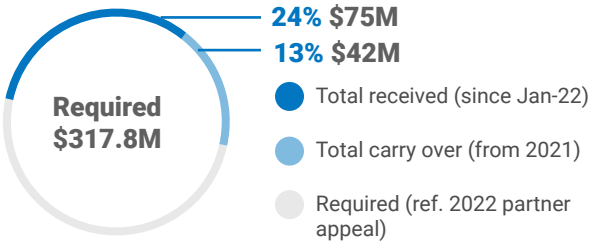
2023 3rd QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD
Health

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

The 2023 3rd Quarter Health sector dashboard summarizes the progress made by Health sector partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), identifies key challenges and priorities, and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Health sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Improve access to comprehensive primary healthcare (PHC); OUTCOME 2) Improve access to hospital (incl. Emergemcy Room (ER) care) and advanced referral care (advanced diagnostic laboratory & radiology care); OUTCOME 3) Improve outbreak & infectious diseases control; OUTCOME 4) Women, men and youth (children, boys and girls, Person with Disabilities (PWD)) have their fundamental rights respected and have access to basic services and information.

2023 Sector Funding Status
As of 30 September



2023 population reached

3,625,403 People in need

44% — **1,188,895** reached; **2,690,000** targeted (**1,390,000** female, **1,300,000** male)

1,365,000 Displaced Syrians in need — **38%** — **513,338** reached; **1,365,000** targeted (**701,610** female, **663,390** male)

106,369 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (individuals) — **108%** — **21,264** reached; **20,000** targeted (**9,920** female, **10,080** male)

2023 population figures by cohort

2,122,634 Lebanese individuals in need — **51%** — **643,508** reached; **1,273,580** targeted (**662,262** female, **611,319** male)

31,400 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (individuals) — **33%** — **10,395** reached; **31,400** targeted (**16,265** female, **15,135** male)

Progress against targets

Key Achievements

# of subsidized primary healthcare consultations	2,282,912 / 5,379,961
# of patients who received acute disease medication	1,106,956 / 1,613,988
# of patients who received chronic disease medication	221,363 / 230,000
# of Children under 5 receiving routine vaccination	363,634 / 445,560
# of cases receiving financial support for improved access to hospital care among targeted population	72,031 / 181,593
# of new PHCCs added to MoPH-PHC network	19 / 71
# of primary health care staff receiving salary support at MoPH - PHCcs level	30 / 30
# of functional EWARS centres	1,308 / 800
Number of beneficiaries receiving TB medication through NTP	1,112 / 1200
Number of beneficiaries receiving ARV medication through NAP	2,106 / 2,000

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1. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Despite the growing needs, the Health sector, under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), remains committed to ensuring an equitable continuation of quality healthcare for displaced Syrians, the vulnerable host Lebanese community, Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS), Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL), and displaced populations from other nationalities. The LCRP activities and targets are complemented by the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for the Lebanese population, PRL, and migrants.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

In the third quarter of 2023, vulnerable populations continued to benefit from a comprehensive package of primary healthcare, which includes consultations, medications for acute and chronic diseases, vaccination, sexual and reproductive health, mental health (including medication), nutrition services, as well as urgent dental services, and basic laboratory testing and imaging.

Subsidized Consultations

42%
2,282,912 reached
5,379,961 targeted

# of subsidized primary healthcare consultations

38% **878,882** male
62% **1,404,030** female

56% out of total Lebanese
1,280,241 reached
44% out of total non-Lebanese

Reproductive Health

29%
117,632 reached
410,638 targeted

# of subsidized ante-natal care (ANC) consultations

35% out of total Lebanese
40,761 reached
65% out of total non-Lebanese

Mental Health

39%
103,676 reached
268,988 targeted

# of subsidized mental health (MH) consultations

43% **44,760** male
57% **58,916** female

48% out of total Lebanese
49,840 reached
52% out of total non-Lebanese

Vaccination

82%
363,634 reached
445,560 targeted

# of children U5 receiving routine vaccination

Chronic Disease Medications

96%
221,363 reached
230,000 targeted

# of patients who received chronic disease medication

89% out of total Lebanese
196,536 reached
11% out of total non-Lebanese

A midwife from Salama, an implementing partner of UNFPA's EU Fund in Lebanon, provides essential care, ensuring the well-being of a woman at the primary healthcare center. Photo credit: Nour Wahid/UNFPA

For more information, please contact:
lebbeia@unhcr.org

Compared to the same reporting period in 2022, subsidized consultations slightly decreased by four percent. A number of partners supporting primary health care services had to reduce support due to funding interruptions. Considering the increased demand and the higher target set for 2023, additional resources and efforts are needed from Health sector partners to respond to primary health care needs.

