



The 2024 Annual Protection sector dashboard summarizes the progress made by Protection sector partners involved in the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP), identifies key challenges and priorities, and highlights trends affecting people in need. The protection sector in Lebanon is working to strengthen access of affected people to their fundamental rights through contributing to an effective justice and protection system; enable community resilience and empowerment; ensure sectoral accountability and provide life-saving response and specialized services for those at heightened risk.

The Lebanon Response Plan is pending endorsement by the LRP Steering Committee. This dashboard is based on information reported by Protection sector partners operating under the sector strategy.

2024 Sector Funding Status

As of 30 June

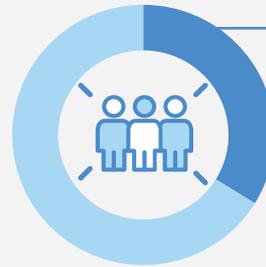
\$207M
Required



16.5% **\$34.2M**
Total received
(since Jan-24)
4.7% **\$9.8M**
Total carry over
(from 2023)
78.8%
Required
(ref. 2024 appeal)

2024 Population Reached

3,179,911
People in Need



533,904 **33.8%**
Reached
1,579,467
Targeted
Male **767,115**
Female **812,351**

2024 Population Figures by Cohort

1,403,587
Lebanese
individuals in need



153,826 **41%**
Reached
371,537
Targeted
Male **182,053**
Female **189,484**

1,500,000
Displaced
Syrians in need



532,629 **49%**
Reached
1,086,998
Targeted
Male **532,629**
Female **554,369**

23,026
Palestinian
Refugees from
Syria (individuals)
in need



20,680 **91%**
Reached
22,625
Targeted
Male **11,086**
Female **11,539**

180,000
Palestine
Refugees in
Lebanon
(individuals)
in need



8,216 **19%**
Reached
43,290
Targeted
Male **21,212**
Female **22,078**

73,289
Migrants
(individuals)
in need



8,066 **18%**
Reached
42,647
Targeted
Male **14,074**
Female **28,573**

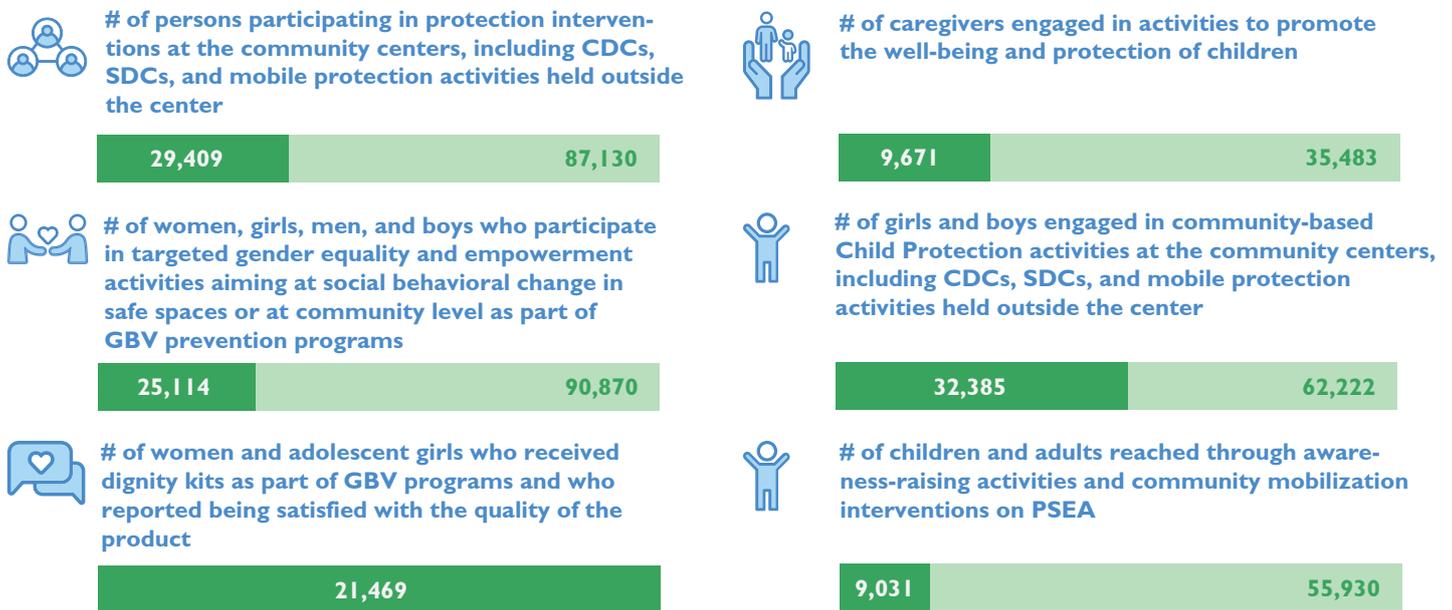


Progress Against Targets

Outcome 1: Individuals at heightened risk from all affected populations in all their diversity, including age, gender, and disability, have their fundamental rights respected and have access to an effective justice and protection system.



Outcome 2: Individuals at heightened risk from all affected populations in all their diversity, including age, gender, and disability, are safe, supported, and empowered in their community to contribute to positive change.



Outcome 3: Individuals from all affected populations in all their diversity, including age, gender, and disability, at heightened risk have safe, inclusive, and targeted access to specialized protection services and are resilient to shocks.





