



**LEBANON**  
Response Plan

**Lebanon  
Response  
Plan**

2026





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## Terminology in the LRP

Within the Lebanon Response Plan, the term 'national systems' refers to national government and local institutions, working alongside partners including civil society and private sector, in accordance with Lebanon's national laws and regulations.

'Localization', within humanitarian action, means empowering national and local responders in affected countries to lead and deliver humanitarian aid. Participants of the World Humanitarian Summit (2016) acknowledged the need to recognize and prioritize the development of national and local capacity to lead and respond to crises, and pledged to give more funds directly, where possible.

The Lebanon Response Plan uses the following terms to refer to persons who have fled from Syria:

The Lebanon Response Plan uses the following terminologies to refer to persons who have fled from and cannot currently return to Syria:

1. "persons displaced from Syria" (which can, depending on context, include Palestinian refugees from Syria as well as registered and unregistered Syrian nationals);
2. "displaced Syrians" (referring to Syrian nationals, including those born in Lebanon to displaced Syrian parents);
3. "persons registered as refugees by UNHCR";
4. "post-2024 arrivals" (referring to post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria);
5. "Palestine refugees in Lebanon" (referring to 201,136 PRL living in 12 camps and 156 gatherings) and;
6. "Palestinian refugees from Syria" (referring to 23,655 PRS across Lebanon).

## Appealing Partners in 2026

Aajwad Education, ABAAD, ACA Lebanon, ACF Spain, ACTED, ADRA, Adyan Foundation, AFDC, AICA, ACD, Al Fares Association, Al Fayhaa, Al Majmouaa, Al Midan, Al-Shouf Cedar Society, Alpha, Alsama project, Amalouna, AMEL, Ana Aqra, AND, ANERA, Arche Nova, ARCS, Association Libanaise des chevaliers de Malte, AVSI, B&Z, Banin Charity Association, Bedayati, Beit El Hanane - Home of Tenderness, Borderless, Bqosta Association for Social Development, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CESVI, Chaine de l'Espoir, CISP, CLDH, Compassion Protestant Society, Connecting Research to Development, COOPI, CVC Charity, Dawaer Foundation, DCA, Development and Cooperation Association, DRC, Embrace, Fair Trade Lebanon, FAO, Farah Social Foundation, FISTA, Fondation Mérieux, Ghirass for Society Development, HAND, Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, Himaya, HDA Association, Humani-terra, Humanity and Inclusion, IM Possible, IDRAAC, ILO, Imam Sadr Foundation, IMC, International Alert, INTERSOS, IOCC Lebanon, IOM, IRC, Islamic Relief Lebanon, Jafra Foundation, JRS, KAFA, Keen International, Key of Life, Leb Relief, LASeR, LSR, LECORVAW, LOST, LUPD, MAG, MAP-UK, MCC, MDM, MEDAIR, MERATH Lebanon, Mercy Corps, Mercy USA, MDSF, MSD, MMKN, Mosaic-Mena, MPDL, Nabad, Naba'a, NAC, NALD, NAWA, Near East Foundation, NCA, NRC, Nusaned, Onsur Lebanon, OXFAM, PCPM, Plan International, Projecthope, PUI, Rahma Association, RESTART Lebanon, RI, Right to Play, RMF, RTA, Salam LADC, SCI, SDAid, Seenaryo, Service de L' enfant au Foyer, SHEILD, SIDC, SIF, Skoun, Social Association, Social Urjuwan, Solidarités International, SPHERE Building Tomorrow, Taawon, Tabitha-Dorcas, Tahaddi Lebanon, TdH-It, TdH-L, Teach for Lebanon, Tearfund, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, Un Ponte Per, UN Women, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNRWA, USPEAK, Utopia, WCH, WATAD Association, We World GVC, WFP, WHH-Hadatha, WHO, Will Association, WVI.

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For more information, contact LRP General Supervisor Ola Boutros at [olaboutros@gmail.com](mailto:olaboutros@gmail.com), and Inter-Sector Co-Chairs Stephanie Laba at [labas@unhcr.org](mailto:labas@unhcr.org), Eugena Song at [eugena.song@undp.org](mailto:eugena.song@undp.org), and Eymen Dzitrie at [dzitrie@un.org](mailto:dzitrie@un.org).

I Chair's Summary by the UN Secretary-General World Humanitarian Summit, 2016, page 6. UNSG reports on the summary of commitments made by participants of the Summit, including 173 UN member states. For further information on localization, please see resource page: [Localisation - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](http://localisation.europa.eu)

# Reference Map



- Capital
- Major Towns
- ..... Waterways
- ..... International Boundaries
- Governorate Boundaries
- Caza Boundaries

# PART

# 01

## LEBANON RESPONSE PLAN

INTRODUCTION  
AT A GLANCE  
LRP COORDINATION STRUCTURE

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## Overview

The year 2025 marked a turning point for Lebanon, characterized by cautious signs of progress amid persistent vulnerabilities. The election of a President and renewed government engagement have restored a sense of institutional continuity and direction, while the evolving situation in Syria has created new opportunities to pursue durable solutions for displaced communities. These encouraging signs, however, have unfolded against the backdrop of the late 2024 conflict, which left deep humanitarian scars and added to the cumulative toll of years marked by displacement, economic collapse, disease outbreaks, and the Beirut Port explosion. Since the late November 2024 cessation of hostilities agreement, a tenuous calm has returned to much of the country, though the situation remains fragile with near-daily military activity by Israel, particularly in frontline areas of South Lebanon where lingering Israeli military presence, demolitions and shelling effectively prevent return, recovery and reconstruction. The conflict of 2024 left behind deep humanitarian needs, including large-scale internal displacement and the destruction of homes, schools, health facilities, agricultural land, and other critical infrastructure. Many of those directly affected continue to require targeted support to restore basic living conditions.

At the political level, the election of President Joseph Aoun and the appointment of Prime Minister Nawaf Salam in early 2025 generated renewed optimism and opened a window of opportunity for improved governance, reforms, and recovery. The government has sought to advance recovery and reform measures, though the scale of Lebanon's financial collapse and institutional erosion continues to severely constrain service delivery and weaken the resilience of national systems. In this context, the Government of Lebanon (GoL), in close collaboration with the World Bank, United Nations (UN) agencies and other partners, commissioned and initiated national damage, loss and needs assessments, such as the Lebanon Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA)<sup>1</sup>, to inform national recovery planning. Building on these, the GoL is developing the Lebanon Economic Advancement and Prosperity (LEAP)<sup>2</sup> plan, a comprehensive recovery and reconstruction framework that will guide medium- to long-term national priorities. While distinct in scope and purpose, the LRP will take account of and coordinate closely with these national efforts to ensure complementarity between humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery interventions.

Regionally, the fall of the Assad regime in Syria in December 2024 reshaped dynamics across the Levant. For Lebanon, this has brought the first tangible prospects for voluntary repatriation after more than a decade of protracted displacement, while at the same time new displacement flows into the country are observed. This fluid regional environment, coupled with

Lebanon's fragile socio-economic context, underscores the need for a flexible and integrated response approach that balances urgent humanitarian assistance and stabilization efforts.

The LRP 2026 is co-led by the Government of Lebanon, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, and the UN, under the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC), and is supported by a wide network of national and international partners. It builds on the 2024–2025 plan while integrating preparedness for a range of forward-looking scenarios given the dynamic environment. Operational leadership rests with the Ministry of Social Affairs on behalf of the Government of Lebanon, as delegated by the Prime Minister, while UNHCR, UNDP, and OCHA co-lead the LRP and the Inter-Sector Coordination Group in line with their respective mandates.

The plan aims to respond holistically to the multiple crises facing Lebanon including residual humanitarian needs in conflict-affected areas as well as the ongoing Syrian displacement crisis through four Strategic Objectives (SOs):

1. Provide immediate humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations to ensure that critical needs are met.
2. Enhance the protection of vulnerable populations.
3. Support service provision through national systems, including strengthening rapid response capacities.
4. Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social, and environmental stability.

Based on needs identified through joint needs analyses, the LRP presents a prioritized, evidence-based appeal of \$1.62 billion in 2026 to support coordinated interventions across nine<sup>3</sup> sectors. It addresses the needs of vulnerable people across all population groups, including Lebanese, displaced Syrians, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS), Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL), and migrants, and includes targeted interventions for households internally displaced by the 2024 hostilities. The LRP also extends support to Syrians returning to Syria, while continuing to assist those who remain in Lebanon and have not yet returned.

Since 2015, Lebanon has received over \$15.2 billion in humanitarian and stabilization funding. However, in 2025, by the third quarter, only 31 per cent of the LRP appeal was received, reflecting the growing challenges posed by decreased global and national resources, raising concerns about significant funding shortfalls in 2026. The financing gap, coupled with partners' reduced capacities, threaten the sustainability of critical interventions. Given the scale of needs and the fluid regional context, enhanced, predictable, and flexible donor

1 [Lebanon - Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment \(RDNA\)](#).

2 [Lebanon Emergency Assistance Project](#).

3 Education, Food Security and Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Livelihoods, Protection, Shelter, Social Stability, WaSH.

support will be pivotal moving forward. Through the LRP, in turn, the Government of Lebanon and its partners reaffirm their commitment to efficiency, accountability, and transparency.

Since 2024, the LRP has consolidated efforts previously outlined under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (2015–2023) and the Emergency Response Plan (2021–2023) and continues to serve as Lebanon's primary humanitarian and stabilization framework. It is aligned with, and complementary to, the forthcoming national recovery framework and the United Nations Cooperation Framework (CF), which will be revised to encompass recovery as well as development efforts. In addition, the LRP constitutes Lebanon's country chapter of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for the Syria crisis.

The evolving national and regional context, coupled with the strong engagement of national institutions, has created a moment for change in how the response can offer inclusive support and partners operate to strategically address the most critical needs. As emphasized by the LRP operational lead, the Ministry of Social Affairs, there is a growing recognition that the approach must shift away from "business as usual" toward one that is nationally led, solutions-oriented, and better bridges humanitarian, stabilization, development, and recovery efforts.

### Coordination & Humanitarian Reset

In line with the Humanitarian Reset, the coordination structure of the LRP 2026 has been streamlined to maximize efficiency and adapt to reduced resources. At the national level, this includes the merging of the Basic Assistance Sector and the Cash Working Group, phasing out of Energy sector, centralizing coordination functions at the national level, and simplifying sector strategies and indicators. At the subnational level, inter-sector coordination has transitioned to an inter-agency, operational, area-based model through the Operational Coordination Groups (OCGs), ensuring a more pragmatic and field-focused approach. This transition is intended to reduce duplication, improve alignment with national structures, and facilitate a gradual shift toward greater government and development actor leadership. While these adjustments are expected to enhance coherence, they also require strong donor engagement and sustained partner commitment to ensure effective coverage amid reduced coordination and operational capacity.

The LRP coordination structure for 2026 reaffirms the national leadership of the Government of Lebanon and the international community's commitment to support and reinforce response capacities of national/local institutions and national/local actors. The overall coordination structure of the LRP is led by the LRP Steering Committee (SC) which was established to provide strategic guidance and monitor the implementation of the

LRP. The SC is co-chaired by the Prime Minister and the United Nations Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, and includes participation from Government line ministries, as well as humanitarian and stabilization partners across the UN, national and international NGOs, and donors. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) provides a platform for strategic engagement on the humanitarian and stabilization

dimensions of the LRP and ensures coherence with the broader UN response. At the technical level, the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), co-chaired by UNHCR, UNDP, and OCHA, supports the HCT and the Steering Committee by facilitating joint analysis, planning, advocacy and operational coordination across sectors and areas. The HCT provides a space for operational partners working on humanitarian and stabilization components of the LRP to coordinate their strategic engagement in the LRP Steering Committee and operational support for the LRP and its related coordination mechanisms.

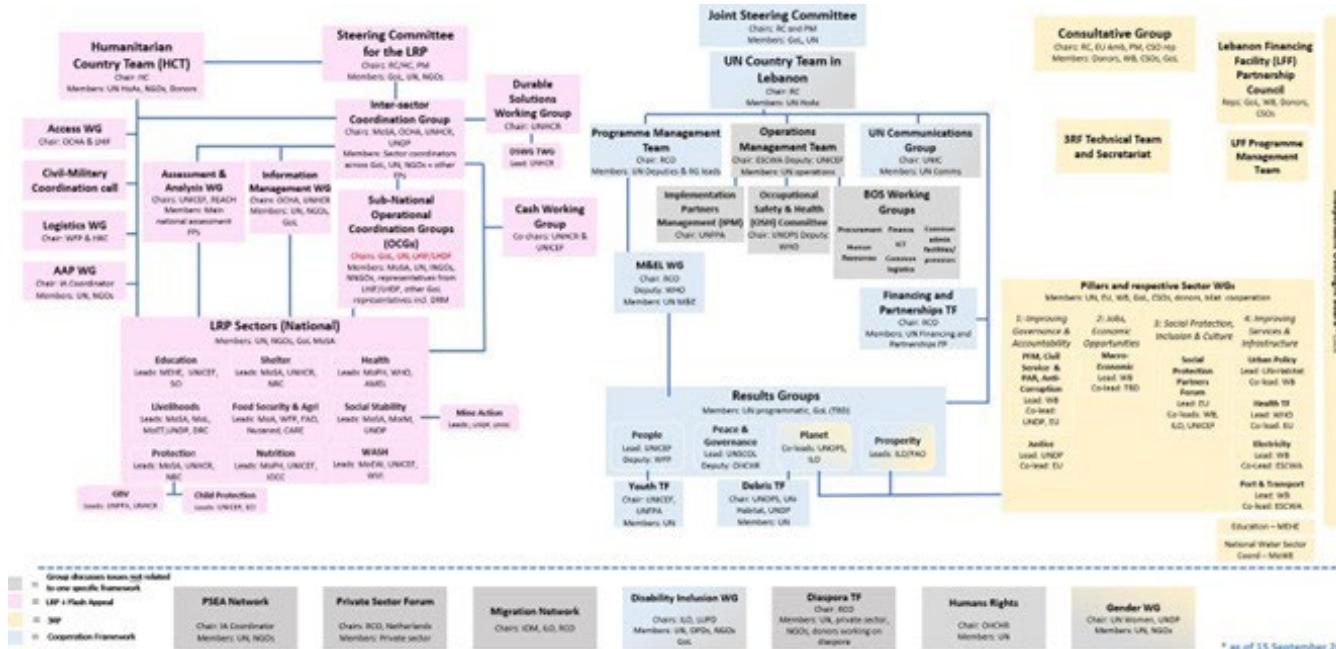
The operational response under the LRP is led by MoSA on behalf of the Government of Lebanon, as appointed by the Prime Minister, and co-chaired by UNHCR, UNDP, and OCHA in line with their respective mandates and in support of the RC/HC. The plan is coordinated through the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), which brings together all LRP sectors. Each sector is jointly led and coordinated by a designated line ministry, a UN agency, and an NGO. Sectors work closely with their respective line ministries to mobilize key response partners across UN agencies and NGOs and to provide technical guidance in line with international humanitarian standards, where applicable.

For the 2026 LRP, the following sectors will operate at national level: Education, Food Security and Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Livelihoods, Protection (incl. Child Protection and Gender Based Violence as sub-sectors), Shelter, Social Stability, and WaSH. The coordination structure also includes the following technical Working Groups (WGs): Access Working Group (AWG), Assessment and Analysis Working Group (AAWG), Accountability to Affected Populations Working Group (AAPWG), Cash Working Group (CWG), Civil-Military Coordination Cell (CMCoord Cell), Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG), Gender Working Group (GWG), Information Management Working Group (IMWG), Logistics Working Group (LWG), and the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network.

### Transition to the Cooperation Framework

The LRP remains Lebanon's primary humanitarian and stabilization framework in 2026. However, its role is also evolving. In conjunction with the revised Cooperation Framework, which encompasses recovery and development efforts, and reflects global and national commitments to strengthen the humanitarian–development–peace nexus, the LRP is increasingly serving as a bridge toward a new way of operating. This shift aims to move beyond traditional crisis response models toward approaches that are nationally led, shock-responsive, solutions-oriented, and more closely aligned with Lebanon's recovery and development trajectory. The new Cooperation Framework is expected to start implementation in 2028.

## Coordination Structures in Lebanon



## Planning & Operational Assumptions

The planning and operational assumptions of the LRP 2026 establish the foundations for a streamlined, flexible, and protection-centered response in a transitional context defined by fragility and funding constraints. They set out the key parameters, contextual factors, and coordination considerations that will guide sector strategies and collective action throughout the year. These assumptions reflect lessons learned from the 2024–2025 response, while taking into account evolving dynamics, including the fragile ceasefire, regional spillover risks, new displacement and return movements, and the Government of Lebanon's ongoing efforts to advance transition towards recovery and reform.

## General Assumptions

In 2026, the LRP must remain adaptable and integrated, ensuring that protection is central across all interventions. The plan will need to account for multiple intersecting shocks, including:

- Ongoing fragility of the ceasefire and potential regional spillover;
- Continued deterioration of living conditions among vulnerable populations;
- The potential influx of up to additional 100,000 newcomers from Syria;
- New displacement of up to 100,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as a contingency threshold;
- Return dynamics that require careful planning to ensure safety and sustainability.

The parameters of the LRP also reflect agreements on how best to address the needs of vulnerable populations within Lebanon, while remaining complementary to the Government's anticipated recovery and reconstruction plan. The LRP targets the following groups:

- Vulnerable Lebanese, including IDPs and returning IDPs;
- Displaced Syrians
  - Pre-Dec 2024;
  - Post-Dec 2024;
- Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS);
- Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL);
- Migrants.

The total number of displaced Syrians in Lebanon for 2026 is calculated after taking into account the number of Syrians who have returned to Syria, the number of Syrians estimated to return by mid-2026, the number of Syrians who were inactivated from UNHCR's database, and the number of Syrians who newly arrived in Lebanon after December 8, 2024. The resulting number is 1 million displaced Syrians who have not yet returned to Syria and 120,000 newly arrived after December 8, 2024.

## Systems Under Pressure

Lebanon's public services, institutions, and infrastructure remain under severe strain, with environmental degradation and inter-communal tensions compounding existing pressures. In this context, LRP sector responses must reinforce national systems, build community resilience, and integrate environmental safeguards and conflict sensitivity.

Under the 2025 LRP, 1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese, 1 million displaced Syrians, 120,000 post-2024 arrivals from Syria, 201,136 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon, and 23,655 Palestinian Refugees from Syria were targeted across all governorates. In 2026, each sector will continue to define its priorities based on assessed needs at the individual, household, community, and institutional levels.

## Operational Environment and Coordination Capacity

As noted earlier, anticipated funding shortfalls in 2026 will require the LRP to focus on critical, high-impact, and feasible interventions, while avoiding overlap with other frameworks such as the Government's recovery plan or the CF.

Localization and national ownership will be further pursued, with the Ministry of Social Affairs, local NGOs, and governorate-level actors assuming greater leadership roles, in line with the Humanitarian Reset adjustments described earlier. Sector appeals and operations will be guided by the streamlined coordination model introduced through the Humanitarian Reset.

Sectors will maintain minimum readiness across the agreed scenarios, including reviewing pre-positioning and applying geo-split; planning for cross-sector operations; agreeing alternative displacement/shelter patterns; coordinating with national and sub-national authorities and consolidating multi-source needs analysis when field access is constrained. To preserve agility under funding constraints, sectors will prioritize specific preparedness measures (stockpiles, vendor frameworks, surge rosters, and data pipelines) that are applicable across scenarios and immediately deployable.

## Strategic Foundations for Planning and Alignment

The latest population and assessment data served as the backbone for planning. A joint analysis exercise led by the ISCG at national level, was conducted using the global Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF), combined with district-level population and multisectoral assessment data, to guide the calculation of people in need, intersectoral severity estimation, and target setting. Displacement and return trends were also factored in the evidence-based planning process. Compared to last year, when people in need estimates had to be extrapolated due to the fluid situation driven by the conflict in Lebanon, new data from recent sectoral and multisectoral assessments conducted in 2025 supported the current analysis. Where necessary, figures at district/governorate level have been contextualized based on expert knowledge of local settings.

Cross-cutting priorities will remain mandatory across all sector strategies and implementation efforts, including protection, accountability to affected populations, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, gender, Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

risk mitigation, conflict sensitivity, and environmental safeguards.

## Situation Analysis

### Multisectoral Situation Analysis

Lebanon enters 2026 amid persistent fragility and cautious signs of progress. The 2024 hostilities had devastating humanitarian and socio-economic consequences, displacing over one million, damaging critical infrastructure, and compounding the already deep financial, economic, and institutional collapse. While the ceasefire of November 2024 reduced the geographic scope and intensity of violence, Israeli military activity in Lebanon remains frequent, particularly but not only in frontline areas of South Lebanon, leaving the prospect of renewed escalation a real risk.

Lebanon continues to host the highest number of displaced persons per capita and per square kilometre worldwide. As outlined in the Planning & Operational Assumptions section, Lebanon continues to host an estimated 1 million displaced Syrians in 2026 and 120,000 post-December 2024 arrivals. As per the overall People in Need (PiN) figures agreed through the inter-sectoral discussions, approximately 961,930 Syrians and 1.73 million Lebanese are considered in need. For Lebanese, this primarily stems from the protracted economic crisis and recent hostilities and its impact on livelihoods and services. For Syrians, vulnerabilities are further compounded by limited legal residency, restricted access to the labour market, and dependence on humanitarian assistance. In addition, 64,417 Lebanese remain internally displaced due to the 2024 hostilities.<sup>4</sup> The number of Syrians in need compares to the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) estimations of Syrians living below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB). According to VASyR 2025, 90 per cent of displaced Syrians households live below the SMEB without assistance, reflecting a continued erosion of purchasing power and deepening economic vulnerability across the refugee population. In parallel, new refugee arrivals from Syria continued throughout 2025, particularly across border areas in the North and Baalbek-El Hermel. According to WFP's Emergency Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (EFSVA, Aug–Sep 2025), newly arrived households in the North and Akkar face severe vulnerabilities: 71 per cent live below the Food MEB, 70 per cent reported borrowing in the last six months mainly for food, and half have poor or borderline food consumption. Nearly 64 per cent are renting and 32 per cent are hosted, with two-thirds living in crowded or highly crowded shelters and one-third sharing sanitation facilities. Following the fall of the regime in Syria, refugee returns have notably increased, with some 336,000 individuals inactivated by UNHCR<sup>5</sup> as having returned as of October 2025. However, access to housing, livelihoods, and essential services remains extremely challenging, as Syria continues to recover and rebuild after more than a decade of conflict and destruction. According to the Enhanced

<sup>4</sup> According to key figures from IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) as of 3 October 2025, a total of 64,417 IDPs remain displaced across Lebanon, while 692 IDPs are still registered with the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) and the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Unit across nine collective sites. In parallel, an estimated 986,192 IDPs have returned to their communities since the onset of the 2024 hostilities.

<sup>5</sup> [UNHCR Supported Voluntary Repatriation of Syrian Refugees Lebanon, October 2025](#).

Refugee Perceptions and Intentions Survey (ERPIS)<sup>6</sup> published by UNHCR in September 2025, 37 per cent of Syrians who do not intend to return cited damaged or inadequate housing in Syria as the main reason, followed by 30 per cent who mentioned lack of employment and livelihood opportunities, and 11 per cent who expressed concerns about safety and security. PRL and PRS remain among the most vulnerable groups, with limited access to employment, housing, and basic services. Migrant workers, largely excluded from social protection mechanisms, continue to face precarious living and working conditions. According to the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (systems under pressure) 2025, 58 per cent PRL and 71 per cent live-out migrant households reported unmet needs.

Lebanon's full recovery from the financial and economic crisis since 2019 has yet to materialize. According to the latest Lebanon Economic Monitor, economic prospects continue to be affected by the fragile stability of the political and security situation, while the persistent financial challenges limit major capital inflows and discourage private investment.<sup>7</sup> Hyperinflation, currency depreciation, and unemployment have eroded household purchasing power, pushing many families deeper into poverty and food insecurity. Public institutions lack the fiscal space to sustain service delivery, and debts in payments to health facilities, schools, and public sector employees undermine already fragile systems. The private sector, particularly small and medium enterprises, struggles with high energy costs, low consumer demand, and lack of access to capital, leaving many businesses unable to recover from the combined shocks of conflict and economic contraction.

Essential services remain critically underfunded and overstretched. Damage from the 2024 hostilities to schools, health centres, water networks, and energy infrastructure has exacerbated long-standing structural weaknesses. Power shortages, fuel costs, and lack of maintenance budgets continue to undermine service delivery across sectors. The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) faces difficulties sustaining primary health care services, while the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) grapples with enrolment declines, school repairs, and teacher retention. Water establishments lack the financial and operational capacity to manage networks, with many communities falling below the minimum water access standard. Institutional erosion and limited reform implementation further constrain national capacity to respond effectively to population needs.

Protection risks remain widespread across Lebanon, affecting displaced and host populations alike. Displaced Syrians continue to face serious barriers to securing legal residency, civil documentation, and access to justice, which exacerbate their exposure to exploitation and abuse. The protracted economic crisis has further eroded coping capacities, leading to increased reliance on negative coping mechanisms and contributing to heightened protection incidents, including child labour, early

marriage, and gender-based violence.

At the community level, social tensions remain elevated in municipalities hosting large, displaced populations, driven by competition over jobs, housing, and services, compounded by misinformation and disinformation. Local authorities, already overstretched, face mounting challenges in mediating disputes and maintaining social cohesion, underscoring the need for continued dialogue, conflict-sensitive programming, and municipal support.

According to the Protection Monitoring Report for Quarter 2 (2025)<sup>8</sup>, the overall protection environment for displaced Syrians in Lebanon remains highly constrained, with continued movement restrictions, evictions, and community-level tensions across several governorates. Widespread psychological distress and documentation challenges persist, reflecting the ongoing impact of prolonged displacement, insecurity, and limited access to services.

The report further notes that 29 per cent of key informants observed an increase in child labour while 30 per cent reported school withdrawal, underscoring how worsening economic conditions and legal restrictions continue to drive negative coping mechanisms among refugee and displaced families. Discrimination and stigmatization based on nationality were also highlighted, particularly by displaced Syrians and migrant workers in urban areas such as Bourj Hammoud, Dawra, and Mazraat Yachouh, where irregular status exposes them to exploitation and verbal or physical abuse.

Despite slight improvements in service availability since March 2025, findings from the MSNA 2025 indicate that around 31 per cent of assessed areas still reported unavailable or inaccessible healthcare, and 27 per cent lacked access to protection and social services. Access barriers remain particularly acute in the South and Bekaa governorates, where high transportation costs, damaged infrastructure, and insecurity restrict the ability of displaced Syrians and IDPs to reach medical and social service facilities.

Lebanon's vulnerability to environmental degradation and climate-related risks continues to compound existing humanitarian and stabilization challenges. In 2025, below-average rainfall and rising temperatures contributed to drought conditions that further strained already fragile water resources.<sup>9</sup> This has had cascading impacts across sectors: reducing agricultural productivity, driving up food insecurity, limiting access to safe water, and exacerbating risks of waterborne disease outbreaks. Drought has also heightened inter-communal tensions in areas where competition over scarce resources is most acute. Wastewater and solid waste management systems remain inadequate, raising public health risks and fuelling local tensions. Seasonal hazards such as floods, winter storms, and heatwaves exacerbate vulnerabilities in already inadequate

6 Enhanced Refugee Perceptions and Intentions Survey (ERPIS), September 2025.

7 World Bank. (2025). Lebanon Economic Monitor - Spring 2025: Turning the Tide.

8 Protection Monitoring Report for Quarter 2 2025, UNHCR.

9 LCAT. (2025). No Rain, No Gain: Situational Analysis on Drought in Lebanon.

shelter and WaSH conditions, particularly for displaced households. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated action across sectors, with integration of environmental safeguards, promotion of climate-smart agriculture, and prioritization of sustainable water resource management.

Lebanon's humanitarian landscape in 2026 is defined by the convergence of conflict-related impacts, protracted economic collapse, political fragility, and environmental stressors, leaving millions in need of assistance and protection. The ongoing violence, evolving displacement and return dynamics, and recurrent climatic shocks underline the volatility of the operating environment and the continued vulnerability of affected populations. At the same time, there is a growing imperative to ensure that humanitarian and stabilization interventions contribute to broader recovery and development objectives, in alignment with national reform priorities and the forthcoming CF (2028). The LRP 2026 therefore builds on this multisectoral analysis to prioritize life-saving assistance, reinforce national systems, and lay the foundations for durable solutions and longer-term resilience.

## Sectoral Situation Analysis

### Education

The Education sector continues to face enormous strain, with the cumulative effects of the 2024 hostilities and the protracted economic crisis leading to deepened social vulnerabilities. Many schools remain damaged, or face serious infrastructure issues, including structural damage, outdated electrical systems, and inadequate heating and internet connectivity. Despite substantial efforts to keep schools open, enrolment rates have declined, particularly at secondary level, and thousands of children remain out of school. For the most vulnerable, the cost of transportation, school materials, and food remain significant barriers. Access to certified non-formal education and remedial or accelerated learning opportunities also remains limited, leaving many children and adolescents at risk of permanent drop-out. In addition, many non-Lebanese students face difficulties in securing the official documentation and certification of their studies, which is essential for continuing education in Lebanon and a critical prerequisite for sustainable and dignified return to Syria. In 2026, the education sector will prioritize safeguarding learning opportunities for all children, addressing urgent operational gaps in schools, scaling inclusive and remedial programmes, and expanding certified non-formal pathways, while ensuring proper documentation and certification processes for Syrian children and youth. These interventions will be critical for all vulnerable children whose right to education is equally jeopardized. By 2026, nearly 20 per cent of school-aged children are projected to be out of school, with displaced Syrian children most affected - about 60 per cent expected to remain out of school and only around 10 per cent involved in non-formal education. In 2025, 33 per cent of migrant children were out of school, mainly due to costs, lack of documentation, and limited access to enrollment support or alternative learning opportunities.

### Food Security and Agriculture

Food insecurity remains pervasive across population groups, with households reporting negative coping strategies driven by persistent income erosion and high food prices. While some stabilization of markets occurred in 2025, vulnerabilities remain deeply entrenched, particularly in displacement-affected areas and among agricultural households whose livelihoods were disrupted by the 2024 hostilities. Farmers continue to struggle with the high cost of inputs, water scarcity, and lack of access to markets, while herders face challenges in sustaining livestock. Environmental pressures, including drought, have further exacerbated production losses. In 2026, the Food Security and Agriculture sector will need to ensure predictable food and cash assistance for households Integrated Food Phase Classification (IPC) 3 and above in need, while strengthening agricultural production and market systems through targeted support to smallholders, rehabilitation of infrastructure, and investments in climate-smart practices. The FSA sector strategy targets all individuals and groups residing in Lebanon, regardless of nationality, gender, age, or disability, who are facing acute food insecurity. It aims to widen access to a diverse, nutritious food supply to close gaps, prevent acute malnutrition, and curb negative coping strategies, while also boosting agricultural production, productivity, and livelihoods. The strategy aligns with the National Social Protection Strategy 2026-2035, the MoSA's poverty-reduction goals, the National Nutrition Strategy (2021-2026),

### Health

The Health sector remains overstretched, grappling with extensive infrastructural damage with at least 51 health facilities damaged during the 2024 hostilities and many still non-operational or critically under-resourced. Continued emigration of healthcare workers and loss of personnel has further weakened service delivery. Alarmingly, only 33.7 per cent of the 2025 priority-based appeal was funded, raising concerns that similar funding shortfalls could persist into 2026 and risk the continuity of care. Access to healthcare increasingly depends not on availability but on affordability, which has become highly inequitable especially for vulnerable Lebanese, displaced Syrians, migrants, children, women and girls, who face significant barriers to maternal, sexual and reproductive health services. Persons with Disabilities also report exclusion from required services. Declining immunization coverage among children, coupled with environmental degradation, water scarcity and contamination have also heightened the risk of infectious disease outbreaks like cholera, measles. In 2026, the Health sector will prioritize strengthening national ownership and localization by reinforcing MoPH leadership and empowering local actors. Key focus areas include managing reduced Official Development Assistance (ODA), navigating the transition in public health support from Health sector partners, and ensuring service continuity through sustainable financing. The sector will emphasize equitable access to quality healthcare, with a strong commitment to resilience, preparedness and inclusion.

## Nutrition

Lebanon is facing double burden of malnutrition, with rising rates of both undernutrition and overweight/obesity, compounded by widespread micronutrient deficiencies. The 2024 Lebanon Integrated Micronutrient and Child Development (LIMA) Survey revealed a deterioration in child nutrition, with stunting among children under five doubling to 14 per cent since 2021 and reaching 19 per cent among displaced Syrian children - a level considered a serious public health concern. While wasting remains low nationally (1.3%), it is notably higher (6%) among infants under six months, particularly in poor and displaced households. Suboptimal infant and young child feeding practices persist, with exclusive breastfeeding declining to 23 per cent and only 11 per cent of children aged 6–23 months achieving a minimum acceptable diet. Micronutrient deficiencies are widespread, affecting half of children under five and three-quarters of adolescent girls and women, contributing to high anemia rates. Child development outcomes are closely linked to nutritional status, with stunted and underweight children more likely to lag behind developmentally, especially among displaced populations. At the same time, overweight and obesity are increasing sharply, affecting 30 per cent of adolescent girls and over half of non-pregnant women (54%), with prevalence reaching 74 per cent among women aged 40–49 years. The Nutrition sector will focus on integrating nutrition programming more systematically across health, food security, education, WaSH, and social protection systems to address the multidimensional causes of malnutrition.

## Livelihoods

The Livelihoods sector continues to be characterized by high unemployment (29.6%), limited formal job creation, and widespread informality (62.4% of workers), leaving households dependent on humanitarian aid and remittances. Youth face the steepest barriers: almost half are unemployed (47.8%), with most unable to access education or training due to financial constraints. Women have been pushed out of the labor market at alarming rates, compounding household vulnerability. The protracted economic crisis continues to erode the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, the backbone of Lebanon's economy, through collapsed demand, prohibitive operating costs, and severe constraints on access to finance and markets, with 15 per cent of businesses permanently closed and many more suspended. This has intensified competition for scarce income opportunities between host communities, displaced Syrians, and internally

displaced populations, heightening social tensions. In 2026, the livelihoods response remains firmly in the stabilization phase, focused on meeting immediate to medium term needs while laying foundations for eventual recovery. The sector will integrate assessment information regarding labour market distortions and MSME constraints to inform targeting and selection criteria, while keeping LRP interventions to the stabilization scope. Priority interventions include: market-

driven vocational training that provides youth and women with immediate earning potential while building competencies for longer-term employment; emergency support to MSMEs combining business development services with access to essential equipment and materials to stabilize operations and retain jobs; facilitation of market linkages connecting producers to local buyers and basic financial services; and labor-intensive public works that generate immediate cash income while rebuilding critical infrastructure. These interventions must explicitly strengthen social cohesion by creating inclusive economic opportunities across communities. The Livelihoods sector will also continue advising Syrian workers to regularize their status through the appropriate legal channels and will advocate with the Government of Lebanon for a comprehensive regularization plan. Bridging humanitarian assistance with structured pathways toward self-reliance will be essential for reducing acute vulnerability in 2026 while gradually creating the conditions for sustainable recovery in the years ahead.

## Protection

Lebanon's protection environment will remain critically strained due to the compounded impacts of a protracted socio-economic crisis, institutional fragility, and regional volatility. These intersecting challenges have significantly affected the ability and capacity of national systems to deliver adequate protection, GBV, and child protection services and assistance. Populations at heightened risk include displaced Syrians including post December 2024 arrivals, vulnerable Lebanese, mainly affected by internal displacement, Palestinian refugees, migrant workers, other refugee populations, and stateless individuals. Their exposure to protection risks is further exacerbated by deteriorating conflict dynamics, reduced humanitarian funding, and pressure on public institutions. Marginalized groups, particularly those systemically unable to access vital services and justice systems, including people with disabilities, female-headed households, older persons, individuals with irregular legal status, and adolescent girls, and other people with specific needs face compounded vulnerabilities due to entrenched social exclusion, inequitable access to services, and institutional barriers. With 83 per cent of Syrians lacking legal residency (VASyR 2025), and the Protection Monitoring Report for Quarter 2 (2025)<sup>10</sup> noting that documentation challenges remain key barriers to accessing services and expose individuals to risks of arrest and exploitation, legal insecurity continues to be one of the main protection concerns across Lebanon. Housing, land, and property disputes in Syria as well as access to services, particularly in areas of return or where housing was destroyed, pose significant obstacles to durable solutions. Reported child protection concerns in 2025 include child labor, child marriage, violent parenting, emotional/physical abuse, psychosocial distress, and family separation. In a UNICEF survey in 2025, 72 per cent of caregivers stated their children were anxious or nervous, and 62 per cent said they were depressed or sad. Based on the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) mid-year Report for 2025,<sup>11</sup> Gender-Based Violence remains a continuous concern with physical and

<sup>10</sup> Protection Monitoring Report for Quarter 2 2025, UNHCR.

<sup>11</sup> Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) Mid-Year Report - 2025.

emotional violence of intimate partners being most reported as well as sexual violence at overcrowded displacement sites and during labour activities. The Protection sector including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence sub-sectors, will prioritize quality case management linked to meaningful protection cash assistance, access to specialized services for persons with specific needs and those with psychosocial needs, maintaining legal aid and documentation support, and scaling up mobile outreach components and community empowerment while ensuring access to durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation to Syria. Through its dedicated Protection Analysis and Monitoring Task Force, protection monitoring and analysis is a key pillar supporting the sector in ensuring programs are aligned to community priorities and presented to sectors in support of protection and gender mainstreaming and GBV risk mitigation.

### Shelter

Shelter needs remain acute, with 38 per cent of people across all population groups in areas not affected by conflict living in inadequate shelter conditions. In conflict-affected areas, 63,962 buildings were destroyed, causing the displacement of thousands of individuals. As of May 2025, 82,632 individuals continue to live in displacement. IDPs and returnees continue to reside in damaged, substandard or overcrowded shelters. Rising rental costs, coupled with limited income opportunities, have increased the risk of eviction and forced relocations. In 2025, eviction affected approximately two per cent of displaced Syrian households, while 7.5 per cent of migrants, 10 per cent of Palestine Refugees in Lebanon and 3 per cent of Lebanese renters faced eviction threats. The arrival of some 120,000 Syrians since December 2024 has further strained the rental market with reports indicating significant rent spikes in areas hosting IDPs and post-December 2024 arrivals. 26 per cent of Syrians who arrived post-December 2024 are currently residing in informal collective shelters in dire conditions, while the remainder live in overcrowded and/or severely substandard residential and non-residential structures. In 2026, the Shelter sector will prioritize lifesaving Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRI) interventions in informal settlements, collective sites and substandard residential and non-residential shelters, provide cash for rent to mitigate evictions and support IDPs, and improve access to safe and dignified shelters.

### Social Stability

The fragile socio-economic situation continues to heighten social tensions, particularly in areas heavily affected by displacement and economic vulnerability. To ensure coherence with national evidence while staying within scope, Social Stability will reflect the analysis of local service pressures and conflict drivers including in analyses prepared by the Government and UN partners focusing on socioeconomic impacts of the 2024 war on Lebanon when prioritizing municipalities and interventions, as well as tensions trends analysis. Competition over jobs, assistance, and services, coupled with rising misinformation and disinformation, has strained inter-communal relations which are directly and indirectly impacted by security developments in Syria. For instance, economic competition regained its position

as the top driver of intra-Lebanese tensions mainly due to a sharp increase in specific areas such as Baabda (68% to 96%), West Bekaa (44% to 59%), Baalbek (15% to 38%), and Hermel (37% to 50%). Meanwhile, the confidence in the fairness of aid distribution across communities remains low where only 27 per cent of respondents to the UNDP Tensions Monitoring System (TMS) regular perceptions survey expressed agreement with the lowest confidence was reported in Akkar, Nabatiyeh, Baalbek-El Hermel, and the South. Local governance structures remain overstretched, limiting their ability to provide services or mediate disputes effectively. Without targeted support, municipalities risk losing the trust of their communities, which undermines social stability. In 2026, the Social Stability sector will prioritize tensions monitoring and analysis, dialogue facilitation, and municipal support projects that deliver visible and inclusive assistance. Conflict-sensitive programming across all sectors will be critical, alongside risk communication and accountability to affected populations to counter misinformation and strengthen community resilience.

### WaSH

Lebanon's water and sanitation systems are under severe stress, driven by a multi-layered crisis impacting institutional capacities to deliver services, energy shortages, the cumulative damage to infrastructure caused by the ongoing 2023-2025 hostilities and compounded by the 2025 drought. This elevates public health risk and fuels tensions. Despite slight improvements in access to piped water, large segments of the population have no choice but to resort to expensive and often unsafe private alternatives to meet households' demand. People bear the cost of dysfunctional systems—well above the globally recognized threshold that water expenses should not exceed 3 per cent of household income. According to the MSNA 2025, households in most assessed districts spent on average between four and 11 per cent of their income on water. On average households spend 11 per cent of their income on water in Baalbek district, while in most of the districts of the South and Nabatiyeh between 7-9 per cent. Wastewater systems remain inadequate in many localities, with several treatment plants non-operational, heightening contamination and outbreak risks. Rural areas such as Baalbek-El Hermel and parts of the South have the lowest sewer connection rates and the highest population-to-toilet ratios, especially in non-permanent shelters. Access to safe services in informal settlements and collective shelters remains limited, disproportionately affecting women, children, and persons with disabilities. Water establishments continue to struggle with escalating operational costs, unreliable power supply, and insufficient maintenance budgets, threatening service continuity. In 2026, the WaSH sector will prioritize repairing high-impact water systems using energy-efficient and renewable solutions, securing essential treatment chemicals and spare parts, and maintaining critical WaSH services for displaced and host communities. Enhanced water quality monitoring, and stronger integration with the several sectors will be essential to safeguard public health and ensure sustainable humanitarian/stabilization response.

## Way Forward

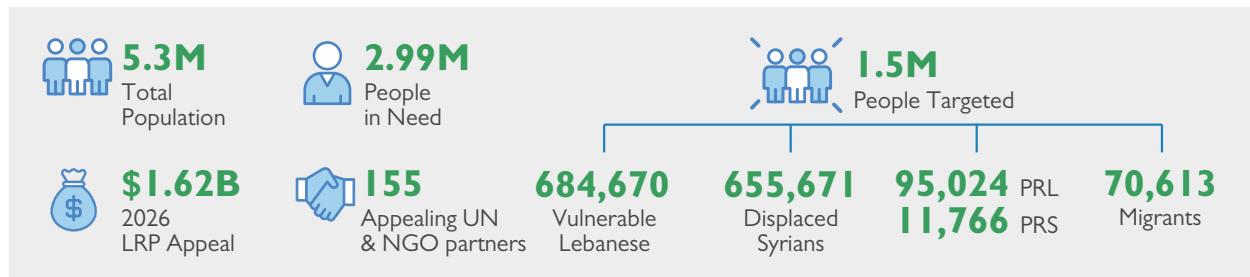
The LRP 2026 is designed to sustain life-saving assistance, strengthen protection, and support national systems at a time of transition and constrained resources. While humanitarian and stabilization needs remain immense, partners are adapting through streamlined coordination, prioritization of high-impact interventions, and stronger national ownership. The year ahead will require collective efforts to maintain solidarity with Lebanon as it continues to host the highest number of displaced persons per capita worldwide, while also addressing the needs of vulnerable Lebanese and supporting voluntary, safe and dignified returns.

In this pivotal year, maintaining coherence between humanitarian, stabilization, and emerging recovery efforts will be essential to safeguard progress and strengthen national ownership. Sustained donor engagement will remain central to safeguarding humanitarian gains and supporting Lebanon's transition to recovery and development. As outlined in the Transition section, the LRP 2026 will be implemented in coordination and complementarity with the revised CF 2026-2027, to align relief and stabilization choices with longer-term recovery and development frameworks led by the GoL.



## 2. AT A GLANCE

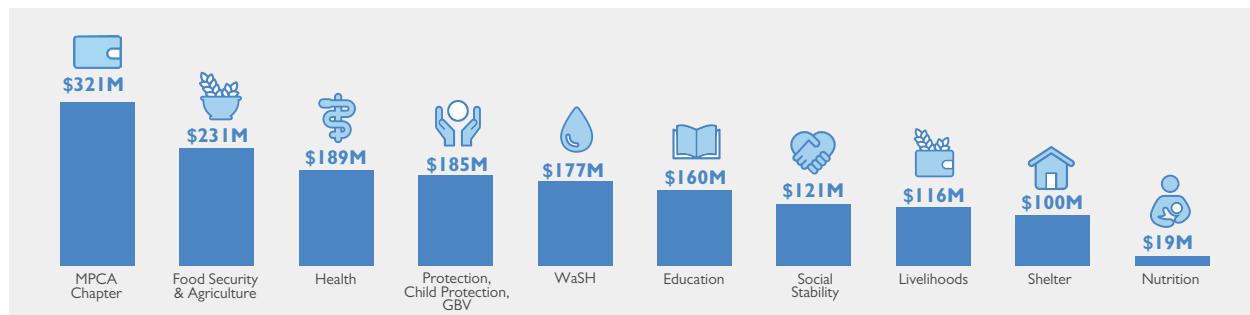
### 2026 Planning Figures



### Strategic Objectives



### 2026 Funding Requirement by Sector



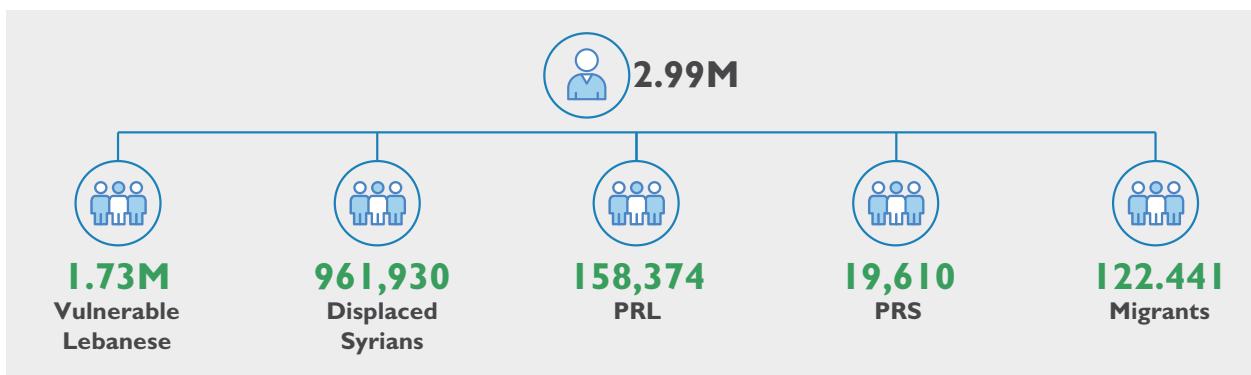
### 2026 Population Targets by Sector

Sectors	People Targeted	Vulnerable Lebanese	Displaced Syrians	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others
 MPCA Chapter	<b>998,253</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>695,500</b>	<b>84,477</b>	<b>15,376</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>4,900</b>
 Education	<b>584,844</b>	<b>279,441</b>	<b>265,556</b>	<b>35,614</b>	<b>3,734</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0</b>
 Food Security & Agriculture	<b>851,000</b>	<b>460,000</b>	<b>391,000</b>	<i>Under MPCA</i>	<i>Under MPCA</i>	<i>Under MPCA</i>	<b>0</b>
 Health	<b>1,367,956</b>	<b>896,278</b>	<b>362,694</b>	<b>61,276</b>	<b>7,242</b>	<b>40,466</b>	<b>0</b>
 Nutrition	<b>679,149</b>	<b>517,607</b>	<b>136,132</b>	<b>16,908</b>	<b>2,143</b>	<b>6,359</b>	<b>0</b>
 Livelihoods	<b>72,000</b>	<b>63,000</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
 Protection, Child Protection, GBV	<b>1,393,599</b>	<b>383,430</b>	<b>901,889</b>	<b>51,015</b>	<b>21,815</b>	<b>26,550</b>	<b>8,900</b>
 Shelter	<b>456,819</b>	<b>139,721</b>	<b>282,719</b>	<b>20,398</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>11,715</b>	<b>0</b>
 Social Stability	<b>2,804,119</b>	<b>1,295,23</b>	<b>1,120,000</b>	<b>201,136</b>	<b>23,655</b>	<b>164,097</b>	<b>0</b>
 WaSH	<b>2,200,166</b>	<b>1,444,658</b>	<b>657,451</b>	<b>61,987</b>	<b>5,534</b>	<b>30,536</b>	<b>0</b>

## Appealing Partners by Sector



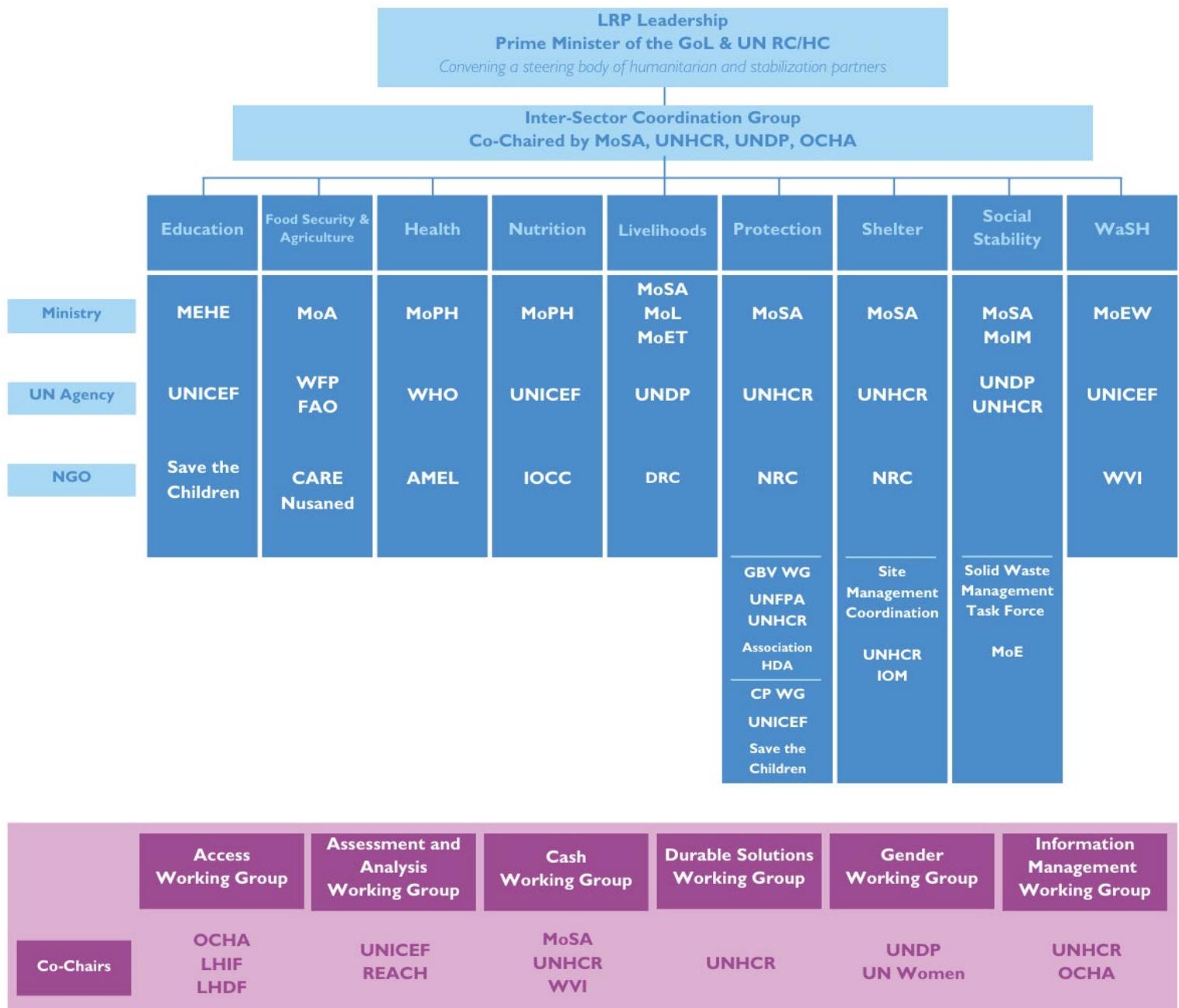
## People in Need



## People Targeted



# 3. LRP COORDINATION STRUCTURE



# PART

# 02

## SECTOR STRATEGIES

1. MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE
2. EDUCATION
3. FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE
4. HEALTH
5. NUTRITION
6. LIVELIHOODS
7. PROTECTION
8. SHELTER
9. SOCIAL STABILITY
10. WASH



# MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

## PEOPLE TARGETED

 **998,253**

## SECTOR APPEAL

 **\$321,502,097**

## CONTACT

### LEAD MINISTRY

Ministry of Social Affairs

### CO-LEAD AGENCIES

UNHCR

Steven Choka

[choka@unhcr.org](mailto:choka@unhcr.org)

### WVI

Pauline Eid

[pauline\\_eid@wvi.org](mailto:pauline_eid@wvi.org)

## SECTOR OUTCOMES

### OUTCOME I:

Strengthen the ability of poor and vulnerable households and individuals, including female-headed HHs, persons with disabilities and children, to meet their basic needs

- **Output I.1:** Multipurpose cash assistance delivered to vulnerable households to meet their basic needs
- **Output I.2:** MPC delivered to meet basic needs of vulnerable Lebanese people due to shocks/emergencies
- **Output I.3:** MPC delivered to meet basic seasonal winter needs

## POPULATION BREAKDOWN

TARGET 2026

	VULNERABLE LEBANESE	150,000
	DISPLACED SYRIANS	695,500
	PRL	84,477
	PRS	15,376
	MIGRANTS	48,000
	OTHER	4,900

# 1. SITUATION AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## I. Context

Lebanon continues to grapple with overlapping crises that have severely constrained recovery and heightened vulnerability. Since 2019, the country has faced a sovereign default, financial sector collapse, and triple-digit inflation, resulting in a cumulative Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contraction of 40 per cent. The Lebanese Pound lost substantial value, triggering a liquidity crisis that eroded savings and wages. These conditions drove widespread hardship, high unemployment, and the breakdown of public services.

