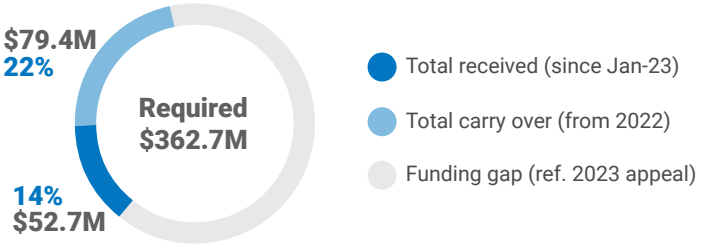
2023 2nd QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD
Education

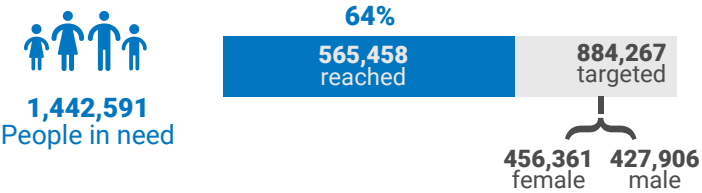
Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

This dashboard summarizes the progress made by the Government of Lebanon and Sector Partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Education Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) increased equitable and inclusive access to, participation in, and completion of safe and protective education for all learners in Lebanon, with a focus on the most vulnerable children and their caregivers; OUTCOME 2) improved learning outcomes for children and youth through enhanced quality of formal and non-formal education services that are safe, protective, inclusive, and adapted to multi-crisis situations; and OUTCOME 3) enhanced governance, managerial and knowledge management capacities of the education system to deliver high-level results relying on evidence-based decision-making.

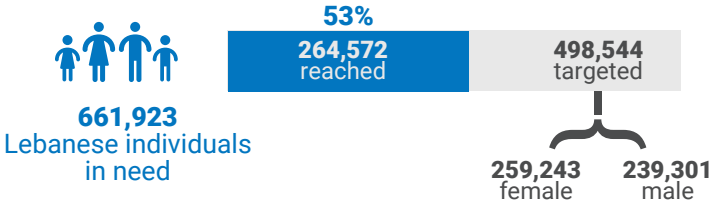
2023 Sector Funding Status
As of 30 June 2023

