated and/or maintained. 1.5 KM2 of arable land reclaimed and slopes protected created by terracing. 27 sewage system established/ rehabilitated. 47 public parks, playgrounds and other public social infrastructure were created, 83 buildings were constructed and/or maintained, 76.5 retaining wall were constructed, rehabilitated and/or maintained almost 5810.2 KM of roads were cleaned and 46.15 km of roads were paved. 33.15 km of roads sidewalks were rehabilitated.
- environmental assets: 308.3 hectares of green areas were planted. 61.06 kilometers of canals were constructed / rehabilitated for flood prevention and/or rainwater harvesting, 286.2 km of canals were cleaned

Additional support was provided by partners:

- Support to municipalities containing sub-standard heritage buildings rehabilitated in Tripoli and Saida provided in ways that build the capacities of those municipalities to maintain those buildings and replicate the model in other instances in the future. 2 municipalities, 35 historic buildings, 110 housing units rehabilitated, $ 1,176,000 USD funding.
- The establishment and support to Technical Offices within unions of municipalities supported / brokered: Support provided to municipalities through this mechanism in 2019 have involved 2 unions of municipalities and 1 municipality and $ 110,000 of funding. The technical office capacity support, taking the form of architectural, GIS, urban planning and/or social worker skills inputs, improves the ability of municipalities to understand, monitor and respond to needs in the built environment including as relates to housing/shelter.
- Urban profiling undertaken to improve evidence base to inform municipal business planning (27 neighborhoods in 25 municipalities, involving 1 million $ investment, with shelter/housing an integral theme)
- Installation of 34 rainwater harvesting systems in the municipality of Berqayel (North Lebanon) at municipal and residential level to improve water access and decrease the cost of water for HH.
- Support to Ablah municipality in the wastewater treatment plan and Laboratory equipment.
- equipment for union of municipalities of Dreib Awsat
- Public safe space in Tel Biri municipality
- Execution of Drainage Canal in Semmakyeh Municipality
- In Tripoli: Supporting the Fayhaa UoM in Tripoli and the Tyre UoMby establishing an RTO and staff recruitment (Architect, Community Mobilizer, Field Coordinator and social worker); Implementation of water and wastewater projects, street lights, public spaces, football fields, etc.; Neighborhood profiles for Bab Tebbaneh, Jabal Mohssen and Qobbe in Tripoli and neighborhood profiles for Maachouk in Tyre.

## RESPONSE TO TENSIONS AND STABILITY MANAGEMENT

Community-based initiatives have also been used to foster meaningful engagement between communities. Planning continued for community support projects and solidarity initiatives across the country. 22 projects were completed across the country including construction of 3 septic tanks, building of storm water channel and provision of trucks and bins, solid waste management projects (construction of sorting facilities) aiming at improving solid waste management for both host community and Syrian refugee populations, and subsequently to reduce tensions, as well as winterization support to most vulnerable Lebanese.

Through 68 Solidarity Initiative projects with the support of partners, both the real and perceived causes of conflict and tensions attributed to the presence of Syrian refugees in the country have been adressed, in order to respond to protection problems. The Solidarity Initiative projects allowed communities to work together on a joint project, and increased ownership and leadership among

refugees and local community members as they design and implement the activities they see as addressing issues of common concern. These projects also allowed communities to establish long-term sustainable initiatives that will continue being implemented the following year, without the financial support of partners. For instance, in the South, partners had successfully coordinated with UNIFIL in one of the project which aimed at providing dental services to the community for free. The Solidarity Initiative project was a starting point for future direct coordination between UNIFIL and the Social Development Center to continue providing this service after the project was finalized. In another instance, in the North, partners engaged community groups to propose and follow up with Solidarity Initiatives ideas and their effective implementation.

Additional support:

- Construction of a sorting facility in Majdal Anjar with provision of bins and 29 municipalities were trained on Solid Waste Management and developed a solid waste collection plan.
- 71 solid waste bins provided to four municipalities (Chlifa, Der Al Ahmar, Btedie and Houch Tal Safeyi).
- In the North, the Municipality of Mohammra received equipment for Solid Waste Management: (compactor truck, provision of bins and provision of street sweeper and a plastic cardboard compactor). The Municipalities was also supported with SWM awareness campaigns. In the Bekaa the Serrain municipality received a Solid waste management truck and bins as well as a SWM awareness campaign. In the South al kHarayb municipality received solar lamps to light roads. Borj Rahhal municipality in the South was supported for the operation and monitoring of the SW sorting facility.

