



2023 3rd QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD

Protection including Child Protection and GBV

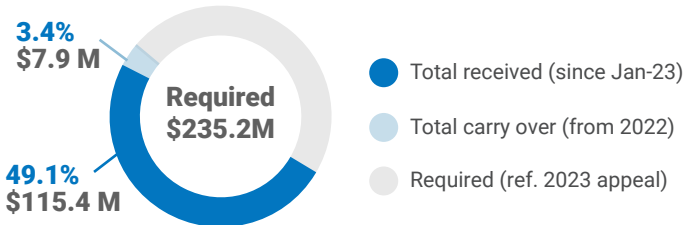


Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

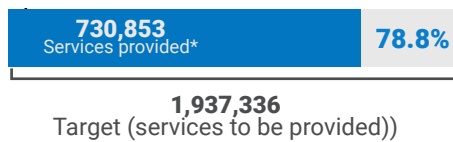
This dashboard summarizes progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Protection sector in Lebanon aims to achieve the following results: OUTCOME 1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and access to an effective justice and protection system ; OUTCOME 2: Women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity are safe, empowered and supported in their communities ; OUTCOME 3: Women, girls, men and boys in all their diversity live with dignity and are resilient to shocks.

2023 Sector Funding Status

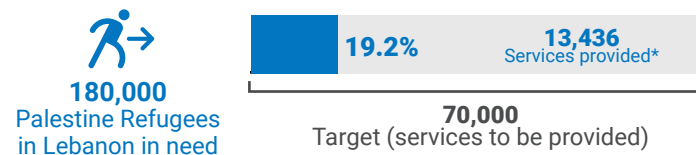
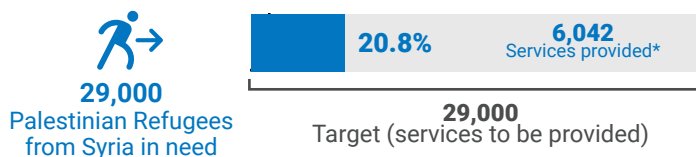
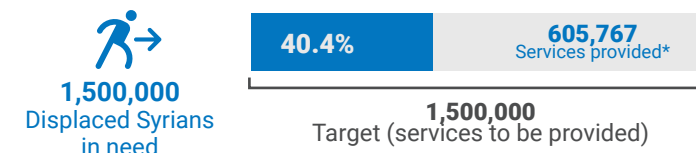
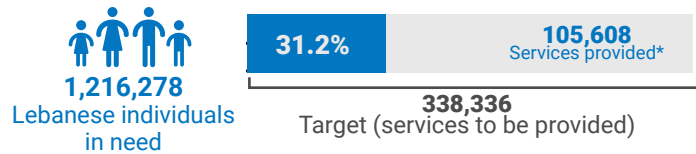
As of 07 November 2023



2023 population reached



2023 population figures by cohort



*To be noted that one person can benefit from several services

Progress Against Targets

Key Achievements

Protection

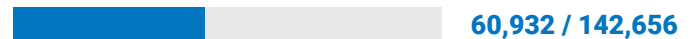
of persons who benefitted from counseling, legal assistance, and legal representation regarding legal stay.



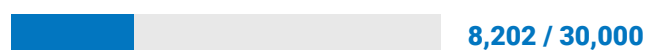
of households who benefitted from counseling, legal assistance, and legal representation regarding civil registration including birth registration, marriage, divorce and death



of unique persons participating in community centers and SDCs (includes mobile activities done outside the center)



of persons receiving protection case management (PCM).



of persons with disability and older persons receiving individual specialized rehabilitation cohort.

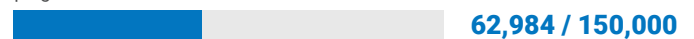


of children and adults reached through awareness raising activities and community mobilisation interventions on PSEA. ²

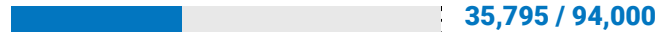


Gender-Based Violence

of women, girls, men and boys who participate in targeted gender equality and empowerment activities in safe spaces or at community level as part of GBV prevention programs



of women and girls accessing safe spaces

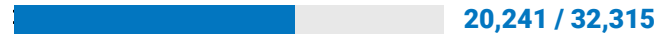


Child Protection

of caregivers engaged in activities to promote well-being and protection of children



of girls and boys and caregivers receiving specialized/focused psychosocial support¹



of girls, boys engaged in community-based Child Protection activities



¹ Children receiving more than one service may be counted more than once

² This is a cross cutting indicator, includes Child Protection & Gender-Based Violence