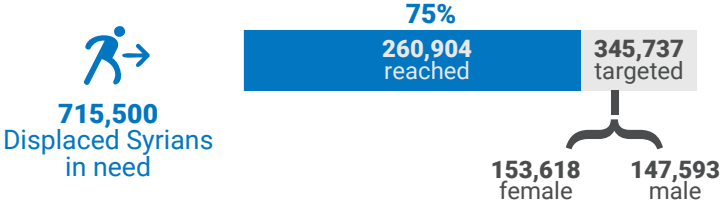


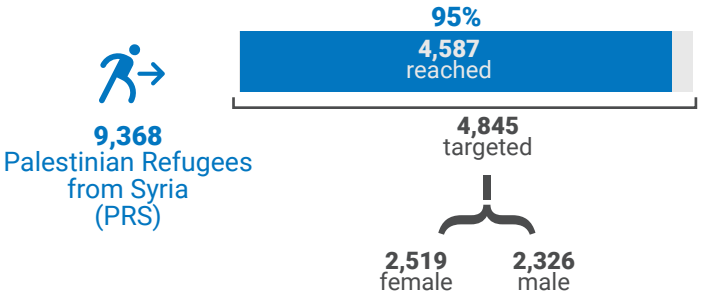
2023 population reached

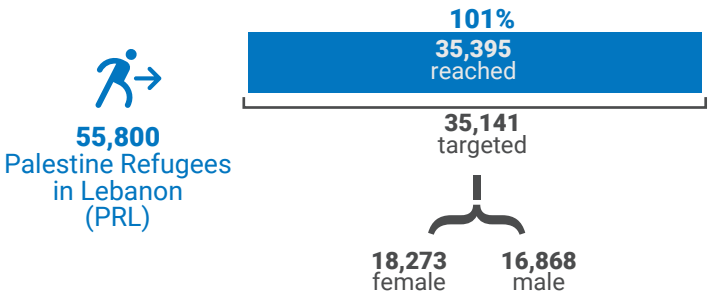


2023 population figures by cohort









Progress against targets

Key Achievements

# of school-aged children and youth (age 3-18) whose registration fees for public/UNRWA schools are partially or fully subsidised for 2022-2023 school year.	511,423/665,325
# of children and youth whose registration fees for regulated NFE programmes are partially or fully subsidised in 2023.	20,498 / 95,000
# of children and youth bene□tting from remedial or homework support programs in 2023.	32,765 / 28,450
# of parents/caregivers outreached with awareness sessions (on education and health).	32,697 / 65,000

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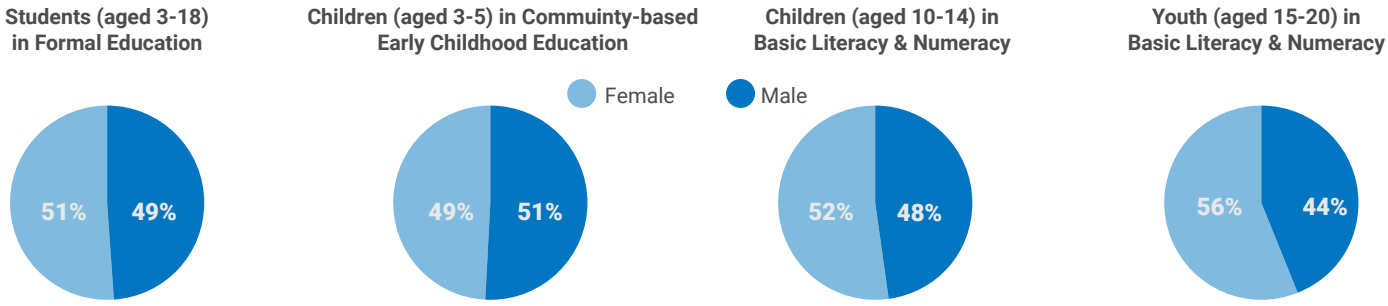
Gender Breakdown in Formal and Non-Formal Education



1. Multi-sectoral situation update

The economic situation in Lebanon continued to deteriorate during the second quarter of 2023, leading to a significant decline in purchasing power for families. In June 2023, the annual inflation rate reached a record high of 260per cent compared to June 2022, the highest level since comparable records began in 2018. The cost of living, as measured by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) covering food, essential goods and services, reached LBP 24,925,064 in May 2023 (down slightly from LBP 27,214,894 in April, but an overall increase from earlier in the year). The food SMEB increased by 94 per cent between January and May 2023. The average price of bottled water in Lebanon during the first six months of 2023 amounts to a 1400 per cent increase in Lebanese pound and 135 per cent increase in USD value when compared to the price in January 2021. The price of trucked water increased by over 1500 per cent (15-fold) in Lebanese pounds and over 350 per cent in USD value during the same period.

In April and May 2023, a series of raids and arrests were conducted by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) leading to the deportation of displaced Syrians. These events created anxiety amongst the displaced community, coinciding with the implementation of restrictive measures by various municipalities, leading to families reducing their movements leading to limited access to services. This represented an overall reduction in the protection space in Lebanon. Disturbingly, gender-based violence is on the rise across all areas of Lebanon. Reports indicate an increase in sexual violence and harassment, particularly in workplaces such as farms, agricultural sites, and domestic housework employment. Additionally, child marriage, a continuous violation of child rights, has seen a concerning shift in the age of forced marriages, with girls as young as 12-13 being subjected to early marriages. Gender disparities persist in the labour market, with women and girls being underrepresented in cash-for-work opportunities and facing limited employment opportunities overall. Inter-communal relations in Lebanon have reached their lowest point since 2017. The latest UNDP-ARK perception survey from March 2023 reveals that 46 per cent of respondents reported negative inter-communal relations, compared to 34 per cent in April 2022 and 21% in July 2018. The main drivers of tension include competition for lower-skilled jobs and access to vital services such as electricity, healthcare, and waste management.