Key Achievements of the Sector at the Output Level

During the first six months of 2024, the Protection sector, including legal, community-based, child protection and gender-based violence activities reached a total of 533,903 people across populations and including CP and GBV reaching 34% of the total target with a slight increase compared to last year. This presents a similar reach for the same period of last year where the sector reached 506,512 people in Q2. Displaced Syrians make the majority (63%) of beneficiaries reached with protection activities noting a significant increase in reach for Lebanese in 2024 with almost 30% of all beneficiaries compared to 16% Lebanese in 2023). Due to the prevailing protection situation, Syrian nationals are main beneficiaries of legal assistance, including legal residency. However, in 2024, the number of Lebanese beneficiaries accessing community-based programs, psychosocial support as well as comprehensive case management and cash for protection programs increased.

Outcome area I on Protection and legal framework including access to legal and protection services

Output I.1: Individuals at heightened risk from all affected populations in all their diversity including age, gender and disability have increased knowledge on their rights and have access to effective legal aid services including counseling, assistance and representation.

As an ongoing 2024 development, Q2 witnessed a further shrinking of the protection space for Syrian nationals and other vulnerable groups. The murder of the Lebanese Forces member in April 2024 triggered a deterioration of social relations and inter-communal tension.

Access to legal residency was further restricted, compounded with the increase in legal residency fees became a significant barrier to secure a legal stay in Lebanon. This is also characterised by an increase in collective and individual eviction incidents monitored at field level. In 2024, a total of 128 evictions or eviction threats were recorded affecting 4,653 HH or 23,375 individuals. While incidents of eviction threats and actual evictions stood at 10,12,11 for January, February and March 2024, a steep increase was observed in Q2 where incidents per month tripled reaching 30 collective incidents in April, 31 in May and 29 in June.

With a tightening protection space for Syrians, legal awareness, counselling and assistance has been critical and in increasing demand by displaced Syrians. Since the beginning of the year, **50,037** (58% women, 42% men) **people were reached through awareness sessions on legal topics with people** reaching 31% of the annual target while 56,116 individuals (54% women, 46% men) benefitted from legal services on topics related to legal residency (40%), civil documentation (36%), Housing, Land and Property (HLP) (12%), labour, and detention (12%), reaching 32% of the total target for 2024.

Out of the 22,651 cases receiving legal aid assistance only **1,144** obtained their legal residency and only **2,819** cases out of the **21,317** were able to register their life events at the Nofous level, including births and marriage. GBV and legal actors provided counselling, legal assistance and representation to a total of **1,498** cases since the beginning of the year. Compared to 2023 Mid-year report, in 2024 some **30% decrease of the total target in this output is recorded.**

In Q2, Lebanese authorities issued series of instructions and memos, fortifying existing instructions that have aggravated barriers to regularise legal stay and access to national legal services. Following the revision of the published budget draft by the Lebanese parliament in February 2024, the new budget law introduced **significant tax amendments and a substantial increase in legal fees** including the ones for civil documentation (i.e. the Mukhtar stamp fees were increased from 5,000 LBP to 50,000 LBP, registration to obtain a certificate at the Nofous increased by 200% from 20,000 LBP to 400,000 LBP). In March 2024, the GSO agreed to re-adopt previous regulations of accepting the housing attestation to the housing certificate of the Mukhtar for those renewing their residency based on the UNHCR certificate. Accordingly, GSO accepted both the UNHCR-issued document as well as the housing attestation from the Mukhtars.

The GSO also introduced a new service fee of **LBP 4,900,000 for certain procedures, such as, residency renewal base on UNHCR certificate** for the ones with expired residency, mercy requests, changing pledge of responsibilities, and validation/clearance required for some entry categories, including the ones referred by their Embassies. On April 19, the GSO issued a decision increasing residency fees for all nationalities and categories including Syrian nationals and migrants renewing temporary residency permits based on sponsorship to 13 million LBP (instead of 300 000 LBP). For sponsorship, Syrian nationals need to secure a Lebanese sponsor who signs a pledge of responsibility at GSO. The residency renewal fee is 13,000,000 LBP/year in addition to 4,900,000 LBP late fee paid in case the residency has already expired at the time of renewal.

On 8 May, **GSO issued a media statement summarising a list of measures regulating the presence of Syrians in Lebanon.** In the statement, GSO requested from all Syrians who violated the residency system, to regularise their status at the border departments and centres and to grant them the necessary facilities to regularise their situation and leave Lebanese territory, under penalty of taking legal measures against those who do not leave Lebanon. Lebanese citizens are advised against employing or sheltering Syrians residing in Lebanon illegally, with penalties for violators. In addition, GSO has emphasised on a previous practice that prevents Syrians registered with UNHCR from practising any paid work outside designated sectors. The instructions further maintained a previous MoIM decision to close all illegal establishments and institutions and shops managed or invested by Syrians. As for the ones willing to return, the GSO in the same statement announced that for Syrians wishing to return home, the facilitation and operation have resumed.

In March 2024, the **Legal Actors Group (LAG) within the Protection Working Group developed their annual risk factors matrix highlighting the main risks related to the increase of legal fees, strikes and reduced capacities of courts and public administration.** LAG also developed their annual work plan which will focus on: i) building the capacity of non-legal actors on key legal issues and messages, ii) developing a brief on the impact of external factors such as judicial and administrative strikes, shortage of stamps, and increase in costs on legal service provision, iii) providing technical support to the National Action Plan for Birth Registration, and vi) monitoring and sharing practices with public institutions and in relation to authorities and judiciary, as well as policy changes to underpin advocacy.