Signs of stabilization appeared in 2025, with inflation falling to double digits for the first time since the crisis began and the exchange rate stabilizing at LBP 89,700 per USD since late 2023. GDP growth is projected at 3.5 percent for 2025, revised down from 4.7 percent due to regional tensions and slow reform progress. However, fiscal space remains extremely limited: the 2025 budget excludes debt servicing and lacks resources for large-scale recovery or social protection. Lebanon remains in selective default, and progress toward an International Monetary Fund (IMF) program is slow despite recent legal reforms.

Inflation, while lower than previous years, continues to strain households. The Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) for a family of five reached \$509 in September 2025, up 16 percent year-on-year, while the food SMEB per person rose to \$40.4 (+12 percent). The non-food SMEB increased by 19 percent, driven by electricity, healthcare, and rent costs, particularly in displacement-affected areas. Lebanon's labor market remains highly fragile, with formal employment disrupted by the prolonged economic crisis and the 2023–2024 conflict, forcing a shift toward informal, insecure work that undermines household economic capacity impacting particularly low-income households and refugees.

Poverty remains severe, with about 44 per cent of Lebanon's population and 33 per cent of Lebanese citizens living in monetary poverty. Multidimensional poverty is even higher - 73 per cent of Lebanese and nearly all non-Lebanese residents (UN ESCWA, 2024; World Bank, 2024).

The ceasefire since November 2024 remains in place but is fragile, with sporadic airstrikes and shelling along border areas and restricted access in some localities. Recovery from the 2023–2024 conflict is still slow, and displacement pressures persist, with 986,000 IDPs having returned but 64,000 still displaced, alongside 120,000 post-2024 arrivals.<sup>1</sup>

Following the 2023–2024 conflict, and despite the significant de-escalation following the ceasefire, the repercussions of the conflict persist, with approximately \$14 billion worth of

damage severely constraining local economies and household livelihoods particularly in the most conflict-impacted governorates, along with an estimated recovery need of \$11 billion (World Bank, 2025).

Lebanon's social protection system has witnessed significant development in the past few years. In 2024, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) launched the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS). Key social safety net programs in the country include the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP), the World Bank-funded Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) - programs that merged into AMAN in 2024, and the National Disability Allowance (NDA) programme. While the AMAN programme currently assists around 800,000 vulnerable Lebanese with monthly multipurpose cash transfers to help cover their basic needs, this represents only half of the population living in poverty. Despite progress, social protection coverage remains low - only 20 per cent of the population is covered by contributory social protection benefits, and just 1.3% percent of GDP is allocated to social protection from the national budget (Institutes des Finances, 2025).

Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) remains the preferred modality of assistance for recipients and stays a viable modality in Lebanon due to functional markets despite ongoing economic challenges. Market functionality assessments show that supply chains are operational, and essential goods remain available in all regions. However, inflation continues to drive price volatility, impacting household purchasing power. Despite these pressures, markets have adapted, and traders maintain stock levels, suggesting that CVA can effectively meet their basic needs when complemented by regular monitoring and adjustments to transfer values. The dollarization of humanitarian cash programmes and choice of redemption currency preserves value of money while maintaining choice and flexibility for recipients. Various Financial Service Providers ensure sufficient coverage across Lebanon to ensure cash liquidity as well as safe and dignified access to assistance for cash recipients. Following the escalation of conflict in late 2024, CVA programmes were widely used to extend assistance to affected populations in areas where markets remained functional. Government policies remain conducive to cash assistance and increasing alignment of humanitarian assistance programmes with the Government's social assistance programmes.

In 2024, cash actors disbursed \$365.8 million in direct cash transfers, representing approximately a third (28%) of the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) budget, plus \$87 million through the ESSN program outside of the LRP. 67 partners implemented CVA with support from 27 donors, making Lebanon the fifth-largest CVA program globally. Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) accounted for 71 percent of CVA transfers, followed by sectoral cash for food (19 percent),

<sup>1</sup> Post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria.

livelihoods (4.5 percent), shelter (2 percent), education (2 percent) and protection (1.5 percent).

CVA will continue to play a central role in Lebanon's humanitarian response in 2026, serving as a flexible and efficient modality across multiple sectors. MPCA and sectoral CVA will be used to support essential needs such as food, shelter, and WaSH, as well as contribute to protection, durable solutions (i.e., returns) and livelihoods programming.

## 2. Rationale, Purpose, and Objectives

MPCA is prioritised in the LRP as the preferred response modality to improve vulnerable families' access to basic goods and services and in emergency settings, offering unrestricted and unconditional cash transfers to meet households' basic and recovery needs in a timely, efficient, and dignified manner, aligned with global best practices.

This action will contribute to Strategic Objective 1: Provide immediate humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations to ensure critical needs are met. Multipurpose cash assistance programmes continue to serve as a vital source of income for vulnerable households. People assisted primarily use the cash received to meet essential needs such as food, healthcare, rent, and fuel for winter heating.

## 3. Coverage, Targeting, and Funding Requirements

In terms of coverage, and in line with established best practices, MPCA will be implemented in close coordination and alignment with other assistance modalities under this appeal. Based on discussions between relevant sectors and guided by lessons learned in terms of operational capacity and available funding streams for different response modalities, 998,253 vulnerable people have been prioritized to receive MPCA to help cover their basic needs in 2026.

The total target includes 695,500 Displaced Syrians (418,500 with full MPCA packages and 277,000 with cash transfers covering non-food basic needs only, complementing Cash for Food programmes). Up to 150,000 out of 350,000 vulnerable Lebanese not currently covered by AMAN will receive MPCA in response to shocks in support of the Government's shock-responsive safety net (when requested by the Government), while the other 200,000 will be targeted through sectoral modalities. In the event of extreme shocks, an additional 100,000 individuals will be targeted with emergency MPCA complementing the Shock Responsive Social Safety Net (SRSN) response, through inclusion in a flash appeal.

Vulnerable persons of all other population groups, including 99,853 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS), 48,000 migrants and 4,900 Others

are targeted to receive MPCA in 2026 under this appeal. Meanwhile, 211,951 people have been prioritized to receive winter cash assistance.

The targets for each population group have been calculated using the Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN), combined with Multidimensional Deprivation Index (MDDI) for Lebanese and Displaced Syrians, ECMEN alone for Palestine refugees, and complemented by Food Consumption Score (FCS) from the MSNA for migrants. According to the 2025 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR), the 2023 Lebanon Household Survey (LHS) complemented by real-time monitoring data, 23 percent of Lebanese and 69 percent of displaced Syrians could not afford the SMEB or were multidimensionally deprived. The calculation of the target for the Lebanese population considers the support already provided through the AMAN programme, which targets families whose expenditures are below both the MEB and the SMEB. This adjustment helps avoid duplication and ensures that resources are allocated efficiently. In the case of PRS and PRL, the 2023 UNRWA Socioeconomic Survey indicated that 42 percent of PRL and 65 per cent of PRS live below the SMEB.

In terms of targeting, LRP partners will continue to prioritize households experiencing socio-economic hardship, protection risks, recent displacement, and exposure to manmade or natural disasters in all areas of Lebanon for MPCA programming. These criteria will be guided by relevant evidence such as data from key household-level assessments, including but not limited to the VASyR, Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and Household Budget Survey (HBS). This evidence-based approach ensures that assistance reaches those most in need.

For displaced Syrians and Others, a combination of socio economic, categorical, and geographic criteria will be used to identify and select the most vulnerable. A similar targeting approach will be applied to migrants and PRL, ensuring that assistance is tailored to the specific vulnerabilities of each group. For PRS, universal targeting will be applied, reflecting the current targeting approach. This approach will be used for both MPCA and seasonal winter support. For vulnerable Lebanese, the targeting methodology will follow similar methodologies and the related guidance stipulated by MoSA, depending on the nature of the shock.

In terms of funding, a total of \$321.5 million is required in 2026 to support 998,253 persons with multipurpose cash assistance, seasonal winter cash assistance and emergency multipurpose cash.

## 4. Transfer Value and Modalities

Regular MPCA will be provided for a minimum of three months, with the possibility of extending assistance coverage to up to 12 months for eligible households. Based on an analysis of the gap between SMEB requirements and the average household's economic capacity to meet their own food and other basic needs, vulnerable families should receive \$25 per person for food needs and \$125 per household to cover their other basic

needs. Operationally, and in light of funding constraints and required prioritization, displaced Syrian families, Others and migrants currently receive a maximum transfer value of \$145 per household per month, subject to family size, composed of \$20 per person for food needs (capped at five household members) and \$45 for non-food needs. For PRS, the transfer value is set at \$60 per household and \$25 per individuals per month, disbursed bimonthly. For PRL, \$50 per person is disbursed on a quarterly basis. For Lebanese nationals, the recommended transfer value will be determined in coordination with MoSA and align with social protection programs.

Delivery of emergency multipurpose cash must be sequenced with referrals to national social protection programmes for longer term support, where feasible. Seasonal cash assistance will be informed by market assessments and will target the most vulnerable households to support their thermal well-being and help prevent these households to resort to harmful coping strategies.

Transfer values will be regularly reviewed and adjusted as feasible to ensure they remain adequate considering inflation and responsive to the evolving needs of vulnerable populations, and in alignment with the national social safety net programme. In situations of crises, emergency MPCA may be provided with an adjusted transfer amount that reflects the additional cost of displacement, heightened risks and the loss of income and livelihoods, based on emergency guidance by the Cash Working Group.

## 5. Implementation Arrangements

MPCA is delivered through a broad network of operational actors, including UN agencies, international and national NGOs as well as national Red Cross/Red Crescent societies. Transfers will primarily be made via prepaid cards and over-the-counter disbursements through licensed financial service providers, such as banks and money transfer operators. These operational arrangements will continue in 2026, and further scaling up the use of common delivery mechanisms will be explored to further increase cost-efficiency.

Recognizing the efficiency of current MPCA delivery mechanisms and the importance of optimizing scarce resources, the Lebanon Cash Working Group (CWG) will further promote and facilitate joint MPCA initiatives. These refer to coordinated assistance provided by two or more humanitarian actors or sectors to the same beneficiaries, with components aligned with MPCA guidance and delivered as a unified MPCA package. The Basic Assistance (BA) and Food Security and Agriculture (FSA) sectors have jointly implemented MPCA for displaced Syrians over several years, with the FSA sector covering the food component and the BA sector the non-food portion. The 2026 MPCA targets continues to reflect this collaborative approach; it continues to leverage complementarity, including for 277,000 vulnerable displaced Syrians who will receive the full MPCA packages through different available CVA modalities and a common delivery mechanism. Building on this model, the CWG will also work with sectors to align the design of sectoral

cash programmes to MPCA design in the form of targeted sectoral top-up grants to achieve sector-specific outcomes (e.g., shelter, protection, WaSH, etc). Seasonal cash assistance, such as winterization, may also be delivered as a top-up grant, making additional resources available to MPCA recipients to meet their additional needs during winter.

Protection considerations remain central to the MPCA response in Lebanon. The CWG will build on the foundation laid by the BA and FSA sectors, reinforcing measures to address gender dynamics, protection risks, conflict sensitivity, and the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) in CVA programming. Prioritized actions in 2026 will include:

- Ensuring the voices and perspectives of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women and girls from different population cohorts are reflected in market and feasibility assessments, programme design, delivery, reporting and monitoring.
- Strengthening transparent communication on programme coverage, targeting and selection, transfer values, and assistance duration.
- Ensuring that complaint, feedback, and response mechanisms remain accessible and responsive to promote accountability.

## 6. Risks and Mitigations

Lebanon's ongoing economic situation poses considerable risks to the effectiveness of MPCA. Inflation continues to undermine the real value of cash transfers, reducing their ability to meet basic needs. Donor funding volatility further threatens programme continuity, limiting the scale and duration of assistance. To mitigate these risks, the response will integrate regular market monitoring to ensure transfer values remain responsive to economic fluctuations and local price trends. Advocacy efforts will be strengthened to promote sustained and flexible donor engagement, emphasizing the impact and efficiency of MPCA. Adaptive programming will be prioritized, allowing for timely adjustments in targeting criteria, assistance duration, and delivery modalities in response to emerging needs and contextual shifts. Finally, complementary services and referral pathways will be reinforced, linking cash recipients to protection, health, and livelihood support, where feasible. These measures will be coordinated with all relevant stakeholders to ensure a harmonized and accountable approach across the response.

## 7. CVA Overview 2026 (direct assistance only)

Sector	CVA Type	Budget	Proportion
<b>Multisector (coordinated by CWG)</b>	MPCA (recurrent, emergency & seasonal)	300,469,250	51%
<b>Livelihoods</b>	Training, business grants and Cash for Work (CfW) / Work based Learning	115,936,000	20%
<b>Food Security and Agriculture</b>	Cash for Food/Food Vouchers	97,500,000	17%
<b>Protection</b>	Cash for Protection & Emergency Cash and Return grants	37,761,050	6%
<b>Shelter</b>	Cash for Rent	26,659,200	5%
<b>WaSH</b>	Cash for Wash	8,250,000	1%
<b>Nutrition</b>	Cash for Nutrition & complementary cash	195,000	0.03%
		<b>586,770,500</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 8. Cash Coordination Arrangements and Links with Social Protection Systems

In alignment with the global cash coordination model endorsed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and in the spirit of the Humanitarian Reset, the CWG in Lebanon has been merged with the Basic Assistance Sector to streamline efforts and ensure coherence across humanitarian cash programming in an advisory role to the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). Lebanon's CWG now reflects the global principles on cash coordination and will support humanitarian actors in Lebanon in ensuring harmonization, coherence and complementarity of CVA as a modality across all sectors and population groups.

The CWG will lead technical and operational coordination of MPCA and winter cash assistance, in close coordination with relevant sectors. The CWG is also responsible for systematically integrating CVA, particularly MPCA, into humanitarian responses and preparedness plans – wherever feasible and appropriate. While sector-specific cash coordination remains within respective sectors, the CWG also provides technical support to sectors and at the inter-sector level promotes coherence and complementarity. The CWG and relevant sectors have developed a way of working document to ensure clear roles and responsibilities with regards to MPCA design and coordination. The key priorities for 2026 include:

- Alignment of sectoral cash programmes with MPCA, including on transfer values, assistance duration and, where relevant, targeting criteria.
- Reinforcing existing deduplication efforts to maximize efficient resource use.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs/Social Development, the CWG remains committed to aligning with national guidelines, in line with broader reforms to strengthen coherence between humanitarian assistance and national social protection systems. Social assistance programs including the SRSN developed during the 2024 escalation of hostilities will transition to MoSA's Social Assistance Committee (SAC) in 2025/26. Under MoSA's NSPS, all social protection programs targeting Lebanese citizens including poverty-targeting and shock-responsive initiatives will be coordinated by MoSA through the SAC. Additional plans are underway to expand the AMAN program to increase coverage for people living in poverty.

The CWG will ensure close alignment with the overarching objectives of MoSA and support to the Government of Lebanon's social assistance programmes under the NSPS, including through continued investment in MoSA's capacity to lead and fully operationalize social protection systems. The CWG will establish strong linkages with the SAC, including through regular attendance of SAC meetings. The SAC and the CWG will jointly determine CWG's role in the coordination of cash assistance to vulnerable Lebanese families in future crises, ensuring that this support complements national systems. As a SAC member, the CWG will continue to advocate for and enable preparedness and shock-responsive mechanisms within social protection programs. The CWG stands ready to provide technical advisory, operational support and/or emergency MPCA transfers to vulnerable Lebanese through the national Shock Responsive Safety Net in case national systems are overstretched, based on MoSA's request. For assistance coordination purposes for vulnerable Lebanese families, CWG and sector partners will rely on de-duplication done through MoSA.

To complement the MoSA-led social protection expansion, the CWG will focus on humanitarian cash assistance for non-Lebanese populations groups that are not yet covered by social protection programmes, including displaced Syrians, PRS, PRL, migrants and Others. The CWG will continue coordinating humanitarian cash assistance for these groups to meet their basic needs, aligned with the overall social protection strategy. To ensure coordinated assistance, CWG and sector partners will continue to rely on established de-duplication mechanisms.

This approach ensures both long-term systems strengthening and continued emergency response capacity to leave no vulnerable family behind.

## 2. LOGFRAME

**OUTCOME I: Poor and vulnerable households and individuals, including female-headed households, persons with disabilities, and children, are increasingly able to meet their basic needs**

Indicator I.1	Description	MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of assisted households reporting being able to meet their basic needs	Numerator: # of assisted reporting ability to meet their basic needs Denominator: # total assisted who have been sampled	Impact studies and PDMs for all population cohorts	% (HH)	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other						
Baseline	Target 2026										
60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%





# EDUCATION

## PEOPLE IN NEED


**1,016,310**

## PEOPLE TARGETED


**584,844**

## SECTOR APPEAL


**\$160,053,393**

## CONTACT

### LEAD MINISTRY

Ministry of Education and Higher Education

Hilda Khoury

[HKhouri@MEHE.gov.lb](mailto:HKhouri@MEHE.gov.lb)

Julien Jalkh

[jjalkh@mehe.gov.lb](mailto:jjalkh@mehe.gov.lb)

### CO-LEAD AGENCIES

UNICEF

Atif Rafique

[arafique@unicef.org](mailto:arafique@unicef.org)

Nooramaria Parikka

[nparikka@unicef.org](mailto:nparikka@unicef.org)

### SAVE THE CHILDREN

Alaa Hmaid

[alaa.hmaid@savethechildren.org](mailto:alaa.hmaid@savethechildren.org)

## SECTOR OUTCOMES

### OUTCOME 1:

Increased equitable and inclusive access to, participation in, and completion of safe and protective education for all learners in Lebanon, with a focus on the most vulnerable children and their caregivers

- **Output 1.1:** Safe, inclusive, and adequately equipped learning spaces are available and functional in all areas, including crisis-affected and underserved communities
- **Output 1.2:** Children, youth, and their caregivers receive targeted support to overcome economic, social, and psychosocial barriers to accessing and completing education

### OUTCOME 2:

Improved learning outcomes for children and youth through enhanced quality of formal and non-formal education services that are safe, protective, adapted, and inclusive for multi-crisis situations

- **Output 2.1:** Teachers, education personnel, educators, parents and communities have enhanced capacities to ensure quality, learner-centred education in public schools or learning spaces
- **Output 2.2:** Children in schools and learning spaces are supported with enhanced learning opportunities that contribute to improved learning outcomes, protection and wellbeing

### OUTCOME 3:

Strengthened governance, managerial, and knowledge management capacities across all levels of the education system, using evidence to drive decision-making

- **Output 3.1:** National data systems, coordination mechanisms, and preparedness for evidence-based education planning are enhanced
- **Output 3.2:** Digital learning modalities to ensure equitable, inclusive and crisis-resilient access to quality learning are expanded and institutionalized.

## POPULATION BREAKDOWN

	PIN 2026	TARGET 2026
 VULNERABLE LEBANESE	582,139	279,441
 DISPLACED SYRIANS	374,221	265,556
 PRL	49,561	35,614
 PRS	5,885	3,734
 MIGRANTS	4,504	500
 OTHER	-	-

# 1. SITUATION & STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## 1.1 Situation Analysis

In 2025, Lebanon's education system remained under severe strain due to the combined the escalation of hostilities, economic crisis, and deepening social vulnerabilities. Approximately one-third of school-aged children and youth from all nationalities experienced disrupted learning, as many schools faced operational challenges or temporary closures (Lebanon Situation Analysis, January 2025).

Enrolment declined by more than 10 per cent in one year, from 1.3 million in 2022–2023 to 1.15 million in 2024–2025 (MEHE). Public schools, which serve the majority of vulnerable children, recorded a 15 per cent overall reduction, including a 50 per cent drop in the afternoon shift that primarily serves non-Lebanese learners. UNRWA schools saw a four per cent decline compared to last year, and 33 per cent of children of migrants are now out of school (Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment, MSNA 2025).

Out-of-school children are projected to reach nearly 20 per cent of the school-aged population by 2026, with displaced Syrian children most affected, around 60 per cent expected to remain out of school and only 10 per cent benefiting from non-formal education. Population movements continue to reshape needs: about 300,000 individuals were inactivated from UNHCR records in 2025 due to returns, while nearly 100,000 post-2024 arrivals<sup>2</sup> were recorded after 8 December 2024. MSNA 2025 data shows that the conflict, displacement and delayed school reopening have directly disrupted the Education of nearly all Lebanese children, depriving many of stable learning and pushing them deeper into uncertainty, while economic hardship, high education costs, and limited opportunities leave one in three migrant children and one in four Palestine refugee children out of school. Many face pressure to work or marry early, and repeated grades with little counselling drive disengagement and drop-out.

For children attending school, regular attendance is heavily constrained by poverty and protection risks. The 2025 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) found that 32 per cent of Syrian households cited transportation costs, 31 per cent cited education materials, and 17 per cent pointed to child labour as major barriers. Similarly, MSNA 2025 data shows that many Lebanese children cannot afford tuition, supplies, or transport, while growing economic pressures push them to work or contribute to family income, leading to irregular attendance and increased drop-out risks.

School safety and infrastructure conditions further exacerbate challenges. Findings from the School Safety Assessment, conducted as part of the Joint Education Needs Assessment, indicate that many schools require rehabilitation due to

structural deterioration, outdated electrical systems, and insufficient heating and internet connectivity. Girls, in particular, face obstacles related to inadequate sanitation and hygiene facilities, directly impacting attendance. The assessment also identified gaps in accessibility for children with disabilities and limited preparedness for emergencies.

In the area of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and according to TVET Directorate's infrastructure assessment, three public TVET schools were completely destroyed due to the 2024 escalation of hostilities and 14 TVET public schools sustained severe damage, leading to an increase in the drop-out of youth from formal TVET. In response, UNICEF conducted minor repairs in 15 TVET public schools leading to the safe access of 4,000 young people to formal education in TVET.

## 1.2 Prioritization

In 2026, the Education sector will prioritize actions that ensure continuity of learning for the most vulnerable, including boys and girls with disabilities. Quality non-formal education will be scaled up with clear pathways to formal schooling. A flexible pathway program will be implemented for re-enrolment in formal TVET. Retention measures, including catch-up classes, cash-for-education and support to families, will be expanded to reduce economic barriers, especially for girls and boys at risk of drop-out. Teacher capacity development, psychosocial support, inclusive pedagogical approach and digital access will also be prioritized to sustain quality. Collectively, these interventions address immediate risks while strengthening resilience in line with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's (MEHE) seven priority pillars and TVET National Strategic Framework (2025-2029).

## 1.3 Risks and Mitigation Measures

The Education sector in Lebanon continues to navigate several potential risks in 2026 that may affect access, quality, and continuity of learning for all population groups. Main concern relates to the fragile security context, particularly in the South, which could result in temporary school closures and displacement. To mitigate this, partners will strengthen the education system to be prepared for emergencies and become more resilient to support continuity of learning through a capacity development exercise to address needs and fulfil gaps across partners, aiming to ensure learning continuity for all students (Learning from Day 1 of the onset of any emergency) using online and/or digital modalities and approaches while in safe spaces.

Economic pressures also remain significant. Economic vulnerability among many households continues to threaten retention, especially for most vulnerable girls and boys, including children with disabilities, while both schools and TVET face constraints in sustaining basic operations. Mitigation measures include support to schools, households and communities through maintaining the assistance of public-school funds, as well as cash for education and learning materials for the most vulnerable households, increased coordination in community-based and school-based retention support programmes, among other measures of support. TVET schools continue to navigate several potential risks in 2026 that may affect access of young people to quality education in TVET since many TVET schools struggle to cover operational costs such as electricity (generators), heating, and maintenance of equipment amid economic collapse and many TVET schools cannot afford to replace ageing equipment, buy new tools, or maintain workshops.

Persisting gaps in digital infrastructure, power supply, and connectivity and positive inclusion mindsets continue to affect blended learning. The sector will build on the national digital learning strategy 2025 to expand solarization, connectivity, and affordable, accessible devices, in underserved areas.

Lack of a clear transition pathway from non-formal education to formal education, is hindering continuity of learning for many children. The sector under the leadership of MEHE developed a new curriculum (Accelerated Learning Programme, ALP) to address this. Together, these measures aim to safeguard access, equity, and learning continuity for children from all nationalities.

## 1.4 Localization

In 2026, the Education sector in Lebanon will continue advancing its transition and localization agenda, guided by global transition principles but adapted to the national context.

Looking ahead, national coordination bodies will become the primary platforms for education planning and response, supported by technical working groups that focus on emergency preparedness and accountability to affected populations. Transitioning ensures that humanitarian and stabilization and development efforts are sustained, reducing dependency on parallel structures and reinforcing institutional capacities.

## 1.5 Mainstreaming Components: Disability Inclusion, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

In 2026, the Education sector in Lebanon integrates child protection, disability inclusion, health, accountability, do no harm, and environmental sustainability to ensure all children learn in safe and resilient environments. Building on humanitarian standards and national priorities, interventions promote access to education while safeguarding well-being and strengthening community and system resilience.

The sector under leadership of MEHE ensures child protection and inclusion activities will be aligned with national child protection and inclusion policies and the ministry's referral system. Child protection is embedded across all programmes through safeguarding policies, PSEA training, and accessible feedback and complaint mechanisms. Referral pathways address violence, exploitation, child labour, and early marriage. Inclusive teaching and targeted retention measures support boys and girls with disabilities and those at risk of exclusion, while multi-layered Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) links learners to health, nutrition, and psychosocial services. Guided by do no harm principles, energy audits and solarization initiatives enhance sustainability, making education protective, accessible and transformative space for Lebanon's children.

## 1.6. Intersectoral Linkages

The Education sector will work closely with Child Protection sector to implement the 2025 joint action plan, strengthen referral mechanisms in alignment with MEHE's child protection referral system, linked with the MEHE child protection hotline, and expand harmonized feedback systems. Collaboration with Health and Nutrition sectors will turn schools into entry points for psychosocial care and referrals to life-saving support. Joint awareness initiatives will address bullying, mental health, disability stigmatisation, and nutrition, linking education with broader child well-being. Coordination with the Cash Working Group will connect families to cash for education to reduce economic barriers. Work with Social Stability, WaSH, and Shelter sectors will promote do no harm and sustainability, making education a protective, accessible and transformative platform for children. Support the Food Security Sector's emergency response by equipping TVET school kitchens as dual-purpose hubs, operating as community kitchens for hot meals during crises, while functioning as enhanced training facilities for students.

## 1.7. Transition to Development & Recovery

In 2026, the Education sector will continue its strategic shift from humanitarian and stabilisation response to recovery and development, aligning with MEHE's Vision 2030 and the Strategic Framework for TVET (2025–2029). This transition focuses on strengthening national systems, reducing reliance on parallel structures, and embedding resilience across all education interventions. Sector partners will support MEHE and

the TVET directorate in leading inclusive, data-driven planning and delivery, ensuring that education services are sustainable, equitable, and responsive to evolving needs. Investments in digital learning, inclusive infrastructure, and teacher capacity will be institutionalized to support long-term transition strategy. The sector will also reinforce pathways from non-formal to formal education, expand community-based support, and promote intersectoral collaboration to address protection, health, and economic barriers. Through these efforts, the sector aims to build a more resilient education system that empowers all children and youth in Lebanon to thrive.



## 2. SECTOR RESULTS, TARGETS, AND BUDGET

### 2.1 Linkage with LRP Strategic Objectives

The strategy is fully aligned with MEHE's priorities, including the emerging Vision 2030, the Strategic Vision for Education Renewal, and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, Quality education, while integrating protection, inclusion, PSEA, disability responsiveness, and accountability to affected populations. Immediate priorities focus on expanding equitable access, promoting inclusive teaching, supporting retention to mitigate learning losses, strengthening digital learning, reinforcing system leadership, improving pathways from non-formal to formal education, and investing in school-based psychosocial and health services to ensure safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments for all children in Lebanon. It aims to build a resilient, inclusive, and equity-focused education system that protects and empowers Lebanon's most vulnerable children and youth, while improving access, quality, and system effectiveness.

Outcome 1 focuses on equitable and inclusive access to safe, protective learning, advancing MEHE's pillars on equitable infrastructure, resources, and digital access, as well as community engagement across population groups. This directly supports the Lebanon Response Plan's (LRP) Strategic Objective 1 by enhancing protection for vulnerable learners, and LRP Strategic Objective 2 by reducing barriers through cash-for-education, outreach, and referrals to child protection and GBV services. The rehabilitation and operationalisation of schools and learning spaces under Output 1.1 also contribute to LRP Strategic Objective 3, reinforcing national service delivery systems. Outcome 2 addresses MEHE's pillars on excellence in teaching, family partnerships, and learner well-being. Through teacher capacity-building, inclusive pedagogy, and psychosocial support, it safeguards learners while contributing to Strategic Objective 4, reinforcing Lebanon's social stability through improved quality and retention. Outcome 3 advances MEHE's pillars on participatory leadership and partnerships. By strengthening data systems, policy frameworks, and emergency preparedness, it supports LRP Strategic Objective 3, ensuring MEHE's capacity to lead and sustain education delivery through national systems.

### 2.2 Sector Outcomes

**Outcome 1: Enhanced equitable and inclusive access to, and completion of, safe, protective education for all learners in Lebanon, prioritising the most vulnerable children and their caregivers.**

By addressing barriers to access and ensuring inclusive, well-equipped learning spaces, the sector aim in 2026 to enable children and youth, including around 220,000 Lebanese, 145,000 displaced Syrians and more than 36,000 Palestinians and Migrants, to enrol and remain in education. The estimated requirement for this outcome is \$145 million.

**Output 1.1: Safe, inclusive, and adequately equipped learning spaces are available and functional in all areas, including crisis-affected and underserved communities.**

The education sector is working to ensure that all children in Lebanon, regardless of background, nationality, ability and legal status, have access to safe, inclusive, and well-equipped schools and learning spaces. Formal education across primary, secondary, TVET, and UNRWA schools is being reinforced to guarantee continuity, while flexible learning pathways and vocational opportunities offer alternatives for learners unable to access formal Education. Infrastructure upgrades remain a central component, ensuring inclusive classrooms, TVET laboratories, safe play areas, and disability-accessible WaSH facilities and school community kitchens. Solarisation and the provision of health and hygiene kits support resilience, while efforts to strengthen the physical environment contribute to both learning and well-being.

**Output 1.2: Children, youth, and their caregivers receive targeted support to overcome economic, social, and psychosocial barriers to accessing and completing education.**

Alongside physical access, the sector focuses on reducing economic and social barriers. Cash for Education, back-to-school kits, solarization of TVET public schools and in-kind support offset the high costs of transportation, supplies, and other school-related expenses. School feeding and nutritional support improve attendance and address health risks, particularly for adolescent girls. Outreach ensures marginalised groups, including children with disabilities and special needs, stateless children, migrants, refugees and those without documentation, are referred to education partners for enrolment support based on government guidance or training pathways. Integration with other sectors ensures holistic support, such as referrals to Child Protection or GBV services and interventions to address period poverty. Engagement of parents and caregivers remains key, with awareness-raising to prevent negative coping mechanisms and strengthen community support for education.

## **Outcome 2: Improved learning outcomes for children and youth through improved quality of education services, ensuring safety, protection, and adaptation to multi-crisis situations.**

Through strengthened teacher capacity, learning recovery, and inclusive pedagogy, the sector will support improved learning for around 540,000 children, prioritising the capacity development of more than 15,000 teachers and education personnel, as well as the engagement of more than 20,000 caregivers, ensuring progress toward safe, protective, and equitable education. The estimated requirement for this outcome is \$11.4 million.

**Output 2.1: Teachers, education personnel, educators, parents and communities have enhanced capacities to ensure quality, learner-centred education in public schools or learning spaces.**

The quality of education depends heavily on empowered teachers and supportive learning environments. Professional development opportunities, aligned with national certification, equip teachers with skills in inclusive education, pedagogy, and learner-centred methods. Their well-being is supported through access to psychosocial services, enabling them to create safe and caring classrooms. Schools strengthen protection mechanisms and adopt national frameworks for MHPSS and social-emotional learning. Engagement of parents, caregivers, and communities helps to address challenges faced by vulnerable learners, while liaison volunteers support enrolment, referrals, and parental participation. Awareness sessions extend to broader issues such as post-conflict trauma, prevention of bullying, child labour, and digital safety, ensuring comprehensive support for children's education.

**Output 2.2: Children in schools and learning spaces are supported with enhanced learning opportunities that contribute to improved learning outcomes, protection and wellbeing.**

Targeted programmes address the learning loss and drop-out risks caused by years of disruption in alignment with the national assessment conducted by MEHE, and the 10-week recovery plans implemented by MEHE in 2025. Homework clubs, catch-up classes, foundational literacy and numeracy support, are all scaled up to reinforce retention and achievement. The National Learning Recovery Initiative provides a structured approach to reversing learning losses, while non-formal programmes integrate Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and protection measures with pathways into formal schools or TVET. Inclusive education policies are advanced through support for inclusive schools, capacity building of school leaders in differentiated instruction, and provision of assistive devices and therapeutic referrals for children with disabilities. Digital learning opportunities are strengthened, equipping teachers and students with the tools needed for hybrid learning. For adolescents and youth, targeted programmes provide life skills, vocational training, and resilience-building opportunities to prepare them for livelihoods and further education.

## **Outcome 3: Strengthened governance, managerial, and knowledge management capacities across all levels of the education system, using evidence to drive decision-making.**

Sector partners, MEHE and TVET directorate will continue to lead on nationally owned, data-driven education systems. Through coordinated planning, preparedness, real-time monitoring, and targeted capacity building, they will ensure that resources and strategies respond to actual needs, not assumptions. By embedding evidence into every layer of decision-making, partners will reduce fragmentation, improve performance, and deliver more equitable outcomes for learners, especially those most at risk, such as boys and girls with disabilities. By enhancing data systems, digital learning, and evidence-based policymaking, the sector will reinforce national leadership and ensure effective service delivery through more than 1,200 public schools across the country. The estimated requirement for this outcome is \$3.35 million.

**Output 3.1. National data systems, coordination mechanisms, and preparedness for evidence-based education planning are enhanced.**

The sector will continue enhancing the unified, disability-disaggregated Ministry of Education Management System that captures data on enrolment, attendance, teacher qualifications, infrastructure, and inclusion across both formal and non-formal education. MEHE will lead efforts to integrate this data into strategic contingency planning, funding allocation, and school-level improvement. For TVET Directorate, a pilot phase will be conducted to roll out the ministry's management system in TVET schools. Partners will support regular sector reporting, build the capacity of education actors to interpret and use data, and ensure alignment through joint monitoring tools. This with the overall aim to ensure resilience against shocks and enabling smart, adaptive and disability-responsive leadership at every level.

**Output 3.2. Digital learning modalities to ensure equitable, inclusive and crisis-resilient access to quality learning are expanded and institutionalized.**

Partners will implement the National Digital Learning Strategy 2025: Reimagine Learning in Lebanon by equipping schools with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure, devices, and digital platforms. MEHE will lead capacity building in disability-inclusive hybrid pedagogy, while partners will support local and international organizations to scale delivery. With the overall aim that learners, including those in remote or crisis-affected areas, can access quality education through flexible, blended approaches. By embedding hybrid learning as a core part of national delivery, the sector will secure continuity of learning, expand access to underserved groups, and build long-term system resilience.

## Return

The Education sector return-related activities are fully integrated into the overall Education sector response and adapted to the specific Education needs of children and families who choose to return. Under MEHE's leadership, the sector will ensure that children and their caregivers receive accurate information on return options, counselling, certification and documentation support, and clear disability inclusive referral pathways.

In line with MEHE's non-formal education programs, children will receive targeted support in Arabic language, as well as basic literacy and numeracy, to strengthen foundational skills and facilitate their reintegration into formal schooling after periods of being out of school.

Psychosocial support is integrated into programs to address anxiety and promote well-being, while certification and student record transfer, guided by MEHE, enable smooth continuation of education across borders. Families are engaged through community outreach and orientation sessions to ensure access for children on the move and create pathways into formal education upon return and refer to legal services and organizations supporting them with certifications. In parallel, the sector strengthens the capacity of education partners through cross-border information sharing.

Finally, a strong focus on inclusive education ensures that children with disabilities are identified, supported, and included through accessible infrastructure, disability-responsive sensitive referrals, and community awareness campaigns. Together, these activities form an integral part of the sector's overall response, adapted in form and scope to meet the specific needs of returnee children and their families.

## 2.3 Summary Sector Target and Budget

In 2026, Lebanon's Education sector targets 584,844 individuals (a 27% decrease from 2025) with a reduced budget of \$160.01 million (down 35%). The focus shifts toward stabilisation, increasing from 45 per cent to 56 per cent, while humanitarian efforts account for 48 per cent. Non-Lebanese populations remain the majority, with 305,404 targeted. The sector prioritizes inclusive, equitable, and protective education, emphasizing safe learning spaces, psychosocial support, and improved learning outcomes. Indicators are disaggregated by gender, age, and children with disabilities. The strategy aligns with national priorities and aims to strengthen a responsive education system.



### 3. LOGFRAME

#### OUTCOME 1: Increased equitable and inclusive access to, participation in, and completion of safe and protective education for all learners in Lebanon, with a focus on the most vulnerable children and their caregivers

Indicator 1.1	Description						MoV	Unit	Frequency		
% of crisis affected children and youth (age 3 - 18 years) with access to repaired and established safe, protective and quality learning spaces with adequate WASH facilities	This measures the number of school-aged children in Lebanon who are enrolled in formal education during the 2024-2025 scholastic year. This includes all types of formal education facilities: public, semi-private, private, UNRWA schools, as well as TVET institutions.						MEHE Admin data	%	Yearly		
											
Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026
95%	95%	45%	75%	75%	75%	45%	70%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

#### OUTCOME 2: Improved learning outcomes for children and youth through enhanced quality of formal and non-formal education services that are safe, protective, adapted, and inclusive for multi-crisis situations

Indicator 2.1	Description						MoV	Unit	Frequency		
											
% of crisis affected children and youth (age 3 - 18 years) with improved learning outcome.	This is a new indicator aligned with MEHE's focus on enhancing the quality of education. The baseline will be established after the 2025/2026 scholastic year. Data for this indicator will be consolidated from transition rates, the Learning Recovery Campaign, and NFE learning outcomes.						MEHE Admin data	%	Yearly		
Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026
N/A	70%	N/A	70%	N/A	70%	N/A	70%	N/A	70%	N/A	70%

#### OUTCOME 3: Strengthened governance, managerial, and knowledge management capacities across all levels of the education system, using evidence to drive decision-making

Indicator 3.1	Description						MoV	Unit	Frequency		
											
% of stakeholders that report improved coordination, harmonization, data and monitoring, capacity support, and guidance within the Education Sector.	This measures the percentage of Sector Partners who actively contribute to the sectoral activities through coordinated mechanisms.						Survey/Education Sector Coordination Team	%	Yearly		
Baseline	Target 2026										
71%	90%										





# FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

## PEOPLE IN NEED

 2,351,774

## PEOPLE TARGETED

 851,000

## SECTOR APPEAL

 \$231,647,400

## CONTACT

### LEAD MINISTRY

Ministry of Agriculture  
Sawsan Bou Fakhreddine  
[boufakhreddines@gmail.com](mailto:boufakhreddines@gmail.com)

Mona Siblini  
[Monasiblini@hotmail.com](mailto:Monasiblini@hotmail.com)

Eng. Salim Roukoz  
[salimroukoz@hotmail.com](mailto:salimroukoz@hotmail.com)

### CO-LEAD AGENCIES

WFP  
Mohie Al Wahsh  
[mohie.alwahsh@wfp.org](mailto:mohie.alwahsh@wfp.org)

FAO  
Elie Choueiri  
[Elie.Choueiri@fao.org](mailto:Elie.Choueiri@fao.org)

NUSANED  
George Haffar  
[george.haffar@nusaned.org](mailto:george.haffar@nusaned.org)

CARE  
Nour Katerji  
[nour.katerji@careliban.org](mailto:nour.katerji@careliban.org)

## SECTOR OUTCOMES

### OUTCOME 1:

To ensure most vulnerable communities in Lebanon receive food assistance to reduce their food gaps and diversify their food intake

- **Output 1.1:** Food insecure individuals have access to food through various modalities

### OUTCOME 2:

To improve agricultural production and productivity of most vulnerable farmers through agriculture livelihoods assistance to protect, restore and sustain their livelihoods

- **Output 2.1:** Farmers receive capacity building/technical assistance, in-kind and cash-based assistance for improved production and productivity
- **Output 2.2:** Support to agricultural cooperatives, associations and MSMEs for improved production and productivity
- **Output 2.3:** Support employment and employability to improve livelihoods sources

### OUTCOME 3:

To enhance national capacities, coordination and information sharing on food security and agriculture

- **Output 3.1:** Capacity strengthening to public sector and humanitarian staff on food security and agriculture

## POPULATION BREAKDOWN

	PIN 2026	TARGET 2026
 VULNERABLE LEBANESE	1,244,338	460,000
 DISPLACED SYRIANS	931,881	391,000
 PRL	106,253	-
 PRS	18,632	-
 MIGRANTS	50,669	-
 OTHER	-	-

# 1. SITUATION & STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## 1.1. Situation Analysis

In 2026, the Food Security and Agriculture (FSA) Sector estimated that 2.35 million people will need food security assistance among Lebanese residents, Syrian and Palestine refugees, Migrants, and post-2024 arrivals.<sup>3</sup> In 2026, the FSA Sector aims to reach 1.52 million vulnerable girls, boys, women and men through a combination of in-kind and cash-based food assistance, multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), and capacity strengthening initiatives including distribution of agricultural inputs. Of this total, 851,000 vulnerable individuals, including Lebanese citizens, displaced Syrians, and post-2024 arrivals,<sup>3</sup> will receive food security and agriculture assistance. Meanwhile, 574,853 vulnerable Lebanese, displaced Syrians, and other population groups, including Palestine refugees and migrants, will receive full MPCA and are reflected under the MPCA chapter of this appeal, including 277,000 displaced Syrians, 150,000 Lebanese, 99,853 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)/Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) and 48,000 migrants. Displaced populations residing in collective shelters will continue to receive Hot Meals and Ready to Eat rations throughout 2026. Also, the sector will support in strengthening the extension services of the Ministry of Agriculture. In line with established best practices, the FSA sector will strive to ensure complementarity of sectoral modalities with assistance provided by other sectors. The total financial requirements under FSA Sector only for 2026 is \$231,6 million.

In 2026, an estimated 2.35 million Lebanese, displaced Syrians, PRL, PRS, and migrants, representing 44 per cent of the population, were classified as People in Need (PiN) for the Food Security and Agriculture Sector, a five per cent age point decrease compared to the 2025 PiN, due to many factors, including the fragile stability in the situation since the enforcement of the ceasefire at the end of November 2024. Through 2025, needs remained elevated: the April 2025 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) found 1.17 million (21%) in Phase 3+ for April–June 2025, rising to a projected 1.24 million (23%) for July–October 2025, with highest incidence in Baalbek, El Hermel, Baabda, Bent Jbeil, Marjayoun, El Nabatieh, Sour, and Akkar.

Lebanon's agriculture sector, critical for employment, food supply, and rural stability, remains severely strained by drought, conflict, and rising production costs. An estimated 17,000 agricultural households urgently require assistance, concentrated in El Nabatieh (47%), Baalbek-El Hermel (22%), and the South (15%). Around 213,000 people, including 43,000 farmers, have been directly affected by reduced water availability, with 41,000 at risk of deteriorating to IPC Phase 3. Conflict caused \$704 million in damages and losses, with \$95 million prioritized for agricultural inputs, livestock rehabilitation, irrigation repair, and climate-smart recovery. Immediate emergency assistance of \$32 million is required to resume production, while \$135 million is needed to

rebuild damaged agricultural infrastructure. Targeted cash assistance will enable farmers to cover essential production costs and protect assets, complemented by support to cooperatives/SMEs and temporary employment across food systems, using the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) Farmers Registry to ensure transparent and equitable targeting. The World Bank estimates \$6.8 billion in damage, \$7.2 billion in economic losses, and \$11 billion in recovery needs, primarily in the South and Nabatieh. Despite partial stabilization, humanitarian access remains intermittent in several southern and border localities, underscoring the need for flexible, conflict-sensitive delivery modalities.

The FSA Strategy aligns with the National Agricultural Strategy (NAS) 2026–2035 under preparation, Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) Strategy 2026–2030, and the National Food Systems Pathways (2024), integrating shock-responsive safety nets, climate-resilient practices, efficient water management, solar pumping, and early-warning systems. Collectively, these actions represent a coordinated humanitarian effort to protect lives and livelihoods, stabilize food production, and strengthen resilience across Lebanon.

While Lebanon remains in a fragile socio-economic and security situation, restoring agricultural livelihoods will be essential for its sustainable food security. Lessons learned emphasize the importance of timely and seasonal agricultural input delivery, strengthened collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, and empowerment of local institutions to reduce dependency on humanitarian aid and foster a transition toward stabilization, recovery and resilience. Recent data from the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) underscores significant food insecurity within Lebanon's conflict-affected regions, with agricultural households in Baalbek (59%) and Marjayoun (57%) districts, among the most affected. In Baalbek-El Hermel governorate, 52 per cent of agricultural households are grappling with moderate or severe levels of food insecurity. Similarly, high rates are observed in El Nabatieh at 46 per cent, and in the South governorate at 36 per cent. Within the sector of highly impacted southern districts, the situation is severe with Sour (36%), Bint Jbeil (46%), Marjayoun (57%), and Nabatieh (45%) experiencing moderate to severe levels of food insecurity, highlighting the profound impact of conflict on the agricultural sector and food availability in these areas.

**LEB:** Based on the PiN analysis for 2026, which uses a combination of the Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN) combined with Multidimensional Deprivation Index (MDDI), 1,224,000 Lebanese were found to need food assistance in 2026.

**SYR:** Preliminary findings from the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) 2025 highlight that around 30 per cent of displaced Syrian household reported inadequate food consumption (25 per cent borderline and five per cent poor), down from 39 per cent in 2024. Some 25

<sup>3</sup> Post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria.

per cent of households reported high usage of food-coping strategies, down from 30 per cent in 2024. Livelihood coping showed mixed developments, with usage of crisis strategies slightly increasing from 19 per cent in 2024 to 22 per cent in 2025, while emergency strategies declined from seven per cent to four per cent over the same period. The total PiN for displaced Syrians was estimated at 931,881 (811,881 previously displaced + 120,000 post-2024 arrivals), using a combination of ECMEN and MDDI from the VASyR 2025 assessment for the previously displaced, and using data from the Emergency Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (EFSVA) for the post-2024 arrivals.

