



LEBANON CRISIS

Response Plan

2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reference Map	5
Part I: Lebanon Crisis Response Strategy	6
1. Executive Summary	7
2. At a Glance	8
3. Situation Analysis	9
4. Response Strategy	16
5. Response Monitoring and Evaluation	27
Part II: Operational Response Plans	35
1. Basic Assistance	36
2. Education	49
3. Energy	62
4. Food Security & Agriculture	70
5. Health	78
6. Nutrition	100
7. Livelihoods	119
8. Protection	131
9. Shelter	151
10. Social Stability	167
11. Water	184
Part III: Annexes	202
1. 2023 Planning Figures	203
2. Acronyms	204



Terminology in the LCRP

The UN characterises the flight of civilians from Syria as a refugee movement and considers that these Syrians are seeking international protection and are likely to meet the refugee definition.

The Government of Lebanon considers that it is being subject to a situation of mass influx. It refers to individuals who fled from Syria into its territory after March 2011 as temporarily displaced individuals and reserves its sovereign right to determine their status according to Lebanese laws and regulations.

The Lebanon Crisis 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” and;
4. “Palestine refugees from Lebanon” (referring to 180,000 PRL living in 12 camps and 156 gatherings) and;
5. “Palestinian refugees from Syria” (referring to 31,400 PRS across Lebanon).

Appealing Partners in 2023

ABAAD, ACF Spain, ACTED, ADRA, AICA, Akkarouna, Al Fayhaa, Al Majmouaa, Al Makassed, Al Midan, Al-Liqaa El-Elmi, AMEL, Ana Aqra, AND, ANERA, Arche Nova, ARCS, AVSI, B&Z, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CESVI, CISP, CLDH, CONCERN, COOPI, DCA, DPNA, DRC, Fair Trade Lebanon, FAO, Farah Social Foundation, FISTA, Ghawth, Ghirass for Society Development, HAND, Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, HelpAge, Humani-terra, Humanity and Inclusion, ICU, ILO, IMC, INARA, Injaz, INMAA, Insan, International Alert, Intersos, IOCC Lebanon, IOM, IRC, Islamic Women’s Association, ISWA, Jafra Foundation, JRS, KAFA, Key of Life, Leb Relief, Lebanese Association for Scientific Research - LAsER, Lebanese National Energy - LNE, LEE Experience, LHEE, Live Love Lebanon, LOST, LRI, LSESD, MAG, Magna Lebanon, MCC, MDM, MDSF, MEDAIR, Mercy Corps, Mercy USA, Migration Services and Development - MSD, Mouvement Social, Nahnoo, NAWA, Near East Foundation, NRC, Nusaned, OXFAM, PCPM, Plan International, PU-AMI, RESTART Lebanon, RI, RMF, Salam LADC, SAWA, SBT, SCI, SFCG, Shafak Lebanon, shareQ, SHEILD, SIDC, SIF, SSSE, Tabitha-Dorcas, Tahaddi Lebanon, TdH-It, TdH-L, Tearfund, Threads of Peace - House of Peace, UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNRWA, WATAD Association, WFP, WHO, WRF, WVI

Produced by the Government of Lebanon and the United Nations, January 2023.

For more information, contact LCRP General Supervisor Ola Boutros at olaboutros@gmail.com, and Senior Inter-Agency Coordinators Michael Schaadt at michael.schaadt@undp.org and Camilla Jelbart at camilla.jelbart@unhcr.org

REFERENCE MAP



LOCATION DIAGRAM



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



PART 1

LEBANON CRISIS RESPONSE PLAN OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AT A GLANCE

SITUATION ANALYSIS

RESPONSE STRATEGY

RESPONSE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

More than 12 years since the start of the conflict in Syria, Lebanon remains at the forefront of one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time. The country hosts the highest number of displaced persons per capita and per square kilometre in the world and continues to demonstrate tremendous commitment and hospitality to displaced Syrians and vulnerable populations within its borders. Lebanon constitutes a unique case as a host country, further facing the devastating impact of the unprecedented economic, financial, social and health crises of the last few years. Lebanon hosts an estimated 1.5 million Syrians who have fled the conflict in Syria, along with 180,000 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)^[1] and 31,400 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS). These populations live across all governorates in Lebanon. Since 2015, Lebanon has received over US\$9.3 billion in support for displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian refugees and public institutions under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP).

The assistance, which ranges across humanitarian and stabilization interventions, is made possible by donor contributions and implemented by humanitarian, Government, and development partners under the LCRP, along with the exceptional hospitality of Lebanese communities. It has brought substantial and vitally needed support across all sectors and has prevented an even greater deterioration of living conditions for the poorest groups.

Achievements under the LCRP and through the Government of Lebanon, to date, include: support to Lebanese public institutions and critical infrastructure, such as water and waste management; a wide range of initiatives helping municipalities address livelihoods and service provision for their communities and support to mitigate tensions at the local level; extensive cash assistance bringing life-saving support to the poorest groups while boosting the local economy; support to health centres and hospitals around the country; substantial advances in helping the Government of Lebanon enrol children in public schools every year; and contributions to a protective environment for vulnerable people, including an annual improvement in the registration of Syrian births.

The crisis in Syria continues to impact the situation in Lebanon, including in relation to the economy, institutions, and people across the country. Since 2019, Lebanon has simultaneously faced an unprecedented and multifaceted economic, financial, social and health crisis, that is likely to rank among the top ten most severe crises globally since the mid-nineteenth century, according to the World Bank. Vulnerable populations supported under the LCRP have been deeply affected by a sharp increase in socio-economic needs, gaps in critical supply chains and limitations on access to food, healthcare, education, employment and other basic services, while at the same time facing depreciation of the Lebanese Pound high inflation rates. 2022 saw fresh challenges compounding the crisis for vulnerable families, including an outbreak of cholera. The Lebanon Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Food Insecurity Analysis indicates that, between September and December 2022, around 1.98 million Lebanese residents and displaced Syrians were in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above and in urgent need of humanitarian action to reduce food gaps, protect and restore livelihoods and prevent acute malnutrition.

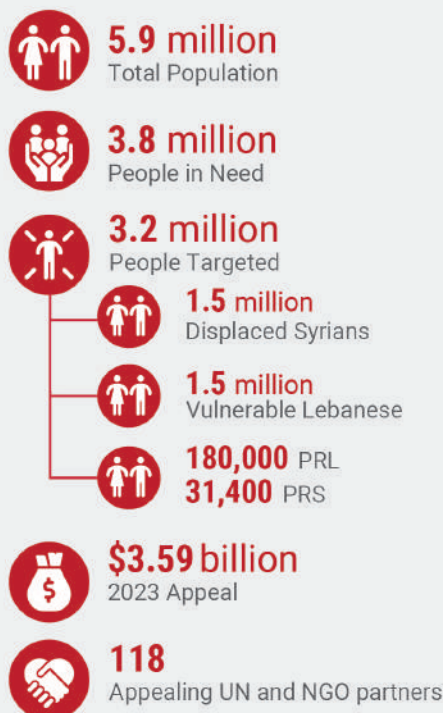
In 2023^[2], the LCRP will continue to respond to these challenges in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner through medium-term, multi-year planning to achieve the following strategic objectives: ensure the protection of displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, and Palestinian refugees; provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations; support service provision through national systems and reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability.

^[1] The UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) estimates a higher number of Palestine Refugees in Lebanon in their 2023 Emergency Appeal. The LCRP planning figure is based on the census conducted by the Government's Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC), as agreed with the Government of Lebanon.

^[2] The 2023 edition of the LCRP is a continuation of the LCRP Steering Committee approved 2022 to 2023 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan.

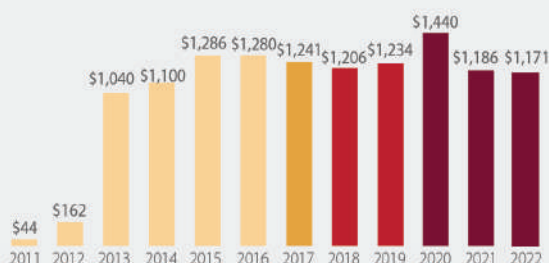
AT A GLANCE

2023 PLANNING FIGURES



DONOR CONTRIBUTION

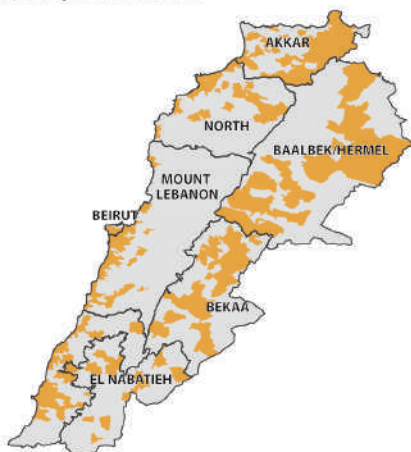
Overall Funding Received
(in \$US million)



The figures are as of Q3 2022
Source: Financial Tracking Service (FTS) and LCRP financial tracking.

THE 332 LOCALITIES IN LEBANON

that host the highest number of displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees, and deprived Lebanese



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



Ensure protection of vulnerable populations



Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations



Support service provision through national systems



Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability

2023 TARGET & REQUIREMENT BY SECTOR

SECTORS	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	PEOPLE TARGETED
Food Security & Agriculture	1300m*	2,948,400
Basic Assistance	494m	2,338,900
Education	363m	884,267
Health	318m	2,689,980
Livelihoods	248m	99,325
Protection	235m	1,939,736
Water	207m	2,290,903
Social Stability	171m	3,249,772
Shelter	115m	681,312
Energy	99m	678,487
Nutrition	45m	832,162

*including ERP

FUNDING TREND



2. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Overview

More than twelve years since the start of the conflict in Syria, the impact of the situation continues to rebound in Lebanon, compounding the effects of the unprecedented multi-faceted crisis that faces people and institutions across the country^[3]. Lebanon continues to host the highest number of refugees per capita and per square kilometre in the world. Displaced Syrians live in 97 per cent of municipalities across the country. All populations targeted under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) have been deeply affected by a sharp increase in poverty, gaps in supply chains for electricity and goods and limitations on access to food, healthcare, education and other basic services. These populations include displaced Syrians and Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS), alongside vulnerable Lebanese and Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) within the host community. The recent outbreak of cholera underlines the fragile state of critical infrastructure and services in Lebanon, including water and wastewater treatment, which are at risk of collapse without urgent support and sustainable solutions over the long term.

The situation analysis below draws upon several assessments and studies produced in 2022, in addition to the insights of operational partners honed through joint analysis across the humanitarian and development community. Key assessments coordinated with sectors include the Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (UNCHR/WFP/UNICEF), the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (OCHA/REACH), the Regular Perceptions Survey of Social Tensions throughout Lebanon (UNDP/ARK) and Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Food Insecurity Analysis (led by WFP/FAO). Such data and analysis have been verified through extensive field consultations with partners. The collection of additional data becomes imperative to assess the impact and cost of the displacement crisis on all sectors in Lebanon, to better address the needs of refugees and displaced people in Lebanon and to implement the principle of burden and responsibility sharing, as stipulated in the Global Compact on Refugees.

Socio-economic impact on vulnerable women, girls, boys and men

Since 2019, Lebanon has faced an unprecedented financial and economic crisis that is likely to rank among the top

ten most severe crises globally since the mid-nineteenth century, according to the World Bank. Due to Lebanon's high reliance on imports for basic goods and commodities, the fluctuation and depreciation of the local currency has had a direct effect on prices, namely high levels of inflation with the year-on-year inflation rate reaching 158 per cent in October 2022^[4]. The Lebanese Pound (LBP) has continuously depreciated since October 2019, impacting both the prices of goods and services in the country and limiting the purchasing power of individuals. The informal market rate for the LBP averaged 43,370 to the U.S. Dollar (USD) in December 2022.



Member of a cooperative and women groups from Lebanon part of the FAO project Support to Womens Coop - FAO, 2022


The Survival and Minimum Expenditure Baskets (S/MEB) have served as main indicators to monitor the costs of living in Lebanon. The price of the S/MEB increased by more than 652 per cent between June 2020 and September 2022, including by 92 per cent in 2022 alone. A quarter of Lebanese employees were earning less than 20 per cent of the S/MEB. Inflation, coupled with lack of income, has pushed families deeper into poverty, leaving them unable to meet their basic survival needs, and continues to contribute to coping mechanisms such as reduced food consumption, child labour, debt accrual and child marriage. This is especially concerning for households that have specific needs and increased expenditure, including the elderly and individuals with a disability, who have higher medical needs and expenses than the average individual.

Findings from the 2022 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) show that among displaced Syrians, 90 per cent of families need assistance to meet their basic survival needs. The percentage of households under the S/MEB is higher for female-headed households (FHH) (93 per cent) than male-headed households (MHH) (89 per cent) if assistance is excluded. A large proportion of families were reducing spending on health and education as well as selling assets. Income generated through work was not able to compensate with the rise in prices. While average income among displaced Syrians increased in 2022, reaching USD 60, the rate was not comparable to the national inflation rates. The incomes of male-headed households were 57 per cent higher than that of female-

^[3] Please see map (<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/96471>) for details of the 332 localities that host the highest number of displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees and deprived Lebanese.

^[4] Central Administration of Statistics http://www.cas.gov.lb/images/PDFs/CPI/2022/10-CPI_OCTOBER2022.pdf.

headed households, and a smaller proportion of females participated in the workforce.



The price of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket increased by more than **652%** between June 2020 and September 2022

WFP Market Monitor - S/MEB dashboard

In order to deal with the lack of food or the resources to buy it, households have adopted both consumption-based and livelihood-based negative coping strategies. This includes opting to reduce portion sizes and the number of meals eaten per day, as well as the reduction of expenditures on health and education, purchasing food on credit and borrowing cash^[5].

In 2023, the food insecurity situation is expected to continue deteriorating. Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Food Insecurity Analysis conducted in September 2022 shows that people living in areas with the highest levels of IPC Phase 3 and 4 classification, for both Lebanese and Syrian refugees, are at particular risk. In the Akkar governorate, more than 67 per cent of the population is expected to be in a food insecurity 'crisis' in the beginning of 2023. The refugee population in this area is expected to fall into an 'emergency level' of food insecurity, even with anticipated humanitarian assistance.

In 2021, more than half of the Lebanese population was reported to be living under the national poverty line. This increased by 9.1 per cent at the end of 2021, compared to the beginning of the year^[6]. Palestinian refugees, both from Syria and in Lebanon, are severely impacted by the ongoing crises. UNRWA's Crisis Monitoring Report, a socio-economic survey conducted in September 2022, showed that 93 per cent of Palestine refugees in Lebanon are living below the poverty line, up from 86 per cent in March 2022.

The crisis has compromised maternal, infant and young child feeding and nutrition as well as increased the risk of malnutrition among vulnerable groups^[7]. The 2021 National Nutrition 'SMART' (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely) Survey indicated that wasting is low across all surveyed groups^[8], stunting is low nationally, medium in Beirut and Palestinian camps and high in informal settlements. Findings indicate that an estimated 800,000 children are not meeting minimum acceptable diets.

[5] Lebanon m-VAM Vulnerability and Food Security Assessment.


[6] World Bank (2022). Lebanon Economic Update, April 2022: <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/0aad08f40c2fdc3d62e5531925452384-0280012022/original/9-mpo-sm22-lebanon-lbn-kcm5.pdf>.

[7] According to the World Health Organization, malnutrition refers to deficiencies or excesses in nutrient intake, imbalance of essential nutrients or impaired nutrient utilization. The double burden of malnutrition consists of both undernutrition and overweight and obesity, as well as diet-related noncommunicable diseases. Undernutrition manifests in four broad forms: wasting, stunting, underweight, and micronutrient deficiencies.

[8] Syrian refugees and refugees of other nationalities and Lebanese households.

The Lebanese unemployment rate more than doubled from 11.4 per cent in 2018-19 to 29.6 per cent in 2022 and the labour force participation rate declined from 48.8 per cent to 43.4 per cent. Moreover, in January 2022, 23 per cent of employees were earning less than 1,066,700LBP, and were thus considered low-pay workers, as compared to 21.8 per cent in 2018-19^[9]. Furthermore, 62 per cent of Lebanese households reported facing challenges affording basic needs due to lost or reduced employment^[10]. Like previous years, the unemployment rate for women stood at 32.7 per cent, 4 percentage points higher than the unemployment rate for men at 28.4 per cent. Women's labour force participation rate was 22.2 per cent (compared to 66.2 per cent for men). The youth unemployment rate was close to double that of adults at 47.8 per cent versus 25.6 per cent. While unemployment increased nationally, Baalbek-Hermel experienced a sharp increase from 11 per cent in 2018-19 to 40.7 per cent in January 2022^[11].

Child poverty is on the rise in Lebanon, in line with overall poverty rates. A UNICEF report from August 2022^[12] highlighted, among other issues, the following statistics: 38 per cent of households reduced their expenditures on education, compared to 26 per cent in April 2021; 23 per cent of children had gone to bed hungry in the three months prior to the survey; 60 per cent of households cut spending on health treatment, up from 42 per cent in April 2021, and 70 per cent of households now borrow money to buy food or purchase it on credit.



Among displaced Syrians, **90%** of families need assistance to meet their basic survival needs

VASyR 2022

Access to Services

Lebanon's health system is confronting compounded shocks, which are altering the national health system in fundamental ways. Following many continuous years of addressing health needs across populations, the overstretched health system has struggled to bear the pressure caused by the growing demand for public healthcare, the scarcity of resources (including energy, human resources, medical equipment and medication) and increased financial hardship. Most health indicators are worsening. Maternal and neonatal mortality are increasing, vaccination coverage is declining sharply, and access to hospitalisation has dropped by at least 15 per cent. In October 2022, Lebanon experienced its first cholera outbreak in nearly three decades, following the detection

[9] Lebanon Follow-up Labour Force Survey – January 2022: Factsheet: https://www.ilo.org/beirut/publications/WCMS_844837/lang-en/index.htm.

[10] Reach Lebanon Multisector Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2021 - <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/multi-sector-needs-assessment-ms-na-key-findings-livelihoods-march-2022>.

[11] Ibid.

[12] UNICEF Deprived childhoods - Child poverty in crisis-wracked Lebanon <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/reports/deprived-childhoods>.

of the first laboratory-confirmed case. Exacerbated by the prolonged crises, the outbreak adds significant pressure on the already exhausted national health system. Most hospitals and health facilities are operating at 50 per cent of their capacity, and the migration of well-trained human resources for health has accelerated. Meanwhile, affordability remains the main barrier to accessing health care services, particularly for people with disabilities. Additional barriers that continue to hinder the accessibility and timely use of services in Lebanon at the supply-and-demand levels are related to availability, geographical accessibility, and acceptability. Mental health concerns are on the rise, with an increased percentage of adolescent girls and boys and caretakers experiencing high levels of stress. Nearly all cases of mental health issues cite the family's economic situation as the cause. Women are more likely to report symptoms of stress and anxiety compared to men. In August 2022, through the UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV, dissatisfaction with health services exceeded previous years, with 67 per cent assessing the current quality of health services in their area as poor or worse.



Joud one year old receiving his polio vaccine - MoPH, 2022

The Education sector has been severely impacted by the public health and socio-economic crises, with ongoing school closures preventing the most marginalised girls and boys from advancing their education. The situation has contributed to the further de-prioritisation of education by households and the disruption of learning for all population groups. In addition, competition for access to services has exacerbated social tensions in the community: 29.6 per cent of Lebanese and 33 per cent of displaced Syrians reported competition for services and utilities, 7 per cent of which were related to education. The economic crisis has also affected the wellbeing and motivation of teachers, and at the school level, inflation has meant that services and supplies are more expensive than ever. A continuous rise in negative coping mechanisms, such as child labour (mainly affecting boys), and child marriage (mainly affecting adolescent girls), are depriving many of their right to education. Among displaced Syrian children enrolled in schools, the most commonly reported reasons for not attending school for children of both genders aged 3 to 17 were the cost of transportation to school (34 per cent), an increase of 5 percentage points compared to 2021, and the cost of educational materials (29 per cent).

Additionally, thirty-one per cent of boys reported that they were working.

The 2022 VASyR found that 58 per cent of the displaced Syrian population reside in inadequate, substandard shelters. This equates to 870,000 individuals living in shelters that are either overcrowded, have conditions below humanitarian standards, and/or are in danger of collapse. Most displaced Syrians reside in residential structures (70 per cent), 21 per cent in non-permanent shelters, including in informal settlements, and 10 per cent in non-residential structures. The rental situation has worsened for both renters and owners, Lebanese and non-Lebanese alike, as poor households are increasingly unable to afford rental costs due to high inflation and the need to prioritise health and food costs. Meanwhile, 4 per cent of measurable dollarised rent was recorded in June 2022 for the first time, with reports from field partners that up to 30 per cent of rents had been dollarised in some areas by the fall of 2022^[13]. This is primarily attributed to property owners looking to preserve the value of an increasingly important income stream^[14]. Meanwhile, 11 per cent of displaced Syrian households changed accommodations within the last 12 months, down from 15 per cent in 2020 and 2021. The observed drop in mobility is potentially linked to several factors, including increased competition and lack of supply of lower-end housing marked stock. This deteriorating context is concerning, as 84 per cent of Syrians^[15] and 23 per cent of Lebanese^[16] rent accommodations. Tensions with property owners are increasing: eviction threats increased from 5.4 per cent in 2021 to 7.1 per cent in 2022, with the inability to pay rent cited as the overwhelming reason for eviction.

Issues pertaining to water supply and quality have historically affected all people in Lebanon. The Water sector^[17] notes that the multi-layered crisis has further compromised both institutional capacities to supply services and has undermined households' purchasing power, driving poverty and deprivation and inhibiting access to services. The rise in demand for access to water due to the population increase represented by the arrival of displaced Syrians placed further strain on already depleted resources. The most vulnerable populations in Lebanon are those who reside in non-formal structures with no access to water, sanitation and hygiene services. Meanwhile, the recent cholera outbreak constitutes a serious alert to waterborne diseases outbreaks and presents an additional and urgent challenge which requires an urgent water and sanitation response. Meanwhile, the crisis is impacting electricity production by the Electricite du Liban (EDL), the main energy source for 87 per cent of the water supply systems across Lebanon. The majority of wastewater

^[13] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2022), VASyR 2022.

^[14] Shelter sector (2022), Field Consultations Nov. 2022.

^[15] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2022), VASyR 2022.

^[16] UNOCHA, REACH (2022), MSNA 2022.

^[17] Water sector, *When Water Becomes a Privilege* - <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/when-water-becomes-privilege-consequences-shutting-down-public-water-system-lebanon>.

treatment plants no longer function, due to electricity cuts and the prohibitive cost of fuel for running back-up power generators. This is causing environmental damage due to the dumping of untreated wastewater, both on the coast and inland, with severe consequences for water bodies and underlying aquifers across all of Lebanon. Access to water is a tension driver given the perceived competition over access, as reported by the UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV.

Since 2017, satisfaction with the level and quality of electricity services has declined continuously, reaching a dramatic low in 2022. Only 11 per cent of households nationwide, through a combination of Electricity Du Liban service and private generator subscriptions, reported receiving twenty-four hours of electricity per day in the UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV in August 2022, compared to 74 per cent in April 2021. Meanwhile, due to increased fuel prices, a growing fraction of households are unable to afford access to supplemental electricity through generator subscription. Lebanon's electricity supply is largely dependent on imported petroleum. The ongoing electricity crisis has a lasting impact on quality of life, as well as negative downstream effects in other sectors, e.g. health, water and the functioning of public institutions. Meanwhile, households are facing challenges, because of a lack of electricity, in keeping food refrigerated and safe; they are unable to utilise electricity for heating and light during the winter season; children are unable to study after dark; and general safety concerns exist for women and girls at night.

At the municipal level, many public institutions are unable to deliver basic services under their mandates and are at risk of collapse due to limited funds. Requests to LCRP partners for support during 2022 have centred around operation and management costs and supplies, e.g. fuel, solar energy for services, maintenance of vehicles and direct support. Lebanese and displaced alike remain extremely concerned about access to essential goods and services, such as food, fuel, water, medicine and medical care. Moreover, public institutions, including Social Development Centres (SDC) and Governorate offices are at risk of being shut down if the economic situation does not improve. Key challenges for municipalities include the delayed independent Municipal Fund that, if disbursed, will still prove insufficient. This is due to the depreciation of the LBP against the USD, reduced tax collection and its depreciated value, weak infrastructure and lack of personnel and capacity, including municipal police. This has led to gaps in security control and in the ability to cover maintenance and operational costs, severely affecting the delivery of services, particularly solid waste management, access to water and to wastewater discharge and treatment. This is exacerbating the pressure on public and health and environmental hazards, with the risk of leading to increased tensions. Meanwhile, in the Wave XIV UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey (August, 2022), 45.8 per cent of Lebanese disagreed with the statement, 'The municipality is doing the best it can to respond to the needs of people in this community'. This, nevertheless, reflected a moderate improvement in public

perceptions of the responsiveness of municipalities. This minor improvement in the national-level estimate was driven largely by improved perceptions in the Beqaa, where 58.9 per cent agreed with this statement in Wave XIV (July 2022), compared to just 38.4 per cent in Wave XIII (April 2022).



Maternal and neonatal **mortality rates are increasing**, **vaccination coverage is declining**, and **access to hospitalization** have dropped by at least **15 %**

Health Sector

Protection

In 2022, legal residency rates have remained low, with just 17 per cent of displaced Syrians and 49 per cent of Palestinian refugees from Syria obtaining legal residency, despite ongoing efforts from General Directorate of the General Security of Lebanon (GSO) to increase these numbers. Rates are lowest for women, youth and adolescent girls, therefore limiting the freedom of movement and affecting women's ability to apply for jobs. Lack of legal residency exposes women and men to exploitation—for example, delayed or non-payment of wages, denial of weekly time-off, confiscation of passports and limitations on freedom of movement. It also hampers access to justice, making individuals less likely to approach authorities, and leaves women at a higher risk of sexual harassment. Syrians and Palestinian refugees from Syria who entered Lebanon irregularly (more commonly women) after 2015, or who remain unregistered, face greater barriers to accessing legal residency, due to the fear of arrest and the inability to benefit from the fee waiver.



Women refugees participate with in a campaign supported by EU ECHO with activities that aimed to give voice to their issues and create awareness on gender based violence, Bekaa, Lebanon - IRC, 2022

Birth registration is essential to ensuring a child's legal identity under domestic and international law and reduces the risk of statelessness. It remains an essential step for preparedness for a voluntary return to Syria in safety and dignity. 2022 has seen some improvements in birth registration: 36 per cent of Syrian births were registered at the Foreigners' Registry, compared to 33 per cent in 2021 and 28 per cent in 2020. Only 2 per cent of births have no documentation, with families completing the first step of the birth registration process for nearly all births.

Seventy-five per cent of Palestinian refugees are not fully registered. According to the VASyR, over three quarters of displaced Syrians' marriages met the minimum needed documentation of either a marriage contract from a religious authority or proof of marriage from the Sharia Court. Twenty-four per cent of marriages have no legal documentation. The proportion of marriages registered at the level of the Foreigners' Registry increased slightly to 33 per cent in 2022.