Additionally, and as part of **UNHCR's efforts to facilitate access for refugees to legal services** and complete the registration of their life events, **UNHCR met with the Sharia Court in April 2024 to discuss challenges and practices,** noting a positive impact in Tripoli and a reduction in fees from 6 million LBP to 750,000 LBP. The LAG is mapping the fees and practices at Sharia courts, Mukhtars, PSDs, and GSO to support national legal aid programs. Practices and fees are for the most part harmonised, except for i) Mukhtar fees (700,000 LBP elsewhere, 2 million in Beirut and Jbeil), ii) proof of marriage fees at Sharia courts (up to 12 million LBP in Tripoli, Bireh, and Mineh, but lower in the Bekaa and South), and iii) some GSO offices in BML and the South requiring sponsors for refugees eligible to renew based on UNHCR certificates, but only if they work. Overall, women have less often a legal residency than men, according to the VASyR 2023 data which impacts on their access to services and independence from potential perpetrators.



The increased cost of residence fees, penalties, mukhtar fees is also impacting Lebanon's migrant population. They face heightened protection risks, as well as the risk of detention and deportation in case of irregular status in the country. Access to justice and basic services, such as health and education is also restricted for migrants without a sponsor and legal residency. Following the trend from 2023, protection partners report that migrants increasingly seeking to increase their legal awareness and/or request legal assistance and counselling to regularise their status, also noting an increase in reports of fraudulent actors claiming to find new sponsors in exchange for money. While GSO decided to lift the conditions imposed on migrants limiting the transfer of sponsorship to two sponsors (other than the original sponsor), conditions of the process are only available for migrants who already have a sponsor and seeks to change, not to freelancers or irregular migrants who do not have a sponsor.

Output 1.2: Protection and legal frameworks are strengthened and barriers to accessing legal procedures are addressed

Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) conducted a workshop in March 2024 with the national legal actors and selected Protection Working Group members to introduce the **draft version of the National Birth Registration plan**. This further shows a progress towards developing policy frameworks for the protection of women, children and other at-risk groups, fostering the GoL commitment to advance national action plans and policies. The plan is being reviewed by the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM). Once endorsed, coordination and follow-up to be set between MoSA, MoIM, and the Sunni Supreme Court, to officially launch the birth registration pilot project in the Bekaa region in Q3. One of the challenges expected is managing the fees associated with Mukhtars, which necessitates continuous coordination.

With the aim to continue enhancing the protection response and advocacy efforts, sector partners provided **capacity building interventions to 235 staff members from international and national organizations** on protection topics (including CP and GBV) and humanitarian principles. The sessions also included case management training for case workers providing quality services to GBV survivors and children at risk. Most protection actors also run and operate from community centers that are vital to ensure that affected populations have access to service, including safe spaces to disclose protection risks and incidents and to participate in recreational and psychosocial support activities. In line with the sector's objective to enhance engagement with and support to women-led, refugee-led, youth specific or other local organisations, protection sector members collaborated and supported **nine CBOs and CSOs up until Q2 which presents around 45% of the target**.

Sector members also supported the development of several guidance documents, national plans and standards. In support of the Ministry of Social Affairs, aiming to harmonise and standardise the implementation of safe shelters throughout Lebanon, UNFPA supported the development of **'Standards for Safe Shelters for GBV survivors'** jointly with the National Commission for Women in Lebanon and local GBV partner ABAAD. The standards present a comprehensive guidance document for all agencies with existing or upcoming projects rolling out safe shelters for GBV survivors.

Outcome 2: Individuals at heightened risk from all affected populations in all their diversity, including age, gender, and disability, are safe, supported, and empowered in their community to contribute to positive change.

Efforts are ongoing to foster a community environment that is safe, inclusive, participatory, and empowers affected populations, including Lebanese, displaced Syrians, other refugee groups and migrants. This includes sharing reliable information and assistance to enhance community empowerment and foster informed decision-making. Since January 2024, the protection sector supported **86,674 people (68% women, 32% men, 2% PwD) (reaching 34% of the total target) to access reliable and timely information on assistance and services through the dissemination of regionally specific, accessible, and up-to-date information on services, assistance, and protection-related issues**. Compared to last year, the total reach decreased by 70% (Q2 2023: 122,054 - Q2 2024: 86,674) which sector members mainly associate with limited resources for outreach and an overall reduced protection environment. However, in line with the cross-population approach, significant progress to expand outreach to non-refugees with information sessions and awareness sessions is noted, with progress at 72% for Lebanese, 109% of PRL, 48% for PRS, and 12% for migrants to reach the annual targets.

In Q2, protection, CP and GBV actors reported on and operated in **47 centres across the country, including CDCs, SDCs, child-friendly spaces and women and girls safe spaces. 29,817 people participated in centre-based and mobile protection activities (60% female and 40% male)** which represents 34% of annual target and 34% less than the same time last year. Those spaces have been critical in facilitating protection assessments and disclosure of protection, child protection or GBV incidents or to engage through peer support structures and recreational activities that aim at improving resilience and wellbeing of the different communities affected.

Through ongoing partnerships with community support structures, in Q2 **3,340 community focal points (78% women/22% men)** provided information, outreach, feedback, and referrals for persons of concern on a monthly basis reaching **38% of the annual target** reaching almost the same as last year (Q1: 1,336). Sector members also track and monitor their commitment to meaningful participation of the community through a dedicated indicator that reflects on community engagement in feedback and complaints as well as engagement in planning, designing and evaluating programs through different feedback mechanisms including systematic monitoring, focus group discussions and other community-level engagement. This quarter saw a slight increase in persons engaged in the assessment, development and monitoring of programs at community level reaching **4,760 people** in Q1, and 6,157 in Q2 with a total of **10,917 (72% women, 28% men)** in 2024.