**PRL/PRS:** The latest IPC in March 2025 estimates 67,000 PRL and PRS were classified in Phase 3 or above, corresponding to 30 per cent of their combined population, consistent with figures applied in Inter-agency planning frameworks. Given the lack of new vulnerability data for PRL, it was agreed to use the ECMEN below the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) using data from the UNRWA Socio Economic Survey 2023. As such, in 2026, 105,253 PRL and 19,631 PRS are considered in need.

**Migrants:** Migrants who do not live with their employer are considered more food insecure than live-in migrants. Live-out migrants reported higher rates of coping strategies. Given the lack of new vulnerability data for migrants in Lebanon, and using data from the 2023 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), migrants that had a food consumption score below 42 were considered to be in need. As such, in 2026, 50,669 migrants are considered in need.

## 1.2. Prioritization

The sector experienced a reduction in resources during 2025 to support displaced populations across all groups. In response, the sector and partners redesigned assistance, prioritized areas, and applied robust prioritization criteria to reach the most vulnerable people, supported with a collective coordination approach. The calculation of the PiN for displaced Syrians (including both previously displaced and post-2024 arrivals) in 2026 was based on a combination of the ECMEN methodology, identifying households falling below the MEB and those categorized as MDDI poor, using data from the latest VASyR 2025 assessment. The total PiN for displaced Syrians was estimated at 931,881 (811,881 previously displaced + 120,000 post-2024 arrivals). The target was set at 809,500, combining those below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) and MDDI poor, with 695,500 previously displaced Syrians and 114,000 post-2024 arrivals. The post-2024 arrivals target was calculated as 95 per cent of the PiN of the post-2024 arrivals based on blanket coverage from Emergency Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment that was conducted for this population group in 2025.

For Lebanese, the PiN was calculated using the ECMEN methodology (households below MEB) and MDDI indicators from Lebanon Household Survey (LHS) 2023

and mVAM 2025, resulting in 1.25 million people in need. The target was set at 870,000, representing 70 per cent of the PiN. However, after accounting for the 750,000 individuals reached through the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) program (which covers households below both MEB and SMEB), the adjusted target was 350,000. For PRL and PRS, due to the absence of a recent vulnerability assessment, the same PiN percentages from 2025 were applied to updated population figures. This resulted in a PiN of 105,500 PRL and 19,600 PRS, based on ECMEN (below MEB) from the UNRWA Socio-Economic Survey 2023. Targets were set at 78,000 PRL and 15,000 PRS, using the SMEB threshold. For Migrants, the PiN was estimated at 50,600, based on households with poor or borderline Food Consumption Scores (FCS) from MSNA 2023. The target was set at 48,000, representing 95 per cent of the PiN.

In 2026, the agriculture response will focus on safeguarding the livelihoods and minimum productive capacity of farming households affected by conflict and drought to prevent further food insecurity. Key actions include emergency production support with seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, small equipment, animal feed, veterinary and extension services; urgent water access for crops and livestock in drought-affected areas; emergency cash or vouchers to displaced and returnee farmers to resume production; restoration of market linkages to ensure input access and product sales; and strengthening local institutions and farmer organizations to sustain service delivery and reduce reliance on humanitarian aid.

## 1.3 Risks and Mitigation Measures

The agriculture sector faces multiple risks that may undermine the achievement of planned results in 2026. The most critical relate to funding shortages, climate shocks, and security and access constraints in conflict-affected areas, notably in the south. Funding gaps, likely to remain high amid competing humanitarian priorities, could delay delivery and reduce programmes and interventions. To mitigate this, partners will advocate for predictable, flexible, and multi-year funding and align interventions with evidence-based needs and national priorities.

Security-related risks, including renewed hostilities, unexploded ordnance, and access restrictions, could disrupt field operations and monitoring. The sector will coordinate closely with MoA, local authorities, and UN security mechanisms, and the Access Working Group, while pre-positioning agricultural inputs and using remote monitoring to sustain delivery. Climate-induced risks (notably recurrent drought, erratic rainfall, and water scarcity) pose severe threats to agricultural recovery and productivity. Mitigation will focus on scaling up drought monitoring and early warning systems, promoting climate-resilient crops, and expanding water-efficient irrigation and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Additional challenges stem from market disruptions, institutional coordination gaps, and

environmental degradation, which are moderate but persistent. Partners will enhance coordination under MoA leadership, strengthen local institutions and cooperatives, and promote sustainable land and water management practices.

Overall, the sector's risk management strategy emphasizes anticipatory planning, climate adaptation, and stronger institutional coordination, ensuring that agricultural recovery efforts remain responsive, locally driven, and resilient to future shocks.

## 1.4. Localization

The humanitarian response of the FSA sector relies on the contextual knowledge and field presence of sector partners, needs assessments and analysis are consulted with affected communities local authorities and civil society, and response actions are rooted in local realities. The Sector started sub a working group for local organizations in August 2025 to coordinate more closely and build capacity for local partners where it is needed, using the local language. In mid-2025 the sector started advocating for more efficient implementation of programming while maintaining the same level of quality. For 2026, the sector is supporting more local partners to be part of the response and continues to build their capacity: The two-part localization strategy for 2026-2027 within FSA context centres on embedding governance, partnerships, and capacity building at local levels. It proposes a country-level Localization Advisory Group and local coordination hubs to steer priorities and align with national plans. Capacity-building focuses on nutrition-sensitive programming, data privacy, gender integration, and sustainable local ownership, ensuring interventions reflect the needs of displaced populations, host communities, smallholder farmers, and other vulnerable groups. The strategy prioritizes localizing intervention and programming for agriculture and inputs suppliers, building resilient local supply chains and food systems for food assistance, with transparent accountability supported by a localization dashboard and smart targets. Implementation will transition toward nationally led and locally implemented responses, strengthening MoA, municipalities, and local institutions in the LRP process, coordinated with MoA and delivered through local cooperatives, NGOs, CBOs, and extension agents. Local actors will identify affected farmers, distribute inputs, provide on-farm guidance, monitor delivery, and ensure community accountability, prioritizing locally sourced inputs to sustain supply chains and markets.

The Community Kitchen initiative, developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), leverages the country's existing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) infrastructure to support food security responses in a more sustainable and locally rooted way, offering a longer-term systems-building approach. Food Security Sector partners will be engaging closely with Lebanon's

national Disaster Risk Management (DRM) unit and the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) through their Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) capacity strengthening programme to ensure that the Community Kitchen Initiative aligns with and eventually integrates into the National Response Plan. This coordination supports a transition from humanitarian-led interventions to a nationally owned response mechanism, enabling the Government of Lebanon (GoL) to operationalize the school kitchens as a strategic resource at national, sub-national, and community levels for responding to a wide range of man-made and natural disaster risks. This initiative strengthens emergency preparedness, can later serve TVET's educational purposes, ensuring sustained utilization and resource optimization, and enhances social cohesion through locally rooted solutions. This multi-sectoral initiative, linking education, food security, nutrition, livelihoods, WaSH, and social stability, aims to enhance Lebanon's emergency preparedness by transforming TVET kitchens into strategically located, multi-use assets capable of producing ready-to-eat meals during crises. This model enhances the infrastructure of the TVET schools, create jobs opportunities to women and people with disabilities, while strengthening ties the local community and nearby retailers.

## 1.5. Mainstreaming Components: Gender, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), & Environment

Recognizing the complex vulnerabilities of crisis-affected populations, the sector will integrate gender equality, disability inclusion, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, accountability to affected people, and peace and conflict sensitivity into its interventions. The sector will promote equitable access to food and livelihoods by addressing gender barriers, supporting women's participation in agriculture, and disaggregating data to track impact. Assistance programs will be designed to mitigate gender-based risks and promote safety, dignity, and economic empowerment. Disability inclusion will be advanced through accessible program design, involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, and tailored outreach. Interventions will be conflict-sensitive, aiming to reduce tensions by ensuring fair targeting and fostering social cohesion through community engagement. In addition to collaborating with the social stability sector, the sector intends to contribute to peace and security by promoting resilient livelihoods and inclusive food systems that reduce instability. Aligning with the Inter-agency PSEA network risk mitigation measures, strong PSEA mechanisms will be maintained, ensuring partners have clear policies and reporting mechanisms. Community feedback mechanisms will ensure transparency, relevance, and accountability throughout the response. These cross-cutting priorities will strengthen the impact, equity, and sustainability

of the sector's response, ensuring no one is left behind in Lebanon's evolving crisis context.

In 2026, the FSA sector will maintain the collaboration with UNDP and Social stability sector to further enhance the conflict sensitivity mainstreaming in food security operations. As in 2025, 50 partners staff were trained on conflict sensitivity and a designed conflict sensitivity mainstreaming guidance for the FSA sector and the training, the sector will continue with all partners to align with the guidance and to adopt a do-no-harm approach, continuously monitor the impact of their interventions, and remain adaptable to shifting political and social realities, ensure a thorough understanding of local dynamics, inclusive consultations with affected communities, and adaptive programming that promotes social stability and equitable access to resources.

## 1.6. Intersectoral Linkages

Joint and common sectoral programming is planned during 2026, the Food Security and Agriculture Sector will work closely with the Nutrition sector on joint food security and nutrition interventions to guide partners, for instance the nutrition sector contributed in depth to FSA sector main guidance, also joint FSA and Nutrition sectors two trainings rounds took place during 2025 and to continue during 2026. Also, to work closely with the WaSH, Health and Nutrition and social stability sectors to address water scarcity through multi-sectoral approaches, as well as, to design joint framework on the Community Kitchen initiative, working with the Nutrition, Health, Shelter, WaSH, Education and Livelihood sectors. In addition, close coordination with the Cash Working Group (CWG), alignment in various areas (e.g. targeting, targeting value definition, coordination of complementarities, etc.) between sectoral cash for food and MPCA. A Joint action between the FSA sector and CWG, as complementary approach for common Syria group target and agreed cost forecast to avoid any duplication.

## 1.7. Transition to Development & Recovery

During 2026–2027, the SectorFSA sector will progressively transition from addressing immediate humanitarian needs to strengthening the resilience of individuals, communities, and national systems. The strategy focuses on restoring livelihoods, improving access to nutritious food, and stabilizing household incomes through renewed agricultural production and market functionality, while ensuring coherence with the NAS 2026–2035 and related national frameworks. In support of this transition, the FSA sector will reinforce the MoA's leadership in coordination, information management, and monitoring by gradually transferring key sector functions to the Ministry. The sector will also strengthen institutional linkages between agriculture, food security, and social protection, particularly with MoSA and other line ministries, to ensure vulnerable farmers and crisis-affected households benefit from inclusive, shock-responsive, and nationally led systems.

The sector's transition framework centres on four priorities:

- Restoring agricultural production and market access through climate-smart input support, small-scale irrigation, and stronger links with local markets and agro-processing.
- Aligning sector and national social-assistance programmes to enhance synergies and inclusion of women, persons with disabilities, and high-dependency households.
- Promoting nutrition-sensitive food systems, working with the Nutrition and Education sectors to strengthen value chains and local sourcing for school meals.
- Enhancing governance and risk management through inter-ministerial coordination and local development planning.

Phased implementation will guide the transition from emergency livelihood protection (2025–2026) to recovery and systems strengthening (2026–2028), and toward resilient, market-oriented, and climate-adapted agri-food systems beyond 2028. The overarching goal is to reduce food insecurity and accelerate livelihoods recovery while laying the foundations for sustainable, nationally owned development.



## 2. RESULTS, TARGETS, AND BUDGET

### 2.1. Linkage with LRP Strategic Objectives

Through its food assistance interventions, the SectorFSA sector contributes directly to Strategic Objective 1 by ensuring timely and equitable access to nutritious food, preventing acute food insecurity and negative coping. Under Strategic Objective 2, assistance safeguards livelihoods and purchasing power, helping vulnerable and displaced households sustain consumption and re-engage in markets. In line with Strategic Objective 4, the sector supports nationally led, shock-responsive safety nets, aligning cash-based assistance with MoSA, MoA, and the Cash Working Group to strengthen institutional capacities. Embedded within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, the FSA sector links emergency food support to stabilization by promoting local procurement, community kitchens, and coordinated national systems.

For the support to agricultural livelihoods component, the sector contributes or is aligned with Strategic Objective 2 by protecting agricultural livelihoods through time-critical input support, livestock restocking, and small-scale irrigation to sustain food production and prevent further asset erosion. Under Strategic Objective 3, interventions enhance household resilience by promoting efficient water use, climate-resilient practices, and safe market access for smallholders, helping maintain essential livelihood activities amid protracted crises. In line with Strategic Objective 4, the sector supports the MoA in strengthening coordination, extension, and information systems, integrating shock-responsive mechanisms within national structures. Operating within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, these efforts stabilize production systems, safeguard rural incomes, and reinforce nationally led food-security response.

### 2.2. Sector Outcomes

#### Outcome 1. Ensure most vulnerable communities in Lebanon receive FOOD ASSISTANCE to reduce their food gaps and diversify their food intake

Under Outcome 1, FSA sector partners will ensure that Lebanon's most vulnerable and food-insecure populations receive food assistance to reduce food gaps and diversify their dietary intake.

This food assistance will be implemented through various transfer modalities, ensuring alignment and coordination with national social safety-net systems. Lebanese households will receive in kind food parcels, meals provided via community kitchens, and, where markets are functioning and vulnerable groups are not assisted through the World Bank funded ESSN, cash assistance will be provided. Sectoral cash interventions will closely coordinate with multi-purpose cash interventions,

including cash programmes targeted at refugees, as well as the Shock Responsive Safety Net (SRSN), designed as a horizontal expansion to existing national social assistance programmes to support vulnerable Lebanese affected by temporary shocks. The sector will continue to promote consistent targeting, avoid duplication, minimize exclusion errors. The sector, working with MoSA, has established a harmonized beneficiary targeting system to prevent duplication and gaps in assistance and will continue to support MoSA as needed by strengthening coordination efforts across sectors and within the Cash Working Group. Furthermore, the FSA sector will continue to coordinate responses to the needs arising from the conflict-related incidents in the southern border region. Partners will address the food requirements of 1) individuals displaced by conflict residing inside and outside shelters; 2) individuals remaining in unsafe areas; 3) returnees in areas recently affected and damaged by conflict; and 4) individuals whose agricultural livelihoods have been adversely impacted. The type of assistance will depend on the nature of each dwelling, encompassing in-kind distributions of meals, food parcels, ready-to-eat food items, and fresh produce. Cash-based food assistance will remain a priority, contingent upon market functionality and safety, through existing structures and programs, with a focus on the horizontal expansion of social safety net systems. The food component of the MPCA targeting 574,853 vulnerable Lebanese, displaced Syrians and other population groups is reflected and coordinated as part of the CWG's MPCA chapter. Actual MPC should be fully reported under MPC chapter, cash for food to FSAS, target and reported under the Food Security and Agriculture sector. The FSA sector Outcome 1 will contribute to the LRP Strategic Objectives 1, 2, and 4.

The total target for 2026 for the Outcome 1 is 851,000 individuals for different food assistance modalities (43% Lebanese, 57% Syr) equally distributed between men and women, for a total budget of \$169,4 million.

#### Outcome 2. Crisis-affected women and men farmers, agricultural workers, and community members have improved access to productive resources and temporary income opportunities, contributing to food availability and stabilization of their livelihoods.

Under Outcome 2, the FSA sector aims to protect, restore, and sustain agricultural livelihoods and improve the food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable farming and herding households, particularly those affected by the conflict and recurrent climatic shocks. By 2026, the sector will contribute to stabilizing agricultural production and safeguarding income sources for an estimated 60,000 agricultural households (260,000 people in need) across Lebanon through short-term, emergency interventions focused on production continuity, livelihood protection, and local food availability. The total Budget for Outcome 2 is estimated at \$59.2 million.

Sector partners will implement emergency agricultural assistance to enable affected farmers and livestock keepers to resume production and maintain essential livelihood assets. Support will include the provision of agricultural and veterinary inputs (seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, animal feed, veterinary supplies), restoration of animal health services, and delivery of technical and capacity development trainings on good agricultural practices, climate-smart agriculture, and integrated pest management. Whenever feasible, the provision of cash transfers or vouchers will complement agricultural input support, enhancing access to essential supplies while stimulating local markets and preserving household purchasing power.

Furthermore, unconditional or conditional cash assistance will improve households' access to food and basic needs, reduce negative coping strategies (such as selling assets or reducing meals), and strengthen linkages between social protection and food security systems. Beneficiary identification will rely, where applicable, on the MoA Farmer Registry and the MoSA social protection databases to ensure inclusivity, accuracy, and avoid duplication. Partners' interventions will strengthen early warning and surveillance systems to monitor and control transboundary plant and animal diseases and pests that threaten production, food security, and safety. Enhanced coordination between MoA, and partners will ensure timely detection and response to such risks.

To stabilize local production systems, partners will support agricultural cooperatives, associations, and MSMEs that provide essential services to farmers in crisis-affected regions. Short-term emergency support will restore their functionality and enable the rapid rehabilitation of critical small-scale infrastructure and communal assets essential for safeguarding food security, such as storage units, irrigation canals, and basic processing points, together with the provision of indispensable equipment and operational support to ensure the continuity of lifesaving agricultural and food-access functions for crisis-affected communities. The focus will be on rapid livelihood protection, service continuity, and job retention, not on long-term enterprise development.

In parallel, the sector will generate short-term employment opportunities through cash-for-work schemes aimed at rehabilitating damaged agricultural assets within a 12-month period. These interventions will provide income to unskilled and semi-skilled workers, particularly in conflict-affected rural areas, thereby preventing distress migration, facilitating the return of displaced populations, and stimulating local economies. As well as, the sector preparedness and early warning systems at national level to assess risks and hazards threatening the sector.

Activities will prioritize rural areas where agricultural households rely primarily on farming for income and food consumption and where moderate or severe food insecurity has been reported, as identified by the FIES and other vulnerability assessments.

Implementation under Outcome 2 will be coordinated through the Agriculture Working Group (AWG), co-chaired by FAO and the MoA, and aiming at providing members with technical guidance, harmonized response packages, and ensure

coordination among them for more coherent, complementarity, and evidence-based response. The AWG aligns partners' responses with the NAS 2026–2035, with the MoA 2025–2026 strategic direction.

Outcome 2 directly contributes to LRP Strategic Objectives 2, 3, and 4 by improving food availability, protecting livelihoods, and strengthening local production systems that underpin national food security and resilience.

### **Outcome 3. Enhance national capacities, coordination and information sharing on food security and agriculture**

Under Outcome 3, the FSA sector will continue to strengthen institutional capacities at national and decentralized levels to ensure effective, coordinated, and sustainable service delivery in food security, agriculture, and social protection.

The total Budget for this Outcome is \$3 million.

The sector will work closely with the MoA and the MoSA to enhance public institutions' ability to plan, implement, and monitor emergency and resilience programmes. In Social Protection, capitalizing on the experience of 2025, the FSA sector will continue to support national coordination capacities to coordinate assistance through the shock-responsive national social assistance programmes to promote full institutionalization through the development of relevant protocols and standard operating procedures. During 2025 the sector and MoSA succeeded in rolling SRSN coordination including 18 partners, support strong coordination, de-duplication systems and collective joint response follows one targeting approach. A key priority will be the continued rollout and operationalization of the Farmers' Registry hosted by the MoA and its decentralized agricultural centres. The Registry serves as a national database to identify, verify, and support farmers, enabling the MoA to improve targeting, transparency, and delivery of agricultural support, including subsidies and assistance programmes. It will also strengthen inter-ministerial coordination, particularly between MoA and MoSA, by facilitating the integration of farmers into national social protection systems, including their potential inclusion in the National Social Security Fund (NSSF).

The sector will support and regularly disseminate food security needs assessments and analysis, including the regular update of the IPC Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) analysis, market-monitoring reports, household needs, and vulnerability assessments, the survey on the impact of shocks and crises on the food security and livelihoods status of agricultural households, and agriculture value chain assessments. To verify and/or enrol programme participants, the sector partners will continue to employ a variety of coordinated targeting and selection approaches to allow for the prioritisation of resources, avoid duplication or gaps, and ensure harmonised assistance to those most in need. The sector will also continue coordinating and close work with relevant sectors, mainly Nutrition, Education, Protection/AORs, WsSH, Livelihoods sectors and the Cash Working Group. The FSA sector Outcome 3 will contribute to the LRP Strategic Objectives 1, 3, and 4.

## 2.3. Summary Sector Target and Budget

	<b>PIN</b>	<b>Target 2024</b>	<b>Target 2025</b>	<b>Target 2026</b>
<b>All Population</b>	2,351,773	2,005,561	2,432,638	901,000
<b>Displaced Syrians</b>	931,881	1,151,374	1,100,890	441,000
<b>Vulnerable Lebanese</b>	1,244,338	748,446	1,140,000	460,000
<b>PRS</b>	18,632	14,967	12,031	Reflected Under MPCA <sup>4</sup>
<b>PRL</b>	106,253	75,600	104,500	Reflected Under MPCA <sup>4</sup>
<b>Migrants</b>	50,669	15,174	75,217	Reflected Under MPCA <sup>4</sup>

<b>2026</b>			
	<b>Budget (USD)</b>	<b>% Humanitarian</b>	<b>% Stabilization</b>
<b>Outcome 1: To ensure most vulnerable communities in Lebanon receive food assistance to reduce their food gaps and diversify their food intake</b>			
Output 1.1: Food insecure individuals have access to food through various modalities	\$185,487,684	77%	23%
<b>Outcome 2: To improve agricultural production and productivity of most vulnerable farmers through agriculture livelihoods assistance to protect, restore and sustain their livelihoods</b>			
Output 2.1 Farmers receive capacity building/technical assistance, in-kind and cash-based assistance for improved production and productivity	\$42,067,517	65%	35%
Output 2.2 Support to agricultural cooperatives, associations and MSMEs for improved production and productivity	\$9,718,519	0%	100%
Output 2.3: Support employment and employability to improve livelihoods sources	\$7,423,679	0%	100%
<b>Outcome 3: To enhance national capacities, coordination and information sharing on food security and agriculture</b>			
Output 3.1: Capacity strengthening to public sector and humanitarian staff on food security and agriculture	\$3,000,000	0%	100%



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<sup>4</sup> A total of 628,569 with food security needs of 368,000 displaced Syrians, 150,000 Lebanese, 40,543 PRL and 21,526 PRS are covered/reflected under the MPCA target).

### 3. LOGFRAME

#### OUTCOME 1: Vulnerable communities in Lebanon have improved access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and reduces food consumption gaps

Indicator 1.1	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of individuals classified in IPC phase 3 and above	Percentage of individuals classified in IPC Phase 3 and above indicates the share of the population facing Crisis-level food insecurity or worse. It reflects the severity of unmet food needs requiring urgent action to protect lives and livelihoods.								IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis	%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other						
Baseline	Target 2026										
100%	95%	100%	95%	100%	95%	100%	95%	100%	95%	100%	95%

Indicator 1.2	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of individuals below MEB using ECMEN	Percentage of individuals below the MEB using eCMEN represents the share of the population whose expenditures fall short of the Minimum Expenditure Basket. It reflects households' inability to meet essential needs and signals heightened economic vulnerability.								LVAP, VASYR	%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other						
Baseline	Target 2026										
100%	95%	100%	95%	100%	95%	100%	95%	100%	95%	100%	95%

#### OUTCOME 2: Crisis-affected women and men farmers, agricultural workers, and community members have improved access to productive resources and temporary income opportunities, contributing to food availability and stabilization of their livelihoods

Indicator 2.1	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of women and men farmers/beneficiaries reporting that the agricultural support contributed to sustaining their household's basic livelihood activities	Percentage of women and men farmers/beneficiaries who report that agricultural support helped them sustain their basic livelihood activities. This indicator reflects the effectiveness of assistance in maintaining essential household functions and economic resilience.								partners reporting via activitiy info, IPC, food security assessment	%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other						
Baseline	Target 2026										
100%	95%	100%	95%	100%	95%	100%	95%	100%	95%	100%	95%

#### OUTCOME 3: To enhance national capacities, coordination and information sharing on food security and agriculture

Indicator 3.1	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of FSA sector partners staff with improved capacities	Percentage of FSA sector partners' staff who report providing improved capacities as a result of provided training or technical support to public/sector staff. This indicator reflects strengthened skills, knowledge, and operational capability to key sector/public stakeholders of the Food Security and Agriculture sector.								Partners reporting via activitiy info	%	Yearly

Public/Sector Stakeholders Staff	Baseline	Target 2026
100%		95%





## PEOPLE IN NEED

 3,037,275

## PEOPLE TARGETED

 1,367,956

## SECTOR APPEAL

 \$188,819,922

## CONTACT

### LEAD MINISTRY

Ministry of Public Health  
Dr. Nadeen Hilal  
[nadeenhilal@gmail.com](mailto:nadeenhilal@gmail.com)

### CO-LEAD AGENCIES

WHO  
Dr. Md Shajib Hossain  
[smd@who.int](mailto:smd@who.int)

### AMEL

Maher El-Tawil  
[healthresponse@amel.org](mailto:healthresponse@amel.org)

## SECTOR OUTCOMES

### OUTCOME 1:

Improved access to comprehensive primary healthcare

- **Output 1.1:** Financial subsidies are provided to the targeted population for improved access to a comprehensive primary healthcare package
- **Output 1.2:** Free-of-charge medications for non-communicable diseases are provided at the primary healthcare centre level
- **Output 1.3:** Free-of-charge acute disease medications, medical supplies, and reproductive health commodities are provided at the primary healthcare centre level
- **Output 1.4:** Free-of-charge routine vaccination is provided for all children under five years of age at the primary healthcare centre and dispensaries and through supplementary immunization activities
- **Output 1.5:** Primary healthcare institutions' service delivery is supported

### OUTCOME 2:

Improved access to hospital and advanced referral care

- **Output 2.1:** Financial support is provided to the targeted population for improved access to hospital and advanced referral care
- **Output 2.2:** Public and private hospital service delivery is supported

### OUTCOME 3:

Enhance emergency, outbreak & infectious diseases preparedness and response

- **Output 3.1:** The National Early Warning and Response System EWARS is expanded and reinforced while infectious disease outbreak capacity is enhanced
- **Output 3.2:** Availability of selected contingency supplies is ensured
- **Output 3.3:** Support to infectious disease outbreak response and other communicable disease controls, is strengthened

### OUTCOME 4:

Improve access to health awareness & information.

- **Output 4.1:** Health awareness and information are strengthened at the institutional level
- **Output 4.2:** Access to healthcare information for women, men, and youth (children, boys, and girls) is increased at the community level

## POPULATION BREAKDOWN

	PIN 2026	TARGET 2026
 VULNERABLE LEBANESE	1,990,111	896,278
 DISPLACED SYRIANS	805,193	362,694
 PRL	136,149	61,276
 PRS	15,985	7,242
 MIGRANTS	89,837	40,466
 OTHER	-	-

# 1. SITUATION & STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## 1.1. Situation Analysis

The Health sector in Lebanon continues to face compounded crises, with the slow and fragile recovery from the 2024 hostilities overshadowed by persistent socio-economic instability, underfunding, and ongoing and systemic strain. Despite the cessation of hostilities, sporadic violence and displacement persist.

The health system remains overstretched, grappling with, infrastructure damage with over 40 hospitals and 100 Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs) damaged or destroyed as a result of the hostilities; many remain non-operational or under-resourced. Continued emigration of healthcare workers and loss of personnel due to the escalation of hostilities has weakened service delivery, and only 39.1 per cent of the 2025 Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) priority-based appeal was funded up to September 2025. Funding gaps persist into 2026, threatening continuity of care.

Access to healthcare is not always dependent on the availability but rather affordability, which is increasingly inequitable, especially for vulnerable Lebanese, displaced Syrians, post-2024 arrivals,<sup>5</sup> refugees of other nationalities, and migrants, children, women and girls, who face barriers when accessing maternal, sexual, and reproductive health services. According to the preliminary data of the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) and the Multi Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2025, only 54 per cent of Syrians and 62 per cent of Lebanese women surveyed received more than four Ante Natal Care (ANC) visits while 1.5 per cent of Syrian women surveyed received their Post Natal Care (PNC) visit at six weeks. To prevent maternal and neonatal mortality amid imminent drastic hospital funding cuts, it is critical to sustain subsidies for deliveries, especially for high-risk pregnancies. Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) also reported exclusion from shelters and healthcare.

According to the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) midyear 2025 trend analysis, Sexual assault remains the third highest reported GBV incident type in Lebanon (14% compared with 2% from midyear 2024). According to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) Q3 2025 data, compared to 2024, survivors seeking Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) services are increasingly minors (55%), and a growing majority (75%) are arriving after the critical 72-hour window. This dangerous delay means that most survivors, especially children, are missing the opportunity to receive essential time-sensitive medical and forensic services.

Children, with declining immunization rates, environmental degradation, including poor medical waste management and water contamination, has heightened risks of infectious disease outbreaks. Cholera, measles, and hepatitis A remain active threats, particularly in informal settlements.

The mental health burden has intensified, with limited access to services and rising psychosocial distress among displaced populations.

Despite these challenges, the sector has demonstrated resilience through its emergency preparedness and response and localization efforts. Prepositioning of essential supplies, training of healthcare workers, and operationalization of the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC), strengthening MoPH's subnational presence and engaging local NGOs as co-facilitators is ensuring inclusive coordination by aligning with Humanitarian Reset principles to ensure community-level representation and continuity of services.

## 1.2. Prioritization

In 2026, the Health sector will prioritize national ownership by reinforcing MoPH leadership and empowering local actors amidst reduced Official Development Assistance (ODA) external funding support and Health sector partners support. The sector will sustain equitable access to quality healthcare, focusing on resilience, preparedness, and inclusion. Guided by the Rapid Health Assessment<sup>6</sup> conducted in 2025 and refined targets under MoPH Vision 2030, interventions will target vulnerable Lebanese and non-Lebanese populations. The Common Vulnerability Tool will be expanded to improve targeting, especially for high-risk pregnant women. Services will be delivered through PHCCs, mobile units, and outreach, integrating mental health, nutrition, Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), and GBV support. Financial aid will cover medications and immunizations. Hospital access will be enhanced through subsidized lifesaving care. Emergency preparedness will strengthen Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS) and PHEOC. Inclusive Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) and cross-cutting priorities will ensure safe, dignified, and sustainable healthcare for all.

## 1.3 Risks and Mitigation Measures

In 2026, the Health sector faces several critical risks that could undermine service delivery and health outcomes.

Funding shortfalls remain a major concern, especially with reduced ODA and the transition following Health sector partners withdrawal of support. This could disrupt access to essential services and medications. To mitigate this, the sector will prioritize flexible financing, cost-sharing models, and advocacy for sustained donor support.

5 Post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria

6 [https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/dae33f94c9d84256adeda975e845f3f9/page/Rapid-Health-Assessment-\(RHA\).html](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/dae33f94c9d84256adeda975e845f3f9/page/Rapid-Health-Assessment-(RHA).html)

Infrastructure damage and workforce depletion, particularly in conflict-affected areas, pose risks to continuity of care. Emergency repairs, surge capacity planning, and task-shifting strategies will be implemented to maintain operations. Data fragmentation and limited disaggregation hinder targeted interventions. The sector will expand the Common Vulnerability Tool and invest in unified MoPH owned health information systems to improve planning and accountability.

Social tensions and marginalization of vulnerable groups, including women, PWDs, and undocumented migrants, may limit equitable access. Inclusive service design, community engagement, and strengthened protection linkages will address these barriers.

Environmental risks, such as poor waste management and water contamination, increase the likelihood of disease outbreaks. A One Health approach and coordination with WaSH sector and Environment task forces will be scaled up. Conflict sensitivity and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) risks will be mitigated through training, complaint mechanisms, and inclusive communication.

Finally, outbreaks and emergencies remain a persistent threat. Strengthening the PHEOC, expanding EWARS, and prepositioning contingency supplies will ensure rapid response and resilience. These measures collectively aim to safeguard health access and uphold dignity for all population groups in Lebanon.

## 1.4. Localization

The Health sector aims to advance localization agenda in 2026 through:

### Strengthening National & Local Leadership

- The Health sector commits to reinforcing MoPH leadership through regular coordination, guidance development, and transparent reporting.
- Local governance structures, including municipalities and social development centers, are engaged in service delivery, especially where Primary Healthcare (PHC) coverage is limited.

### Enhancing Role of Local Actors

- National NGOs, municipalities, and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) are actively involved in coordination platforms and implementation of health services.
- Local actors are prioritized in outreach, community-based interventions, and deployment of mobile health units and satellite PHCs.

### Capacity-Building Measures

- Continuous training for healthcare workers on emergency response including emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), mental health, and GBV.
- Strengthening the research committee to promote evidence-based practices and ethical standards.
- Support for community health workers, including midwives, through mobile units and outreach services.

### Improving Access to Funding & Expertise

- Local actors are supported through inclusive financial aid mechanisms like the Country Based Pooled Fund (CBPF)
- Technical support is provided via coordination with MoPH, donors, and sector partners.
- Local actors are included in decision-making spaces, such as sector working groups and emergency taskforces.

### Transition to Local Governance

- The strategy promotes progressive transition of responsibilities to MoPH and local structures, especially in PHC service delivery and surveillance.
- Expansion of EWARS and decentralization of surveillance to district level supports local ownership.

## 1.5. Mainstreaming Components: Gender, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), & Environment

The Health sector's strategy for 2026 underscores its commitment to mainstream protection, gender, age, conflict sensitivity, environment, and to ensure risks on GBV are identified and mitigated. The focus is set on fortifying core protection principles, including 'meaningful access without discrimination', 'safety, dignity, and do-no-harm', 'accountability', and 'participation and empowerment' within the sector's framework, ensuring all interventions are sensitive and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable.

## GBV

- Ensures gender-sensitive programming, with a focus on women, girls, and marginalized groups.
- Improve integration of GBV/SRH services at primary healthcare facilities.
- Facilities are encouraged to have female gynecologists and trained staff on GBV guidelines.
- Strengthens CMR services and referral pathways.
- Addresses child marriage and adolescent maternal health through psychosocial support and tailored services.

## Protection

- Updates the 2019 protection risk analysis in collaboration with the Protection sector.
- Enhances links with Child Protection and GBV sectors for comprehensive care tackling documentation barriers and supports birth registration efforts.
- Promotes safe, dignified, and inclusive access to health services.

## PSEA

- Commits to zero tolerance for exploitation and abuse.
- Strengthens complaint and feedback mechanisms, including child safeguarding.
- Trains health workers on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) disclosure and reporting.
- Display awareness materials at health facilities to inform patients of their rights.

## Conflict Sensitivity

- Addresses inter-communal tensions and perceptions of aid bias.
- Promotes balanced support across all population cohorts.
- Coordinates Do No Harm and conflict sensitivity training for partners.
- Monitors community tensions and adapts programming accordingly.

## Environment

- Coordinates with WaSH sector and Environment task force on medical waste management.
- Promotes safe water, hygiene, and food safety practices.
- Supports solar energy solutions for PHCs and hospitals to ensure service continuity.
- Adheres to environmental markers and collaborates with the Ministry of Environment.

## 1.6. Intersectoral Linkages

In 2026, the Health sector strategy will emphasize intersectoral collaboration to achieve inclusive, equitable, and resilient health outcomes. Coordination platforms will ensure harmonized planning and reporting, while partnerships with the protection sector and GBV working group will strengthen referral pathways and integrate CMR into PHCCs and hospitals. Collaboration with the WaSH sector will focus on water quality, menstrual hygiene, and medical waste management. Nutrition sector partners will support malnutrition screening during outreach. The Education sector will aid in surveillance and youth-targeted awareness. In close collaboration with the Social Stability sector, efforts will be made to contribute to conflict-sensitive programming, solar energy deployment, and environmental health risk mitigation—ensuring a holistic, context-sensitive health response for all vulnerable groups.

## 1.7. Transition to Development & Recovery

Lebanon's health sector is transitioning toward recovery-oriented coordination, aligning with Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 to achieve universal health coverage. This shift emphasizes integrated service delivery through strengthened collaboration with other sectors, while reinforcing national systems via MoPH's PHC network and rationalized outreach models. Investments in resilience include facility repairs, workforce training, and decentralized surveillance. Evidence-based planning is supported by revitalized research and digitalized data systems. Preventive care is expanded through integrated PHC services and community engagement. Financial access is promoted via the Long-term PHC Subsidization Protocol and inclusive cost-sharing, ensuring sustainability and equity for vulnerable populations.

# 2. SECTOR RESULTS, TARGETS, AND BUDGET

## 2.1. Linkage with LRP Strategic Objectives

In 2026, the Health sector strategy will directly contribute to the LRP Strategic Objectives by ensuring immediate humanitarian health assistance, strengthening national systems, and advancing resilience. It reinforces MoPH leadership and local actor engagement, aligning with Vision 2030 and supporting service continuity amid reduced ODA and Health sector partners support. The sector complements other sectors within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus by integrating GBV and protection services, collaborating with WaSH and Nutrition sectors on outbreak prevention, and supporting education through school-based health awareness. At the output level, the strategy delivers subsidized consultations, medications, vaccinations, and hospital care, while sustaining EWARS and contingency stocks. These outputs generate outcome-level results by improving access to inclusive healthcare, reducing morbidity and mortality, and enhancing emergency preparedness. The use of tools like the Common Vulnerability Tool ensures targeted support for high-risk groups, while inclusive RCCE and community outreach promote health-seeking behavior. This integrated, multisectoral approach ensures that health interventions are not only responsive to immediate needs but also contribute to long-term system resilience and equitable recovery.

## 2.2. Sector Outcomes

### Outcome 1: Improved access to comprehensive primary healthcare

In 2026, the Health sector aims to strengthen Lebanon's primary healthcare system by sustaining access to comprehensive, inclusive, and affordable services, particularly for vulnerable populations including children, women, PwDs. This outcome aligns with LRP Strategic Objective 1 and SDG 3 and supports the MoPH's Vision 2030 and the Long-term Primary Healthcare Subsidization Protocol (LPSP)<sup>7</sup> of MoPH. The sector will enhance service delivery through the MoPH PHC network, Mobile Medical Unit (MMU), or PHC Power Supply Units (PSUs) in the hard-to-reach areas, and community-based interventions.

Outputs under this outcome include: 1.1) Financial subsidies are provided to the targeted population for improved access to a comprehensive primary healthcare package; 1.2) Free-of-charge medications for non-communicable diseases are provided at the primary healthcare center level; 1.3) Free-of-charge acute disease medications, medical supplies, and reproductive health

commodities are provided at the primary healthcare center level; 1.4) Free-of-charge routine vaccination is provided for all children under five years of age at the PHCC and dispensaries and through supplementary immunization activities; and 1.5) Primary healthcare institutions' service delivery is supported.

Special attention will be given to integrating GBV, PSEA response mechanisms within PHC services, ensuring survivor-centered care and safe referrals. The sector will also reinforce services availability for PwDs and improve referral pathways for maternal health and chronic disease management.

In 2026, the sector aims to provide 1,518,638 subsidized general consultations, for 995,056 Lebanese (517,429 women), 402,597 displaced Syrians (202,000 women), 7,993 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS), 68,075 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL), and 44,919 migrants with an estimated budget of \$ 92,201,125.

### Outcome 2: Improved access to hospital and advanced referral care

To address the growing demand for hospital-level care, the Health sector will enhance access to hospital and advanced referral services through targeted financial support for lifesaving interventions, including maternal, neonatal, and mental health care. To improve equity and precision in targeting, the sector will expand the use of the Common Vulnerability Tool. Public and private hospitals will be equipped with essential medical supplies and receive capacity-building support, while digitization of referral pathways will be further strengthened to ensure continuity of care across service levels. This outcome supports LRP Strategic Objective 3 and SDG 3 and complements the MoPH's hospital support strategy.

Outputs under this outcome include: 2.1) Financial support is provided to the targeted population for improved access to hospital and advanced referral care; 2.2) Public and private hospital service delivery is supported.

The sector will prioritize support for vulnerable Lebanese, displaced Syrians, PRS, PRL, and migrants, ensuring gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive services. Coordination with MoPH and Health sector partners will ensure cost-sharing mechanisms are optimized and duplication avoided.

In 2026, the sector targets 64,300 individuals receiving hospital services, disaggregated as follows: 41,907 Lebanese (21,792 women), 17,165 displaced Syrians (8,823 women), 345 PRS, 2,942 PRL, and 1,941 migrants with an estimated budget of \$85,993,338.

7 [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1a\\_gac6VVKmU5aHdYe4sJMI66AuujLP9i](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1a_gac6VVKmU5aHdYe4sJMI66AuujLP9i)

### Outcome 3: Enhance emergency, outbreak & infectious diseases preparedness and response.

In response to ongoing environmental risks, and heightened security situation, the Health sector will institutionalize emergency preparedness and outbreak response capacities, ensuring timely and inclusive health interventions. This outcome aligns with SDG 3 and supports the WHO Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.

Outputs under this outcome include: 3.1) The National EWARS is expanded and reinforced while infectious disease outbreak capacity is enhanced; 3.2) Availability of selected contingency supplies is ensured; 3.3) Support to infectious disease outbreak response and other communicable disease controls, is strengthened.

Special attention will be given to women, girls, PwDs, and marginalized groups during acute onset emergencies, ensuring access to inclusive services and information. The sector will reinforce the Epidemiological Surveillance Unit (ESU) and improve coordination with multisectoral partners.

By 2026, the sector targets 800 EWARS centers and provision of outbreak response support to 6,000 individuals (3,200 women), including 2,000 displaced Syrians, 3,000 Lebanese, and 1,000 others with an estimated budget of \$9,625,459.

### Outcome 4: Improve access to health awareness & information.

To promote health-seeking behavior and increase demand for available services, the Health sector will enhance health literacy and community engagement through inclusive awareness campaigns and digital outreach. This outcome supports SDG 3 and contributes to LRP Strategic Objective 2.

Outputs under this outcome include: 4.1) Health awareness and information are strengthened at the institutional level; 4.2) Access to healthcare information for women, men, and youth (children, boys, and girls) is increased at the community level.

Youth-led peer education programs will be scaled up, and RCCE products will be harmonized across sectors. Awareness campaigns will focus on vaccination, mental health, sexual and reproductive health, and services for PwDs and GBV survivors.

By 2026, the sector aims to reach 607,455 caregivers (320,000 women) and conduct 30,000 awareness sessions for adolescents and youth, including 18,000 girls and 12,000 boys with an estimated budget of \$1,000,000.

## Return

Health sector partners in close coordination with MoPH, will implement a comprehensive pre-return and pre-departure interventions as per available capacity and resources to ensure safe and dignified voluntary returns. Activities include pre-return health screening, with referrals for chronic and acute medical cases, and identification of vulnerable individuals such as children under five and pregnant or breastfeeding women, while PRS will access these services through UNRWA health centres. Medical interventions aim to provide a three-month supply of medication for chronic conditions and lifesaving treatment for acute cases. In addition to the designated PHCCs, vaccination and primary health care is planned at Return Spaces depending on the capacity of the partners and availability of resources. These efforts aim to reduce health-related barriers to return and support reintegration within the society, aligning with protection principles and ensuring that returns are voluntary, safe, and informed.

## 2.3. Summary Sector Target and Budget

In 2026, the Health Sector aims to reach approximately 1,367,956 individuals across Lebanon with subsidized healthcare services, including primary healthcare, hospital care, and outbreak response. This includes 896,278 vulnerable Lebanese, 362,694 displaced Syrians, 7,242 PRS, 61,276 PRL, and 40,466 migrants.

Gender-disaggregated targets prioritize women and girls, particularly in maternal, sexual and reproductive health, and GBV-related services, while ensuring inclusive access for men, boys, and PWDs.

The total projected budget for 2026 is approximately \$189 million, with allocations supporting service delivery, emergency preparedness, medication provision, and health system strengthening through MoPH-led coordination.

### 3. LOGFRAME

#### OUTCOME 1: Vulnerable populations have increased and equitable access to comprehensive primary healthcare services

Indicator 1.1	Description		MoV		Unit	Frequency
Percentage of displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS), Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and Migrants accessing primary healthcare services out of those who report needing primary healthcare services.	Number of displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS), Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and Migrants accessing primary healthcare services out of those who report needing primary healthcare services.		Health Sector		%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
65%	42.3%	45%	42.3%	22%	42.3%	100%	42.3%	13%	42.3%	N/A	N/A

Indicator 1.2	Description		MoV		Unit	Frequency
Percentage of vaccination coverage among children under 2 residing in Lebanon	Percentage of infants who received: 1. The 1st (DTPI) / 3rd (DTP3) dose, respectively, of diphtheria and tetanus toxoid with pertussis containing vaccine 2. The 3rd dose of polio (Pol3) containing vaccine. Oral or inactivated polio vaccine 3. One dose of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) 4. The 1st dose of measles containing vaccine (MCV1) 5. The 2nd dose of measles containing vaccine (MCV2) 6. The 1st dose of rubella containing vaccine (RCV1) 7. The 3rd dose of hepatitis B containing vaccine following the birth dose. (HepB3) 8. The 3rd dose of Hemophilus influenza type b containing vaccine. (Hib3) Percentage of births which received: - A dose of hepatitis B vaccine (HepB) within 24 hours of delivery (Source: WHO and UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage - July 4, 2017)		MoPH		%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	N/A	N/A

#### OUTCOME 2: Targeted vulnerable populations have improved and equitable access to hospital and advanced referral care services

Indicator 2.1	Description		MoV		Unit	Frequency
Percentage of displaced Syrians, Lebanese, PRS, PRL, Migrants admitted for hospitalization per year	SYR, PRS & PRL: 6% out of the total Population targeted LEB: 6% out of the total Population targeted		Measurements/tools: Activity Info, MoPH Hospital data, UNHCR Annual Referral Care Report, UNRWA Hospitalization data Responsibility: MoPH, UNHCR, UNRWA		%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
12%	2.4%	7%	2.4%	12%	2.4%	12%	2.4%	5%	2.4%	N/A	N/A

### OUTCOME 3: National and local health systems have strengthened capacity to prepare for and respond effectively to emergencies, outbreaks, and infectious diseases

Indicator 3.1	Description	MoV	Unit	Frequency
Number of functional EWARS centers	Functional EWARS centers are those that report through the EWARS system	MoPH	#	Yearly
 INSTIT Baseline      Target 2026 500            800				

### OUTCOME 4: Individuals and communities have improved access to, and awareness of, essential health information and services

Indicator 4.1	Description	MoV	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of population have reported awareness of health services offered in the nearby health facilities	The target is that 20% of the population in need is reached with health integrated messages	Health sector	%	Yearly
 LEB  SYR  PRL  PRS  Migrants  Others Baseline      Target 2026      Baseline      Target 2026 20%            20%            20%            20%            20%            20%            20%            20%            20%            20%            N/A            N/A				





# NUTRITION

## PEOPLE IN NEED

 1,048,635

## PEOPLE TARGETED

 679,149

## SECTOR APPEAL

 \$19,548,415

## CONTACT

### LEAD MINISTRY

Ministry of Public Health  
Wafaa Houmani  
[wafaa.houmani@hotmail.com](mailto:wafaa.houmani@hotmail.com)

### CO-LEAD AGENCIES

UNICEF  
Mira Mokdad  
[melmokdad@unicef.org](mailto:melmokdad@unicef.org)

IOCC  
Julia Maadarani  
[jmaadarani@iocc.org](mailto:jmaadarani@iocc.org)

## SECTOR OUTCOMES

### OUTCOME 1:

Improved nutrition practices and access to services for children and caregivers in Lebanon aiming at prevention and management of all forms of malnutrition and the associated developmental risks (0-5 years of age)

- **Output 1.1:** Enhanced infant and young child feeding and integrated nutrition-ECD practices for children 0–59 months through promotion, protection, and support of optimal care
- **Output 1.2:** Improved access to and receive essential nutritional and micronutrient supplementation to children to support health growth and development
- **Output 1.3:** Enhanced access to screening, growth monitoring and management of wasting among children (0-59 months old)

### OUTCOME 2:

Improved nutrition and well-being of school-age children and adolescents through increased access to and use of preventive services addressing all forms of malnutrition

- **Output 2.1:** Enhanced access to school based nutrition preventive and promotive services to prevent double burden of malnutrition

### OUTCOME 3:

Improved nutrition and well-being of women, including pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW), through increased access to and use of services for the prevention and management of all forms of malnutrition

- **Output 3.1:** Enhanced access to preventive and promotive nutrition services, to prevent all forms of malnutrition among women of reproductive age, Pregnant and Breastfeeding women(PBW)
- **Output3.2:** Enhanced access to screening and treatment services of wasting among Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW)

## POPULATION BREAKDOWN

	PIN 2026	TARGET 2026
 VULNERABLE LEBANESE	799,207	517,607
 DISPLACED SYRIANS	210,194	136,132
 PRL	26,106	16,908
 PRS	3,310	2,143
 MIGRANTS	9,818	6,359
 OTHER	-	-

# 1. SITUATION & STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## 1.1. Situation Analysis

Lebanon is facing a triple burden of malnutrition, with rising rates of undernutrition, overweight/obesity, and widespread micronutrient deficiencies. The 2024 Lebanon Integrated Micronutrient and Child Development (LIMA) Survey indicates a deterioration in child nutrition, with stunting among children under five doubling to 14 per cent since 2021 and reaching 19 per cent among displaced Syrian children, a level considered a serious public health concern. While national wasting remains low at 1.3 per cent, it is markedly higher (6%) among infants under six months, particularly in poor and displaced households. Suboptimal infant and young child feeding practices persist, with exclusive breastfeeding declining to 23 per cent and only 11 per cent of children aged 6–23 months achieving a minimum acceptable diet.

Micronutrient deficiencies affect half of children under five and three-quarters of adolescent girls and women, contributing to persistently high anemia rates. Child development outcomes are closely linked to nutritional status, with stunted and underweight children more likely to experience developmental delays, particularly among displaced populations. Concurrently, overweight and obesity are rising sharply, affecting 30 per cent of adolescent girls and over half of non-pregnant women (54%), with prevalence reaching 74 per cent among women aged 40–49 years.

Over the years, key vulnerabilities and emerging trends have become clearer. Displaced and low-income households remain the most affected, while socioeconomic stressors, gaps in service coverage, and access constraints in remote or border areas exacerbate nutritional risks. Operational challenges, including limited staff capacity and funding reductions, have constrained program reach. Population movements due to conflict or natural disasters continue to pose additional pressure on already fragile systems. Lessons learned highlight the need for multi-sectoral, integrated approaches that address both immediate nutritional needs and the underlying drivers of malnutrition.