The worsening socio-economic conditions in Lebanon continue to drive a variety of protection risks as households' reliance on negative coping mechanisms increases, further driving their exposure and susceptibility to shocks and incidents of violence, deliberate deprivation and coercion. Ninety-eight per cent of Syrian households, 74 per cent of Lebanese households and 62 per cent of Palestine Refugees in Lebanon households report using at least one negative food-related coping strategy (VASyR and Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2022). Single-headed households, in particular female-headed households (FHH), households with at least one member with a disability or with a serious chronic illness, older persons and male-headed migrant households are much more likely to report financial barriers, reducing non-food expenditures on education and health, resorting to begging and selling assets. Twelve per cent of Syrian refugees in Beirut report accepting high-risk, dangerous or exploitative work to be able to buy food. In parallel, protection monitoring demonstrates a decline in available family and community support for persons with specific needs. Furthermore, eviction trends are on the rise, with Syrian households who've received an eviction notice reaching 7.1 per cent, compared to 5.4 per cent in 2021, 5 per cent in 2020 and 4 per cent in 2019 (VASyR 2022). In 2022, 68 per cent of Syrian households which were evicted indicated their inability to pay rent. Eviction has multi-dimensional impacts, including psychological distress, loss of livelihood, lack of food and increased debt. Displaced Syrians continue to experience restrictive measures, particularly in the Bekka region targeting men. The third quarter of 2022 saw a notable increase in restrictive measures reported, largely taking the form of military raids targeting informal settlements alongside the confiscation of Wi-Fi-routers and other belongings and resulting in an increased number of arrests and detentions.

2022 has seen some improvements in birth registration: **36%** of Syrian births were registered at the Foreigners' Registry, compared to **33%** in 2021 and **28%** in 2020



VASyR 2022

LCRP partners have noted an increase in overall Child Protection needs, particularly among vulnerable and marginalised groups, as families struggle to meet their basic needs, pushing families into facing higher poverty rates and resorting to negative coping mechanisms, such as child labour, removing children from school, child marriage and violent discipline. Economic and political instability has also impacted the social services available

to address these child protection risks. 2022 multi-sectoral assessments revealed that child labour is the third highest-reported reason for children's lack of attendance at schools. The 2022 VASyR shows an increase in violent child discipline, with more than half of Syrian children between the ages of 1 and 14 years having experienced at least one form of violent discipline (58 per cent of children, compared to 56 per cent in 2021). Almost half of parents reported resorting to either physical or psychological aggression, while severe violence was reported at 6.7 per cent, compared to 4 per cent in 2021.

Child marriage increased among displaced Syrian girls in 2022. Twenty-two per cent of girls and young women aged 15-19 were married as compared to 20 per cent in 2021 (VASyR). Partners interpret the increase as linked to families' rising debt levels. Similarly, child marriage is increasing among Palestine Refugees in Lebanon and Palestinian Refugees from Syria. Child marriage is also driven by deep-rooted social and cultural norms that make the practice an acceptable coping strategy.



International Day for older persons photo exhibition, Beirut, Lebanon - UNFPA, 2022

Women and girls remain more affected by sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) than male counterparts, due to entrenched gender inequalities (94 per cent of cases reported through the GBV - Information Management System were females). The main forms of GBV reported in 2022 were physical assault and psychological and emotional abuse, with more than half of the cases reported as intimate partner violence. Outside the home, women and girls report not feeling safe in streets and crowded public areas. At least 1 in 10 Lebanese and Syrian households report that female household members avoid certain areas because they are unsafe. For Palestinian refugee in Lebanon households, this rises to 1 in 3 households. Rape and sexual assault amount to 17 per cent of all reported cases according to GBV-IMS, while noting possible under-reporting due to the stigma associated with sexual violence. Nevertheless, GBV partners highlight an increasing risk of sexual exploitation and forced prostitution, given women and girls' inability to meet their basic needs, including concerns related to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) by aid workers. GBV partners note that adolescent girls, migrant workers and members of the LGBTQI+ community face particular barriers in access to justice. Online sexual harassment and blackmailing reportedly increased by 184

per cent in Lebanon during lockdown^[18]. While child marriage is primarily affecting Syrian girls, boys are more exposed to child labour. One in twenty (4 per cent) of all Syrian children aged 5-17 were engaged in child labour, with boys (7 per cent) more often engaged than girls (2 per cent).



Onward movement from Lebanon has been impacted by the deteriorating economic and protection context, with, for example, record numbers of displaced Syrians, Lebanese and migrants resorting to risky sea crossing. UNHCR noted a threefold increase in passengers from January-November in 2022, compared to the same period last year. In 2022, up until the end of October, UNHCR verified the return of 7,087 displaced Syrians to Syria. Group return movements were resumed by Lebanon's General Security Office (GOS) in 2022, with Government facilitation for individuals who signed up to return. GSO reported that 511 individuals in October and 190 individuals in early November returned to Syria through the Abboudiyeh, Masnaa and Wadi Hmeid/Aarsal crossing points. The number of displaced Syrians resettled from Lebanon increased following an easing of Corona Virus Disease (COVID) restrictions, while remaining well below requirements, with some 8,000 individual cases submitted by October 2022 and some 7,500 projected departures on resettlement, the highest since 2019.

Social Tensions

Communal relations are deteriorating at all levels and are increasingly leading to incidents and escalations. The relations between displaced Syrians and host community members remain strained, mainly as a result of economic factors. In July 2022, through the regular UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV, 37 per cent of respondents reported negative inter-communal relations, as compared to 21 per cent in July 2018. Relations are the most fragile in Beqaa, Akkar and the South. The pressure points range from access to services (30 per cent) to job competition (50 per cent) and unfair aid distribution (26 per cent). These negative sentiments are also impacting the protection space, where 2022 witnessed a rise in restrictive measures, particularly curfews and other movement restrictions, by municipalities, economically imposed restrictive measures and self-movement restrictions, particularly at informal settlements and collective evictions.

Meanwhile, over the last three years, intra-Lebanese relations, which were previously very positive, have been deteriorating. In 2018, 4 per cent of Lebanese

cited negative relations between different communities. As of July 2022, 39 per cent of respondents now report negative relations, according to the UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV. For intra-Lebanese tensions, the trajectory and drivers are often more political in nature. During July 2022, 58 per cent of Lebanese cited political differences as the main tension driver compared to 33 per cent in July 2019. However, the second most reported driver of intra-Lebanese tensions is differences in socio-economic status, which indicates increased tensions related to access to goods and services.



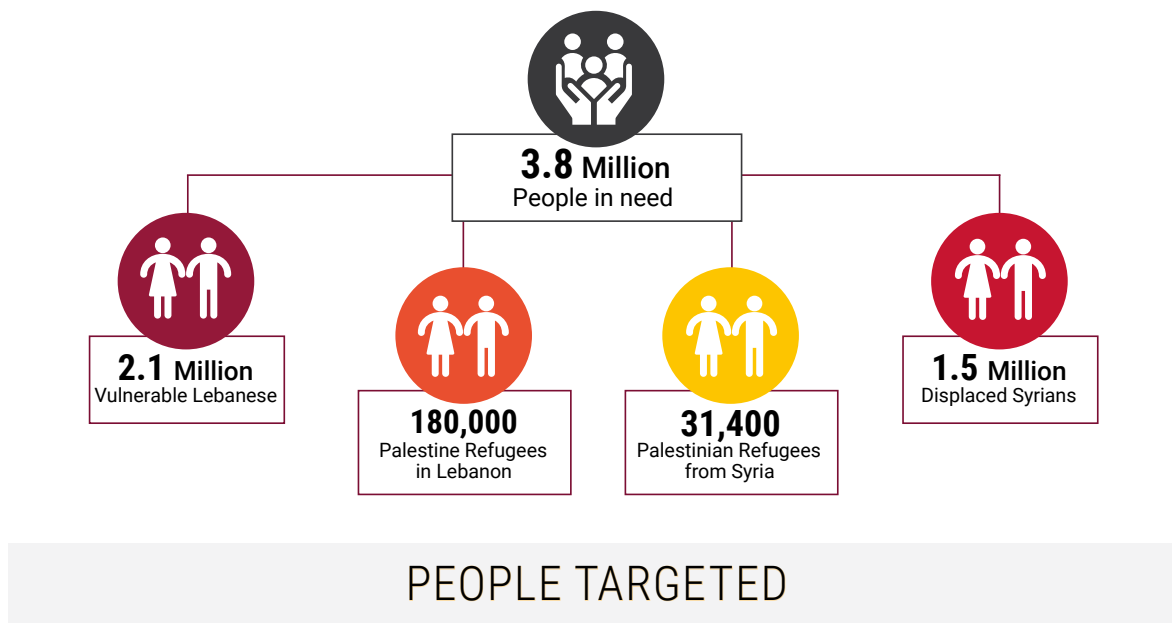
Flood Risk Reduction through the Construction of the Storm Water Network, Daraya, Lebanon – UNDP, 2022

The sustained deterioration in the economy, high levels of political instability, persistent concerns about access to food, clean water, electricity and medical care, along with increasing community insecurity, have also contributed to dramatically worsening perceptions of physical safety and security nationwide. Overall, 55 per cent of the population reports feeling unsafe during the night; this is more than five times as many as those who said the same in 2018 (9.5 per cent), prior to the current economic crisis.

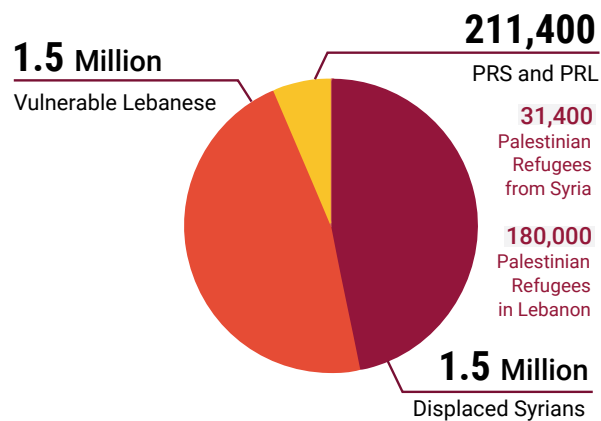
These factors will remain threats to Lebanon's stability in 2023, where inter- and intra-communal tensions are likely to persist and will potentially escalate, especially given that new risks have emerged, including the cholera outbreak.

^[18] UN Women Gender Alert on COVID-19 (2021): <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/gender-alert-on-covid-19-lebanon>.

POPULATION IN NEED AND TARGETED



3.2 MILLION PEOPLE



Note: PRL, PRS figures pertain to the 12 camps and 56 gatherings as covered by the recent CAS/PCS/LPDC census. The Food Security & Agriculture Sector also estimates that an additional 33,040 refugees of other nationalities are in need, targeting 12,686.



APPEALING PARTNERS BY SECTOR

39	55	13	50	45	70	13	63	18	43	30
BASIC ASSISTANCE	EDUCATION	ENERGY	FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE	HEALTH	LIVELIHOODS	NUTRITION	PROTECTION	SHELTER	SOCIAL STABILITY	WATER

3. RESPONSE STRATEGY

3.1 Strategic Objectives

As in previous years^[19], the Government of Lebanon (GoL) and national and international partners work together to deliver integrated and mutually reinforcing humanitarian and stabilisation interventions. The response plan focuses on humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities, including persons displaced from Syria and vulnerable Lebanese and Palestinians. At the same time, it also seeks to expand investments, partnerships and delivery models for stabilisation as a transition towards longer-term development strategies.

Strategic Objectives of the LCRP :

	Ensure protection of vulnerable populations		Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations
	Support service provision through national systems		Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability

Strategic Objective 1: Ensure Protection of Vulnerable Populations.

Recognising that the imperative of protecting women, girls, boys and men lies at the heart of humanitarian action, this response objective aims to strengthen protection services and interventions for displaced persons from Syria and other vulnerable populations, empower individuals and mainstream protection, gender, GBV, conflict sensitivity (CS) and environment across all sectoral interventions. It promotes the protection of, and access to, affected people in accordance with relevant principles and instruments of international law ratified by Lebanon.

- Ensure that persons displaced from Syria have access to legal status in accordance with Lebanese laws and regulations, while anticipating their return in safety and dignity as the preferred durable solution^[20], and while abiding by the principle of non-refoulement^[21];

^[19] Looking beyond 2023, strategic discussions will take place early in the year to assess the future of the response, noting that the LCRP is the country chapter of the 3RP and currently sits alongside other response frameworks in Lebanon.

^[20] The position of the Government of Lebanon is that any form of local integration is unconstitutional and, therefore, not an option. The Government considers that the only durable solution being available for displaced Syrians in Lebanon is their safe return to Syria, in accordance with applicable norms of international law and taking into full consideration the vital interests of Lebanon as a host country. Resettlement to third countries is seen as an alternative durable solution. The Government of Lebanon has submitted a 15 points proposal to promote and advance cooperation and transparency with UNHCR, including a strengthened dialogue with the donor community on the subject of returns.

^[21] In any refugee situation, the ultimate goal for the United Nations is the realization of durable solutions to the plight of refugees. While local integration is not an option for displaced Syrians in Lebanon, the safety, dignity and well-being of displaced Syrians must be preserved until they can attain durable solutions outside of Lebanon.

- Continue granting access to Lebanon for exceptional humanitarian cases through the approval of the Minister of Social Affairs (MOSA), while upholding the principle of non-refoulement;
- Continue to support displaced Syrians to access durable solutions, such as resettlement and other admissions to third countries, as well as supporting preparedness activities such as assisting with access to civil, education and health documentation for individuals preparing to voluntarily return to Syria;
- Continue facilitating access to civil documentation, including scaling up a concerted effort to improve birth, death and marriage registration rates for women, girls, boys and men displaced from Syria as per Lebanese laws, regulations and policies, in coordination with UNRWA, UNICEF and UNHCR;
- Ensure the tailored provision of protection, legal and other services across populations for persons with specific needs, such as persons with disabilities and older persons, as well as for women and children;
- Build the capacity of Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian women, girls, boys and men to identify protection concerns, provide feedback on programmatic interventions and contribute to the referral of cases to specialised service providers;
- Strengthen the multi-sectoral response to evictions and the threat of evictions;
- Protection services to support access to justice for detainees alongside life-saving health and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) interventions, recognising deteriorating conditions in prisons and prolonged pre-trial detention;
- Provide information on available services to women, girls, boys and men; and

- Support the GoL to enforce laws to prevent and address child abuse, child marriage, GBV, sexual and economic exploitation, begging and the worst forms of child labour, through a multi-sectoral response.

Strategic Objective 2: Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations.

This response objective aims to address the immediate needs of the vulnerable populations (displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian refugees from Syria and Palestine refugees in Lebanon), prioritising the most vulnerable through temporary solutions, with the aim to mitigate the rapid deterioration of social and economic conditions which exacerbate protection risks.

- Provide direct and targeted assistance to the most vulnerable populations to ensure their protection and meet their survival needs, including needs caused by displacement, while ensuring complementarity across sectors;
- Reduce exposure to hunger, malnutrition, homelessness, health complications, mental health issues, communicable disease outbreaks, violence, abuse and exploitation as well as the worst effects of poverty, including resorting to negative coping mechanisms, with practices such as child labour, begging and child marriage;
- Ensure the adequacy, appropriateness and consistency of assistance, including by strengthening a harmonised approach to the design and disbursement of cash-based assistance in order to meet basic needs and support sectoral outcomes;
- Safeguard immediate and temporary service delivery (including water, sanitation, shelter) in and around informal settlements, collective shelters and sub-standard dwellings and gatherings, integrating a focus on protection and the needs of children;
- Ensure a strong focus on emergency response to meet increasing humanitarian needs through a scale-up of immediate and temporary response interventions; and
- Better understand and respond to gender, age and disability-related differences, through gender-responsive and gender-focused activities.

Strategic Objective 3: Support service provision through national systems^[22].

This response objective aims to support national and local capacities to meet the increasingly overwhelming service-related needs and contribute to the safeguarding of infrastructure and services on the brink of collapse in the context of the multi-faceted crisis facing Lebanon. The response seeks to reinforce confidence in the equitable access

to and quality of public services for vulnerable populations. Here, it is recognized that the crisis in Syria continues to have a negative impact on the sustainable development of Lebanon and the pressures felt by public system. The 2023 LCRP planning process recognises that the prevailing economic context is further hampering service availability, functionality, equitable delivery, and accessibility. The objective aims to reinforce the access to basic services through national systems and to maintain basic public service infrastructure (such as water systems), ensuring functioning service delivery in the most vulnerable communities affected by the crisis through the support of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) network of SDC and municipalities as key gateways.



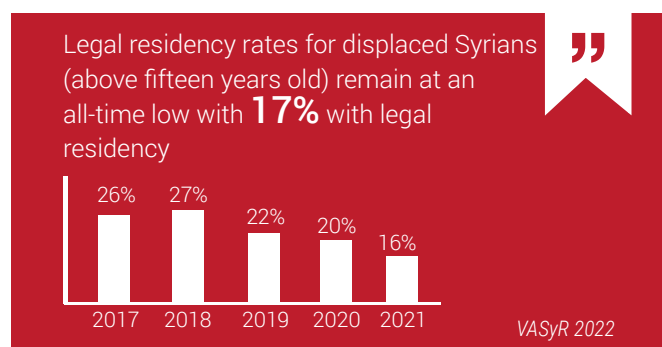
Strengthening Food Security through Agricultural Road Rehabilitation, Zahle, Bekaa, Lebanon - UNDP, 2022

- Extend safe water, sanitation, hygiene and energy services to the most vulnerable Lebanese, persons displaced from Syria and Palestinian refugees by reinforcing existing infrastructures, and work towards an improved relationship and trust between service providers and customers to increase cost recovery and result in better water service provision;
- Ensure that all children, including children displaced from Syria, can access, equally learn and be retained in a quality learning environment (formal and non-formal^[23]), widening the absorption capacity of gender-responsive education premises (rehabilitation, expansion and construction), in addition to strengthening the education system to be able to cater to all girls and boys, in line with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's (MEHE) Five-Year Plan;
- Ensure support to strengthen social safety nets for vulnerable people across Lebanon in line with national strategies, including through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (and in complementarity to schemes outside the LCRP, such as the Emergency Social Safety Net);
- Ensure that the most vulnerable Lebanese, displaced Syrian and Palestinian women, girls, boys and men can access disease prevention interventions and affordable healthcare, with a focus on accessibility and quality of services and controlling disease outbreaks, including cholera and COVID-19 under the leadership of the Government and in collaboration across other response frameworks. Ensure more standardised

^[22] "National systems" is inclusive of national government and local institutions, NGOs/civil society and private sector.

^[23] Non-formal education is conceived as a means to bridge the gap with formal education.

service provision across primary healthcare centres that are part of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) public network to increase the quality of services across all regions. Focused health interventions for women and girls, including maternal health services;



- Protect the most vulnerable, especially children and women, older persons and persons with disabilities, and other minority groups at risk of violence (including abuse, exploitation and neglect), through:
 - increased outreach and responsiveness of community and institutional systems; and
 - referrals and a full package of services, including appropriate support to survivors through a robust and coordinated national system.
- Scale up service delivery mechanisms that are gender-responsive, cost-efficient yet responsive to needs, and that offer clear benefits to all vulnerable communities; and
- Strengthen government ownership of investments made by supporting gender-equal national planning and implementation, monitoring and management processes.

Strategic Objective 4: Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability.

This response objective aims to strengthen productive sectors in expanding economic and gender-equal livelihood opportunities, benefiting local development and the most vulnerable communities. It aims to invest in mitigating the environmental impact of the Syria crisis, ensuring that actions are taken to maintain long-term sustainability of the natural eco-system and avoid its further degradation. Furthermore, it will invest in national and local capacities to promote dialogue that mitigates tensions and conflicts at the municipal and local levels, with a particular focus on adolescent girls and boys and on women's employment.

- Within the current socio-economic context, support municipalities' ability to provide essential public services under their mandates.
- Promote decent job creation and support businesses to generate income for local economies in poor areas, benefiting all vulnerable communities, in accordance

with Lebanese laws and regulations^[24], and the outcomes of the Brussels conferences;

- Enhance the productive capacities of local micro- and small-to-medium enterprises (MSME) and cooperatives by improving local economic infrastructures and supporting their capacity to respond to market demands;
- Promote sustainable agriculture production by supporting vulnerable farmers and communities and improve agricultural livelihood activities;
- Support employment-intensive projects to promote short-term employment opportunities and provide the necessary skills to access the labour market;
- Reinforce partnerships to promote employability between national institutions, the private sector, chambers of commerce, trade unions and other entities;
- Increase women's employment, including in energy, water and sanitation etc., partner with grassroots women's organisations, men and communities to increase women's access to employment;
- Reduce (and where possible reverse) the impact of the crisis on Lebanon's environment, with a particular focus on integrated solid waste management, water and wastewater management, use of renewable energy sources and energy-efficient products, protection of air quality, conservation of land use and ecosystems by strengthening good management of natural resources and sustainable investments abiding by environmental regulations;
- Support government institutions and government partners to implement necessary economic, labour, social welfare, gender equality, disaster risk management and environmental protection reforms and fulfil their roles;
- Address social and economic risks faced by Lebanese, displaced Syrians and Palestinians and youth with a particular focus on empowering young women and girls;
- Promote technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and decent work opportunities;
- Prevent social tensions from further rising within stressed communities by ensuring the proper functioning of government, local systems and mechanisms, and individuals to address critical needs through service delivery and promote intra- and inter-community dialogue, without discrimination by nationality and with full respect of the Lebanese laws and regulations;
- Enhance gendered tension and conflict analysis that would in turn generate recommendations for women and girls' involvement in peace-building initiatives; and
- Strengthen national emergency preparedness and response capacity with a focus on strengthening capacity for operational support and guidance to local crisis response.

^[24] As per MoL annual decisions related to businesses, occupations and crafts, and jobs that must be limited to Lebanese only.

3.1 LCRP Principles and Commitments

In 2021, an independent Strategic Review of the LCRP 2017-2021 response plan was carried out to reflect on what has been achieved over the past years, and to learn from LCRP's experiences. To implement the recommendations from the review, key principles for the LCRP in 2023 include the following:

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE LCRP

1. Planning

- Continue to seek to address immediate and medium-term needs of refugees and host communities, integrated humanitarian and stabilisation interventions.
- Facilitate multi-year thinking but allow flexibility to adapt to the changing context, including through annual planning and a more systematised mid-year review.
- Follow Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) planning guidance to ensure coherence with the regional response, strengthening regional collaboration during 2023 on durable solutions, enhancing nexus approaches and resource mobilisation.
- Ensure that solid risk analysis underpins the response, building on the LCRP business continuity planning process in a deteriorating context.
- Maintain a needs-based appeal coupled with enhanced prioritisation, ensuring a focus on the 'added value' of interventions to deliver desired impact.
- Maintain appropriate targeting methodologies based on updated evidence of needs and vulnerability, including socio-economic targeting (individuals/households); categorical targeting (individuals/households); and geographic targeting (community/institutional), based on the updated map of 332 localities hosting the largest number of displaced Syrians, deprived Lebanese and Palestinian refugees across Lebanon.
- Planning of programmes should be coordinated through sectors, in close collaboration with line ministries under MoSA's leadership, through a bottom-up field-based approach that takes into consideration the national priorities and needs identified by each line ministry and in line with the Lebanese laws, rules and regulations.
- Ensure coherence with other plans and frameworks, including through aligned analysis and planning across the LCRP and the Emergency Response Plan (ERP), with a particular focus on the sectors delivering against both plans (Health, Water/WASH, Education, Food Security & Agriculture as well as the Child Protection Working Group and the GBV Task Force).

2. Governance

The LCRP underscores its national leadership by the GoL through the MoSA and reaffirms the international community's commitment to support and reinforce the

response capacity of national/local institutions and national/local humanitarian actors.

- The response strategy allows for linkages and complementarity with longer-term development plans and in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and Sustainable Development Goals, enabling a shift towards a more sustainable delivery of support and services.
- Collaboration with development actors (including International Financial Institutions) and civil society actors are in place to allow for complementary approaches to the response, within a whole-of-society approach.
- The coordination framework is sufficient to allow integrated approaches that avoid overlap and ensure adequate coverage and prioritisation.
- Support to public institutions builds sustainable capacities and strengthens service delivery.

3. Implementation and Coordination

- Sectors provide relevant information and facilitate the operation of partners for successful implementation of projects in the field, under the direct leadership of and in coordination with MoSA's LCRP team throughout Lebanon and supported through Inter-Agency coordination.
- To ensure efficiency and avoid duplication, the LCRP coordination structure remains the primary system through which partners coordinate efforts to respond to the impact of the Syria crisis in Lebanon.
- Operational coordination across response frameworks – particularly the LCRP and ERP – has been strengthened in 2022 to: consolidate situation and needs analysis across populations, informing targeting; avoid duplication of meetings (including through single national working groups and core groups); aligned inter-sectoral coordination on key themes (e.g. Accountability of Affected People (AAP), cash-based assistance, cholera response); and contribute to coherent strategic sectoral approaches for sectors delivering against both response plans. In 2023, further steps will be taken to reinforce joined-up sector strategies.

4. Information sharing and tracking

- Appealing partners are responsible for reporting fully and in a timely manner on funding and other resources received, through agreed-upon coordination and reporting mechanisms that are systematic and

transparent to the Government of Lebanon's Inter-Ministerial Committee on Displaced, through MoSA and the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator.

- Funding and other resources received and/or committed should be reported to the LCRP Steering Committee led by MoSA and the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC).
- LCRP implementing partners are responsible for reporting on a regular basis, through agreed systems, to the relevant sectors on the progress/achievements of the activities that they are implementing, including feedback on funding provided to local initiatives.
- Sectors report on progress and achievements on a quarterly basis to the LCRP Steering Committee.

As a basis for addressing these commitments and priorities, strengthening partnership and enhancing the overall effectiveness of the LCRP, several core principles and commitments that complement its guiding principles have been agreed upon between GoL and its international partners in order to ensure mutual accountability and enhance the effectiveness, operationalisation and transparency of the LCRP.

- Reinforce Government institutions' leadership and partnership with UN organisations, the donor community, international and national non-governmental organisations and other civil society actors;
- Improve quality, transparency, effectiveness, efficiency and accountability, including enhanced communication of results by population cohort, to complement existing published logframes;
- Enhance the programmatic design and implementation systems in view of the broadened focus on stabilisation and targeting the most vulnerable, including through strengthened collaboration across response frameworks (including ERP, Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework);
- Support relevant 'joined-up' sectors to coordinate partners to coherently deliver across the LCRP and ERP;
- Ensure synergies and complementarity between the LCRP and national planning. This will include aligning LCRP efforts with national strategies and agreed-upon plans, and maintaining strong coordination at the sector level;
- Review bi-yearly the results architecture, including targets and indicators;
- In 2023, strengthen the capacity for system-wide impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
- Enhance the localisation of the response with national actors involved in its design and coordination. This includes adequate efforts to build Lebanon's capacity and systems for future crisis prevention and response,

including through enhanced roles for local actors in the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP) architecture;

- Continue to ensure streamlined mainstreaming approaches to protection, conflict sensitivity, gender and GBV, and environment;
- Enable line ministries to play a stronger role in leadership and coordination at the national and local levels under the guidance of MoSA, while benefiting from the support of the UN, donors and NGOs;



Supporting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities, through Cash for Work, in-kind assistance, and capacity building, Bebnine, Lebanon - UNDP, 2022

- Enhance the role of NGOs in the leadership and coordination of the response, including through the election of sector NGO co-leads;
- Provide guidance, applicable to all LCRP partners, for a timely, effective, and coordinated response, by clarifying requirements with respect to key functions and processes: information sharing and tracking, planning and implementation; and
- Continue to improve field-level coordination and information flow in order to better contextualise priority setting and adaptation of national approaches at the sub-national level.

3.2 Planning Assumptions

The LCRP planning assumptions have been developed through participatory processes with representatives at technical and decision-making levels from government institutions, UN agencies and international and national NGOs. In addition to the below key assumptions, each sector strategy has incorporated an analysis of planning assumptions, risks and mitigating measures in their respective theories of change.