Child Protection: 32,385 children (53.9% girls and 46.1% boys) participated in community-based child protection activities at the community centres including CDCs, SDCs and mobile protection activities held outside the centres, representing 52% progress against the annual target. In addition, 9,611 caregivers (91.3% women and 8.7% men) engaged in activities to promote the well-being and protection of children, representing 27.1% progress against the annual target. In parallel, **269 Social and Behavioral Change (SBC) initiatives** (53.8% of the annual target) were conducted in an integrated and holistic manner, by targeting the most vulnerable localities and strengthening the meaningful engagement of Municipalities, landowners, employers, religious leaders and CBOs to prevent

child marriage, child labour and violence against boys and girls. These SBC initiatives, including QUDWA initiatives, reached 108,586 women, men, girls and boys (90.3% of the annual target) across populations, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and tools to recognize and address the root causes of harmful social practices.

Prevention of Gender-based Violence: prevention of GBV is critical to contribute to behaviour change, including on changing concepts of gender equality and violence against women and girls and other groups at risk of GBV. In Q2, **29,617 people** (23,227 SYR and 315 other refugees; 5,940 LEB; 2,389 I, 1,820 MIG and 59 PRL and 74 PRS) **participated in GBV specific prevention and behavioural change programs such as awareness sessions and discussion groups** at community level on social norms and their impact on gender and power dynamics in households. GBV actors have raised a concern on the impact of socio-economic and policy related developments that impact negatively gender and power imbalances within households and have contributed to an increase of violence against women in the form of intimate partner violence in homes and harassment and sexual violence in workspaces. The impact of such programs is difficult to measure given the current challenging protection environment and long-term, slow change that those programs usually entail. An ongoing and increasing concern is the limited engagement of men in prevention activities with 89% of participants being women and girls. As part of GBV prevention and sensitization programs, GBV actors also provide dignity kits containing several menstrual health and hygiene items. **Up until the end of Q2, partners support 21,469 women and girls in reproductive age with kits.**

Outcome 3: Women, girls, men and boys in all their diversity live with dignity and are resilient to shocks.

Response to protection, child protection and GBV related risks is a critical pillar to ensure access to often life-saving services including case management for persons at risk of detention, deportation, exploitation, extortion and different forms of violence, including emotional, physical and sexual violence. In addition, the sector recognizes the specific needs to reflect on specialised support for persons living with disability or older persons that require access to rehabilitation, care and targeted psychosocial programs.

In 2024, a total of 5,947 women and men at heightened risk (73% Syrians, 13% migrants, and 11% Lebanese) have received individual protection case management services. This constitutes 31 % of the annual target, with a slight increase in targets compared to Q2 last year.

Case Study I: Improve protection and access to legal and specialised services for refugees from Syria and vulnerable populations in Lebanon – the case of Nadia support by IRC*

With the support of the ECHO, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) protection monitoring team conducts household assessments and provide refugees like Nadia (all names changed) with information on the services available in their area and refer in emergency incident.

Nadia is a Syrian woman facing unique challenges as a housewife and mother with special needs. Her story of resilience and determination began when she sought refuge in Lebanon during

the Syrian crisis in 2016. She fled Syria with her three children, aged 9 and 5, 1 year old to join her husband who had arrived earlier to secure shelter for the family. Her journey was fraught with hardships from the early onset on. She recalls the agonizing 12-hour wait at border secretariat along with her children, where Lebanese security services initially denied her access to the territory but following her perseverance and support from host community members who intervened on her behalf, she managed to enter. After arriving in Lebanon and seeking registration with UNHCR, she faced another challenge as her husband refused to register with them out of fear of encountering security checkpoints. This decision put extra pressure on her as she was now responsible for her family's well-being.

Nadia's husband found work at an iron factory, but his income was insufficient to cover the family's basic needs. The strain of their living conditions began to take a toll on their lives. His frustrations resulted in constant shouting, and he often denied having money for household expenses, in addition to his sudden addiction to alcohol. Her husband's drinking problem led to verbal and physical abuse, which deeply affected her and her children. Neighbours from the host community offered some help and support.

Nadia found herself in a challenging environment, living in a sweltering tent in Aarsal. People from the camp, despite their own difficulties, extended their generosity by providing her with food, drink, and clothing for herself and her child. This support, although invaluable, left her feeling humbled, as she could not reciprocate their kindness given her dire circumstances. With no source of income and her infant needing constant care, she couldn't seek employment. Nadia, like many Syrians displaced, longs to return to her homeland. However, she is concerned about the harsh reality of the situation she would face including the lack of shelter, safety, work, and support by a breadwinner. Despite the hardships she faces in Lebanon, it remains a safer option for her compared to the uncertainties and dangers that await her back in Syria.

Through protection monitoring programs protection partners gain valuable insights into the challenges and dangers facing refugees, displaced Syrians and others. This process ensures the identification and connection of individuals and communities with pressing needs to the necessary services they require, including potential referrals to other humanitarian organizations for case management and more comprehensive protection and other sector interventions.



* The names used in the case study within this report are fictitious and are used solely for illustrative purposes and to maintain confidentiality.



Mental health and psychosocial support are an increasing and life-saving area of intervention across the protection and health sectors. As a good practice, protection actors integrate mental health and psychosocial support activities within their case management programs through dedicated social workers trained on psychological first aid, basic psychosocial support, and referrals to mental health services. Some GBV programs also integrate or combine mental health and GBV programs. Those integrated services are reported under the relevant case management services for protection actors. The pathways are accompanied by a series of trainings at intersectoral level. Commissioned by UNFPA, a study was also undertaken that analyses the best practice approaches in the provision and integration of MHPSS into GBV programs. In addition to integrated services, **2,837 people benefited from structured and unstructured, group or individual mental health and psychosocial support offered by specialised actors reporting under the protection sector.** However, psychosocial support services as well as more specialised mental health services have been increasingly in demand with limited available services. Protection Core group members shared concerns on the increasing demand of MHPSS services due to the insecurity, instability, socioeconomic hardships and increasing protection risks such as hatred and violence against displaced Syrians, restrictive measures and lack of livelihood opportunities that result in high levels of distress, anxiety, substance abuse, depression and other mental health conditions.