## NEXT STEPS

Through the Social Stability sector, effective and sustainable social stability outcomes will be achieved by strengthening municipalities in particular, alongside other local entities and capacities such as social development centres, public spaces, civil society organizations, associations, libraries, clubs, volunteers, youth, women and elders , as key gateways to reaching the wider community in the most affected areas, as well as their link with the ministries and Governorate offices - in particular the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities and the Ministry of Social Affairs. The sector will also coordinate closely with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy and Water, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and other entities as required.

The first pillar of the strategy is to work on **supporting municipality level service delivery, as well as national and local government institutions** to strengthen their capacity to maintain social stability in their respective communities in three ways. First, it will help local governments to conduct mapping and dialogue exercises to identify key changes, risks, and sources of tensions at the local level, ensuring participation of different vulnerable groups as categorized by age and gender as well as inclusion of persons with special needs (PwSN) and lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) members of the community. In cases where the inclusion of these groups directly with local authorities or host communities is deemed unfeasible, alternative channels for their grievances will be established to ensure their participation in an ethical, rights-based and dignified manner.

Social stability partners will boost service delivery at the municipal level to alleviate resource pressure while also building public confidence that local officials are able to respond to their needs, thus contributing to supporting local social contracts. This will require enhancing meaningful access to services and ensuring that the diversity of needs – including along the lines of gender – is reflected in the selection of priority project interventions. In this way, the sector will directly feed into the LCRP Impact Four, ensuring that vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services (health, education, water, energy, solid waste, shelter and moving towards social safety nets) through national (public and private) systems as well as other service providers. Given the large number of municipalities in Lebanon and their limited resources, such activities will also target as a priority the level of clusters and Unions of Municipality to facilitate economies of scale and planning of larger interventions. To mitigate against the risk

of inter- or intra-communal tension as a result of service delivery support locations, sector partners will ensure that thorough context analyses and risk mitigation strategies are developed prior and during implementation.

# CASE STUDY

Success Story: Solid Waste Value Chain Work with Municipalities

Solid Waste Management (SWM) in targeted villages of the Lake Union of Municipalities, West Bekaa

The solid waste crisis of 2015, and the armed conflict in Syria have both escalated the Solid Waste management situation in the Bekaa area, and specifically in West Bekaa and Qaraoun. The region was affected by the Syrian displaced and has witnessed an increase in municipal solid waste quantity estimated at 7tons/day in the 5 studied villages in Qaraoun region.

UNDP with funding from the Kingdom of Netherlands, has worked in close coordination with the Ministry of Environment on the improvement of the solid waste management in the following villages: Khirbet Qanafar, Lala, Qaraoun, Saghbine and Sohmor. The aim of the project was to encourage sorting at source initiatives while reducing the generated waste in those villages.

UNDP conducted several training sessions in the villages, for members of the community including municipality members, women's Clubs, students, scouts, and local NGO members. A door to door awareness raising campaign in close coordination with Mercy Corps was implemented in conjunction with the provision of bins (2,240 in total) needed for the sorting of household waste. At the municipal level, a storage facility for the collected recyclables was constructed in the village of Qaraoun to serve all the villages in this programme and related equipment were also provided including pickup trucks for waste collection.

As a result, an improvement was recorded in the waste management services of 30,000 residents along with 20 new job opportunities created.

# Support to Other Public Institutions – Main Activities

## STRENGTHENED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND EARLY WARNING

National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strategies: The Lebanese Government commitment towards DRR and the DRM project has been reflected through the decision issued by the Prime Minister no. 68/2018 for the re-establishment of a National Task Force involving concerned ministries and administrations with a mandate to update Lebanon's Strategy for DRR, the National Response and develop Lebanon's Recovery Framework. The DRM Unit is leading this work and coordinating all efforts towards the development of the document strategies. Once developed the strategy and frameworks will be presented to the Council of Ministers for adoption this will further support a comprehensive institutional framework for the institutionalization of DRR at the national level.

In line with target E of the Sendai framework[59], national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction should be developed as part of implementing the Sendai Framework. The UNDRR regional office has supported the DRM project to develop its national DRR strategy. The draft strategy was developed and commented in 2019 using a participatory approach. The DRM project aims to finalize the strategy by 2020 (official deadline as per Sendai Framework) and have it presented to the Council of Ministers for adoption. The updated National Response Framework is also projected to be finalized in 2020.