2. Key achievements of the sector at the output level

Output 1.1 (Children, youth and their caregivers are provided with the necessary support to expand access to and retention in education)
In formal Education, with 36 percent of the total budget received, 64 percent of the total number of people in need was reached (50% girls), where 53 percent of the Lebanese population in need was reached. After the reopening of schools in Quarter 1, partners continued to expand their support to children enrolled in formal education to mitigate learning loss, ensure the continuity of providing education services.

As of Quarter 2, Sector partners supported access for over 77 percent of the targeted 664,000 school-aged children and youth (age 3-18), with 511,423 children supported to access formal schools for the 2022-2023 academic year (51% girls). The main strategies for reducing the financial barriers related to education access are cash for education and snacks in schools; as of quarter 2, partners reached more than 71,000 with cash for education (50% girls) and 83,000 children with snacks in schools. Partners continued to mitigate learning loss for children attending public schools through remedial education or homework support, reaching nearly 33,000 children (54% girls) and exceeding the target of 28,000; this intervention is critical in the current context due to repeated learning interruptions over the past three years and the increasing risks of drop-out. An analysis of the retention rates in relevant areas will be possible in quarter 4 to assess the effectiveness of this intervention.

Partners reported support for only 21% of the targeted children and youth to access regulated NFE programmes in quarter 2, with a total of 20,498 children reached out of the 95,000 targeted: around 6,800 in community-based early childhood education (49% girls) and a little less than 14,000 in basic literacy and numeracy (52% girls for BLN and 56% girls for BLN-Youth). Further consideration of strategies related to Multiple Flexible Pathways and Out-of-School-Children (OOSC) are highlighted in the priorities and challenges sections below.

Output 2.2 (Learning spaces and their communities are capacitated to contribute to an inclusive, safe, healthy and protective environment that is conducive to learning)
As of quarter 2, partners reported 840 Education Outreach Volunteers and Parent Community Members were supported and active. These volunteers contribute to the improvement of the school environment through facilitating the relationships between schools and communities, helping with tasks such as registration, attendance follow-up, and supporting a sense of safety and belonging in the school. The volunteers are also active in referring OOSC to appropriate education and child-protection services, and parents highlight the importance of these volunteers in improving the communication and responsiveness of education officials to respond to children's needs.

Output 3.2 (Evidence-based policy frameworks developed, revised, endorsed, or implemented to regulate education programs and services)
In June 2023, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), with funds from the European Union (EU) and in collaboration with the Centre for Educational Research and Development (CERD), launched in partnership with UNICEF, the National Policy on Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs in Lebanon. The Policy, financed by the European Union and Education Cannot Wait Fund, aims to provide a national framework for an inclusive education implementation in Lebanon, based on the lessons learned from the Inclusive Education Programme funded by the EU and international best practices. In particular, the Policy outlines how the MEHE will support schools, teachers, and children with disabilities to be included in the regular education system in the least restrictive environment that still meets their needs. In addition, a roadmap has been developed as an action plan for implementing the Policy, which will be finalised by the Directorate of School Counselling and Guidance this year.

In addition, as part of the coordination efforts of the sector, the MEHE called for an Expression of Interest (EOI), which has resulted in doubling the number of partners coordinated by the Sector, under the leadership of MEHE. The EOI objectives were (a) to improve understanding of the experience of implementing partners, (b) identify the interest of partners in implementing activities in the various areas of formal and non-formal education, (c) scale up interventions, and (d) ensure an increased level of coordination between partners and MEHE. In May, 147 national and international organizations applied during two rounds of submissions, and applications were reviewed by the EOI committee, comprised of both MEHE and Sector representatives. Of these, 134 organizations were granted approvals for various components of the EOI, including both non-formal and formal education interventions. Implementing partners were invited to MEHE for the EOI Approvals Ceremony on June 01, 2023. MEHE has created an action plan for continued collaboration and support, including joint monitoring visits with MEHE and the Sector to selected organizations.