Support to persons living with disability: Sector coordinators and partners have made significant efforts to engage with Organisations for Persons with Disability (OPDs) through ensuring their membership in the newly elected Protection Core Group and as members in the GBV Core Group. **4,638** individuals across population cohorts **received specialised rehabilitation services and specific services for persons with disability.** While this constitutes 10% of the annual target, the increase in Lebanese (42% of total reached) and Palestine refugees from Lebanon (6% of total reached) receiving individual rehabilitation services is noticeable. This increase reflects the notable impact the socio-economic crisis and its effect on care arrangements has had for older persons and persons with disabilities. In close collaboration with Humanity and Inclusion as well as the disability-focused OPD and Protection and GBV Core group member Lebanese Union for Persons with Disability (LUPD), the sector also reviewed a checklist to assess the inclusion - Disability Gender Age checklist, to further enhance the sector's collective commitment to inclusive services.

Under the GBV sub-sector, in **Q2 a GBV risk assessment commenced, it's funded by the co-leading agencies, UNFPA and UNHCR.** The aim of this GBV risk assessment was to undertake an inter-agency safety audit, by all GBV actors. With support of UNHCR HQ, inclusion and integration of disability in the development of the GBV risk assessment was ensured through revision of the safety audit tools contextualised for the Lebanon context and a specific training for FGD facilitators on disability and inclusion. **Q2 has also witnessed significant developments in the response by inclusion of migrants with disabilities.** The number of migrants receiving rehabilitation services have increased, and migrants were included by MoSA in the National Disability Allowance programme for the first time, with the support of IOM, in close collaboration with UNICEF and ILO.

Child Protection Case Management: In addition, 5,473 children (38.9% girls and 61.1% boys) received life-saving quality child protection case management as per National Case Management SOPs, including both non-judicial and judicial protection services, reaching 37.4% of the annual target.

Out of the 5,473 children who received case management services, 36.7% were at medium- and 60.3% were at high-risk of child protection and gender-based violations. Additionally, focused psychosocial support (PSS) was provided to 8,478 children (57.5% girls and 42.5% boys), and 4,649 caregivers (92.7% women and 7.3% men), in order to address child protection issues and improve the psycho-social wellbeing of children, reaching 37.3% of the annual target. In addition, 80% of children (boys and girls) reported an improvement in their psychosocial well-being as measured through the strength and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ). In order to provide life-saving high quality child protection case management services and FPSS, 665 partner and government staff received relevant capacity-building training (37.1% of the annual target).

Response to Gender-based Violence through survivor-centred case management: As per the GBVIMS related data of 2023, the most prevalent types of GBV incidents recorded under the IMS include emotional and physical violence mainly inside the private sphere between intimate partners, also called domestic violence. Gender-based violence is highly underreported given the cultural and social norms, the perceived fear of stigmatisation and perception of negative backlash on reporting GBV to service providers or law enforcement entities. Actors providing GBV services integrate psychosocial support interventions within the case management programs to ensure survivors are supported and their immediate psychosocial needs are addressed by the trained social workers. In Q2, 22,504 people received **GBV case management and focused and non-focused psychosocial support to address gender-based violence concerns they disclosed to case management agencies.** This presents around 25% of the annual target. To enhance the timeliness of referring GBV survivors to CM services, the GBV WG has updated the GBV Referral Pathways including a translated Arabic version.

Protection Cash as a tool to address protection shocks and foster resilience: in the Lebanon context, cash assistance has been a vital and effective tool to address some of the socio-economic and protection concerns of the affected population. In 2024, cash for protection is used to address the emergency needs in the South and further expanded to increase the inclusion of Lebanese and other population groups benefitting from protection cash. The sector has developed comprehensive guidance on protection cash and outlines criteria and distribution modalities for emergency as well as for recurrent protection cash. In 2024, a total of 22,678 individuals have benefitted from protection cash, including 8,037 people from Emergency Cash provided one or maximum twice and 14,641 people received recurrent Protection Cash to address long-term vulnerabilities to mitigate protection risks. Protection cash interventions have also addressed other critical emergency needs resulting from the recent increase in evictions to support the need to cover housing and basic needs. While the current transfer value of 90USD is supporting families, it is not sufficient to address all financial needs families facing during or after eviction or other significant shocks or protection risks.

Women and girls face disproportionate exposure to specific protection risks resulting from unequal access to social, economic, and political realms. This also negatively impacts on women and girls being subjected to violence, abuse and exploitation. For displaced Syrians, Protection and GBV actors reported changing gender dynamics given the administrative measures enforced across the country which have led to reduced mobility of men due to fear of arrest and deportation. On one hand, this resulted in an increase in women and adolescent girls working to contribute to household incomes and on the other hand have led to an increase



in exposure to sexual violence and harassment in public spheres and work environments.