Context

At the end of 2022, Lebanon is under more pressure than ever as the country is facing multiple crises, which include financial, economic, public health, social and political challenges. Within this context, the following contextual assumptions will underpin the planning for 2023:

- It is assumed that, pending a resolution of the crisis in Syria, the impact on Lebanon will continue. While important obstacles to large-scale returns in safety and dignity remain, some spontaneous returns of displaced Syrians from Lebanon to Syria are taking place, particularly since 2017. Group returns that were also facilitated by the Directorate General of General Security since early 2018 resumed in October 2022. The number of sustainable returns to Syria will substantially increase if obstacles to voluntary, safe and dignified returns are removed.
- It is assumed that the socio-economic crisis in Lebanon will continue throughout 2023. The vulnerability of people targeted by the LCRP has been substantially exacerbated, increasing pressure on Lebanese institutions to accommodate increased needs. This has further resulted in additional pressure exerted on LCRP partners by communities and authorities. Many public services required upgrading prior to the crisis. A sense of fatigue is growing among affected communities, as are concerns over the increasing use of negative coping mechanisms, impeding access to services and the ability to cover basic needs.
- It is assumed that critical infrastructure and services – including water, wastewater, solid waste, community security and health and education systems – are at risk of further deterioration and collapse without sustained support and medium-term solutions. The spread of cholera both underscores the fragility of this infrastructure and adds further strain.
- Inter-communal tensions and public pressure for returns are likely to continue if sufficient support is not provided to Lebanon to help mitigate the impact of the multiple crises and address the deteriorating socio-economic trends and rising unemployment. Given the contextual developments, a deterioration in relations may result in

sporadic escalations and a shrinking protection space, including in the run-up to municipal elections.

- The final assumption is that there will be enough operational space for partners to implement their programmes. This has been challenged in recent years through an increase in community insecurity, increased requests for support from municipalities and communities, and tensions related to the provision of goods and services. Such incidents have remained isolated to date but could be further accelerated.

In accordance with the principle of international solidarity and accountability^[25], the response will be developed based on priorities, needs and capacities. Partners will continuously seek feedback from the populations they serve and address concerns about the response raised by the affected populations.

Population planning figures

The GoL estimates that the country hosts 1.5 million Syrians who have fled the crisis in Syria. In addition, UNRWA estimates that some 180,000 Palestine refugees in Lebanon and 31,400 Palestinian refugees from Syria live in Lebanon. Nearly all municipalities are hosting communities, as refugees are living in 97 per cent of municipalities across Lebanon. Based on the updated map of 332 localities^[26] hosting the highest number of displaced Syrians, deprived Lebanese and Palestinian refugees, 1.53 million deprived Lebanese live in these areas. These populations live across all governorates in Lebanon.

The LCRP thus addresses the very diverse needs of four target groups: 1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese (51.5% female; 48.5% male; 31% children); 1.5 million displaced Syrians (50.7% female; 49.3% male; 52% children); 30,220 Palestinian refugees from Syria (50% female; 50% male; 42% children) and 180,000 Palestine refugees (52% female; 48% male; 35% children) in Lebanon living in 12 camps and 156 gatherings.

^[25] Global Compact on Refugees, para. 34, https://www.unhcr.org/gcr/GCR_English.pdf.

^[26] Please see map (<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/96471>) for details of the 332 localities that host the highest number of displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees and deprived Lebanese.

Funding trends

The calls for burden-sharing continue throughout the two-year plan that ask for investment in Lebanon and support to the population that Lebanon hosts. At the same time, increasing 3RP advocacy with donor countries will focus on putting in place mechanisms that provide persons displaced from Syria with humanitarian access to third countries, as well as mechanisms for economic development.

The international community should also bring essential support to Lebanon through other funding streams,

including recovery and development assistance and other funding mechanisms, as it is assumed that the level of funding to the LCRP may not be sustained throughout the duration of the two-year plan. The global context, multiple crises, and the ongoing war in Ukraine, make outcomes regarding funding flow beyond 2024 highly unpredictable. This should be coupled with a clear focus and prioritisation strategies.

Predictable, balanced and multi-year funding is required to implement more sustainable solutions.

3.3 Alignment with other planning frameworks

The LCRP is aligned with the following key processes and frameworks:

- 1 As the third edition of the LCRP, the 2022-2023 framework response is the successor of the 2015-2016 and 2017-2021 LCRP. Within the two-year framework, this plan seeks to expand the stabilisation and development focus and facilitate the transition of crisis response to national structures and systems, while maintaining a robust and integrated humanitarian and stabilisation response to the protracted crisis. This medium-term strategic planning framework aims to address national objectives and priorities to respond to the impact of the Syrian crisis in Lebanon and has been developed and implemented in collaboration with the GoL, the UN, national and international NGOs, and donors. Yearly planning and appeals, including multi-year programmes, are developed based on an annual review of needs, coupled with a mid-term review of targets.
- 2 The 2022-2023 LCRP is the Lebanon chapter of the 3RP led by UNHCR and UNDP. The 3RP is a regional plan that sets out the response to the humanitarian, protection and assistance needs of refugees from Syria and other impacted persons, communities and institutions in the five countries hosting displaced Syrians, i.e., Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. As a nationally owned chapter of the 3RP, the LCRP is tailored to respond to the specific needs of Lebanon and vulnerable populations within this ongoing regional crisis. It ensures that humanitarian and stabilisation interventions are mutually reinforcing to deliver value, and emphasises support to Lebanon's national capacities, including its aid and assistance management efforts. An evaluation of the 3RP conducted in 2021 confirmed the relevance and continuation of the framework, bringing coherence and ensuring collaboration across the country response plans responding to the Syria crisis.
- 3 The LCRP incorporates priority measures articulated in the GoL's 2013 Roadmap of Priority Interventions for Stabilisation from the Syrian Conflict^[27] and its updated projects and furthers its three objectives: (i) to restore and expand economic and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable groups; (ii) to restore and build resilience in equitable access to and quality of sustainable public services; and (iii) to strengthen social stability. Programmes implemented directly by line ministries are represented in the LCRP's results matrix. All LCRP projects investing in Lebanon's capacities are linked to needs articulated in the Roadmap, particularly the first two tracks. Furthermore, the LCRP is fully aligned with the priority outcomes of international donor conferences in London (February 2016) and Brussels (April 2017, April 2018, March 2019, June 2020 and March 2021).
- 4 The LCRP specifically focuses on the impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanon and is complemented by a number of multi-lateral and bi-lateral cooperation agreements such as the new EU-Lebanon Partnership Priorities and Compact 2021 – 2027, the World Bank Country Partnership Framework for Lebanon^[28] and, most notably, the 2023 – 2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework^[29] (see point 5 below).
- 5 The LCRP is fully aligned with and complementary

[27] Government of Lebanon (15 November 2013), *Lebanon Roadmap of Priority Interventions for Stabilization from the Syrian Conflict*, http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/PCPD/pdf/lebanon_roadmap.pdf.

[28] World Bank (15 June 2016), *Lebanon – Country partnership framework for FY17-FY22*, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/111451467996685776/Lebanon-Country-partnership-framework-for-FY17-FY22>.

[29] United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023 – 2025: <https://lebanon.un.org/en/179417-united-nations-sustainable-development-cooperation-framework-2023-2025>.

to the outcomes of the 2023 – 2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the UN's cooperation framework with Lebanon, which includes all of the UN's development priorities and the support it provides in Lebanon, implemented through the country programmes of its specific UN agencies, funds and programmes.

- 6 ERP is a humanitarian framework (due to be extended for 2023) that allows the humanitarian community in Lebanon to respond to the critical humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable Lebanese and migrant populations, particularly women and girls, based on needs and in complement to the support already provided through UNRWA programs and the LCRP to Syrian and Palestine refugees as well as Lebanese host communities. The ERP is strictly humanitarian in nature. It calls for exceptional time-bound assistance to save lives and alleviate the suffering of the target population, also contributing to avoiding a worsening of inter- and intra- community tensions. Coordination linkages across the frameworks are ensured at the governance, inter-sectoral and sectoral levels, including through joined-up national-level sector working groups for sectors contributing to both response plans.
- 7 In response to the port of Beirut explosion, the UN, EU and World Bank partnered and jointly developed, in cooperation with civil society, the Government of Lebanon, and the donors and development partners, the Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF). The 3RF was originally devised to focus on a period of 18 months, pursuing a people-centred recovery track and a reform and reconstruction track in parallel. The 3RF is currently in a transition phase, with ongoing consultations on revising and clarifying its mandate, also vis-à-vis other response plans, moving towards a focus on reforms and policy dialogue. In this context and going forward, coordination between the LCRP and 3RF will be guided by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, who has a leadership role in both frameworks. Working-level meetings introduced across the LCRP, ERP, 3RF and Cooperation Framework coordination structures will further help to manage streamlined operational coordination, as well as to contribute to evidence-based policy dialogue, including in relation to reforms.
- 8 The LCRP aligns with the GoL's strategies and consists of interventions developed as part of the regional No Lost Generation strategy. The LCRP Education Sector Strategy Response aims to contribute directly to keeping Sustainable Development Goal 4 on track, which requires, as per the five-year general education plan of the Government of Lebanon, the 2023 strategy to focus on institutionalizing crisis management for a more resilient education system. This introduces a stronger leadership by the MEHE and a closer collaboration between education sector partners, MEHE and communities. In addition to the five-year General Education Plan, other sectoral investments in protection, psychosocial support (PSS) and skill development for children, adolescents and youth, include MoSA's Strategic Plan on the Protection of Women and Children (2020-2027) and MEHE's National Child Protection Policy.
- 9 The LCRP strives to implement the commitments made by more than 65 of the largest humanitarian partners through the Grand Bargain^[30] at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. The Grand Bargain 2.0 framework aims to achieve better humanitarian outcomes for affected populations through enhanced efficiency, effectiveness and greater accountability, in the spirit of *Quid pro Quo* as relevant to all^[31]; as well as the two agreed-upon enabling priorities (i). A critical mass of quality funding is reached that allows for an effective and efficient response, ensuring visibility and accountability (ii). Greater support is provided for the leadership, delivery and capacity of local responders and the participation of affected communities in addressing humanitarian needs.
- 10 Many LCRP projects also integrate the principles of the UN Sustainable Development Goals^[31], a set of globally agreed-upon goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 11 The LCRP strives to ensure the commitments in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and the recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework^[32] annexed to the Declaration.
- 12 MoSA has taken the lead in initiating the process of developing a National Social Protection Strategy, with the aim of developing an actionable and comprehensive framework for social protection that stimulates social stability, human development, and inclusive growth, within the context of Lebanon. LCRP partners will support this process.

[30] See: <https://www.agendaforhumanity.org/initiatives/3861>.

[31] See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>.

[32] See: <http://www.globalcrf.org>.

3.4 Governance and Integrated response management^[33]

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Displaced of the Government of Lebanon is the highest national authority for international partners supporting the crisis response within Lebanese territory, including through the LCRP, in accordance with Lebanese laws and regulations as well as applicable international law:

Governance mechanism

The 2022-2023 LCRP will continue to ensure that the coordination structure aligns with both the humanitarian and stabilisation dimensions of the response, under the overall leadership of the Minister of Social Affairs and the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator^[34]:

MoSA is mandated by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Displaced to lead and oversee the Government's response to the crisis in Lebanon. The LCRP Steering Committee is co-chaired by the Minister of Social Affairs and the RC/HC and includes Minister-level participation from line ministries, as well as at Head of Agency/Representative level from humanitarian and stabilisation partners across the UN, national and international NGOs, and donors.

To support the work of the LCRP Steering Committee, the Joint Technical Taskforce plays a key role in ensuring the overall coherence and alignment of the sector strategies with both the stabilisation and humanitarian dimensions of the crisis response plan. The membership of the Joint Technical Task Force (JTF) is comprised of senior-level staff within each institution/organisation (Deputy General/deputy head of agency) to enable decision-making. Represented institutions all hold seats on the LCRP Steering Committee.

terms of reference of the Inter-Sector Working Group. In accordance with their specialised mandates, UNHCR and UNDP act as co-chairs. This mechanism reports to the LCRP Steering Committee co-chaired by the Minister of Social Affairs and the RC/HC and includes Government line ministries^[35] and key response partners from the UN, donors and NGOs.

The current structure and management of LCRP sectors is organised at the national level as above, with similar structures operating in five operational areas of Lebanon.

Integrated Response Management

The LCRP response is coordinated through the Inter-Sector Response Management, led by MoSA. In accordance with their specialised mandates, UNHCR and UNDP act as co-chairs. The Inter-Sector Response Management includes LCRP sector leads from line ministries as well as sector coordinators and key response partners. This mechanism reports to the LCRP Steering Committee.

The 11 LCRP sectors are coordinated through the Inter-Sector Working Group led by MoSA, a mechanism that reports to the leadership body of the LCRP and includes LCRP sector leads from line ministries, as well as sector coordinators, and key response partners as per the

^[33] This structure is subject to possible future amendments following the change of Government in Lebanon.

^[34] The Resident Coordinator (RC) is accountable for oversight of development responses in countries, in line with the reform of the UN Development System under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General. In line with Inter-Agency Standing Committee guidance, the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) is responsible for leading and coordinating humanitarian action of relevant organisations in country with a view to ensuring that it is principled, timely, effective and efficient, and contributes to longer-term recovery. The HC is supported in its role by the Humanitarian Country Team. Lead agencies for specific sectors in Lebanon are accountable for representing the interest of their sectors at every level of response management.

^[35] MoIM, MoSA, MoL, MoPH, MoFA, MEHE, MoET, MoF, MoA, MoEW, MoE, PMO, HRC, and CDR, to be cleared by the Minister.



3.5 Financing the LCRP

The financing of the LCRP presents an opportunity to strengthen aid architecture and harmonisation in Lebanon. Humanitarian and development needs set out in the LCRP will continue to receive funding on an appeal basis, both bilaterally and through a variety of donor mechanisms and trust funds. Cost-sharing opportunities will be explored with the Government, along with modalities to engage the private sector and to support government implementation of Roadmap projects^[36]. The introduction of an overall Lebanon Financial Aid Tracking System, building on existing systems, has enabled better planning of investment coordination between GoL and its international partners to ensure a predictable level of support to communities. Further efforts will focus on broadening the diversity of funding, including through donors from the MENA region, members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and other partners.

3.6 Mainstreaming Priorities

As an outcome of the LCRP Strategic Review, mainstreaming approaches to protection, conflict sensitivity, gender and GBV and environment will be further streamlined and consolidated in 2023. Mainstreaming within the annual planning process has been revamped and harmonised to ensure that threats and vulnerabilities are identified and mitigated, the priorities of different groups are addressed and that key results are achieved by making the LCRP response more gender and age responsive.

In 2022, a joint in-depth and regularly updated analysis, including risk, age, gender and conflict was developed for each LCRP sector, with a number of actionable mainstreaming priorities identified. In 2023, those priorities

were reviewed and will be continued to be implemented throughout the year. Quarterly reviews with sector coordinators will ensure a timely and effective follow-up on mainstreaming commitments. Mainstreaming updates will also be regularly shared with the Inter-Sector Working Group.

The LCRP promotes meaningful access, safety, dignity and basic rights of affected people. Protection is mainstreamed through the response, at the national and field levels. Ongoing protection, gender, age and disability analysis ensures a multi-dimensional intersectional understanding of vulnerability – considering internal risk factors, likelihood to experience harm, capacity to recover and adapt to new situations, ability to resist, and insurance against new shocks. Protection mainstreaming ensures that programming decisions and the targeting of displaced populations are informed through a comprehensive analysis of risk, considering vulnerability in relation to threats and coping capacities. Conflict sensitivity is fully incorporated into the LCRP: each sector strategy analyzes its potential adverse effects on local conflict dynamics and determines how to maximise its contribution to social stability, which in turn guides partners' respective programmes. In addition, regular information on tension trends and risks are provided to partners, along with research and evaluations on the impact of different types of LCRP programming on the level of tensions. These analyses are complemented by regular trainings on conflict sensitivity and 'do-no-harm' approaches, which are provided both to front-line workers and programme management staff to ensure that they are able to adjust their programmes accordingly. In 2022, three conflict sensitivity guidance notes and three conflict-sensitivity checklists were developed. In 2023, support will be provided to partners to roll these out for implementation. The LCRP coordination will continue to support sectors to deepen gender analysis, understand the implications of assistance on gender dynamics, ensure the implementation of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Gender with Age Marker (GAM), hold regular sector and inter-sector discussions on gender

^[36] Government of Lebanon (15 November 2013), *Lebanon Roadmap of Priority Interventions for Stabilization from the Syrian Conflict*, http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/PCPD/pdf/lebanon_roadmap.pdf.

and age, periodically analyse GAM results to strengthen programming and encourage partners to recruit female frontline staff to ensure more gender-responsive assessments and services as well as equal representation of women and men in coordination meetings at national and regional levels.

Mainstreaming gender efficiently requires assessing the implications of any planned action for women, girls, men and boys, as well as making their concerns and experiences an integral dimension of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In 2023, gender and age mainstreaming will include the rollout of the IASC Gender in Humanitarian Action Handbook, and actions will continue to focus on the rollout of Gender in Humanitarian Action trainings, mentoring and technical support for sectors and partners to strengthen gender-responsive programming. Gender-focused and gender-transformative activities will be incrementally expended and documented, and their positive impact shared. The Gender and Age Marker will continue to be implemented during planning and monitoring throughout the year, for adoption at the programme and project level. The LCRP will step up support for the implementation of the SCR 1325 National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, by strengthening the analysis of gender tensions and expanding gender integration into programmes to bolster women and girls' leadership in mediation and conflict prevention. The IASC GBV in Emergency Guidelines will be rolled out, and risk-mitigation plans will be implemented across all sectors of intervention. The participation of women and women's organisations will be strengthened through the provision of expanded technical support, visibility and networking opportunities. Support to strengthen gender analysis will continue to be provided to sectors. As a Gender Working Group co-chair, the Inter-Agency coordination will ensure the strengthening of gender mainstreaming among LCRP partners and across frameworks.

Adolescent girls and boys are most exposed to violence, child marriage, mental health threats and child labour, including sexual exploitation. The LCRP prioritises age-mainstreaming and youth-focused programming in order to increase the education, entrepreneurship, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), empowerment, participation and civic engagement of this cross-cohort. The LCRP will introduce a greater focus on girls' leadership, empowerment and protection across sectors. The LCRP will also address intersectional vulnerabilities through a deepening of analysis and strengthened programming, including better understanding the priorities of elderly women and men, persons with disabilities and individuals with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities.

The Environment Task Force (ETF) will continue to address priority environmental aspects within the LCRP, in coordination with other key Ministries and the Inter-Sector. The main technical areas of focus in 2023 are solid waste, water and wastewater, access to renewable energy, air quality, land use and ecosystems and considerations

for winterisation and other forms of assistance. The Task Force will mainstream environmental considerations by providing guidance on environmental regulations and policies, developing guidelines, applying the environmental marker system, impact assessments and inspections and supporting the implementation of environmental activities in priority sectors. Furthermore, the Task Force will work towards greening cash-for-work activities by promoting nature-based solutions and circular economy while ensuring the sustainability of natural resources.

The Protection from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA) network will provide support to LCRP partners for strengthening existing PSEA community complaints and feedback mechanisms, ensuring a systematic analysis of complaints received to verify inclusivity and accessibility, implement the PSEA Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), integrate PSEA messages into sector awareness-raising efforts and continue capacity-building activities.

LCRP partners will seek to ensure that the response engages affected populations across all stages of the programme cycle. This includes feedback mechanisms and regular visits aimed at obtaining feedback from vulnerable communities on needs, targets and effectiveness of LCRP interventions. While consolidating AAP interventions, LCRP partners will ensure that representation structures at the community level will prioritise gender, age and diversity considerations and that they will equally involve women, girls, boys and men. Communication with communities will be strengthened to ensure that consulted women, girls, boys and men know what actions are taken by LCRP partners after consultations. Analysis and reporting on AAP trends will be strengthened through the Inter-Agency / sector level mechanisms to improve policy and practice in programming. Analysis will be used to better understand preferred information and communication channels for different age, gender and disability groups. Community-based assessments and surveys will include a stronger gender component to ensure that women and girls express their challenges and priorities.

4. RESPONSE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Reinforced and objective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is critical to improving effectiveness, transparency and accountability. All sector logical frameworks (logframes) are technically reviewed in consultation with sector working groups and stakeholders during annual planning. Quality assurance has been ensured based on sector strategies, checking the accuracy of results chains leading to desired changes, and confirming indicators and measurement methodologies at sector level are feasible and provide evidence of progress. In parallel, the inter-sector M&E framework for 2022-2023 provides a multi-year framework for measuring progress against the LCRP's expected impacts, ensuring transparency and facilitating strategic and programmatic adjustments. It provides direction on impact measurement and the causal linkages from sector outcomes to impact. These causal relationships were tested on their claims and are further detailed in each sector strategy. Contributing to the achievement of the four strategic objectives described in detail in section 3.1, six impact statements are defined as follows:

Strategic objective 1: Ensure protection of vulnerable populations.

Impact 1: Displaced persons from Syria and vulnerable populations live in a safe, protective environment.

Strategic objective 2: Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations.

Impact 2: Immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations are met.

Strategic objective 3: Support service provision through national systems.

Impact 3: Vulnerable populations have equitable access to quality basic services (health, education, water, energy, solid waste management, shelter and social protection) through national (public and private) systems.

Strategic objective 4: Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability.

- Impact 4: Mitigated deterioration in the economic condition of vulnerable populations.
- Impact 5: Social stability is strengthened in Lebanon.
- Impact 6: Mitigated environmental impact of the Syrian crisis, to avoid further degradation of the natural eco-system and ensure its long-term sustainability.

Since 2018, the response M&E system has been incrementally improved:

- A list of research questions at inter-sector and sector levels have been identified to better shape data collection and prioritise learning needs across the response. These research questions will feed into the final evaluation of the response. The questions have been made available online^[37] to interested parties. Academic institutions have been directly engaged in addressing these research gaps;
- Qualitative indicators related to accountability to affected populations have been introduced in sector logframes. Reporting on these indicators started in 2019 to help assess the level of engagement of beneficiaries in the response. At the impact level, two indicators were introduced in 2022, while an AAP output (where possible) and an indicator will be introduced in strategies and logframes across all sectors in 2023; and
- During annual planning, sectors have reviewed the coherence of results and indicators across the LCRP and ERP response frameworks, with further plans to implement synergies where possible in 2023;
- A Strategic Review of LCRP was performed by independent reviewers in 2021. Few recommendations directly related to the monitoring and evaluation of the response:
 - Simplify the LCRP Results Architecture: the revision of the LCRP results architecture was updated during planning in order to slim down the results architecture, ensuring continued relevance and feasibility and testing results chains.
 - Simplify and improve the usefulness of reporting. An online survey was conducted in 2022 on how reporting products are used (frequency and perceived usefulness). The results confirmed that most of the products have a high relevance

[37] LCRP Research Questions and Knowledge Gaps (2022): <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/72477>.

and usefulness, at least for a specific audience. Narrative dashboards are to be strengthened with an enhanced focus on presenting results by population cohort, in response to requests from the Government and donors.

- Assess intermediary progress through mid-year sectoral review: with the second quarter reporting in 2022, all sectors reviewed achievements to-date and significant changes in relevancy or in the context. The consultations involved the Core Groups of each sector, with the results being documented and centralised. The findings were categorised as operational (to be implemented during the second half of the year) and strategic (to be fed into the 2023 planning process). Most sectors identified operational updates (e.g. removing unreported indicators). The Education sector identified the most significant changes, including new sets of activities, and almost doubling the appeal requirement for the sector in 2022 (from USD 182M to USD 349M).
- Measure Impact and Strengthen the Capacity for system-wide impact assessment where the strategic review recommended the commissioning of a number of neutral, system-wide impact studies each year). Limited progress has been made in 2022, noting the intention to prioritise in 2023 (pending available funding), in cooperation with the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Lebanon, coordinated by the Resident Coordinator's Office.

Tracking and information management system:

- The 2022-2023 LCRP achievements will continue to be monitored through ActivityInfo, where partners report against a standard set of indicators agreed upon by sectors and which helps inform progress against sector logframes.
- Enhanced coherence in information management across the LCRP and ERP is supported under the Inter-Agency and United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) co-chaired Information Management Working Group, refreshed and updated in 2022.
- At the impact and outcome level, the Inter-Sector Working Group is responsible for monitoring progress against the LCRP's impact statements, and across the LCRP against sector outcomes and outputs. Macro-level data related to each strategic objective is collected from various official sources to inform progress. The LCRP M&E system links to ActivityInfo as well as several national surveys using mixed methods. In addition, a series of qualitative enquiry processes, including participatory assessment and case studies, are conducted to further explore causal relationships from sector outcomes to impact statements.

- The LCRP Steering Committee periodically reviews the progress on LCRP implementation to inform its discussions and decisions on overall strategy and implementation issues.
- The LCRP M&E and reporting calendar includes several M&E products that will be developed and disseminated during 2022-2023, including, but not limited to, quarterly sectoral dashboards, monthly inter-sectoral dashboards, thematic dashboards ("in focus"), and regular situation-analysis updates. All products have a confirmed usability through the survey results mentioned above.

Financial tracking and reporting:

Funds for LCRP programmes are received and programmed in three ways: 1) bilaterally through government ministries and institutions; 2) through UN/NGO response partners; and 3) through pooled funding arrangements, such as the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund.

MoSA, supported by the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and in collaboration with members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Displaced, will report on funds received for the LCRP as part of its quarterly and annual reporting, based on consolidated information captured in existing aid-tracking systems. All humanitarian contributions to the LCRP through government and response partners will also be captured through the financial tracking system managed by OCHA through the 3RP framework.

Strategic Objective 1: Ensure protection of vulnerable populations

Impact 1: Displaced persons from Syria and vulnerable populations live in a safe protective environment

Impact Indicator	Sector	Sector Outcomes contributing to Impact
1.1 Percentage of displaced persons at protection risk (based on risk index). 1.2 Percentage of displaced persons from Syria and vulnerable populations receiving protection services and assistance	Protection	<p>Outcome 1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and access to an effective justice and protection system.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity are safe, empowered and supported in their communities.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Women, girls, men and boys in all their diversity live with dignity and are resilient to shocks.</p>
	Shelter	<p>Outcome 1: Reduce immediate protection-related shelter needs of most vulnerable households.</p>
	Food Security and Agriculture	<p>Outcome 1: Ensure that most vulnerable communities in Lebanon receive FOOD ASSISTANCE to reduce their food gaps and diversify their food intake.</p> <p>Improve food access through cash-based food assistance and support to sustainable agricultural livelihoods.</p>
	Livelihoods	<p>Outcome 2: Improve workforce employability.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Strengthen policy development and enable environment for job creation.</p>

Strategic Objective 2: Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations

Impact 2: Immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations are met.