Partners

61 contributing partners: ABAAD, ACTED, AMEL, AND, ARCPA, Borderless, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CESVI, CLDH, CONCERN, COOPI, DRC, HAND, Handicap International, HelpAge, Himaya, I m possible, Imam Sadr Foundation, IMC, Intersos, IOCC Lebanon, IRC, JRS, KAFA, Key of Life, LAW, LECORVAW, LOST, Magna Lebanon, Makhzoumi, MECC, Michel Daher Social Foundation - MDSF, Mouvement Social, Nabad, Near East Foundation, NRC, OXFAM, Plan International, PU-AMI, Rahma Association, RDFL, RI, RMF, SAWA Group, SCI, SFCG, SHEILD, SIF, Tabitha-Dorcas, TdH-It, TdH-L, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, UPEL, WCH, WRF, WVI, YNCA

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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. The price of services paid monthly have also increased substantially since Q1 2023, with internet rising from an average of \$4.64 in Q1 to \$8.53 in Q3, and phone plans rising from \$4.01 (Q1) to \$6.16 (Q3) (source: Protection Monitoring). The average monthly rent has increased from \$49.52 (Q1) to \$77.48 (Q3).

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. Confiscation of means of transportation as an existing penalty for not abiding by restrictive measures was reported at a rate of 13.4% in Q3 compared to 2.2% in Q2 (source – Protection Monitoring). In Q3 there was a spike in El Nabatiyeh of “unlawful and/or discriminatory taxes or fees”, 10.6% in Q3, up from 4% in Q2 – this type of restrictive measure is not reported in other governorates (source- Protection Monitoring). 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%).

1. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Access to rights and legal remedies: Output 1.1 Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have access to information on their rights and legal procedures.

Protection: Since the beginning of the year, **236,748 individuals have benefitted from legal awareness sessions, counselling, legal assistance, and representation** in relation to legal residency, civil status documentation, housing land and property rights (HLP) counselling. Awareness on legal services provided by protection sector partners resulted in increased access to legal counselling on a range of matters including legal residency, counselling of family members of detainees, counselling for persons at risk of deportation, or other matters surpassing the sector’s annual target (in Q3 reach: 175% of annual target). As outlined in the summary above, Q2 and Q3 saw a tightening in the protection space for displaced Syrians with the implementation of several administrative instructions and increased restrictive measures. Those included curfews, raids, confiscation of items and property such as routers, motorbikes, solar panels and other equipment which have further resulted in an increased request

for legal counselling, particularly in Beirut Mount Lebanon (BML) and Bekaa governorates. Municipal registration exercises have continued in parts of the country. Limited institutional capacity at the Personal Status Department hinders access to birth registration in Bekaa and BML. In BML, Baabda Center, partners are being able to processes fewer cases having severe impact on their services. In the South, implications for not registering reported by refugees include confiscation of IDs, request to pay service fees, concerns that bio-data will be shared with the government for deportation purposes, refugees move to other locations to avoid registration. Cases of confiscated IDs have been referred to UNHCR legal team for follow up and legal counselling. In turn, this resulted in a comparatively lower achievement for legal aid provision for HLP (35.5% annual target) and civil status documentation (48% annual target).

Gender Based Violence: legal counselling specifically tailored to the needs of survivors and those at risk of gender-based violence has **continued to be a critical intervention to empower survivors of GBV to take informed decisions** including on



procedures of divorce, separation and custody disputes. Since the beginning of 2023, a total of **2,311 individuals (94% women and girls and 6% men and boys) were supported with legal counselling and representation on issues specific to GBV** which presents. With increased restrictive measures in Q2 and Q3, legal partners indicated the link between the lack of access to residency, arrest, deportation threats and the overall depletion of the socioeconomic situation and the increase in spouses approaching for marital disputes or counselling on divorce procedures. GBV partners also indicated that with the growing socioeconomic crisis, spouses face separation and marital conflicts over resources which often result in divorce. This trend was also reported by women who shared that due to lack of ability to support their households, men would leave the family in search for work and lack of ability to address the needs of the family. In addition, women have also reported an increased exposure to sexual assault and harassment due to their heightened exposure to public spaces as men became increasingly careful to leave the house in fear of arrest and other security measures. **Limited availability and access to the law enforcement and justice sector impacting survivors' ability to effectively report gender-based violence incidents** ensuring perpetrators of GBV are held accountable for crimes committed.