This aggravated exposure of women and girls to violence or exploitation also explains the higher figures of women participating and benefiting from protection programs. **Over 58% of all beneficiaries of protection services provided by sector members are women and girls. Vulnerability and exposure to violence of women and girls increases for specific population groups, such as specific nationalities, migrant workers, persons with specific needs such as those living with disability or older persons without support.**

According to the preliminary figures from IOM (Migrants Presence Monitoring 2024), 70% of the total migrant population are women, including 3,602 girls below the age of 18, and 30% men, including 4,004 boys below the age of 18. Protection risks and vulnerabilities - as well as socioeconomic opportunities (employment opportunities, average salary) differs between men and women, as well as between migrant live-in domestic workers and migrants living outside the house of their employers (live-out), and, to some extent, between generations and age groups, nationalities and professions. Generally, most studies and focus group discussions with diverse migrant community members reaffirm that **migrant women and girls are at greater risk of gender-based violence** (from employers, taxi drivers, landlords, etc), trafficking, and document confiscation - and that the prevalence of this is very high. **Men are more vulnerable to physical violence in public spaces and theft. For both genders (and across most nationalities), the prevalence of wage theft, forced labour, exploitative working conditions, and abuse/extortion/theft by landlords is very high, while both face systemic barriers severely limiting their access to justice.** For live-out migrants of both genders, the limited work opportunities, low average income (especially for daily labourers and freelancers), and high risk of wage theft, paired with the increasing cost of rent and basic needs, is reflected in high socioeconomic needs, with limited available coping mechanisms.

Referral trends: include the number of referrals made to your sector, the percentage success rate categorised by governorate, and highlight notable achievements and challenges in referral response. Additionally, outline any necessary follow-up actions.

Aligned with previous months, the Protection sector has the largest share of received referrals across the sectors with xx% of all referrals. The majority of issues are linked to protection case management and cash assistance services for highly vulnerable families. In addition, the child protection referrals for child labour related cases, out-of-school and street-connected children are high concerns raised among the protection referrals.

Mainstreaming activities: focus on gender, protection, conflict sensitivity and environment where applicable, provide insights into how these activities are integrated within your sector's operations.

Mainstreaming of protection is a critical responsibility across sectors supported by sector coordinators and dedicated focal points on gender mainstreaming and GBV risk mitigation trained over the past year. Under the Protection sector, in Q2 specific focus was placed on advancing on inclusion and disability mainstreaming within the protection sector. Supported under the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund, Humanity and Inclusion were supported to develop an inclusion checklist to be filled and rolled-out at sectoral level. This list includes areas such as inclusion of PwD into the coordination platforms, preparedness actions, strategic response planning, resource allocation, in decision making process, and in M&E activities of the sector. In the June WG

meeting, the list was presented and group work across sector members was undertaken to assess each standard and to rate the Protection sector's inclusion parameters. As a result, sector members rated the sector as partially inclusive coordination structures with a need to further enhance inclusion into coordination and mitigation measures to be integrated.

The protection sector developed an Annual Gender action plan, a Gender analysis briefing and a Gender and GBV Risk mitigation tipsheet for the sector. In addition, enhanced collaboration with UNDP and Social Stability Sectors resulted in joint presentations on mainstreaming areas at Inter-Sector Coordination Groups and the Protection WG, during which tensions and protection trends were presented including cross-cutting themes such as evictions and administrative measures affecting populations.

Case Study 2 on cross-sectoral approaches

Similarly important to mainstreaming is cross-sectoral collaboration. One good practice project combining protection, livelihood and WaSH sectors is the local project of WingWoman Lebanon. WWL is a local NGO under incorporation fighting inequality through the provision of cost-effective reusable diapers and period pads. This enables offering of decent work opportunities to women and significantly reduces waste going to landfill. The economic independence of women reduces vulnerability to exploitation, enhances decision-making power and provides access to resources. It also builds self-confidence and helps to break the cycle of dependency which is particularly relevant for survivors of GBV who are often forced to remain in abusive relationships.

Ophelia, one of WWL's diaper production team said: "When you are making diapers, you forget all your problems and it also lets you make money that is needed to help your children have a better life".

Reusable diapers and evidence-based impact generation: With support of the Australian Embassy, a study was recently carried out to explore the impact of the WWL reusable diapers. In collaboration with key protection partners such as IMC, RDFL, Borderless, RMF, Salam LADC and Medair, diapers were distributed all over Lebanon. Data was collected from 379 families, before and one month after using the diapers indicate the exceeded expectations as 72% of all users shared they will continue using the diapers with a further 14% saying they might. The results also showed tremendous health and financial benefits as 55% of all families shared, they were spending money on diaper-related health issues before receiving WWL diapers, which reduced to just 18% after, 69% of families reported saving money due to having reusable diapers and 80% reported slightly or significantly reduced stress levels.

Oula, mother to an 18-month-old daughter, spoke about the benefits of WWL reusable diapers: "Above everything, they are saving me money. I was buying disposable diapers for 400,000 Lira. Now instead I can get her clothes and milk. I can buy anything she needs with that money."

Not only do these diapers improve both mental and physical health, they also save families valuable money that can then be spent elsewhere. More importantly now with the situation in the south, they also help families in becoming resilient to shocks and provide an effective contingency option for NGOs. In addition to the benefits to families, these diapers have further advantages such as significant reduction in waste, saves organizations money and supports the livelihoods of the women producing them. For more details check out the results either in this short video (1:20) or contact WingWomen directly at meelie@wingwomanlebanon.com.

Escalation of Hostilities in the South:

The Protection sector has maintained key priority activities in Q2 relating to the escalation of the hostilities in the South of Lebanon. Main priority activities include coordination and trend analysis of key protection risks; providing legal and protection awareness sessions as well as information on services provided in shelters and outside collective shelters; support persons at heightened risk with case management, cash and MHPSS interventions.

Protection and legal support:

3,509 people participated in legal awareness sessions on topics related to civil documentation, residency, housing landing and property (HLP) and GBV - specific aspects. 3,304 people were provided with legal counselling, legal aid, and representation (civil documentation, HLP and residency) including 126 on GBV-specific aspects. 344 individuals received protection case management services. 6,013 individuals received group and individual psychosocial support including women and girls. 158 people with disabilities received specialised rehabilitation services.