National DRR Reporting: in 2019, the DRM Project through the DRM Unit lead the national reporting for the Sendai monitoring and reporting framework. Lebanon is considered a pioneer among Arab countries in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and in reporting on progress. Moreover, Lebanon is currently the chair of the Arab Science and Technology Advisory Group (Arab-STAG) for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Arab – STAG provides information and technical advice to the Arab Region and coordinate strategic engagement of science, research and technology with decision-makers to increase to Arab Region's resilience and strengthen the regional and national disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs to serve Sustainable Development.

In 2019 the National Operation Room (NOR) was officially activated twice. The first time was on 2nd September as a result of the aggressions against Lebanon from the Israel, whereby Major General Mahmoud Al-Asmar, Secretary-General of the Higher Council of Defence, in his capacity as Chairman of the National Disaster and Crisis Committee, activated the NOR at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers through the Disaster Management Unit. This was to keep pace with any related consequences and ensure linkages to concerned ministries and the South governorate. While the incident didn't result in any losses or casualties, the activation of the NOR demonstrated the importance of coordinated preparedness and response as directed from national authorities; commitment of the Government in DRR and assuming responsibility based on national plans; and active engagement of national focal point.

The second activation of the NOR was on the 15th of October as a result of the forest fires that ravaged Lebanon. This was the first time the response mechanism was activated across Lebanon at the regional, sector and national levels with the highest political engagement and intervention of decision makers (Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, Governors and concerned agencies). The incident also saw the first ever official activation of the EU mechanism of support. The response and coordination was considered a success on multiple levels including: direct intervention and guidance from the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior since the onset of the crisis; fast activation of the NOR; active guidance and support by DRM Unit throughout the crisis; effective coordination between DRM project, Minister of Interior, Civil Defence, Governorates and agencies; active engagement of NOR focal points; support from

59- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is the roadmap for how we make our communities safer and more resilient to disasters – United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

UNDP, LCRP and French Embassy throughout the crisis.

In 2019, both National and Governorate Response Plans effectiveness were tested through field simulation at the North Governorate. The simulation included the active participation of the DRR committee, various field agencies and local stakeholders and reflected the engagement of concerned stakeholders, especially the DRR committee, that was trained on the new mechanism for activating and managing incidents using the incident command system. The simulation was a great learning opportunity for the DRR committee at the Governorate as it supported the team to identify the gaps and needs that should be addressed by the Governorate to guarantee efficient response in real case situations. Moreover, the simulation demonstrated the capacity of stakeholders to perform their duties efficiently and according to the response plan. The simulation also reflected the engagement of concerned stakeholders especially the Governor, Kaemakam and DRR committee of the North.

## MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORT

The Ministry of Youth and Sport was provided support for rolling out the implementation of the National Youth Policy (NYP) through development of a gender sensitive and operational action plan and a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for the National Youth Policy and through a fully participatory and consultative process with different stakeholders i.e. consultants, government counterparts, civil societies, and other UN agencies.

## MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Nine Social safeguard officers worked for the MOL to facilitate, support, coordinate and monitor social safeguard measures and community engagement activities of the Lebanon Employment and Infrastructure Programme (EIIP) in close collaboration with the labour inspection department, regional offices of Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Social Affairs, Municipalities, Contractors, the ILO/UNDP Technical Assistance team.

Support was also provided to the Dekweneh Vocational Training Center through a) provision of vocational trainings in the Dekwaneh center b) procurement of equipment.

With regards to staffing capacity support, 3 persons from MoL benefitted from ILO workshops and capacity buildings on various technical issues related to management of VT, conducting market assessment, and improving skills development interventions.

## MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

Technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of Industry to assess to feasibility and design the masterplan of a new sustainable industrial Zone in Al Kaa, that is expected to impact almost 19,000 jobs. This support is an extension to the assistance provided in phase 1 of the project, implemented in 2017 where feasibility studies and masterplans were undertaken for 3 industrial zones (in Ballabek, Tourboul and Jleiliye). The Ministry was also assisted in securing funding for the zones' development whereby EURO 59 million were committed by the European Investment Bank and Italy for investing in the zones' infrastructure. Finally, the Ministry was assisted in the drafting of an Industrial Zones Strategy which will be finalized in 2019.