Impact Indicator	Sector	Sector Outcomes contributing to Impact
2.1 Percentage of vulnerable population whose immediate basic humanitarian needs are met.	Basic Assistance	<p>Outcome 1: Strengthen the ability of vulnerable households and individuals, including female-headed households, persons with disabilities, and children, to meet their basic survival needs.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Strengthen the ability of populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies to secure additional basic survival needs.</p>
	Food Security and Agriculture	<p>Outcome 1: To ensure most vulnerable communities in Lebanon receive FOOD ASSISTANCE to reduce their food gaps and diversify their food intake.</p> <p>Outcome 2: To improve agricultural production and productivity of most vulnerable farmers through AGRICULTURE LIVELIHOODS ASSISTANCE to protect, restore and sustain their livelihoods.</p> <p>Outcome 3: To enhance national CAPACITIES, COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING on food security and agriculture.</p>
2.2 Percentage reduction of the population who is severely economically vulnerable.		
2.2 Percentage reduction of the population who is severely economically vulnerable.		
2.3 Accountability to Affected Populations: % of households reporting knowledge of complaint mechanisms.	Livelihoods	<p>Outcome 1: Stimulate local economic growth and market systems to foster income-generating opportunities and decent and safe employment.</p>
2.4 Accountability to Affected Populations: % of households who would use/not use existing complaint mechanisms.	Protection	<p>Outcome 1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and access to an effective justice and protection system.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Women, girls, men and boys in all their diversity live with dignity and are resilient to shocks.</p>
	Water	<p>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.</p>

Strategic Objective 3: Support service provision through national system

Impact 3: Vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national systems

Impact Indicator	Sector	Sector Outcomes contributing to Impact
3.1 Percentage of population with access to quality public and private services.	Basic Assistance	Outcome 3: Effective and efficient service delivery through strengthened linkages with national social safety net programmes and social protection systems.
	Education	<p>Outcome 1: Increased equitable access to, participation in, and retention in education for all learners in Lebanon, with a focus on the most vulnerable children and their caregivers.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Improved teaching and learning, and focus on 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.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Enhanced governance and managerial capacities of the education system at central, regional and local levels to deliver high-level results relying on evidence-based decision-making.</p>
	Energy	<p>Outcome 1: Increase energy production through implementation of Renewable Energy Sources.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Reduction in energy demand due to implementation of Energy-Efficiency Initiatives.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Strengthen policy development and enabling environment for job creation.</p> <p>Outcome 4: Enhance capacity of MoEW to plan, budget and oversee energy sector initiatives.</p>
	Food Security and Agriculture	Outcome 3: To enhance national CAPACITIES, COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING on food security and agriculture.

	Health	<p>Outcome 1: Improve access to comprehensive primary healthcare (PHC).</p> <p>Outcome 2: Improve access to hospital (including Emergency Room (ER) Care) and advanced referral care (including advanced diagnostic laboratory and radiology care).</p> <p>Outcome 3: Improve Outbreak & Infectious Diseases Control.</p> <p>Outcome 4: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and have access to basic services and information (justice, health, education).</p>
	Nutrition	<p>Outcome 1: Young children and their caregivers have access to and demand for services aiming at prevention of all forms of malnutrition and the associated developmental risks (0-5 years of age).</p> <p>Outcome 2: School age children and adolescents have access to and demand for services aiming at prevention of all forms of malnutrition– particularly among girls.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Women have enhanced access to and demand for services aiming at prevention of all forms of malnutrition– particularly during pregnancy and lactation.</p> <p>Outcome 4: Children have access to growth monitoring, screening, early detection, and treatment of wasting in early childhood.</p>
	Livelihoods	<p>Outcome 1: Stimulate local economic growth and market systems to foster income-generating opportunities and decent and safe employment</p>
	Protection	<p>Outcome 1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and access to an effective justice and protection system.</p>
	Shelter	<p>Outcome 3: Enhance the contribution of national institutions and organizations to the housing situation in Lebanon.</p>
	Social Stability	<p>Outcome 1: Strengthen municipalities, national and local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure, reduce resentment, and build peace</p>
	Water	<p>Outcome 1: Strengthen national, regional and local public institutions' capacities to deliver improved public policies, goods and services (water and sanitation)</p>

Strategic Objective 4: Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability

Impact 4: Mitigated deterioration in the economic condition of vulnerable populations

Impact Indicator	Sector	Sector Outcomes contributing to Impact
4.1 Percentage of the population living below the poverty line. 4.2 Percentage of the active population who has access to decent employment opportunities.	Education	Outcome 2: Improved teaching and learning and focus on 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.
	Food Security and Agriculture	Outcome 1: To ensure most vulnerable communities in Lebanon receive FOOD ASSISTANCE to reduce their food gaps and diversify their food intake. Outcome 2: To improve agricultural production and productivity of most vulnerable farmers through. AGRICULTURE LIVELIHOODS ASSISTANCE to protect, restore and sustain their livelihoods and support to sustainable agricultural livelihoods.
	Livelihoods	Outcome 1: Stimulate local economic growth and market systems to foster income-generating opportunities and decent and safe employment. Outcome 2: Improve workforce employability. Outcome 3: Strengthen policy development and enabling environment for job creation.
	Shelter	Outcome 2: Improve access to adequate shelter in disadvantaged areas for enhanced stability.

Impact 5: Social stability is strengthened in Lebanon

Impact Indicator	Sector	Sector Outcomes contributing to Impact
5.1. Percentage of municipalities enforcing restrictions.	Protection	Outcome 1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and have access to an effective justice and protection system. Outcome 2: Women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity are safe, empowered and supported in their communities.
5.2. Percentage decrease in population living in vulnerable areas reporting tensions in their community.		Outcome 2: Improve access to adequate shelter in disadvantaged areas for enhanced stability.
5.3. Percentage increase of population living in vulnerable areas reporting sense of solidarity in their community.	Social Stability	Outcome 1: Strengthen municipalities, national and local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure, reduce resentment, and build peace. Outcome 2: Strengthen municipal and local community capacity to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts. Outcome 3: Enhance LCRP capacities on early warning and conflict sensitivity.

Impact 6: Mitigated environmental impact of the Syrian crisis, to avoid further degradation of the natural eco-system and ensure its long-term sustainability

Impact Indicator	Sector	Sector Outcomes contributing to Impact
6.1. Percentage increase in emissions of particulate matter (PM) reduced. 6.2. Percentage of energy-related projects pursuing environmental due diligence processes	Energy	Outcome 4: Enhance capacity of MoEW to plan, budget and oversee energy sector initiatives.
	Food Security and Agriculture	Outcome 2: to improve agricultural production and productivity of most vulnerable farmers through AGRICULTURE LIVELIHOODS ASSISTANCE to protect, restore and sustain their livelihoods.
	Shelter	Outcome 1: Reduce immediate protection-related shelter needs of most vulnerable households.
	Social Stability	Outcome 1: Strengthen municipalities, national and local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure, reduce resentment and build peace.
	Water	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.



PART 2

SECTOR OPERATIONAL RESPONSE PLANS - 2023

BASIC ASSISTANCE
EDUCATION
ENERGY
FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE
HEALTH
NUTRITION
LIVELIHOODS
PROTECTION
SHELTER
WATER
SOCIAL STABILITY



BASIC ASSISTANCE SECTOR

PEOPLE IN NEED



3,036,400

PEOPLE TARGETED



2,338,900

NEEDS-BASED APPEAL



\$494M

PARTNERS



39

GENDER MARKER



4*

*Intends to contribute to gender equality, but without attention to age groups AND/OR people with disabilities

CONTACT

LEAD MINISTRY

Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)
Hadi Haddad
hadi_haddad@live.com

COORDINATING AGENCY

UNHCR
Ruba Cheaib
cheaib@unhcr.org
ACF Spain
Sonia Ben Salem
sbensalem@lb.acfspain.org

SECTOR OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1:

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

INDICATORS

- Percentage of assisted households report being able to meet their basic survival needs
- Percentage of assisted households that report relying on crisis or emergency asset depleting coping strategies

OUTCOME 2:

Strengthen the ability of populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies to secure additional basic survival needs

INDICATORS

- Percentage of assisted households affected by seasonal shocks report being able to meet their basic survival needs
- Percentage of assisted households that report relying on crisis or emergency asset depleting coping strategies







OUTCOME 3:

Effective and efficient service delivery through strengthened linkages with national social safety net programmes and social protection systems

INDICATOR

- Alignment plan developed for operationalizing linkages between humanitarian assistance for refugees and national systems (e.g. assessment tools, transfer value, registration and payment methods, and monitoring and evaluation)

POPULATION BREAKDOWN

POPULATION COHORT	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	FEMALE  MALE 	
 Vulnerable Lebanese	1,460,000	762,500	396,500	366,000
 Displaced Syrians	1,365,000	1,365,000	696,150	668,850
 Palestinian Refugees from Syria	31,400	31,400	16,328	15,072
 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	180,000	180,000	93,600	86,400

1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Since 2019, Lebanon has been facing an unprecedented financial and economic crisis that likely ranks among the top ten most severe crises globally. This has had compounding effects on already vulnerable population groups including Lebanese, displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees from Syria and Palestine refugees in Lebanon and has manifested in a loss of jobs and income, high inflation, as well as shortages in essential services (including electricity and medications). The landscape of increased needs and vulnerabilities coupled with grave strains on the banking and financial sector in the country has shaped the way the Basic Assistance sector supports poor and vulnerable families and individuals.

The Lebanese Pound (LBP) has continuously depreciated since October 2019, impacting both prices of goods and services in the country while also impacting the purchasing power of individuals. The informal market rate for the LBP averaged around 38,600 to the U.S. Dollar (USD) in October 2022, reaching a historical high of above 40,000 LBP/USD, compared to 26,400 LBP/USD in January of the same year. Due to Lebanon's high reliance on imports for basic goods and commodities, the fluctuation and depreciation of the local currency has a direct effect on prices in the country. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), one of the most important economic indicators used to measure inflation, recorded an annual increase of 163 per cent from September 2021 to September 2022. The Survival and Minimum Expenditure Baskets (S/MEB), baskets of basic food and non-food items (NFI) and services, have also served as main indicators to monitor the costs of living in Lebanon. The price of the S/MEB has increased by more than seven times by September 2022, compared to June 2020, and has increased by 50 per cent in 2022 alone. These high levels of inflation, coupled with a loss in income-generating opportunities as well as shortages in essential goods and services, have challenged the ability of vulnerable populations to meet their basic needs.

Findings from the 2022 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) showed that among the displaced Syrian population, 90 per cent of families need assistance to meet their basic survival needs. A large proportion of families were reducing spending on health and education as well as selling assets and one-third (30%) of Syrian households reported struggling to access menstrual hygiene items, with female-headed households (FHH) (36%) more often facing this challenge than male-headed households (HH) (29%). Income generated through work was not able to compensate for the tremendous rise in prices. While average income among Syrians increased in 2022 (reached USD 60), the rate was not comparable to the national inflation rates. Male-headed households had incomes that were 57 per cent higher than female-headed households, and a smaller proportion of females, in general, were part of the workforce. Additionally, larger proportions of female-headed households rely on assistance and debt as main income sources.

In 2021, more than half the Lebanese population in the country was estimated to be living below the poverty line.ⁱ Further estimations have suggested this has increase by 9 per cent of the population. The household deprivation score (HDS), developed by the World Food Program (WFP) to assess non-monetary poverty among the Lebanese population, found that over half (53 per cent) of Lebanese households needed assistance to meet their basic needs by the end of 2021. During the same period, a little under three quarters of Lebanese households were de-prioritizing health and education needs to save money for other expenses, 41 per cent had sold household assets and almost half (42 per cent) reported issues accessing menstrual hygiene products. A quarter of employees were earning less than 1,100,000 LBP monthly. Lebanese families also reported taking out loans to pay for food, healthcare, education, and utility bills.

Palestinian refugees, both from Syria and in Lebanon, have also been severely impacted by the ongoing crises in the country. UNRWA's September 2022 Crisis Monitoring Report A socio-economic survey on Palestinian refugees from Syria, showed that 93 per cent of Palestine refugees are living below the poverty line, up from 86 per cent in March 2022. 87 per cent were poor and 11 per cent were extremely poor. About 22 per cent of families described themselves as "extremely poor", 60 per cent described themselves as "poor", and 18 per cent indicated that they were "moderately poor." The crisis monitoring report for Palestine refugees in Lebanon from July 2021 showed that almost three quarters (73 per cent) of the population is living in poverty. Moreover, 56 per cent of surveyed individuals reported that they categorize themselves as "poor" while 23 per cent self-reported as "extremely poor".

The country's dire economic situation is also negatively impacting social stability and community relations. Like previous years, the VASyR and the UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV, on Social Tensions show that the scarcity of and competition for resources and jobs is increasing tensions across the country. Evidence also cites assistance, particularly cash-based interventions, as a potential driver of community tensions.

During 2023, prices of basic goods in the country are expected to continue increasing in parallel with further depreciation of the local currency. Without support, vulnerable and poor families and individuals, particularly women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, will continue struggling to meet their basic needs in a safe and dignified way.

2. OVERALL SECTOR STRATEGY

Theory of Change

The Basic Assistance sector aims to prevent socio-economically vulnerable households from falling deeper into poverty while minimizing reliance on negative coping mechanisms. The sector achieves this through the provision of regular cash assistance to improve access to basic goods and services for poor households while providing additional support to socially excluded and susceptible groups, such as female-headed households, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities. Moreover, the sector aims to support households to meet additional basic survival needs and cope with seasonal and/or emergency shocks.

The intervention logic is summarized as follows:

- If poor and socio-economically vulnerable households will benefit from unconditional, unrestricted cash assistance grants, then their basic survival needs will be met.
- If households or individuals with additional, specific needs, that cause additional financial burdens will benefit from unconditional, unrestricted cash grants, then their specific basic needs will be met.
- If populations affected by seasonal hazards and/or emergencies will receive cash grants and/or in-kind assistance, they will be able to secure additional needs, without compromising expenditures on basic needs.
- If Humanitarian assistance under the Sector is aligned, to the highest extent possible, to national social assistance and protection systems, services will be delivered effectively and efficiently.

The Sector's focus on cash-based interventions stems from evidence that cash offers households the flexibility to determine and prioritize their needs, and empowers and promotes dignity of choice for recipients while stimulating local markets and achieving economies of scale (compared to in-kind modalities). While the on-going economic, banking, and financial crises in the country have made the provision of cash assistance challenging, the experience of cash actors over the past three years has shown that cash transfers remain relevant and feasible. This is evident in high redemption rates of over 95 per cent^[1] and scarce reports of any serious risks in redeeming and spending assistance (97 per cent of beneficiaries stating that they were able to safely access cash assistance). Moreover, vulnerable families, including Syrians, Lebanese, and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, have continued to voice a preference for receiving support through unrestricted cash.

While cash transfers remain the preferred modality for supporting families to meet their basic needs, the sector will continue to maintain in-kind assistance on a smaller scale than cash, particularly in a tailored response to an individual, household, or community level emergency. In-kind assistance, which includes the distribution of NFI, such as blankets, mattresses, sleeping mats, clothes, kitchen sets, jerry cans and solar lamps, supports families recovering after a loss of basic household assets due to floods, fires, evictions, and/or relocation.

The Basic Assistance sector will work towards strengthening linkages between humanitarian programs under the sector and national social assistance responses, including the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) and the Emergency Social Safety Net program (ESSN), as well as the national social grant programs under the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS). Strong coordination between humanitarian assistance and national social assistance programs will allow for a more effective and sustainable approach to service delivery. This particularly includes linkages with the Social Assistance Pillar of the National Social Protection Strategy.

Assumptions and risks

The expected deterioration of Lebanon's economic and social stability in 2023 will inevitably pose further challenges and barriers to the delivery of basic assistance. The sector's strategy to maintain and scale up cash-based assistance relies on the assumption that the banking sector in Lebanon will remain conducive to sustaining this modality. While many partners have shifted to provide cash-over-counter rather than through ATMs, a large bulk of cash assistance under the sector continues to be delivered through ATMs, and thus relies heavily on key functionalities of the banking sector.

Another key factor linked to economic instability in the country that is expected to further deteriorate in 2023 is the affordability of goods and services. Sector achievements at the outcome and impact levels are very much tied to the ability to provide a meaningful assistance package with regards to the transfer values of the cash grants. The volatility in markets and prices poses a risk to the stability and consistency of the cash transfers, affecting the real value of amounts transferred to assisted families. The sector will maintain an evidence-based approach to determine adequate transfer values while remaining cognizant of conflict-sensitive and protection considerations. Availability of funding is also an influencing factor when it comes to keeping up with the increasing cost of living. In 2023, funds available for regular and emergency/seasonal cash assistance under the sector are expected to decline, with the increasing level of needs across populations, maintaining a high

^[1] Redemption rates from the Lebanon One Unified Inter-Organizational System for E-cards (LOUISE).

coverage of families while scaling up transfer values may not be possible.

In 2023, the cash disbursement under the sector is likely to remain under a dual-currency system, with some actors providing assistance in USD and others in LBP. This poses a challenge to the harmonisation of transfer values across the sector. The sector has developed guidance on the calculation of transfer values in both currencies to ensure harmonisation of methodologies across partners. The sector will continue to coordinate currency disbursement discussions under the framework set forth by the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in 2021, which lays out a suggested two-phased approach to the shift in currencies^[2].

Through the development of the sector Protection Risk Analysis (PRA), the risk and mitigation matrix developed by the Cash Task Force with regards to USD cash disbursement, and discussions with key stakeholders, the sector has identified several key priority risks that require attention in the coming period. This includes, but is not limited to, the following high risks:

- Tensions at ATMs and other distribution and redemption sites. This specifically concerns reported challenges in safely accessing ATMs, with partners reporting incidents of physical and verbal harassment of women at ATM sites. These risks are more evident in regions where coverage of cash assistance is high and redemption points are limited. The sector will continue to prioritise discussions around different cash modalities and the advantages and disadvantages of each, with points of redemption playing a large role in the assessment of risks. (Impact: high; Probability: high)
- Inter- and intra-communal tensions. These include tensions linked to disbursed transfer values, currency of disbursement, as well as overall potential decline in the coverage of families. As funding is expected to decline, a larger gap will likely emerge between those assisted and those not receiving assistance (including those who may be discontinued), potentially leading to a heightened intra-communal tension risk. If tensions across nationality groups (particularly between Lebanese and Syrians) continue to rise, and risk, including protection risks, are not mitigated through a comprehensive communication plan, partners' ability to continue or scale up transfer values and coverage may be compromised (Impact: medium; Probability: high)
- Loss of value for money due to discrepancies in exchange rates. The ability of partners to minimize the loss of value in money has been heavily reliant on agreements with Financial Service Providers to secure preferential exchange rates that follow the exchange rate in the informal market. For partners who have maintained LBP

cash disbursements, misalignment between preferential rates and the informal rate will have consequences on the value of funds received. (Impact: high; Probability: medium)

- Changes in official exchange rates impacting prices, purchasing power and the value of money. Several parallel exchange rates are in existence in the country currently, including the official USD rate which has been maintained at 1,515LBP, the Sayrafa rate, rates for imports, rates used for subsidy coverage, rates for withdrawing USD for personal bank accounts, and the market rate. Any change in these rates will have a direct impact on both prices and availability of commodities and services in the country, directly affecting cash-based interventions under the Sector aimed at supporting families meet a variety of basic needs. (Impact: high; Probability: medium)

Sector partners have taken several steps to mitigate some key risks including the staggering of uploads, expanding ATM networks, and introducing or switching to other forms of delivery (e.g., voucher or cash over the counter). Through strong collaboration with the Protection and Social Stability sectors, the following key risks will be monitored throughout 2023: protection risks to communities, the risk of inter-group or intra-group confrontations, incidents, and tensions. Over the past year, partners have been able to successfully negotiate appropriate exchange rates to minimize a loss of funds due to misalignment of exchange rates; other actors have shifted to providing assistance in USD to mitigate this risk. The Sector will continue advocating for the alignment of transfer values with costs of living and providing guidance on meaningful assistance, using regular price monitoring and reviews of the S/MEB to inform transfer values. The sector has also been working closely with the Protection sector to identify mitigation measures specifically linked to the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) as well as Gender Based Violence (GBV)^[3]. The sector will continue to work towards developing concrete mitigation measures for prioritised risks, linking with other sectors (namely Food Security and Agriculture and Protection) when needed, as well as enhancing the monitoring and sharing of identified protection risks through 2023.

The sector's activities consider women's and men's ability to safely access cash assistance and mitigate the risks of exploitation and fraud at cash points. Monitoring during and after distribution will be further focused on risks associated with cash withdrawal, in particular for women, girls, older persons and persons with disabilities. From a do-no-harm (DNH), the sector will work closely with gender and GBV focal points to identify methods of identification and prevention as well as assessments on different cash modalities.

^[2] The two-phased approach proposes that the first phase of shift in disbursement to USD focuses on programmes targeting Lebanese, Palestinians, and smaller interventions across nationalities. The second phase will include interventions exclusively targeting Syrians, in order to help to mitigate protection and tensions risks.

^[3] Discussed in more detail in the Mainstreaming section of the sector strategy.

Sector Results: LCRP Impacts, Sector Outcomes, Outputs

The interventions under the Basic Assistance sector contribute to two of the LCRP's impact and strategic objectives:

Strategic Objective 2: Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations.

Impact 2: Immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations are met.

Regular and seasonal/emergency cash or in-kind assistance represents a primary source of income for the poorest and most vulnerable households in Lebanon. Cash received through these programmes (to be achieved through Outcomes 1 and 2) is primarily used by beneficiaries to cover expenses such as food, rent and health and education-related expenditures, as well as fuel for winter heating. In-kind assistance covers the distribution of core items to families in immediate need.

Strategic Objective 3: Support service provision through national systems.

Impact 3: Vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national systems.

Engagement, coordination and alignment with national programs and strategies (including the NPTP and the NSPS) will increase the coverage and effectiveness of interventions, reaching more vulnerable populations with basic assistance. These improved mechanisms are intended to facilitate the transfer of social value towards vulnerable populations, thus contributing to achieving Impact 3. This is achieved under outcome 3 of the Basic Assistance sector.

Expected results

The sector's planned outputs, and interventions feed in to three outcomes:

Outcome 1: Strengthen the ability of vulnerable households and individuals, including female-headed households, persons with disabilities, and children, to meet their basic survival needs.

Output 1.1: Poor and vulnerable households and individuals benefit from unconditional, unrestricted cash assistance grants to cover costs of basic needs.

The sector achieves this outcome through the provision of regular unconditional and unrestricted cash assistance under two categories. Poverty-targeted cash assistance for basic needs to Lebanese, displaced Syrians, and Palestinian refugees supports poor families in meeting survival needs as defined through the S/MEB. Other,

complimentary social assistance programs provide cash grants to persons and families that face additional financial barriers to securing basic needs, including, but not limited to, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities. Through these interventions, vulnerable families and individuals have increased access to cash liquidity and are better able to prioritize and meet their needs.

Cash assistance for basic needs^[4]: This is the largest type of yearlong assistance under the Basic Assistance sector. Serving as a lifeline to assisted women, girls, men and boys, this programme aims to strengthen households' ability to meet their basic needs through a monthly unrestricted and unconditional multi-purpose cash transfer. Through socio-economic vulnerability profiling, the poorest households are targeted and assisted.

The cash provided aims to bridge the gap between the economic capacity that households are able to achieve and the defined survival expenditure level, based on the S/MEB, which estimates monthly expenditures on essential items and services including food items, basic household assets, hygiene items (including menstrual hygiene items), rent, water, health, communications, transportation, and others. The value is calculated based on the non-food component of the basket and is intended to be complementary to food assistance (cash for food or food e-cards) provided under the Food Security and Agriculture sector. Due to the high level of poverty across population groups, some partners may decide to support families with cash for basic non-food needs and food assistance separately to spread assistance to a larger number of poor families. However, the overlap these two programs will ensure that households are fully supported and have a strengthened ability to meet their basic food and non-food needs.

Technical and comprehensive reviews of the expenditure baskets (MEB and S/MEB) have taken place annually since 2020 following the release of the VASyR results. The costs of respective components in the baskets are monitored monthly, relying heavily on WFP retail price data, the CPI, and UNHCR protection-monitoring data. The sector recommends a transfer value based on the changes in prices of the non-food S/MEB and the estimated economic capacity of households, while maintaining a conflict-sensitive approach to the provision of cash assistance. This is achieved through regular risk monitoring (as part of the sector protection risk assessment). Done within the sector core group, a detailed methodology for monitoring and updating transfer values has been developed. In this document, a 20 per cent threshold of change in transfer value coverage, relative to the S/MEB, triggers an update in the value provided to families. Partners must also weigh other factors when deciding to update transfer values, including available funding and social stability considerations. As of November 2022, the majority of assisted displaced Syrian families were receiving 1,000,000 LBP per month, only around 40 per cent of

^[4] Commonly referred to as Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA).

the recommended value^[5]. Social concerns, as well as funding limitations, prevented some partners from further increasing the value. Several partners, with relatively fewer caseloads, have been able to provide the full recommended value in USD (ranging from USD 100 to USD 150 in 2022). Continuous advocacy to increase transfer values to meet market prices is vital to curb harmful coping mechanisms and ensure that households and individuals can meet their basic needs. In 2023, the sector will engage in detailed discussions around meaningful assistance packages and how to mitigate the negative impacts of decreased values.

The assistance is planned and implemented, taking into consideration other complementary interventions and services available within different sectors and responding to other types of needs and vulnerabilities. These include cash for food assistance provided under the Food Security and Agriculture sector and other cash programs, targeting more specific needs under different sectors (e.g., Protection, Shelter, Education). Ensuring families can meet their basic survival needs through cash assistance will allow for the maximization of the impact of other sectoral cash interventions, which may be otherwise diluted. Additionally, as the Basic Assistance sector aims to increase families' access to specific services through the provision of cash assistance, its understandings of the functionality and accessibility of specific services that are intended to be covered through the cash transfers remains a priority. The sector will increase efforts to work with the relevant sectors, who may have components covered under the objectives of the basic assistance cash transfers, to better monitor and assess other services made available (e.g., fee waivers for education or health) for a more holistic approach to supporting families in meeting their needs. This will include clearly defining the expectations and objectives of each sector in relation to the Basic Assistance sector to ensure complementary and harmonious interventions. This would also include a better understanding of referral pathways from the Basic Assistance sector to other sectors, to increase the knowledge and ability of beneficiaries to access specific services.

Other Social Assistance Programs

These programmes also aim to strengthen the ability of families to meet their basic needs through regular unrestricted cash transfers but are based on understanding the inherent vulnerabilities of specific groups of individuals. This includes specifically targeting and supporting children, older persons, and persons with disabilities or other medical conditions, knowing that these groups incur additional expenses, have lower income-generating capacities, and/or whose needs in the household may be de-prioritized when faced with financial strife. In most cases, the cash transfers are coupled with the provision of other services to address specific vulnerabilities and enhance service delivery.

The main distinction between social assistance programs under the Basic Assistance sector and other potentially similar sectoral cash-based programs is the unconditionality of the cash transfers intended to alleviate poverty and address socio-economic vulnerability while re-enforcing the availability of other services for specific outcomes. The sector will coordinate closely with the Protection and Education sectors, which provide specific protection, emergency, and education cash assistance programs, to avoid duplication and to ensure the full complementarity of the different assistance packages through proper outcome monitoring and clearly distinguished indicators. The sector will also maintain and ensure intersectoral cash coordination with the Cash Working Group.

Other key activities linked to this output include the annual review of the targeting system to identify poor Syrian households; developing guidance for targeting Lebanese host communities and streamlining efforts for harmonized methodologies within the sector; contributing to research and learning; regular and consistent reviews of the potential impact of risks and the evolving context; and the review of previously developed post-distribution and outcome-monitoring tools.

Outcome 2: Strengthen the ability of populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies to secure additional basic survival needs.

Building on Outcome 1, Outcome 2 strives to ensure that households do not fall deeper into poverty when faced with shocks or additional contextual challenges outside of their control. Direct assistance provision under Outcome 2 encompasses both cash and in-kind assistance, under two distinct outputs.

Output 2.1: Population affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies benefits from cash grants.

During specific times of the year, or when households face unexpected shocks, needs may increase while the capacity to keep up decreases simultaneously. In most cases, these additional needs can be covered through the purchase of goods and access to services in the local market, making a cash-based response relevant.

In winter, needs and vulnerabilities are heightened, and households are faced with compounding challenges to secure additional basic needs that range from the purchasing of heaters, winter clothes and blankets, and securing enough fuel for heating. In parallel, income generating opportunities (particularly in agriculture and construction) are decreased in the winter, adding additional barriers for already poor families. Vulnerable households and individuals who receive seasonal cash assistance are better able to cope with seasonal shocks and have an increased ability to meet their needs, without having to resort to negative coping mechanisms or de-prioritize other essential needs.