Community-based protection, empowerment and Prevention programs: Output 2.1: Women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity are safe, empowered and supported in their communities

Protection: Since the beginning of 2023, **242,221 women, men, girls and boys participated in community-based activities, including those held at community centers** (78% Syrian; 20% Lebanese) where **174,944 persons** benefitted from information sessions on access to services (89% Syrian; 9% Lebanese). **6,345 trained community** focal points supported their community in providing information on lifesaving services and referrals to specialized agencies. However, Q3 witnessed a reduction in attendance to centre-based activities with partners reporting low attendance at group sessions in community centres. Partners raised concerns over suspended sessions due to limited attendance of displaced Syrians caused by curfews imposed by municipalities, self-imposed restrictions of movements to avoid arrest and deportation as well as high fuel prices and transportation costs that required reprioritization of resources.

In Q3, the sector held a **one-day learning event to discuss the prioritization of critical community-based interventions and unpack key challenges partners are experiencing in provision of CBP interventions** related to ensuring sustainability, inclusion of older persons and persons with disabilities and measuring and communicating impact. An outcome report from this event was shared with partners and other sectors for cross-sectoral validation. In Q4, inputs from sectors including a list of community-based good-practice interventions will be collected and the final version of the report will be shared across sectors serving as a roadmap to improve community-based responses for the development of the 2024 strategy.

Gender-based violence prevention programs and engagement of men and boys: women and girls' safe spaces are run by partners across the country providing spaces for socializing, recreation, learning, sharing and disclosing GBV incidents to access psychosocial support and specialized case management services. **In Q3, 62,984 women, girls, men and boys participated in targeted gender quality and empowerment activities** that addressed root causes for gender discrimination and inequality and violence against women and girls.

Concerningly, Q3 witnessed a **shrinking space for GBV and Gender programs** with a steep uptick in **negative rhetoric against women empowerment, gender equality and respect for diversity**. Gender and GBV programs and actors were publicly attacked in the media and through attacks of spaces known to promote gender diversity, empowerment and women rights services including reproductive health services and other recreational and PSS activities for women and girls. Community leaders, religious actors and community members requested review of curricula and attendance to partner activities putting pressure on organizations providing gender and GBV services resulting in amendments to work modalities in fear of suspension and safety risks. In addition, reference to gender and GBV was amended by some state actors and ministries to be revised to violence against women and girls which presents a regressive gender awareness.

Community-based Child Protection: engaging the community and caregivers is crucial for ensuring the protection of children in society and families. In Q3, community-based child protection activities reached a total of **9,246 children (4,748 girls and 4,498 boys) making a total of 27,275** (girls 14,225 and boys 13,050) children against the annual target 83,182. This is in addition to **4,815 caregivers supported in Q3 to promote their children's wellbeing and protection with positive parenting sessions and counselling** reaching a cumulative total since the beginning of the year of 11,526 caregivers (annual target of 33,528). Furthermore, **79 social and behavioural change communication initiatives** were implemented, a total of 273 initiatives in the first three quarters against the annual target of 450. These initiatives target Child Protection duty bearers, i.e. municipalities, landowners, employers, religious leaders and Community-based Organizations with the aim to challenge harmful social and behavioural practices that lead to violations of child rights and to prevent child marriage, child labour and violence against children and women in communities.

Response to protection incidents and individual case support: Output 3.1 Women, girls, men and boys in all their diversity live with dignity and are resilient to shocks.

Protection: In 2023, 38,474 women, men, girls and boys at risk have received individual tailored protection services these include protection case management (18% annual target), protection cash (35% annual target), individual rehabilitation services (45% annual target) and individual and group structured and non-structured mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) (2% annual target). There is an equal number of women and men receiving these services. Of note is the uptick in Lebanese (42% of total reached) and Palestine refugees from Lebanon (6% of total reached) who are older persons or persons with disabilities receiving individual rehabilitation services. This increase aligns with the notable impact the socio-economic crisis has had for these individuals across population groups who have had their care arrangements significantly impacted. In Q2, the protection sector supported the finalisation of the 'In-Focus on Persons with Disabilities' which examines the impact of the crisis and sets out clear recommendations for key stakeholders on how to improve response at national, development and humanitarian levels.

Child Protection: In quarter two CP case management and specialized services reached a total of 3,130 children (girls 1,127 and boys 2,003), making a total of 6,585 by the end of Q2 (girls 2,371 and boys 4,214) out of the annual target 13,481. Additionally, specialized/focused psychosocial support (PSS) was provided to 8,429 girls, boys and caregivers making a total of 13,774 by the end of Q2 (girls 6,581, boys 5,456 and caregivers 1,737) out of the annual target 32,316.