The Nutrition sector will prioritize integrating nutrition programming systematically across health, food security, education, WASH, and social protection systems. This approach aims to strengthen both humanitarian and stabilization-oriented interventions, enhance national capacity, and support data-driven planning and monitoring. In addition, the sector will focus on ensuring adaptability to sudden shocks, such as population inflows, while maintaining continuity of services in hard-to-reach and high-risk areas. Strengthening coordination, advocating for predictable funding, and leveraging multi-sectoral partnerships remain central to sustaining nutrition outcomes and addressing Lebanon's evolving malnutrition landscape.

## 1.2. Prioritization

In response to decreased resources and rising needs, the Nutrition sector in Lebanon will continue prioritizing life-saving and high-impact interventions targeting the most nutritionally vulnerable populations, particularly children under five, and pregnant and breastfeeding women. The geographic focus will continue shifting to areas with the highest malnutrition risk and limited access to services, based on rapid nutrition assessments and health integrated assessments to target the most nutritional vulnerability. The sector has consolidated essential nutrition actions to support children's optimal development and well-being, focusing on interventions that will have the greatest impact in reducing nutrition-related deaths and disabilities across different population cohorts. Ongoing interventions have been scaled up and will continue through common platforms such as Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs), public schools, and community-based settings to enhance targeting and reach. Prioritization decisions are guided by sector severity rankings at the district level, funding availability, and consultations with partners. Moving forward, the sector will continue to focus on strengthening national systems to ensure sustainable delivery of nutrition interventions. Looking ahead, next year's focus will shift toward enhancing national systems to lead the nutrition response as the sector moves towards a transition phase. Activities will increasingly incorporate stabilization components aimed at improving governance and strengthening national systems for sustainable nutrition service delivery.

## 1.3 Risks and Mitigation Measures

The Nutrition sector in Lebanon faces multiple risks that may hinder progress toward achieving sector results. Declining international humanitarian funding threatens the continuity and scale of nutrition interventions. Donor priorities are increasingly shifting toward other sectors, raising the risk that nutrition and in particular stabilization and system-strengthening activities will not receive sufficient attention or investment. Access constraints resulting from security barriers may further limit the ability of partners to reach vulnerable populations, especially in borderline areas. Political instability and potential security developments could disrupt program delivery and coordination. Operational challenges, such as high staff turnover continue to affect program quality and sustainability. The ongoing transition from humanitarian to stabilization-oriented programming also poses risks if not matched with adequate institutional readiness and resources. Further emergencies or sudden refugee population inflows due to conflict, or other unforeseen events in the region could strain existing systems and resources. To mitigate these challenges, the sector will advocate for predictable, flexible, and multi-year funding; strengthen coordination and information systems; invest in national capacity;

promote donor engagement in nutrition stabilization efforts; ensure program adaptability to sustain nutrition outcomes in a volatile context; and maintain emergency preparedness plans to rapidly scale up interventions in response to new crises or population movements.

## 1.4. Localization

The Nutrition sector will strengthen national leadership and the participation of local actors to advance the transition toward nationally led nutrition responses. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), the sector will support the establishment and operationalization of national coordination mechanisms and update of the national nutrition strategy, including technical working groups and information platforms, to promote inclusive decision-making. Capacity-building efforts will focus on strengthening institutional and technical capacities of local actors and delivery platforms such as PHCCs, public schools, and hospitals to implement and monitor nutrition activities effectively. The sector will also prioritize community engagement initiatives such as mother-to-mother support groups to promote ownership, awareness, and social mobilization around nutrition practices. To improve access to resources, the sector will advocate for greater donor investment in local partners, facilitate their access to funding and technical expertise, and ensure their participation in decision-making spaces. Over time, coordination, implementation, and oversight functions will be progressively transitioned to national and local institutions in line with the updated National Nutrition Strategy, contributing to strengthened systems, sustainable service delivery, and enhanced national accountability for nutrition outcomes.

## 1.5. Mainstreaming Components: Gender, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), & Environment

In 2026, the Nutrition sector will strengthen the integration of gender, GBV risk mitigation, protection, conflict sensitivity, PSEA, and environmental sustainability across all aspects of the nutrition response. Gender and protection considerations will be embedded within sector priorities to ensure equitable access and participation for women, men, girls, and boys. Service delivery will ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities by integrating accessibility standards and adapted communication materials. Nutrition and early childhood development services will be delivered through safe, protective spaces that empower women and girls, while ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities and those facing safety risks. The sector will maintain a protection-centered, conflict-sensitive approach guided by the “Do No Harm” principle, ensuring that all services are delivered safely, inclusively, and in ways that foster social cohesion. Strengthened referral systems with the Protection and Health

sectors including the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) task force will enhance support for individuals with specific needs, including psychosocial and mental health concerns, severe caregiving vulnerabilities, and disability-related risks. The sector will continue to promote accountability, confidentiality, and PSEA compliance by building partner capacity and ensuring robust prevention and reporting mechanisms. Environmental sustainability will be promoted by screening interventions for environmental risks, integrating resource-efficient practices, and identifying opportunities for positive environmental outcomes. In recognition of growing climate-related vulnerabilities, the sector will also strengthen resilience and adaptation measures across nutrition delivery platforms to mitigate the impacts of climate change on nutrition outcomes.

## 1.6. Intersectoral Linkages

In 2026, the Nutrition Sector will enhance coordination and complementarity with the Health, WASH, Education, Food Security and Agriculture sector (FSAS) to strengthen multisectoral nutrition outcomes. Nutrition and health services will be jointly delivered through integrated packages at PHCCs and community outreach activities, while nutrition actions will be incorporated within the Lebanon Social Protection (LSP) package to promote sustainability. Collaboration with the Food Security Sector will continue through nutrition-sensitive programming and tools such as the Nutrition within Food Assistance guidance note. Additionally, the sector will collaborate with the FSAS in capacitating actors implementing hot meals emergency response via commercial or community kitchen model to design and produce nutritionally appropriate meals for infants and young children under the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) framework. Moreover, a cross-referral system allows the Nutrition sector to refer households of discharged malnourished children under five and pregnant or breastfeeding women to FSAS for food and cash assistance, while FSAS refers vulnerable households with at-risk or malnourished children and pregnant breastfeeding women back to the Nutrition sector for nutrition care and treatment. Coordination with WASH and Education sectors will ensure integration of nutrition into school-based and hygiene promotion initiatives.

## 1.7. Transition to Development & Recovery

Over the next two years, the Nutrition Sector will implement a transition plan that shifts from humanitarian response to sustainable development and recovery. The plan prioritizes strengthening government leadership, integrating nutrition services within national systems (primary health care systems, public hospitals, public schools...), and expanding community-based prevention and early detection of malnutrition. It also addresses losses from delayed or missed identification and treatment of malnutrition during the conflict by reinforcing Primary Health Care (PHC) capacity, enhancing data systems, and promoting multi-sectoral approaches to tackle underlying drivers. Through capacity building and financing analysis, the sector aims to ensure continuity, resilience, and national ownership of nutrition interventions in Lebanon.

# 2. SECTOR RESULTS, TARGETS, AND BUDGET

## 2.1. Linkage with Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) Strategic Objectives

The Nutrition sector contributes to LRP Strategic Objective 1 which is to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to vulnerable population to ensure their critical needs are met; by ensuring timely, life-saving nutrition assistance for vulnerable populations, including children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women. Through screening, treatment of wasting, micronutrient supplementation, and promotion of optimal IYCF practices, the sector addresses immediate humanitarian needs and prevents further deterioration of nutritional status. These efforts generate tangible output-level results—such as increased coverage of nutrition services—that lead to improved nutrition outcomes and resilience among affected populations.

Under LRP Strategic Objective 3 which is to support service provision through national systems including national rapid response capacity, the sector strengthens national systems to sustain service delivery and enhance rapid response capacity. This includes integrating nutrition into PHCCs, hospitals, and schools; building the capacities of national and local actors; and improving data generation and information systems to support decision-making.

The Nutrition sector works within the nexus approach, completing Health, Food Security, WaSH, and Education sector. Collaboration ensures integrated service delivery, such as nutrition-sensitive food assistance, safe water and hygiene practices, and school-based nutrition programs. By linking humanitarian interventions with system strengthening and policy support, the sector contributes to outcome-level change reducing malnutrition, enhancing resilience, and advancing nationally led, sustainable nutrition services aligned with the 2026 LRP objectives.

## 2.2. Sector Outcomes

The 2026 Nutrition sector strategy focuses on three main outcomes aligned with LRP Strategic Objectives 1 and 3, aiming to address urgent nutrition needs and strengthen national systems and service delivery. It is informed by the National Nutrition Strategy (2021–2026) and emphasizes a multi-sectoral, life-cycle approach to tackle complex, interconnected nutritional challenges. The strategy prioritizes prevention, using multiple delivery platforms to provide essential interventions that improve diets, services, and practices. Its guiding principles focus on child malnutrition, maternal and child nutrition systems, and comprehensive, evidence-based programming. It also reinforces system strengthening through the development and implementation of national guidelines and regulations and

wasting, food fortification, child and adolescent nutrition, and healthier food environments to promote sustainable, long-term impact.

### **Outcome 1: Improved nutrition practices and access to services for children and caregivers in Lebanon, aiming at prevention and management of all forms of malnutrition and the associated developmental risks (0–5 years of age)**

The sector will reach 320,622 children under five and their caregivers, including 243,334 Lebanese (75.9%), 64,066 displaced Syrians (20.0%), 7,982 PRL (2.5%), 1,012 PRS (0.3%), and 4,256 migrants (1.3%), with an equal gender distribution of 51% female and 49% male with a budget of \$11,148,449.

By 2026, the Nutrition sector aims to improve the nutritional status, growth, and development of children under five across Lebanon through:

**Output 1.1:** Enhanced IYCF practices and integrated nutrition–early childhood development (ECD) services will be delivered for children aged 0–59 months through promotion, protection, and support of optimal care, including breastfeeding support, complementary feeding counselling, and caregiver education, ensuring that all interventions are gender-sensitive and inclusive of children with disabilities.

**Output 1.2:** Improved access to essential nutrition and micronutrient supplementation to children to support health growth and development targeting children in high-risk areas with interventions including vitamin A supplementation, multiple micronutrient powders, and fortified age-appropriate foods to support healthy growth and cognitive development.

**Output 1.3:** Enhanced access to screening, growth monitoring and management of wasting among children (0–59 months old). This will be strengthened through routine services at PHCCs and community outreach, supported by timely referral systems to ensure continuity of care for identified cases.

By linking these outputs, the sector anticipates that improved caregiver practices, combined with effective supplementation and timely treatment, will prevent both acute and chronic malnutrition, reduce developmental risks, and contribute to the overall well-being of young children. Interventions will be tailored to reach the most vulnerable households, including those with limited access to services, newly displaced populations, and returnees, ensuring equitable coverage. The integration of nutrition services with ECD programming will provide a holistic approach to child development, addressing both physical growth and cognitive stimulation. Progress toward this outcome will be monitored through measurable indicators such as the proportion of children achieving minimum dietary diversity,

prevalence of stunting and wasting, and coverage of growth monitoring and micronutrient supplementation, aligning with the LRP Strategic Objectives 1 and 3, the National Nutrition Strategy, and SDGs 2 and 3.

**Outcome 2: Improved nutrition and well-being of school-age children and adolescents through increased access to and use of preventive services addressing all forms of malnutrition**

The sector will support 137,237 school-age children and adolescents, including 104,155 Lebanese (75.9%), 27,422 displaced Syrians (20.0%), 3,417 PRL (2.5%), 433 PRS (0.3%), and 1,822 migrants (1.3%), with an equal gender split of 50% female and 50% male with a budget of \$2,587,355 to ensure that school-age children and adolescents have equitable access to preventive nutrition services that address both undernutrition and overweight/obesity, thereby reducing the double burden of malnutrition and fostering lifelong healthy behaviors through:

**Output 2.1: Enhanced access to school-based nutrition preventive and promotive services to prevent double burden of malnutrition.** This will be enhanced through nutrition education with specific attention to inclusiveness for children with disabilities, gender equity, and reaching refugee and returnee populations in both public and informal education settings. Provision of fortified snacks and foods to students in public schools will ensure improved dietary intake and reduced micronutrient deficiencies. These outputs will collectively support the achievement of this outcome by improving dietary intake, knowledge, and behaviors among school-age children and adolescents, while creating supportive school environments for nutrition. Efforts will include training of school health staff, teachers, and community volunteers, regular monitoring of nutrition status, and integration of health and nutrition promotion into the school curriculum. Achieving this outcome will contribute to reduced prevalence of overweight, obesity, and micronutrient deficiencies among school-age children and adolescent groups, increased awareness of healthy diets, and improved long-term educational and health outcomes, supporting the LRP Strategic Objectives 1 and 3, and aligning with SDGs 2, 3, and 4.

**Outcome 3: Improved nutrition and well-being of women, including pregnant and breastfeeding women, through increased access to and use of services for the prevention and management of all forms of malnutrition**

The sector will reach 221,290 women of reproductive age, including pregnant and breastfeeding women. This includes 167,947 Lebanese (75.9%), 44,217 displaced Syrians (20.0%), 5,509 PRL (2.5%), 698 PRS (0.3%), and 2,937 migrants (1.3%), representing 100% female beneficiaries with a budget of \$5,812,611.

By 2026, the Nutrition sector aims to enhance the nutritional status and overall well-being of women of reproductive age, including Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women (PBW), particularly those from vulnerable groups such as refugee women, returnees, women-headed households, and women

with disabilities, through expanded access to high-quality preventive and promotive nutrition services through:

**Output 3.1: Enhanced access to preventive and promotive nutrition services, to prevent all forms of malnutrition among women of reproductive age, pregnant and breastfeeding women.** Preventive and promotive nutrition services for women will be strengthened, including nutrition counselling, micronutrient supplementation (iron-folic acid, calcium, and multiple micronutrients), dietary guidance, and screening for undernutrition and overnutrition, with interventions tailored to the specific needs of pregnant and breastfeeding women. These services will be fully aligned with the ministry of public health essential maternal health package, ensuring that antenatal and postnatal nutrition interventions are systematically integrated within routine Antenatal /postnatal care consultations.

**Output 3.2: Enhanced access to screening and treatment services of wasting among PBW.** Access to screening and treatment services for wasting among PBW will be enhanced through routine assessments at PHCCs, mobile outreach, and community platforms, with timely referral and follow-up for those identified with acute malnutrition.

These outputs collectively ensure that women receive both preventive guidance and curative support to maintain optimal nutritional status, which improves pregnancy outcomes, infant growth, and intergenerational health. Services will be inclusive and equitable, targeting women in high-risk and hard-to-reach areas, including newly displaced populations, returnees, and women with disabilities, and monitoring will be disaggregated by nationality, and disability status. By linking outputs to the outcome, the sector anticipates a reduction in undernutrition, anemia, and overweight/obesity among women of reproductive age, increased adoption of healthy dietary practices, and improved maternal and child health outcomes. This outcome directly contributes to the LRP Strategic Objectives 1 and 3, the National Nutrition Strategy, and SDGs 2 and 3, supporting long-term health, resilience, and productivity for women and their families.

## 2.3. Return

The Nutrition sector contributes to safe, dignity, and voluntary return by ensuring that returnee populations have access to essential, life-saving nutrition services throughout the return process. Nutrition support will be provided at border crossings, including micronutrient supplementation and energy-based supplies for children under five and pregnant or breastfeeding women. At vaccination and screening points, returnees will receive malnutrition screening, nutrition counseling, and key IYCF messages. Children and pregnant women identified with wasting will be provided with nutrition treatment sufficient for two weeks and referred to appropriate services in Syria. Coordination between the Nutrition sectors in Lebanon and Syria will ensure continuity of care and clear communication with caregivers on available nutrition services across the border. Within areas of return, Nutrition sector partners will continue screening, education, and supplementation through PHCCs and community outreach. These actions aim to prevent malnutrition, reduce health risks, and uphold the safety and dignity of returnees while ensuring seamless transition and sustained access to essential nutrition services in both countries.

## 2.3. Summary Sector Target and Budget

In 2026, the Nutrition sector is targeting 679,149 children under five and their caregiver, pregnant breastfeeding women, and school age children of whom 52 per cent are female (351,170) and 48 per cent are male (327,980). Of the total target, 76.2 per cent are vulnerable Lebanese (517,607), 20 per cent displaced Syrians (136,132), 2.5 per cent Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (16,908), 0.9 per cent migrant populations (6,359), and 0.3 per cent Palestinian Refugees from Syria (2,143).

To meet this target, the sector requires \$19.55 million, with 53 per cent to be allocated to humanitarian assistance and 43 per cent directed toward stabilization efforts.



### 3. LOGFRAME

#### OUTCOME 1: Improved nutrition practices and access to services for children and caregivers in Lebanon aiming at prevention and management of all forms of malnutrition and the associated developmental risks (0-5 years of age)

Indicator 1.1	Description		MoV		Unit	Frequency
The percentage of infants 0-5 months of age fed exclusively with breast milk during the previous day and night out of the total number of infants 0-5 months of age.	Percentage of children 0-5 months of age who were exclusively breast fed /of total number of children		Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR),Multi-Sectoral Needs Analysis (MSNA), Other National Household surveys		%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other						
Baseline	Target 2026										
20%	22%	20%	22%	20%	22%	20%	22%	20%	22%	20%	22%

Indicator 1.2	Description		MoV		Unit	Frequency
% of children 6-23 months of age who met Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD)	Percentage of children 6-24 month who consume foods from 5 or more food groups out of 8 thus met the minium dietary diversity		Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR), Multi-Sectoral Needs Analysis (MSNA), Other National Household surveys		%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other						
Baseline	Target 2026										
38%	40%	16%	18%	9%	11%	9%	11%	N/A	18%	N/A	N/A

Indicator 1.3	Description		MoV		Unit	Frequency
% of hospitals implementing BFHI standards in Lebanon	1. Hospitals enrolled in the BFHI program and implementing BFHI standards as per the UNICEF and WHO guideline 2017 ( <a href="https://www.unicef.org/media/95191/file/Baby-friendly-hospital-initiative-implementation-guidance-2018.pdf">https://www.unicef.org/media/95191/file/Baby-friendly-hospital-initiative-implementation-guidance-2018.pdf</a> )/total number of hospitals in lebanon /total number of private and public hospitals in lebanon		MoPH Reports		Hospitals	Monthly

Hospitals	
Baseline	Target 2026
12	15

#### OUTCOME 2: Improved nutrition and well-being of school-age children and adolescents through increased access to and use of preventive services addressing all forms of malnutrition

Indicator 2.1	Description		MoV		Unit	Frequency
% of school-age children and adolescents (girls and boys) with improved nutrition knowledge and practices related to healthy diets and prevention of overweight and obesity.	% of school-age children (5-17 years) who consume foods from five or more out of ten standard food groups during the reference period. Improved dietary diversity reflects increased access to and consumption of a variety of nutrient-rich foods, indicating enhanced diet quality and nutrition awareness among children and adolescents reached through sector interventions		MOPH/MEHE reports		%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other						
Baseline	Target 2026										
60%	62%	40%	42%	45%	47%	45%	47%	N/A	42%	N/A	42%

**OUTCOME 3: Improved nutrition and well-being of women, including pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW), through increased access to and use of services for the prevention and management of all forms of malnutrition**

Indicator 3.1	Description	MoV	Unit	Frequency							
% of Pregnant women admitted to the wasting program successfully recovered	Number of pregnant women among displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) admitted to wasting programs and discharged as recovered/cured	MOPH HIS data	%	Yearly							
 LEB		 SYR		 PRL							
Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026
35%	75%	35%	75%	35%	75%	35%	75%	35%	75%	35%	75%





# LIVELIHOODS

## PEOPLE IN NEED

 **442,526**

## PEOPLE TARGETED

 **72,000**

## SECTOR APPEAL

 **\$116,076,000**

## CONTACT

### LEAD MINISTRY

Ministry of Social Affairs  
Dr. Ola Boutros  
[olaboutros@gmail.com](mailto:olaboutros@gmail.com)

Ministry of Economy and Trade  
Nabil Srour  
[nabilsrour66@gmail.com](mailto:nabilsrour66@gmail.com)  
[nabilsrour@economy.gov.lb](mailto:nabilsrour@economy.gov.lb)

Ministry of Labor  
Samar Assi  
[s.m.assy@outlook.com](mailto:s.m.assy@outlook.com)

## CO-LEAD AGENCIES

UNDP  
Ali El Ghandour  
[ali.el.ghandour@undp.org](mailto:ali.el.ghandour@undp.org)

DRC  
Mohammad Zohbi  
[mohamad.zohbi@drc.ngo](mailto:mohamad.zohbi@drc.ngo)

## SECTOR OUTCOMES

### OUTCOME 1:

Stimulate local economic growth and market systems to foster income-generating opportunities, decent and safe employment

- **Output 1.1:** Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have strengthened capacity to grow, create, and sustain decent jobs
- **Output 1.2:** Vulnerable individuals have improved employability and income through participation in short-term employment opportunities and work-based learning opportunities
- **Output 1.3:** Vulnerable people equipped with market-relevant vocational skills
- **Output 1.4:** Livelihoods assessments and analytical documents produced to inform programming and coordination

## POPULATION BREAKDOWN

	PIN 2026	TARGET 2026
 VULNERABLE LEBANESE	392,963	63,000
 DISPLACED SYRIANS	47,119	8,500
 PRL	1,313	300
 PRS	1,131	200
 MIGRANTS	-	-
 OTHER	-	-

# 1. SITUATION & STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## 1.1 Situation Analysis

Lebanon's livelihoods landscape in 2026 remains shaped by the compounding effects of prolonged economic crisis, currency devaluation, and the escalation of hostilities in 2024 which displaced over 1.2 million people (OCHA 2024) and caused extensive damage to businesses and agricultural assets, particularly in the southern suburbs of Beirut, South, Bekaa, and Baalbek-El Hermel. The crisis has deepened pre-existing vulnerabilities, with an estimated 442,526 individuals, with at least 30 per cent women, identified as in need of livelihood support in 2026 (Livelihoods PiN 2026), representing a decrease from 482,512 in 2025 yet reflecting persistent structural challenges in labour market access and economic opportunities.

While all vulnerable populations face challenges, data reveals that livelihood insecurity is particularly acute among female-headed households and persons with disabilities. The Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2025 and Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) 2025 data reveal that livelihood insecurity is profoundly gendered and shaped by disability. Female-Headed Households (FHH) and households with Persons with Disabilities (PwD) experience deeper income poverty, systemic exclusion from stable work, and a "debt paradox" where lower debt reflects credit exclusion rather than resilience. These groups are disproportionately reliant on humanitarian assistance and precarious, informal work, with FHH earning up to 40 per cent less than male-headed households (MSNA 2025) and PwD households facing a 22 per cent income gap (MSNA 2025).

The convergence of economic crisis, escalation of hostilities, and displacement has shifted household power dynamics, with women and girls increasingly responsible for unpaid care and domestic work, including caring for children, elderly relatives, and persons with disabilities, while simultaneously engaging in informal or unsafe income-generating activities to sustain households. Young women face heightened risks of exploitation and early marriage as coping mechanisms in contexts of economic precarity. Widows and female-headed households confront compounded social and economic exclusion, including limited access to credit, markets, and social protection. Households with persons with disabilities face a 22 per cent income gap compared to households without disability members (MSNA 2025).

The Syria crisis continues to affect the labour market, with 47,119 displaced Syrians in need of livelihood support. Host communities face heightened competition for limited economic opportunities, whilst the purchasing power of vulnerable Lebanese has deteriorated by over 90 per cent since 2019 (ESCWA, World Bank). Palestinian Refugees from Syria and Palestine Refugees in Lebanon face additional barriers, with 1,131 and 1,313 respectively identified as in need of support. Women, persons with disabilities, and youth encounter systemic barriers to economic participation, with female labour force participation remaining below 30 per cent.

The business ecosystem shows fragility across all enterprise scales. Micro, small and medium enterprises struggle with limited access to finance, markets, and business development services, whilst facing infrastructure constraints and regulatory uncertainties. Value chains remain disrupted, particularly in agriculture where escalation of hostilities damaged productive assets and displaced farming communities. The October 2024 escalation of hostilities exacerbated these challenges, destroying agricultural infrastructure, equipment, and storage facilities, and displacing workers critical to seasonal agricultural activities.

Lessons from 2025 implementation underscore the importance of market-driven interventions, enhanced coordination with national institutions, and flexible programming that responds to rapidly changing contexts. Geographic targeting must balance humanitarian imperatives with development priorities, whilst ensuring that interventions do not inadvertently create market distortions or dependency. Evidence demonstrates that integrated approaches combining skills development, business support, employment services, and gender- and disability-responsive interventions generate more sustainable outcomes than standalone programming. Targeting must explicitly consider intersecting vulnerabilities, addressing the unique needs of female-headed households, young women, youth, widows, and women with disabilities, and integrating unpaid care support, safe work conditions, and inclusive decision-making to promote equitable economic recovery.

## 1.2 Prioritization

The Livelihoods sector prioritizes activities in geographic areas most affected by the escalation of hostilities, including the South, Bekaa, and Baalbek-El Hermel, whilst maintaining support in areas hosting displaced populations. The sector prioritizes micro, small and medium enterprises that demonstrate potential for job creation and market linkages, vulnerable individuals requiring immediate income-generating opportunities through short-term employment opportunities, and youth, women, and persons with disabilities facing systemic barriers to employment. Geographic prioritization aligns with Output 1.1 (business support) focusing on areas with existing market potential, Output 1.2 (short-term employment opportunities) targeting conflict-affected communities requiring infrastructure rehabilitation, and Output 1.3 (skills development) concentrating on areas with labour market demand. Prioritization decisions emerged through sector consultations with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), implementing partners, and affected communities, considering severity of need, market systems analysis, and coordination with other sectors. In alignment with MoSA's national priorities, the sector emphasizes long-term productive employment opportunities that support vulnerable Lebanese in transitioning to self-reliance. Output 1.1 (MSME support) receives 75.7% of the sector budget to reflect this priority. Short-term employment under Output 1.2 functions as a transitional modality with mandatory linkages to long-term pathways under Outputs 1.1 and 1.3, rather than as a standalone intervention.

## 1.3 Risks and Mitigation Measures

The sector faces significant risks that could undermine programme effectiveness. Funding shortfalls remain the primary risk, with the 2026 envelope representing a 40 per cent reduction from 2025 levels, potentially limiting the sector's capacity to respond to needs at scale. The sector will mitigate this through strategic targeting, leveraging partnerships with the private sector and development finance institutions, and advocating for predictable multi-year funding. Political and security developments may restrict access to target areas or disrupt implementation, requiring flexible programming mechanisms and robust contingency planning.

Market system disruptions pose risks to sustainable outcomes, particularly if interventions create artificial demand or displace existing market actors. The sector addresses this through comprehensive market assessments, coordination with chambers of commerce and business associations, and gradual transition strategies that strengthen rather than substitute market mechanisms. Regulatory uncertainties and policy constraints may limit programme impact, necessitating ongoing policy dialogue with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Labour, and Ministry of Economy and Trade. The sector will strengthen evidence generation to inform policy reform whilst implementing activities within existing regulatory frameworks where possible.

There is a risk that livelihood interventions, particularly those involving short-term employment opportunities and direct beneficiary engagement, could expose individuals to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) if robust safeguards are not in place. The sector will encourage strict Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) protocols across all activities, including coordinating with the In-Country PSEA network to deliver PSEA training, ensuring signed Codes of Conduct, establishing confidential reporting mechanisms, and conducting community awareness sessions. All implementing partners will be required to integrate PSEA risk assessments into project design and maintain zero-tolerance policies, ensuring accountability to affected populations. Close coordination with the In-Country PSEA Network will support sector partners in integrating PSEA standards through pre-existing tools and Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials.

## 1.4 Localization

The Livelihoods sector strengthens national and local actor leadership through targeted capacity development and progressive responsibility transfer. The sector coordinates closely with the Ministry of Social Affairs as lead ministries, and Ministry of Labour, and Ministry of Economy and Trade as co-lead ministries, ensuring that national priorities inform programme design and implementation. The sector enhances local actors' role through preferential partnership arrangements with national non-governmental organizations, providing capacity development on monitoring and evaluation, financial management, and programme quality standards.

Municipalities receive direct support for planning and implementing short-term employment opportunities activities, strengthening their capacity for infrastructure management and community mobilization. The sector improves local actors' access to funding through simplified partnership agreements, advance payments, and capacity development on donor requirements. The sector works with Women-Led Organizations (WLOs) and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to ensure inclusive livelihood interventions, with OPDs actively participating in sector coordination meetings and programme design to ensure that disability inclusion is meaningfully integrated across all outputs. Business associations and chambers of commerce participate in programme governance, contributing to beneficiary selection, market assessments, and private sector linkages. The sector works progressively towards nationally led coordination structures, supporting the Ministry of Social Affairs to assume greater coordination responsibilities whilst international partners provide technical support and quality assurance. These efforts link directly to Output 1.1 through business association partnerships, Output 1.2 through municipal infrastructure management, and Output 1.3 through national training provider networks.

## 1.5 Mainstreaming Components: Gender, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Environment

The Livelihoods sector integrates gender, GBV, protection, disability inclusion, conflict sensitivity, PSEA, and environmental considerations across all interventions. Gender mainstreaming addresses structural barriers limiting women's economic participation through targeted business support for female entrepreneurs, gender-sensitive workplace policies in short-term employment opportunities, and flexible training schedules accommodating care responsibilities. The sector actively links women to Gender-Based Violence prevention services and ensures that economic interventions do not inadvertently increase exposure to Gender-Based Violence risks through comprehensive referral mechanisms and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse awareness in all activities. Protection and conflict sensitivity guide beneficiary selection processes, ensuring that interventions do not exacerbate tensions between population groups or create perceptions of preferential treatment. The sector applies do no harm principles through comprehensive context analysis, community consultations, and transparent selection criteria that balance vulnerability with potential for sustainable outcomes. Environmental sustainability features in short-term employment opportunities prioritizing green infrastructure, solid waste management, and climate adaptation measures. Business support promotes environmentally responsible practices, whilst skills training includes modules on environmental management and

sustainable production methods. All implementing partners receive mandatory orientation on decent work principles, environmental and social safeguards, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, with comprehensive reporting mechanisms and accountability to affected populations.

**Gender and disability mainstreaming will address systemic barriers through:**

- Childcare and safe transport solutions enabling women's participation.
- Accessibility measures for PwD in short-term employment opportunities and skills programs.
- Debt mitigation and financial literacy for FHH and PwD households.
- Gender-sensitive workplace policies and flexible training schedules accommodating care responsibilities.

## 1.6. Intersectoral Linkages

The Livelihoods sector maintains strategic coordination with complementary sectors to ensure integrated programming and avoid duplication. Formal coordination mechanisms are established with the Food Security and Agriculture sector for agricultural livelihoods and value chain interventions, ensuring coherent approaches to farmer support and market systems strengthening. Close collaboration with the Protection and Gender-Based Violence sectors ensures that economic interventions are designed with protection principles and that referral pathways are established for beneficiaries requiring specialized services. The sector coordinates with the Social Stability sector on community-level interventions, particularly for short-term employment opportunities that address social cohesion objectives alongside economic outcomes. Regular coordination with the Gender Working Group ensures that gender mainstreaming approaches align with sector-wide standards and that women's economic empowerment interventions are complementary rather than duplicative. The sector participates in inter-sector working groups and shares data, lessons learned, and beneficiary information (within protection protocols) to enhance overall response effectiveness and accountability to affected populations.

## 1.7. Transition to Development & Recovery

Given that the scope of the LRP focuses on humanitarian and stabilization interventions, while the Ministry of Social Affairs is guided by a longer-term vision, the sector will maintain short- and medium-term activities under the LRP. Longer-term interventions will transition to the Cooperation Framework, in close coordination with the Ministry and in line with national priorities and guidance. Any linkages between the LRP and the Cooperation Framework will be further examined to ensure

a coherent, complementary, and well-sequenced approach.

The Livelihoods sector contributes directly to Lebanon Response Plan strategic objectives through interventions that strengthen economic resilience, enhance social cohesion, and support transition from humanitarian assistance towards sustainable development. The sector addresses immediate stabilization needs through short-term employment opportunities providing income to vulnerable populations whilst delivering community benefits through infrastructure rehabilitation among other type of activities. Simultaneously, business support and skills development build longer-term economic capacity and foster self-reliance, aligning with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

The sector complements other sectors through integrated programming. Protection mainstreaming ensures economic interventions do not inadvertently create risks whilst providing entry points for specialized services. Basic assistance coordination ensures households receive comprehensive support combining consumption smoothing with income generation. Infrastructure rehabilitation through short-term employment opportunities supports water, shelter, and energy sectors whilst creating employment. Skills development aligns with the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) component under the education sector priorities for youth programming. These complementarities generate synergies strengthening overall response effectiveness, ensuring affected populations receive holistic support addressing multiple dimensions of vulnerability. Furthermore, by linking skills development to private sector demands and advocating for policy reforms, the sector actively contributes to market recovery and the strengthening of national systems for long term recovery and development.

## 2. SECTOR RESULTS, TARGETS, AND BUDGET

### 2.1 Linkage with Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) Strategic Objectives

The Livelihoods Sector Strategy contributes primarily to Strategic Objective 4 of the LRP: “Reinforce Lebanon’s economic, social, and environmental stability.” Through its integrated approach, the strategy also supports Strategic Objective 2 by enhancing protection for vulnerable populations via inclusive economic programming and mainstreaming of gender, GBV, and conflict sensitivity.

The Livelihood strategy prioritizes activities that strengthen local economic systems, support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and enhance workforce employability. These interventions directly reinforce economic stability by creating decent jobs, improving market access, and supporting business recovery particularly in conflict-affected areas such as the South, Bekaa, and Baalbek-El Hermel.

Moreover, the strategy embodies the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus (HDPN) by linking short-term income support (e.g., short-term employment opportunities and work-based learning) with longer-term economic capacity building (e.g., skills development, business support, and policy reform). This transition-oriented approach fosters self-reliance, reduces dependency on humanitarian aid, and strengthens national systems through ensuring national ownership, close coordination with local authorities and partnership with the private sector.

### 2.2 Sector Outcomes

#### Outcome I: Stimulate local economic growth and improve workforce employability to foster income-generating opportunities, decent employment and sustainable livelihoods

Lebanon’s economic situation remains severe, with GDP contracting by an estimated 40 per cent between 2019 and 2024 (World Bank Lebanon Economic Monitor, Spring 2025). The purchasing power of vulnerable Lebanese has deteriorated by over 90 per cent since 2019, while inflation and currency devaluation continue to erode household incomes. MSNA 2025 data reveals significant income disparities across population groups, with female-headed households earning approximately 40 per cent less than male-headed households. Average monthly household income for Lebanese households stands at \$750 for male-headed households compared to \$452 for female-headed households, underscoring the need for gender-responsive

economic interventions. Youth unemployment remains a critical challenge, with limited formal employment opportunities driving migration and brain drain.

The Livelihoods sector pursues a single, comprehensive outcome that addresses the interconnected challenges of business viability, employment access, and workforce capacity. This outcome recognizes that sustainable livelihoods require simultaneous strengthening of demand-side factors (businesses creating employment opportunities) and supply-side factors (individuals equipped with relevant skills and linked to opportunities). The outcome recognizes that inclusive economic recovery depends on the active participation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities, whose empowerment enhances household resilience and contributes to local market growth. Efforts to improve employability will address gendered and social barriers, including care responsibilities, mobility, and discrimination, while applying a “do no harm” approach that integrates protection, GBV risk mitigation, and PSEA safeguards. Progress will be measured through sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated indicators tracking equitable access and the quality of employment created.

The sector targets 72,000 individuals and 10,000 businesses in 2026, representing strategic prioritization given resource constraints whilst maintaining geographic coverage across conflict-affected and vulnerable areas.

**Output 1.1: Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have strengthened capacity to grow, create, and sustain decent jobs.**

Businesses form the foundation of sustainable economic recovery, creating employment opportunities whilst providing goods and services strengthening community resilience. Output 1.1 targets 10,000 businesses through comprehensive support combining capacity development, access to finance, market linkages, and business development services. The sector prioritizes micro and small enterprises demonstrating growth potential and commitment to decent work principles, with particular attention to female-owned businesses, youth entrepreneurs, and enterprises in conflict-affected areas. Support modalities include business management training covering financial management, marketing, and operational planning; incubation services providing mentorship and technical assistance; access to financial resources through blended finance mechanisms combining grants with loan guarantees; and cash and in-kind grants enabling productive investments.

The sector recognizes that business support must strengthen market systems rather than creating dependency on external assistance. Interventions therefore emphasize market-driven approaches, linking businesses to chambers of commerce,

business associations, and private sector networks facilitating sustainable market access. The sector supports value chain development in priority sectors including agriculture, agri-food processing, tourism, and information technology, where Lebanon maintains competitive advantages. Particular attention addresses conflict-affected businesses requiring rehabilitation support, ensuring rapid recovery of productive capacity. The sector promotes decent job creation through business support conditionality, requiring supported enterprises to demonstrate compliance with labour standards, safe working conditions, and non-discriminatory employment practices. Target disaggregation prioritizes female-owned businesses (30%), persons with disabilities (3%), and Lebanese-owned enterprises (95%), whilst maintaining support for displaced Syrian and Palestine refugee entrepreneurs where legal frameworks permit business registration, with tailored incubation and market linkage support for women and PwD entrepreneurs.

Expected results include 20,000 jobs created or maintained through supported businesses, with at least 30 per cent benefiting women. The sector will track business performance through indicators measuring revenue growth, market access expansion, and business survival rates. This output allocates \$87.86 million (75.7% of sector budget), reflecting the strategic prioritization of business ecosystem strengthening as the foundation for sustainable economic recovery and employment generation.

**Output 1.2: Vulnerable individuals have improved employability and income through participation in short-term employment opportunities and work-based learning opportunities.**

Vulnerable populations require immediate income-generating opportunities whilst developing work experience and professional networks facilitating longer-term employment. Output 1.2 targets 25,000 individuals through two complementary modalities addressing different profile needs and labour market positioning. Short-term employment opportunities support 15,000 individuals through labour-intensive infrastructure rehabilitation and environmental restoration projects implemented by municipalities and community organizations. Activities prioritize conflict-affected communities requiring infrastructure repair, solid waste management, agricultural land rehabilitation, and public space improvements, generating community benefits whilst providing temporary employment. The sector coordinates closely with municipalities ensuring activities align with local development priorities and build municipal capacity for infrastructure management.

Work-based learning supports 10,000 individuals through structured on-the-job training, internships, and apprenticeships with private sector employers. This modality provides real workplace experience whilst building professional networks critical for employment access, particularly benefiting youth entering the labour market and women seeking to transition into formal employment. The sector brokers relationships between job seekers and employers, providing wage subsidies reducing employer barriers to hiring inexperienced workers whilst ensuring decent work conditions and learning opportunities. Both modalities integrate protection from sexual exploitation and abuse awareness, decent work sensitization covering minimum

wage and working conditions, and linkages to complementary services including childcare support enabling parents to participate. Activities will be designed to accommodate women and PwD through flexible hours, safe spaces, and reasonable accommodations, ensuring equitable access.

Target disaggregation ensures equitable access across population groups: displaced Syrians (35%), vulnerable Lebanese (60%), and Palestine refugees (5%), with gender targets of 30 per cent female participation reflecting labour market realities whilst promoting women's economic inclusion. The sector recognizes that short-term employment opportunities should provide pathways towards longer-term employment rather than creating dependency, therefore limiting participation duration to three months and providing employment services supporting transition into sustained employment or entrepreneurship. This output allocates \$21 million (18.1% of sector budget), providing critical immediate support to vulnerable populations whilst building foundations for longer-term labour market integration.

This output applies a gender-responsive and inclusive approach informed by barrier analysis. Tailored outreach, safe worksite design, and childcare support will enable women's and PwD participation. Supervisors will receive gender and PSEA training, and feedback channels will be gender sensitive. Post-employment coaching and financial literacy will support women's transition into longer-term livelihoods. Monitoring will track not only participation rates but also empowerment indicators such as decision-making and income control, ensuring that short-term opportunities translate into sustainable, equitable outcomes.

**Output 1.3: Vulnerable men and women equipped with market-relevant technical and vocational skills and linked to employment and entrepreneurship opportunities**

Skills mismatches constitute a significant barrier to employment, with many job seekers lacking competencies demanded by employers. Output 1.3 addresses this through comprehensive skills development supporting 24,000 individuals with market-relevant training, employment services, and entrepreneurship support. The sector conducts labour market assessments identifying skills in demand across priority sectors, ensuring training responds to real employer needs rather than supply-driven programming. Training modalities combine technical skills in priority sectors (construction, hospitality, information technology, healthcare support, agriculture) with soft skills (communication, teamwork, problem-solving) increasingly recognized as critical for workplace success. The sector partners with accredited training providers, ensuring certifications recognized by employers and aligned with national qualification frameworks where these exist. Training programs will integrate childcare, safe transportation, and workplace accessibility measures, alongside gender-sensitive curricula that promote equal participation.

Training alone does not guarantee employment access. Output 1.3 therefore integrates career guidance, job search support, and employment matching services connecting trained individuals with opportunities. The sector establishes relationships with employers, understanding their recruitment needs and facilitating

placements for programme graduates. The sector coordinates closely with trade unions, chambers of commerce, and employer associations to ensure training programmes align with industry standards, facilitate job placements, and promote decent work conditions for programme graduates. For individuals preferring entrepreneurship, the sector provides business start-up support including business planning, initial capital through grants, and mentorship from experienced entrepreneurs. This integrated approach addresses multiple barriers to economic participation, recognizing that sustainable livelihoods require both competencies and connections to opportunities.

Beneficiary identification combines multiple channels: vulnerability assessments conducted in coordination with protection actors, referrals from municipalities and community organizations, labour market assessments matching individuals to sectors with demonstrated employment demand, and referrals from AMAN for vulnerable Lebanese households transitioning from social assistance. This multi-channel approach ensures targeting reaches those most in need whilst aligning skills development with actual market opportunities.

Target disaggregation prioritizes vulnerable Lebanese (60%), displaced Syrians (35%), and Palestine refugees (5%), with 30 per cent female participation targets. The sector recognizes women face additional barriers requiring tailored support including childcare provision, flexible training schedules, and safe transportation. Persons with disabilities receive reasonable accommodations ensuring inclusive participation. The output allocates \$7.08 million (6.1% of sector budget), providing targeted support for individuals most marginalized from labour market opportunities, with expected results including 60 per cent of trained beneficiaries finding employment or starting businesses within six months of programme completion, measured through post-training follow-up surveys tracking employment outcomes.

#### Output 1.4: Livelihoods assessments and analytical documents produced to inform programming and coordination

Effective livelihoods programming requires robust evidence generation, coordinated information systems, and accessible knowledge products that inform response priorities and operational decision-making. Output 1.4 addresses critical information gaps through systematic assessments, analytical studies, and coordination documents supporting evidence-based programming across the sector. The sector conducts comprehensive livelihoods assessments and labour market analyses generating evidence that informs operational strategies, targeting approaches, and programmatic interventions implemented by government ministries, implementing partners, and development actors. These assessments examine market dynamics, employment trends, business ecosystem constraints, and economic opportunities affecting vulnerable populations, whilst identifying gaps in service delivery and response coverage requiring coordinated action.

The sector develops and disseminates coordination documents, strategic frameworks, and knowledge products supporting coherent livelihoods response across multiple actors and geographical areas. This includes sector response plans, monitoring frameworks, technical guidelines, and best practice documentation that

standardize approaches whilst promoting quality programming. The sector produces analytical reports examining thematic areas including Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) development, agricultural value chains, skills development, and employment generation that inform programming decisions and resource allocation. These knowledge products are regularly updated to reflect changing geopolitical contexts and operational realities, ensuring that sector coordination and programme implementation respond to evolving needs and emerging evidence. The sector maintains close coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Labour, and Ministry of Economy and Trade ensuring that assessments and analytical documents reflect government priorities whilst contributing to national development planning processes.

The output facilitates coordination platforms and working groups bringing together government, implementing partners, civil society, and international actors to share evidence, discuss programming gaps, and strengthen collective response. These platforms enhance information exchange, promote learning across organizations, and support evidence-based planning aligned with identified needs. The sector also organizes knowledge-sharing events including seminars, conferences, and technical workshops that disseminate assessment findings, present analytical insights, and build capacity among practitioners and government counterparts. This output allocates \$140,000 in direct programming costs whilst contributing significantly to sector effectiveness by providing the evidence base and coordination infrastructure enabling informed decision-making and coherent response. Expected results include the production of at least three major livelihoods assessments or analytical reports, development of coordination frameworks and technical guidelines, and enhanced information-sharing mechanisms strengthening sector-wide planning and response quality.

### 2.3 Summary Sector Target and Budget

The Livelihoods sector targets 72,000 individuals and 10,000 businesses in 2026 with a budget of \$116.08 million, representing a 40 per cent reduction from 2025 levels. This requires strategic prioritization focusing on highest-need areas and interventions demonstrating strongest potential for sustainable outcomes. The sector maintains geographic coverage across conflict-affected areas whilst supporting populations in areas hosting displaced persons. Budget allocation prioritizes business ecosystem strengthening (75.7%) as the foundation for sustainable employment generation, complemented by immediate income support through short-term employment opportunities and work-based learning (18.1%), skills development for marginalized populations (6.1%), and evidence generation and coordination support (0.1%). Gender disaggregation targets 30 per cent female beneficiaries across all outputs and three per cent at least inclusion for persons with disability, whilst 100 per cent of activities are classified as stabilization programming reflecting the sector's development-oriented approach within the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

### 3. LOGFRAME

#### OUTCOME 1: Stimulate local economic growth and improve workforce employability to foster income-generating opportunities, decent employment and sustainable livelihoods

Indicator 1.1	Description	MoV	Unit	Frequency
60% of target businesses report increased performance and expanded market access as a result of programme activities	Supported businesses reporting increased profitability/production/expanded market access (new contracts, clients, markets) 6 months after receiving support	Activity Info Reporting Partners	%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other						
Baseline	Target 2026										
60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%

Indicator 1.2	Description	MoV	Unit	Frequency
60% of beneficiaries able to find a job or start their own business after completion of activities	Beneficiaries who find employment or start their own business (home-based or non-home-based) after training and support	Activity Info Reporting Partners	%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other						
Baseline	Target 2026										
60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%





# PROTECTION

## PEOPLE IN NEED


**2,471,937**

## PEOPLE TARGETED


**1,393,599**

## SECTOR APPEAL


**\$184,914,888**

## CONTACT

### LEAD MINISTRY

Ministry of Social Affairs

Cynthia Feghaly

[cynthiafeghaly.mosa@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiafeghaly.mosa@gmail.com)

### CO-LEAD AGENCIES

UNHCR

Sophie Etzold

[etzold@unhcr.org](mailto:etzold@unhcr.org)

NRC

Ribal Maatouk

[ribal.maatouk@nrc.no](mailto:ribal.maatouk@nrc.no)

### Child Protection

UNICEF

Rana Bizri

[rbizri@unicef.org](mailto:rbizri@unicef.org)

### SAVE THE CHILDREN

Lucy Atim

[lucy.atim@savethechildren.org](mailto:lucy.atim@savethechildren.org)

### Gender-Based Violence

UNFPA

Mia Kiscic

[kisic@unfpa.org](mailto:kisic@unfpa.org)

### UNHCR

Sophie Etzold

[etzold@unhcr.org](mailto:etzold@unhcr.org)

### ASSOCIATION HDA

Jeanne Frangieh

[administrator@associationhda.com](mailto:administrator@associationhda.com);

[jeanne@associationhda.com](mailto:jeanne@associationhda.com)

## SECTOR OUTCOMES

### OUTCOME 1:

Affected people have increased knowledge of their rights and have access to an effective justice and protection system

- **Output 1.1:** Individuals at heightened risk are provided with information on their rights and have access to effective legal aid services
- **Output 1.2:** Protection legal and policy frameworks and national protection institutions are strengthened
- **Output 1.3:** Protection risks are monitored and advocacy and technical support provided to relevant actors to mitigate the risks

### OUTCOME 2:

Affected people are safe, supported, and empowered in their community to contribute to positive change

- **Output 2.1:** Affected people are provided with information services and rights and benefit from inclusive and accessible community protection initiatives
- **Output 2.2:** Affected people are engaged in social and behavior change on protection issues including equality, GBV, and child protection
- **Output 2.3:** Effective and accessible feedback and response mechanisms, including to address Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding, are in place

### OUTCOME 3:

Individuals at heightened risk have access to quality specialized protection response services and durable solutions

- **Output 3.1:** Quality protection, Child Protection, and GBV case management, psychosocial support, protection cash, and other specialised services are available and accessible to individuals at heightened risk
- **Output 3.2:** Syrian Displaced and Refugees have access to durable solutions including complementary pathways and resettlement
- **Output 3.3:** Migrants have access to safe and dignified return assistance to their countries of origin

## POPULATION BREAKDOWN

	PIN 2026	TARGET 2026
 VULNERABLE LEBANESE	999,076	383,430
 DISPLACED SYRIANS	1,109,560	901,889
 PRL	193,041	51,015
 PRS	22,825	21,815
 MIGRANTS	147,435	26,550
 OTHER	-	8,900

# 1. SITUATION & STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## 1.1. Situation Analysis

In 2025, the Protection Sector in Lebanon navigated significant contextual shifts, notably following the fall of the previous Syrian government in late 2024 and the cessation of hostilities in Lebanon. These developments prompted the gradual return of displaced Syrians to Syria and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their homes or alternative housing in their area of origin as well as a gradual shift of the Government of Lebanon's directives towards Syrians in the context of return. However, the protection environment remains strained across population groups, particularly in areas affected by ongoing insecurity (such as the southern border and parts of Baalbek-El Hermel) and amid security incidents in some regions in Syria and at the Syrian border. These conditions have contributed to a notable influx of minority groups from Syria into North Lebanon and the Baalbek-El Hermel after December 2024.

Lebanon is party to key human rights instruments, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), under which it has committed to protecting the rights of women, children, and other vulnerable or marginalized groups. Yet, this protection environment remains critically strained by a protracted socio-economic crisis, institutional fragility, and regional volatility, which have deepened intercommunal tensions among displaced populations and host communities. These intersecting challenges have significantly affected the ability and capacity of national systems to deliver adequate protection and assistance. Populations at heightened risk include displaced Syrians, post-2024 arrivals from Syria, vulnerable Lebanese, mostly those affected by internal displacement and marginalized groups, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS), Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL), migrant workers, and others. Their exposure to protection risks is further exacerbated by conflict dynamics, reduced humanitarian funding, and pressure on public institutions. Marginalized groups, such as those facing discrimination and stigmatization and denial of equal opportunity to services, including persons with disabilities, older persons, female-headed households, older persons, and adolescent girls and other vulnerable groups with intersecting identities, face compounded vulnerabilities due to entrenched social exclusion, inequitable access to services, and institutional barriers.