In line with the trend for subsidized consultations, the percentage of children under five receiving routine vaccinations also slightly decreased, by six percent, compared to the same reporting period last year in terms of the number of children receiving their essential vaccines. Additional advocacy and efforts are needed from all Health sector partners to increase routine immunization coverage and protect the country from vaccine-preventable diseases and deadly outbreaks.

The sector is undergoing an extensive exercise to identify the utilization of medications donated by Health sector partners. Numbers will be reflected in future dashboards. Additional partners are supporting in the provision of chronic disease medications; however, the Health sector is still facing a 13 percent stock disruption for chronic disease medications, affecting the access of the vulnerable population to these medications in the 481 primary healthcare facilities across the country.

The percentage of Lebanese benefiting from subsidized consultations remains at around 56 percent of the total population covered, compared to the second quarter of 2022. This is the highest percentage since the beginning of the crisis (48% in 2021, 38% in 2020, 31% in 2019, 17% in 2018), reflecting increased vulnerability among the host community and the need to maintain and expand support to people in need.

The Health sector continued to contribute in 2023 to strengthen the national health system by carrying out and supporting inter-related functions in human resources, finance, governance, capacity building, and health information systems. Support for procuring vaccines, essential medications, reproductive health commodities, as well as other medical supplies and equipment for facilities, including Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) within the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) network and health dispensaries, continues to be prioritized. Nineteen PHCCs were added to the MoPH network in 2023, bringing the total number of MoPH-PHCCs to 295 across Lebanon. In the third quarter, 48 per cent of the total centres are supported by Health sector partners to deliver a comprehensive package of primary healthcare services, slightly lower than the 50 percent reported in the second quarter.

HOSPITAL CARE

A total of 72,031 individuals received obstetric and emergency/life-saving care, constituting 40 percent of the yearly target of 181,593. For displaced populations, following the update of UNHCR Referral Care SoPs, which implies a higher patient share, a 23 percent decrease in the number of individuals supported for hospital care was observed from May to August 2023. However, the numbers returned to the yearly average in the subsequent months. Close monitoring is essential to assess the impact of the revised referral care on the ability of the displaced population to access hospital care. Out of the target of 76,415, 3,387 individuals are vulnerable Lebanese, necessitating urgent additional resources for Health sector partners to effectively respond to the escalating need for hospital care support among the Lebanese population due to the ongoing and deteriorating economic situation. Through UNRWA, 1,784 PRS and 18,338 PRL received hospital care, with women and girls comprising 69 percent of individuals supported with hospitalization. Staffing support was extended to public hospitals to retain specialized doctors and nurses.

OUTBREAK & INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL

In the third quarter of the year, the Health sector played a vital role in supporting national outbreak and infectious diseases control. This was achieved through the expansion and reinforcement of the National Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) and the strengthening of the National Tuberculosis and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Programmes (NTP & NAP). Notably, 1,308 out of the targeted 800 EWARS centres were functional, and contingency stocks were strategically positioned at MoPH warehouses. In addition, 1,112 beneficiaries received tuberculosis medications through NTP, surpassing the target of 1,200, while 2,106 beneficiaries received antiretroviral (ARV) medications through NAP, exceeding the target of 2,000.