Response services to gender-based violence: Since the beginning of the year, 23,094 persons (25% of the annual target) were supported with GBV case management, focused and non-focused PSS such as peer support groups and cash assistance in safe spaces in the country addressing individual risks. In line with data from the GBV IMS, 95 % of those accessing safe spaces are women and girls while 5 % include men and boys requesting individual support to address GBV risks. Challenges in reaching the mid-year target of individuals in need of GBV services include limitations in paying transportation costs, restrictions of family members and intimate partners to access safe spaces, municipal restrictions to operate GBV services in some areas, as well as socioeconomic constraints that require

survivors to re-prioritize their expenditures.

With the aim to enhance the quality and monitoring of GBV case management services, the GBV WG finalized the Lebanon GBV WG Client Feedback Survey to be used as a standard tool by all working group members available in English and Arabic. Through the tool, agencies enhance accountability standards to those accessing GBV services while enabling sector members to continuously enhance the quality of case management programs and measure impact of services provided. Through client feedback surveys, GBV partners have increasingly monitored the quality of GBV services with 98 % of all survivors expressing their satisfaction with services provided.

Referral trends: In 2023, Protection, GBV and Child Protection partners received **58.3% of all referrals** conducted between agencies in 2023 amounting to **71,056 individuals referred for Protection/ CP and GBV services**. For protection partners, the highest number of referrals was received in the Bekaa (19,660 individuals, 35.4% of all referrals), followed by Mount Lebanon (13,208 individuals, 23.8% all referrals) in line with partner reports on protection risks in those areas, including raids and arrests. Similar to Q2, there was a slight increase in the acceptance of referrals by partners in Q3, with a rate of 41.4%. Positively, there was a decrease in the percentage of referrals with no feedback, from 23% in Q2 to 20.7% in Q3. However, additional training is required in Q4 to address the comparatively high number of referrals of cases requesting cash support to address their basic needs to protection actors which contain the majority of cases unanswered due to lack eligibility.

As part of the sector work plan, a **review of Protection Case Management procedures** was undertaken with a draft SOP developed by the Protection Case Management Task Force. A **workshop bringing together members of the Task Force was held to review the current procedures for case management prioritization of protection cases**. The SOPs present a change from the previous prioritization of specific groups at heightened risk, such as Women at Risk, Older Persons at Risk, Persons living with Disability to a shift aiming towards a comprehensive protection analysis that combines protection risks within the environment as well as the strengths the individual holds. The SOPs will be finalized in Q4 for use and roll-out by 2024.

Ein El Helweh Situation: in the South of Lebanon, clashes between political factions in Ein Al Helweh camp erupted on the 30th of July, resulting in the wide-spread displacement of women, men and children from conflict-affected areas to UNRWA installations, community buildings and relatives inside and outside the camp. UNRWA with support from OCHA led the inter-agency response to the displacement crisis with Protection Sector partners extending support and services in support to existing UNRWA services. The Protection sector participated in a shelter assessment to assess risks and needs of the displaced particularly outside UNRWA facilities. In locations such as Saida town, some interventions inside and outside the camp were disrupted including legal services with the closure of public institutions during the conflict and prevention and response activities at community centers. By mid-August, and following a ceasefire, emergency shelters were closed after relocation of displaced to UNRWA facilities. In parallel, most interventions were resumed. Protection partners, particularly local partners, continue to monitor the situation and to provide Child Protection, GBV and Protection case management, MHPSS services particularly for children and ensuring identification and referral for essential needs to address needs and the impact on their wellbeing beyond the displacement situation.

Mainstreaming activities: in Q3, **efforts to mainstream protection principles and enhance cross-sectoral approaches have been intensified**. As part of the August Protection Working Group, a **joint discussion with the Livelihood sector** was initiated to foster integrated protection programming into livelihood interventions. The discussion evolved around addressing the additional barrier to self-reliance for persons with specific needs and a **request to prioritize their referrals to livelihood opportunities**. Groups facing additional barriers include individuals and households comprising individuals with disabilities, caregivers of children engaged in child labour or child marriage, single women at heightened risk living without support, and survivors of gender-based violence. This involves incorporating disability-inclusive adaptations into livelihood programs based on lessons-learned, especially for those with moderate disabilities. To facilitate this, **basic guidelines will be developed to livelihood partners, encompassing adapted job descriptions and types of cash-for-work programs**, with vigilant oversight from protection partners. Advocacy efforts are directed towards securing multi-year funding for targeted livelihood programs, focusing on individuals with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual disabilities, and women at risk. Additionally, there is a push for livelihood actors to share market-based assessments with protection partners to align existing skills with partner caseloads and for community-based protection partners to deliver pertinent skills training sessions in centres. Looking ahead to 2024, there is a proposal to develop a joint livelihood and protection indicator.