The Basic Assistance sector, through consultations with the core and working groups, has developed a

^[5] Provided by UNHCR and WFP. The food assistance transfer value provided by WFP was 500,000 per person, capped at six people per household.

winter basket to outline winter-specific needs and their respective costs in the market. The basket is reviewed on an annual basis to maintain relevance^[6] and includes both a NFI component as well as estimations for heating costs. The NFI component includes heaters, blankets, mattresses, mats and clothing kits for various age groups and genders. Heating costs were estimated for three different fuel costs—diesel, gas, and wood, using averages across the different regions. Seasonal cash assistance is provided as a monthly cash transfer or as a one-off transfer, preferably at the start of the winter season to help families prepare. The determination of the method and timing of disbursement should be based on the determined transfer value, expected coverage while also considering the best use of received assistance.

Targeting for seasonal cash assistance for displaced persons follows a blanket approach where all households living in poverty are targeted for assistance. In 2022, all displaced Syrian families living in poverty were targeted for winter assistance. In order to optimize on limited resources, agencies prioritised families that do not receive regular assistance with larger assistance packages for winter than for families who do receive regular assistance. Targeting Lebanese households for winter has occurred through partner outreach, including liaising with local authorities (e.g., municipalities) as well as providing families that receive regular cash assistance for basic needs with a top-up. In 2023, as funds are expected to decline, the sector will engage in comprehensive discussions with partners to define any needed prioritisation strategy including discussions on prioritisation of families based on geographic location, regular assistance states, poverty, and categorical targeting.

Addressing seasonal needs requires a multi-sectoral approach. While monetized winter assistance for basic needs is intended to cover increased expenses faced during the season, the impact of the programme may be diluted if families prioritize other critical unmet needs (for example gaps in shelter weatherproofing or in food).

Outside the winter season, poor families may be susceptible to other economic shocks that compromise their ability to meet their basic needs. In 2023, the Basic Assistance sector, working closely with the Protection sector, which also provides emergency cash assistance for protection-related emergencies, will work towards clearly defining different types of economic shocks that may warrant cash intervention over the short term. The sectors will also define complementarity and identify gaps across the different programmes.

Output 2.2: Population affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies benefits from in-kind assistance.

In-kind assistance is provided to households affected by seasonal hazards and/or emergencies on an ad-hoc/needs basis. Activities under this output include maintaining and monitoring contingency stocks, identifying households

and distributing core household items. The added value of providing in-kind assistance in these cases is that the specific basic needs of families can be met. This follows a household-level assessment to determine which households' assets are needed and cannot be secured by the family due to socio-economic constraints

Targeting for in-kind assistance during the winter typically follows a geographical and needs-based approach to providing assistance to families living in areas that have been affected by adverse weather that has led to a loss in household assets. The sector must maintain a certain degree of capacity to deliver in-kind assistance in the event of an unprecedented emergency that may require a higher level of in-kind response. In 2022, the sector has begun developing a guidance note for in-kind assistance to ensure rationale and methods are streamlined across partners. In 2023, the sector will work closely with regional partners to ensure the proper coordination of in-kind assistance and the identification of gaps in a timely and efficient manner. Work will also be prioritised to focus on conflict-sensitive considerations for in-kind support, particularly for large-scale distributions.

The sector will coordinate with the Protection sector in relation to the provision of emergency assistance, specifically in response to evictions. This response includes the referral of individuals/households in need of further protection support and is in line with the individual eviction guidance note developed jointly with the Protection and Shelter sectors to promote a cross-sector response to eviction.

Outcome 3: Effective and efficient service delivery through strengthened linkages with humanitarian basic assistance outside of government-led programs, national social safety net programmes and social protection systems.

Two outputs are contributing to the achievement of this outcome:

Output 3.1: Linkages between partners supporting vulnerable and extreme poor Lebanese are strengthened.

This will be achieved by establishing relationships between Basic Assistance partners and the NPTF. This includes exploring the feasibility of allowing for unified assistance and cross-checking between the different interventions as well as the potential to leverage partner assessment data to feed in to the NPTF database.



47% of Lebanese households are facing increasing challenges accessing basic needs

Phone Survey conducted by WFP and the World Bank

This includes developing clear guidance on the different interventions targeting vulnerable Lebanese to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication, understanding the degree to which the NPTF overlaps with other forms

^[6] 2022 Winter Cash Guidance note can be found here: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/97368>.

of targeting under the Basic Assistance sector, as well as contributing towards the alignment of existing social safety nets for the displaced and refugees with the emerging national social protection strategy.

Partners under the sector are encouraged to use resources available through the NPTP, including eligibility lists and data on vulnerable households, to target extreme poor Lebanese, to maintain capacity and confidence in the national system as well as to ensure the most efficient use of resources. Linkages will be strengthened between the NPTP and partners targeting extreme poor Lebanese outside the national social protection system to foster learning as well as to ensure the optimal use of resources across responses, with a focus on ensuring information trickles down to partners across the regions.

Likewise, social grants are identified as a key priority in Lebanon for the expansion of social assistance to individuals and households that face lifecycle vulnerabilities as outlined above. It will be important for Basic Assistance actors to ensure linkages with these programmes where relevant and to support their roll-out and expansion where feasible and needed.

Activities under the output include providing regular updates and briefings on the NPTP and social grants to sector partners at the national and field level; setting up a system and method for tracking emergency or regular assistance outside and within the MoSA/The Government of Lebanon; explore methods to increase efficiency of resources across the different responses and explore ways in which Lebanese targeted and assisted through sector partners with humanitarian and emergency support could be integrated into regular and national social assistance programs.

Output 3.2: Priorities defined for coordination between humanitarian basic assistance outside government-led programmes and national social protection strategy

The Social Protection Strategy for Lebanon includes shock-responsive elements dedicated to enabling the cabinet and all stakeholders to respond to the multi-layered crises the country is currently facing and proposing a vision and a way forward in a way that guarantees social justice, social stability, and economic inclusion in society. The Strategy aims to provide immediate and longer-term solutions to growing poverty, vulnerability, and growing risks within the population in Lebanon, as well as to address the sizeable gaps and weaknesses in the existing system. The Basic Assistance sector shall specifically ensure linkages and involvement with the Social Assistance Pillar of the Social Protection Strategy which includes plans for cash-based assistance through the NPTP as well as the roll out of social grants (including the Child Grant and the Disability Allowance). The sector will work on documenting best practices in the existing cooperation between humanitarian assistance, national social assistance systems and social assistance protection strategies.

Sector efforts to strengthen these linkages contribute to a wider effort driven by a capacity development strategy that

transcends the LCRP. These efforts are complementary and designed in close collaboration with other responses that fall outside the LCRP.

Identification of sector needs and targets at the individual/HH, community and institutional/physical environment level^[7]

Displaced Syrian households

Economic vulnerability is measured by a household's economic capacity, which includes expenditure and consumption. The MEB and S/MEB serve as thresholds to estimate the proportion of the population living in poverty and extreme poverty, respectively. The 2022 VASyR estimates that 91 per cent of the displaced Syrian population is living below the minimum expenditure basket^[8]. Using this proportion and based on the GoL's estimate of 1.5 million displaced Syrian people in the country, 1,365,000 individuals are estimated to be living in poverty and are thus in need and targeted by the sector.

The first Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) for acute food insecurity in Lebanon was conducted in September 2022. Results revealed that for the projected period (January-April 2023), 790,000 Syrian refugees will face high acute food insecurity. In particular, 121,000 Syrian refugees are classified as being in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 678,000 Syrian refugees are classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Populations classified in IPC Phase 3 and above require urgent humanitarian action to reduce food gaps, protect and restore livelihoods and prevent acute malnutrition.

Specific identification of poor families is mostly done through an econometric model that builds off the data gathered through the VASyR and applies it to the UNHCR database, which houses data on all Syrian refugees known to UNHCR in the country. The model identifies the strength of households' observable characteristics, which act as predictors of expenditure levels. It generates welfare scores at the case level which are then used to rank the Syrian population from the most to the least economically vulnerable. Households with a score below the S/MEB are considered severely vulnerable. Since 2021, UNHCR and WFP, who led on the development of the econometric model with the support of Development Analytics, complement scoring with district-level geographical quotas to balance the proportion of assistance allocated to each district. Based on a study conducted in 2022 by Development Analytics, the multi-dimensional deprivation index has proven effective in targeting economically and multidimensionally deprived families and is used as an

^[7] This can include Governorates, Districts, Cadasters, villages ...etc.

^[8] This figure excludes expenditure of households achieved through the receipt of assistance in order to estimate poverty levels of the population not taking into account the large number of families who receive cash based assistance.

indicator in the geographical quota adjustment for 2022 expenditure-based scoring. Due to the high levels of vulnerability in the country, categorical targeting layers are often added to the socio-economic scoring to prioritise families' cash assistance for basic needs.

In addition, UNHCR and WFP also rely on an alternative inclusion pathway, the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), to identify and assist families who fall under certain vulnerability profiles and have been excluded from the targeting model. The GRM is a refugee-driven approach to inclusion whereby vulnerable families submit a claim to be re-considered for assistance following the yearly eligibility announcements.



In 2023, UNICEF aims to roll out social grants, including the child grant and national disability allowance, to support vulnerable individuals throughout their lifecycle. The targeting of Syrian and Palestinian individuals is coordinated with UNHCR and UNRWA. Targeting for these social grants, provided by UNICEF or other partners, follows a categorical approach, identifying individuals with specific lifecycle vulnerabilities.

Lebanese Households

In September 2022, the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Food Insecurity Analysis was undertaken in Lebanon, led by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), FAO and WFP. The IPC is a common evidence-based global scale used to classify food insecurity through the consolidation of a wide range of evidence. According to the IPC results, 1,460,000 Lebanese are expected to be facing high acute food insecurity from January to April 2023^[9]. In fact, a total of 233,000 people are classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), which reflects a severe lack of food access. Moreover, 1,229,000 Lebanese residents are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Given the strong correlation between food insecurity and socio-economic vulnerability, the IPC food insecurity classification results are used to determine the number of Lebanese in need under the Basic Assistance sector.

The number of persons targeted under the sector reflects the planned and estimated interventions for 2023. This includes individuals targeted through the NPTF, other non-food cash interventions (through NGOs and social grants), as well as estimations for seasonal support. The total number of targeted individuals amounts to 762,500. Targeting individuals for cash assistance for basic needs

or seasonal cash is done through partner-level household assessments or through the NPTF. In 2023, the sector will prioritise developing guidance on targeting and eligibility for Lebanese, leveraging the experience and expertise of partners to date. The Sector will also work closely with the Food Security and Agriculture Sector under the LCRP and the ERP to ensure efforts are complementary^[10]. As with displaced Syrians, individuals are targeted for Social Grants through categorical targeting and are identified in collaboration with civil society and the GoL.

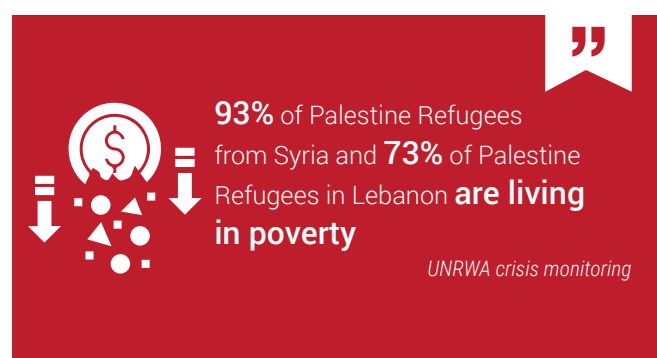
While efforts over the past year closed several gaps in knowledge and information surrounding the Lebanese population, the sector plans more detailed upcoming assessments in 2023 to fill further gaps and gain a more comprehensive understanding of the needs, vulnerabilities and poverty levels of this population.

Palestinian refugees from Syria

Based on the high levels of vulnerability among this population, all Palestinian refugees from Syria are targeted for basic assistance. This includes 31,400 individuals who are registered with UNRWA.

Palestine Refugees in Lebanon

Like Palestinian refugees from Syria, a blanket approach is also considered for Palestine refugees in Lebanon, where the total population is targeted (180,000 individuals). Individuals and families are targeted through UNRWA's Social Safety Net programme, in addition to the identification of families with specific needs and vulnerabilities (persons with disabilities, children, persons with chronic disease and older persons). The Sector will also work closely with the Food Security and Agriculture Sector under the LCRP and the ERP to ensure that efforts are complementary.



^[9] The IPC analysis covered two time periods: the current phase estimated food insecurity levels from September to December 2022, while the projected phase analysis covered January to April 2023.

^[10] Seasonal cash targets are based on 2022 coverage.

STRENGTHENING REFERRAL PATHWAYS

Strengthening linkages and supporting referral processes of individual cases in and out of the Basic Assistance sector will be prioritised, noting the limitations of key Basic Assistance partners to respond to referrals due to the targeting mechanism in place. Preliminary discussions have been held with the Protection and Livelihood sectors, in particular, on the need to define referral pathways more clearly between the sectors. This will be further explored

in 2022. Additionally, the Basic Assistance sector can leverage experience from partners with integrated service provision in their cash and social assistance interventions to make linkages with the larger inter-sector referral system, upholding minimum standards for referrals.

Total sector needs and targets

Population Cohorts	Total Population	Total Population in Need Persons	Total Population Targeted Persons	Total Population in Need Households	Total Population Targeted Households	Total Population Targeted									
						# Female	# Male	% Female	% Male	# Children (0-18)	% Children	# Adolescent (10-17)	% Adolescent (10-17)	# Youth (18-24)	% Youth (18-24)
Lebanese	3,864,296	1,460,000	762,500	267,857	121,875	396,500	330,497	52.00%	48.00%	237,900	31.20%	122,000	16.00%	68,625	9.00%
Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	1,365,000	1,365,000	273,000	273,000	696,150	666,973	51.00%	49.00%	711,165	52.10%	350,400	24.00%	116,800	8.00%
Palestinian Refugees from Syria	30,220	31,400	31,400	9,667	8,450	16,328	13,978	52.00%	48.00%	10,990	35.00%	2,826	9.00%	2,826	9.00%
Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon	180,000	180,000	180,000	45,000	32,850	93,600	60,181	52.00%	48.00%	63,000	35.00%	16,200	9.00%	16,200	9.00%
GRAND TOTAL	5,574,516	3,036,400	2,338,900	595,524	436,175	1,202,578	1,071,629	51.42%	48.58%	1,023,055	43.74%	491,426	21.01%	204,451	8.74%



Cash assistance, Beirut, Lebanon - WFP, 2022

3. MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER AND GBV, PROTECTION, CONFLICT SENSITIVITY, PSEA, ENVIROMENT AND HEALTH

Gender and GBV

The Basic Assistance sector has made a specific effort to include gender experts and GBV focal points identified through the Protection sector in the sector's Monitoring and Evaluation Taskforce, which had developed post-distribution and outcome-monitoring tools in 2022. In this way, efforts have been made to ensure that assessments conducted under the sector (for regular monitoring or context analysis) are approached with a social/gender component in place.

With support from the GBV Mitigation Committee, the Basic Assistance sector rolled out a survey to partners in late 2020 to better understand priorities linked to GBV mitigation. Recommendations include the provision of trainings on practical implementation aspects of GBV, risk mitigation for partners under the sector and the need to create better linkages between the GBV sector/partners (specifically those providing case management) and ensure participation in Safe Identification and Referrals training. The sector has also made sure to include a set of "GBV-specific" risks within the sector's Protection Risk Assessment to ensure that these risks are captured and well-monitored for potential action. In 2023, the Basic Assistance sector members will continue to participate in Gender in Humanitarian Action capacity-building initiatives, both at the national and field levels.

Protection

The Protection Risk Assessment (PRA) was initiated in 2019 and updated in 2020 and 2021 to reflect critical protection risks stemming from Basic Assistance sector programs, and to agree on priority mitigation measures. Risks identified, which include strengthening the availability of information to at-risk groups, strengthening safe identification and referrals—especially to and from the Protection sector, addressing shortfalls in complaint and feedback mechanisms, and addressing and mitigating tensions. These fall under four main themes: meaningful access to assistance, safety, dignity and do-no-harm in relation to tensions, improved participation, empowerment, and accountability in relation to enhanced consultation, monitoring and evaluation and complaints and feedback. The sector commits to reviewing the PRA on an annual basis to measure progress on defined actions as well as to identify any emerging risks. The sector will work closely with the Protection sector to identify the most efficient way to lightly review the PRA annually while also setting up systems to integrate the risk monitoring and response within the sector's regular work.

In 2022, the sector worked to improve disaggregation of outcome-level indicators by gender, age, and disability. This was done through the inclusion of specific guidance on the collection and analysis of these variables (particularly on disability) in sector-level monitoring tools with the support of the Protection sector. Outcome-level indicators were also integrated into the Activity Info platform to encourage partners to report against these indicators, with appropriate disaggregation. Moreover, the inclusion of a safety-focused indicator has been included under outputs 1.1 and 2.1, following consultation with the Protection sector, in an effort to support the streamlining of safety-level indicators across cash-based interventions and related outputs.

Conflict sensitivity

Given the high level of tensions between and within communities, specifically as it relates to access to services, goods and cash, the sector will work to build stronger linkages with the Social Stability sector. Priority actions include quarterly updates to the Basic Assistance working group, prioritization of attending conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm trainings and workshops and setting up consultations on specific topics with the Core Group. The Sector will also work with the Social Stability sector to roll out the implementation of relevant conflict sensitivity guidance notes and checklists, including on conflict-sensitive cash assistance. The sector will also work towards incorporating regular updates on key social stability and protection indicators during monthly meetings, given the high importance of and interest in the subject.

The sector also commits and is willing to take a more proactive role in mitigating misperceptions around assistance to displaced persons by enhancing communications with vulnerable Lebanese communities about the kind of assistance and support available to them under the LCRP, specifically focusing on existing support systems such as the NPTP. Work done under Outcome 3 of the sector objectives will better ensure assistance to Lebanese is provided in an efficient and effective way, as well as ensure that information on available assistance is accurate.

Decisions to increase transfer values while remaining evidence-based will also be coupled with careful monitoring of community tensions and perceptions to ensure that any increase in the value of assistance provided does not pose any additional threat to beneficiaries. Likewise, conflict-sensitive approaches to in-kind distributions and support will be explored and advocated for under the sector.

PSEA

Acknowledging that as vulnerabilities increase, so does the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse due to the increase in negative coping mechanisms undertaken by families and individuals as they struggle to meet their needs. The sector will pay specific attention to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). In 2021, the Basic Assistance sector rolled out a survey on PSEA to identify needs among partners. The main recommendations included developing training packages on PSEA, developing a brief guidance note outlining measures to be taken during recruitment to mitigate the risks of SEA, guidance on conducting SEA risk analysis and engaging with organizations that do not have any SEA risk-mitigation measures. Since then, a PSEA focal point has been appointed under the sector to offer support in moving these priorities forward.

In 2023, the sector will work to ensure that complaint, feedback and response mechanisms, including PSEA and child safeguarding are known, accessible and responsive in relation to Basic Assistance services. Building on existing platforms and infrastructure, the sector will continue its efforts to support partners to improve collective accountability to affected populations, including PSEA and child safeguarding. There will be a particular emphasis on strengthening gender- and child-sensitive complaint, feedback, and response mechanisms (CFRM), with the aim of ensuring that trends inform sector interventions and modalities. The sector will promote

the Inter-Agency minimum standard on complaint and feedback and opportunities for training on accountability for affected populations (AAP). Sector members will also engage in the work of the PSEA network and promote training and mentorship opportunities.





Environment

In Lebanon, seasonal assistance (both monetized and in-kind) aims to support households in meeting and minimising domestic energy needs. This intervention is meant to minimise other concerns, such as alleviating associated conflict with host communities over the use of natural resources and decreasing indoor air pollution through the introduction of good-quality thermal clothing and blankets. Furthermore, monetisation of assistance under the Basic Assistance sector reduces energy costs and consumption related to in-kind distribution, transportation and storage.





Due to increased costs of fuel for heating, following the gradual removal of subsidies, specific attention is paid to environmental risks during the winter season, namely the risk of exploitation of natural resources in the form of cutting trees for heating. The sector will work with the Environmental Task Force, based at the Ministry of Environment (MoE), to implement potential mitigation measures and systematic monitoring of these risks, including discussions around program-specific modifications that can minimise the risk and impact.

OUTCOME 1: Strengthen the ability of vulnerable households and individuals, including female-headed HHs, persons with disabilities and children, to meet their basic survival needs





INDICATOR 1A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of assisted households report being able to meet their basic survival needs.	Numerator: number of assisted reporting ability to meet their basic survival needs Denominator: # total assisted who have been sampled	Impact studies and PDMs for all population cohorts	% (HH)	Yearly





 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022
N/A	90%	75%	90%	90%	75%	90%	90%	75%	N/A	90%	75%

INDICATOR 1B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of assisted HHs that report relying on crisis or emergency asset depleting coping strategies		Impact studies and PDMs for all population cohorts	% (HH)	Bi-annually

 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022
N/A	N/A	75%	N/A	N/A	75%	N/A	N/A	75%	N/A	N/A	75%

OUTCOME 2: Strengthen the ability of populations affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies to secure additional basic survival needs

INDICATOR 2A			DESCRIPTION			MEANS OF VERIFICATION			UNIT	FREQUENCY	
Percentage of assisted households affected by seasonal shocks report being able to meet their basic survival needs			Numerator: number of households receiving seasonal and emergency assistance who were able to meet their additional needs denominator: # population found to be seasonally vulnerable and assisted			Impact studies and PDMs for all population cohorts			%	Annually	
 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022
N/A	100%	75%	90%	100%	75%	90%	100%	75%	N/A	100%	75%

INDICATOR 2B			DESCRIPTION			MEANS OF VERIFICATION			UNIT	FREQUENCY	
Percentage of assisted HHs that report relying on crisis or emergency asset depleting coping strategies						Impact studies and PDMs for all population cohorts			% (HH)	Annually	
 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022
N/A	N/A	75%	N/A	N/A	75%	N/A	N/A	75%	N/A	N/A	75%

OUTCOME 3: Effective and efficient service delivery through strengthened linkages with national social safety net programmes and social protection systems

INDICATOR 3A			DESCRIPTION			MEANS OF VERIFICATION			UNIT	FREQUENCY	
Alignment plan developed for operationalizing linkages between humanitarian assistance for refugees and national systems (e.g. assessment tools, transfer value, registration and payment methods, and monitoring and evaluation).						Sector Coordinators			Plan	Yearly	



EDUCATION SECTOR

PEOPLE IN NEED**1,230,493****PEOPLE TARGETED****740,908****NEEDS-BASED APPEAL****\$363M****PARTNERS****55****GENDER MARKER****4***

*Intends to contribute to gender equality, including across age groups AND/OR people with disabilities

CONTACT**LEAD MINISTRY**

Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)

Georgia Hachem

ghachem@mehe.gov.lb

COORDINATING AGENCY

UNICEF

Talin Sahakian

Tsahakian@unicef.org

Save the Children

Caitlin Manning-Riley

Caitlin.manning-rily@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

INDICATORS

- Number of school aged children (age 3-18) enrolled in formal education
- Number of school aged children (age 3-18) enrolled in regulated non-formal education / Multiple Flexibl Pathways

OUTCOME 2:

Improved teaching and learning, and focus on 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

INDICATORS

- Completion rates by cycle
- Retention rates by cycle
- Transition rates by cycle
- Percentage of children and youth attending Multiple Flexible Pathways who transitioned to formal education





OUTCOME 3:

Enhanced governance, managerial and knowledge management capacities of the education system to deliver high-level results relying on evidence-based decision-making

INDICATOR

- Unified data collection protocols and compliance systems are complete and operational
- strategies and policies drafted, revised and implemented

POPULATION BREAKDOWN

POPULATION COHORT	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	FEMALE ♀	MALE ♂
 Vulnerable Lebanese	661,923	498,544	259,243	239,301
 Displaced Syrians	715,500	345,737	176,326	169,411
 Palestinian Refugees from Syria	9,368	4,845	2,519	2,326
 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	55,800	35,141	18,273	16,868

1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Lebanon is facing multiple socio-economic crises that have worsened throughout 2022, including political paralysis, the after-effects of the 2020 Port Blast, the protracted Syrian crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, economic deterioration and currency devaluation, reduced global funding for Lebanon, and, most recently, the cholera outbreak. The education sector has been severely impacted by these multiple crises, with the most marginalised girls and boys prevented from advancing their education due to ongoing school closures resulting from COVID-19 and the economic crisis, which is affecting teachers' salaries and schools' operating costs. Unaffordable or inaccessible basic needs have increased the vulnerability of households, with September 2022 seeing a year-on-year inflation rate of 162 per cent for commodities, driven mostly by food (+208 %) and energy (+281 %) inflation. This has contributed to the further de-prioritization of education by households, disrupting learning for the most vulnerable school-aged children across all population groups. With fewer students completing their education, increased unemployment has also been noted among youth. Low levels of participation in technical and vocational education and training (TVET), higher education and the labour force will further increase vulnerability among all population groups.

The most vulnerable children across all populations are those not accessing education at all; those facing protection risks; those with low attendance and disrupted learning due to negative coping mechanisms such as child labour; those at risk of drop-out due to the deteriorating economic situation in Lebanon, and children with disabilities and additional learning needs who are facing challenges in access to inclusive education. Based on the multidimensional poverty index, an estimated 1.45 million school-aged children are considered to be in need of support for access to education, including about 662,000 Lebanese (52 % girls), more than 715,000 displaced Syrians (51 % girls), about 13,300 migrants (73 % girls) and about 56,000 Palestine refugees (52 % girls). Of the estimated 1.2 million Lebanese children of school age, more than 10 per cent do not access education at all, mainly due to economic vulnerabilities.

In scholastic year 2021-22 Out of around 715,000 displaced Syrian children, more than 430,000 (about 60 %) remain out of formal education, of whom around 30,000 Syrian children, 57 per cent girls, were enrolled in various non-formal education (NFE) programmes, delivered by non-governmental organisations. The demand for NFE significantly outstrips supply, and NFE delivery faces multiple issues, including varying quality of teaching and learning outcomes, lack of NFE options for specific age groups, and a very low transition rate to formal education, which is linked to both a lack of a clear and agreed national policy, and issues of overcrowding in public schools. There is a demonstrated demand for access or transition to formal education among the Syrian population, with 8.2 per cent of Syrian households reporting that their children

were out of school due to schools not allowing registration of Syrian refugee children (VASyR, 2022). However, following the lifting of some restrictions at the start of the 2022-23 school year, MEHE has reported increased registration at second-shift public schools, which mainly serve displaced Syrians.

Poverty is the main driver of education-related vulnerability among all population groups. Adaptation and coping mechanisms, as reported by households themselves, include parents transferring their children from private to public schools in the last scholastic year (reported by 13.5 per cent of Lebanese and 26 per cent of migrant households at the national level) or to less expensive private schools. Information provided by the MEHE, however, indicates a noticeable decrease in the number of registered students in public schools (KG to secondary), in 2022-23 (registration is ongoing) at a national level, and will need to be analysed after closure of registration period.

Among displaced Syrian children enrolled in schools, the most commonly reported reasons for not attending school for children of both genders aged three to 17 were the cost of transportation to school, at 34 per cent, an increase of 5 percentage points compared to 2021, and the cost of educational materials, at 29 per cent. Similar issues are found among Lebanese and migrant children: according to 2022 MSNA data, the main reason for not being able to attend school was the cost of education (including school registration fees, transportation to school, education materials, snacks, etc.), reported by 23 per cent of Lebanese households and 24 per cent of migrant households.