### Socio-Economic and Conflict-Related Vulnerabilities

Lebanon continues to face compounding socio-economic and conflict-related challenges that severely impact vulnerable

populations. Economic conditions remain dire, with widespread unemployment, inadequate shelter, and limited access to education and essential services. Wages have not kept pace with the devaluation of the local currency, while the cost of living continues to rise. These pressures, coupled with barriers to legal status and limited coping mechanisms, increase exposure to trafficking, exploitative labor, homelessness, substance use, insecurity and different forms of violence. Mental and physical health are deteriorating, particularly among high-risk groups, including displaced populations, refugees or migrants who face unresolved legal status and scarce livelihood opportunities. Simultaneously, ongoing hostilities and attacks from Israeli Defence Forces in southern and border areas have led to displacement, infrastructure destruction, and restricted access to services, deepening instability. Damage to housing, unexploded ordnance, and insecurity hinder return options for IDPs and increase repatriation needs for migrants. Social tensions have intensified due to shifting displacement patterns, reduced humanitarian assistance, and competition over limited resources. These dynamics disproportionately affect women, older persons, adolescent girls, and children, heightening risks of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), neglect by family members and caregivers, and disrupted education.<sup>8</sup> Those affected by displacement, hostilities and protracted protection situations continue to demonstrate high mental health and psychosocial needs which the sector aims to address by an integrated approach of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) within specialized protection services such as case management programs. Political, cultural, and religious divisions have exacerbated inter- and intra-communal friction, with reports of harassment, exclusion, and scapegoating. Specifically in the South and the Bekaa, including in Palestine refugee camps, partners witnessed conflict-related barriers and limited humanitarian space due to restrictive measures imposed by different actors often creating additional and often unpredictable operational barriers for humanitarian organizations to operate. Moreover, funding shortfalls have also weakened the capacity of humanitarian partners to provide essential services such as case management, legal aid, psychosocial support, and safe spaces.

### Protection Risks and Access to Justice

Lebanon has established national laws and policies to safeguard human rights; however, gaps in implementation and enforcement continue to undermine comprehensive access to protection, particularly for vulnerable groups. Enforcement mechanisms remain inadequate in cases of family violence, where accountability is relatively limited and survivors face barriers to justice. Individuals with irregular legal status continue to face compounded challenges, as many refrain from reporting protection incidents due to concerns related to their legal situation and related fear of protection threats. Displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees, and migrants with irregular

<sup>8</sup> Protection Sector Lebanon: [Protection Monitoring summary report February - June 2025. Situation of Internally Displaced Persons \(IDPs\) in Lebanon, cross-population](#)

status remain at heightened risk of protection concerns, including restricted mobility, limited access to services and legal remedies. Increasing documentation requirements and other administrative or security measures have contributed to a more constrained protection environment, which may expose individuals to risks such as exploitation, trafficking or family separation. Structural and systemic barriers, including limited resources and services, unaffordable costs, documentation challenges, and social stigma, continue to impede access to justice and essential services. In addition, the decline in funding has significantly impacted on the conditions in prisons and detention facilities, as well as the situation of people deprived of their liberty, with limited capacity of protection actors for effective detention monitoring, leading to cessation of assistance to individuals held in detention, as well as reduced technical support to detention facilities. This funding shortfall exacerbates the routine detention practices applied to displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees lacking legal residency or valid documentation. Such detention practices have severe impacts on their physical and psychological well-being, in particular children, necessitating responsive measures to mitigate these effects. Structural barriers, including limited resources and services, unaffordable costs, lack of legal status, documentation challenges, and social stigma, continue to hinder access to justice and essential services. According to the preliminary data of the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) and Multi Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2025, access to legal residency has continued to decrease with a record 83 per cent of displaced Syrians without legal residency, often after many years of stay in Lebanon. This increases their risk of detention, deportation, and limits their access to services, including education. The proportion of migrants without residency is particularly high in Beirut (37%) and Mount Lebanon (44%), the areas hosting the largest migrant populations and highest concentration of families, compounding risks for children, underscoring systemic exclusion and heightened protection risks, including trafficking, also for migrant households. In this context, advocacy for access to the territory to seek safety and protection, legal status regularization, and the principle of non-refoulement remains central to the sector's strategic objectives.

Efforts led by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) and UNHCR on birth registration, in line with the National Action Plan on Birth Registration, to improve birth registration for Syrian children have shown progress, with rates increasing from 28 per cent in 2020 to over 51 per cent in 2025. However, nearly half still lack full civil documentation, increasing the risk of statelessness. For migrants, 7 per cent of children have no birth documentation, and 37 per cent possess only birth notifications, which are not legally recognized. For PRS, access to civil documentation remains severely constrained due to restrictive residency policies and administrative barriers, further heightening protection risks and limiting access to essential services. Barriers such as limited procedural awareness, high costs, complex administrative

processes, and lack of foundational documents continue to hinder access to legal remedies and documentation renewal across communities.

**GBV remains a widespread protection concern in Lebanon**, with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) consistently the most reported type of GBV. Women and girls account for 97 per cent of reported GBV cases, reflecting deep-rooted gender inequalities and systemic barriers to safety and justice.<sup>9</sup> Displaced populations, migrants, and domestic workers face heightened risks of trafficking, exploitation, and domestic violence, driven by economic hardship, displacement, and impunity of perpetrators.<sup>10</sup> The ongoing political and economic crises, compounded by escalation of hostilities since October 2023, have intensified violence against women. In some cases, pressure by family members to return to Syria has triggered IPV and other GBV incidents. Substance use is increasingly recognized as both a coping mechanism and a driver of household violence, yet remains under-addressed in GBV programming. Access to GBV services is limited due to geographic coverage, especially in rural and hard-to-reach areas, high costs for forensic doctors, psychologists, translation and insufficient access to safe shelters due to admission criteria. The ongoing reduction in available funding further compounds these challenges, making it increasingly difficult for GBV survivors and those at risk to access timely and life-saving services. Technology-facilitated GBV, such as online harassment, blackmail, and non-consensual image sharing, is rising, particularly among adolescent girls and marginalized groups. In Northern Lebanon, 15 per cent of women and girls using social media report experiencing sexual cyberbullying. Access to justice and GBV services remains limited due to weak judicial systems, restrictive gender norms, and stigma. Marginalized groups, such as women and girls with disabilities, live-in domestic workers, face additional barriers due to physical, communication and systemic barriers, isolation, movement restrictions and limited access to tailored services. Despite efforts by national and humanitarian actors, significant gaps remain in reaching high-risk groups. The sector continues to advocate for stronger legal frameworks, survivor-centered services, and inclusive programming that addresses both immediate needs and structural drivers of GBV.

Children in Lebanon continue to experience the enduring impacts of escalation of hostilities, displacement, contamination, and socio-economic instability. Exposure to trauma, loss, and disrupted development remains widespread, particularly among displaced, migrants, IDPs, stateless children, and post 2024 arrivals. Despite advocacy to reduce barriers to education and related waivers issued for children lacking legal residency or civil documentation, the number of children out of school continues to rise. This exclusion significantly heightens risks of child labour including worst form of child labor, child marriage, family separation, neglect, and exploitation. Displaced Syrian, PRL, PRS, and migrant children are disproportionately affected, with persistent challenges in securing legal status and accessing essential services. Widespread poverty and limited access to

9 GBV WG, GBV IMS Mid-year Report, 2025: accessible: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/118910>.

10 CARE Lebanon, GBV Safety Audit Report on GBV, SRH, and Shelter Accessibility in Lebanon, accessible: <https://data.unhcr.org/fr/documents/download/117198>.

protective environments continue to drive negative coping mechanisms within families and communities. These dynamics contribute to increased vulnerability to violent parenting, neglect, street-connected children and child labor, family separation, exploitation of adolescent girls and engagement in survival sex, and psychosocial distress, underscoring the urgent need for strengthened Child Protection (CP) systems, inclusive education pathways, and targeted support for high-risk groups.

### Returns to Syria and Post-2024 Arrivals from Syria

Geopolitical developments in Syria have led to significant spontaneous returns of displaced Syrians from Lebanon and the region as well as prompted activities in support of organised return. As of 31 October 2025, nearly 336,000 Syrians have crossed back to Syria from Lebanon since the fall of the former regime in Syria.<sup>11</sup> As of September 2025, 118,764 individuals (22,103 families) have expressed interest in returning, with projections of up to 400,000 returns by year-end. Voluntary repatriation is expected to continue into 2026, guided by principles of safety, dignity, and informed decision-making. However, against the background of a restrictive protection environment, the Protection sector plays a crucial role in ensuring that potential push factors influencing returns such as administrative measures, decreased access to education and health services as well as the reduction in cash assistance are identified and analyzed as coercive factors influencing decision-making and voluntariness of returns. While decisions for return remain individualised and circumstantial, the Protection sector will also continue to play an active role to ease barriers for return, by clarifying and supporting expediting legal requirements, school transcripts certification, and the provision of return counselling through dedicated partners (see dedicated section on returns for more details).

Simultaneously, Lebanon continues to receive post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria, **with approximately 103,000 individuals**, primarily Syrians, Lebanese and other nationalities, entering the country since the fall of the previous Syrian government. Lack of legal status for post 2024 arrivals, perceived unequal access to services, as well as self-isolation led to limited access to shelter and other services. Physical impairments and compounded mental health needs require critical and specialized interventions. Prioritized interventions will focus on communication with communities and community engagement through mobile and static approaches, providing individual protection interventions, such as case management, psychosocial support and legal assistance, Protection Cash for highly vulnerable individuals to ensure life-saving interventions, individual support to persons with disabilities, women-headed households and referrals to other relevant services.

### Support to enhancing access to National Protection Systems

Despite persistent challenges, Lebanon has made notable progress in strengthening its national protection framework.

Advancements include improvements in civil documentation, such as increased access of children to birth registration, migrant regularization, and the development of several national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), policies and guidelines to strengthen the legal and social protection frameworks. The adoption of key national strategies and SOPs, including the National Social Protection Strategy, the Strategy for the Rights and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, the Action Plan on Child Marriage (2023–2030), the revised version of the Child Protection Case Management SOPs, the National Strategy for Older Persons (2020–2030) and its implementation plan, the SOPs for the Identification, Assistance and Protection of Victims of Trafficking, demonstrates growing commitment to institutional reform, inter-ministerial referral modalities and rights-based approaches. Efforts to reinforce social protection mechanisms, such as the enrolment into the AMAN programme and the National Disability Allowance, reflect early momentum toward inclusive service delivery. However, gaps in legal identity and services, access to residency permits, and welfare capacity persist, and many vulnerable groups remain reliant on humanitarian and civil society actors. Continued investment and technical support are essential to reinforce these foundations, strengthen implementation capacity, and support a transition toward nationally-led protection responses.

Protection sector partners are engaged in supporting safe, dignified, and informed repatriation, while maintaining a strong protection presence for those unable or unwilling to return. Additional risks remain around high socio-economic constraints, instability, escalation of hostilities, as well as lack of adequate protective legal framework for the different affected population groups that contribute to heightened vulnerability, protection risks and reliance on protection services delivered by sector partners.

## 1.2. Prioritization

Prioritization aims to maintain critical protection interventions, while focusing on long-term sustainability and is informed by the **severity of risks, service availability, access constraints, and the impact of reduced and unpredictable funding**. In alignment with the June 2025 Prioritization Note, the Protection Working Group (PWG) will utilize geographical severity mapping to prioritize areas of intervention. These areas include those impacted by displacement, influx of post-2024 arrivals<sup>12</sup> or high number of displaced vs host community population, and will include the following protection interventions:

- South: focus on enhancing access to protection, GBV and CP services for IDPs.
- North, Akkar and Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel: focus on highly vulnerable Lebanese, displaced Syrians, and post-2024 arrivals from Syria.

<sup>11</sup> [Syria situation: Crisis Regional Flash Update #51 | UNHCR](#).

<sup>12</sup> Post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria.

Beirut and Mount Lebanon: maintaining access to available quality services across population groups targeting most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

#### Core strategic priorities for 2026 include:

- Sustaining and strengthening protection case management services and access to social protection schemes for individuals at heightened risk, including persons with disabilities, older persons without support, women-headed households and other women at risk, children at risk and others facing intersecting vulnerabilities, to ensure continued access to lifesaving, survivor-centered, and rights-based support.
- Expanding access to legal protection, documentation, and justice, recognizing these as foundational to social inclusion, accountability, and long-term stability.
- Ensuring access and mapping of specialized social services tailored to the needs of persons with disability, older persons, and other marginalized groups.
- Maintain an integrated and focused approach on MHPSS within protection programming, particularly for survivors of violence, including GBV, children with high levels of distress and displacement-related distress.
- Reinforcing community-based protection and prevention mechanisms by investing in local capacities and promoting positive social norms, fostering sustainable behavioural change and community ownership.
- Supporting access to durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation interventions, such as resettlement for highly vulnerable individuals, voluntary return as well as developing sector-wide standards for partners supporting Syrians who spontaneously return in close collaboration with the Syria Protection Cluster.
- Enhancing advocacy, coordination, and accountability, with a focus on protection, GBV, and child protection monitoring and mainstreaming across all sectors.
- Advancing localization and national systems strengthening through technical and institution support and strategic collaboration with public institutions, supporting a progressive transition to nationally led responses inclusive of all population groups.
- Work towards enhanced integration of livelihood, protection cash assistance, and self-reliance programming to promote dignity, resilience, and durable solutions.
- Strengthen the collaboration with relevant governmental stakeholders, such as the Ministry

of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour as well as related bodies, including Internal Security Forces on various issues to strengthen the protection environment and access to justice and protection services across population groups.

In 2026, the Protection sector will focus on advancing its localization strategy, through support to governmental and local civil society actors, enhancing prevention work to achieve sustainable outcomes, fostering stabilization and cost-effectiveness, while ensuring individuals at heightened risk access inclusive and quality protection services.

### 1.3 Risks and Mitigation Measures

During strategic planning discussions, sector members reflected on several critical risks identified in 2025 that may affect the Protection sector's ability to implement its strategy effectively in 2026. These include the potential escalation of hostilities and political instability within Lebanon and Syria, which could necessitate a renewed emergency response. In addition, the absence of an appropriate legal or policy framework governing the stay of refugees and displaced populations groups including the post-2024 arrivals from Syria may limit access to essential services and affect the protection space thereby challenging the sector's successful implementation of its strategy. Moreover, the socio-economic and political developments as well as intercommunal tensions may also impact further on the protection environment of different communities. Risks posed by those developments are likely to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. Addressing these risks requires considerable resources from the Protection sector and other sectors. Significant funding cuts expected in 2026, including for access to health services for the non-Lebanese population, place additional constraints on the response. Collectively, these factors pose challenges to maintaining inclusive, coordinated, and rights-based protection interventions.

To mitigate operational and contextual risks, the Protection sector will prioritize emergency preparedness planning at both partner and sector levels and strengthen coordination with the Disaster Risk Management (DRM). This aims at ensuring clear guidance and timely roll-out of prioritized emergency-specific activities as necessary, that equitably serve the most vulnerable in all population groups. In addition, the Protection sector will continue to invest in protection trend monitoring, with increased emphasis on integrating CP and GBV risks, across population groups and reinforce inter-sector collaboration, also contributing to early warning systems and adaptive preparedness programming. Led by the Protection Analysis and Monitoring Task Force, sector-specific risks are identified and presented to different response sectors to maintain the centrality of protection across the response and to support timely course corrections and mitigation measures where required. The sector recognizes the risks associated with increased digitization and underscores the need for ethical data collection within protection analysis and monitoring. It will provide guidance on appropriate protection protocols and recommend relevant mitigation measures.

Based on the identified findings, tailored interventions for those at heightened risk or where the sector identified programmatic gaps will be implemented by dedicated sector members. This will include inter alia family reunification support, alternative care arrangements, and additional community engagement interventions to address the needs of unaccompanied and separated children, older persons, Persons with Disability and other vulnerable groups. Capacity building efforts will target national institutions and frontline actors to lead and maintain services, while tension monitoring and engagement with Social Stability sector partners will support conflict-sensitive programming. Legal protection will be enhanced through advocacy for procedural reforms, deployment of mobile legal units, and increased access to documentation services. The sector will also advocate for sustainable, diversified funding, foster the shift to community-based services and strengthen integration of protection within development programming. Coordination with government entities, donors, and service providers will be key to ensuring inclusive and durable protection outcomes.

## 1.4. Localization

The Protection sector will advance localization by strengthening national leadership, through both MoSA and local NGOs, and progressively transitioning protection responses to nationally led systems, where possible. In 2026, the sector will maintain and strengthen coordination arrangements with MoSA, co-chairing Protection, GBV, and CP coordination meetings, and supporting the Ministry to assume stronger leadership in decision-making and strategic planning within the coordination platforms. Dedicated national MoSA Protection Coordinator and Regional Protection Assistants will gradually increase responsibilities and guidance for the protection coordination of the protection response across locations.

In order to achieve this, the sector will be drafting a multi-year action plan on aligning sectoral activities to national structures, processes and guidelines. This includes a mapping of interagency initiatives aimed at strengthening the national protection system including the Social Development Centers, the National Social Protection Strategy to advance on social protection schemes, including AMAN, the National Disability Allowance as well as the SOPs on identification, assistance and protection of victims of trafficking. Efforts will also focus on strengthening service delivery through Service Delivery Centers (SDCs) as community hubs, supporting digital integration via SDC platforms and promoting economic inclusion for vulnerable populations across all aspects of the sector's strategy. MoSA's institutional leadership will be reinforced through formalized coordination mechanisms at the sub-national level and active engagement with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and local NGOs beyond existing frameworks. These actions will ensure protection interventions remain aligned with national strategies on child protection, gender, older persons, and persons with disabilities. A specific focus will also be

placed on enhancing the work to prevent and respond to the considerable risks facing street-connected children.

To enhance local actor participation, the sector has strengthened integration through co-coordination mechanisms, with local NGOs representing 55 per cent of the Protection sector coordination platform, creating space for meaningful participation and decision-making. The sector will also continue to strengthen survivor-centered approaches within national systems, including enhancing the technical and operational capacities of women-led organizations and service providers. Capacity needs and mapping exercises have been completed, alongside the establishment of mapping and profiling databases prioritizing active Women-Led Organizations (WLOs), Women's Rights Organizations (WROs), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with a presence in the response. These efforts will focus on enhancing the co-leadership role of national actors within sector coordination structures, promoting shared ownership, accountability and inclusive participation.

Efforts to encourage meaningful engagement and support to local NGOs and CSOs will be upscaled building on the various assessments on WLO engagement conducted in 2025. To ensure accessibility and inclusion, sub-national coordination meetings will be facilitated in Arabic, guidance notes, SOPs and key tools will be translated into Arabic and adapted to local contexts. The sector will maintain advocacy with donors and UN agencies to diversify partnerships and provide flexible, equitable funding for smaller and community-rooted organizations, enabling meaningful engagement in protection coordination and service delivery. Mentorship and coaching initiatives led by larger NGOs, donors and UN agencies will strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of local actors, complemented by peer-learning spaces through different sector coordination platforms and facilitating the coordination with professional syndicates and academic institutions.

The sector will continue to enhance engagement with community structures, including through the finalized Community-Based Protection (CBP) guidance note, which was developed to establish a shared understanding of CBP, identify key protection risks that CBP interventions can address, and define practical guidance and tools to support implementation, particularly in more challenging areas. The co-creation process concluded in 2025, producing a comprehensive guidance note that strengthens the sector's engagement with community structures and supports consistent, contextually appropriate CBP programming.

Through these measures, the sector aims to progressively expand national actors' roles in coordination, decision-making and implementation, ensuring protection interventions are contextually grounded, inclusive, sustainable and aligned with national strategies and systems. This will also include linking localization efforts

to longer-term transition planning and exit strategies for international actors, ensuring that local capacities are strengthened and prepared to assume responsibilities, while clarifying handover modalities and continuity plans to support a smooth and sustainable transition of responsibilities to government and local entities.

## 1.5. Mainstreaming Components: Gender, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), & Environment

Protection principles are inherent to the strategy and programmatic scope of the sector. The Protection sector has a **two-fold approach on mainstreaming**. Firstly, the sector aims at harmonizing and strengthening age, gender and diversity mainstreaming within all phases of sectoral coordination and programs. The Protection sector has made notable progress in mainstreaming gender, GBV, CP, PSEA, and accountability to affected populations (AAP) across its programming.

Key mainstreaming efforts include:

- Dedicated integration of Age, Gender and Diversity and PSEA standards and indicators across interventions;
- Specific PSEA awareness programs integrated into CP, Protection and GBV information and awareness sessions to enhance knowledge on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and reporting modalities;
- Support to GBV mainstreaming across sectors through GBV risk management focal points;
- Support the gradual integration of migrants into the response and address cross-sectoral barriers to humanitarian access through the migrant working group under the Protection Sector.
- Engagement of sector members and coordinators at various disability and inclusion bodies to inform sector priorities and participate in any relevant initiative;
- Cross-population community engagement programs, CBP, and large-scale communication with community (CwC) programs ensure affected communities are involved in planning, feedback and response mechanisms;
- Post-Distribution Monitoring and client feedback surveys implemented across protection programs including protection cash and dignity kits distributions are systematically included as sector standards;
- Close collaboration with conflict sensitivity experts under the Social Stability sector enables cross-sectoral analysis

of risks and trends as well as inclusion of conflict-sensitive approaches;

- Protection monitoring addresses needs of all population groups including highlighting risks and gaps in access to services for marginalized groups including based on gender, identity, nationality, race or belonging to a social group;
- Close collaboration with Gender Working group and common analysis on gender-specific data and trends.
- Strengthening AAP and establishment of feedback and complaint mechanisms that are accessible to all population groups, including persons with disabilities and older persons.

Protection programming will be closely informed by appropriate tension monitoring and conflict analysis in a context where perceived bias in aid provision increasingly generates inter-communal tension. In 2026, the sector will continue to operationalize the “do no harm” principle by systematically identifying potential risks and integrating mitigation measures to prevent exacerbating social tensions aiming for equitable inclusion of all social groups including marginalized populations.

Secondly, the sector continues to advance on protection mainstreaming of other sectors through different initiatives, including advocacy with the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and sector coordinators to uphold their responsibility to mainstream protection, gender and apply GBV risk mitigation measures; present quarterly protection monitoring trends across sectors at the ISCG and the relevant humanitarian sectors; supporting capacity-development interventions of sectors and support focal points and coordinators of the sector to enhance mainstreaming of protection through checklists, review of strategies and analysis as well as workplans relating to mainstreaming activities. Support will also be extended to the Ministry of Social Affairs in enhancing their efforts on implementing findings from the recent gender audit including capacity building of MoSA staff on gender-sensitive approaches and programming. Challenges persist in implementation, particularly in reaching and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwD), older persons, and marginalized groups across all activities. Limited reach to include Organizations of Persons with disabilities (OPDs) systematically and the inconsistent use of mainstreaming tools across sectors as well as capacity constraints among local and international specialized NGOs have affected outreach and engagement with persons with disabilities. Strengthening monitoring frameworks, harmonizing materials, and improving coordination will be key sectoral priorities to ensure inclusive, accountable, and sustainable protection outcomes.

## 1.6. Intersectoral Linkages

Inter-sectoral coordination remains a core pillar for achieving a protection-centered and inclusive response. Building on existing collaboration between the Protection and Shelter sectors, joint interventions will continue to address the needs

of people at heightened risk of eviction and displacement due to escalation of hostilities, through harmonized operational guidance and the application of joint programming approaches. This collaboration will also support efforts to strengthen risk mitigation, access to dignified shelter solutions and protection services. Given the funding constraints, particularly within the cuts in the secondary healthcare for non-Lebanese populations, the sector will therefore focus on collaboration with the Health sector to highlight risks and find solutions to address access constraints. Furthermore, based on the intensive collaboration with the Cash Working Group in 2025, the Protection sector will advance on alignment to cross-sectoral cash guidelines, contribute to strategic documents and provide technical inputs to ensure that cash-based interventions mainstream protection principles through harmonized targeting of the most vulnerable.

Further collaboration with the Education, Livelihoods, WaSH, Food Security, Nutrition and Social Stability sectors as well as with the national MHPSS taskforce will promote operational coherence and ensure that standards for CP safeguarding and GBV risk mitigation are consistently applied across all sectors. The sector will also advocate for the prioritization of vulnerable communities, systemically marginalized, and those at heightened risks, including migrants and persons with disabilities, in all sectoral planning processes, ensuring accessibility and equity in service delivery.

## 1.7. Transition to Development & Recovery

Building on the efforts under the localization and systems strengthening component, the sector will closely collaborate with development actors in line with the consultations on the Cooperation Framework (CF). This includes a medium to long-term plan of activities to be gradually supported and funded under the CF such as access to justice, social protection and social service delivery for all population groups. Efforts will also focus on capacity building for local actors, closer collaboration and deduplication between NGOs, enhanced coordination with CSOs and public institutions, and protection interventions alignment with national frameworks. As part of strengthening national systems, the CP sub-sector will support the implementation of national CP Policy and SOPs ensuring that all actors use a unified referral and reporting mechanism to enhance the response to children at risk, unaccompanied and separated children and street-connected children. The sector will also strengthen inter sectoral coordination platforms (CP, Education, GBV, Social protection, MHPSS) to promote integrated service delivery and common indicators. As outlined under inter-sectoral collaboration, the Protection Sector will revive its collaboration with the livelihood sector to enhance linkages between survivor-centered case management services and referrals to economic empowerment programs as well as to ensure that economic empowerment initiatives are survivor-centered and contribute effectively to recovery and resilience.

In parallel, the sector will promote integrated programming that bridges humanitarian and development efforts, particularly through joint planning with development actors and relevant government ministries. Protection interventions will support institutional resilience, social stability, and inclusion particularly for marginalized groups such as Persons with Disabilities, female-headed households, and stateless populations.



# 2. SECTOR RESULTS, TARGETS, AND BUDGET

## 2.1. Linkages with LRP Strategic Objectives

The Protection sector plays a pivotal role in advancing the strategic objectives of the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP), contributing directly to Strategic Objective 2: *Enhance protection of the vulnerable populations*; Objective 1: *Provide immediate humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations to ensure critical needs are met* and Objective 3: *Support service provision through national systems including national rapid response capacity*. Through the delivery of life-saving protection interventions, the sector ensures that highly vulnerable and systematically marginalized communities can access humanitarian assistance that meets their specific needs. In addition to direct service provision, the sector contributes to strengthening national systems by supporting institutional, technical, and human resource capacities. This includes reinforcing the leadership and coordination functions of the MoSA at both national and sub-national levels, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of protection programming across the country.

Advocacy and implementation of non-discrimination and cross-population approaches ensure inclusiveness of all affected populations, including vulnerable Lebanese, displaced Syrians, PRS, PRL, migrants and others. Identification and prioritisation of those most at risk of protection violations, including the most conflict-affected IDPs, displaced Syrians, post-2024 arrivals, migrants without legal residency, vulnerable women and girls, persons with disabilities, older persons without support and individuals at risk of stigma or exclusion. In contributing to Strategic Objective 4: Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social, and environmental stability, the sector promotes social stability, fosters peaceful coexistence and mitigates risks of tension and violence within and between communities. Through its community-based and conflict-sensitive programming, the sector also strengthens institutional and community engagement, supports inclusive access to national systems, and contributes to broader stabilization efforts. Close linkages between the Protection sector and the Livelihood sector and the alignment to the National Social Protection Strategy and MOSA's vision 2026-2030 on economic inclusion further contribute to this objective.

## 2.2. Sector Outcomes

The objective of the Protection sector is to ensure that individuals at heightened risk from affected populations, in all their diversities, live in a safe, dignified, inclusive, and protective environment where their fundamental rights are respected, they are meaningfully engaged, and they have access to quality protection response services. This result will be achieved through three outcomes outlined below:

### Outcome 1: Affected people have increased knowledge of their rights and have access to an effective justice and protection system.

**Output 1.1:** Individuals at heightened risk are provided with information on their rights and have access to effective legal aid services: protection actors deliver legal awareness and legal aid services, with a particular emphasis on facilitating access to legal residency and civil documentation, most notably birth and marriage registration. Key legal stakeholders within the sector are actively engaged in advancing the digitalization of civil documentation processes and in addressing policy and procedural barriers that hinder access for affected populations, including displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees, and migrants. Advocacy initiatives and coordination with relevant authorities aim to mitigate risks related to detention and deportation, particularly for displaced Syrians and other vulnerable groups. Targeted programs are also in place to address the heightened protection risks faced by survivors of Gender-Based Violence, victims of trafficking and exploitation, and children in contact with the law, with a focus on improving access to justice mechanisms. In addition, the sector will implement training and provide technical support to national protection institutions, local NGOs, and community-based organizations. These efforts are designed to promote alignment with international protection standards and best practices, including the identification and referral of protection cases and the promotion of staff wellbeing.

**Output 1.2: Protection legal and policy frameworks and national protection institutions are strengthened:** the sector aims at supporting national protection structures and systems through support to legal and policy reform and/or implementation, institutional capacity and provision of legal services at the national and local levels. This will result in a more effective national protection system. This includes access to justice and legal aid, civil registration, Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights, legal residency and national laws, policies and services to protect children, and prevent and respond to GBV. Key GBV lead agencies and specialized actors will continue advocacy efforts and technical and institutional support on the Draft Law for the Protection Against Online Gender-Based Violence.

GBV systems strengthening efforts will be achieved through targeted capacity-building initiatives to enhance the skills of both governmental and humanitarian actors. In line with stabilization objectives and the need for sustainable interventions, technical trainings will support governmental actors and public institutions on survivor-centered and GBV-sensitive service provision. Efforts will be made to integrate technology-facilitated violence across GBV prevention and response services and to enhance GBV actors' capacity to address online GBV. This also includes enhanced collaboration with the Internal Security Forces, Cybercrime Unit to enhance identification, reporting,

investigation, and survivor protection in cases of technology-facilitated GBV. This includes capacity building, development of survivor-centered digital safety protocols, and regular coordination to ensure accountability and effective response. These efforts aim to improve accountability and responsiveness within the justice system, particularly for survivors of gender-based violence. Training programs will also be rolled out to build the knowledge and skills of GBV response actors, including non-LRP partners and local women-led organizations, ensuring a more inclusive and community-driven response. At the national level, support will be provided to the MoSA to reinforce its leadership and coordination role in GBV response, including technical capacity strengthening through SDCs. This will involve the mapping of SDCs and available services to be integrated into the sector service mapping tools, with a focus on enhancing access to and provision of case management services across locations and population groups. Further, the sector will support MoSA in the development, revision, and dissemination of national GBV SOPs and other relevant guidance materials, as needed. Finally, proactive engagement with academic institutions will be pursued to support and advance curriculum development, fostering a stronger foundation for protection and GBV programming through education and research.

CP efforts will continue to support local and municipal entities in strengthening their social service workforce and legal frameworks to safeguard children, particularly in the context of contingency planning and early action measures in the event of large-scale population displacements. A key priority within this scope is enhancing coordination and response mechanisms to address the notable increase in the number of children with disabilities, ensuring inclusive and equitable access to services, and to ensure that underlying causes to CP risks are addressed comprehensively and with a systems approach linking social protection schemes with CP services.

**Output 1.3: Protection risks are monitored and advocacy and technical support provided to relevant actors to mitigate the risks:** across the sector, strategic focus is placed on monitoring, analysing protection risks through the Protection Analysis and Monitoring Task Force (PAM TF) providing monthly protection updates and quarterly protection snapshot assessing risks across populations to be presented at interagency platforms. Findings on the protection environment are also used for targeted advocacy, ensuring the centrality of protection within the overall response, protection, CP, and GBV mainstreaming and GBV risk mitigation within other humanitarian sectors. To strengthen evidence-based protection programming, the sector will further strengthen the use of the protection analytical framework, supported by a review of existing data sources and the formulation of a targeted data collection plan. Protection monitoring will be conducted regularly, and findings will be consolidated with data from other sources to produce analytical reports and quarterly protection snapshots. The sector will ensure the use of disaggregated data collection and stronger emphasis on tailored analysis by age, gender, disability, and other diversity factors to ensure protection risks are accurately captured and trends are reflected across population groups. Sector partners will also review and refine protection-related questions within key assessment tools to enhance the quality

and relevance of protection analysis. In parallel, efforts will be made to improve the measurement and analysis of outcomes, including sharing monitoring tools and methodologies. Through the repository of protection assessments provided

**Outcome 2: Affected people are safe, supported, and empowered in their community to contribute to positive change – outlines the community-based protection** approach to strengthen community resilience and ensure community members are able to contribute to: 1) positive change through provision of information, including on protection principles and PSEA, as well as providing information on access to services, legal support, HLP, documentation, and risks from unexploded ordinances and damaged buildings; 2) support to community-based protection networks and initiatives; 3) community-based psychosocial support and social and behaviour change initiatives to address exclusion and violence against different population groups, including marginalised groups. This will contribute to women, men, girls and boys being meaningfully engaged in protection, safe and supported by their communities. Community engagement programs include support to community structures through outreach, two-way communication, AAP mechanisms, and supporting CBOs through training and mentoring. Technical and/or financial support to community-based organisations and protection initiatives will be integrated into protection programming under outcome 2.

**Output 2.1: Affected people are provided with information services and rights and benefit from inclusive and accessible community protection initiatives** aimed at ensuring community members have access to information on available protection services. It also includes community-based protection mechanisms such as trained volunteer groups, peer-to-peer support and community-level outreach and safe referral modalities. Moreover, in order to reduce violence in families and to transform homes into safe spaces, approaches emphasize on enhancing the capacities of girls, integrating older persons into the family and ensuring access to educational and developmental activities. In addition, the sector includes a robust Communication with Communities modality, including the HELP website, National Call Center and other hotlines operated by different protection partners receiving protection-related calls. In addition, other info sessions are taking place at partner community centers including MoSA SDCs.

Under **Output 2.2: Affected people are engaged in social and behaviour change on protection issues including equality, GBV, and CP**, the focus remains on preventing GBV through sustained community-level engagement, addressing harmful gender norms, and promoting the empowerment of women and girls. GBV prevention efforts will continue to advance the GBV sub-sector's strategic objective of reducing the incidence of GBV and fostering an environment free from violence. These efforts are complemented by social and behavioural change interventions that engage men, women, girls, and boys as active participants in transforming attitudes and practices. In 2026, GBV actors will maintain and expand investment in a range of proven prevention programmes, including initiatives aimed at addressing IPV and forced/early marriage. These programmes

prioritize women and girls' empowerment, skills development, and the engagement of men, boys, and community leaders as champions of change. Targeted prevention activities will mainly take place at dedicated Women and Girls Safe Spaces, some of which are stand-alone GBV partner centers or embedded into Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs), SDCs or Community Development Centers (CDCs) ensuring linkages between prevention and response programs.

In 2026, CP actors will prioritize the expansion of structured Psychosocial Support (PSS) for children and youth, with the aim of fostering resilience and promoting social stability within both community and school environments. These efforts will be complemented by initiatives that engage caregivers in positive parenting and community dialogue, designed to reduce harmful practices and strengthen family and social support networks. Community-based activities will be maintained across various settings, including in CDCs, SDCs, and collective shelters, engaging girls, boys, and caregivers in protective programming. In hard-to-reach areas, mobile CP interventions will be implemented to ensure access to essential services and information, including on the risks related to unexploded ordnance and structurally unsafe buildings. To further prevent harm and promote protective behaviours, social and behaviour change initiatives will be implemented, such as the Qudwa programme that targets religious and community leaders as key drivers for change. Additionally, CP actors will continue to monitor and report grave violations of children's rights in conflict-affected areas, train duty bearers on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) as it pertains to CP, and mobilize influential community members and families to prevent the occurrence of such violations.

**Output 2.3:** Effective and accessible feedback and response mechanisms, including to address PSEA and child safeguarding, are in place across partners: as a cross-cutting indicator across CP, GBV and Protection actors, all protection actors integrate awareness on SEA risks and reporting modalities into all CwC and community-based Programmes. In addition, all actors record the Complaint and Feedback modalities in the Service Mapping tool and actively collaborate with the PSEA Network.

### **Outcome 3: Individuals at heightened risk have access to quality specialized protection response services and durable solutions.**

**Output 3.1:** Quality protection, CP, and GBV case management, psychosocial support, protection cash, and other specialised services are available and accessible to individuals at heightened risk ensures that quality response services are accessible and inclusive across the affected population, such as case management services, meaningful protection cash interventions, specialised support to individuals at heightened risk of violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect and supports durable solutions for displaced Syrians, PRL, PRS, and migrants. Targeted protection cash interventions to address protection emergencies and structural violence, exclusion, inequalities are core tools to support protection management interventions. Additionally, the sector will promote quarterly reporting on core cash indicators and explore the impact of cash assistance through partner-led Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) and Outcome Monitoring

(OM) analysis and presentations. In 2026, the Protection sector will also integrate return-specific activities (see below section on return) to facilitate return of Syrians in safety and dignity. Other durable solutions include access to resettlement and complementary pathways for displaced Syrians and refugees from other nationalities, as well as assisted voluntary repatriation of highly vulnerable migrants, including victims of trafficking, to their countries of origin.

GBV response will prioritize immediate access to comprehensive, quality, and survivor-centered services, which will remain a critical priority under the Sub-Sector. GBV actors will ensure inclusive and equitable access to services, including GBV case management and survivor-centered, multisectoral responses through GBV-sensitive psychosocial, health, legal, safety, and security services. For survivors with immediate physical protection needs, safe shelters will remain a critical intervention. The sector will work further on identification of access challenges and admission criteria to enhance access of marginalized groups to safe shelters. Effective and meaningful cash assistance programs integrated within GBV case management will continue to support economically vulnerable survivors in addressing immediate risks and preventing further harm, while promoting financial security and independence. With the aim to strengthen longer-term recovery and empowerment of survivors of GBV, referrals to and integration of economic empowerment programs within GBV case management programs and enhanced engagement with the livelihood sector will be a key focus in 2026.

CP response actors will maintain implementing critical CP case management and cash interventions programs in line with the best interests procedures for children at risk of violence, neglect and exploitation as well as for unaccompanied or separated children. With close coordination with MoSA and other relevant national actors and institutions, including those mandated by the MoJ, specialized programs on alternative care will be prioritized in 2026. CP actors will also prioritize the implementation of focused psychosocial support to children at medium to high risk of child rights violations, focused on emotional and peer support. Specific attention will be given to children at heightened risk, including children exposed to violence, neglect and exploitation, including street-connected children through a comprehensive approach, including targeted protection cash interventions linked to case management services. Street-connected children continue to face heightened exposure to multiple protection risks, including violence, exploitation, neglect, family separation and limited access to essential services such as education, healthcare and safe shelter. The CP sub-sector will continue to support ongoing outreach and case management efforts, ensuring alignment with national CP Policy and SOPs led by MoSA, and reinforcing referral pathways for this high-risk group of children. Through strengthened inter-sectoral collaboration with Education, GBV and Protection actors and social protection schemes, the sub-sector will promote integrated, tailored and targeted responses that address both immediate protection risks and the structural factors contributing to children's vulnerability on the streets.

The above approach ensures a balance between investing in strengthening sustainable national protection systems and

community capacities (Outcomes 1 and 2) and responding to the humanitarian protection needs created by the escalation of hostilities and displacement (Outcomes 2 and 3). In 2025, the sector also developed a strategic note on prioritization to guide partners on prioritized protection interventions including a list of protection programs under the sector and sub-sectors.

**Output 3.2: Syrian Displaced and refugees of other nationalities have access to durable solutions such as resettlement and complementary pathways and/or safe and dignified return:** includes activities that allow displaced Syrians and refugees of other nationalities known to UNHCR at heightened risk to access resettlement or complementary pathways. In addition, the below listed activities included under the return are prioritized protection-focused return activities.

**Output 3.3: Migrants have access to safe and dignified return assistance to their countries of origin and access support to reintegrate sustainably in their communities:** this output is mainly linked to efforts in ensuring migrants at heightened risk willing but unable to return by their own means are assisted to return and reintegrate into their country of origin. Activities included under this output include protection assessments to identify their needs, coordination and support with embassies, authorities or to access legal support, legal and medical support (e.g. assess fitness to travel, ensure continuity of health care when required upon arrival) as well as provision of reintegration support.

## 2.3. Return

The Protection sector plays a key role in implementing return-focused activities outlined under the interagency matrix developed by the Durable Solutions Working Group. The sector is also represented at the Technical Working Group on returns to ensure that all activities are aligned, and key results and tasks are communicated to all sector members.

Prioritized return activities under the sector include:

- Expediting and facilitating access to legal aid and civil documentation (such as birth certificates) prior to return.
- Return counselling and large-scale information sharing on returns and return counselling including at dedicated CDCs.
- Provision of information on available services in Syria and community-based messaging tailored to the needs of vulnerable population groups.
- Case management of cases requiring support prior to departure or upon arrival to Syria, including the application of best interests procedures for unaccompanied or separated children, children at risk of violence, persons with disabilities, older persons at risk of abuse or neglect, GBV survivors at risk of violence by an accompanying perpetrator as well

as cases of persons with specific needs, including persons with physical and intellectual disability without caregiver as well as persons in need of specialized mental health interventions.

- Protection and border monitoring provided by specialized actors with dedicated capacity and programmatic response. Partners of the sector will play an active role in providing relevant information on risks pertaining to groups at heightened risks or contributing to community-based interventions and assessments.
- After the merger of the Basic Assistance sector and the Cash Working Group, in 2026, the Protection sector will encompass transportation and cash grants for return which used to be part of the Basic Assistance sector. Return cash grants and transportation will now be coordinated through the Protection sector for those opting for facilitated return, including for those with specific needs.

The sector will upscale its coordination efforts with relevant actors in Lebanon and Syria including UNHCR, IOM and coordination structures to enhance cross-border referrals and collaboration. This includes developing relevant Lebanon-specific as well as cross-border guidance on return.

## 2.3. Summary Sector Target and Budget

Based on the outlined strategy, the sector estimates that there are 2,471,937 million People in Need (PiN) of protection, CP and GBV services.

Based on available capacities and considering needs and expected reduction in funding, the sector aims to support a total of 1,393,599 people in 2026 (940,549 under general protection sector, 205,500 children and caregivers under CP and 250,050 survivors and those at risk of GBV under the GBV sub-sector).

As for the population breakdown and in line with the PiN and severity calculations for the Protection sector, of the total targeted population, 901,889 are displaced Syrians (including return and post-2024 arrivals), 383,430 are Lebanese, 21,815 are PRS, 51,015 are PRL and 26,550 are migrants. In addition, 8,900 people of other nationalities are targeted across the activities. As regards to the gender breakdown, 47 per cent target men and boys and 53 per cent target women and girls.

The total budget required to achieve the sector objective is \$184,893,488 for Protection, CP and GBV interventions including return-specific interventions.

### 3. LOGFRAME

#### OUTCOME 1: Affected people have increased knowledge of their rights and have access to an effective justice and protection system

Indicator 1.1	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of persons with legal residence OR ID for LEB	For Syrians, refugees and migrants this refers to the % of the population who have legal residency. For Lebanese it refers to % who have valid identification. For definitions see UNHCR mandatory outcome indicators: 4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed and for Lebanese: 1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials								VASyR/MSNA	%	Yearly

	LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other					
Baseline	90%	100%	26%	20%	12%	90%	20%	20%	71%	80%	80%
Target 2026											N/A

Indicator 1.2	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of children under 5 whose births are registered	Standard global indicator of UNICEF and UNHCR. Refer to organisations indicator guidance for description								VASyR/MSNA	%	Yearly

	LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other					
Baseline	99%	100%	56%	80%	99%	100%	56%	60%	13%	90%	N/A
Target 2026											80%

Indicator 1.3	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
# of group evictions	New indicator								UNHCR tracking tool	#	Monthly

	LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other					
Baseline	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline								
Target 2026	N/A	N/A	21	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Indicator 1.4	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of women, men, girls, and boys who know where and how to access GBV-related justice and protection services when needed	New indicator								VASyR/ MSNA	%	Yearly

	LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other					
Baseline	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline								
Target 2026	28%	50%	16%	20%	15%	20%	27%	30%	5%	20%	N/A

#### OUTCOME 2: Affected people are safe, supported, and empowered in their community to contribute to positive change

Indicator 2.1	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of women, men, girls, and boys who report knowing how to report a complaint or provide feedback on humanitarian assistance	Cross-sectoral								VASyR/ MSNA GBV/ PRT/CP	# of individuals by nationality; women and men; disabilities.	Quarterly

	LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other					
Baseline	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline								
Target 2026	40%	50%	79%	79%	50%	60%	79%	79%	N/A	45%	N/A

Indicator 2.2	Description		MoV		Unit		Frequency	
% of HH who are aware of specialized GBV services	Reflects the number of persons assessed through surveys who can direct to GBV services		VASYR/ MSNA GBV ONLY		# of individuals by nationality; women and men; disabilities.		Yearly	

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other
Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026
58%	65%	19%	20%	53%	60%

Indicator 2.3	Description		MoV		Unit		Frequency	
# of sectors that included GBV risk mitigation actions in their response plan	Number of sectors of total humanitarian sectors with dedicated tipsheets, gender, and GBV FPs, protection mainstreaming activities included in strategy and work plan		GBV WG		# of sectors		Bi-annually	

All populations	
Baseline	Target 2026
6	9

### OUTCOME 3: Individuals at heightened risk have access to quality specialized protection response services and durable solutions

Indicator 3.1	Description		MoV		Unit		Frequency	
% of persons receiving protection and emergency cash assistance who report it contributed to addressing their protection risk/ incident	Objective: This indicator looks at whether protection and emergency cash assistance provided under the protection sector is successful at addressing individual protection needs. It is measured through a scale. See below indicator guidance for support and to standardize reporting:  TOOL: Question: To what extent did your cash assistance contribute to addressing your protection situation?  OPTIONS: 1. significantly 2. somewhat 3. not at all  NUMERATOR: Number of respondents that answer 'significantly' or 'somewhat' DENOMINATOR: Number of respondents UNIT OF MEASURE: Percentage (%) DISAGGREGATED BY: nationality and sex. SUGGESTED DATA COLLECTION METHOD: Household visit or phone call SUGGESTED DATA SOURCE: Outcome monitoring surveys		ActivityInfo through PDOM		% disaggregated by gender, age, and disability		Bi-annually	

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other
Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026
90%	90%	98%	98%	98%	98%

Indicator 3.2	Description		MoV		Unit		Frequency	
% of children aged 5-17 engaged in child labor	Standard global SDC indicator. Refer to global guidance		Child Protection/ VASYR/ MSNA		% disaggregated by gender, age, and disability		Annually	

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other
Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026
4%	3%	7%	4%	8%	4%

Indicator 3.3	Description	MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	<p>The indicator measures satisfaction with the quality of GBV case management services. The framework for reporting is included in the GBV M&amp;E toolkit and GBVIMS online version</p> <p>Partners report on # of persons receiving services and # of those satisfied with the service</p>	GBV WG Partners	% disaggregated by gender, age, and disability	Quarterly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Other
Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026	Baseline	Target 2026
92%	95%	92%	95%	92%	95%





## PEOPLE IN NEED



1,888,575

## PEOPLE TARGETED



456,819

## SECTOR APPEAL



\$100,276,165

## CONTACT

## LEAD MINISTRY

Ministry of Social Affairs

Nadine Najjar

[nadine.h.alnajjar@gmail.com](mailto:nadine.h.alnajjar@gmail.com)

## CO-LEAD AGENCIES

UNHCR

Abdulrahman Adelghani

[abdelgab@unhcr.org](mailto:abdelgab@unhcr.org)

NRC

Haydar Haddad

[haydar.haddad@nrc.no](mailto:haydar.haddad@nrc.no)

## SECTOR OUTCOMES

## OUTCOME 1:

Reduce immediate protection-related shelter and core relief items needs of the most vulnerable households

- **Output 1.1:** Informal settlements, non-residential shelters and residential shelters (for protection/referral cases) hosting vulnerable populations are maintained in liveable and safe conditions
- **Output 1.2:** Populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies benefit from in-kind core relief items

## OUTCOME 2:

Improve access to adequate shelter in disadvantaged areas for enhanced social stability

- **Output 2.1:** Residential shelters for vulnerable communities in disadvantaged areas are upgraded
- **Output 2.2:** Multi-sectoral assessments are produced for areas of vulnerable populations to facilitate sectorally integrated responses

## OUTCOME 3:

Enhance the contribution of national institutions and organizations to Lebanon's shelter and housing response

- **Output 3.1:** Capacity-building support to national organizations and institutions contributing to Lebanon's shelter response

## POPULATION BREAKDOWN

		PIN 2026	TARGET 2026
	VULNERABLE LEBANESE	1,200,004	139,721
	DISPLACED SYRIANS	577,314	282,719
	PRL	64,948	20,398
	PRS	7,638	2,266
	MIGRANTS	38,671	11,715
	OTHER	-	-

# 1. SITUATION & STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## 1.1 Situation Analysis

Lebanon has been severely affected by a series of overlapping crises that have weakened its economy, strained institutions, and eroded living conditions across the country. The escalation of hostilities in 2023 and 2024 has had a devastating impact on housing and infrastructure, including in areas already facing severe housing challenges. These successive shocks have intensified the long-standing structural deficits in the housing sector, further limiting access to adequate and affordable housing. The consequences have been especially severe for low-income and displaced populations, whose access to basic services, secure tenure, and safe living conditions has deteriorated sharply.

By 2025, approximately 38 per cent<sup>13</sup> of people across all population groups<sup>14</sup> were living in inadequate<sup>15</sup> shelter conditions in areas not directly affected by the hostilities. In contrast, areas impacted by the 2024 hostilities experienced the destruction of 63,962 buildings comprising approximately 229,125 housing units,<sup>i</sup> accompanied with the displacement of more than 1,064,122 individuals. Several towns in South and Nabatiyeh governorates (Sour, Marjaayoun, Bint Jbeil, and Nabatiyeh) were completely destroyed<sup>16</sup> and remain inaccessible to date. As of 31 May 2025, more than 82,632 individuals<sup>ii</sup> continue to live in displacement. These developments have further intensified pressure on Lebanon's already overstretched housing and service systems.

