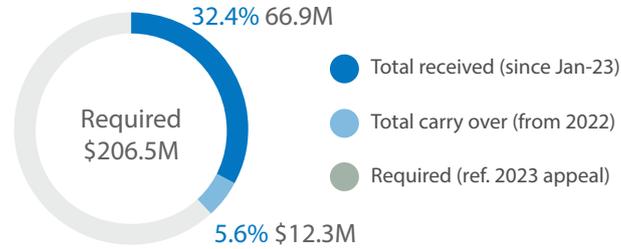




This dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Water Sector in Lebanon is working towards its expected outcome: more vulnerable people in Lebanon are accessing sufficient, safe water for drinking and domestic use with reduced health and environmental impacts from unsafe wastewater management.

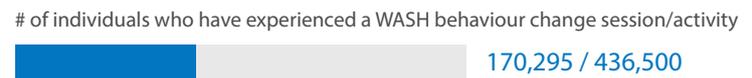
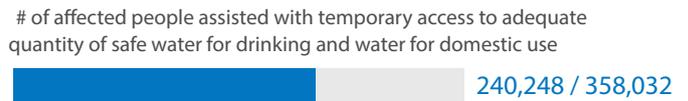
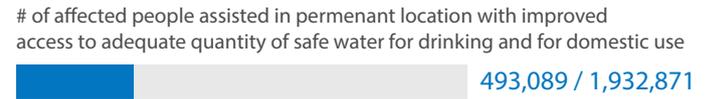
2023 Sector Funding Status

as of 30 Sep 2023

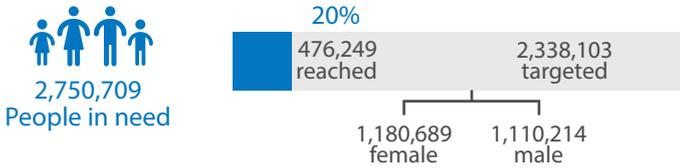


Progress against targets

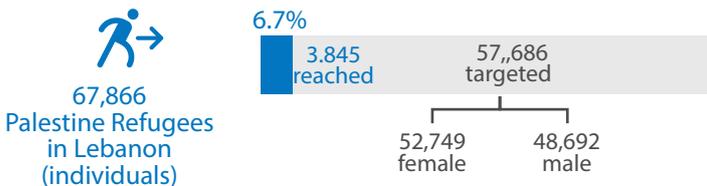
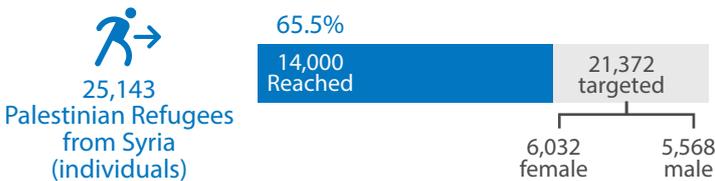
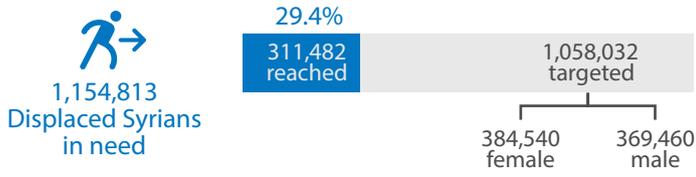
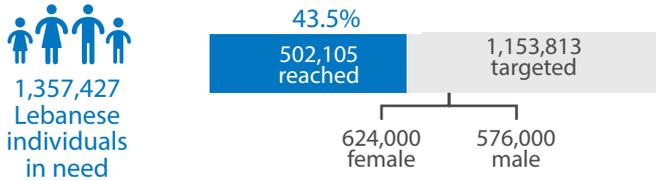
Key Achievements



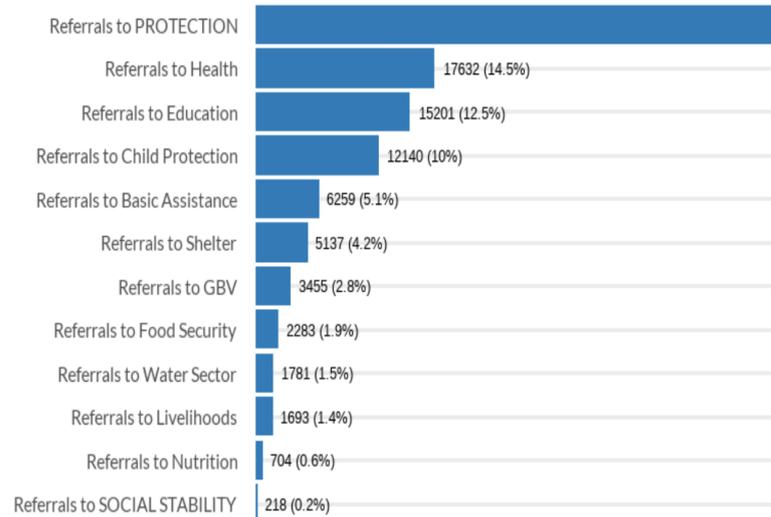
2023 population reached



2023 population figures by cohort



There have been 1,781 referrals to the Water Sector in 2023. This is 1.5 percent of the total referrals made in Lebanon (121,964).