Beyond economic barriers to receiving education, boys and girls are reporting different negative coping mechanisms, which correlate to their different protection risks. For Syrian boys, their main reason for not attending school was their engagement in child labour, at 31 per cent. Only 5 per cent of Syrian girls reported not attending school due to work. In contrast, 7 per cent of Syrian girls reported not attending school due to marriage, a barrier reported by only 1 per cent of boys. Within the public school system, gender parity indices reveal that the proportion of girls enrolled in schools is slightly higher than boys at the primary level (1.11), and even higher at the secondary level (1.48), with the largest proportional difference at the higher secondary level (2.66). Among Syrians aged 6 to 17, the attendance rate for the 2021-2022 school year was higher for girls (59 %) than for boys (51 %) because many older boys drop out of school to work.

Children with disabilities are also highly vulnerable. Based on secondary data collection, around 300,000 children aged zero to 17 live with disabilities. Of children with disabilities, 52.2 per cent are Lebanese, 33.8 per cent are displaced Syrian, 3.2 per cent are Palestinian and 10.8 per cent are from other nationalities, including migrants.

However, that only 1 per cent of school-aged children with disabilities are enrolled in mainstream public schools speaks to the very limited access to inclusive education across all population groups.

The ongoing economic crisis is having a significant impact on public schools, due to the substantial devaluation of teachers' salaries, leaving teachers unable to afford basic necessities, including costs of transport, seriously affecting their motivation and wellbeing. Schools are also facing difficulties in meeting operational costs, such as fuel for generators. Ongoing teachers' strikes and school closures due to COVID-19 and other issues have had a severe effect on the quality of learning provided: 21 per cent of Lebanese households reported that children were not attending school due to difficulties with the curriculum, pointing to the substantial loss of learning that has taken place over the past three years. School closures have also affected the roll-out of activities and reforms that have been planned at the national level, such as the roll-out of early childhood education, strategies to address COVID-related learning loss, and the national scale-up of teachers' performance standards. In addition, competition for access to services has exacerbated social tensions in the community: 29.6 per cent of Lebanese and 33 per cent of Syrians reported competition for services and utilities, of which 7 per cent of service-related incidents recorded were related to education.

To address the critical education needs of all children in Lebanon, particularly in a context characterised by multiple crises and increasing disparities, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education continues to implement Lebanon's five-year General Education Plan (2021–2025). The 2023 LCRP Education Sector Response Strategy, as in the previous year, is being developed under the overarching umbrella of MEHE's plan, with the vision to assist all children in Lebanon to complete their basic education and find equitable access to secondary education, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and higher education. Furthermore, it lays out the ambition to enhance the education system and to improve learning outcomes, including foundational literacy, numeracy and life skills needed for employment, and to break cycles of intergenerational poverty and exclusion. The five-year plan further aims to strengthen resilience, so that crisis situations are effectively managed.

”



Among Syrians aged 6 to 17,
the 2021–2022 school year **attendance rate was higher for girls (59%)
than for boys (51%)** because many older boys drop out of school to work

VASyR 2022

2. OVERALL SECTOR STRATEGY

The LCRP Education Sector led by MEHE aims to contribute directly to keeping Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on track, which requires (as per the five-year education plan) the 2023 strategy to focus on developing a more resilient education system through three equally important main areas of intervention:

1. **ACCESS** to educational opportunities: 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.
2. **QUALITY** of education services: By ensuring improved teaching and learning and focus on learning outcomes for children and youth through enhanced quality of formal and NFE services that are safe, protective, adapted, and inclusive for multi-crisis situations.
3. **GOVERNANCE** of education systems: By enhanced governance, managerial and knowledge management capacities of the education system at central, regional and local levels to deliver high-level results relying on evidence-based decision-making.

The sector strategy is based on the premise that, by collaborating with MEHE, under its strategic guidance, Lebanon's education system (both public and private) can be strengthened to provide protective, safe, inclusive and gender-equitable access to quality learning. Children and young people, especially the most vulnerable, will have the opportunity to learn and develop foundational 21st-century skills. Consequently, they will have a better chance of progressing through the education system for employability and personal empowerment. The sector partners will help ensure the protection of vulnerable populations, support service provision through national systems and support the reinforcement of Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability. They do this with the aim of supporting children, together with their parents/caregivers, teachers, schools and learning centres, with the necessary resources to ensure children's psychosocial wellbeing and their safe return to learning, as well as investing in efforts to support children to make up for their learning loss due to multiple crises.

Theory of Change

If inclusive and equitable learning opportunities for all children and youth are increased (Outcome 1); And if learning outcomes in formal and NFE are improved (Outcome 2); And if governance, managerial and knowledge-management capacities are enhanced at a system level (Outcome 3); Then current barriers to education, risks of drop-out, and learning disruptions will be reduced; the capacities of teachers and education personnel, and children's academic and non-academic capacities will be

enhanced; and the national-level education sector will be strengthened, resulting in improved access to quality education for children and youth from all population groups across Lebanon.

Cross-sectoral coordination

The strategy is a child-centred response, therefore addressing and catering to the programming and response through an integrated and inclusive approach. Close collaboration will take place with the following:

- the food security and nutrition sectors to support student nutrition, to ensure enrolment and retention in schools
- the basic assistance sector to ensure that households have the necessary resources to keep children in schools.
- the health sector to promote health in all schools and learning centres in collaborating on necessary vaccination and other public health programmes.
- the child protection sector to ensure that child wellbeing is enhanced, and protection issues are addressed, including the prevention of abuse, and GBV and PSS services and referrals. "The Education sector will furthermore support" The National Action Plan on Birth Registration of Syrians Displaced and Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRCSP children born in Lebanon: by mainstreaming key messages on birth registration through their awareness activities and by ensuring the identification and referral of children in need of support to access and complete the birth registration process to legal actors. Cooperation with Child Protection will also include child marriage prevention and re-enrolment of married girls into schools or TVET.
- the WASH sector to ensure gender-responsive hygiene items and WASH facilities in schools, especially concerning the health situation in the country.
- the social stability sector through addressing conflict sensitivity issues and ensuring complementarity regarding programmes such as cash for education in support of families to retrain children in school.

Assumptions and Risks

This plan is based on several key assumptions, including that sustained behaviour change interventions, and comprehensive subsidies will increase the demand for and access to formal and NFE. This will support the overall goal of reducing the number of children who are either out of school or out of learning.

While the sector will focus on strengthening the education system, as a whole, by getting children to the right level of

learning, it will ensure standardization and harmonisation approached for NFE, to ensure their participation in public education.

It is also assumed that developing multiple flexible pathways to education will allow more children to participate in learning opportunities that are meaningful to them. Clear transition pathways from NFE to formal Education will allow all girls and boys engaged in NFE programmes to have an accessible pathway to formal education opportunities and better coherence between education and training, promoting opportunities for vocational and life skills-based education. This will, in turn, support out-of-school children in catching up on learning to be eligible for entry into formal education.

Last, it is assumed that MEHE public schools, including all cycles (preparatory early childhood education, basic and secondary, as well as TVET), will have the absorption capacity to enrol all children who successfully complete learning programmes and are willing and ready to continue their education. It is also assumed that schools have the operational capacities and finances to continue running and that teachers have financial incentives to teach.

Regarding risk, the following is foreseen:

High probability and high Impact: Further deterioration of the economic situation, leading to multiple phases of disruption in the academic year, due to teachers and educators resorting to strikes or leaving the teaching profession completely, as well as fuel and electricity costs becoming even higher or power even becoming completely unavailable in some areas. Schools might be unable to sustain operational costs and teacher salaries leading to closure of schools, with parents unable to afford the costs of education, such as transportation and school supplies.

High probability and medium Impact: Due to financial constraints and the increased vulnerability of many Lebanese and non-Lebanese families, another risk is that children may drop out of formal or non-formal education to support their families, thus increasing the risks of early marriage for girls and child labour for boys and negatively affecting retention efforts. These constraints have also increased the vulnerability of Lebanese families, who now require more support, including in education, while a growing number of Lebanese families are reporting having to switch from private to public schools for financial reasons, thus putting more pressure on the already-meagre system.

Medium probability and low Impact: Lastly, the safety of children accessing schools and NFE centres is at risk amid social tension between Lebanese and non-Lebanese students in some areas, and the political paralysis in the country. Mitigation strategies should address the exacerbating tensions that could lead to displaced children being denied access to second-shift schools in some areas, which could in turn lead to a ripple effect in surrounding communities if not addressed.

Sector Results: LCRP Impacts, Sector Outcomes, Outputs

By increasing equitable and inclusive educational access and participation by delivering safe and protective Education for all learners in Lebanon, outcome 1 is contributing to achieving LCRP's impact 3—to provide vulnerable populations with equitable access to basic social services and public utilities and infrastructure (health, education, water, energy, solid waste, shelter and social protection) through national (public and private) systems.

Expanding access to and retention in education should be achieved by providing necessary support to children, youth and their caregivers. In this way, the support provided to displaced populations under outcome 2 is contributing to achieving impact 2 (immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations are met) and impact 3 (provide vulnerable populations with equitable access to basic social services and public utilities and infrastructure).

Improving education governance allows the managerial and knowledge management capacities of the education system at central, regional and local levels to deliver high-level results relying on evidence-based decision making. Outcome 3 is contributing to achieving impact 3 (provide vulnerable populations with equitable access to Education) and impact 4 (mitigated deterioration in the economic condition of vulnerable populations).

Expected Results

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. The sector response is designed to improve access to education (formal and non-formal) for all school-aged children (3–18 years old), complementing and building on the efforts of the last response year (2021–2022). However, the response plan for 2023 will focus more on ensuring the access of the most vulnerable children in the most vulnerable areas and emphasising the access of children with disabilities to proper learning environments that motivate them to continue their education. Sector partners will focus on activities that aim to increase enrolment and retention in both flexible and inclusive learning opportunities. This will be achieved through two main outputs:

Output 1.1: Children, youth and their caregivers are provided with the necessary support to expand access to and retention in education. The sector partners will continue to reach out to the most marginalised and vulnerable populations by conducting appropriate community outreach to better understand the situations and conditions of out-of-school children, referring them to public formal education, NFE or other education and training, including Multiple Flexible Pathways; children with disabilities; and children who are already enrolled but facing challenges to continue their learning. Education

sector partners will adopt the following list of activities to achieve this specific output:

- **Coordinating at inter-sectoral and cross-sectoral levels:** The instability of the socio-economic situation in the country requires a full understanding of all available and active referral pathways and the adoption of an integrated outreach approach. This includes collaborating within the education sector and with other sectors whose work intersects in schools, learning centres and other sites of learning, such as the Health and WASH sectors, particularly during the ongoing cholera outbreak; the Child Protection sector to better analyse the protection situation of the children in vulnerable populations, specifically conducting gender analyses to better understand the varying conditions of girls and boys within these populations and designing gender-responsive outreach interventions; and the Basic Assistance sector, aiming to better understand if vulnerable children are receiving any kind of assistance and whether it is linked to access to and completion of learning, as well as identifying other relevant barriers to education.
- **Removing barriers in access to education through social assistance.** The main driver of education-related vulnerability among all population groups is poverty induced by the ongoing economic crisis, creating the need for emergency education support. Adaptation and coping mechanisms included parents transferring their children from private to public schools in the past scholastic year. Education sector partners, for the purpose of alleviating the burdens resulting from financial vulnerability, will continue to focus on Cash for Education programming to ensure that the fees for school-aged children are partially or fully subsidised, including tuition fees in public schools and regulated Multiple Flexible Pathways, and cash transfers to reimburse the costs of transportation and other learning materials. Nutritional support and healthy snacks will also be provided in both schools and non-formal settings through school feeding programmes.
- **Providing awareness & development sessions to parents/caregivers:** Parents and caregivers are key to the success of all efforts to increase children's access to education. Education sector partners will, as part of their outreach efforts, consistently raise awareness among parents and caregivers regarding all the available resources that will support children to enrol in school, continue their education and avoid any learning interruptions. This includes providing information on available and applicable resources and relevant programmes and projects with a focus on inclusive education. Given the changing role of parents and caregivers during periods of remote learning, in addition to parents and caregivers being capacitated with the necessary skills and knowledge to advocate for their children's education, training modules will specifically address parental engagement in learning at home, supporting parents in playing a more complementary role to that of teachers in their children's learning.

- **Providing Supportive and Complementary Learning Opportunities:** Education sector partners will continue to provide remedial and retention support for children and youth in both first- and second-shift schools and outside of schools to cover the learning gaps resulting from inequalities in access among vulnerable groups across Lebanon. These programmes include homework support, foundational literacy and numeracy, catch-up classes and other learning support.

Output 1.2: Children and youth have improved access to appropriately equipped public schools, learning centres and other learning opportunities, particularly in underserved areas. The MEHE and the education sector partners are closely collaborating to ensure the availability of well-constructed and equipped public schools and learning spaces to facilitate not only access, but also enriching and productive learning experiences for all children and youth. It is crucial to note that the following activities pertain to equipping public schools and other learning spaces, which are environment friendly, with the necessary physical and other requirements to support learning, including:

Collaborating on supporting the construction and rehabilitation of learning spaces and improving the infrastructure of schools: All children in Lebanon have the right to access safe and well-equipped public schools and learning spaces so that they can complete their basic education and achieve the expected learning outcomes. To ensure the availability of such learning opportunities, Education sector partners, with the MEHE leading the implementation, will improve the physical environment of schools and learning spaces, including the construction or rehabilitation of buildings, classrooms and play spaces; the provision of furniture; the construction or rehabilitation of inclusive, gender-sensitive and age-appropriate WASH facilities; and solarisation that follows the MEHE's standards and specifications. The minimum infrastructure requirements for safe and inclusive schools and learning spaces that comply with international child protection standards will be applied. In addition, Education sector partners will prioritise the development of a more accessible learning environment for children with disabilities, who currently encounter considerable barriers to accessing educational opportunities. Increasing access to and availability of inclusive schools requires investing in the development of physical infrastructures and learning environments.

Guidance for digital learning: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the concurrent, ongoing socio-economic challenges in Lebanon, the education system has demonstrated the need to prioritise digital learning practices as a result of the lessons learned from the prolonged distance-learning experience. As a continuation of all the efforts made in the previous two years, Education sector partners, with the MEHE leading the implementation, will work to further develop the virtual environment in public schools and learning spaces. This will be achieved by equipping schools and learning spaces with the necessary information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure, equipment and other relevant supplies to support the blended

learning modality that now represents the foundation for an advanced and continuing learning experience. Such an approach will be adapted to the learning scenarios and impact of the crisis on the public infrastructures, schools and households' capacities (access to electricity and internet, availability of digital equipment), requiring high to medium and low-tech solutions, allowing to teach and learn online or offline. It will also require building the capacity of education staff and caregivers.

Outcome 2: QUALITY of education services: By ensuring improved teaching and learning and focus on learning outcomes for children and youth through the enhanced quality of formal and non-formal education services that are safe, protective, adapted, and inclusive for multi-crisis situations.

To achieve meaningful and grade-appropriate learning for children and youth, Education sector partners will focus on the quality of the education services provided throughout the continuum of formal education, Multiple Flexible Pathways/NFE and other learning opportunities. Partners will both optimise the professional development of education personnel and maintain a child-friendly environment in schools and learning spaces. To achieve this, the LCRP Education Sector Strategy Response includes the following outputs:

Output 2.1: Teachers, education personnel and educators have enhanced capacities to provide quality, learner-centred pedagogy in public schools or learning spaces. With the need for teachers' skills and competencies to be aligned with the 21st-century learner profile to deliver quality learning, education sector partners will focus on providing teacher training as a crucial factor in developing teachers' skills and enhancing their knowledge, building upon and complementing the training that has been provided thus far. This usually occurs at two levels:

The government has set a freeze on hiring tenured (fixed-term) teachers and all newly appointed teachers with minimum qualifications and a university degree. These teachers are hired on a contractual basis, in which they are paid an hourly rate for the hours taught only. In-service teachers who are already appointed in schools are either tenured (fixed-term) or contractual (temporary appointment) and are required to attend at least one training per year provided by the Center for Education and Research Development (CERD), according to the catalogue of trainings updated every year and provided across the centres throughout Lebanon. These trainings have been heavily disrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic, although most training centres have been able to conduct online training to support teachers during the transition to distance/blended-learning modalities followed by schools. In October 2021, the MEHE launched a national strategy for learning recovery that includes extensive teacher training across both first and second shifts. These trainings focus on foundational literacy and numeracy, as well as PSS and social-emotional learning, to ensure that teachers have the necessary tools to respond to the individual needs of children and provide inclusive, gender-responsive teaching and learning.

Education sector partners will focus on initiating more engaging, meaningful and inclusive educational activities with school directors, teachers and parents. In line with the MEHE's Child Protection Policy, a greater focus will be placed on providing PSS and social-emotional learning for children as well as parents and education personnel to support them in better engaging in their children's teaching and learning experiences. Furthermore, these individuals will develop the skills needed to identify, report and refer children exposed to any kind of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, at school, at home or in their communities.

Output 2.2: Learning spaces and their communities are capacitated to contribute to an inclusive, safe, healthy and protective environment that is conducive to learning.

Education sector partners, with the MEHE leading and in coordination with the Child Protection sector, will focus on the implementation of school improvement plans to protect the well-being of all children in Lebanon and guarantee an appropriate and inclusive physical, mental, psychological and social environment, ensuring that children grow up supported by effective care. This applies to both first- and second-shift public schools as well as regulated Multiple Flexible Pathways/NFE centres. Such interventions aim to foster a safe enabling environment to support learning for all students, regardless of legal status, gender or disability. Moreover, they ensure that children and youth of concern are prepared equitably to learn and succeed in the national education system.

This will be facilitated through the following:

- Deploying school volunteers, such as Education Community Liaison volunteers and others who provide an avenue for dialogue between families and the school administration, to follow up on absenteeism, refer children at risk to remedial programmes and promote social stability between host and displaced communities.
- Deploying Outreach Volunteers and social workers across communities who raise awareness around the importance of education and education-related procedures as well as MEHE's National Child Protection Policy and increase parents' and caregivers' engagement in their children's education.
- Initiating Parent Community Members (PCGs) to increase the engagement of parents in their children's education and develop their capacities to support their children's learning while accessing inclusive school projects
- The Education sector will collaborate closely with the Child Protection sector to ensure that the national child protection policy initiated by the MEHE is correctly and fully implemented in both physical and online learning settings. Referral mechanisms and processes will be developed for use by school personnel and NFE educators for children and youth with specific needs and disabilities (physical or cognitive). School personnel

and NFE educators will be trained by the MEHE, the CERD and relevant partners, on developed pathways to ensure their active involvement in appropriate referrals. Given that public schools are equipped with social and health counsellors, the education sector will also work with the Health sector to ensure that children in Multiple Flexible Pathways/NFE learning spaces have access to proper healthcare and follow-ups.

- UNRWA's school counsellors will work alongside school administrations, children, caregivers, student parliaments and parent-teacher associations to create environments that enable children to feel safe and protected, serving as frontline focal persons for all PSS as well as disability and protection matters in schools.

Output 2.3: Children in learning spaces have enhanced academic and non-academic competencies (PSS, life skills and organisational skills through recreational/extracurricular activities).

The MEHE and the CERD will initiate the 2022 revised framework for the national curriculum under the 5-Year General Education Plan. The plan clearly states the need to conduct curriculum reform and revise learning assessments, focusing on integrating inclusive citizenship and highlighting the importance of students' life skills for the purpose of enhancing their academic and non-academic learning outcomes.

Education sector partners will focus on providing all children in public schools and learning spaces with the opportunity to benefit from additional support to develop their academic, technical and life skills. Sector partners and the MEHE will work on supporting the provision of PSS, life skills and organisational skills through recreational/extracurricular activities for children and youth to enhance their capacities and prepare them for the future. Additionally, the MEHE, through the support and implementation of sector partners, will also continue to engage in the provision of recreational activities for boys and girls and the distribution of recreational kits to foster inclusion and mitigate the psychosocial impact of confinement during school closures, violence and displacement. Finally, the sector will support MEHE in the review of NFE curriculum for quality and alignment as part of the standardization of learning spaces and education profiles.

Outcome 3: GOVERNANCE of education systems: By enhancing governance, managerial and knowledge management capacities of the education system at central, regional and local levels are able to deliver high-level results, relying on evidence-based decision-making.

MEHE's five-year plan clearly outlines the need to develop and build a stronger education system that is characterised by evidence-based decision-making, planning and management. The following outputs are necessary to achieve this goal.

Output 3.1: An effective unified education data management system is developed and administered.

Sector partners will support the MEHE with the aim of completing and operationalising the unification of unified data collection protocols and a compliant system under the Student Information Management System (SIMS). All departments at the MEHE and the CERD will adopt this unified data management system. Under the leadership of the MEHE, the sector will ensure that the necessary data is migrated and that all relevant student, teacher and school information, including disability data, is collected, processed and reported via SIMS.

SIMS data will enable the generating of information regarding the number of children with disabilities together with the participation barriers they experience, to support inclusive education programming and resourcing. The SIMS, linked with Education ID Number, allow MEHE to manage information from individual students throughout their school career to track and coordinate education support measures and reasonable accommodations when necessary.

Similarly, efforts will be made to generate unified data on Multiple Flexible Pathways/NFE to inform planning and support coordinated implementation of MFPs/NFE, as well as assessment, to ensure improved programming. Any system developed for data management under MFPs/NFE will be designed in alignment with SIMS, with a view to integration of both systems over the next 12-24 months.

Output 3.2: Evidence-based policy frameworks are developed, revised, endorsed and implemented to regulate education programmes and services. To better support systems interventions, the following frameworks, standards and strategies are being developed for operationalisation. These will be further supported in close collaboration with the MEHE:

- Redefining the vulnerability criteria in education and the programmes needed to target vulnerable children with appropriate social protection/cash programming policies and procedures, SOPs and transition frameworks for multiple flexible pathways to learning and assessment frameworks and tools to ensure transition.
- The MEHE will endorse and implement an inclusive education policy to ensure every learner's access to quality education in safe and inclusive settings. The sector, led by the MEHE, will define standards for learning spaces and educator profiles to implement regulated NFE programmes. This will be linked to the mainstreaming of child protection efforts overseen by the MoSA and of NFE centres, aiming to increase their credibility as protective, inclusive spaces for child-centred learning, with the capacity to prevent violence and provide a safe learning environment for all girls and boys. Upon endorsement, such spaces will be formally referred to as 'learning spaces'.
- The implementation of the National Inclusive Education Policy targeting both the formal and non-formal education situation aims to provide an inclusive, safe and high-quality education environment for every child

on Lebanese premises, no matter their nationality or their disability.

- Implementation of key recommendations of the TVET National Strategic Framework (2023-2027) starting March 2023, for improving and reforming the TVET system in Lebanon.
- The sector will support the implementation and governance requirements of the Transition Resilience of Education Fund by accelerating implementation of the prioritised work plan and strengthening the MEHE educational expertise and educational leadership capacity, including in periods of crisis that require short-term interventions.

Output 3.3: Enhanced MEHE governance through technical assistance

Through the provision of technical assistance, the sector will enhance the MEHE's governance by developing policies, plans and capacity building that improves the equity, efficiency and effectiveness of Lebanon's education system, including the public and private sectors and formal and NFE. In addition to technical assistance, sector partners will conduct training to enhance managerial procedures at central and regional MEHEs, as well as at the school level. Capacity development areas will include data management, education financing, school-improvement plans and school feeding.



Out of around 715,000 displaced Syrian children,
more than 430,000 (about 60%) are out of formal education.

VASyR 2022



Students at Al Ghadir Public School, Lebanon - UNICEF, 2023

3. MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER AND GBV, PROTECTION, CONFLICT SENSITIVITY, PSEA, ENVIROMENT AND HEALTH

Accountability to Affected Populations

To improve accountability to affected populations, education partners will ensure integrated and harmonized approaches and define common key messages to reduce the risk of dissatisfaction and misunderstanding, building trust among communities. These messages include information about programmes, available referral pathways, safe and effective feedback channels and complaint and response mechanisms.

The sector is working with the Child Protection Sector to ensure that child protection cases in schools are reported and follow ups take place through a clear system based on child protection policy. More work will be done this year with both child protection and youth actors to make certain that children in non-formal learning spaces have similar child protection safeguards and access to the feedback/complaint mechanisms available in formal education programmes. In addition, the sector will work closely with relevant stakeholders to ensure that proper measures are in place to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) risks. This will mainly be done by ensuring that education personnel undergo mandatory PSEA training.

Protection

The Education sector will continue its collaboration with the Protection sector to advance child well-being within the formal and NFE systems by continuing to support the implementation of the child protection policy in schools and learning spaces and by mainstreaming PSS in NFE. The sector will also work closely with the child protection sector to ensure the timely, effective and safe identification and referral of children out of learning, including those who have recently dropped out of school, by ensuring proper linkages are made between other household needs and risk assessments for dropping out of school. Specific programme considerations and joint plans must be made for boys and girls at risk, including those engaged in child labour or those at risk of child marriage, through comprehensive and adapted programmes that consider their learning capacities, needs and availability.

Conflict Sensitivity

Education builds bridges between children and parents from different groups and can have a strong mitigating impact on potential conflicts and sources of tension. The sector will continue to work with the social stability

sector to have a unified approach to new challenges, particularly with the increasing competition for access to resources, as per VASyR 2022 outcomes, including the increased need for Lebanese children to enrol in public schools and the perception of some Lebanese families that the enrolment of displaced students does not leave enough places for their children. Key measures will include continuing programming based on vulnerability, ensuring that messaging is provided to various stakeholders about adopted programmes, providing training partners for conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm, regularly sharing information between sectors and advocating for and raising awareness of interventions with local communities on the importance of equitable and inclusive education for children of all nationalities and on the potential negative impacts of communities keeping children out of learning.

Supporting Inclusive, Gender-Responsive and Protective Learning Environments

Gender equality in outreach to children seeks to provide both girls and boys with equal opportunities for enrolment in public schools. These efforts will be focused on developing the capacity of the public school system to foster disability-inclusive, gender-responsive and protective educational environments. Education partners will provide technical support to the MEHE for advancing the development of disability-inclusive and gender-responsive education policies and service provision by: (a) strengthening the Education sector's gender- and disability-responsive analysis and evidence-based planning and monitoring; (b) supporting retention of children in learning by addressing child marriage, school violence, prevention and response to GBV, child labour and harmful social norms around gender and disability. This support is provided through services and referral mechanisms and the application of gender-responsive teaching methods. The Education sector will continue to strengthen collaboration with the Protection sector to jointly achieve goals on violence risk reduction by disseminating information on cyberbullying issues and raising awareness among caregivers, school counsellors and teachers.

Adolescents and Youth

Adolescents and youth are an integral part of the Education sector's work. In 2022, more targeted outreach for adolescents and youth was required to refer those who were out of learning to appropriate education, training and employment opportunities as well as to raise

awareness of the value of education for the future of young girls and boys. Programmes are therefore needed to support basic and functional learning/literacy, school readiness, retention and transition to higher grades, in addition to empowerment and mental health, specifically for adolescents and youth. To date, most programmes for adolescents and youth have focused on access to formal secondary education and life-skills education. Donor funding for direct access and enrolment to formal education, however, is lacking. To strengthen girls' access to higher education, the sector will build on its strong links with the WASH and health sectors to ensure gender-inclusive WASH facilities in schools and learning spaces and to support girls with menstrual hygiene management (MHM).

In 2023, a stronger focus will be placed on enrolling adolescents and youth in formal and non-formal Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), including short technical courses implemented in MEHE TVET schools under the guidance of the Director General of Technical and Vocational Education and with vocational training institutes to strengthen the learning-to-earning process, as well as through NFE and remedial support. The sector will also collaborate with the Livelihood sector to ensure that programmes targeting youth are based on identified market needs. This collaboration will also focus on access to non-gender-stereotyped jobs for girls and young women and ensure that effective referrals are in place for households that might need economic support to keep their children enrolled in education. Skills

training, including entrepreneurship, communication and leadership, and work-based learning, including on-the-job training and mentoring, will be expanded in cooperation with local entrepreneurs. Girls' participation will be strengthened through life skills and vocational trainings that address stereotypes and include girls' leadership and empowerment. The sector will expand life skills education on girls' rights, including the prevention of child marriage and GBV, negotiation and decision-making and positive gender socialisation through sports, STEM and Innovation Labs (in cooperation with Child Protection).