Despite the decrease in the number of displaced Syrians following the returns to Syria,<sup>17</sup> after the fall of the regime on December 8, 2024, approximately 105,300 post-2024 arrivals,<sup>18</sup> <sup>iii</sup> the majority from the Syrian Nationality, have entered the country, primarily through the Baalbek-El Hermel and Akkar governorates. Many have settled in these areas as well as in parts of the North, where housing conditions were already severely constrained. Around 26 per cent of this population currently resides in informal collective shelters in dire conditions,<sup>iv</sup> while the remainder live in urban areas across a mix of residential and non-residential structures, either under rented or hosting arrangements. The majority of these shelters are overcrowded and/or severely substandard, underscoring the limited availability of adequate and affordable housing.

The post-2024 arrivals, combined with the needs of vulnerable Lebanese, existing displaced Syrians, Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and migrants, has further intensified Lebanon's housing

affordability crisis. Sector monitoring indicates sharp rent inflation and widespread dollarization, with reports of significant rent spikes in areas hosting IDPs and post-2024 arrivals. In 2025, rents for displaced Syrians increased by approximately 32 per cent<sup>v</sup> across all shelter types, mirroring trends observed among other vulnerable groups. In some localities, particularly those with high concentrations of displaced and post-2024 arrivals, rents reportedly doubled, further reducing access to affordable housing options.

Evictions due to social tension among other factors continue to pose a serious risk to the stability of the most vulnerable households. In 2025, approximately two per cent<sup>vi</sup> of displaced Syrian households were evicted, with over 40 per cent of these cases attributed to the inability to pay rent. Similar eviction risks were reported among migrants (7.5%) across the country, and in conflict-affected areas, where updated data indicates that 10 per cent of Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and three per cent of Lebanese renters faced eviction threats.<sup>vii</sup> These trends reflect the combined effects of limited affordable housing, rising costs, and deepening economic vulnerability, further eroding the housing stability of already at-risk communities.

## 1.2 Prioritization

For 2026, shelter programming is guided by the severity of needs, geographic vulnerability, and continuous consultations with partners. Intervention types such as shelter repair, rehabilitation, and shelter kit distribution are prioritized in areas with the highest concentration of substandard shelters and densely populated, mixed communities where the risk of social tension is elevated. The sector places particular emphasis on districts with the poorest baseline shelter conditions, including the 332 most vulnerable cadastres, conflict-affected areas and areas hosting post-2024 arrivals, with high exposure to seasonal hazards. Prioritization decisions are informed by technical assessments and vulnerability profiling, ensuring that limited resources are directed toward the most critically affected populations. Across all priority groups, the Shelter sector will ensure that households in need of Core Relief Items (CRI) receive appropriate support, either to prepare for the winter season or in emergency responses.

<sup>13</sup> Calculation based on data from the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrians in Lebanon (VASyR 2025, UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP), the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA 2023, REACH and partners), and the Lite Multi-Sectoral Assessment (LMSA 2025, REACH and partners), covering all nationalities.

<sup>14</sup> 51 per cent of displaced Syrians, 31 per cent of Lebanese, 24 per cent of migrant households, and 32 per cent of PRL and PRS, live in inadequate shelter conditions.

<sup>15</sup> Shelter inadequacy is defined as the presence of one or more of the following conditions: a structure in dangerous or unsafe condition; physical quality of the shelter falling below minimum shelter standards; or overcrowding, defined as less than 4.5 square meters of living space per person.

<sup>16</sup> The majority of the damaged buildings were concentrated in Sour, Marjaayoun, Bint Jbeil, and Nabatiyeh, which together accounted for approximately 75 per cent of the total building damage.

<sup>17</sup> It is estimated that the total number of displaced Syrians decreased from 1.5M to 1M following voluntary and assisted returns to Syria.

<sup>18</sup> Post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria.

## 1.3 Risks and Mitigation Measures

### Security Instability and Access Constraints

Renewed hostilities, delays in reconstruction in conflict affected areas and localized insecurity or unrest in Syria could trigger new displacement and simultaneously disrupt shelter operations through road blockages, access restrictions, or administrative delays. These factors would impede partners' ability to reach affected populations, deliver assistance, and maintain continuity of shelter programming.

**Mitigation:** Maintain operational readiness to activate emergency shelter strategies, update the Business Continuity Plan, strengthen coordination with authorities and partners to secure access, and preposition shelter stocks and resources in high-risk areas to enable rapid response. (*Probability: High; Impact: Very high*)

### Funding Gaps and Reduced Support to Vulnerable Groups

Continued underfunding of the shelter response, especially in urban areas, limits partners' capacity to assist vulnerable households, including but not limited to female-headed households, persons with disabilities, older people, and other groups of concern. This results in reduced access to adequate housing and increased exposure to unsafe or overcrowded conditions.

**Mitigation:** Intensify donor advocacy on the protective and developmental importance of adequate shelter and tenure security; prioritize targeted assistance for vulnerable groups; and coordinate closely with the Protection Sector to ensure inclusion and awareness of Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights. (*Probability: High; Impact: Very high*)

### Market Volatility Affecting Shelter Assistance

Inflation in the rental and construction markets is driving up housing and material costs, reducing the effectiveness of Cash-for-Rent (CfR) assistance in mitigating evictions and increasing the risk of delays or reductions in shelter repair and upgrade targets. The rising demand for affordable housing and limited availability of construction materials, particularly in conflict-affected areas, further constrain partners' ability to deliver timely and meaningful shelter support.

**Mitigation:** Maintain and regularly update the CfR Transfer Value Dashboard<sup>19</sup> to track market fluctuations; conduct joint market assessments to monitor material prices; align procurement with seasonal priorities (e.g., winterization); and strengthen contingency stocks to support timely interventions. Specific attention will be given to districts receiving post-2024 arrivals or hosting IDPs, where the housing stock is facing high demand and limited supply. (*Probability: High; Impact: Very high*)

## 1.4 Localization

In 2026, the Shelter sector will reinforce its commitment to localization by strengthening the institutional, technical, and operational capacities of Lebanese entities and organizations, thereby enhancing both the efficiency and sustainability of the overall response.

To achieve this, the sector will continue focusing on empowering national and local partners through targeted capacity-building initiatives on project design, implementation, and compliance with sector standards. Efforts will also be made to improve local organizations' access to and visibility within funding mechanisms, by ensuring that funding opportunities are widely shared, providing training on proposal development and partnership management, and offering mentorship and technical support throughout the funding process. The Shelter sector will encourage joint implementation models that promote equitable partnerships between international and national actors, ensuring shared decision-making, transparent resource allocation, and accountability.

The sector will also work to increase local leadership in emergency response, enabling Lebanese actors to take a more prominent role in rapid assessments, shelter rehabilitation, and collective site management during crises. Through these measures, the Shelter sector aims to create a more inclusive, accountable, and nationally driven response framework that strengthens resilience and builds long-term capacity within Lebanon's shelter system.

## 1.5 Mainstreaming Components: Gender, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Environment and Energy

### Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP):

In 2026, the Shelter Sector will continue integrating core protection principles - safety, dignity, accountability, participation, and do-no-harm - into all interventions. Protection risk analyses and disaggregated data will guide inclusive programming, while strengthened complaint and feedback mechanisms will enhance accessibility and responsiveness for people at risk of exploitation or abuse. Coordination with the Protection Sector and PSEA focal points will ensure adherence to Inter-Agency SOPs and continuous partner training.

<sup>19</sup> The Cash-for-Rent (CfR) Transfer Value Dashboard is a tool developed by the Shelter Sector to monitor rental market fluctuations and harmonize assistance amounts across governorates. It ensures that CfR transfer values remain responsive to changing market conditions, supporting consistency and effectiveness in eviction prevention efforts.

### Gender Mainstreaming and GBV Risk Mitigation:

Gender equality and GBV risk mitigation remain priorities. Gender-sensitive assessments will inform shelter design, with standards emphasizing lighting, lockable doors, and spatial separation to improve safety and privacy. Staff will be trained on GBV risk identification, referral pathways, and survivor-centred approaches, while promoting informed decision-making for female-headed households.

### Conflict Sensitivity

All interventions will remain conflict-sensitive, prioritizing assistance based on vulnerability and context to avoid exacerbating tensions. Coordination with the Social Stability Sector will support information sharing and equitable assistance.

### Environment and Energy

The Sector will promote sustainable energy and environmental practices through safe electrical connections, solar lighting, and responsible waste management. Coordination with the Environmental Task Force, WaSH, and Social Stability Sectors will ensure flood mitigation and safe site clearance, enhancing resilience and sustainability across Lebanon.

## 1.6 Intersectoral Linkages

Recognizing the interdependence of shelter with other sectors, the Shelter sector will strengthen collaboration in 2026 to enhance efficiency, complementarity, and sustainability of the overall response. Partnerships with WaSH, Livelihoods, Social Stability, and Protection will ensure coordinated action that addresses overlapping needs and maximizes impact.

**WaSH sector:** coordination will focus on improving water and sanitation conditions in both residential and non-residential buildings. The Shelter sector will lead on unit- and building-level repairs, while WaSH will manage infrastructure works beyond buildings, including network connections. Buildings without access to public water or sewage systems will be referred to WaSH partners for appropriate intervention. In informal settlements, both sectors will coordinate on site improvements, including flood mitigation, prioritizing disaster-prone areas. For inactive informal settlements, the two sectors will jointly support the dismantlement of shelters and WaSH structures as part of broader site clearance efforts.<sup>20</sup>

**Social Stability sector:** coordination will focus on the safe clearance of inactive informal settlements following the dismantlement of vacant tents and WaSH facilities. Joint efforts will ensure effective debris and solid waste management, while also creating livelihood opportunities for local workers wherever possible.

**Livelihoods sector:** joint programming will promote income-generation through shelter activities, linking beneficiaries to

short-term employment opportunities with contractors and exploring circular economy initiatives that support self-reliance and environmental sustainability.

**Protection sector:** collaboration will centre on eviction prevention, referral pathways, and HLP rights. The two sectors will jointly update eviction guidance, strengthen dispute resolution and legal counselling mechanisms, and mainstream HLP principles across shelter interventions to enhance tenure security, particularly for women, persons with disabilities, and other at-risk groups. Additionally, coordination with the Protection sector is essential to effectively identify and address potential protection risks associated with cash assistance for eviction prevention. This includes revising and implementing mitigation measures outlined in the “National Guidance Note on Individual Forced Eviction.” Similarly, collaboration with the Cash Working Group (CWG) is crucial to ensure complementarity, alignment, and harmonisation of cash assistance efforts across sectors.

## 1.7 Transition to Development & Recovery

The Shelter sector will facilitate a gradual shift from emergency humanitarian and stabilization response to development and recovery by upgrading residential shelters, including those damaged during hostilities. Priority will be given to repairing structurally sound homes to minimum standards that enable safe return, while promoting owner-driven repairs and the use of local labour to support economic recovery. Cash-for-rent assistance will continue for displaced households and returnees unable to return due to destruction or severe damage. This approach improves housing stock, restores dignity, and lays the foundation for further rehabilitation toward pre-damage or market-acceptable standards, reducing reliance on temporary shelter arrangements and strengthening long-term resilience.

<sup>20</sup> In accordance with the “Mitigation of Environmental Risks of Inactive Informal Settlements” guidance document, developed jointly by the Shelter, WaSH, and Social Stability sectors in consultation with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA).

## 2. SECTOR RESULTS, TARGETS, AND BUDGET

### 2.1 Linkage with LRP Strategic Objectives

The Shelter sector outcomes contribute to all four of the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) Strategic Objectives:

- Strategic Objective 1 ‘Ensure protection of vulnerable populations’
- Strategic Objective 2: ‘Provide immediate humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations to ensure critical needs are met’
- Strategic Objective 3: ‘Support service provision through national systems including national rapid response capacity’
- Strategic Objective 4: ‘Reinforce Lebanon’s economic, social, and environmental stability’

The Shelter sector contributes to **Strategic Objective 1** by reducing exposure to protection risks associated with inadequate, unsafe, or insecure shelter, thereby improving the safety, privacy, security, and dignity of vulnerable households and preventing harms such as evictions, exploitation, GBV risks, fires, floods, seasonal shocks, and secondary displacement. It contributes to **Strategic Objective 2** by delivering timely, protection-focused shelter assistance across all shelter types, mitigating hazardous living conditions and ensuring that critical needs are met during emergencies and seasonal shocks, while preventing further deterioration in living conditions and well-being.

The sector also contributes to **Strategic Objective 3** by strengthening the technical and operational capacities of national and sub-national institutions to plan and deliver shelter assistance. By building local response capacity and embedding interventions within national systems, the sector enhances sustainability, institutional resilience, and the ability to provide durable shelter solutions over time.

Finally, the sector contributes to **Strategic Objective 4** by improving shelter conditions in disadvantaged areas through coordinated, multi-sectoral action, which reduces inequities, eases pressure on vulnerable households, and promotes social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, contributing to Lebanon’s economic and

social stability. Interventions that mitigate environmental hazards in informal settlements, such as site clearance, fire-prevention measures, and site improvements, also reinforce Lebanon’s environmental stability.

### 2.2 Sector Outcomes

#### Outcome 1: Reduce immediate protection-related shelter and CRI needs of the most vulnerable households.

Providing humanitarian shelter and CRI assistance to households in residential buildings, non-residential buildings, and informal settlements, where hazardous conditions are prevalent, can positively impact the overall well-being and contribute to the physical protection of vulnerable households. Delivering protection-focused shelter and CRI assistance will safeguard vulnerable households’ health, privacy, safety, security, and dignity. Such assistance can mitigate the impact of emergencies such as fires, floods, evictions, adverse weather events, and secondary displacement. It also helps mitigate the knock-on effect of shelter inadequacy on vulnerable households, including worsening the protection and health needs.<sup>21</sup> Interventions under this Outcome will prioritise female-headed households, persons with specific shelter-related risks, and other groups of concern.

Under Outcome 1, the sector aims to target 220,526 displaced Syrians, 42,064 post-2024 arrivals, 97,431 Lebanese, 10,525 PRL and Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) and 6,069 Migrants. The total budget for Outcome 1 is \$66.7M.

**Output 1.1: Informal settlements, non-residential shelters and residential shelters (for protection/referral cases) hosting vulnerable populations are maintained at liveable and safe conditions.**

The Shelter sector employs a range of modalities to improve living conditions for vulnerable households in informal settlements. These include in-kind distribution of weatherproofing materials, provision of fire-fighting equipment coupled with fire-prevention awareness, and site improvements to enhance accessibility and facilitate service delivery. In 2025, the sector updated the weatherproofing guidance and tightened eligibility criteria for shelter kits to strengthen prioritization.<sup>22</sup> Technical guidance and maintenance manuals will also be shared with beneficiaries to ensure proper application and durability of assistance.<sup>23</sup> Lastly, site clearance of inactive informal

21 For instance, sealing of shelters (weatherproofing) can enhance the effectiveness of the winter support activities, such as cash for fuel or the provision of stoves. Also, installing partitions within a shelter to separate the sleeping spaces can reduce the risk of GBV.

22 Eligibility for shelter kit assistance is based on the informal settlement’s location and size. Sites with fewer than five tents or not forming a cluster of at least nine tents within 200 meters are excluded. Additionally, the sector considers previous years’ household eligibility in the assessment and selection process for equitable support.

23 People with specific needs, such as older persons and female-headed households, often face challenges in weatherproofing shelters due to limited skills or abilities. This reliance on external help can increase exploitation risks, particularly for women and girls. To address this, the sector will offer tailored assistance and labour support.

settlements will be implemented to mitigate environmental and health risks where needed.

Non-residential structures such as schools, garages, workshops, and factories, often used as shelter by displaced households, are not designed for habitation and remain largely underserved in the response.<sup>24</sup> The post-2024 arrivals have primarily found protection in such individual or collective non-residential shelters, where conditions are critically substandard, overcrowded and often lack safe spaces for women and girls. Shared facilities, weak infrastructure, and elevated health risks exacerbate protection concerns related to physical wellbeing, privacy and safety. Targeted shelter and WaSH interventions, such as weatherproofing and minor repairs, can substantially improve living conditions in these shelters by enhancing protection from the elements and strengthening safety, privacy, and security.<sup>25</sup>

To mitigate eviction risks exacerbated by economic pressures and continued displacement, the sector will continue providing Cash for Rent (CfR) in 2026 as a standalone intervention in adequate shelters or as a combined modality alongside repairs in substandard shelters. Assistance will target socio-economically vulnerable households unable to meet rental obligations, acting as a temporary safety net for up to 12 months, particularly for those recovering from shocks or are internally displaced.<sup>26</sup> CfR will be implemented within a holistic framework in collaboration with the Cash Working Group and the Protection sector to prevent and respond to evictions,<sup>27</sup> and the sector will explore using CfR to support relocation from collective shelters to safer, more dignified housing.

To address vulnerabilities within inadequate residential shelters<sup>28</sup> for households with protection concerns, the sector will continue to implement individually targeted physical upgrades paired with measures that strengthen tenure security. This includes conducting due diligence and facilitating 12-month lease agreements between landlords and tenants following improvements, with a specific emphasis on ensuring safe, dignified, and equitable access for women, persons with disabilities, GBV survivors, and other socially excluded groups.

**Output I.2: Population affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies benefit from in-kind CRIs.**

The Shelter sector will start in 2026 to provide in-kind CRI assistance on a needs basis during seasonal hazards and emergencies, supported by contingency stock management, household

identification, and the distribution of essential items. The Shelter sector took over this activity from the former Basic Assistance sector after its merger with the CWG. Targeting is conducted through household-level assessments to address needs that cannot be met due to socio-economic constraints or emergency contexts, and through geographic targeting during winter for households affected by adverse weather. In 2025, a unified guidance note on in-kind assistance was developed, including a standardized winter CRIs list and procedures to harmonize partner responses.<sup>29</sup> In-kind support will also form part of both emergency and seasonal responses, complementing winter cash assistance, which will be coordinated by the CWG. The sector will ensure coordinated delivery of both cash and in-kind CRI assistance with regional partners, apply conflict-sensitive approaches for large-scale distributions, and coordinate with the Protection Sector for referrals and eviction-related emergency assistance, in line with the jointly developed individual eviction guidance note.

## **Outcome 2: Improve access to adequate shelter in disadvantaged areas<sup>30</sup> for enhanced social stability.**

Area-based coordination enables a holistic, multi-sectoral assessment of needs and the delivery of targeted assistance to vulnerable households within a defined geographic area. It provides a structured framework for joint leadership with national partners and local authorities, ensuring that interventions are context-specific and collectively managed. By working closely with municipal authorities responsible for medium and long-term urban development, area-based coordination helps align humanitarian action with local planning processes, creating opportunities to generate sustainable, long-lasting improvements beyond the immediate crisis response.

Under Outcome 2, the sector aims to target 20,128 displaced Syrians, 44,909 Lebanese, 12,140 PRL and PRS and 5,646 Migrants. The total budget for Outcome 2 is \$33.1M.

**Output 2.1: Residential shelters for vulnerable communities in disadvantaged areas are upgraded.**

In 2026, the Shelter sector will continue working towards sustainable living conditions by improving access to adequate shelters in disadvantaged areas. This will be achieved by repairing or upgrading residential units to meet minimum shelter standards and by improving common areas within substandard residential and non-residential buildings to enhance safety, dignity, and habitability. The approach is rooted in multisectoral understanding of vulnerability

24 Despite extensive advocacy by the Shelter sector to highlight the needs and vulnerabilities of households residing in non-residential shelters, funding for repairs remains critically low.

25 Additionally, attention must be given to the 2 per cent of displaced Syrians residing in non-residential collective shelters before the Lebanon-Israel conflict, as these shelters may become overcrowded with the influx of more internally displaced households.

26 Collaborative dispute resolution (CDR) will also be employed, including legal mediation between tenants and property owners, where its impact has been demonstrated in specific circumstances such as overturning eviction, extending eviction notice, drafting a rent instalment plan, and supporting retrieval of confiscated belongings or documentation.

27 And safeguard Shelter outcomes related to access to safe and dignified shelters while ensuring security of tenure through the formalization of lease agreements

28 This includes households residing in residential shelters that were lightly or moderately damaged following the escalation of hostilities.

29 The guidance note on in-kind assistance was developed by the Shelter sector in 2025 to standardize targeting, item selection, and delivery modalities across partners, including a harmonized winter CRI list and operational procedures for emergency distributions.

30 Disadvantaged areas are regions that experience social, economic, and/or environmental challenges, leading to limited access to basic services, infrastructure, and opportunities for residents. These areas often have high poverty rates, inadequate housing, poor healthcare and education systems, limited employment opportunities, and vulnerability to environmental risks.

in areas such as disadvantaged neighbourhoods, conflict-affected locations, and zones adjacent to Palestinian camps. Shelter repair and upgrading will be implemented either through stand-alone shelter interventions or within area-based, multi-sectoral frameworks that expand the stock of low-income housing in coordination with the Protection, WaSH and Social Stability sectors. In addition to household-level assistance, partners will identify and implement community support projects at the building, plot, or neighbourhood level, driven by community engagement and, where possible, using the skills of local tradespeople to reinforce ownership and local economic participation.

To enhance relevance and conflict sensitivity in dense urban areas, partners will focus on sectoral and geographic coordination in locations where vulnerable households are not visually distinguishable, where inter-communal tensions may exist, where competition over services is a known tension driver, and where governance institutions lack capacity to regulate or deliver services. Area-based coordination mechanisms will be used as the organising framework to align humanitarian efforts with national systems and to ensure that shelter improvements contribute to longer-term stability.

**Output 2.2: Multi-sectoral assessments are produced for areas of vulnerable populations to facilitate sectorally integrated responses.**

In geographically defined disadvantaged areas,<sup>31</sup> partners will collect or draw on existing multi-sectoral data to analyse the key factors shaping shelter conditions. This includes understanding population characteristics, the pressure on basic services, the quality and availability of housing stock, rental market trends, governance dynamics, and any existing inter-community tensions. The resulting analysis will enable partners to design shelter interventions that support both host and displaced communities in a conflict-sensitive and context-appropriate manner.

### **Outcome 3: Enhance the contribution of national institutions and organisations to Lebanon's shelter and housing response.**

Localising the humanitarian response entails recognising, respecting, and strengthening the leadership of local authorities and the capacity of civil society to address the needs of affected populations. Building on the cumulative efforts of the Inter-Agency platform, the Shelter sector will continue to promote locally led assistance through national systems to improve shelter and housing conditions in Lebanon in a more sustainable, accountable, and nationally anchored manner.

The total budget for Outcome 3 is \$0.5M.

**Output 3.1: Capacity-building support to national organisations and institutions contributing to Lebanon's shelter response.**

To advance localisation efforts, the Shelter sector will prioritise strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of Lebanese organisations and public entities engaged in the shelter response. This will improve operational efficiency and support stabilisation through targeted capacity-building in two key areas: increasing the availability of adequate and affordable shelter for vulnerable households, and enhancing emergency response capabilities, particularly in the delivery of emergency shelter support and the coordination and management of collective shelters during crises. Capacity-building efforts will include sensitisation activities, knowledge generation and dissemination, GBV risk mitigation, and dedicated training.

In collaboration with national organisations and institutions, such as the Order of Engineers and Architects and the Public Corporation for Housing, the sector will also promote knowledge generation through national studies and analytical reports on shelter and housing. This evidence base will be consolidated and expanded to deepen understanding of both immediate shelter needs and longer-term housing supply and demand trends. A strong body of evidence will be essential to inform national housing policy discussions<sup>32</sup> and to guide development-oriented actors working towards durable solutions.

## **2.3 Summary Sector Target and Budget**

Shelter targeting in 2026 prioritizes households living in substandard shelters that meet four or more of the sector-defined vulnerability criteria,<sup>33</sup> applied consistently across all population groups regardless of nationality, with the exception of post-2024 arrivals, IDPs, and returnees who are targeted separately. For post-2024 arrivals, the sector has set a target of 42,064 individuals in need of shelter support, while for IDPs and returnees the target is 76,876 individuals. The objective is to ensure assistance is directed to households facing the most severe shelter inadequacy and protection risks.

The table below presents the breakdown of the sector's overall target of 456,819 individuals by nationality, alongside the corresponding shelter assistance allocations:

- **Vulnerable Lebanese:** 139,721 individuals requiring \$43.1M.
- **Displaced Syrians:** 282,719 individuals requiring \$39.7M.
- **PRL:** 20,398 individuals requiring \$7.3M.
- **PRS:** 2,266 individuals requiring \$0.8M.
- **Migrants:** 11,715 individuals requiring \$8.2M.

The total budget for the Shelter and CRI sector is \$100.3M.<sup>34</sup>

31 Areas will be identified through the Inter-sector's mapping of the most vulnerable cadastres, utilising a multi-vulnerability index indicator to ensure a targeted and data-driven approach.

32 This can be conducted through an organized yearly meeting with the DG of the Public Corporation for Housing to present the findings of Shelter related studies that can inform housing policies in Lebanon.

33 The sector-defined shelter vulnerability criteria comprise eight indicators related to enclosure quality, availability of WaSH facilities, water and sewage connections, electrical safety, and exposure to environmental hazards. Households meeting four or more of these indicators are classified as living in substandard shelter conditions.

34 This includes the addition of site clearance of informal settlements, CRIs and activities targeting post-2024 arrivals.

- i. UNHabitat Lebanon, UNOSAT, Shelter Sector, University of Balamand, and CREEMO at Saint Joseph University (2025) Lebanon Building Damage and Debris Quantities Assessment.
- ii. Lebanon — Mobility Snapshot - Round 87 - 05-06-2025 | Displacement Tracking Matrix
- iii. Syrian Returns and Movements Snapshot, 30 September 2025 – UNHCR.
- iv. Disaster Risk Management Unit Survey of collective shelters hosting post-2024 arrivals.
- v. The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrians in Lebanon (VASyR 2025)- UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP.
- vi. The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrians in Lebanon (VASyR 2025)- UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP.
- vii. Lite Multi-Sectoral Assessment (LMSA 2025, REACH and partners)



### 3. LOGFRAME

#### OUTCOME 1: Reduce immediate protection-related shelter and core relief items needs of the most vulnerable households

Indicator 1.1	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of most vulnerable households whose shelters are in informal settlements, substandard residential buildings, or non-residential buildings have improved privacy, safety, and security.	<p>Shelter assistance that addresses climate and fire risks, eviction risks, and partitioning and security of access needs.</p> <p>= ([total HHs reached] / ([total targeted HHs in IS] + [total targeted HHs in non-residential] + [ALL female-headed HHs in residential buildings and ALL PwSN-affected HHs in residential buildings]))*100</p>								Activity Info-Responsibility of the Shelter Sector	%HH	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
11%	21%	40%	60%	10%	21%	10%	21%	15%	21%	N/A	N/A

Indicator 1.2	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of assisted households affected by seasonal shocks and emergencies report being able to meet their basic needs	<p>CRI distribution: seasonal response + emergency distributions</p> <p>Numerator: # of assisted reporting ability to meet their basic needs</p> <p>Denominator: # total assisted who have been sampled</p>								Impact studies and PDMs for all population cohorts	%HH	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
N/A	80%	N/A	N/A								

#### OUTCOME 2: Improve access to adequate shelter in disadvantaged areas for enhanced social stability

Indicator 2.1	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of households living in upgraded residential shelters in disadvantaged areas have improved privacy, safety and security of tenure.	<p>The upgrading of residential shelters to minimum standards in accordance with Shelter sector guidelines in disadvantaged areas.</p> <p>= ([total HHs reached] / [total HHs in substandard residential buildings in targeted disadvantaged areas])*100</p> <p>NB Excludes FHH/PWSN residential upgrading for protection/referral cases covered in objective I.</p> <p>NB The denominator in the above is assumed to be equivalent to all substandard residential buildings accommodating all cohorts.</p>								Activity Info-Responsibility of the Shelter Sector	%HH	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
3%	17%	5%	23%	13%	15%	13%	15%	6%	8%	N/A	N/A

#### OUTCOME 3: Enhance the contribution of national institutions and organizations to Lebanon's shelter and housing response

Indicator 3.1	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
# of Lebanese institutions and organisations with improved ability to contribute to the shelter and site management response, including for emergencies.	<p>Lebanese institutions and organisations include national state entities as well as local and national NGOs.</p> <p>A list of Lebanese entities with an existing or potential housing-related mandate will be compiled, maintained, and actively targeted for remote dissemination of shelter/housing programming and policy-relevant reports and studies.</p> <p>= # of Lebanese institutions and organisations identified and actively in receipt of new housing-related evidence</p>								Activity Info-Responsibility of the Shelter Sector	# of institutions and organizations	Yearly

Institutions and Organizations	
Baseline	Target 2026
20%	80%



# SOCIAL STABILITY

## PEOPLE IN NEED

 2,804,119

## PEOPLE TARGETED

 2,804,119

## SECTOR APPEAL

 \$120,756,750

## CONTACT

### LEAD MINISTRY

Ministry of Social Affairs  
Dr. Ola Boutros  
[olaboutros@gmail.com](mailto:olaboutros@gmail.com)

Ministry of Interior and  
Municipalities  
Randa Hobeich  
[randahobeiche@yahoo.com](mailto:randahobeiche@yahoo.com)

### CO-LEAD AGENCIES

UNDP

Mohammed Al Sayah  
[mohammed.al-sayah@undp.org](mailto:mohammed.al-sayah@undp.org)

## SECTOR OUTCOMES

### OUTCOME 1:

Strengthen municipalities, national and local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure, reduce resentment, and build peace

- **Output 1.1:** Services delivered based on participatory processes at the municipal level
- **Output 1.2:** Integrated solid waste management services provided to reduce social tensions
- **Output 1.3:** National and local institutions have capacity to provide operational support and guidance for local crisis response
- **Output 1.4:** Community police have strengthened capacity to ensure community security

### OUTCOME 2:

Strengthen municipal and local community & resources' capacity to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts

- **Output 2.1:** Municipalities, local conflict prevention mechanisms and CSOs have strengthened capacities for dialogue and conflict prevention
- **Output 2.2:** Youth are enabled to positively engage, participate in their communities, and build bridges with youth across dividing lines
- **Output 2.3:** National, local and social media actors capacitated to defuse tensions

### OUTCOME 3:

Enhance the abilities of LRP partners and public institutions on conflict analysis and sensitivity mainstreaming

- **Output 3.1:** LRP partners have improved skills, capacities and practices for conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming

## POPULATION BREAKDOWN

	PIN 2026	TARGET 2026
 VULNERABLE LEBANESE	1,295,231	1,295,231
 DISPLACED SYRIANS	1,120,000	1,120,000
 PRL	201,136	201,136
 PRS	23,655	23,655
 MIGRANTS	164,097	164,097
 OTHER	-	-

# 1. SITUATION & STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## 1.1 Situation Analysis<sup>35</sup>

The Social Stability sector in Lebanon has been operating in an increasingly fragile and complex environment shaped by deepening economic, political, and social challenges. The country's prolonged economic collapse, currency depreciation, and high inflation have eroded purchasing power and pushed a growing proportion of both Lebanese citizens and displaced populations into poverty. Economic competition regained its place as top driver of intra-Lebanese tensions cited by 37 per cent as of July 2025. Access to basic services such as electricity, water, health, and education has sharply declined, aggravating frustration and fuelling competition among vulnerable groups. According to the UNDP Regular Perception Survey, the competition for basic goods and commodities emerged as one of top three drivers amidst post-2024 arrivals<sup>36</sup> and return of IDPs to areas impacted by the escalation of hostilities. Main increase is in the North (8% to 13%), Nabatiyeh (34% to 44%), Bekaa (22% to 26%), and Baalbek (13% to 18%). These dynamics have intensified existing inequalities, weakened social stability, and heightened risks of local tensions and unrest.

At institutional level, state capacity remains constrained. Municipalities struggle with underfunding, deteriorating infrastructure, and limited technical capacity to provide basic services or mitigate disputes effectively. Governance gaps continue to erode public trust, and the national government's limited capacity to implement effective policy responses has further weakened state-society relations. As a result, local actors and community structures have become increasingly vital in sustaining peace and social stability at the community level. In terms of trust, there is an increased belief that reconstruction efforts would reach areas most in need (38% to 41%) according to the July 2025 Regular perceptions survey.

Security dynamics have also evolved, with concentrated violence, cross-border clashes, escalation of hostilities, and high level of crime adding to the sense of instability, while misinformation, disinformation and fake news affects intercommunal relations, and contribute to online Gender-Based Violence. In areas affected by the escalation of hostilities, damage to housing and public infrastructure has reduced communities' ability to recover and increased their exposure to displacement and tension. Despite these challenges, the sector has made progresses in conflict prevention through local dialogue initiatives, mediation networks, and participatory municipal planning processes.

In this context, the Social Stability sector's priorities have adapted to focus on integrated, conflict-sensitive approaches that address the specific needs of women, men, girls and boys. In line with commitments under the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agendas, the

sector will make specific efforts to promote the participation and leadership of women and youth in peace and security processes. Key interventions include support to national and local authorities for improved service delivery and inclusive local governance and community dialogue and mediation initiatives to prevent and mitigate conflicts.

By combining humanitarian, stabilization, and peacebuilding approaches, the Social Stability sector seeks to mitigate tensions, strengthen local governance, and support communities in navigating Lebanon's ongoing fragility.

Given that the scope of the LRP focuses on humanitarian and stabilization interventions, while the Ministry of Social Affairs is guided by a longer-term vision, the sector will maintain short- and medium-term activities under the LRP. Longer-term interventions will transition to the Cooperation Framework, in close coordination with the Ministry and in line with national priorities and guidance. Any linkages between the LRP and the Cooperation Framework will be further examined to ensure a coherent, complementary, and well-sequenced approach.

## 1.2 Prioritization

The Social Stability sector will maintain a strong focus on prioritization through geographical targeting based on the "332 localities in Lebanon" (link to [map](#)),<sup>37</sup> which identifies and ranks areas hosting the highest numbers of vulnerable Lebanese and displaced populations. The sector's prioritization approach will emphasize both underserved areas requiring immediate support and previously assisted areas to ensure sustainability, functionality, and complementarity of interventions. This will be guided by sector mapping, municipal absorption capacities, and resource availability. To enhance cost-efficiency and maximize impact, the sector will adopt a cluster-based prioritization model, targeting groups or union of municipalities rather than isolated ones to reach larger populations amid limited resources. Within this framework, prioritization will also extend to gender considerations, ensuring that women and adolescent girls are actively engaged in programmes and peacebuilding activities. Special attention will be given to women-led mechanisms to strengthen their role in addressing tensions and promoting dialogue. To strengthen the targeting process, the sector has developed Guidance note on [Geographic Targeting Prioritization Process](#). The guideline serves as a reference for all actors in identifying and ranking priority areas.

35 All Data mentioned are from the UNDP Regular Perception Survey unless stated otherwise

36 Post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria

37 The map is undergoing an update. The Social Stability sector will adapt the most updated map in prioritizing activities.

## 1.3 Risks and Mitigation Measures

The sector faces several key risks in 2026:

### 1- Municipal Service Gaps, Resource Shortages, and Funding Constraints

Municipalities face growing service and financial gaps driven by resource shortages and unpredictable funding, leading to increased tensions, off-mandate support requests, and coordination challenges that threaten project sustainability and community trust.

#### Mitigation:

- Design projects with minimal operational and management costs, with sustainability strategy.
- Design cluster-based projects targeting groups or union of municipalities.
- Integrate income-generation components, especially for marginalised groups (persons with disabilities, female-headed households, older people, widows).
- Build local technical capacity for maintenance and repair such as supporting local training programs (in coordination with General Directorate of Local Administrations and Councils (DGLAC)) and utilizing low-cost or in-kind solutions wherever possible to minimize additional budgetary burden.
- Support gender-responsive planning and financial management.
- Ensure community engagement at all project stages and support municipalities to establish mechanisms for public consultation and accountability.
- Maintain close coordination with Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) and Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) to align with laws, MoIM circulars, and international standards.
- Ensure close coordination with governors and MoIM field coordinators.
- Enhance inter-sector coordination and advocate for predictable, multi-year, and flexible funding to safeguard project continuity.

### 2- Community Insecurity, Weakened Security Institutions, and Deteriorating Communal Relations

Socio-economic decline, resource scarcity, and weak institutional capacity have eroded community trust and security. Under-resourced and overstretched municipal police face challenges in managing rising tensions, leading to increased perceptions of insecurity, self-protection measures, and strained communal relations. These dynamics heighten the risk of localized conflicts and undermine social cohesion.

#### Mitigation:

- Support and strengthen municipal police in identified tension hotspots.
- Enhance gender- and conflict-sensitive community policing approaches.
- Promote inclusive, community-oriented, and trust-building security practices.
- Monitor emerging tensions, misinformation, and security dynamics at the community level.
- Facilitate peace dialogues and localized conflict mitigation initiatives.
- Engage women, youth, and persons with disabilities in peacebuilding and social cohesion efforts.

### 3- Instability and violence

Lebanon remains vulnerable to political dynamics, domestic tensions, and the potential spillover of regional tensions. Any renewed hostilities would directly affect community tensions and institutional functioning.

#### Mitigation:

- Strengthen conflict-sensitive programming and maintain preparedness to minimize the impact of escalations.

## 1.4 Localization

The Social Stability sector promotes localization through several key strategies that strengthen the role of local actors. This includes direct support to municipalities by enhancing their capacities to deliver basic services and engage in effective community planning. The sector also fosters community-based conflict prevention through the establishment of local dialogue platforms and participatory decision-making processes. Strong partnerships with local Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) are encouraged, including Women's Rights and Women-Led Organizations (WROs/WLOs). Furthermore, the sector adopts area-based approaches that are tailored to the specific needs and tensions of each community. It also emphasizes institutional coordination and national ownership by involving both local and national institutions in leadership roles within the sector. The sector will promote localization by empowering women and youth-led and disability-inclusive civil society organizations to participate in decision-making and conflict prevention. This approach will enhance institutional resilience, empowers local actors and communities to lead peacebuilding and social stability efforts, and promotes sustainable, locally owned outcomes beyond project cycles.

## 1.5 Mainstreaming Components: Gender, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Environment

**GBV:** Gender mainstreaming will remain central, focusing on women's and girls' participation. Partners will receive tailored support to develop inclusive, gender- and disability-sensitive programmes and budgets addressing barriers such as mobility, safety, and care duties. In coordination with the Gender Mainstreaming focal point at the inter-sector and sector level, the sector will promote safe, accessible spaces and mixed dialogues to foster inclusion and reconciliation.

**Protection:** In coordination with the Protection sector and local authorities, partners will design protection-sensitive projects using disaggregated data, particularly on disability. The sector will uphold humanitarian principles, strengthen referrals, conduct protection-related analyses, and identify gaps to enhance joint responses.

**Conflict Sensitivity:** The Social Stability sector will prioritize mainstreaming conflict-sensitive approaches to ensure Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) interventions do not exacerbate social tensions or create new ones. Regular monitoring of inter- and intra-communal dynamics will be undertaken so partners remain context-informed on both geographical and thematic levels. Partners will be advised to apply inclusive targeting, ensure broad consultations, coordinate across central and local levels, and communicate transparently on aid allocation. The sector will coordinate closely with the Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming focal point to stay abreast on the latest training opportunities and knowledge products to disseminate them among sector partners as well as across other sectors.

**PSEA:** Accessible complaints and feedback mechanisms will be strengthened. Partners will enhance collective accountability, coordinate with the PSEA Network and Mainstreaming Focal Point, and build capacity on safe reporting and response.

**Environment:** Environmental mainstreaming will be integrated across interventions, especially in waste management and service delivery. Municipalities will receive training on environmental management and conflict resolution. The sector will engage with the Environment Task Force and coordinate with relevant sectors to ensure sustainable, conflict-sensitive programming.

## 1.6 Intersectoral Linkages

Under the LRP, the Social Stability sector maintains strong interlinkages with the Livelihoods, Protection, and WaSH sectors.

**Livelihoods:** By supporting job creation, and income-generating opportunities, the Livelihoods sector aims to reduce vulnerability and competition over resources, directly easing

social tensions. Social Stability complements these efforts by ensuring interventions are conflict-sensitive and inclusive.

**Protection:** Close coordination with the Protection sector will ensure that conflict-sensitive approaches, referrals, and protection monitoring are integrated into interventions. The Social Stability sector will coordinate with the Protection sector on addressing GBV and child protection risks and promoting social stability through inclusive community structures.

**WaSH:** The collaboration with the WaSH sector aims to offer evidence-based sectoral guidance products used for advocacy, communication, and policy recommendations such as the 'Water Tension Note'. It includes sector-specific situational analysis, conflict sensitivity recommendations and capacity building opportunities.

## 1.7 Transition to Development & Recovery

The Social Stability sector in Lebanon is transitioning to development and recovery by strengthening municipal and national institutions, promoting participatory and sustainable service delivery, and fostering social stability. It builds local capacities in governance, crisis management, and community policing while advancing green and inclusive economic opportunities. Through dialogue mechanisms, youth engagement, and conflict-sensitive media, the sector promotes peacebuilding and social trust. Additionally, through conflict sensitivity and data-driven planning, the sector ensures that interventions are sustainable, inclusive, and resilient.

# 2. SECTOR RESULTS, TARGETS, AND BUDGET

## 2.1 Linkage with LRP Strategic Objectives

The Social Stability sector strategy for 2026 is aligned with the LRP Strategic Objective 3, “Support service provision through national systems” and Strategic Objective 4, “Reinforce Lebanon’s economic, social, and environmental stability”.

At the outcome level, the sector’s interventions focus on strengthening institutional and community capacities to enhance resilience, service delivery, and social cohesion.

- Outcome 1 supports national and local institutions, including those responsible for solid waste management, to reduce vulnerabilities, improve access to basic services through national systems, and mitigate the environmental effects of the ongoing crisis.
- Outcomes 2 and 3 aim to enhance the ability of local communities and municipalities to manage and reduce sources of tension, while equipping partners with tools for tension monitoring and integrating conflict sensitivity into their programming, thereby promoting social stability.

In line with the LRP strategic objectives and the Ministry of Social Affairs’ Strategy 2026–2030, the Social Stability sector Strategy for 2026 also supports Lebanon’s broader development agenda by contributing to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), while aligning with UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security and 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

## 2.2 Sector Outcomes

The Social Stability sector aims to achieve three outcomes through the implementation of the strategy in 2026.

### Outcome 1: Strengthen municipalities and national and local institutions’ ability to alleviate resource pressure, foster trust, and build peace.

There are persistent challenges in service provision at both national and local levels, requiring ongoing support to national institutions to reduce social tensions. This contributes to Impact 3 (equitable access to basic services and infrastructure), Impact 5 (strengthening social stability), and Impact 6 (mitigating environmental impact for sustainability) under the LRP. Coordination with MoIM and DGLAC and MoSA ensures

interventions comply with national laws, national priorities, regulations, and international standards.

The sector aims to target 200 municipalities, as well as key national institutions including MoSA, MoIM, and the Disaster Risk Management Unit (DRM), with an overall budget of \$83,665,500.

### Output 1.1: Services are delivered through participatory processes at the municipal level

The sector will support municipalities, Unions of Municipalities, and public institutions in delivering essential basic services, including wastewater, water supply, energy, agriculture, firefighting, education, health, public space rehabilitation, and social development, through inclusive, participatory, and gender-responsive approaches. Interventions will prioritize maintaining and ensuring the functionality of existing services, focusing on projects that reduce tensions and require low-cost maintenance, and using multi-sectoral and geographic clustering approaches. The sector will strengthen municipal resource management through tailored training, innovative solutions, and income-generation activities, linking with the Livelihoods and Food Security and Agriculture sectors to create cash-for-work, social and green enterprise, and food-for-work opportunities. Local communities, youth-led initiatives, conflict prevention mechanisms, and civil society organizations will be engaged to support service delivery and emergency response, ensuring the inclusion of women, youth at risk, persons with disabilities, migrants, displaced persons, and displaced. Private sector and diaspora engagement will be sought to mobilize technical and financial support, particularly for economic asset rehabilitation such as public markets and eco-tourism initiatives. Winter preparedness in 2026 will remain a priority, particularly for storm-affected and high-risk areas, through drainage and stormwater canal works, riverbank management, and provision of snow removal and jetting trucks, linked with cash-for-work activities.

### Output 1.2: Integrated solid waste management services are provided to reduce social tensions

The Social Stability sector will support integrated Solid Waste Management (SWM) in coordination with the Ministry of Environment (MoE), using innovative cluster approaches aligned with the MoE’s National Action Plan and coordinated through the Solid Waste Management Task Force. While a new draft law proposing additional municipal fees is undergoing revision at parliamentary level, the sector will monitor its progress and support sustainable solutions. The MoE’s Integrated SWM Strategy and Strategic Environmental Assessment, have been endorsed by the Council of Ministers, provide a framework to reduce environmental risks and strengthen community resilience.

In line with this, a unified technical framework (Guidance Note: Mitigation of Environmental Risks of Inactive Informal Settlements)<sup>38</sup> has been developed to guide the clearance of informal settlements. This will be implemented under the guidance of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to ensure safe collection, transport, and disposal of debris in line with environmental standards.

Furthermore, the sector still faces key challenges related to depletion of infrastructure capacities and of public resources. The sector will promote women's participation in SWM jobs, explore circular economy opportunities with the Livelihoods sector through Cash-for-Work, and ensure children are not employed in collection activities. Key interventions include provision of collection trucks and bins in underserved areas, operational support to SWM facilities (such as machinery, solar systems, etc...), engagement of the private sector and CSOs for recycling and composting, community awareness campaigns in partnership with municipalities, and development of local operational masterplans for strategic service delivery. This approach supports a green economy and public-private partnerships to address resource shortages and funding constraints while achieving social, environmental, and economic benefits.

**Output 1.3: National and local institutions have the capacity to provide operational support and guidance for disaster risk management and crisis response**

The Social Stability sector will continue supporting national and local institutions to strengthen their capacity to prevent and manage disasters and crises, targeting key entities such as the DRM unit in the Prime Minister's Office, sub-national DRM/Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) bodies, MoIM (including Civil Defense, Fire Brigade, and General Directorate of Local Administrations and Councils (DGLAC)), the Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC), MoE, and MoSA- SDCs (through trainings and crises management). At the local level, Governors and Qaemqaqs will receive staffing, training, and equipment to enhance crisis response. In line with Lebanon's National Response Framework, support will focus on municipalities, Unions of Municipalities, civil defense, and DRM/DRR operation rooms, prioritizing staffing, equipment, essential services, and renewable energy, in coordination with the Lebanese Red Cross and other partners. Municipal support will strengthen risk awareness, disaster and conflict preparedness, climate change adaptation, early warning, and feedback mechanisms. The sector will also support humanitarian mine action in coordination with the LMAC through surveys, marking, clearance, risk education, coordination, and data management to protect civilians, including vulnerable groups.

**Output 1.4: Municipal police have strengthened capacities to ensure community security**

Amid Lebanon's compounded crises, municipal police have increasingly become front-line responders to social unrest and security incidents, particularly in rural areas. Strengthening

municipal police capacities is therefore critical to providing professional, inclusive, human-rights- and gender-responsive security services, and building community trust. The sector will scale up community policing schemes in line with MoIM standards, including standard operating procedures, codes of conduct, and management systems, to institutionalize and sustain this approach. Support will follow the municipal police strategic framework developed with MoIM and Internal Security Forces (ISF), covering SOPs, codes of conduct, trainings, and uniform unification. Efforts will include training women police officers in line with the 1325 National Action Plan, mitigating attrition, and addressing diminished operational capacities. Sector partners will also collaborate with the Protection sector, CSOs, and human/women's rights organizations to review SOPs, train on protection, gender, GBV, and anti-trafficking, and support municipal police engagement in income-generating, community-based services to strengthen both economic resilience and community relations.

**Outcome 2: Strengthen municipal and local community & resources' capacities to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts**

The Social Stability sector will enhance conflict mitigation by strengthening local dialogue committees and integrating Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) into its interventions to promote peacebuilding. It will implement programs that empower community influencers—such as youth, women, the older people, and persons with disabilities—to foster inclusive dialogue and participation. Efforts will also focus on engaging youth positively, training media for objective reporting, and building the capacities of national and local CSOs, including women-led groups, to play stronger roles in dialogue, mediation, and conflict prevention.

The sector aims to reach 120 municipalities and support 540 youth initiatives, with an overall budget of \$34,886,250.

**Output 2.1: Municipal and local-level Conflict Prevention Mechanisms and CSOs have strengthened capacities for dialogue and conflict prevention**

This output focuses on strengthening local capacities for conflict prevention and resolution through municipal-level mechanisms that unite community representatives, public institutions, and the private sector. It involves establishing and linking local mechanisms across regions, providing training in mediation and conflict resolution, and organizing inclusive community activities to reduce tensions. The sector will also build the capacity of local CSOs to lead social stability and peacebuilding initiatives while ensuring equitable participation of all groups. Furthermore, the sector will mobilize local peacebuilding infrastructures (both existing and new mechanisms) as early warning and action detectors of conflict and tensions. These mechanisms will provide timely and accurate information on emerging issues, allowing for proactive response measures to prevent escalation.

### Output 2.2: Youth are enabled to positively engage, participate in their communities, and build bridges with youth across dividing lines

The Social Stability sector will engage youth in all their diversity to prevent marginalization and negative coping strategies, promoting their positive role in communities. Efforts will focus on empowering young women as agents of conflict prevention and sensitizing young men—especially those at risk—against violence by challenging harmful social norms. The sector will support municipalities to link skilled youth with opportunities through the Education and Livelihoods sectors (digital skills, engineering, construction, etc.) and support those facing high dropout and unemployment rates through community service and volunteering. Key interventions include life skills and psychosocial training, recreational (sports and activities), and mental health activities. These youth can play a positive role in their communities when supported by partners on conflict mitigation training and active citizenship/community services (cleaning beaches/roads, collecting waste).

### Output 2.3: National, local, and social media actors are capacitated to defuse tensions

Given the media's strong influence on public perceptions, the sector will engage media outlets to promote positive, fact-based offline and social media spaces that foster inclusion and acceptance. Interventions will include trainings—particularly targeting women and youth—for journalists, media professionals, municipalities, community focal points, academics, and CSOs, focusing on:

- Gender- and conflict-sensitive reporting.
- Fact-checking techniques.
- Countering misinformation, disinformation, fake news, and hate speech.
- Promoting positive narratives to offset hostile messaging.

Additionally, sector partners will generate knowledge on how media and online platforms can trigger tensions and provide recommendations to mitigate misinformation, hate speech, online Gender-Based Violence, and fake news.

### Outcome 3: Enhance the abilities of LRP partners and public institutions on tension monitoring and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming.