Age/Gender Breakdown

men/women/boys/girls who have experienced a WASH behaviour change session/activity





MULTI-SECTORAL SITUATION UPDATE

The economic situation in Lebanon remains dire in the third quarter of 2023, resulting in significant challenges for individuals and families. In August 2023, the annual inflation rate recorded a 229.8 per cent increase compared to August 2022, the 38th consecutive month of hyperinflation since the beginning of the crisis. The cost of living, as measured by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which includes expenses for food, essential goods, and services, reached LBP 30,472,087 in July 2023, a slight increase from June and up by 142 per cent compared to the SMEB cost in January 2023. The average price of bottled water in Lebanon up to September 2023 has witnessed a remarkable 16 per cent increase in USD value and a 2598 per cent increase in Lebanese pound (LBP) value compared to the prices in January 2021. Similarly, water trucking costs have soared dramatically, with a significant 297 per cent increase in USD value and 1665 per cent increase in LBP value over the same period. These soaring prices highlight the acute economic challenges faced by the population. In August 2023 alone, there was a significant price spike, with bottled water prices rising by 54 per cent in USD value and 57 per cent in Lebanese pound value, and water trucking prices increasing by 26 per cent in USD value and 29 per cent in Lebanese pound value. These steep price increases pose substantial challenges to access clean water in Lebanon. At the beginning of Q3, a temporary decrease in raids undertaken by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) targeting displaced Syrians in informal settlements was witnessed compared to Q2. However, a shrinking protection space was observed in August and September with an increase in raids in Bekaa, movement restrictions and an uptick in border pushbacks. On 12 September, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM) addressed another circular to all Governors in Lebanon, to be further disseminated to municipalities and Mokhtars, regarding the presence of displaced Syrians. The circular included instructions to, inter-alia, conduct a data survey of displaced

Syrians, report suspicious movements and gatherings of displaced Syrians and to request from all organizations, especially foreign ones, to coordinate their activities with the ministries, municipalities, and military and security agencies. Restrictions of movements including through curfews and searches at check points as well as confiscation of items such as internet routers, solar panels, and motorbikes were reported significantly impacting the feeling of safety and security and psychological wellbeing of displaced Syrians. The fear of deportation because of lacking legal residency was particularly reported by men, resulting in their limitations of movement and an increase of engagement of women and children in labour activities, accumulation of debts and other harmful coping mechanisms. In Q3, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) partners continued to observe rising trends in women and girls being exploited and exposed to sexual harassment and assault when working in farms and as domestic workers or in the streets. A spike in anti-gender rhetoric was observed resulting in a shrinking space to advocate for women's rights, diversity, and gender-based violence prevention and response programs.

As of July, inter-communal relations in Lebanon eased slightly after having experienced a peak in negative sentiments in the first and second quarter of 2023. Some 34 per cent of respondents now report negative inter-communal relations as compared to 46 per cent in March 2023 as per the UNDP-ARK Perception Survey. The main tension drivers continue to be economic such as competition for lower-skilled jobs and services such as electricity, healthcare, and waste management. Relations between Lebanese on the other hand have slightly deteriorated with 34 per cent rating intra-Lebanese relations as negative, compared to 21 per cent in March 2023. For the first time ever, economic competition was quoted as the main tension driver among Lebanese (58%), followed by political and sectarian conflict (51%).

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Progress in the water sector by the end of Q3 2023 has been significant. The collaborative efforts of various Task Forces established by the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) continue to work on the implementation of the 5-year Recovery plan. These task forces, including Water Source Monitoring, Updating Customer Database, Collaboration with Municipalities, Solarization and Energy Management, Water Quality, Non-Revenue Water, Support of Water Establishments' Staffing, Wastewater, and Digitalization, remain actively engaged in their respective areas. Additionally, the WaSH sector is continuously updating and maintaining vital information about pumping stations on behalf of the Ministry of Energy and Water to ensure preparedness and efficiency. The outputs from these Task Forces are expected to contribute significantly to Strengthening institutional governance. Additionally, depending on the specific objectives of each task force, their outcomes may also make a substantial impact on other sector outputs (1.2, 2.1, and 2.2), in line with the updated National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS) and the five-year recovery plan of the Water Sector introduced in mid-2022. During Q3 2023, AFD Technical Assistance, UNICEF, and various non-governmental organizations have seconded 14 technical staff to all regional Water Establishments. Seconded engineers are playing a vital role in supporting the operation of Water Establishments during this critical time, actively contributing to tasks such as data management.