Gender and GBV mainstreaming: In October, the **training material for the ToT for selected sector Gender and GBV FPs was finalized and the training was rolled out at the beginning of October**. A pool of 11 trainers actively involved in the different humanitarian sectors was established who will develop tipsheets for their sectors, roll-out gender and GBV mainstreaming trainings and support the revision of gender and GBV related actions into sector plans and strategies. In support of the trainers, the core trainers will co-facilitate the sector trainings taking place between October and February 2024.



2. KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR

- Limited funding of Sector Activities: by the end of Q3, the protection sector is 48% per cent funded and challenges remain the same for partners' planning and implementation and reaching needs-based targets. As a result, annual targets for community-based protection, case management and MHPSS were not met and protection partners resort to lack of ability to provide specialized services to all persons/ children and survivors of GBV in need (prioritizing cases at heightened risk).
- Shrinking protection space for displaced Syrians characterized by arrests, raids, border patrolling and individual deportations and significant uptick in border pushbacks (by LAF mainly in Wadi Khaled) has created increased fear and self-restriction in movements for Syrians displaced. Despite a slight progress between Q2 and Q3 in refugees' access to services, refugees continue to exhibit a fear of arrest, resulting in self-imposed movement restrictions and reduced attendance in community centers and some non-formal education sessions due to the restrictive measures which continued to be applied across municipalities in the different governorates through new or higher municipal fees, wide-spread registration of Syrian refugees by municipalities, and requests to refugees to regularize their legal residency or face threat of eviction or deportation. In response, protection partners implemented interventions to reduce situations leading to refugee gatherings, established adaptive plans to safely continue their work, and legal actors prioritized resources for legal aid concerning residency over other legal topics.
- Delays in issuance of processing and issuance of legal residency by the GSO and increasing requests for support in legal residency counselling despite limited resources. Additional challenging requirement (housing attestation from mukhtars) and delays in processing and issuance of legal residency by GSO. The increasing requests for support in legal residency continued in Q3 despite limited resources.
- Limited institutional capacity at personal status department continued to pose challenges to civil documentation including birth and marriage registration mainly in the in Bekaa and BML areas.
- Limited availability and access to the law enforcement and justice sector impacting survivors' ability to effectively report gender-based violence incidents ensuring perpetrators of GBV are held accountable for crimes committed.
- Crises-related risk factors for child abuse/neglect and juvenile delinquency represent additional challenges to pre-existing risk factors such as the lack of learning opportunities or poor social welfare; and are likely to exacerbate the latter. Children exposed to child labour and/or living/ working in the street remains the most prominent child protection issue reported by CP partners and is continuously on an increase due to the deterioration of the socioeconomic situation of caregivers. Deteriorating levels of psychological distress and mental health concerns have also been reported, in particular a higher number of cases involved in substance use that is also a contributing factor increasing risks of GBV and children getting into contact/ conflict with the justice system. There are also increased instances of children's exposure to cybercrimes because of increasing number of hours that children spend online, and sometimes with little or no parental supervision.
- Shrinking gender and GBV space has impacted negatively on gender and GBV programs, resulted in closure of centers and remote work modalities of staff in fear of repercussions. Regressive gender attitudes at public level and in private spheres have contributed to and nurtured GBV.

3. KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER

In Q4, the protection sector's main priorities include:

- Review of VASYR data for the development of a comprehensive and evidence-based protection strategy under the Lebanon Response Plan for 2024;
- Enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration and protection mainstreaming: as part of the annual work plan, further engagement, review of cross-sectoral plans and support to Gender and GBV mainstreaming trainings will be implemented by sector lead agencies and partners; in order to address an increase of violence in school incidents, CPWG intensified its child wellbeing efforts jointly with Education Sector to ensure the protective environment for children in schools. For that end, representatives of MEHE DOPs were invited to attend CPWG meetings at national and sub-national levels and present the established reporting mechanisms and procedures.
- Community-based protection and engagement with CBOs and WLOs: the sector will enhance its engagement with local NGOs, CSOs and Women led Organizations to engage them into the coordination platforms at national and subnational level.
- Funding for specialized programs including additional case management staffing, inclusion of MHPSS into protection/ CP and GBV programs;
- Support advocacy strategies by local actors in support to reduce and mitigate negative gender rhetoric and impact on GBV programs.



Partner Presence by Governorate