Monitoring and analyzing social tensions helps identify broader humanitarian and development trends across other sectors. To achieve this, the sector will strengthen coordination, capacity-building, and advisory support for partners at national and field levels. Efforts will focus on ensuring that interventions are conflict- and gender-sensitive, do no harm, and effectively reduce tensions. This includes using conflict analysis to inform response frameworks and providing conflict sensitivity training, technical assistance, and advisory services.

The sector plans to train 900 staff and produce 18 tension reports, with a total budget of \$2,205,000.

### Output 3.1: LRP partners have improved skills, capacities, and practices for conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming

To reduce inter- and intra-communal tensions, the sector will analyse and address tension risks and drivers to ensure mitigation, prevention, and conflict-sensitive responses in a fragile context. Key actions include continuous monitoring of offline and online tensions through a gender lens, providing technical guidance, and mainstreaming conflict sensitivity across sectors. Capacity-building efforts will focus on expanding conflict sensitivity trainings in Arabic and English based on identified needs. The sector will prioritize regular tension monitoring, analysis, and tailored guidance to strengthen coordinated social stability efforts.

## 2.3 Summary Sector Target and Budget

In summary, the Social Stability sector strategy seeks to strengthen national and local institutions and communities amid protracted crises through inclusive, participatory, and gender and conflict-sensitive approaches. By targeting over 200 municipalities, national institutions (MoSA, MoIM, MoE), and 540 youth, and by training 900 national and local staff and community in conflict sensitivity, the sector aims to enhance local governance, reduce social tensions, and promote social stability.

With a total budget of approximately \$120.7 million, interventions will focus on service delivery, solid waste management, local dialogue mechanisms, youth engagement, and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming.

These efforts will reinforce institutional capacities, empower local actors—including women, youth, and persons with disabilities—and ensure that stabilization and humanitarian actions are gender-responsive and environmentally sustainable.

### 3. LOGFRAME

#### OUTCOME 1: Strengthen municipalities, national and local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure, reduce resentment, and build peace

Indicator 1.1	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of people reporting positive impact of municipalities on their lives	This indicator measures the legitimacy and effectiveness of municipal institutions through the perceptions of affected communities								UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey on Social Tensions	%	Quarterly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
45%	25%	45%	25%	45%	25%	45%	25%	45%	25%	N/A	N/A

Indicator 1.2	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of people living in vulnerable areas reporting competition for services and utilities as a source of tension	This indicator measures how prominently 'competition for municipal and social services and utilities' feature as a source of tensions								UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey on Social Tensions	%	Quarterly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
34%	35%	34%	35%	34%	35%	34%	35%	34%	35%	N/A	N/A

#### OUTCOME 2: Strengthen municipal and local community & resources' capacity to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts

Indicator 2.1	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of people able to identify conflict resolution mechanisms/actors in their community they would turn to	This indicator measures the legitimacy and effectiveness of municipal institutions through the perceptions of affected communities								UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey on Social Tensions	%	Quarterly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
89%	95%	89%	95%	89%	95%	89%	95%	89%	95%	N/A	N/A

Indicator 2.2	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of people identifying factors that could improve inter-community relationships	The indicator measures the percentage of people who identify 'factors of peace' that could help to improve relationships between Syrians and Lebanese thereby evincing a mindset geared towards cooperation and dialogue (Result For Women the Same )								UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey on Social Tensions. Baseline: 54.2% (i.e. the percentage of people who did not say 'nothing helps to improve relations) -	%	Quarterly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
54%	70%	54%	70%	54%	70%	54%	70%	54%	70%	N/A	N/A

### OUTCOME 3: Enhance the abilities of LRP partners and public institutions on conflict sensitivity mainstreaming

Indicator 3.1	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of LRP partners reporting on enhanced knowledge on conflict sensitivity and means of programmatic adaptation	% of partners reporting reading and using conflict analysis material								Cross-sectoral Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Survey	%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
75%	80%	75%	80%	75%	80%	75%	80%	75%	80%	N/A	N/A

Indicator 3.2	Description								MoV	Unit	Frequency
# of LRP sectors integrating conflict sensitivity into their strategy, workplan or implementation	LRP sectors (11 in total) that take steps/initiative to integrate conflict sensitivity consideration in their work - i.e. by including specific activities related to tensions in their strategy or in the approach (targeting, training, SoPs, M&E framework etc...).								Sectors strategies and documents published on the interagency portal	%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
1%	9%	1%	9%	1%	9%	1%	9%	1%	9%	N/A	N/A





## PEOPLE IN NEED

 2,750,932

## PEOPLE TARGETED

 2,200,166

## SECTOR APPEAL

 \$177,000,000

## CONTACT

### LEAD MINISTRY

Ministry of Energy and Water  
Ghada Balis  
[ghada\\_balis@outlook.com](mailto:ghada_balis@outlook.com)

Suzy Hoayek  
[suzy.hoayek@gmail.com](mailto:suzy.hoayek@gmail.com)

### CO-LEAD AGENCIES

UNICEF  
James Henderson  
[jhenderson@unicef.org](mailto:jhenderson@unicef.org)

WVI  
Hussein Younes  
[hussein\\_younes@wvi.org](mailto:hussein_younes@wvi.org)

## SECTOR OUTCOMES

### OUTCOME 1:

National, regional and local public institutions deliver sustainable, equitable and accountable water and sanitation services through enhanced technical, operational and institutional capacities

- **Output 1.1:** Support water institutions' operations and build their capacity

### OUTCOME 2:

More vulnerable people in Lebanon are using safely managed drinking water and sanitation services whilst reducing health and environmental risks and improving water quality by increasing the proportion of wastewater that is safely treated

- **Output 2.1:** The most vulnerable people have secured access to a sufficient quantity of quality, reliable and equitable Water services
- **Output 2.2:** The most vulnerable people have secured access to sufficient quantity of quality, reliable and equitable Sanitation services
- **Output 2.3:** People in need have secured access to critical hygiene items and adopt sustainable and socially responsible WaSH behavior.

## POPULATION BREAKDOWN

	PIN 2026	TARGET 2026
 VULNERABLE LEBANESE	1,741,715	1,444,658
 DISPLACED SYRIANS	789,431	657,451
 PRL	119,777	61,987
 PRS	10,724	5,534
 MIGRANTS	89,285	30,536
 OTHER	-	-

# 1. SITUATION & STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## 1.1 Situation Analysis

Lebanon's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) enters 2026 at a delicate juncture between crisis management and humanitarian response. While the intensity of cross-border hostilities has decreased since 2024, their cumulative impact, combined with economic contraction and institutional fragility, protracted displacement after the Syria crisis, and waves of post-2024 arrivals,<sup>39</sup> continues to erode access to safe water and sanitation. Water Establishments (WEs) operate under severe budget deficits, low revenue collection, and human resources shortages, leaving large portions of the population reliant on private supply mechanisms. The escalation of hostilities has caused losses estimated at \$171 million. These losses are driven by a \$24 million increase in water establishments' operating costs caused by damage to the water supply system, a \$7 million revenue losses for water establishments due to lost household connections from damaged units, and, at the household level, \$140 million in losses of producer surplus to water establishments from the households' increased reliance on tanker water purchases, which cost 10 times more for the households.<sup>40</sup> Electricity shortages and reliance on fossil fuels significantly increase operating costs, further constraining service continuity and forcing many systems to operate below capacity.

Over 2.7 million people across all population groups residing in Lebanon still face severe challenges in accessing safe, sufficient and affordable water, safely managed sanitation and hygiene. As of October 2025, over 64,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) remain,<sup>41</sup> while with limited returns and post-2024 arrivals, almost 200,000 people continue to live in informal settlements, and a further 20,000 post-2024 arrivals in collective shelters, which largely rely on WaSH services provided by the severely underfunded WaSH sector. In North and Bekaa governorates, cross-border movements from Syria could exacerbate service pressure and local tensions.

Recent Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) and Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) indicate that nationwide, 35 per cent of households use piped water for drinking, an improvement from 2023, suggesting a partial restoration of network functionality, particularly in the North. In urban Beirut, nearly half of the population obtains water from water refilling shops, with another quarter using bottled water, reflecting inadequate supply and affordability challenges. Among displaced Syrians in informal settlements, agricultural boreholes, private and humanitarian water trucking remain the primary sources of water, with reliance on protected wells increased in Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel. Scattered water quality testing results conducted by the Ministry of Public Health

and WaSH sector partners indicate biological contamination of some water sources, which, combined with inconsistent chlorination and limited testing, pose a high public health risk, compounded by the 2025 drought season.

One-third of assessed Lebanese and Syrian households reported insufficient water for drinking and domestic use, especially in non-permanent and non-residential shelters, where 35 per cent of families lack sufficient drinking water. Most Lebanese households (56%) worried about water sufficiency in Maarjayoun district, followed by Sour, Hasbaya, Nabatiyeh and Baalbek. One-third of Lebanese households reported having to change their schedules or plans due to water problems.<sup>42</sup>

Large segments of the population have no choice but to resort to expensive, often unsafe, private alternatives to meet household demand. The cost burden on the population in need due to the dysfunction of water systems in some areas far exceeds the globally recommended threshold, where the cost of water should not exceed three per cent of household income. On average, households spend 11 per cent of their income on water in the Baalbek district, while in most districts of the South and Nabatiyeh governorates, expenditures on water were reported to be between seven and nine per cent.<sup>43</sup>

Rural areas continue to suffer from non-functional boreholes, low sewer connection rates and failing wastewater treatment plants, forcing communities to rely on unsafe alternatives. Overcrowding in displacement sites increases health and protection risks, particularly for women and children.

39 Post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria.

40 World Bank (2025). Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA).

41 International Organization for Migration (IOM), October 2025. Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Mobility Snapshot, Round 88 IOM, Lebanon.

42 UNOCHA, REACH (2025), Multisectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2025 and UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2025), Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon 2025.

43 REACH (2025), MSNA 2025.

## 1.2 Prioritization

The WaSH Sector's 2026 prioritization strategy is grounded in a risk-based, evidence-driven approach that integrates climate, health, conflict-related vulnerabilities, and household-level WaSH conditions. It aims to maintain critical life-saving, impactful activities while advancing a responsible transition toward government-led, climate-resilient water and sanitation systems.

The sector's prioritization is informed by a composite analytical framework that combines environmental, epidemiological, and social risk data and provides partners with several **analytical tools** to enhance prioritization as follows. **Drought Vulnerability Index (DVI)**:<sup>44</sup> Identifies cadasters most exposed to drought-related water scarcity by combining climatic, hydrological, geological, and demographic indicators; **Waterborne Disease (WBD) Risk Map (2025)**:<sup>45</sup> Integrates DVI data with population, surveillance, and water quality trends to forecast areas at highest risk of cholera, hepatitis A, and other outbreaks; **Drought Influence on Tension Dynamics Map**:<sup>46</sup> Links environmental stressors to social tension dynamics, highlighting areas where water stress could exacerbate intercommunal tensions, or escalation of hostilities-related damages to critical WaSH infrastructure. Moreover, the severity of WaSH humanitarian conditions and the estimated number of People in Need (PiN) of WaSH assistance for all population groups residing in Lebanon and in relation to the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) framework were updated and contributed to the process (primarily based on 2025 MSNA and VASyR assessments).

The WaSH Sector will focus on sustaining lifesaving access to safe water and sanitation in areas classified as high drought vulnerability, waterborne disease-prone, or tension-sensitive zones, with a particular focus on localities affected by the escalation of hostilities in South Lebanon and including rehabilitation of critical conflict-damaged infrastructure while other need are to be covered using other modalities outside of the LRP. The sector will use the updated Water Assessment Platform (WAP) assessment to maintain support in the most critical informal settlements and collective shelters, while phasing out from the sites with established access to safe water and wastewater management. Early-warning and preparedness systems will be enhanced through regular updates of DVI and WBD analyses.

## 1.3 Risks and Mitigation Measures

Lebanon's WaSH sector faces escalating risks that could undermine progress if not effectively mitigated. Funding shortfalls remain the most pressing threat, with limited resources curtailing lifesaving services in informal settlements, collective shelters, and conflict-affected areas. Without continued support or a clear transition to government leadership, thousands may face unsafe water, overflowing latrines, and heightened disease and protection risks. Economic decline and institutional fragility further constrain Water Establishments' capacity to maintain operations. Insecurity and access restrictions in southern Lebanon continue to impede repairs to systems damaged by the escalation of hostilities, increasing dependency on costly temporary solutions. Cross-border dynamics and drought conditions compound vulnerability, driving displacement and waterborne disease risks, including a new potential cholera outbreak. Mitigation measures include sustained advocacy through the Humanitarian Coordinator and sector leadership to secure government budget allocations and donor flexibility, early engagement with durable solutions, recovery and development actors to bridge humanitarian and recovery gaps, and targeted capacity-building for national and subnational partners to support coordination continuity. Enhanced preparedness, remote monitoring, and pre-positioning of supplies will enable rapid response to outbreaks and disruptions, while community engagement, tension monitoring, and conflict-sensitive planning will safeguard equitable access and reduce social tension. Experience from 2025 highlights the value of solarisation and renewable energy systems for sustaining operations, as well as the effectiveness of joint WaSH-Health monitoring to prevent waterborne diseases. However, uneven data coverage, limited household-level water quality surveillance, and weak WE governance continue to hinder strategic planning. Funding shortfalls, institutional instability, and climate extremes, particularly droughts, pose the greatest threats to service continuity. To mitigate these, the sector will advocate for multi-year financing, promote blended humanitarian-development funding, strengthen remote monitoring, and advocate for integrating climate-adaptive technologies such as rainwater harvesting and solar-powered pumping.

## 1.4 Localization

Localization remains central to the WaSH sector's transition toward nationally led and sustainable service delivery. Building on the established coordination model at the subnational level, where Water Establishments play a core role alongside humanitarian and stabilization counterparts, the sector will continue to strengthen the leadership, technical capacity, and operational roles of local actors, including WEs, national NGOs, municipalities, and community-based organisations. The sector will also

44 [Composite Drought Vulnerability Index \(DVI\)](#)

45 [Waterborne Disease \(WBD\) Risk Map 2025](#)

46 [Drought Influence on Tension Dynamics Risk Map](#)

prioritize local partners in submissions under new funding allocations, including from the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) and support direct access to pooled and bilateral funding.

A comprehensive capacity-building programme will be rolled out to equip national and local partners with the full project cycle skill set, from needs assessment and proposal writing to implementation, monitoring, and reporting. Tailored training will also enhance understanding of WaSH technical standards, humanitarian principles, conflict sensitivity programming, gender mainstreaming, environmental safeguards, and humanitarian WaSH coordination. Local actors will be increasingly integrated into coordination and decision-making spaces, ensuring their perspectives guide strategic and operational planning.

In parallel, the sector will work closely with the Ministry of Energy and Water, WEs, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Disaster Risk Management (DRM), and municipalities to progressively transfer operational and coordination responsibilities, particularly in stable areas, linking humanitarian assistance to recovery frameworks. This approach will strengthen national ownership, sustainability, and accountability across the WaSH response.

## 1.5 Mainstreaming Components: Gender, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Environment

The WaSH sector will continue to integrate gender, protection, GBV risk mitigation, PSEA, conflict sensitivity, and environmental sustainability across all programming to ensure safe, equitable, and dignified access to services. Protection mainstreaming will remain a core principle, ensuring non-discrimination, accountability, and the inclusion of vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons. Gender and GBV focal points will lead capacity-building initiatives for partners on gender-sensitive WaSH programming and safe referrals, in line with Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and GBV-in-Emergencies guidelines. Activities will promote menstrual hygiene management, women's participation in community WaSH committees, and the systematic collection of sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data.

The sector will uphold zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse, ensuring that all staff receive PSEA training and that communities have accessible reporting and feedback mechanisms through the PSEA WaSH sector resource person. Collaboration with the Inter-Agency PSEA Network will strengthen compliance and accountability. Conflict sensitivity will be embedded through coordination with the Social

Stability sector and use of the Tensions Monitoring System to prevent resource-based tensions, following the recently published Water Tensions Note.<sup>47</sup> Environmentally, the sector strongly recommends the use of environmental markers for all projects, promotes solarisation, safeguards water resources, and minimizes pollution risks, ensuring that humanitarian action supports both resilience and environmental protection.

## 1.6 Intersectoral Linkages

The WaSH sector maintains strong coordination with other sectors to ensure coherent and complementary interventions. Collaboration with the Health sector focuses on preventing and responding to waterborne diseases by joining forces for water quality surveillance and response to waterborne disease outbreaks, hygiene promotion, and cholera preparedness. With the Shelter sector, the sector improves water and sanitation facilities in collective shelters and informal settlements, and mitigates the impacts of flooding. Coordination with the Social Stability sector and the Tension Monitoring System helps address water-related tensions, promote conflict-sensitive programming and community dialogue. Coordination with the Food Security and Agriculture sector supports the joint initiative of Community Kitchens and aims for joint targeting. The sector also works with Energy and Environment partners on solarisation and wastewater management, ensuring that WaSH interventions contribute to resilience, climate adaptation, and overall well-being.

## 1.7 Transition to Development & Recovery

The WaSH sector will progressively transition from humanitarian and stabilization response to nationally led, climate-resilient service delivery. Over the next two years, the sector will continue to work to strengthen Water Establishments' operational and financial capacities, align interventions with the National Water Strategy (2024–2035), and expand solarisation and digital monitoring to reduce operational costs and environmental impact. WaSH sector partners will support municipalities and local NGOs to gradually enhance service coordination roles to improve service delivery. The sector will work with the Cooperation Framework focal points to ensure complementarity between the response frameworks and work towards collective WaSH outcomes. By bridging emergency assistance with institutional recovery, the sector will enhance sustainability, foster local ownership, and ensure that investments contribute directly to Lebanon's long-term water security and development goals.

## 2. SECTOR RESULTS, TARGETS, AND BUDGET

### 2.1 Linkage with LRP Strategic Objectives

The 2026 WaSH sector strategy contributes directly to the Lebanon Response Plan's overarching objectives of protecting vulnerable populations, sustaining access to basic services, and strengthening national systems for recovery and stability. The sector's dual focus on humanitarian and stabilization response and system resilience reflects the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus, ensuring immediate lifesaving support while reinforcing institutional capacities and local ownership. By maintaining access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene for displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese (including returning IDPs), Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL), Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS), and migrants, the WaSH sector safeguards public health, reduces protection risks, and prevents waterborne disease outbreaks.

Under the Ministry of Energy and Water's leadership and in collaboration with Water Establishments and municipalities, the sector aims to progressively shift service delivery and coordination currently heavily supported by humanitarian and stabilization actors toward nationally led systems, in line with the National Water Strategy (2024–2035) and the WaSH Sector Transition Plan.<sup>48</sup>

### 2.2 Sector Outcomes

#### Outcome I: National, regional and local public institutions deliver sustainable, equitable and accountable water and sanitation services through enhanced technical, operational and institutional capacities.

By the end of 2026, the WaSH sector will strengthen four Water Establishments to demonstrate improved operational performance and reduced dependence on humanitarian inputs, enabling them to reach more than two million people through enhanced system functionality. The estimated budget under outcome I is \$7 million

**Output 1.1:** Institutional and operational capacities of water authorities are strengthened to maintain and improve the delivery of safe and reliable water and sanitation services to vulnerable communities.

(Aligned with LRP Strategic Objectives 3. Support service provision through national systems, including national rapid response capacity and & Strategic Objective 4. Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social, and environmental stability.)

The WaSH sector will continue to reinforce the capacity of national and subnational institutions to sustainably operate, manage, and maintain water and wastewater systems. This outcome builds on the foundations laid in 2025, moving from emergency operational support toward institutional strengthening, governance enhancement, and climate-resilient infrastructure management. The sector will support the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) and the four WEs in implementing the National Water Strategy and the WaSH sector transition and localization plan, prioritizing improved cost recovery, digitalization, and the reduction of non-revenue water losses, water advocacy and community trust-building, particularly through subscription engagement, as essential components for enabling effective cost recovery.

In 2026, efforts will focus on enabling WEs to adopt financial recovery models, integrate energy-efficient technologies, and utilize improved data and monitoring systems. The sector will continue promoting renewable energy solutions, particularly the solarisation of pumping stations and treatment facilities, to reduce operational costs, enhance energy independence, and decrease carbon emissions. Capacity-building initiatives will include tailored training for WE staff in coordination, asset management, water quality monitoring, and financial planning, ensuring that institutions have the skills and tools to sustainably maintain services. Sector partners will continue to support the human resources of relevant public institutions, where deemed necessary, to deliver improved services, while the institutions work to restore self-sufficient, sustainable capacities.

To ensure continuity and resilience, the sector will strengthen coordination between humanitarian and development actors, promoting blended financing mechanisms that enable WEs to bridge emergency operations with longer-term recovery. Collaboration with municipalities and the private sector will further enhance local engagement and innovation in service provision, fostering greater accountability and efficiency.

At the policy level, the sector will maintain active engagement with MoEW-led task forces on energy management, climate resilience, and water governance reform, ensuring alignment with national priorities and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Six: Clean Water and Sanitation. Partnerships with academia, civil society, and local research institutions will enhance participatory policymaking, data transparency, and monitoring, while integrating gender equality, protection, and environmental sustainability into institutional frameworks.

These actions will collectively strengthen Lebanon's capacity to sustain essential water and sanitation services independently of humanitarian mechanisms.

**Outcome 2: More vulnerable people in Lebanon are using safely managed drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services, whilst reducing health and environmental risks and improving water quality by increasing the proportion of wastewater that is safely treated.**

By the end of 2026, 2.2 million people, including 52 per cent women and girls and 15 per cent persons with disabilities are expected to have sustained access to safe and dignified Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) services. The estimated budget under output 2 is \$170 million.

**Output 2.1:** The most vulnerable people have secured access to a sufficient quantity of quality, reliable and equitable Water services.

**Output 2.2:** The most vulnerable people have secured access to sufficient quantity of quality, reliable and equitable Sanitation services.

**Output 2.3:** People in need have secured access to critical hygiene items and adopt sustainable and socially responsible WaSH behaviour.

(Aligned with LRP Strategic Objectives 1. Enhance protection of the vulnerable populations, and Strategic Objective 2. Provide immediate humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations to ensure critical needs are met).

Under this outcome, the WaSH sector will support the most vulnerable populations, including displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese (including returning IDPs), PRL, PRS, and migrants, in maintaining access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services while reducing health, tensions and environmental risks. While 2025 focused on emergency restoration and outbreak containment, the 2026 strategy will consolidate service continuity and lay the groundwork for stable, community-managed, and institutionally supported systems.

The 2026 approach adopts a risk-based targeting framework, integrating the DVI, WBD Risk Map, and the Tension Monitoring System to identify areas where drought, contamination, and conflict intersect. In these high-risk areas, partners will continue delivering lifesaving humanitarian assistance, including water trucking, desludging, hygiene promotion, and rapid infrastructure repair to maintain service continuity in vulnerable communities, including informal settlements and collective shelters.

At the same time, the sector will prioritize repairing and solarisation of damaged water and wastewater infrastructure, such as pumping stations, boreholes, and treatment facilities, embedding renewable energy and water quality controls to enhance sustainability and climate resilience. These efforts will reduce reliance on fuel and external aid, aligning emergency response with recovery and national systems strengthening.

Community-level interventions will focus on hygiene promotion, water safety awareness, water conservation, and gender-responsive sanitation, ensuring facilities are inclusive, accessible, and safe for women, children, and persons with disabilities. Gender-segregated facilities, support for menstrual hygiene

management, and participatory hygiene education campaigns will be implemented to address specific needs and promote dignity.

Collaboration with the Health sector will strengthen the water quality surveillance and response to waterborne disease outbreaks, hygiene promotion, and cholera preparedness, while coordination with the Social Stability and Protection sectors will address water-related tensions through community dialogue and conflict-sensitive planning.

The sector will also promote climate adaptation measures, advocating for rainwater harvesting, groundwater protection, and sustainable wastewater reuse, to enhance long-term resilience. These interventions will be guided by environmental safeguards and the Environmental Marker to ensure that all projects minimize ecological impact.

To ensure sustainability, WaSH partners will collaborate with municipalities, Water Establishments, and community-based organizations (CBOs) to gradually transfer operational responsibilities for service maintenance, accompanied by technical support and contingency planning. This phased transition will strengthen local ownership, prevent service gaps, and promote equitable access across populations.

Through this integrated approach, the WaSH sector will safeguard public health, uphold dignity, and reinforce social cohesion in the most vulnerable communities.

## Return

The WaSH sector will contribute to the return of displaced populations in safe, dignified, and sanitary conditions. In coordination with the durable solutions working group, the WaSH response will focus on the six identified border crossing points and staging areas where populations are moving into Syria. At these sites, the sector will provide essential, gender-sensitive WaSH services to safeguard public health and dignity during transit and temporary stays.

Key activities will include installing external, gender-segregated latrines, water tanks, and tap stands; providing safe drinking water through water trucking; and regular desludging services to prevent contamination and disease. The sector will also support the rehabilitation of wastewater treatment systems to ensure environmentally safe waste disposal. In addition, light hygiene kits will be distributed through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) at staging areas to meet immediate hygiene needs.

All interventions will be designed and monitored in coordination with local authorities and partners to ensure compliance with protection standards and equitable access for women, men, and persons with disabilities. These measures will help guarantee a safe, dignified, and orderly return process for all affected populations.

## 2.2 Summary Sector Target and Budget

By the end of 2026, the WaSH sector will reach an estimated 2.2 million people through a balanced approach that sustains lifesaving assistance, strengthens institutional capacity, and enhances climate resilience. The total estimated budget for the 2026 WaSH Sector Strategy is \$177 million, distributed across direct service delivery, institutional strengthening, coordination, monitoring, and contingency preparedness.

This integrated approach reinforces the HDP Nexus by ensuring that every intervention, whether Humanitarian or Stabilization, contributes to long-term stability, environmental protection, and nationally led service delivery systems capable of meeting Lebanon's evolving needs.



### 3. LOGFRAME

#### OUTCOME 1: National, regional and local public institutions deliver sustainable, equitable and accountable water and sanitation services through enhanced technical, operational and institutional capacities

Indicator 1.1	Description		MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of increase in yearly collection rate	It is difficult to develop a rationale at the national level - this indicator is meant to reflect overall increase not the performance at the establishment level		Water Establishment Reports UNICEF	%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
40%	60%	40%	60%	40%	60%	40%	60%	40%	60%	N/A	N/A

Indicator 1.2	Description		MoV	Unit	Frequency
% of increase of water pumping stations and wastewater treatment facilities with less dependence on fossil fuels (solarized or powered by other renewable energy, gravity-fed)	The total number of solarized stations as of 2026 represents an increase in the number of existing gravity-fed stations among the total assessed sites		WatSan Vulnerability mapping Activity Info Reporting	%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
15%	20%	15%	20%	15%	20%	15%	20%	15%	20%	N/A	N/A

#### OUTCOME 2: More vulnerable people in Lebanon are using safely managed drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services, whilst reducing health and environmental risks and improving water quality by increasing the proportion of wastewater that is safely treated.

Indicator 2.1	Description		MoV	Unit	Frequency
% increase in proportion of population provided with safely managed drinking water (SDG 6.1.1)	The total number of people benefiting from safely managed drinking water services under Outcome 1.B as of 2026, reflecting the increase resulting from solarization among the total assessed sites		ActivityInfo	%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
10%	18%	10%	18%	10%	18%	10%	18%	10%	18%	N/A	N/A

Indicator 2.2	Description		MoV	Unit	Frequency
% increase in proportion of wastewater handled (Household component to WWTPs of SDG 6.3.1)	<p>The proportion of wastewater generated by households and by economic activities (based on ISIC categories) that is safely treated compared to total wastewater generated by households and economic activities.</p> <p>The household component includes WWTPs and on-site facilities.</p> <p>Treatment implies any process for rendering wastewater fit to meet applicable environmental standards or other quality norms; treatment can be categorized into primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment levels, with further categorization by mechanical, biological, and advanced technologies and treatment efficiency.</p> <p>Importantly, the treatment level and performance of the treatment plant should be considered together with the end use of the treated fractions.</p> <p>Data on the household component will come from the monitoring of 6.2.1. The excreta from on-site facilities may either be managed in-situ or removed from the premises for treatment and disposal elsewhere. Sewered networks and on-site facilities are often regulated by different authorities so these data may need to be collected separately. Similarly, separate data sources will also be required for rural areas and urban centres.</p> <p>For the economic activities component, an initial monitoring step would be to make estimations based on registers of economic activities, and to focus on hazardous industries.</p>		WWTP study 2020, 2023 UNICEF	%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
5%	15%	5%	15%	5%	15%	5%	15%	5%	15%	N/A	N/A

Indicator 2.3	Description	MoV	Unit	Frequency
% increase of boys, girls, women and men with appropriate hygiene knowledge, attitudes and practices	<p>Proportion of population that has knowledge of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 3 out of 5 critical times for handwashing (before eating, before feeding the baby, before handling food, after using toilet, after change diapers)</li> <li>2) 2 out of 4 ways to prevent of disease transmission (hand washing, drinking safe water, using latrines, food safety)</li> <li>and practice:</li> <li>3) using hygienic latrine/toilets (no strong smell or significant numbers of flies or mosquitos, no visible faeces on the floor, walls, seat or around the facility)</li> <li>4) disposing solid waste safely and hygienically (municipality collected)</li> </ol>	<p>WAP for Informal Settlements KAP surveys for communities/PDM (Cholera+LHF)</p>	%	Yearly

LEB	SYR	PRL	PRS	Migrants	Others						
Baseline	Target 2026										
76%	92%	76%	92%	76%	92%	76%	92%	76%	92%	N/A	N/A



**PART**  
**03**

**RETURN CHAPTER**

# 1. INTRODUCTION: RETURN VISION & JOINT PRIORITIES

Since 2011, Lebanon has witnessed a significant influx of displaced Syrians as a direct consequence of the protracted Syria crisis. Host to an estimated 1 million displaced Syrians who have not yet returned to Syria, 120,000 post-2024 arrivals, and 23,655 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS), in 2026 Lebanon continues to be the country hosting the highest number of displaced persons per capita globally. The large scale and extended duration of this displacement have exerted considerable pressure on the country's resources, public services, infrastructure, and environment, while at times exacerbating social tensions and intensifying political discourse.

With the change of regime and suspension of economic sanctions in Syria, and as committed in the Government of Lebanon (GoL) statement and Return Plan, June 2025, the return of Syrian displaced to Syria has become a welcome reality. Since the last quarter of 2024, an estimated 500,000 Syrians have returned from Lebanon to Syria, initially in the context of the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon, and subsequently through both spontaneous and supported movements, bringing the number of displaced Syrians remaining in Lebanon to one million. The absolute majority - some 90 per cent - of those who returned did so spontaneously, using their own resources, while around 10 per cent sought support to return. This is a positive development, which has enabled Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) partners to use the maximum of resources available so far to support those who need it the most, while advocacy continues to secure more resources for safe, dignified and sustainable returns.

The objective of the GoL is for all Syrians displaced in Lebanon to return safely and with dignity to Syria by end of 2026. At the same time, as was the case prior to 2011, the Lebanese economy is in need of foreign labor, part of which is expected to be in part fulfilled from neighboring Syria. In recognition of the GoL's objective, LRP partners remain firmly committed to supporting this in a manner that upholds the ability of displaced Syrians to repatriate in dignity and safety, according to international standards on return<sup>49</sup>, based on individual free and informed decisions, and in a way that underpins sustainability, reducing risks of irregular movement back to Lebanon.

In strong partnership with the GoL, concerted efforts will accelerate in 2026 to remove barriers to return, including documentation challenges, while working closely with the Syrian side to address remaining challenges to safe, dignified and sustainable reintegration.

Building on the efficient and effective collaboration in 2025, the aim is to enable some 400,000 Syrians to return within the

first 6 months of 2026 through an extension of the facilitation measures, as well as through direct assistance and support to those who seek such. Together, these pathways are expected to enable a significant number of returns throughout the year, in line with the Government's vision. A comprehensive review of the return process will be conducted during the first quarter of 2026, specifically in March, including the potential adjustment of financial incentives for returnees or the provision of top-ups to returning families with additional challenges to return. The planning figure for supported returns throughout the year will be jointly reviewed in March 2026 with the objective of revising them where conditions allow and where additional support is secured. The return process will be accompanied by measures to regulate the labor market, including the issuance of work and residency permit for the breadwinner, in accordance with the needs of the Lebanese labor market and within the framework of applicable laws.

To deliver on these joint priorities, advocacy will be increased for enhanced funding from donors to prioritize return and reintegration-related activities both in Lebanon and inside Syria, ensuring that returns are sustainable, dignified, and accessible to all Syrians in Lebanon.

As the LRP serves as a bridge to the forthcoming Cooperation Framework (CF) expected to launch in 2028, the plan foresees a gradual transition from humanitarian and stabilization programming under the LRP toward recovery and development support under the CF. Ultimately, the transition toward the CF will support the Government's vision to close the displacement file in Lebanon sustainably. In this context, and in line with Lebanese law and policy reforms, the international community will continue working closely with the Government, including the Ministry of Labour, to support the regularization of work by Syrians needed in selected sectors.

<sup>49</sup> As outlined in Executive Committee Conclusions no 18 (XXXI) (1980), No 40 (XXXVI) (1985) and No 10 (LV) (2004), including highlighting the basic right of persons to return to their country of origin, to be provided with necessary information on conditions in their country of origin, and repatriation to take place at their freely expressed wish in conditions of safety and dignity.

## 2. OUTCOMES

### Outcome 1: Ensure Safe, Dignified, and Informed Return

The cornerstone of the Return Plan (RP) in Lebanon remains the principle that all returns must be safe, dignified, and based on informed decisions of displaced Syrians. This approach continues to be guided by UNHCR's operational framework and the December 2024 Position on Returns to the Syrian Arab Republic, which clearly reaffirms that displaced Syrians have the right to return to their country of origin, when they express readiness to return. Coordination and collaboration with the Government of Lebanon through regular engagement of the (Technical) Inter-Ministerial Committee and implementation of facilitation measures and regulatory frameworks to support safe and dignified return of displaced Syrians will continue. Where possible, trilateral meetings and/or tripartite agreements between the two Governments and UNHCR will be established as a cross-border framework for return.

Building on the operationalization of the RP in 2025, LRP partners will continue in 2026 to provide structured and individualized counselling, including legal aid on pertinent issues for returning Syrians. Families opting to return will receive return cash grants and transport coordination, while access to essential medical and nutritional services will be ensured for the ones in need.

Inclusive communication with communities remains central to informed decisions. The plan will enhance platforms for displaced Syrians to receive information on conditions and services available in Syria, including through the UNHCR Lebanon Help page and Syria is Home webpage. The plan will also continue to rely on regular intentions surveys, focus group discussions to inform qualitative analysis, and returns-specific national hotlines among other tools to provide accurate and timely information. Protection monitoring will remain embedded at all stages, including at official border crossings, to ensure that the process upholds the principles of safety, dignity, and voluntariness.

### Outcome 2: Strengthen Coordination Across Agencies and Borders

The successful facilitation of return and reintegration in Syria continue to require enhanced cross-border and inter-sectoral coordination between stakeholders in Lebanon and Syria in line with the sovereignty of both states. In Lebanon, the Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) leads the Inter-Sector Return Action Plan under the LRP, ensuring close coordination between UN agencies, NGOs, government institutions, and donors. The RP emphasizes structured engagement with the Government of Lebanon, particularly the Ministry of Social Affairs that plays the liaison role between the DSWG and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Returns and through the GSO, which plays a central role in processing return applications and formalizing the safe and dignified exit. Based on the exchange of letters between the Government of Lebanon and UNHCR, the plan reflects a jointly agreed framework for the implementation

of self-organized and organized return programmes, in alignment with national sovereignty, international protection principles, and the roles and responsibilities defined by both parties.

At the regional level, the strategy is aligned with the 3RP Regional Strategic Overview and leverages the Regional Inter-Agency Preparedness Plan for Returns, including linkages with the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group. In 2026, these linkages will be further reinforced, with regular cross-border coordination with the Syria-based Inter-Agency Solutions Working Group, to regularly share information on statistics, trends and figures; compare and analyze returnee monitoring results and feedback; and facilitate cross-border data sharing and referral to ensure the continuity of support and the sustainability of reintegration. This group will facilitate information sharing on available services in areas of return, establish referral pathways, streamline access to civil documentation and link returnees to early recovery programming, cash-for-work schemes, and HLP restitution processes. Such coordination is critical to support the sustainability of return and to mitigate risks of re-displacement due to unmet needs or unresolved legal claims.

To support these efforts, sector-specific working groups, including Protection, Health, WaSH, Education are engaged in developing operational linkages, such as harmonized referral protocols. However, cross- border data-sharing mechanisms will be identified through an agreed upon modality. For 2026, additional efforts will be made to strengthen cross-border data-sharing mechanisms, which will be developed through an agreed modality and informed by the scale-up of returns.

### Outcome 3: Sustain Protection and Basic Services in Lebanon

Continued support remains critical in 2026 to uphold international protection standards and to safeguard against harmful coping mechanisms that may arise from deteriorating economic and social conditions. The worsening socio-economic outlook in Lebanon has left most Syrians in extreme poverty. Coupled with the impact of previous escalation of hostilities and internal displacement, the situation of Syrians in Lebanon remain particularly fragile. Vulnerable host communities and Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) face similarly dire circumstances, with more than 87 per cent of PRS families living below the poverty line and relying almost entirely on assistance.

As such, the LRP ensures that humanitarian and stabilization programming in Lebanon continues in 2026 to target both those opting to return and those temporarily remaining, as well as the most vulnerable in the host community. Protection services, health care, education, livelihoods programming, shelter and WASH services among others must remain accessible to all, and will be adapted as necessary to reflect the evolving return dynamics and the projected scale of returns

### 3. OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The evolving context in Syria has led to a period of transition and relative optimism in many parts of Syria, while significant uncertainties remain. Lebanon continues to face a multifaceted crisis marked by economic collapse, infrastructure degradation, and host community fatigue. Lebanon remains committed to facilitating informed returns and hosting those who temporarily remain. The durable solutions approach is framed in full compliance with the Lebanese laws and regulations, upholding in tandem the principle of non-refoulement and international protection standards.

Displaced Syrians in Lebanon reside in various housing arrangements, including those living in urban settings, in informal settlements and those in alternative shelter arrangements, each presenting its own set of vulnerabilities and differentiated needs. Among the 45,195 displaced Syrians facilitated<sup>50</sup> for return to Syria, 21 per cent were residing in informal settlements, including those located along the Litani River. While housing and settlement arrangements do not necessarily translate into greater demands for return, there is a general acknowledgement that different groups of displaced may require different modalities for return response. Displaced Syrians in informal settlements who choose to return, will be supported to do so, including through support of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) which will continue to play a role in information provision within these communities. Where community initiatives exist to self-organize group returns, LRP partners will support those in line with the guidance developed for community returns.

The facilitated return program under the RP will continue in 2026, including the UNHCR-supported self-organized return modality which is expected to cover 90% of facilitated returns in 2026; as well as the UNHCR, IOM and GSO-facilitated organized return modality, which is expected to cover 10% of facilitated returns in 2026. In both modalities, where individuals initiate their return independently but receive assistance such as counselling, transportation support, and documentation services fully implemented in collaboration with Lebanese authorities. In addition to these organized mechanisms, a significant number of returns are expected to occur through both unassisted and informal channels (such as community initiatives in informal settlements). These returns, while often spontaneous may be supported by LRP partners, and highlight the need for enhanced border and post-return monitoring to ensure the safety, dignity, and rights of returnees are upheld, and to better understand the numbers, conditions and motivations behind such movements.

Government facilitation measures, and funding availability will determine the scale and quality of return support operations, including transportation assistance, cash grants, pre-departure medical checks, and cross-border programming. For 2026, return activities will be implemented by the concerned LRP sectors, with funding channeled directly through them as part of their strategies and logframes, ensuring full integration into sectoral programming.

### 4. CORE COMPONENTS OF THE RETURN PLAN<sup>51</sup>

The operationalization of return from Lebanon is structured around five interrelated components<sup>52</sup> that together aim to ensure an informed, safe, and dignified return process for displaced Syrian and PRS. The return process is pursued in full respect of Lebanon's national sovereignty and legal framework, as reaffirmed in the Exchange of Letters and Council of Ministers Decision No. 27 (Session of June 16, 2025), underscoring national commitment to its implementation in partnership with the international community.

- I. **Government facilitation measures** remain foundational to the plan. In 2025, the return strategy was formally introduced through socialization and dialogue processes, with a focus on aligning national actors, particularly MoSA, General Security Office (GSO), and Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) with the Inter-Sector Return Action Plan endorsed by

the Durable Solutions Working Group and implemented by the concerned sectors. Technical committee meetings were convened and have brought together humanitarian partners to clarify roles, responsibilities, and operating principles. In 2026, these facilitation measures will continue, with an emphasis on consolidating coordination structures established in 2025 and ensuring their operationalization at national and local levels. Targeted capacity-building activities will further support local authorities, partners, and representatives of displaced Syrians in understanding the international protection principles of return and the rights-based foundations of the action plan. These training cover topics such as international protection standards, eligibility screening, civil documentation, and the facilitation of informed decision-making by displaced households.

50 By November 2025, 45,195 Syrians returned through UNHCR facilitated programs, while 333,908 returned spontaneously.

51 Considered as preliminary and non-binding to the Lebanese Government, waiting for the outcome of the tripartite dialogue amongst Lebanese and Syrian authorities, in addition to discussions with the UNHCR.

52 The five components are grounded in the protection framework outlined by UNHCR and implemented through an Inter-Agency and Inter-Sector approach coordinated by the Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG).

2. **Community engagement and communication with affected populations** remain at the center of the return plan. Multiple modalities are being deployed to ensure that displaced Syrians have access to timely, accurate, and actionable information regarding conditions in Syria and the procedures for return. In 2026, these efforts will be further scaled up, building on the structures established in 2025. Regular surveys of RPIS are being conducted to track Syrians' intentions, decision-making factors, and evolving concerns. These are completed by participatory methods, including focus group discussions. A website and national hotline established in 2025 remain dedicated for return, offering clarifications on return modalities. Meanwhile, MoSA and partners are working through community structures to disseminate verified information on services available in areas of return, and procedures for enrolment in return programs. MoSA will prioritize information dissemination among displaced persons in informal settlements. Messaging is harmonized across platforms to reduce confusion, combat rumours, misinformation, and uphold informed decision-making. Community engagement and communication with affected populations activities aim to invest in a successful, sustainable and permanent return. Support for community initiatives for return will continue to be assessed and supported, wherever possible within the unified framework and in line with international principles.

3. **Return counselling and processing** remain the core operational step in facilitating repatriation in an expediting manner. Before returning, displaced Syrians are contacted to undergo detailed, family-level counselling sessions. These sessions verify the family composition, assess vulnerabilities, and examine access to key documentation such as civil records and academic transcripts. Families are then referred for specialized support, such as legal assistance and educational documentation and school registration procedures. Those cleared for return attend in-person appointments at one of six designated Return Centres, located in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Zahle, Baalbek, Minieh and Akkar. At these centers, each adult family member is interviewed separately to ensure the decision to return is informed and an individual choice. A Repatriation Form (RF) will be issued<sup>53</sup>, detailing the names, intended area of return, and date of departure. Syrians also provide written consent acknowledging the implications of their decision to return, including the closure of their UNHCR file in Lebanon. The RF will also serve as a one- time entitlement document to redeem a return cash grant of \$100 per returning individual and as an identification document to facilitate movement through security checkpoints. Return counselling and processing aim to invest in a successful, sustainable and permanent return.

Transport is organized and facilitated, which provides logistical support at designated staging areas where displaced Syrians are re-verified, receive final medical clearance through fit-to- travel checks, and are assisted with tagging and loading their luggage. Families are then transported to official border crossing points. GSO finalizes the exit procedure, and waivers of administrative

or legal penalties related to residency and overstay are implemented with the Lebanese authorities. Transportation activities include the provision of support for persons with specific needs (PSN) requiring specialized arrangements to facilitate their return. In 2026, return counselling and processing will be expanded and maintained to respond to the anticipated returns, projected at 200,000 individuals.<sup>54</sup>

4. **Cross-border coordination and enabling activities** remain essential to sustain returns. A dedicated Solutions Working Group in Syria will coordinate with the Durable Solutions Working Group in Lebanon information flows, ensure continuity of services, and link returnees to existing programs. Technical and vocational skills training for Syrian displaced will be expanded inside Syria in 2026 to support sustainable return. The skills gained through these training, within sectors permitted by national regulations, are transferable and may contribute to the reintegration, early recovery, and reconstruction processes in areas of return. Returnees will also be connected to income generating opportunities such as cash-for-work and community rehabilitation projects in Syria. Mapping of HLP restitution mechanisms and evidentiary requirements for property claims is ongoing, with the results to be used by legal actors in Lebanon to guide displaced Syrians in securing relevant documentation prior to departure. The Inter-Ministerial Committee will coordinate with Syrian authorities on cross-border movement and organized transportation to ensure protection and proper border management. In 2026, priority will be placed on strengthening referral pathways across borders and ensuring continuity of sectoral services post-return.

5. **Monitoring and feedback mechanisms** continue to be integral to ensuring accountability and responsiveness. The DSWG, supported by its Technical Working Group, will oversee regular tracking of return figures, return modalities, and overall trends. The safety, and sustainability of returns will be monitored at multiple points, from Return Centers to border crossings and through post-return follow-up. Community engagement tools, including RPIS, feedback channels, and complaint mechanisms, will be maintained and expanded to capture real-time inputs from displaced Syrians. These mechanisms also provide a safeguard against misinformation and coercion, ensuring that the return process remains firmly grounded in protection principles. The Inter-Sector Return Action Plan will remain adaptive, with the ability to revise programming based on emerging risks, funding fluctuations, and developments inside Syria. The integration of monitoring responsibilities into LRP sectoral strategies and logframes will further reinforce accountability and sustainability.

53 The Repatriation Form is issued jointly by UNHCR, stamped by GSO at crossing points, and recognized by the Government of Lebanon as a formal return attestation and one-time identification document.

54 Numbers will be revised by March-2026.

## 5. RISKS ASSESSMENTS AND MITIGATION

While 2026 presents continued opportunities for voluntary return, the strategy faces several key risks that require close monitoring and proactive mitigation.

The fluid situation in Syria remains one of the significant risks. To mitigate this, returns will be guided by real-time conflict analysis, protection monitoring at borders, and area-based risk mapping coordinated with the official competent authorities and with partners inside Syria.

Funding shortfall threatens the ability to scale up return support. Significant investment is needed for transportation, cash assistance, health and nutrition screening, vaccination and coordination. Predictable, multi-sectoral funding channeled through LRP sectors remains critical. Targeted donor outreach

and prioritization frameworks are in place to help sequence activities and avoid gaps in critical support. In line with international humanitarian principles, particularly burden-sharing.

The DSWG will continuously review these risks, adapting the response to uphold protection standards in an evolving regional context. In addition, regular coordination meetings between the Inter-Ministerial Committee and the international community are foreseen to ensure effective implementation, address emerging challenges, and monitor progress towards safe and sustainable return. In 2026, risk monitoring will be systematically embedded into sectoral strategies and logframes to ensure that mitigation measures are not only centrally coordinated but also operationalized within each sector.

## 6. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

For 2026, return-related activities will be implemented and funded through the concerned LRP sectors as part of their strategies and logframes, ensuring full integration into sectoral programming. Based on the budget appeal from these sectors, an estimated \$62 million will be required to enable cross- border support, sectoral services, and sustainability of returns for up to 200,000 individuals who will seek direct assistance. In line with the Government's vision outlined in the introduction, the total scale of returns is projected to reach up to 400,000 individuals

by mid-2026<sup>55</sup>, including those able to return spontaneously using their own resources. This will allow available resources to be prioritized to support those most in need, ensure coordinated and principled returns, and strengthen sustainability.



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55 Numbers will be revised by March-2026.