Referral Trends

In Quarter 2, there were 1,925 referrals to formal and non-formal education (compared to 1,496 in Q1, this is an increase of 29%), making total referrals to the Sector 3,421 done by 31 partners from other sectors. This represents 4.7% of the total referrals done in Lebanon in 2023. Most referrals to the Education Sector were recorded in Nabatieh (20.5%), Mount Lebanon (15.8%) and South Lebanon (15%). While 48.6% of them are accepted - highest in Mount Lebanon (56.1%) and 37.4% are acknowledged referrals, only 4.3% of referrals that are not accepted by to the Education Sector actors (highest in Bekaa with 9.2%). The reasons for not accepting referrals were mainly that the referrals were not meeting the eligibility criteria for the service (42.9%), or the Organization was being at maximum capacity (30%). In Q2, the share of accepted referrals increased to 59.7% (up from 34.4% in Q1), while the share of not-accepted referrals has decreased from 6.1% in Q1 to 2.8% in Q2.

3. Key challenges of the sector

The main challenge within the Education Sector is the repeated interruptions to learning that have been experienced over the last three years. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education extended the school year to June 15th to ensure children received at least 112 teaching days in the 2022-23 school year, and some second-shift schools continued into July to reach the same number of days. Additionally, the Grade 9 Brevet exams were canceled, and the correction of Grade 12 exams is ongoing, with expected results to be announced the first week of August. It will be important to ensure funding is available for the 2023-24 school year, so the interruptions experienced to date do not continue.

There are an estimated 700,000 Out-of-School-Children in Lebanon, therefore the non-formal and multiple flexible pathways programmes are an essential strategy in the Education Response. The extreme depreciation of the Lebanese Pound and rising costs of goods and services has negatively impacted partners' ability to reach their targets. With only 20,500 children supported to access Non-formal Education by the end of Q2, partners are well below the 2023 target of 95,000. In addition to the economic challenges, there are some large programs that will be reporting in Q3 and Q4, thereby narrowing the disparity significantly. Further efforts will be required to secure additional funding and improve cost efficiency among partners in the coming period.

4. Key priorities/adjustments for the duration of 2023

To supplement the academic year 2022/2023, and with the aim to catch up on the learning losses, with contribution of partners, MEHE has launched the Summer School Programme 2023. The MEHE-approved summer school curriculum aims to ensure that learners attend academic sessions, recreational, educational activities, and extra-curricular health and environmental activities, with an educational, incubating, and safe approach that contributes to learners' health and well-being. The programme prioritises the participation of children who did not achieve passing exam scores, are at risk of dropping out, and those who dropped out previously. Continuous efforts by all partners to ensure schools are well supported to smoothly reopen in the 2023-24 school year will be an essential focus for the Education Sector in the coming period.

The Education Sector will further prioritise the expansion of access to Non-formal Education/Multiple Flexible Pathways in order to reach the target, while maintaining the support for children to access public schools. The sector intends to increase efforts to identify cost efficiencies in NFE and provide a forum for sharing lessons learned. In addition, the Sector partners have identified the need to strengthen two priority thematic issues: (a) child protection and (b) supporting the different needs of boys and girls. Possible actions include workshops, ensuring representation of the coordinators at Child Protection Sector meetings, as well as joint analysis of available data. With the increase of partners in the Sector, there will be a need to ensure capacity development training of new partners, harmonization of tools, the development of guidelines through the various task teams to ensure effective response as per the needs of the sector. The Joint Education Needs Assessment will be initiated during the second half of the year, contributing to the evidence-base in the Sector. Finally, it will be essential for additional reporting initiatives to be undertaken before the end of the year to ensure all indicators on the logframe are accurately reported