## PRIVATE SECTOR

In 2019, 16 partners have actively contributed to support private sector development through different types of services and activities. In particular:

- 1779 employees and entrepreneurs benefitted from business management trainings
- 2174 MSMEs have increased revenues / improved production
- 33 of new Lebanese MSMEs/cooperatives have been established
- 1838 of Lebanese MSMEs have accessed financial services
- 247 businesses have been supported through cash and in-kind grants
- 1 enterprise has increased green energy efficiency

- 344 new/start-up businesses have been supported through incubation services

In total, $1,5 million of grants and $12.7 million of loans have been disbursed to businesses.

## BETTER TRAINED SECURITY FORCES

2019 marked an achievement of different milestones for the reform of municipal police starting with the official launching of the Municipal Police Reform by the Ministry of Interior & Municipalities. The Strategy for the implementation of the municipal police reform was developed and is under implementation in partnership with pilot municipalities and the ISF Academy. At Municipal level the launching of the reform was followed by rolling-out sessions intended to engage all Lebanese municipalities on the implementation of the reform. Roll-Out sessions were conducted in 21 of 25 districts and 552 out of 866 municipalities are now sensitized and fully aware of the reform's elements.

Pilot municipalities are progressively implementing the municipal police reform:

- 2 municipalities received direct coaching in 2019.
- A Reform Working Group intended to ensure efficient implementation of municipal police reform within the municipality developed in pilot municipalities.
- Communication for Development Activities successfully initiated in 3 municipalities.
- 1st Dialogue Platform Host Communities – Syrian Refugees successfully established in Baalbek.
- Five New Standard operating procedures developed based on the SOP guidelines of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) with partners support (achieved in five municipalities).
- 6 capacity development plans produced for municipal police units to work along a community policing approach (in six municipalities).
- Initial Tools for the Municipal Police reform implementation developed: Job Descriptions developed in Baalbeck and will be considered by the reform committee for standardization and circulation on all municipalities

Furthermore, non-pilot municipalities are interested in the reform in an increasing rate, with municipalities across the country adopting some of the strategic framework's elements, mainly recruitment of female agents and the adoption of the new Civilian uniform. This is considered major change since these two specific elements reflect on the fact how municipalities are now perceiving the municipal police as a civilian service to the population rather than strictly an enforcing rule of law authority.

Partners also supported the Promotion of female municipal policeand gender equality:

1. Equal Recruitment of Women and Men became officially 1 of the 5 elements of the Municipal Police Reform – the result of 2 years of advocacy
2. Production of the Study on female municipal police (qualitative and quantitative)
3. Production of a training module on SGBV issues for municipal police, in partnership with the ISF Academy
4. Submission of an Action Plan to develop services for SGBV victims in Batroun's ISF station

Furthermore, in 2019 partners developed and finalized a Police-Population Perception and Experience Survey (1st of its kind in Lebanon); the results of this study will feed in the implementation of the municipal police reform in a larger number of municipalities by scaling up project activities.

**To enhance police accountability, support was** provided to the production of a Mapping of ISF accountability systems and Action Plan. A legal review and mapping of oversight mechanisms were finalized and discussed with the ISF committee. Based on the discussion an action plan was developed based on 5 major recommendations that included sub recommendations: Improving ISF services through alternatives for Sanctions (pilot); Strengthening the Staff Unit; Strengthening the capacity of Inspection, Investigation and Audit; Strengthening Human resources; Organizational

Efficiency. Finally, partners supported the creation of a ISF-Civil Society Working Group on ISF Accountability and identification of joint activities

The ISF academy was further supported in 2019 to build its in house capacities to conduct and roll out the specialized municipal police trainings. Through partners support, the municipal police training is now more human-rights-based with the introduction of the Protection Module – on refugees, SGBV and children.. Several municipal police trainings were conducted by CP agencies in line with the integrated approach , as a package of community services evolving around child protection and including but not limited to safe parks is being designed in full partnership with the municipalities For the municipal police, the training curriculum that is currently used by the ISF academy to train municipal police officers has been adjusted to include a focus on child rights and child protection. The adjusted curriculum was rolled-out and a pool of trainers from the ISF Academy has been created to move the trainings forward in a regular and standardized manner through the Academy. Guidance was also developed for ISF officers on handling cases that involve children in police stations. The guidance developed will be circulated by the Minister of Interior and Municipalities to all police stations in Lebanon for their reference.