For Output 2.1, which focuses on providing access to adequate quantities of safe water for drinking and domestic use in temporary locations, progress stands at 67 per cent of the target with more than 240,000 individuals having received support. The slightly lower reach, compared to Q3 of last year (288,000 individuals, 78% of the target), is primarily attributed to the funding constraints currently affecting the sector's programs in temporary locations. In permanent locations, support continues to reduce reliance on the public electrical grid and fossil fuels as primary energy sources. Stabilization projects are

underway, benefiting all population groups. Since the beginning of this year, eight WaSH sector partners have reported 38 planned, ongoing, or completed activities supporting 28 pumping stations, benefiting approximately 424,000 people with water in their houses. These activities include the installation of 1,885 kW of photovoltaic panels in different locations, with additional projects expected to be completed by the end of 2023. The sector has also supported four regional Water Establishments through the operation and maintenance program for water supply systems. By the end of Q3 2023, more than 425 repairs across the country have been conducted, ensuring the delivery of around 350,000 cubic meters of water per day to over 2.5 million people. The repair of 122 chlorination systems maintained proper treatment of nearly 391,000 cubic meters per day and supplied safe water to approximately 1.6 million people. Finally, the chlorine stock for all four Water Establishments has been replenished with more than 100 tons of chlorine.

In terms of improving access to sanitation and safely managed wastewater services for the most vulnerable people (Output 2.2), in temporary locations the progress stands at approximately 84 percent of the target with 226,786 individuals receiving support with desludging, toilet rehabilitation, and maintenance of sanitation facilities. Over 290,000 cubic meters of sludge have been removed from informal settlements and safely disposed of in wastewater treatment plants. In permanent locations, the UNICEF program continues to support three wastewater systems, with plans to initiate support for eight more wastewater treatment plants in Q4 2023.

In the area of WaSH behavior change sessions and activities including menstrual hygiene activities (Output 2.3), approximately 170,295 individuals have participated, reaching about 39 percent of the sector's target. This includes 23,679 boys, 36,957 men, 30,148 girls, and 79,511 women.



Referrals Trends & Mainstreaming

There have been 1,781 referrals to the Water Sector in 2023. This is 1.5 percent of the total referrals made in Lebanon (121,964).

Mainstreaming Activities:

The third quarter showcased substantial progress in mainstreaming gender equity and enhanced conflict sensitivity. The Gender Working Group organized training of trainer (ToT) on Gender in Humanitarian Action (GIHA) for the WaSH Sector focal point. As a delivery from the training the gender focal point supported the revision and adaptation of the sector annual work plan on Gender.

In Collaboration with UNFPA, the sector developed and disseminated comprehensive Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) guidelines, promoting menstrual hygiene and health awareness as a fundamental aspect of the sector's humanitarian efforts.

Finally, the Conflict Sensitivity task forces presented findings from the Tension Monitoring system, with a focus on water-related issues at the subnational level. This provided more insights to the sector partners on tensions resulting from these issues which should be taken into consideration when planning future interventions.

KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

The risk of an outbreak of Cholera and other waterborne diseases remains concerning. The challenging circumstances, including funding limitations within the ISs sites and the limited capacity of Water Establishments to effectively operate water and sanitation systems, have heightened the vulnerability to waterborne diseases. As we enter the waterborne disease season, the collective efforts of sector partners during Q2 have focused on enhancing preparedness and response mechanisms at the sub-national level. These efforts have included the sharing of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Case Area Targeted Interventions (CATI) and the strategic prepositioning of hygiene kits under the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) to ensure swift responses to initial cases. This proactive approach aims to mitigate the potential impact of waterborne diseases and protect the health and well-being of the affected populations.

The escalation of conflicts in Ain Helwe refugee camp, leading to the displacement of over 2,000 individuals. In response to this urgent

humanitarian situation, UNRWA, in close coordination with WaSH partners and OCHA, mobilized immediate assistance efforts. Hygiene kit distributions, water trucking operations, and prioritized sanitation services were swiftly implemented to address the pressing needs of the affected families during this tumultuous period.

Another key challenge for the Sector is the severe funding constraints in temporary locations. Next year, we anticipate that funding for the sector may plummet to as low as 40% of the current level, which is already insufficient to meet the needs. This funding gap is exacerbated by the current political situation, which restricts our ability to explore more cost-effective solutions for informal settlements.

To respond to the funding challenges, the sector will prioritize the organization of a collaborative dialogue involving various stakeholders, such as Ministries, Inter Agency groups, Donors, and WaSH Partners, to collectively address funding challenges and explore potential solutions for supporting operations in temporary locations.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER

In the fourth quarter, the water and sanitation sector's key priorities include the analysis of assessment data released in Q3 from MSNA and VaSYR at the district level. Additionally, ongoing data collection on WATSAN vulnerability and solar potential by WaSH partners is crucial. A comprehensive analysis of vulnerability data will inform targeted

responses in 2024. The sector also emphasizes maintaining close collaboration with the tension task force to identify critical areas for water-related tensions in Lebanon. These strategic initiatives underscore the sector's commitment to informed decision-making and sustained progress.

Reporting Partners by Q3 2023

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following organizations: UNICEF, ACF Spain, ACTED, ADRA, AMEL, ANERA, ARCS, AVSI, Alpha, Borderless, DPNA, DRC, ICRC, IMC, IOM, Intersos, IR Lebanon, IRC, ISWA, Leb Relief, Lost, Mada, Nabad, NRC, Oxfam, RMF, Sawa Group, Save the Children, Solidarites International, SBT and World Vission.