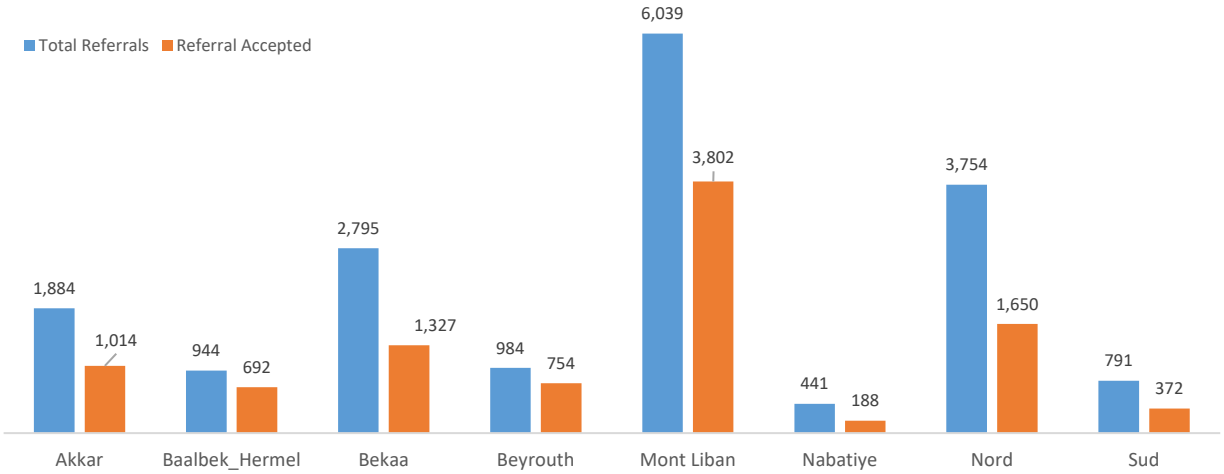
HEALTH AWARENESS & INFORMATION

In a concerted effort, Health sector partners have expanded initiatives to uphold the fundamental rights of women, men, and youth, including children, boys and girls, and Persons with Disabilities. This involves ensuring widespread access to health awareness and information. Notably, 78 out of the targeted 285 Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) actively participated in health promotion and outreach activities. At the community level, a commendable outreach effort reached 225,707 caregivers with integrated health awareness messages. While this falls short of the yearly target of 725,081, the impact of these initiatives is significant and highlights a commitment to fostering informed and empowered communities.

For more information, please contact:
lebbeia@unhcr.org

Referrals

In the third quarter of 2023, 17,632 referrals were made to the Health Sector through collaborative efforts involving 52 partners. Notably, 56 percent of these referrals to the Health sector were successfully accepted. The majority of referrals were concentrated in Mount Lebanon, North, Bekaa, and Akkar, respectively. The primary factor contributing to the non-acceptance of referrals was the unavailability of services, primarily attributed to resource constraints.



Gender and GBV risk mitigation mainstreaming

A new focal point for gender and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation has been appointed within the sector. This focal point will play a crucial role in assisting sector coordinators in the effective implementation of gender and GBV priorities outlined in the workplan.

2. KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

Aggravated barriers resulting from the compounded multi-layered crisis have further impeded the meaningful access of displaced women, men, girls, and boys, as well as other vulnerable groups, to primary and secondary health services. Throughout 2023, Health sector partners faced challenges in ensuring business continuity due to the increased risk of outbreaks, social instability, and supply gaps.

Accessibility Challenges: Affordability, including the direct and indirect costs of services, remained the primary challenge to accessing healthcare services. Additional barriers continue to hinder accessibility and the timely use of health services in Lebanon. Supply and demand levels are mainly related to availability (e.g., services and supplies, including medications), geographical accessibility (e.g., remote areas), and acceptability (e.g., social stigma). The revised UNHCR Referral Care SOP initiated in May implies a higher patient share, adding strain on the displaced population to access hospital care. The needs for hospital care support among Lebanese continue to increase due to the growing numbers of uninsured individuals and the inefficiency of national insurance schemes. Dialysis and blood disease support remain gaps for both displaced populations and vulnerable Lebanese. Health sector partners are increasing efforts to remove accessibility barriers by subsidizing the comprehensive package of care in primary health care centers, providing awareness on health-integrated topics, and supporting hospitalization bills for all population groups despite scarce financial resources.

System Challenges: In 2023, the health system in Lebanon is under significant strain due to increased demand and scarcity of resources. This strain leads to higher mortality rates and worsened health outcomes, causing protection concerns and tensions in the country. Lebanon's vulnerability to disease outbreaks is rising due to ongoing complex crises, weakened water, sanitation, and health systems, and a shortage of human resources. The economic crisis has resulted in a sharp decline in vaccination coverage among both Lebanese and displaced populations, increasing the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases. Lebanon is struggling to respond to multiple and simultaneous outbreaks, further compounded by the global lack of resources and critical supplies, as well as an overstretched healthcare workforce dealing with multiple emergencies concurrently. In recent years, preventable diseases like cholera have resurged, in addition to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. These outbreaks have depleted the Ministry of Public Health's (MoPH) capacity for early detection, overwhelmed the laboratory network, exhausted healthcare personnel and resources, and stretched the limited capacity for outbreak response and management. Presently, Lebanon is facing a measles outbreak, and the country remains at high risk for other infectious and communicable diseases. Partners and health organizations must remain vigilant, keep their contingency stocks updated, and promptly report any suspected emerging communicable diseases to the Epidemiological Surveillance Unit (ESU) at MoPH. The shortage of essential resources adds to the challenges faced by the already overwhelmed public health and medical personnel. Health sector partners are working to strengthen the national health system, including the Public Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC) and ESU, through functions related to human resources, finance, governance, capacity building, information and health information systems, and medical products such as personal protective equipment, vaccines, and data technologies.