86 people received training on protection and humanitarian principles.

Multi-layered child protection prevention and response services:

15,127 individuals, including 1,290 girls and 1,050 boys, participated in information sessions on available services, including child protection, mental health, and the dangers of landmines, white phosphorus, and explosive remnants of war (ERW). A multi-layered package of prevention and response services was provided to children at risk and victims of child protection violations and their caregivers. 3,872 children and caregivers were supported with psychosocial support services, both focused and community-based to address their mental health, and psychosocial needs, restore a sense of routine, and empower children to protect themselves and seek support when needed. 328 children at risk or victims of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation received support through individual case management services and referrals to specialised services including Mental Health Psychosocial support, medical, alternative care, etc. Psychological first aid (PFA) training was delivered to 26 children. 46,200 explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) IEC materials were distributed in the South for children and adults. 18 community members were trained on delivering EORE interventions and GBV Awareness and Response.

Gender-based violence prevention and response:

4,155 girls and women received dignity kits from GBV actors as part of their awareness programs and service provision. 3,275 women and girls participated in targeted gender equality, and empowerment activities aiming at social behavioural change in safe spaces or at community level as part of GBV prevention programs. 1,191 women and girls received awareness sessions on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and 738 front liners and humanitarian service providers received PSEA sensitization sessions. 1,322 women and girls at risk of GBV received individual case management and psychosocial support.

Case Study 3: Community-based psychosocial support to respond to the emergency needs in the South

Psychosocial support is a vital component of a community-based protection approach in addressing the mental health and well-being of those affected by the security situation in South Lebanon.

SHEILD, in partnership with UNHCR conducted PSS activities in art, music, theatre, and sports from March to May 2024. A total of 1,920 children, youth, women, and men benefited from these sessions. Participants included the affected populations, Lebanese and refugees, both displaced and those who remained in conflict areas in the districts of Tyre, Bint Jbeil, Marjaayoun, Hasbaya, and Nabatiyeh. The sessions were conducted across Social Development Centres (SDCs) in the south, under the patronage of the Ministry of Social Affairs. Engaging in creative and enjoyable activities offers much-needed relief from the stress and anxiety associated with the crisis. Sports and music created a sense of normalcy, allowing children and youth to engage with their peers and foster a sense of community and solidarity during difficult times.



Sports for protection

A parent shared that her child drastically withdrew from others since the onset of the war. However, since joining sports activities, she noticed a remarkable change: the child regained her confidence, became more active, and eagerly interacted with other children. Another mother highlighted that the child became more motivated in their studies, demonstrating the broader benefits of this activity.

Theatre provides a safe space for children and youth to express their emotions, fears, and experiences. Meanwhile, engagement in art activities helped the women and children to process their emotions and experiences in a non-verbal way, which was crucial given the intensity of their trauma. Despite their diverse backgrounds and the tensions that initially existed, the shared experience of creating art brought them together. They began collaborating on group projects, building friendships, and developing communication skills.



To showcase the skills earned by displaced communities, a community event, 'Souk Al Deyf,' was organised in Tyre on 25 June 2024. Art and food products, together with theatre plays and music performances by children, were presented to humanitarian and displaced communities alike. The theatre plays conveyed messages about coping with fear and anger, and the importance of support among friends and parents. Additionally, in response to requests from SDCs and municipalities, the theatre play was performed in Nabatiyeh on 29 and 30 June, reaching over 700 people.



Prioritization and Localization:

Limited funding and shrinking resources of all agencies, including larger-scale INGOs and UN agencies made prioritization on core protection activities a necessity with limited ability to expand to more long-term activities that have lasting impact. Key priority activities include case management provision for high and medium risk cases, community-based PSS and other forms of community engagement to share timely information, protection cash assistance as well as legal counselling and awareness sessions.

Local organizations make a large share of the Protection, CP and GBV Working Groups. In Q2, a UNDP supported study was released analysing the landscape of women-led organizations at local level. Through field coordination, the GBV WG aims at strengthening their inclusion into the national and sub-national coordination structures.

Challenges, risks and mitigation measures

Across the sector: the most concerning challenge affecting the protection response in the country is **the shrinking protection space enforced at governorate, municipal and community level.** Anti-Syrian rhetoric and anti-humanitarian campaigns such as the UNDO campaign and other media campaigns have exacerbated existing communal tensions and have fuelled an environment of fear and hatred amongst communities. As highlighted above, the protective environment for refugees and displaced persons from Syria has been impacted by an increase and reinforcement of new and existing administrative measures including curfews, checkpoints and searches, confiscation of IDs, imposition of registration, raids, imposition of taxes, shop closures and large-scale evictions of Syrians from entire villages and from other places of residence. For Palestinian refugees from Syria specifically, access to legal residency has become a challenge after the GSO issued a memo in May denying all PRS renewal of residency which leaves them with no for legal stay in the long run. Those measures have significant consequences on household, gender and family dynamics creating widespread feelings of fear of detention and deportation, sense of instability and overall deteriorated levels of psychological welling. Lack of approval of the Lebanon Response Plan and limited engagement at sectoral level has further contributed to a reduced space for protection services and meaningful advocacy.