In addition to child focused training

During the same period, nine trainings for the General Security Office (GSO) and two trainings for the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) were conducted on refugee law key principles and international protection. This activity aimed to sensitize the trainees (GSO and LAF officers) on UNHCR's mandate and on the protection needs and status of persons of concern to UNHCR. In addition to the substantive knowledge delivered, this initiative provided a good opportunity for direct interaction between UNHCR and the different officers to address existing misconceptions and strengthen the right-based approach. Furthermore, trainings provided an opportunity to enhance the officers' role in the identification and referral of vulnerable cases. Additionally, one training was conducted for Municipal police at the ISF academy on Persons with Specific Needs, humanitarian principles and UNHCR mandate.

The Directorate General of Personal Status (DGPS) was supported through staffing and equipment with an aim to increase its capacity to register civil events. In 2019, the DGPS received equipment including printers, toners, computers and UPS. 33 civil registry clerks were recruited that were deployed to the different offices of the Personal Status Department. These efforts lead to more consistent practices by the different offices, less processing and waiting time, and they supported the DGPS in digitalizing all Syrian records.

A GSO support project on the electronic issuance of the Syrians residency permits was successfully completed. The project covered 42 GSO centers all around the country. The type of support provided encompassed design of the center layout, cabling infrastructure, furniture (desks, chairs, backdrop screens), electronic equipment (computers, fingerprint scanners, cameras, UPS. etc.), software development and licenses, training and coaching on the system. The objective of the project was to enable the GSO to upscale and decentralize its processing capacity, and increase the security of the documentation provided, to the benefit of all those requiring the services of the GSO, including Lebanese citizens. In the short term, this should contribute to reducing the time to obtain a response to an application. In the longer term, this should decrease the processing time and therefore the waiting time of the beneficiaries at the GSO centers, especially for subsequent renewals as all files will already be in an electronic format. In addition, all fingerprints and pictures will be taken electronically, and digitalized residency cards will be issued instead of paper-based residency documents. This will therefore contribute to further securing the system[60]. Moreover, the renovation work for GSO building at central level was completed which will serve to further expand GSO capacity to process residency applications and

60- The result was documented in UNHCR residency survey conducted annually since 2017. In 2017, 70% of those who approached GSO and were not able to renew stated that it was mainly due to limited GSO capacity (they were either asked by GSO to come back another time or decided to leave after queuing for some time). In 2018 this challenge was reduced to 30% of those who approached GSO and were not able to renew and was further reduced to 14% in 2019.

rehabilitated various GSO departments and regional units as well as support to ICT infrastructure and software. six staffing support were funded to the Ministry to manage the crisis at community level (1 Donor Support Coordinator, and 4 Governorate Field Coordinators and one Senior Technical Info Management Assistant) and 23 staff to the Lebanese Personal Status Department contributing to issuance of civil documentation.

In 2019, four workshops were conducted with about 60 ISF and GSO officers and investigators on survival sex and sex trafficking, on law 164 (Punishment for the Crime of Trafficking in Persons), on necessary investigations procedures, and on relevant protection measures.

## MINISTRY OF JUSTICE/ PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

In 2019, two roundtable meetings were conducted with general prosecutors and investigative judges around the identification of trafficking cases for sexual exploitation, reaching about 20 judges and prosecutors

The Ministry of Justice and Ministry-mandated justice actors were supported to strengthen justice procedures for children, girls and boys. These efforts are focused on both organizational and technical capacity-building initiatives including an e-course for judges on Justice for Children to provide these justice professionals with a standardized and comprehensive learning resource; Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidance on the implementation of several non-custodial measures; a Programme for the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Children in Contact with the Law to support them in their return to their communities, a Court Preparation Programme for Children in Contact with the Law in order to inform these children about their rights and responsibilities during judicial proceedings, and finally the establishment of child-friendly facilities in six palaces of justice in Lebanon to provide them with a safe environment and help them avoid the harms they can face as a result of their participation in justice proceedings. In order to ensure that children, girls and boys in contact with the law receive timely and adequate judicial support, particularly for high risk cases, partners worked in partnership with the Ministry of Justice to strengthen the capacity to the national NGO mandated by Law 422 to provide judicial support to children. These efforts included staffing, training and coaching, and organizational capacity building. The objective was to help the selected NGO to fulfil its mandate in supporting children through judicial proceedings by attending preliminary investigations with them, supporting them during trial sessions, and following up on their cases with the relevant courts. At the end of 2019, when the country faced serious social unrest, worsening economic conditions and a deepening political crisis, one could still confirm that children's rights were respected, and due process followed by law enforcement agencies and that several civil society partners were active in their advocacy to promote and protect children's rights. It was also noteworthy that alternative sentencing options for children were more readily utilized by the judiciary than in previous years.