# PART 04

## ANNEXES

**ANNEX 1. INTER-AGENCY RETURN ACTION**

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# ANNEX 1. INTER-AGENCY RETURN ACTION PLAN MATRIX

2026 Inter-Sector Return Action Plan: Matrix of Activities- Last updated by TWG on 6 November 2025

## Sector: Protection

Legal aid / assistance	Prt Outcome I, Output I.1	Legal assistance for civil documentation	<p>"Provision of legal assistance to support refugees access to civil documentation, advocacy with Government on fast-track procedures; including for children whose births are not registered.</p> <p>For PRS, legal assistance on civil documentation, residencies and legal stay will be provided through UNRWA. "</p>	UNHCR, NRC, UNICEF, DRC, UNRWA (PRS)	"Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM); Personal Status Directorate (PSD); Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)."	
		Assessment of Housing, Land and Property (HLP) needs	<p>"HLP-related assessment for Syrian refugees regarding their HLP needs in Syria.</p> <p>Support to obtain, collect and safeguard HLP documents of returnees who have express interest but are not yet returning.</p> <p>"</p>	UNHABITAT, NRC, IOM		Mapping of HLP restitution mechanisms and evidentiary requirements for HLP documentation inside Syria.
Capacity building on voluntary return	PRT Outcome I, Output I.2	Government	<p>"Capacity-development of local authorities, including GSO, LAF, local border authorities on principles and fundamentals of voluntary return; as well as Government role and participation in voluntary return programs.</p> <p>Capacity-development of border authorities to ensure protection-sensitive border procedure and safe routes for return. "</p>	UNHCR, IOM	"General Security Office (GSO); Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF)."	
		Partner	Capacity-development of partners and refugees (OVs) on principles and fundamentals of voluntary return; as well as role and participation in voluntary return programs.	UNHCR		
Protection monitoring (Border monitoring)	Prt Outcome I Output I.3	Border monitoring (Return monitoring)	<p>"Strengthen presence at official border crossing points, including data collection on return trends and observations; as well as monitoring of implementation of voluntary return programs and GSO commitments.</p> <p>If funding is made available, UNRWA to set up border presence to monitor implementation of voluntary return for PRS. "</p>	UNHCR, UNRWA (PRS)	"General Security Office (GSO); Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF)."	
		Cross-border movements	Analysis of population movements across borders	UNHCR, IOM	"General Security Office (GSO); Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF)."	
		Protection monitoring in communities	Enhance protection monitoring of Syrian refugees and PRS expressing willingness to return, including through intentions surveys to assess barriers to return, concerns and perceptions, including gender specific questions and analysis such as risks for women and girls.	UNHCR, DRC, INTERSOS, Shield, UNRWA (PRS)		
Protection data collection and analysis: Returns Intentions Survey	Prt Outcome I Output I.3	RPIS	Regional Return Perceptions and Intentions Survey to be conducted on a bi-annual basis, and including a representative sample from Lebanon. AGD considerations to be incorporated wherever possible. Potential for country-level RPIS to be conducted.	UNHCR (core activity), UNRWA (PRS)		

Activity	Sector Result (Outcome & Output)	Sub-Activity	Brief Description	Agencies	Relevant Government Institution	Cross-border Enablers
Communication with communities on voluntary return	Prt Outcome 2, Output 2.1	Returns Hotline (National Call Center)	Returns-specific hotline for dedicated counselling on voluntary return, information provision on conditions in specific areas of return in Syria as well as counselling on and recording of interest. AGD considerations to be incorporated wherever possible.	UNHCR		
		UNHCR Lebanon HELP site	Dedicated page on voluntary return to Syria, including information on conditions in Syria, procedures for return and support available inside Lebanon.	UNHCR		Area-based information on conditions and services mapping available inside Syria needed to make well-informed decisions on voluntary return.
		Information desks	"Dissemination of information on conditions in areas of return; access to basic services HLP restitution mechanism and processes in Syria. Information on general conditions of housing/infrastructure in intended area of return based on UN-Habitat profiling Dissemination of information on return programs, and organized return transportation. Information on family tracing and alternative care Hotlines to support referrals to UNHCR. Online information portal (Kobli - Legal Aid Platform)"	UNHCR, UNHABITAT, WFP, IOM, SCI, NRC, CARE	Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)	Area-based information on conditions and services mapping available inside Syria needed to make well-informed decisions on voluntary return.
		Mine risk education (EORE)	Sensitization in communities around EORE	UNICEF, DRC		
Community Engagement on Voluntary Return	Prt Outcome 2, Output 2.1	Returns Community Information Sessions	"Community meetings to share information, updates and procedures on voluntary return to Syria, as well as gather and record community perceptions and concerns. Utilize existing volunteer platforms to sensitize communities on voluntary return. Community outreach through mobile teams Share HLP related materials prepared by UN Habitat For PRS, includes community meetings with PRS, ensuring PRS have access to information about return, including through FAQ and sensitization on explosive ordnance risk education. "	UNHCR, WFP, IOM, UNICEF, CARE, SCI, UNHABITAT, UNRWA (PRS)	Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)	
		Risk Communication and Community Engagement	"Community consultation exercise on voluntary return. Disseminate behavior change messages and community engagement interventions to support safe returns and encourage reintegration for children and families in transit or resettling in host or return communities, ensuring access to services. "	UNHCR, CARE, UNICEF, IOM, UNRWA (PRS)		

Activity	Sector Result (Outcome & Output)	Sub-Activity	Brief Description	Agencies	Relevant Government Institution	Cross-border Enablers
Protection Case Management and family tracing	Prt Outcome 3 Output 3.1 (PRT and GBV)	PSN and GBV	Identification of PSN with need for specialized arrangements for return. Tailored assistance for different groups with specific needs.	UNHCR, IOM, UNRWA (PRS), UNFPA, UNICEF		Cross-border, inter-agency referral mechanisms to partners and services inside Syria required.
	Prt Outcome 3 Output 3.1 (CP)	BIP	Identification of unaccompanied and separated children in need of BIP for voluntary return. Interim/Alternate care services for UASC for appropriate care arrangements.	UNHCR, UNICEF, SCI, UNRWA (PRS)		Cross-border, inter-agency referral mechanisms to partners and services inside Syria required.
	Prt Outcome 3 Output 3.1 (CP)	Family Tracing	"Identification of refugees with missing family members or relatives in Syria, and coordination with UNHCR Syria and partners. Dissemination of key messages around prevention of separation of children during movement."	UNHCR, SCI, UNICEF, ICRC		Cross-border referral mechanisms for family tracing inside Syria required. ICRC helpline for family tracing in Syria already provided.
	Prt Outcome 3 Output 3.1	MHPSS	Community-based psycho-social support for children and caregivers.	SCI, UNICEF, CARE, UNFPA		
Protection assessments for Voluntariness	Prt Outcome 3, Output 3.2	Voluntariness assessments and VRF issuance	Referral mechanisms within agencies in Lebanon for immediate support and to escalate cases to relevant agencies in Syria for assistance consideration, including minimum standards for cross-border referrals.	UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, IOM, DRC, UNRWA (PRS), UNFPA		Cross-border, inter-agency referral mechanisms to partners and services inside Syria required.
GBV: Information on access to life-saving services in Lebanon and Syria	3.1	GBV awareness and information on access to life-saving GBV services, including survivor-centered GBV case management services as well as referrals to other relevant services.	"Develop GBV Referral Pathways between UNHCR Lebanon and UNHCR Syria to ensure access to safe services in Syria. Train frontline staff on Safe Disclosure and Safe Referral to GBV services to prevent forced return of survivors of GBV to Syria and to ensure immediate access to services. Update community-level GBV Referral Pathways, train community members on GBV key principles and safe referrals and safely disseminate it to community members for self-referral during the transition. For PRS, and based on consent, referral of cases from UNRWA Lebanon to UNRWA Syria."	UNHCR, UNFPA, CARE, UNFPA, UNICEF, DRC, UNRWA (PRS) - to be coordinated by GBV WG		
Child Protection	3.1	Child Protection	"Disseminate key messages on preventing child-family separation during movement, and referral mechanisms. Establish child protection information help desks at border points and Return centers. Establish child-friendly spaces at Return Centers. Train civil-military personnel at border crossing points on identification, referral and child protection in emergencies. For PRS, ensuring family unity during return and identification of unaccompanied and separated minors returning for referral to UNRWA Syria."	SCI, UNICEF, UNRWA (PRS)		Cross-border, inter-agency referral mechanisms to partners and services inside Syria required.

Activity	Sector Result (Outcome & Output)	Sub-Activity	Brief Description	Agencies	Relevant Government Institution	Cross-border Enablers
Cash-Based Intervention		Return Cash Grant	Provision of return cash grant (regionally harmonized) at \$100 per individual as unrestricted return cash grant to facilitate return and initial reintegration in Syria for Syrian refugees and PRS	UNHCR, UNRWA (PRS)		
		Protection cash grant to remove barriers to return for persons with heightened vulnerabilities	Provision of additional cash grant for 13% of returnees estimated with heightened protection need to reduce barriers to return	UNHCR		
Transportation		Organized Return Transportation	IOM Facilitation for returns through the organization of bus and truck transportation, following referrals and interviews and assessment. Fitness to travel, arrange special travel requirements for the most vulnerable cases, including medical cases, especially when ground travel might pose additional health risks. facilitating documentation as well as ensuring a smooth movement across borders to inside Syria Target = 100,000	"IOM, UNHCR UNRWA (PRS)"	General Security Office (GSO)	Cross-border coordination with Syrian caretaker authorities for reception, and with UNHCR Syria for handover required, including coordination on return routes and transit terminals at destination.
		Specialized arrangements for organized Return Transportation for PSN	Liaison with LRC/SARC and other partners on cross-border organized transport for persons with heightened protection need, requiring specialized arrangements for return	UNHCR, IOM	General Security Office (GSO)	Cross-border coordination with Syrian caretaker authorities for reception, and with UNHCR Syria for handover required, including coordination on return routes and transit terminals at destination; including onward referral of PSN to available partners and services.
Protection-sensitive humanitarian border management		Rehabilitation of border posts	Rehabilitation of border posts at official crossing points	IOM, UNHCR, SCI	General Security Office (GSO)	

**Sector: Education**

Activity	Sector Result (Outcome & Output)	Sub-Activity	Brief Description	Agencies	Relevant Government Institution	Cross-border Enablers
Academic Documentation		Advocacy with MEHE on fast-track academic transcripts	<p>"• Advocacy with Government on fast-track procedures to access academic transcripts</p> <p>Coordinate with WoS education cluster and the Lebanese government to support returning children's education continuity, including for Lebanese education certificate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address administrative and academic challenges to facilitate seamless reintegration into the Syrian education system.</li> </ul> <p>For PRS, includes ensuring PRS students able to have academic certificates to leave Lebanon and register in Syria, refer students to UNRWA schools in Syria, ensure children with specific needs referred to UNRWA services in Syria. "</p>	UNHCR, UNICEF, NRC, SCI, UNRWA (PRS)	Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)	Mapping of evidentiary requirements for academic documentation inside Syria.
		Cross-border referral	<p>Collaboration with UNICEF/WFP Syria and the Lebanese government, to ensure that children both Syrian and PRS returning from Lebanon to Syria can continue their education without disruption. Efforts will focus on overcoming administrative and academic challenges to facilitate their seamless reintegration into the Syrian education system, including support for their enrollment to formal education in Syria.</p>	UNICEF, SCI, WFP, UNRWA (PRS)		

**Sector: Health**

Activity	Sector Result (Outcome & Output)	Sub-Activity	Brief Description	Agencies	Relevant Government Institution	Cross-border Enablers
Pre-return health screening		Pre-return health screening	<p>"Referrals or returnees with chronic and acute medical cases</p> <p>Screening and identification of vulnerable individuals ((HHs with Children Under Two (CU2), CU5, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG))</p> <p>Humanitarian border management (health surveillance at official border crossing points)</p> <p>For PRS, this would happen through UNRWA Health centers. "</p>	WFP, UNICEF, IOM, UNRWA (PRS)	Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)	P.S. All pre-departure fitness to travel checks conducted up to 72 hours before departure by IOM (if refugees come back to return centers for that fine, but will not happen at the initial point of them putting their names down for return which as far as I understood was around a week before. This includes immunization (to be further discussed with UNICEF regarding children). There will be a gap though on treatment referral for children.

Activity	Sector Result (Outcome & Output)	Sub-Activity	Brief Description	Agencies	Relevant Government Institution	Cross-border Enablers
Pre-return health intervention		Medical intervention	"Medication Supply 3 months for chronic cases - Target = 3,400 + lifesaving interventions for acute medical conditions target = 235 For PRS, depending on availability of funds, UNRWA will seek to secure 2-3 months supply of medication for chronic cases"	IOM, UNRWA (PRS)		Cross-border, inter-agency referral mechanisms to partners and services inside Syria required.
		Vaccination	"Primary health care services including vaccination, acute medications and malnutrition screening provided to children at Return Spaces (Reception Center or designated CDCs) through PSU (PHC satellite unit). For PRS children, access to vaccinations will be through UNRWA Health centers."	UNICEF, UNRWA (PRS)	Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)	
		Nutrition	"Nutrition screening, micronutrients supplementation and energy-based supplies for children under five and PBW Nutrition counselling and IYCF messages for caregivers of children under 5 Children and pregnant women identified with wasting will be provided with nutrition treatment (supplies for 2 weeks) and referrals to services in Syria For PRS, identification and referral of pregnant women from UNRWA Lebanon to UNRWA Syria. Provision of items will depend on availability of funds "	UNICEF, LRC, IOCC, UNRWA (PRS)		

### Sector: WASH

Activity	Sector Result (Outcome & Output)	Sub-Activity	Brief Description	Agencies	Relevant Government Institution	Cross-border Enablers
Latrines		Latrines and sanitation facilities	"Installation of gender segregated latrines, water tanks and tap stands with water trucking and desludging - at Staging Centers Humanitarian border management - Improving sanitation facilities at official border crossing points."	UNICEF, IOM, SCI	Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW)	

# ANNEX 2. PLANNING FIGURES

Category	Cohorts	Projected Population 2026						
		Total	% Female	# Female	% Male	# Male	% Children	# Children
Total Population	Vulnerable Lebanese	3,864,296	52%	1,993,120	48%	1,871,176	29%	1,120,646
	Displaced Syrians	1,120,000	50%	560,273	50%	559,727	52%	582,400
	Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	201,136	52%	104,857	48%	96,279	35%	70,398
	Palestinian Refugees from Syria	23,655	52%	12,332	48%	11,323	40%	9,462
	Migrants	164,097	70%	114,055	30%	50,042	3%	4,923
	Total Population	5,373,184	52%	2,784,637	48%	2,588,547	33%	1,787,828
Population in Need	Vulnerable Lebanese	1,731,554	52%	893,098	48%	838,456	29%	502,151
	Displaced Syrians	961,930	50%	481,199	50%	480,731	52%	500,204
	Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	158,374	52%	82,564	48%	75,810	35%	55,431
	Palestinian Refugees from Syria	19,610	52%	10,223	48%	9,387	40%	7,844
	Migrants	122,441	70%	85,102	30%	37,339	3%	3,673
	Total Population	2,993,907	52%	1,552,187	48%	1,441,722	35%	1,069,302
Target Population	Vulnerable Lebanese	684,670	52%	356,028	48%	328,642	29%	200,608
	Displaced Syrians	655,671	50%	327,836	50%	327,836	52%	340,949
	Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	95,024	50%	47,132	50%	47,892	35%	33,049
	Palestinian Refugees from Syria	11,766	52%	6,095	48%	5,671	40%	4,745
	Migrants	70,613	70%	49,429	30%	21,184	3%	2,118
	Total Population	1,517,744	52%	786,520	48%	731,224	38%	581,470

# ANNEX 3. PIN AND SEVERITY ESTIMATES

## Key Needs Analysis Highlights

- For 2026, 2.99 million were estimated to be in need of assistance across Lebanon. While this is a decrease from 4.1 million in 2025 (also due to changes in the baseline population including returns to Syria in 2025), the needs remain significant compared to the total population.
- The Sectors with the largest validated PiNs driving the overall PiN figure in several districts are Health and WaSH (for vulnerable Lebanese), Food Security and Agriculture, WaSH and Health (for Displaced Syrians), Health (for PRL/PRS) and Protection/GBV (for Migrants).
- The proportion of people in need out of the population at district or governorate level are largest in Baalbek-El Hermel, South, Nabatieh and Akkar governorates.
- No district in Lebanon was classified in Intersectoral Severity 5. However, compared to the last JIAF severity analysis conducted for 2024, there are fewer districts classified in Intersectoral Severity 3 or 4 although many areas still show a geographic concentration of intersecting needs for different population groups.
- The 10km zone from the border in the South is considered to be in Severity 4 across all population groups due to the persistent barriers and aggravated needs in these areas arising from the last conflict.

## Needs Analysis Exercise

The 2026 LRP was informed by a joint needs analysis exercise using the Joint and Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) methodology,<sup>56</sup> contextualized to support a cross-population analysis for Lebanon, where both humanitarian and stabilization needs are covered under the LRP.

JIAF is a global standard framework for jointly estimating and analyzing humanitarian needs and protection risks. JIAF provides the following information:

- **Definition of the crisis and who it is affecting:** What is driving the crisis (i.e. conflict, climate shocks etc.) and who is affected by it.
- **Estimation of the overall magnitude of humanitarian need,** resulting from the crisis: How many people are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, irrespective of which sectors the needs originate from.
- **Identification of the people and places most in need of assistance and protection:** Which population groups and geographic areas face the most severe needs as a result of the compounding effect of overlapping sectoral needs.

The following JIAF modules or steps were completed in the exercise, which involved UN, NGO and Government partners:

- **Module 1:** Crisis Definition (shocks and scope of analysis)
- **Module 2:** Sector People in Need (PiN) and severity estimation
- **Module 3:** Intersectoral People in Need (PiN) and severity estimation

The following risk assessment matrix provides information, as of early August 2025, on the likelihood and impact of key risks in Lebanon and was used in the identification of shocks (Module 1).

56 For more information on JIAF, see here <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/joint-and-intersectoral-analysis-framework-jiaf-2-technical-manual-july-2024>



The joint needs analysis<sup>57</sup> covered the whole country, relying on a range of data sources (sectoral and multisectoral, primary and secondary, quantitative and qualitative) and takes into account new data on areas affected by the 2024 escalation. Data is disaggregated at district or governorate level, depending on the population groups concerned. Where possible, global clusters were consulted by sectors in the needs analysis process and standard indicators, calculation methods and severity thresholds were used or adapted where relevant to the Lebanon context. Preliminary overall PiN estimates at the district/governorate level were first calculated, and adjusted based on technical judgment and contextual knowledge from field actors.

Overall PiN maps show the distribution of people in need (by population group) in different geographic areas across Lebanon. Compared to 2025, when PiN estimates had to be extrapolated due to the fluid situation and mass displacement driven by the conflict in 2024, new data from recent sectoral and multi-sectoral assessments conducted in 2025 supported the current analysis. Changes in the overall PiN for 2026 also reflect displacement and return trends.

Intersectoral severity maps indicate geographical areas where the level of need is the greatest either due to conflict-related incidents, spillovers from Syria, socioeconomic vulnerability, and/or other drivers, including drought conditions. Intersectoral Severity phases are described as follows:

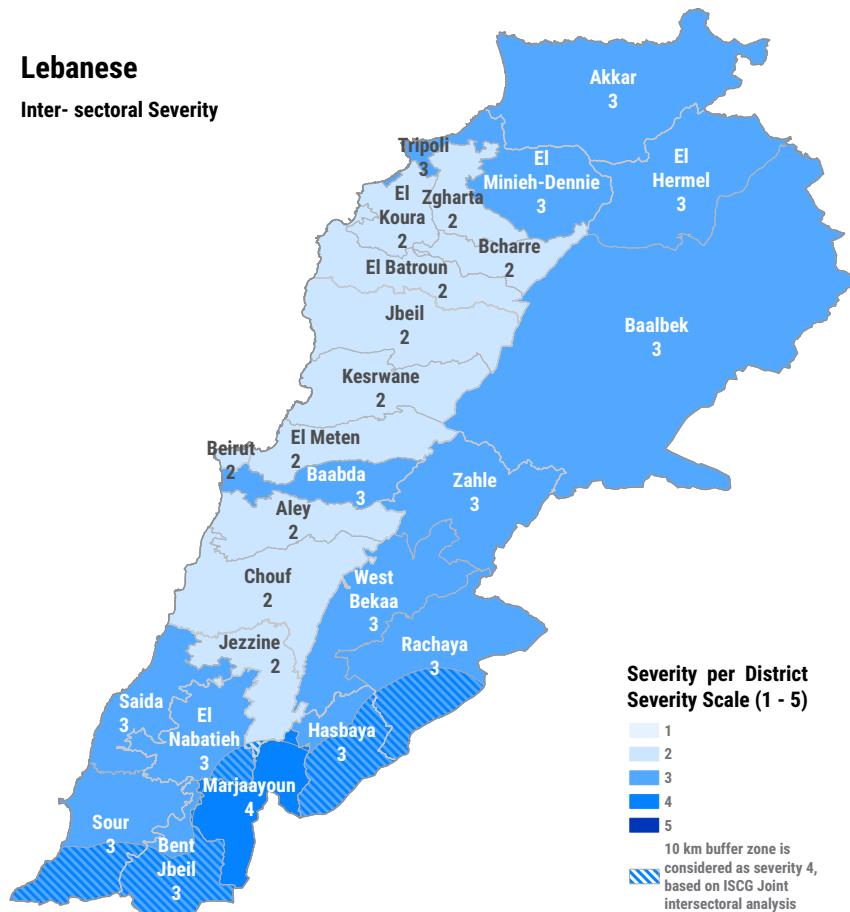
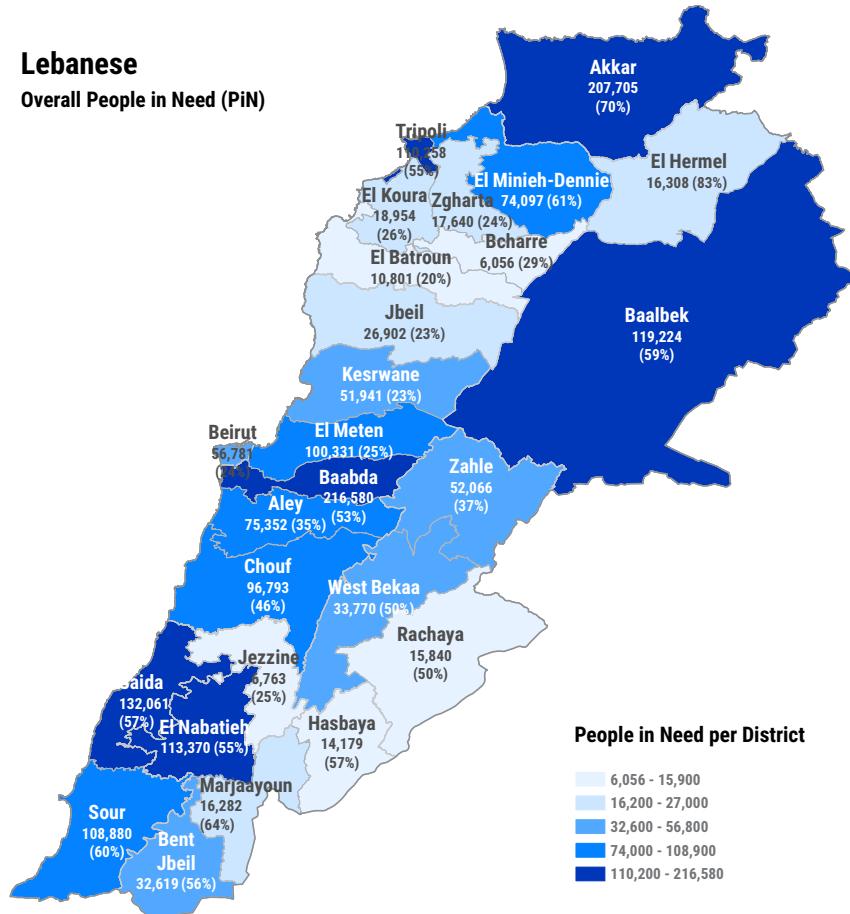
1. (**“Minimal”**): Area has essential basic services and ability to meet basic needs for survival, protection, and dignity
2. (**“Stressed”**): Area has: Deterioration of physical or mental wellbeing Sporadic threats to human rights and/or use of stress coping strategy Stressed basic services and borderline inability to meet basic sectoral needs
3. (**“Severe”**): Area has: Elevated and increasing deterioration of physical or mental wellbeing and human rights, AND Regular threats to human rights and/or accelerated erosion of strategies and/or assets, AND Moderate strain on basic services and moderate inability to meet basic needs for survival, protection, and dignity.
4. (**“Extreme”**): Area has: Elevated mortality or risk of death AND Widespread violations of human rights and/or unsustainable reliance on negative coping strategies, AND High strain on basic services and/or extreme inability to meet basic needs for survival, protection, and dignity.
5. (**“Catastrophic”**): Area has: Widespread mortality or risk of death, AND Widespread and systemic violations of human rights and/ or exhaustion of coping options and mechanisms, AND Collapse of basic services and/or total inability to meet basic needs for survival, protection, and dignity.

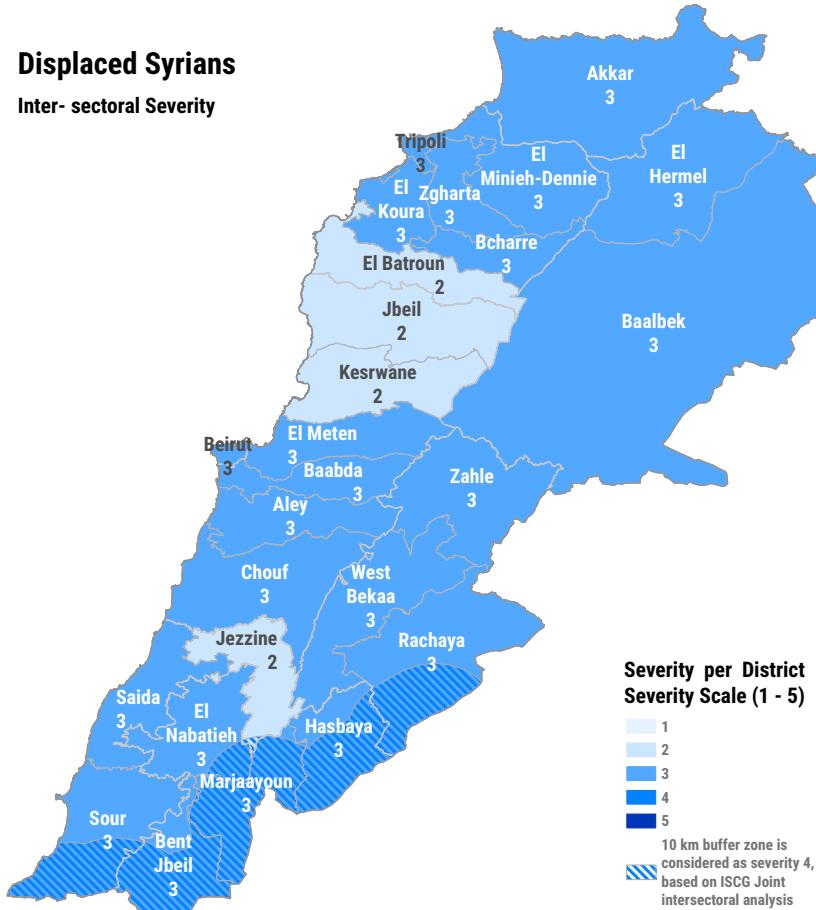
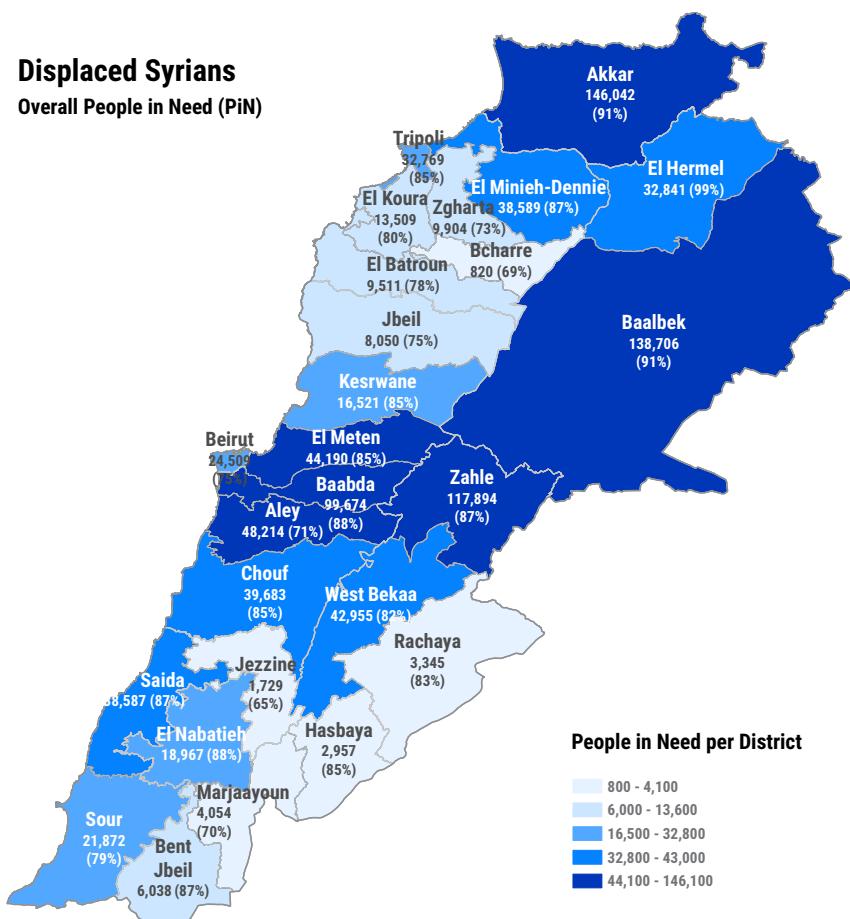
<sup>57</sup> The needs analysis outputs including both sector and inter-sector PiN and Severity estimates can be accessed here [LRP 2026 - List of Indicators, Severity, and PiN by District\\_Governorate.xlsx - تابع جداول Google](https://www.unocha.org/lebanon/lebanon-response-plan-2026-list-indicators-severity-and-pin-district-governorate.xlsx)

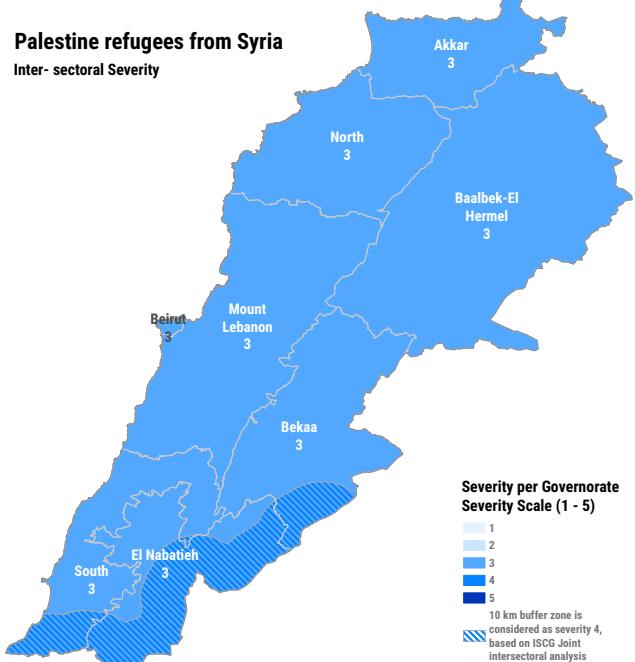
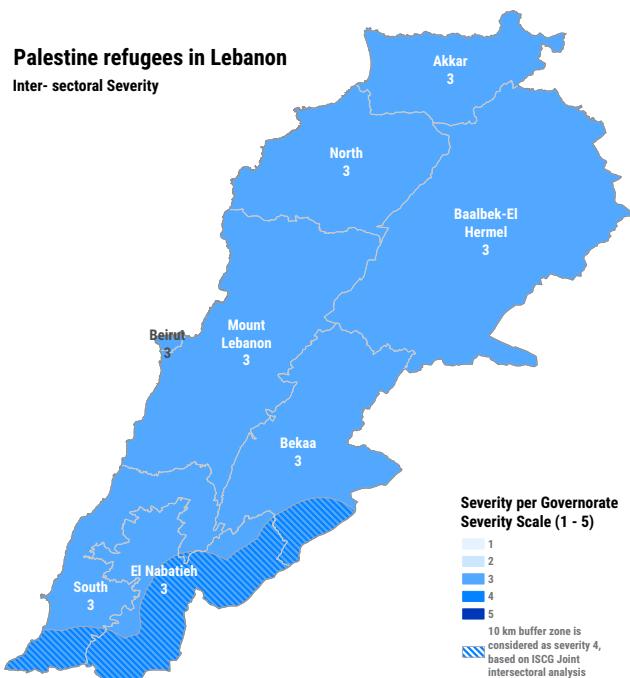
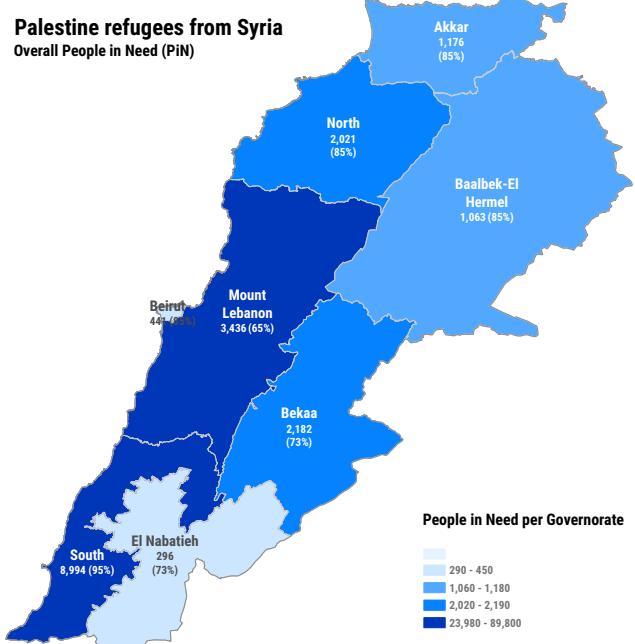
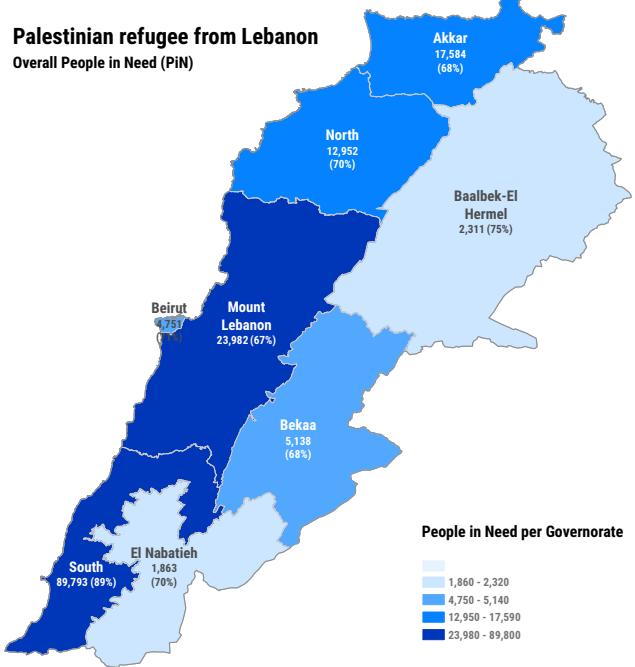
## PiN Estimates

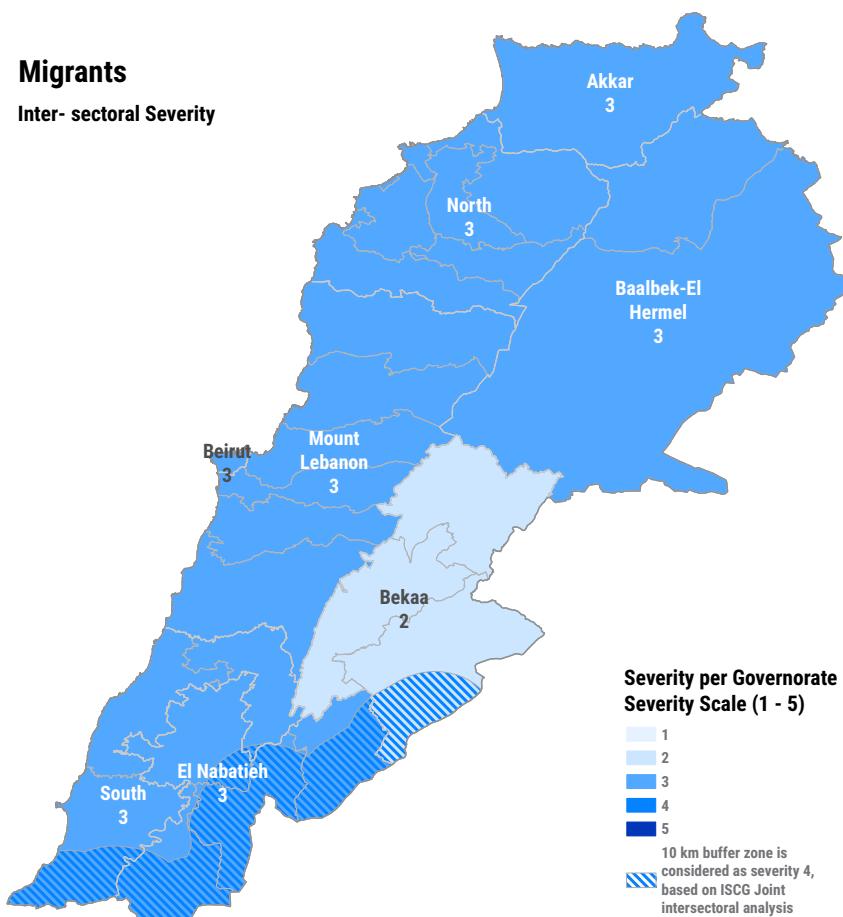
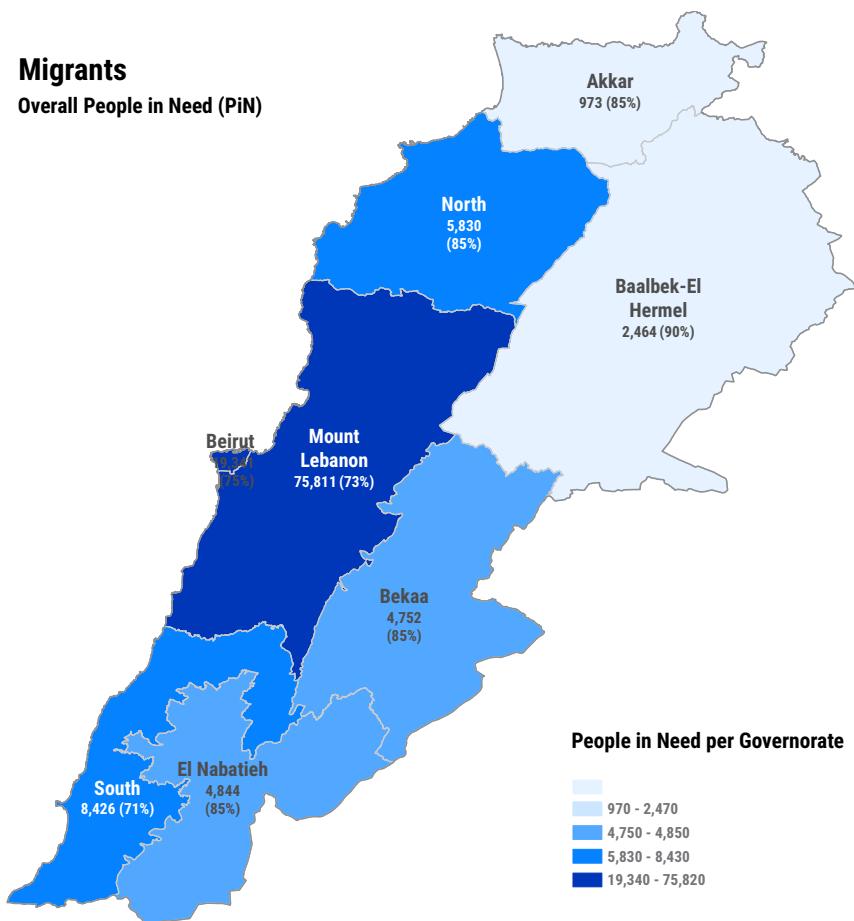
Sectors	Total PiN	Vulnerable Lebanese PiN	Displaced Syrians PiN	PRL PiN	PRS PiN	Migrants PiN
<b>Education</b>	<b>1,016,310</b>	<b>582,139</b>	<b>374,221</b>	<b>49,561</b>	<b>5,885</b>	<b>4,504</b>
<b>Food Security and Agriculture</b>	<b>2,351,774</b>	<b>1,244,338</b>	<b>931,881</b>	<b>106,253</b>	<b>18,632</b>	<b>50,669</b>
<b>Health</b>	<b>3,037,275</b>	<b>1,990,111</b>	<b>805,193</b>	<b>136,149</b>	<b>15,985</b>	<b>89,837</b>
<b>Nutrition</b>	<b>1,048,635</b>	<b>799,207</b>	<b>210,194</b>	<b>26,106</b>	<b>3,310</b>	<b>9,818</b>
<b>Livelihoods</b>	<b>442,526</b>	<b>392,963</b>	<b>47,119</b>	<b>1,313</b>	<b>1,131</b>	
<b>Protection, Child Protection, GBV</b>	<b>2,471,937</b>	<b>999,076</b>	<b>1,109,560</b>	<b>193,041</b>	<b>22,825</b>	<b>147,435</b>
<b>Shelter</b>	<b>1,888,575</b>	<b>1,200,004</b>	<b>577,314</b>	<b>64,948</b>	<b>7,638</b>	<b>38,671</b>
<b>Social Stability</b>	<b>2,804,119</b>	<b>1,295,231</b>	<b>1,120,000</b>	<b>201,136</b>	<b>23,655</b>	<b>164,097</b>
<b>WaSH</b>	<b>2,750,932</b>	<b>1,741,715</b>	<b>789,431</b>	<b>119,777</b>	<b>10,724</b>	<b>89,285</b>
<b>INTERSECTORAL PiN</b>	<b>2,993,909</b>	<b>1,731,554</b>	<b>961,930</b>	<b>158,374</b>	<b>19,610</b>	<b>122,441</b>

## PiN and Severity Maps









## Sector Indicators

No.	Sector	Indicator	Data source
1	Child Protection	Percentage of children (5-17 yo) with no access to school	MSNA, VASyR
2	Child Protection	Percentage of children (5-17 yo) working under at least one hazardous condition	MSNA, VASyR
3	Child Protection	Main Safety and Security concerns for boys and girls (including CWD) reported by HHs	MSNA, VASyR
4	Child Protection	Percentage of households resorting to crisis and/or emergency coPiNg mechanisms when they lacked food or money to buy it	MSNA, VASyR
5	Education	Percentage of children and youth attending any grade during current scholastic year 2024/2025 (3 to 17 years)	MSNA, VASyR
6	Education	Percentage of children age 3-17 whose school was closed due to teacher absence/strike	MSNA, VASyR
7	Education	Percentage of children age 3-17 whose school was closed due to attacks on school/war	MSNA, VASyR
8	Education	Percentage of children age 3-17 out of school because of work at home/violence/war in country	MSNA, VASyR
9	Education	Percentage of children age 3-17 out of school because of worst forms of child labor/child marriage/denial to access school/documentation	MSNA, VASyR
10	Food Security	IPC – Severity (October 2025)	IPC
11	Food Security	Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs combined with Multidimensional poverty (ECMEN + MDDI)	LVAP/LHS, mVAM
12	Food Security	Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs combined with Multidimensional poverty (ECMEN + MDDI)	VASyR, mVAM
13	Food Security	Palestine refugees (ECMEN)	UNRWA - Socio Economic Survey 2023
14	Food Security	Newly arrived Syrian refugees (Blanket for newly arrived IDPs)	EFSVA - Aug 2025
15	Food Security	% of migrants with poor or borderline FCS.	MSNA 2023
16	GBV	% of HH reporting at least one of the following safety and security concerns for girls and women:	MSNA, VASyR
17	GBV	% of HH reported avoiding at least one area in their location	MSNA, VASyR
18	GBV	% of HHs reporting to be aware of GBV prevention/survivor services in their community	MSNA, VASyR
19	GBV	Conflict incidents (as of 29 July 2025)	Population package - ISCG
20	GBV	Lebanese population Severity threshold	Severity Threshold
21	GBV	Syrian Displaced, PRL, PRS, Migrant populations Severity threshold	Severity Threshold
22	Health	Number of supported health facilities (primary-level 2) per 50,000 population – considered damaged health facilities.	MoPH
23	Health	Percentage of communities reporting facing barriers to accessing needed health care services.	RHA
24	Health	Proportion of communities reporting delays or avoidance in seeking health care due to cost.	RHA
25	Health	Multi-sectoral high risk response score.	MoPH
26	Health	Proportion of households that experienced barriers to obtaining required medication.	MSNA, VASyR
27	Health	Percentage of households reporting awareness of health services offered at nearby primary health care centers (PHCs) or hospitals.	RHA
28	Health	Percentage of women having given birth in the last 2 years received antenatal care less than 4 times during pregnancy.	MSNA, VASyR
29	Health	Percentage of households with children who received all age-appropriate vaccinations.	MSNA, VASyR
30	Livelihoods	The number of people within the working age group (15 – 64)	MSNA
31	Livelihoods	The Labour force participation rate (LFPR)	ILO
32	Livelihoods	The unemployment rate	ILO
33	Livelihoods	The number of people within the working age group (18 – 64)	VASyR
34	Livelihoods	The Labour force participation rate (LFPR)	VASyR
35	Livelihoods	The unemployment rate	VASyR
36	Livelihoods	The Labour force participation rate (LFPR)	MSNA
37	Livelihoods	The unemployment rate	MSNA
38	Livelihoods	Livelihoods sector severity indicator - Lebanese	PiN Indicator
39	Livelihoods	Livelihoods sector severity indicator - Syrian, PRL/PRS, Migrants	PiN Indicator
40	Nutrition	Number of children 0-59 months old to be screened for wasting	LIMA
41	Nutrition	Number of Pregnant and breastfeeding women to be screened for wasting	LIMA
42	Nutrition	Number of school age children and adolescents in need of education and awareness raising activities on healthy nutrition	LIMA
43	Nutrition	Number of adolescent girls age 15-19 years in need of Micronutrient supplemetnation	LIMA
44	Nutrition	Minimum Dietary Diversity in children 6-23 months	LIMA
45	Nutrition	Prevalence of overweight in children 0-59 months	LIMA
46	Nutrition	Integrated Phase Classification IPC	IPC
47	Protection	% of individuals above 15 years old without legal residency	MSNA, VASyR
48	Protection	% of HH reporting women and girls/ boys and men feeling unsafe walking in their neighbourhood	MSNA, VASyR
49	Protection	% of HH worrying about exploitation when accessing services	MSNA, VASyR

No.	Sector	Indicator	Data source
50	Protection	% of HHs reporting difficulties in accessing services due to the presence of protection threats in the community in the last 3 months	MSNA, VASyR
51	Protection	Conflict incidents (as of 29 July 2025)	Population package - ISCG
52	Shelter	Fully/ partially damaged shelters	MSNA + UNHabitat
53	Shelter	% of HH living in dangerous shelter conditions	MSNA, VASyR
54	Shelter	% of HH living in substandard shelter conditions	MSNA, VASyR
55	Shelter	% of HH living in overcrowded conditions	MSNA, VASyR
56	Shelter	% of HH by number of shelter issues reported	MSNA, VASyR
57	Shelter	% of HH living in substandard + dangerous shelter conditions	MSNA, UNRWA
58	Social Stability	Perceptions about current relations between different Lebanese groups who live in this area (%) (Negative/Very Negative)	UNDP Regular Perception Survey
59	Social Stability	Perceptions about current relations between Lebanese and Syrians who live in this area (%) (Negative/Very Negative)	UNDP Regular Perception Survey
60	Social Stability	Concerns about threat of crime (%)	UNDP Regular Perception Survey
61	Social Stability	Safety of neighborhood during the day (%) (Unsafe / Very Unsafe)	UNDP Regular Perception Survey
62	Social Stability	100% of total population	As Last Year
63	Social Stability	Social Stability Composite indicator (combines first 4 indicators)	UNDP Regular Perception Survey
64	Social Stability	Distribution of contaminated field across the country (mines/UXOs) (%)	Social Stability Sector - HMA
65	WaSH	% of HHs having access to a sufficient quantity of water for drinking, cooking, bathing, washing or other domestic use	MSNA
66	WaSH	% of HHs having access to a sufficient quantity of water for drinking, cooking, bathing, washing or other domestic use	VASyR
67	WaSH	% of HHs having access to water sources of sufficient quality and availability	MSNA, VASyR
68	WaSH	% of HHs having sufficient access to a functional and improved sanitation facility	MSNA, VASyR
69	WaSH	% of HHs having access to sufficient handwashing facilities	MSNA, VASyR

# ANNEX 4. ACRONYMS

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations	GoL	Government of Lebanon
AAPWG	Accountability to Affected Populations Working Group	GSO	General Security Office
AAWG	Assessment and Analysis Working Group	GWG	Gender Working Group
AFI	Acute Food Insecurity	HBS	Household Budget Survey
ANC	Antenatal Care	HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
AWG	Access Working Group	HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
BA	Basic Assistance	HDP	Humanitarian-Development-Peace
CBO	Community-Based Organization	HLP	Housing, Land and Property
CDR	Collaborative Dispute Resolution	IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
CF	Cooperation Framework	ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CMCoord	Cell Civil Military Coordination Cell	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
CMR	Clinical Management of Rape	IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
CP	Child Protection	IEC	Information, Education and Communication
CRI	Core Relief Items	IHL	International Humanitarian Law
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	ILO	International Labour Organization
CVA	Cash and Voucher Assistance	IM	Information Management
CWG	Cash Working Group	IMF	International Monetary Fund
DGLAC	General Directorate of Local Administrations and Councils	IMWG	Information Management Working Group
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix	ISCG	Inter-Sector Coordination Group
DSWG	Durable Solutions Working Group	ISF	Internal Security Forces
ECD	Early Childhood Development	IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
ECMEN	Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs	IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
EFSVA	Emergency Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment	JIAF	Joint and Intersectoral Analysis Framework
ERPIS	Enhanced Refugee Perceptions and Intentions Survey	LAF	Lebanese Armed Forces
ESSN	Emergency Social Safety Net	LEAP	Lebanon Economic Advancement and Prosperity
ESU	Epidemiological Surveillance Unit	LHS	Lebanon Household Survey
EU	European Union	LIMA	Lebanon Integrated Micronutrient, Anthropometric and Child Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	LMAC	Lebanon Mine Action Centre
FCS	Food Consumption Score	LPSP	Long-Term Primary Healthcare Subsidization Protocol
FHH	Female-Headed Households	LRP	Lebanon Response Plan
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale	LWG	Logistics Working Group
FP	Focal Point	MDDI	Multidimensional Deprivation Index
FSA	Food Security and Agriculture	MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	MEHE	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
GBVIMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System	MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
		MMU	Mobile Medical Unit
		MoA	Ministry of Agriculture

MoE Ministry of Environment	UN United Nations
MoEW Ministry of Energy and Water	UNDP United Nations Development Programme
MoIM Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
MoPH Ministry of Public Health	UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
MoSA Ministry of Social Affairs	UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund
MPCA Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance	UNOCHA United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
MSME Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	UNRWA United Nations Relief and Works Agency
MSNA Multi-Sector Needs Assessment	UNSDCF United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
NAS National Agriculture Strategy	USD United States Dollar
NDA National Disability Allowance	VASyR Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees
NGO Non-Governmental Organization	WaSH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
NPTP National Poverty Targeting Program	WBD Waterborne Disease
ODA Official Development Assistance	WE Water Establishment
OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	WB World Bank
PAM Protection Analysis and Monitoring	WFP World Food Programme
PBW Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women	WG Working Group
PHC Primary Health Care	WHO World Health Organization
PHCC Primary Health Care Center	WLO Women-Led Organization
PiN People in Need	WPS Women, Peace, and Security
PRL Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	WRO Women's Rights Organization
PRS Palestinian Refugees from Syria	
PSEA Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	
PSU Primary Healthcare Satellite Units	
PWD Persons with Disabilities	
RC Resident Coordinator	
RCCE Risk Communication and Community Engagement	
RF Repatriation Form	
RP Return Plan	
RPIS Refugee Perceptions and Intentions Survey	
SAC Social Assistance Committee	
SC Steering Committee	
SDC Service Delivery Centers	
SDG Sustainable Development Goal	
SEA Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	
SME Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises	
SMEB Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket	
SOP Standard Operating Procedure	
SRH Sexual and Reproductive Health	
SRSN Shock Responsive Social Safety Net	
SWM Solid Waste Management	
TBC To be Confirmed	
TBD To be Determined	
TF Task Force	
TMS Tensions Monitoring System	
TVET Technical and Vocational Education and Training	



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