A focus will be placed on enrolling or facilitating the enrolment of eligible youth in tertiary education pathways, including online courses, certification or degrees in Lebanese universities. The sector will build on Higher Education in Emergencies roundtable experiences, enhance collaboration with expert agencies to advocate for the recognition of prior learning and disseminate tertiary education and bridging opportunities among their networks.







Wael, a 9-years old, Lebanon - UNICEF, 2023

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 1A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of school aged children (age 3-18) enrolled in formal education	Measures the number of children (vulnerable boys/girls) whose costs for public school 1st and 2nd shift/ counselors/provision of transportation is covered. Including TVET	SIMS/MEHE	Child	Yearly





 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	396,711	N/A	N/A	227,711	N/A	N/A	4,845	N/A	N/A	35,058

INDICATOR 1B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Number of school aged children (age 3-18) enrolled in regulated non-formal education / Multiple Flexibl Pathways	Measures the number of children (vulnerable boys/girls) whose costs for non-formal education/center rent /provision of transportation or for school bridging programme are covered	Activity Info	Child	Monthly





 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	28,500	N/A	N/A	66,500	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

OUTCOME 2: Improved teaching and learning, and focus on 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 2A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Completion rates by cycle	Percentage of children and youth of the corresponding graduation age who have completed a cycle/ passage rate by end of basic cycle/	CERD/ MEHE registration database/SIMS. MEHE	Child	3 years

 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
Cycle 1 96%	N/A	N/A	Cycle 1 68%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cycle 2 87%			Cycle 2 51%								
Cycle 3 78%			Cycle 3 52%								


INDICATOR 2B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Retention rates by cycle	Percentage of students who were at school the last scholastic year who remain at school the next scholastic year	CERD/ MEHE registration database/SIMS. MEHE	Child	4 years

 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
99%	N/A	N/A	Cycle 1 99%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			Cycle 2 94%								
			Cycle 3 93%								

INDICATOR 2C	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Transition rates by cycle	Percentage of students at the last grade of one cycle the last scholastic year who are at the first grade of the next cycle the next scholastic year	CERD/ MEHE registration database/SIMS. MEHE	Child	5 years

 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022
Cycle 1 - Cycle 2 100%			Cycle 1 - Cycle 2 96%								
Cycle 2 - Cycle 3 94%	N/A	N/A	Cycle 2 - Cycle 3 82%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cycle 3 - Secondary 91%			Cycle 3 - Secondary 82%								

INDICATOR 2D	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of children and youth attending Multiple Flexible Pathways who transitioned to formal education	Transition rates from Multiple Flexible Pathways to Formal Education	Cross check of CLM with MEHE registration database/SIMS. Education Partners and MEHE	Child	Yearly

 Displaced Syrians		
Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
ALP 35%	N/A	N/A

OUTCOME 3: Enhanced governance, managerial and knowledge management capacities of the education system at central, regional and local levels to deliver high-level results relying on evidence-based decision-making.

INDICATOR 3A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
CERD Annual Statistics yearbook is published by 01 August every year for the last academic year inclusive of all refugee education data.	The indicator measures the number of Statistical Bulletin published per year with all statistical data pertaining to the last scholastic year. NOT UNDER THE APPEAL	MEHE/CERD	Annual Statistical YB	Yearly

Institution		
Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A



ENERGY SECTOR

PEOPLE IN NEED**3,211,400****PEOPLE TARGETED****678,487****NEEDS-BASED APPEAL****\$99M****PARTNERS****13****GENDER MARKER****4***

* Does not respond to differences based on gender, age or disability; does not consistently pay attention to specific groups of concern

CONTACT**LEAD MINISTRY**

Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW)

Suzy Hoayek

suzy.hoayek@gmail.com

COORDINATING AGENCY

UNDP

Noritaka Hara

noritaka.hara@undp.org

SECTOR OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1:

Increase renewable energy production and Storage Capacity

INDICATOR

- Amount of MWh produces through new renewable energy sources

OUTCOME 2:

Reduce energy demand due to implementation of energy efficient initiatives

INDICATOR

- Reduction resulting from installed capacity through energy efficient measures in MWh

OUTCOME 3:

Improve access to electricity through Rehabilitation and Reinforcement works on the Transmission and Distribution networks

INDICATOR

- Number of people benefiting from rehabilitation and reinforcement works on the transmission and Distribution networks





OUTCOME 4:

Enhance capacity of MoEW to plan, budget and oversee energy sector initiatives

INDICATOR

- Number of new energy initiatives and projects resulting from capacity development and support to MoEW (disaggregated by gender)

POPULATION BREAKDOWN

POPULATION COHORT	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	FEMALE ♀	MALE ♂
 Vulnerable Lebanese	1,500,000	406,365	207,247	199,118
 Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	272,122	138,783	133,339
 Palestinian Refugees from Syria	31,400	0	-	-
 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	180,000	0	-	-

1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

The power sector in Lebanon has created a significant burden on the national economy and on individuals. Lebanon imports over 98 per cent of its primary energy into the country, exposing Lebanon to the full impacts of international oil price fluctuations. It relies on expensive and polluting oil and diesel (for self-generation) for most of the power demand. The inability of the national utility, Electricité du Liban (EDL), to provide reliable power leads to daily outages as well as the penetration of costly, polluting and unregulated private diesel generators. The situation has been exacerbated by the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis, and further so since the onset of the economic crisis in October 2019. With the sharp increase in the generator bills driven by the war in Ukraine the stable supply of electricity has become affordable for many populations in Lebanon. Even though the electricity sector reform adopted by the Government in April 2022 and the two draft laws in the parliament (distributed renewable energy law and energy conservation law), the reform remains to be implemented. As a result, the energy-related needs in Lebanon have drastically increased across the different sectors to maintain essential services such as water, education and health. Critical cross-sectoral issues have been identified as follows:

Water: The compounded health, economic and financial crises have put a significant strain on the Water Establishments (WEs) responsible for providing safe and equitable water to all. The pumping stations that deliver water to a great majority of inhabitants have been gravely affected by energy-related problems. The electricity supply from EDL is insufficient to extend power to dedicated lines feeding main pumping stations. Also, the cost of fuel can no longer be borne by WEs. This points to renewable energy, such as solar, hydraulic or wind, as the only sustainable source of electricity for pumping stations. Renewable energy can also be developed to mitigate the high costs of energy incurred by wastewater treatment plants, including options such as biomass, solar and wind.

Education: To host displaced Syrians, a large number of public schools have to provide second shifts, which strain their operational capacity. The implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures reduces schools' electricity bills in a cost-effective way. Given the reduced availability of grid electricity owing to the current economic crisis, even schools already equipped with solar PV now need additional battery capacity due to the reduced availability of grid electricity. These interventions require relatively little funding per school (c.a. USD 15,000 for solar PV + batteries per school, USD 10,000 per a battery for schools with solar PV).

Health: The COVID-19 pandemic and cholera outbreak have placed additional stress on public hospitals. A stable, reliable and affordable electricity supply is vital for public hospitals to continue providing the first line of defence against the pandemic as well as

other health services. Without an adequate electricity supply, health facilities cannot run equipment, such as vaccine refrigerators, or use many of the most basic, life-saving medical devices in an optimal fashion. As such, Lebanese health facilities have been forced to run diesel generators to preserve uninterrupted cold chains, further constraining their already scarce financial resources and threatening their sustainable service provision. Given the worsening financial situation in Lebanon, the cost of electricity has become prohibitive for many hospitals. While humanitarian aid focuses on access to healthcare services through subsidisation, far less support exists for improving the service provision capacity of hospitals, which are now in dire straits due to compounded crises. Thus, initiatives that assist the public healthcare sector in freeing income for backstopping services in a budget-constrained environment, such as the installation of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, will provide more resilience and sustainability in the provision of healthcare. The effective energy intervention for the hospital requires a greater investment compared to that of the education sector (c.a. min. USD 100,000 to USD 1,000,000 per hospital).

Social Stability: During the height of the fuel and electricity crisis (June-August 2021), incidents related to tensions over fuel (petrol and diesel) were at an all-time high. These occurred at gas stations between customers over queue-cutting or between customers and fuel station employees over the quantity of fuel allowed per vehicle. Such incidents were recorded in every governorate. In fact, electricity was identified as the number one priority in terms of access to services at 38.8 per cent, with 11.4 per cent citing it as a tension driver.

2. OVERALL SECTOR STRATEGY

Theory of Change

The overarching objective of the Energy sector in Lebanon is to improve access to electricity at agreed minimum standards for households affected by the Syria crisis, and across sectors providing vital services. It aspires to provide electrical services to Lebanese host communities and displaced Syrians equitably, while also reducing the negative impacts of the crisis on the environment and limiting the financial impact on the Lebanese Government and consumers (especially vulnerable households, such as female-headed households (FHH)). The overall objective of the Energy sector is stated as follows:

“By the end of 2023, all vulnerable populations in Lebanon will have improved and equitable, sustainable access to all forms of electricity.”

The Energy sector's theory of change toward these overall objectives is that by increasing the capacity of electricity generation through the installation of renewable energy systems (Outcome 1) or decreasing the demand for electricity through the provision of energy efficient products (Outcome 2); by rehabilitating and reinforcing the electricity infrastructure network (Outcome 3) and enhancing the capacity of implementing partners, such as the Ministry of Electricity and Water and other actors in a gender-sensitive manner (Outcome 4), the sector can partially and locally reduce the supply/demand gap created by the displaced population and increase the network's capacity to deliver non-fluctuated/intermittent electricity access to the most vulnerable (including female-headed households) in an environmentally friendly manner, reducing the reliance on diesel generators and the air pollution they cause.

Before the outbreak of the Syria crisis, the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) had been improving Lebanon's electricity infrastructure, guided by the Policy Paper for the Electricity sector (MoEW, 2010), which was updated in 2019, and other national action plans for renewable energy and energy efficiency. The strategy for the LCRP Energy Sector is built on these national strategies, while also considering various vulnerability assessments to understand and identify where the most urgent and critical needs exist.

While the MoEW continues to implement its Policy Paper for the Energy sector, a number of short- and medium-term projects will be selected and accelerated in order to directly target the impact of the Syria crisis on the sector. Thus, it also complements other reform efforts such as Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF).

Renewable energy (Outcome 1) and energy efficiency (Outcome 2) interventions are also aligned with the Lebanese unconditional National Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement to reduce by 20 per cent

the Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030, increase renewable energy to 18 per cent of the electricity produced by 2030 and a 3 per cent energy efficiency target by 2030.

The proposed interventions can be summarised as follows:

- Capital investment in decentralised energy-generation capacity, along with storage capacity (Outcome 1), energy efficiency measures (Outcome 2) and associated transmission and distribution networks (Outcome 3), to partially meet the additional demand created by displaced Syrians while also supporting vulnerable communities and public institutions by improving access, availability and affordability of electricity, and;
- Supporting the implementation of the government's development plans for the Energy sector by increasing institutional capacity and technical assistance in a gender-sensitive manner (Outcome 4).

Assumptions and risks

The following general assumptions have been taken into account when designing the Strategy for 2023:

- The implementing partners can provide effective and coordinated support to the government
- External agendas will not substantially influence intersectoral coordination (e.g., confessional, political division lines).
- Increased priority to renewable energy and energy efficiency measures leads to increased allocations from donor support, which catalyse private investment in the energy sector.

The key potential risks for the LCRP energy sector are as follows:

- Technical coordination between the implementing partners and the counterparts from the public institutions (Mitigation: The implementing partners should proactively coordinate with the focal points from the relevant public institution (e.g., PV installation for schools - Ministry of Education))
- Limited technical capacity of the implementing partners (Mitigation: The potential implementing partners should consult with the sector and the ministries' counterparts at the project scoping phase while recruiting the qualified energy engineers to be able to properly design and implement the projects).
- As for the potential environmental risk, electronic waste (“e-waste”) in the form of solar panels and/or batteries will be generated at the end of its lifespan. Without proper handling directives, disposal and/or recycling mandates for obsolete equipment, this could result in additional waste generation, including of hazardous/

phase-outs materials, chemicals or other pollutants (e.g., from batteries). Failure to recycle non-hazardous waste could also contribute to additional waste generation. Lebanon has no functioning formal waste management infrastructure for e-waste and batteries. To address this developmental challenge, the UNDP is now implementing the EU-funded project 'Decentralized Waste Management Integrated Response (TaDWIR)', in partnership with the MoE and other relevant national stakeholders. The project aims to reach all the sorted material to be collected and a maximum recycling of e-waste and batteries through a system of EPR, preferably to be implemented voluntarily by the sector within constraints set by the national government and in close cooperation with municipalities. The partners should be aware of this potential risk and support the national effort to establish the waste management systems for e-waste and other hazardous wastes.

Sector Results: LCRP impacts, Sector Outcomes and Outputs

By enhancing electrical services and capacity in a sustainable manner at the national and local levels, the Energy sector contributes to the LCRP's third objective of supporting service provision through national systems, and the fourth objective of reinforcing Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability.

The sector has four outcomes contributing to impact 3 of the LCRP (Vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national systems) and to impact 6 (Mitigated environmental impact of the Syria crisis to avoid further degradation of the natural eco-system and ensure its long-term sustainability).

Outcome 1: Increase Renewable Energy Production and Storage Capacity

This outcome seeks to increase the capacity of electricity supply to reduce expanded gaps due to the presence of displaced populations. Distributed renewable energy systems will be installed in vulnerable host communities and public institutions that are under severe financial pressure to meet the increase in demand created by the Syria crisis. As demonstrated in the sector's achievements, the installation of renewable energy systems has sustainable and long-lasting direct impacts on vulnerable communities and public institutions through monetary savings. Also, given its positive net-present-value, the renewable energy project can also catalyse private sector finance via grant support, multiplying the impact of the grant support. In addition, as the electricity situation worsens, demand for battery storage capacity has also increased. Even schools and other public institutions already equipped with solar PV now need battery storage capacity, given that these systems did not take into account the current level of deterioration of electricity supply from EDL.

As UNDP's study shows, investment in renewable energy creates local jobs, indicating that renewable energy

investment and its acceleration will provide a much-needed increase in job demand in Lebanon. For example, \$1,000,000 of investment for 1 MW solar PV, would create an estimated 11-20 direct jobs (construction, electrical engineering, business & finance) as well as 20-25 indirect jobs (production of cable, metal, plastic and dye as well as finance and admin.). Other renewable investments, such as bioenergy and energy efficiency, have different job creation impacts.

Output 1.1: Adopted solutions improve access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy

Given the comparative advantages of renewable energy projects, Lebanon's current market, legal situation and technical studies, the installation of the following cost-effective renewable energy systems can be considered a sustainable measure that would remain in place beyond the current crisis, with proper consideration for end-of-life disposal:

- Solar Water Heaters (SWH): Solar water heaters are a proven and highly cost-effective way (good turnover) to reduce electricity consumption from heating water. While most Lebanese households still use electricity to heat water and thus pay expensive bills, the capacity of local manufacturing and deployment of solar water heaters is already well established.
- Solar off-grid lighting.
- Solar pumping for public wells.
- Distributed renewable energy power generation with battery storage:

The Energy sector strongly recommends the installation of renewable energy systems, such as solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, biomass energy and ground source heat pumps, to serve communities and public institutions. While Lebanon has numerous renewable energy resources, including affluent solar irradiation, wind and biomass, it currently generates most of its electricity from imported oil. Given the massive deficit, the promotion of renewable energy has multi-fold benefits, such as cash fluidity/circulation within the community, multiplier effects on the national economy and job creation as described above. In addition, because of the exacerbated electricity situation in Lebanon, battery storage capacity is currently in high demand, especially in schools and public institutions equipped with solar PV.

Outcome 2: Energy demand reduces due to implementation of energy-efficient initiatives

While Outcome 1 targets the upstream/supply side of electricity provision, Outcome 2 targets the sector's downstream, demand-management side. This Outcome's activities will deploy energy efficiency measures to reduce energy consumption in Lebanese communities, shelters for displaced Syrians, schools, healthcare centres, hospitals and SDC. These locations primarily use electricity for heating, domestic water heating, lighting and cooking (mainly in residential facilities).

Output 2.1: Households and institutions have access to energy-efficient products

Based on shelter/facility type and the same population assumptions as in Outcome 1, the following energy efficiency activities can be considered with proper management of the resulting waste:

- Light-emitting diode (LED) lighting and solar cookers in households.
- LED lighting and lighting control in public schools.
- Energy audits in hospitals and public establishments, followed by implementation of energy-efficient measures.
- Walk-in energy audits in primary and secondary health centres and social development centres, followed by implementation of energy-efficient measures.

Energy-saving measures in the Agriculture Sector – Variable Speed Drives (VSD) for building Water Pumps Capacity to ensure the energy-efficient measures are conducted in a gender-responsive manner.

- Enabling women to make decisions which ultimately reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Outcome 3: Access to electricity through rehabilitation and reinforcement works on the transmission and distribution networks improves.

This outcome is divided into two Outputs, one related to work on the transmission network, and the other to the distribution network, as described hereafter. The outcome will take into account the PCB national inventory that had been carried out by the MoE on all transformers, thus identifying 1129 PCB-contaminated transformers in addition to hot spot sites.

Output 3.1: Installation of high- and medium-voltage transformers reinforces transmission network.

The transmission network serves to transmit the energy produced by generation sites to distribution networks through Overhead Transmission Lines (OHTL), High Voltage Substations (SS), and Underground High Voltage Cables (UGC). Substations of the transmission network reduce the voltage of power plants from high to medium. The overloading of high-voltage substations and transmission lines as a result of the crisis has had a direct impact on the Transmission sector. This is forcing many large consumers, like hospitals and industries, to rely on private generators – not only because of power shedding, but also because of the significant drop in voltage due to additional loads carried by substations. Therefore, the transmission network can be upgraded or completely reconstructed, depending on the type of space available, as part of the LCRP interventions in close coordination with MoEW and EDL as well as the MoE for environmental safeguards.

Output 3.2: The installation of medium and low voltage transformers reinforces distribution network.

Overloading of the distribution network due to increased demand, especially in localities hosting large numbers of displaced Syrians, causes a decline in the quality of electricity supply to households and increases the risk of fire and damage in overburdened transformers. Thus, the reinforcement of the distribution network is one of the key interventions that aims to increase the capacity to deliver quality electricity to additional end-users, especially the most vulnerable people and communities. If this proposed work on the distribution network is implemented, Lebanese host communities and displaced Syrians would experience an improvement in the quality of electric current supplied and an increase in the number of hours electricity is available, decreasing their reliance on private generators and thereby reducing energy costs. The intervention would also include the prevention of illegal connections to the grid. This critical prevention reduces technical losses through the distribution system and appropriately recovers the cost of electricity generation.

Outcome 4: The MoEW has an enhanced capacity to plan, budget and oversee energy sector initiatives

Output 4.1: MoEW staff have improved capacities to oversee implementation and completion of projects and short-term interventions in electricity supply

The Energy Sector Policy Paper is being implemented by a group of specialised experts and consultants under the employment of the Ministry, who have become overburdened in responding to the impact of the Syria crisis. The implementation and management of the activities proposed in this strategy therefore require a dedicated gender-balanced team of experts and consultants to provide necessary support, due diligence and supervision. The international community is requested to provide immediate support to ensure sufficient institutional capacity to oversee implementation and completion of the above-mentioned projects and the short-term improvement interventions in electricity supply as well as environmental health and safety.

Expected results

The needs of displaced Syrians depend on their type of settlement:

- Informal settlements (non-permanent shelters): They are typically located in agricultural areas. They require comprehensive assistance in basic services, especially electricity, to provide them with basic household lighting, cooking appliances and hot water for bathing and other uses. Provision of street lighting in informal settlements is also a major benefit to the security of displaced Syrians and of Lebanese host communities. It should be noted, however, that according to the Government of Lebanon's policy, no permanent infrastructure should be installed in informal settlements.
- Host communities (residential and non-residential): They are typically concentrated in densely populated

urban centres, particularly in already-impooverished neighbourhoods and in informally developed urban areas, where access to essential electricity is insufficient. Lebanese and displaced Syrians living in substandard shelters require improved electricity services, ensuring sufficient access for all.



96% rated the quality of electricity as poor or very poor, compared to **36%** in 2017

UNDP-ARK Perception Surveys Wave XIV, 2022

As for the Palestine refugees in Lebanon and Palestinian refugees from Syria living in camps in Lebanon, the Ministry of Energy and Education and “Electricité du Liban” have pending claims with UNRWA extending from 2003 until 2018. These claims continue to be extended and are being handled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As such, the MoEW is in no position to take the demands of these populations into account within the LCRP. If solutions are generated within the 2018 to 2023 period, the Energy sector strategy under the LCRP will be revisited accordingly.

The sector’s response targets the needs of the most vulnerable first, using the following criteria to prioritise activities and projects:

- Focus on geographical areas with the highest concentration of affected people and with no/poor access to sufficient quantity, quality and continuity of services related to electricity;

- Implement pre-planned priority projects that are part of the Government of Lebanon’s strategies and masterplans, which ensure vital service provision to the most vulnerable communities in a sustainable and gender-responsive manner;
- Focus on the highest risks of environmental degradation in areas with the highest concentrations of displaced Syrians, impacting natural resources;
- Focus on areas presenting security challenges and social stability issues;
- Focus on vulnerable groups, households, and individuals (i.e., female/child-headed households, elderly or disabled persons and minors, children in schools or hospitals) for specific assistance, and;
- Focus on public institutions providing vital services to displaced Syrians and vulnerable host communities affected by their presence.



54% regarded the lack of electricity as one of the two most serious problems in Lebanon

UNDP-ARK Regular Perception Surveys, Wave XIV, August 2022

Population Cohorts	Total Population	Total Population in Need	Total Population Targeted	Total Population Targeted by Sex and Age							
				# Women	% Women	# Men	% Men	# Children	% Children	# Adolescent	% Adolescent
Lebanese	3,864,396	1,500,000	406,365	207,247	51%	199,118	49%	115,651	28%	49,414	12.2%
Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	1,500,000	272,122	138,783	51%	133,339	49%	140,878	52%	50,370	18.5%
Palestinian refugees from Syria	31,400	31,400	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palestine refugees in Lebanon	180,000	180,000	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	5,575,796	3,211,400	678,487	346,000	-	332,000	-	257,000	-	100,000	-

Type of Institutions	Total Targeted
Municipalities	332
Hospitals, including health care institutions (PHC, etc.)	147
Schools	864
Central ministries	1 (MoEW)
Electricité du Liban	1
Water establishments	4

3. MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER AND GBV, PROTECTION, CONFLICT SENSITIVITY, PSEA, ENVIROMENT AND HEALTH

Conflict Sensitivity

Electricity generation through renewable energy, provision of energy-efficient products, off-grid solar photovoltaic streetlights and reinforcement of the transmission and distribution network are all activities that improve the quality and quantity of electricity supply. This in turn reduces social tensions between Lebanese host communities and displaced Syrians and eases intra-Lebanese tensions. In addition, it is also critical to identify the needs and ensure the maintenance of such interventions, given the critical nature of electricity as a priority for both communities.

People with specific needs

Special attention should be given to prioritise service provision to persons with a disability, families with young children, female-headed households and elderly persons.

Environment

Renewable energy sources, use of energy-efficient products and connections to the grid are the best examples of how the sector would help reduce the impact of the Syria crisis on air quality in Lebanon by reducing the use of diesel generators along with proper consideration for end-of-life disposal as described in the above section.

Such projects also contribute to the national effort to tackle climate change to achieve the NDC.

Partnerships

Given that several energy-related projects fall outside the framework of the LCRP, the Energy sector will make an effort to collect and map such projects and share them across the partners to facilitate ground-level coordination.

All vital services in Lebanon depend on the provision of electricity. Therefore, the overstretched condition of the Energy sector is negatively affecting most sectors. In addition, the Energy sector has close inter-sector linkages with regard to interventions. For instance, the installation of renewable energy (solar water heaters) or energy efficiency products (LED lighting) will directly benefit vulnerable populations and communities by reducing electricity costs. In addition, these interventions will mitigate the burden on the national grid, which is perceived by many Lebanese as strained due to the Syria Crisis.



Updated irrigation Canal, Ain Zebde, Bekaa, Lebanon - UNDP

OUTCOME 1: Increase renewable energy production and Storage Capacity

INDICATOR 1A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Amount of MWh produces through new renewable energy sources		Project reports from partners in Activity Info.	MWh/year	Montly

MWh/year

Baseline	Target 2022	Target 2023
N/A	116,300	116,300

OUTCOME 2: Reduce energy demand due to implementation of energy efficient initiatives

INDICATOR 2A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Reduction resulting from installed capacity through energy efficient measures in MWh		Project reports from partners in Activity Info.	MWh/year	Monthly

MWh/year

Baseline	Target 2022	Target 2023
N/A	30,000	30,000

OUTCOME 3: Improve access to electricity through Rehabilitation and Reinforcement works on the Transmission and Distribution networks

INDICATOR 3A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Number of people benefiting from rehabilitation and reinforcement works on the transmission and Distribution networks		Project reports from partners in Activity Info.	Individual	Monthly

**Lebanese****Displaced Syrians****Total**

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	263,912	N/A	N/A	107,828	N/A	N/A	371,740

OUTCOME 4: Enhance capacity of MoEW to plan, budget and oversee energy sector initiatives

INDICATOR 4A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Number of new energy initiatives and projects resulting from capacity development and support to MoEW (disaggregated by gender)	Number of projects identified and implemented by the recruited staff at MoEW	Project reports from partners in Activity Info.	Projects	

Project

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	66	66



FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR

PEOPLE IN NEED



3,087,100

PEOPLE TARGETED



2,970,750

NEEDS-BASED APPEAL



\$1.2B

PARTNERS



49

GENDER MARKER



4*

*Intends to contribute to gender equality, including across age groups AND/OR people with disabilities

CONTACT

LEAD MINISTRY

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
Dr. Salem Darwich
salemдарwich@yahoo.fr

COORDINATING AGENCIES

WFP

Pardie Karamanoukian
Pardie.karamanoukian@wfp.org

FAO

Elie Choueiri
elie.choueiri@fao.org

ACTED

Pauline Eid
pauline.eid@acted.org

CARE

Nour Azzi
nour.azzi@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

INDICATORS

- 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

INDICATORS

- Farmers receive capacity building, in-kind and cash-based assistance for improved production and productivity
- Support to agricultural cooperatives and MSMEs for improved production and productivity
- Support employment and employability to improve livelihoods sources






OUTCOME 3:

To enhance national CAPACITIES, COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING on food security and agriculture

INDICATORS

- Capacity strengthening to public sector and humanitarian staff on food security and agriculture

POPULATION BREAKDOWN

POPULATION COHORT	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	FEMALE ♀	MALE ♂
 Vulnerable Lebanese	1,461,000	1,382,000	713,112	668,888
 Displaced Syrians	1,370,000	1,350,000	686,985	668,015
 Palestinian Refugees from Syria	31,400	31,400	18,997	12,403
 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	180,000	180,000	108,900	71,100
 Migrants	44,700	22,350	16,427	5,923

1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

The food security situation in Lebanon has continued to deteriorate over the last three years given the severe economic, financial and social crises while the country also is also hosting the largest number of refugees per capita in the world due to the war in Syria. Record-high global food and fuel prices are adding to the already dire situation in Lebanon. In 2023, 3.1 million Lebanese, displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees from Syria, Palestine Refugees in Lebanon and migrants are expected to be in need of food security assistance. High and rising inflation, currency depreciation, discontinuation of state subsidies, wage disparity, limited jobs, political inaction and the deterioration of basic services have been identified as key drivers of food insecurity in Lebanon. The situation is expected to further deteriorate as a result of continuous inflation and currency depreciation, further impacting people's access to nutritious and diversified food and other basic needs, while disrupting agricultural production and livelihoods means.