UNICEF was also working on legislative reform, supporting the Parliamentary Committee for Woman and Child to work on the reform of Law 422/2002 for the *Protection of Children in Conflict with the Law or At Risk* by providing technical support for the proposal of amendments in line with international standards.

## NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR LEBANESE WOMEN (NCLW)

The partnership with NCLW consisted mainly of a) contribution to the development of a national action plan on women, peace and security, b) support to the generation of yearly reports on the implementation of the national women strategy, and c) support to advocate for ending child marriage.

# CASE STUDY

Success Story:

From Zahle's Municipal Police: A Tribute to All the Women Out There, who said #YesWeCan

On International Women's Day, the female municipal police of Zahle have a message to the world. Standing tall in their uniforms, they proudly convey a message UNDP has long been promoting: The time has come for women to be part of Lebanon's Municipal Police.

Cosette- who had spent 15 years in the Philippines before coming back with her family to Lebanon- never thought that she would end up serving the people of Zahle. She never imagined one day she would become a Municipal Police agent.

Having four kids, Cosette thought her only mission was to serve and protect her children. Today, she does a lot more! Her mission, as a municipal police agent is to protect and serve a population of 40,000, the population of Zahle - Beqaa valley's capital and largest city!

"My Name is Cosette. I am a Woman, A wife, and a mother of four.

This is how many see me. However, I am much more than that. While I am a woman, wife and mother of four, I am also a Municipal police agent and have served as such Zahle's community for more than two years now!

I am also one of those women who have been told "you won't make it". Yet, against all odds, I did, and nothing would stop me."

Cosette was unsure being a municipal police agent was the right thing for her. Until today, men dominate municipal police units all across Lebanon. While there are municipalities that hire female municipal police, those remain a few and the majority of municipalities still do not consider this as a priority.

Besides, many women hesitate to apply to such positions as they believe this job is "for men."

"When I got the opportunity to apply for the job, I was scared," explains Cosette. "I thought I was not ready for this, and might not be able to handle the tasks required. Even some of my closest family members made me feel that this was not a "woman's job"."

UNDP, together with the ministry of Interior and Municipalities, work on promoting the recruitment of both men & women in the municipal police. This is part of a reform launched by the MoIM and aimed at transforming Lebanon's municipal police into a service to communities. We work together with municipalities to make sure municipal police put communities at the core of their mission. To do that, we believe that the inclusion of women is key!

Women are half of a community, and shifting towards a community-oriented municipal police, means all community members are to be represented in them municipal police service. The municipal police we aim at promoting, is one that is for all people – women and men of all backgrounds and differences.

To Cosette, being a municipal police agent she is sending out a clear message to all women who still wonder whether they could serve in a security institution or not.

"Now is time for us, women, to remove the barriers we face every time we try to not to conform with stereotypes or preconceived ideas. We need to get rid of classifications set for us. A Woman can be anything she wants. Nothing can or should stop her."

"Today I am proud to be a municipal police agent, and to wear this uniform," She continues. "Being a municipal police agent changed me in so many ways. But I was able to change only because I decided to challenge gender sterotypes."

Out of Zahle's 82 municipal police agents, 14 are women. 40 year old Enaam Azar, is one of them.

" I love my job. Even though it is tiring. I love it most because it allows me to interact with people. It aslo makes me feel that I am contributing to people's everyday lives. However it wasn't easy to become a municipal police agent" Explains Enaam.

One of Enaam's tasks Is to organize the traffic in one of Zahle's most crowded streets. The area where she serves is usually crowded with people as it connects different parts of the city. She tells us

the challenges she faces with people who are not yet used to women working as municipal police agents.

“When I’m trying to organize the traffic, some people would not listen to me. I would see them directly reverting to my male colleague for confirmation.”

George - Enaam’s colleague - interrupts to explain: “In the past the streets where run by men. Some people are not used to see women organizing traffic and wearing a Municipal police uniform. When I look back to the past and how things were, I can say these women have achieved an important milestone!”

For International Women’s Day, UNDP together with Cosette and her colleagues are sending out a message of respect and appreciation to all women who have decided to challenge gender-stereotypes. To all women who kept trying until they created a space for themselves in fields traditionally perceived as “for men”.

To all women who have changed people’s perceptions and enhanced women’s opportunities through their very presence in the workplace, just like the female municipal police agents of Zahle.

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