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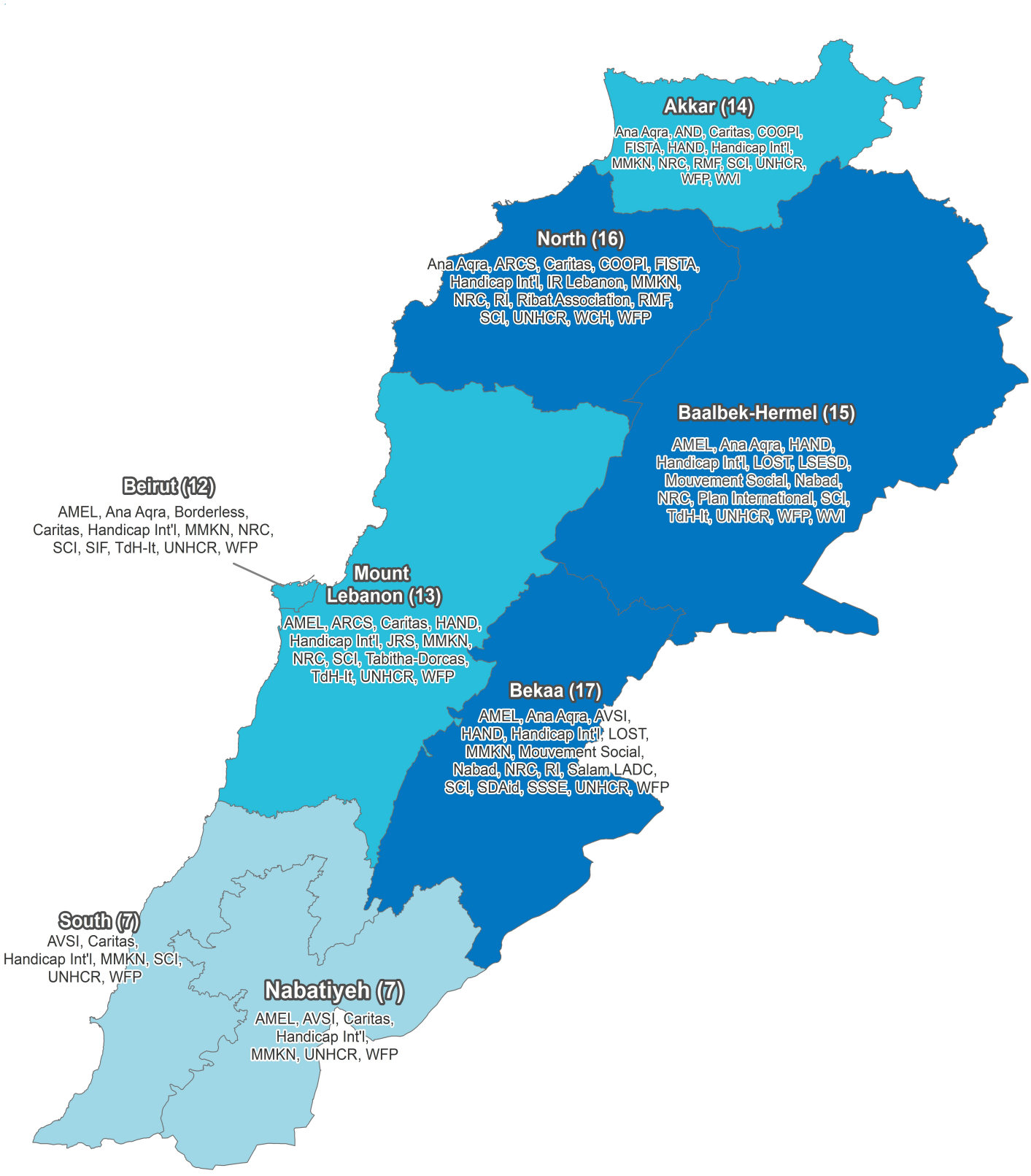
Partners per Governorate

The achievements presented in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 34 NGO Partners:
AMEL, Ana Aqra, AND, ARCS, AVSI, Borderless, Caritas Lebanon, COOPI, FISTA, HAND, Handicap International, IR Lebanon, JRS, LOST, LSESD, MMKN, Mouvement Social, Nabad, NRC, Plan International, RI, Ribat Association, RMF, Salam LADC, SCI, SDAid, SIF, SSSE, Tabitha-Dorcas, TdH-It, UNHCR, WCH, WFP, WVI.



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