For more information, please contact:
lebbeia@unhcr.org

Funding Challenges: The Health sector in Lebanon requires significant financial assistance to overcome this deep humanitarian, social, and economic crisis and to respond to the growing needs of vulnerable populations. The protracted nature of displacement, coupled with other crises, increased demand for public health care, Lebanese pound devaluation, global inflation, and the prioritization of other emergencies in the region, greatly affected the funding situation of the Health sector in Lebanon. Insufficient funding directly leads to reduced access and, consequently, increased morbidity and mortality. Health sector partners are stretched and obliged to prioritize life-saving interventions in high-risk areas across Lebanon, leaving behind less severe underfunded cases.

3. MID-YEAR REVIEW - KEY PRIORITIES/ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE DURATION OF 2023

As we conclude the third quarter of 2023, the Health sector operating under the LCRP has demonstrated unwavering commitment by maximizing efforts and leveraging resources to ensure equitable access to quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in the country. Despite grappling with multiple challenges, such as heightened demand and diminished resources, the sector remains committed to providing life-saving health services to displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese communities, PRS, PRL, and displaced individuals from other nationalities.

In outlining the sector's priorities for the remainder of 2023, the focus is on three key areas: primary healthcare, hospital care, and outbreak prevention and control.

Primary Healthcare:
Delivering a comprehensive package of primary healthcare in vulnerable areas takes on heightened significance. This is particularly crucial for the most vulnerable groups, including pregnant and lactating women, children under five, older individuals, and patients with chronic illnesses. By closely collaborating with partners whose support has been reduced, the sector aims to map out gap areas and advocate for covering these critical spaces. Failing to prioritize these interventions could result in increased risks of outbreaks, preventable hospitalizations, higher morbidity and mortality rates, and heightened vulnerability to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and exploitation.

Hospital Care
A pivotal aspect of the sector's priorities involves providing cost coverage support for lifesaving and limb-saving interventions in hospitals, targeting the most vulnerable individuals in need, irrespective of nationality. This approach is anticipated to significantly contribute to reducing mortality and morbidity rates while mitigating protection threats and tension. The priority of the sector is to enhance the feasibility of these efforts through the application of eligibility criteria and the establishment of acceptable tariffs for interventions, both in hospitals and for doctors.

Outbreak Prevention & Control
Given Lebanon's escalating vulnerability to communicable diseases amid ongoing complex crises, weakened water, sanitation, and health systems, alongside a shortage of human resources, the Health sector is prioritizing outbreak prevention & control for the remainder of 2023. The focus includes implementing enhanced surveillance systems, community engagement, strategic resource allocation, human resource mobilization, and strengthened collaboration with international partners. This proactive approach is essential to curb potential outbreaks, safeguard vulnerable populations, and ensure the effective delivery of crucial healthcare services during these challenging times.

As of the conclusion of September 2023, the Health sector is only 37% funded, significantly below the required level to meet the healthcare needs of vulnerable populations. Urgent action is imperative to bridge the funding gap and ensure the country is prepared to prevent and contain any potential outbreaks, addressing urgent gaps and guaranteeing that essential healthcare services reach those in dire need. Collaborative efforts from health sector partners and stakeholders are essential to safeguard the health and well-being of the vulnerable population during these challenging times.

Securing additional resources is paramount to ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare and mitigating the impact of ongoing crises on public health in Lebanon. Without additional resources, the sector will struggle to meet the expected results and targets set for the remainder of the year.