Migrant communities living in Lebanon also continue to experience significant challenges due to increasing social tensions and incidents of violence, which contribute to an environment of fear and insecurity. Lebanese nationals are conducting "fake raids," pretending to be police officers, and extorting irregular migrants, including Syrians, with threats of deportation unless they pay bribes up to \$1,000. Additionally, migrants, particularly those living in mixed residential areas with Syrian refugees, face increasing threats of eviction, exacerbating their vulnerability and instability. The migrant population continues to grow due to new arrivals and births, with preliminary data from the Migrants Presence Monitoring (MPM Round 4) indicating an estimated 10% increase in the migrant population (176,504). There is also a notable rise in the number of migrant children, highlighting a critical need for resources and support. Furthermore, migrants are significantly affected by escalating hostilities, with reports of employers confiscating mobile phones and disconnecting their access to Wi-Fi in the south to prevent them from staying informed about ongoing events. These challenges underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions to protect migrant communities, ensure their safety, and address their growing needs in Lebanon.

Limited funding and resources to implement programs: funding limitations, donor fatigue and limited reliance on national services have further impacted negatively on the protection of refugees, displaced Syrians, Lebanese, migrants and other population groups. At mid-year level, the sector received only 34.2 million USD (16.5%) funding of the overall appeal across CP, GBV and Protection activities. While the impact of the limited funding this was not yet as tangible in Q1 due to high reliance of carry-over budget,

Child Protection: The ongoing socio-economic and political crises, growing communal tensions, and escalation of hostilities in the South, coupled with the scarcity of funding, significantly reduced the protection space available for children not only in the South, but across the country, while the protection risks continued to increase rapidly. According to Child Protection Sector partners' reporting, through monthly Real Time Monitoring (RTM) survey, **in Q2 the most prevalent child protection risks were child labour, street-connected children, and violence against children, in all regions of the country.** Some of the driving factors for the rising levels of child labour were observed to be growing communal tensions, schools going on summer break, and the beginning of the harvesting season. Therefore, the Child Protection Sector has started working with a consultant on an advocacy paper to obtain and present further data on the prevalence and root causes of child labour, as well as to provide visibility to the increasing levels of child labour, risks associated with it and the comprehensive package of services required to address the needs of children and households of children engaged in labour and worst forms of child labour.

Gender-based violence: socio-economic hardship, the escalation in the south as well as existing social norms contribute to gender-based violence across the country. Partners shared that the reduced funding resulted mainly in thin-stretched case management programs, reduction of staff and closure of certain locations and programs. In addition, the number of cases/case worker have increased with focus on high-risk cases. Limited funding and resources have resulted in partners resorting to smaller-scale programs with less comprehensive services which are based in larger cities around the country. This has created gaps particularly in remote areas, including in highly vulnerable or high-risk areas such as Wadi Khaled and other locations in the North.



Escalation of Hostilities in the South:

Through active protection monitoring by partners and sub-national coordinators, a range of emergency-related protection risks are identified. Ongoing protection risks in the south persist including threats from explosive ordnance, family separation, risks of GBV particularly intimate partner violence, limited access to support and services for persons with disabilities and the potential for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by humanitarian service providers for those lacking access to support. Access to those living in hard-to-reach areas, such as Hasbaya, Marjaayoun and Bint Jbeil remains constrained, with limited support for those in high-risk zones. Case management remains the main priority for individuals in the south with primary focus and psychological and financial assistance, but, in person activities in the south governorate and Nabatiye are still limited, with partners trying to shift to online activities for safety concerns which is crucial for the support provided to GBV survivors. Protection cash assistance remains insufficient to meet the needs of those displaced, particularly in supporting housing and access to basic services.

The ongoing deterioration of the security and socio-economic situation have also resulted in related protection risks such as an increase of children exposed to hazardous labour, child marriage and exploitation of girls, as well as family separation. Systematic identification and inclusion into services for persons with specific needs remains a challenge, particularly for hard-to-reach areas. Limited funding has also resulted in lack of comprehensive specialized services for persons with disabilities or older persons without support.

Unequal access to assistance, enforced administrative measures and barriers imposed on Syrians to accessing shelters and other services persist. Across population groups access to national legal and civil documentation services is disrupted due to the closure of civil registry offices in certain areas in the south for security reasons.

Key challenges to ensure a timely emergency response include the particularly low funding of protection, child protection and GBV programs (5%) under the emergency with partners having to integrate significant new case loads of those affected by displacement and displacement-specific protection risks into their ongoing programs.

Key priorities for the next chapter

- Finalisation of the Protection Sector Advocacy Messages and engagement with key donors to brief on protection trend and funding discussions given the 55% decrease in funding (Q2);
- Finalisation of the draft Protection Case Management SOPs;
- Review of the Cash for Protection Guidelines, review of Transfer value across sector and review of Emergency Cash for Protection Guidelines;
- Enhance agreement and alignment on protection and cross-sectoral support to support the increase in eviction cases observed in Q2 through a short cross-sectoral guidance;
- Finalization of the Interagency GBV Risk assessment;
- Development of the child protection case management prioritisation quick guidance tool in line with the National CM SOPs.

3W Map at Governorate level

Protection Partners (52)

Al Fayhaa, ABAAD, ACF Spain, AMEL, AND, ANERA, ARCPA, AVSI, Beit el Baraka, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CESVI, CONCERN, DRC, Fe-Male, HelpAge, Himaya, Imam Sadr Foundation, IMC, Intersos, IOM, IRC, KAFA, Key of Life, LECORVAW, LOST, Magna Lebanon, Makhzoumi, MECC, Michel Daher Social Foundation - MDSF, Naba'a, Nabad, Near East Foundation, NRC, OXFAM, Plan International, PU-AMI, RI, RMF, SAWA Group, SEEDS For Legal Initiatives, SCI, Seenaryo, SHEILD, Shift, Tabitha-Dorcas, TdH-It, TdH-L, UNHCR, War Child Holland - WCH, WRF, WVI.

Source: Sector reporting partners on ActivityInfo.