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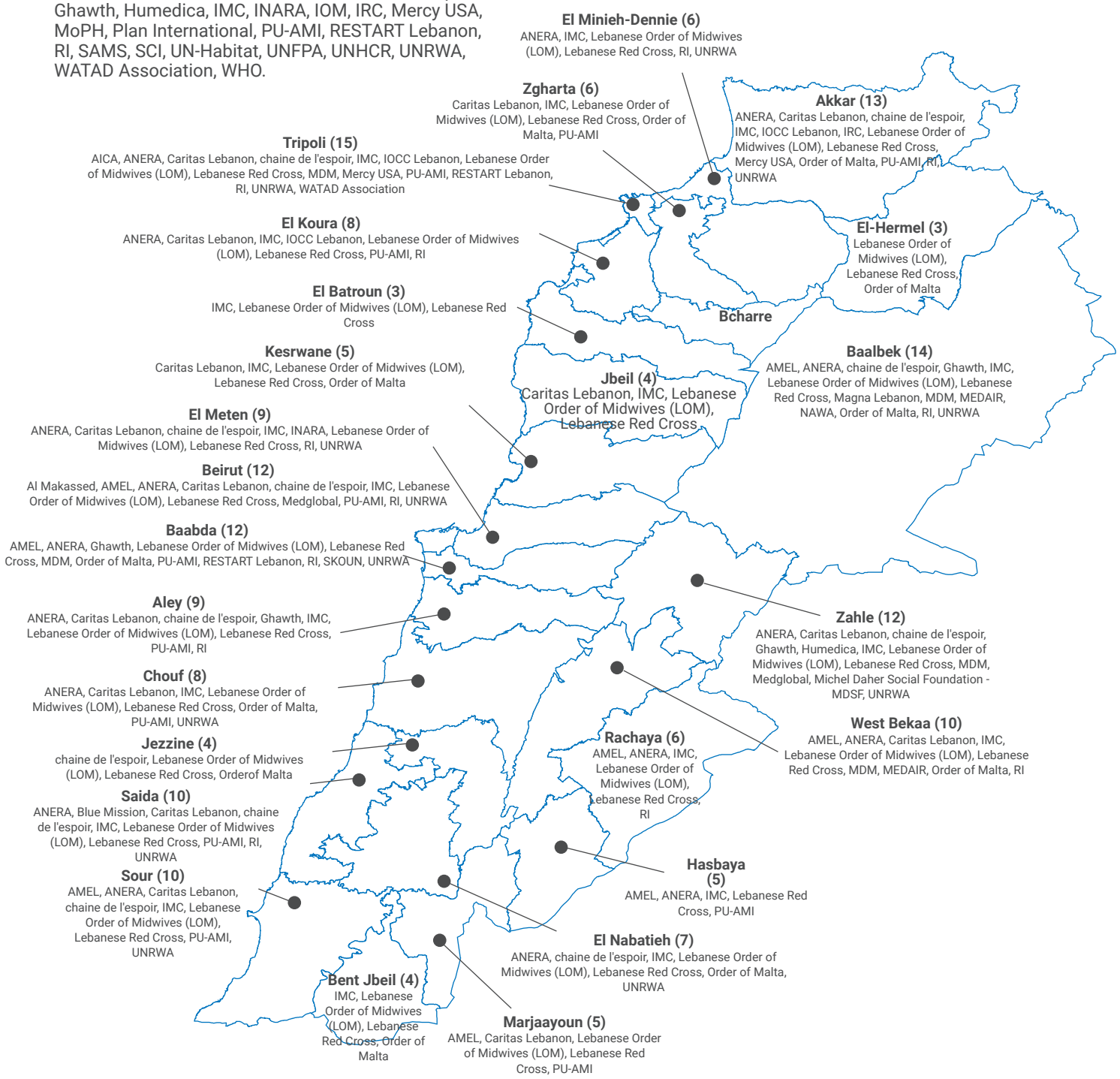
National (24)
Al Midan, ANERA, Caritas Lebanon, chaine de l'espoir, Ghawth, Humedica, IMC, INARA, IOM, IRC, Mercy USA, MoPH, Plan International, PU-AMI, RESTART Lebanon, RI, SAMS, SCI, UN-Habitat, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, WATAD Association, WHO.



All 38 organizations mentioned below are contributing to the achievement of Health Outcomes prioritized under the LCRP and reporting under ActivityInfo:
AICA, Al Makassed, Al Midan, AMEL, ANERA, Blue Mission, Caritas Lebanon, chaine de l'espoir, Ghawth, Humedica, IMC, INARA, IOCC Lebanon, IOM, IRC, Lebanese Order of Midwives (LOM), Lebanese Red Cross, Magna Lebanon, MDM, MEDAIR, Medglobal, Mercy USA, MoPH, Michel Daher Social Foundation - MDSF, NAWA, Order of Malta, Plan International, PU-AMI, RESTART Lebanon, RI, SAMS, SCI, SKOUN, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, WATAD Association, WHO

According to the Q2 2023 financial update, the top 10 donors to the health sector under the LCRP are listed below:
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PRIVATE DONORS, GERMANY, EUROPEAN UNION, Canada, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, CERF, NORWAY, JAPAN.

datasource: **Q3 2023 financial update**

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