In 2023, **3.1 million** Lebanese, displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees from Syria, Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon and migrants are expected to be in need of food security assistance

Food Security and Agriculture sector

In 2023, the food insecurity of Lebanese households is expected to further worsen, with 1.46 million Lebanese (38 per cent)^[1] likely to face high Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) levels (IPC Phase 3+), while more than half the population is likely below the national poverty line.^[2] Nearly 85 per cent of Lebanese households have been consuming less-preferred, less-expensive foods while more than two third had to reduce the number of meals eaten. Around 1.37 million displaced Syrians^[3] are unable to meet their minimum basic needs. Almost all displaced Syrians (97%) are resorting to food-based coping strategies, with 96 per cent relying on less-preferred less-expensive foods and 74 per cent reducing portion sizes. The poverty rates among the Palestinian refugees are further expected to worsen (93 % in 2022),^[4] especially with their limited access to jobs and high dependence on humanitarian assistance. Nearly 90 per cent of Palestinian refugees reported purchasing leftovers from the market, while almost two thirds reported reducing the number of meals they had eaten. Since the crisis, more migrants no longer live with their employers and are often reliant on multiple jobs and/or accepting lower salaries to meet their essential needs. While migrants

who do not live with their employers are considered more food insecure than live-in migrants, 44,700 (33%^[5]) reported having trouble meeting their essential food needs.

Small-scale farmers' inability to purchase agricultural inputs is putting at risk their food security and livelihoods and the agricultural season, therefore increasing the risks of not providing nutrition-rich, fresh, safe and seasonal food to their households and the communities. The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity among farmers was 34 per cent as of July 2022.^[6] Nearly all (99%) surveyed farmers reported adopting coping strategies to meet their food needs. The main food-based coping strategies adopted by farmers to meet their food needs were the decrease in their expenses for agricultural inputs (93%), reduction in the health expenses for the household (78%) and use of their savings (57%). Cash assistance was reported as the overall main need of farmers. The three main needs reported by crop producers are access to fertilisers (80%), access to pesticides (75%) and access to seeds (40%). Whereas livestock producers reported a need for animal feed (33%), veterinary services (28%) and veterinary inputs (25%).

The food insecurity situation of all those currently residing in Lebanon is expected to continue to deteriorate as the availability and accessibility of food continues to be hampered and left unstable. Urgent action is required to reduce food gaps, protect, and restore livelihoods and prevent acute malnutrition.



Bolstering Agriculture Systems' Ability to Invest, Nourish, and Employ (BASATINE) consortium is led by CARE International in Lebanon (CIL) with Mercy Corps (MC), Al Majmoua, George N. Frem Foundation (GNFF), Berytech and Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training (LOST) - 2022

^[1] Integrated Phase Classification - Acute Food Insecurity January – April 2023 projection.

^[2] World Bank.

^[3] VASyR 2022.

^[4] Socio-economic Situation of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon – Crisis Monitoring Report – September 2022 - UNRWA.

^[5] Based on Food Security data from the MSNA 2022.

^[6] Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 3. Results and recommendations. September 2022. FAO-MoA.

Sector Key Figures

Population Cohorts	Total Population	Total Population in Need	Total Population Targeted	Total Population Targeted by Sex and Age							
				# Female	# Male	% Female	% Men	# Children (0-19)	% Children (0-19)	# Older people	% Older people
Lebanese	3,864,296	1,461,000	1,382,000	713,112	668,888	51.6%	48.4%	451,914	32.7%	149,256	10.80%
Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	1,370,000	1,350,000	686,985	668,015	50.7%	49.3%	758,800	56.0%	18,970	1.40%
Palestinian refugees from Syria	31,400	31,400	31,400	18,997	12,403	60.5%	39.5%	10,896	34.7%	3,077	9.80%
Palestine refugees in Lebanon	180,000	180,000	180,000	108,900	71,100	60.5%	39.5%	62,460	34.7%	17,640	9.80%
Migrants	135,420	44,700	22,350	16,427	5,923	73.5%	26.5%	2,481	11.1%	961	4.30%
GRAND TOTAL		3,087,100	2,970,750								



Skills development in Fnaideq cooperative - PCPM, 2022

2. SECTOR RESPONSE PLAN

The FSA sector aims to respond to urgent needs through a holistic approach, under a single joint response plan. The sector intends to target all those residing in Lebanon who are facing acute food insecurity by improving their access and availability to diversified nutritious foods to reduce food gaps and prevent acute malnutrition; strengthen agricultural production and productivity and enhance livelihood capacities. The FSA joint sector strategy will be implemented in line with the MoA's National Agriculture Strategy (NAS) 2020-2025,^[7] the MoSA's development and poverty-reduction goals and Lebanon's commitments towards the achievement of SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

To this end, the sector's Theory of Change is as follows:

Provision of food assistance to Lebanese, displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees from Syria, Palestine Refugees in Lebanon and migrants, through a number of modalities and with the continued support to the government social safety-net systems;

Provision of emergency cash and voucher support and livelihoods opportunities aimed at protecting and restoring agricultural livelihoods and productive capacities, improving small-scale farming households' food security and building their resilience to future shocks; and,

Strengthen Lebanon's agriculture production capacity and the value chain and livelihoods, to recover and sustain growth.

The sector aims to achieve its overall objective through three outcomes:

Under Outcome 1, the FSA partners will ensure the most vulnerable and food insecure populations living in Lebanon receive food assistance to reduce their food gaps and diversify their food intake. Food assistance will be implemented through various transfer modalities, emphasising the continued support to service delivery and the strengthening of the national social safety-net systems. Lebanese households will be supported through the government National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP), which utilises cash transfers; as well as through e-vouchers and in-kind and ready-to-eat meals provided by community kitchens by the various sector partners. The sector will continue to coordinate closely with the World Bank's funded Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme, to ensure harmonisation among the beneficiaries. The sector will be pushing forward with harmonised targeting, response, and monitoring by promoting the use of a sustainable database to ensure assistance is directed to those most in need, avoiding gaps or duplication. Similarly, the sector will encourage

partners to coordinate with local food producers for in-kind food assistance packages.

The sector partners plan to reach displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees, and migrants with food assistance, mainly through cash-based assistance. The S/MEB will be used as a baseline to determine the adequate and recommended transfer value to cover various food needs. Regular market monitoring will inform adjustments to the value of the transfer to ensure it consistently provides the right level of assistance amid unpredictable exchange rate fluctuations and market disruptions. The level of transfer will be coordinated through joint efforts with other sectors and the Cash Task Force, under the ultimate leadership of the RC/HC's Office. To avoid duplication and gaps, the sector will continue working towards a harmonised beneficiary targeting system.



In 2023, the sector intends to target 2.4 million Lebanese, displaced Syrians, Palestine Refugees in Lebanon, Palestinian Refugees from Syria, and migrants with food assistance. The planned food assistance programmes aim to reach around 1 million Lebanese under IPC Phase 3+, 1.35 million displaced Syrians who fall below the S/MEB line, 31,400 Palestinian Refugees from Syria, 180,000 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon and 22,000 migrants, for a total estimated value of 1.2 billion USD.

The FSA sector Outcome 1 will contribute to the LCRP Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 4; and ERP Strategic Objective 1.

Under Outcome 2, the FSA sector partners will implement projects aimed to improve the agricultural production and productivity in Lebanon to protect, restore and sustain agricultural livelihoods and the food security of 35,000 of the most vulnerable small-scale farming households, benefiting 175,000 individuals. The sector will ensure that partners' interventions are in line with the NAS 2020-2025 developed by Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), reflecting the national priorities of the agri-food sector in Lebanon. Agricultural assistance will be provided throughout the agricultural value chain through various modalities. Cash, voucher, and grants support will be increasingly adopted by sector partners. The assistance will be provided directly to small-scale farmers for crop and livestock production, for the purchase of agricultural inputs (seeds,^[8] fertilizers, etc), livestock feed and veterinary inputs and services.

^[7] As the strategy was an extension of the 2015-2019 strategy, where the economic impact on agriculture is not reflected fully, the FSA sector will work closely with the MoA to identify priority areas for emergency response to farmers.

^[8] Example of inputs include soft wheat, forage crops, medicinal plants, etc.

Capacity building and direct support to farmers on Good and Sustainable Agricultural Practices, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), climate-smart interventions, water-use efficiency, and water conservation will continue throughout 2023. To adapt to the current economic hardships, farmers will be trained on how to reduce their reliability on imported agricultural inputs and resort to the adoption of local on-farm inputs (such as composting and seed preservation). Activities under this outcome will also include capacity building and interventions to control the spread of transboundary animal diseases and plant pests during emergencies (e.g. vaccination campaigns of cattle and small ruminants). Together, interventions will strengthen the overall agricultural production and mitigate climate risks and shocks. Agricultural cooperatives and MSMEs will also be supported with capacity building and provided with grant schemes for direct support to their innovative business plans and management. Vulnerable Lebanese and refugee households will receive short-term conditional cash-based transfers with the aim of improving the livelihoods and resilience of 40,000 households, benefiting more than 200,000 individuals with temporary employment. Interventions will build human capital and provide support to communities through activities geared toward protecting, restoring, creating, or enhancing key assets and basic infrastructure. Lebanese host communities and refugees living in the municipalities where these activities are implemented will benefit from new and/or rehabilitated long-term environmental and agricultural assets that contribute to the basic needs and livelihoods of the wider community. The activities will be implemented in districts with the highest rates and incidents of people falling under IPC Phase 3 and above.

The FSA sector Outcome 2 will contribute to the LCRP Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 4; and ERP Strategic Objective 1.

Under Outcome 3, the sector will continue to coordinate and provide technical support to various public institutions at national and decentralised levels and humanitarian organisations to strengthen service delivery capacities in food security, agriculture, and social protection. Among planned interventions at the institutional level is the roll-out of the farmers' registry hosted by the MoA and its decentralised agricultural centres. The registry will provide the platform for farmers to register their agricultural activities, which will facilitate future agricultural livelihoods interventions to reach the most vulnerable farmers. Capacity-building initiatives along the overall programme cycle and cross-cutting issues, targeting public and humanitarian staff, will be implemented throughout the year. To ensure updated information on food security and agriculture, the sector will support and regularly disseminate food security needs assessments and analysis including the regular update of the IPC AFI analysis, agriculture value chain assessments and market-monitoring reports. 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. Sector guidance will be provided to partners on how to avoid and/or address overlaps to improve complementarity and coverage, and to ensure that households receive a diverse package of assistance that meets their differential needs. The sector will also continue coordination and close work with relevant sectors, mainly Basic Assistance, Nutrition, Education, Protection/Child Protection working group and Livelihoods sectors.

Almost all displaced Syrians (97%) are resorting to food-based coping strategies

VASyR 2022

The FSA sector Outcome 3 will contribute to the LCRP Strategic Objectives 1, 3 and 4; and ERP Strategic Objective 1.

To reach 2.9 million food insecure Lebanese, displaced Syrians, Palestine Refugees in Lebanon, Palestinian Refugees from Syria and migrants, the sector requires 1.3 billion USD. Areas with highest levels of IPC AFI Phase 3 and above classification are at particular risk for the FSA Sector and will be the focus of the response.



In-kind food assistance beneficiary - WFP, 2022

3. MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER AND GBV, PROTECTION, CONFLICT SENSITIVITY, PSEA, ENVIROMENT AND HEALTH

Gender and GBV

Ensure gender-sensitive programming by strengthening the targeting, delivery and monitoring of interventions that take into consideration the differential needs of women, men, girls and boys. Assessments and monitoring surveys will collect data disaggregated by gender and age, promoting gender and age analysis and the participation of all groups in the programme design and its implementation. Special focus will be placed on female-headed households, women of reproductive age, Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and single mothers, to ensure inclusive, adequate and commensurate responses to their specific needs. Sector partners will continue to abide by the Global Food Security Cluster and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee guidelines for integrating sexual and gender-based violence considerations into their interventions. Agriculture remains a critical sector for women's livelihoods, and the sector's strategy will thereby continue to strengthen women farmers' capacities and women's cooperatives/associations/groups as well as inclusion in its programmes.

Protection and PSEA

2 Strengthen the safe identification and referral of persons with specific needs as well as individuals at risk. The sector will contribute to improving the understanding of barriers to safe and dignified access, accountability and participation in relation to food security and agricultural interventions and to identify mitigation measures to strengthen these components, taking into consideration rapidly evolving challenges. Good practices will be promoted to ensure inclusive programming models for persons with disabilities. Accountability to affected populations will continue to be the backbone of partners' work in 2023 and receive guidance according to interagency minimum standards on complaint and feedback mechanisms. Given the large number of women and adolescent girls working on agricultural sites across Lebanon, and the exploitation and protection risks for women and girls linked to the provision of cash and in-kind assistance, the sector will also continue to disseminate information and raise awareness related to PSEA. Additionally, the sector will ensure that partners receive capacity building and continue to report on main protection risks, incidents or patterns in relation to their activities and operations for both protection and non-protection referrals and programme adjustments.

CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

Food insecurity is an existing tension-driver that could worsen further in the future. Lebanese, displaced Syrians and Palestinians alike remain extremely concerned about access to essential goods and services, such as food, fuel, water, medicine and medical care. Similarly,

transfer modalities and transfer values pose a high risk of exacerbating tensions between various communities. The sector will work closely with its counterparts at the governmental, interagency and operational levels to strengthen the capacity for and use of conflict-sensitive programming approaches in their efforts to implement the current FSA response plan. Further efforts will be made to collaborate with the Social Stability sector, particularly with regard to monitoring and analysing the existing/potential stabilising effects that various modalities or the currency of assistance can have on inter- and intra-communal stability. The sector will aim to capture and share best practices and lessons learnt from the field, building on the work done in 2022 to develop the conflict sensitivity guidance note on conflict-sensitive cash assistance in Lebanon. The sector will support the strengthening of conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm approaches for partners by sharing existing Social Stability guidance and training opportunities. Programme adjustments (including changes in value and distribution arrangements, selection and identification of participants) will be accompanied by clear outreach and communications strategies to ensure beneficiaries and other operational and strategic counterparts are informed about programmatic changes impacting their participation in programme activities, the redistribution of benefits and the reasons behind these changes.






ENVIRONMENT

The sector will work closely with the ETF led by the MoE to ensure that sector partners adopt environmental markers when planning their projects and mainstream environmental concerns by mitigating the impact of climate change, particularly through agricultural interventions (protection of agro-biodiversity and agro-ecosystems).

Exit Strategy & Linkages/Sequencing with Non-Humanitarian Frameworks and Programs

The 2023 FSA joint sector strategy will contribute towards the forging of direct links between humanitarian and reliance programming and national safety nets in order to build linkages for longer-term prospects. The joint plan will attempt to bridge the gap across existing response plans, linking programmes previously planned under the LCRP and ERP, until full implementation and possible further expansion of government assistance schemes, including the ESSN program. To facilitate transition, the sector will ensure the necessary linkages with the various assistance programmes, including for beneficiary booking, deduplication, convergence of outreach, targeting, eligibility verification instruments and the coordination of efforts to sustain assistance beyond 2023.

OUTCOME 1: To ensure most vulnerable communities in Lebanon receive FOOD ASSISTANCE to reduce their food gaps and diversify their food intake

INDICATOR 1A		DESCRIPTION		MEANS OF VERIFICATION		UNIT	FREQUENCY
Food insecure individuals have access to food through various modalities		Food assistance through cash-based (restricted and unrestricted), parcels and ready to eat meals		Activity Info reporting		Individuals	Monthly
 Lebanese		 Displaced Syrians		 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)		 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)	
PiN	Target 2023	PiN	Target 2023	PiN	Target 2023	PiN	Target 2023
1,461,000	1,000,000	1,370,000	1,350,000	31,400	31,400	180,000	180,000
 Migrants		TOTAL					
PiN	Target 2023	PiN	Target 2023				
44,700	22,000	3,087,100	2,583,400				

OUTCOME 2: To improve agricultural production and productivity of most vulnerable farmers through AGRICULTURE LIVELIHOODS ASSISTANCE to protect, restore and sustain their livelihoods

INDICATOR 2A		DESCRIPTION		MEANS OF VERIFICATION		UNIT	FREQUENCY
Farmers receive capacity building, in-kind and cash-based assistance for improved production and productivity		Capacity building and assistance through in-kind or vouchers to farmers		Activity Info reporting		Individuals/farmers	Monthly

TOTAL

PiN	Target 2023
175,000	35,000

INDICATOR 2B		DESCRIPTION		MEANS OF VERIFICATION		UNIT	FREQUENCY
cooperatives, associations and MSMEs		Capacity building and support to agricultural cooperatives, associations and MSMEs through in-kind or cash (vouchers and cash grants)		Activity Info reporting		Entities	Monthly

TOTAL

PiN	Target 2023
N/A	500

INDICATOR 2C	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Support employment and employability to improve livelihoods sources		Activity Info reporting	Individuals	Monthly

TOTAL

PiN	Target 2023
N/A	200,000

OUTCOME 3: To enhance national CAPACITIES, COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING on food security and agriculture

INDICATOR 2A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Capacity strengthening to public sector and humanitarian staff on food security and agriculture		Activity Info reporting	Individuals	Monthly

TOTAL

PiN	Target 2023
N/A	N/A



HEALTH SECTOR

PEOPLE IN NEED



3,625,403

PEOPLE TARGETED



2,689,980

NEEDS-BASED APPEAL



\$318M

PARTNERS



46

GENDER MARKER



4*

*Intends to contribute to gender equality, including across age groups AND/OR people with disabilities

CONTACT

LEAD MINISTRY
Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)
Dr. Nadeen Hilal
nadeenhilal@gmail.com

Dr. Randa Hamadeh
randa_ham@hotmail.com

CO-LEAD AGENCIES
Dr. Alissar Rady (WHO)
radya@who.int

Dr. Zina Sultana (UNHCR)
sultana@unhcr.org

COORDINATING AGENCY
Stephanie Laba (UNHCR)
labas@unhcr.org

CO-COORDINATING NGO
Maher El Tawil (AMEL Association)
healthresponse@amel.org

SECTOR OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1:

Improve access to comprehensive primary healthcare (PHC)

INDICATORS

- Percentage of displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) accessing primary healthcare services
- Percentage of vaccination coverage among children under 5 residing in Lebanon

OUTCOME 2:

Improve access to hospital (including Emergency Room (ER) Care) and advanced referral care (including advanced diagnostic laboratory and radiology care)

INDICATOR

- Percentage of displaced Syrians, Lebanese, Palestinian refugee from Syria and Palestinian refugee in Lebanon admitted for hospitalization per year

OUTCOME 3:

Improve Outbreak & Infectious Diseases Preparedness & Response

INDICATOR





- Early warning alerts and response system (EWARS)

OUTCOME 4:

Basic Rights and Services: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and have access to basic services and information (justice, health, education)

INDICATOR

- Percentage of the population reached with health integrated messages

POPULATION COHORT	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	FEMALE ♀	MALE ♂
 Vulnerable Lebanese	2,122,634	1,273,580	662,262	611,319
 Displaced Syrians	1,365,000	1,365,000	701,610	663,390
 Palestinian Refugees from Syria	31,400	31,400	16,265	15,135
 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	106,369	20,000	9,920	10,080

1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Lebanon is confronting compounded shocks which are altering the national health system in fundamental ways. Following continuous years of addressing the health needs of displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian refugees from Syria and Palestine refugees in Lebanon, the Health sector was further strained in 2022 by the pressure of the ongoing financial and economic crisis that has been ranked by the World Bank as one of the most severe globally since the mid-1800's.^[1] The multifaceted crisis started late in 2019 with country-wide protests in response to a deteriorating socio-economic situation and got coupled in 2020 by the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak,^[2] and the devastating Beirut Port explosions.^[3] In October 2022, the first cholera outbreak in nearly three decades was declared in Lebanon following the detection of the first laboratory confirmed case. Exacerbated by the prolonged crises, the outbreak adds significant pressure on the already debilitated national health system.

These unprecedented health, economic, financial, social, security and political crises have hugely afflicted the Lebanese health system and its resources and therefore hampered the ability of the Health sector to respond to the increased needs of a growing vulnerable populations. Consequently, the access to primary^[4] and hospital care was hindered from both the supply and demand sides at both the individual and the institution levels. According to the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR)^[5] and the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA)^[6] 2022 respectively, about 18 per cent of displaced Syrians, and 20 per cent of Lebanese reported a need to access care in the last 3 months. 76 per cent were able to access health care. Baalbeck El-Hermel (29 %) and South (19 %) had the highest percentage of displaced Syrians in need of care, while Zgharta (32 %), Akkar (30 %) and West Bekaa (29 %) had the highest percentage of Lebanese in need of care. A larger proportion of displaced

Syrians with a disability (42 %) reported their need for health compared to 14 per cent of those with no disability. Among Syrians and Lebanese in need, the number of those who required primary health care was higher than the number of those who required secondary health care. As for the access, the percentage of those who were able to access primary health care was higher than that of those who were able to access secondary health care services. Cost was, by far, the main barrier to accessing care for all population groups. This includes direct costs, such as treatment or consultation fees, and indirect costs, such as transportation. Based on the MSNA 2022 results, Lebanese women (78 %) had more difficulty affording the cost of treatment more than men (67%). The main coping mechanisms for medications were switching to substitutes/generics (49% for displaced Syrians and 65% for Lebanese), acquiring money from outside Lebanon (40% for Lebanese), and rationing existing medications (25% for displaced Syrians and 30% for Lebanese). The majority of women across all population groups (95%) delivered their babies in a health care facility. Moreover, 53.6 per cent of displaced Syrians, and 75 per cent of Lebanese women had at least four antenatal care visits during their pregnancy. Syrian women were less likely to receive sufficient antenatal care. Only half of Syrian women who had given birth had four or more antenatal care visits compared with 76 per cent of Lebanese. Only about half of both Syrian and Lebanese married women currently use any form of contraception mainly because of the lack of access to family planning services and information.

With affordability remaining the main challenge to accessing health care services, additional barriers that continue to hinder the accessibility and the timely use of services in Lebanon at the supply and demand levels are related to availability, geographical accessibility, and acceptability. Demand-side determinants influencing the ability to use health services were represented by the fact that vulnerable populations were unable or unwilling to seek health care services while supply-side determinants were aspects inherent to the overstretched health system that was struggling to bear the pressure caused by the growing demand, scarcity of resources, ongoing cholera outbreak, and increased financial hardship. One of the signs of health system struggle is the observed deterioration in health indicators, such as neonatal mortality rates.

Aggravated barriers due to the compounded, multi-layered socio-economic crisis has further impacted the meaningful access of displaced women, men, girls and boys and other vulnerable groups to both primary and secondary health services. Households which require higher health expenditures including those with at least one person with disabilities, older persons with chronic illness or with a higher dependency ratio, children under five years of age, adolescent girls and boys or a survivor of sexual and gender-based violence are significantly impacted by affordability challenges. 60 per cent of displaced Syrians,

^[1] According to the World Bank, Lebanon is almost three years into an economic and financial crisis that is among the worst the world has seen. Real GDP is estimated to have declined by 10.5 per cent in 2021, on the back of a 21.4 per cent contraction in 2020 as policymakers have still not agreed on a plan to address the collapse of the country's development model. The exchange rate continued to deteriorate sharply in 2021, reaching a rate of 1\$ = 41000 Lebanese Pounds (LBP), and keeping inflation rates in triple digits.

^[2] The COVID-19 outbreak in Lebanon was first detected in February 2020 and imposed multiple mitigation and general mobilization measures country-wide. COVID-19 response was covered under the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) framework.

^[3] On 04 August 2020, a large amount of ammonium nitrate stored at the port of the city of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, exploded, causing at least 203 deaths, 6,500 injuries, and US\$15 billion in property damages, and leaving an estimated 300,000 people homeless.

^[4] Primary health care includes vaccination, medication for acute and chronic conditions, noncommunicable diseases care, sexual and reproductive health care, malnutrition screening and management, mental health care, dental care, basic laboratory, and diagnostics, as well as health promotion.

^[5] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2022), VASyR 2022.

^[6] MSNA, 2022.

25 per cent Lebanese and 23 per cent Palestine refugees in Lebanon report reducing non-food expenditures on health. Furthermore, refugees and migrants who are undocumented or without legal residency and stateless individuals face documentation-related barriers and demonstrate late healthcare-seeking behaviours, which is particularly concerning during the cholera outbreak. Studies and assessments have documented pervasive rates of maternal depression among both Syrian and Lebanese women^{[7][8]}. The economic crisis is threatening women's and girls' access to basic hygiene materials. A recent research study^[9] found that households are struggling to access menstrual hygiene items.^[10] As a result, and due to the lack or scarcity of water, there might be a silent ongoing epidemic linked to underreported gynaecological infections. According to the child-focused rapid assessment conducted in April 2021, 75 per cent of children aged 6-14 years old in Lebanon had difficulty concentrating or were unable to concentrate on their studies at home^[11]. Protection monitoring reveals that 31 per cent of Syrian adults and 13 per cent of households reported children with mental health symptoms. In nearly all cases mental health issues were reported as being caused by the family's economic situation (98 %)^[12]. According to another assessment^[13], 73 per cent of adolescent girls and boys (72 % of displaced Syrians and 81 % of the Lebanese) and 96 per cent of caregivers (94 % of displaced Syrians and 99 per cent of the Lebanese) reported feeling stressed out. Girls (62 %) were more likely to report symptoms of stress and anxiety compared to boys (45 %).

In addition, some health-related environment issues became exceptionally concerning, namely medical waste management and contaminated water sources, especially in light of the cholera outbreak. Moreover, protection concerns, and tensions are on the rise. In August 2022, through the regular perception survey on social tensions, 37 per cent of respondents reported negative inter-communal relations, as compared to 21 per cent in July 2018 and 36.1 per cent in August 2021. Within this context, competition for services and basic needs such as medicine is increasingly becoming a tension driver. In

August 2022, some 30 per cent of Lebanese and 33 per cent of Syrians cited "competition for services and utilities including water" as a tension factor, an increase from previous waves (24 % for Lebanese and 30 % for Syrians in August 2021). As of July 2022, dissatisfaction with health services exceeds previous years, with 67 per cent assessing the current quality of health services in their area as poor or worse. The population is also increasingly worried about access to medical care or medication. At the same time, incidents related to health are on the rise. From January to September 2022, 36 out of 399 (9%) service-related incidents were health-related^[14] and 52 per cent out of those were labelled as violent^[15].



In view of the unique situation, and while prioritizing life-saving interventions considering the availability of resources, the Health sector remains committed in 2023 to supporting an equitable continuation of quality physical and mental health care services for the displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese individuals, Palestinian refugees from Syria and Palestine refugees in Lebanon within the national health system. Stateless individuals and displaced non-Syrians^[16] as well as undocumented migrant workers will benefit from the health care support offered by Health sector's partners, based on a non-discriminatory approach.

[7] Stevenson et al (2019). High rates of maternal depression amongst Syrian refugees in Lebanon - a pilot study: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-48247-5>.

[8] Hobeika et al (2020). Postpartum Depression and Anxiety among Lebanese women: correlates and scales validation: <https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-15821/v1>.

[9] Plan International (2021). Period Poverty in Lebanon.

[10] Many women and girls are reducing the consumption of menstrual hygiene items, using them for longer than they are intended for and using less sanitary means like tissues and cloths during their periods, with this particularly prevalent among Syrians.

[11] UNICEF (2021). Lebanon: Children's future on the line: <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/media/6541/file>.

[12] UNHCR (2022). Protection Monitoring Findings, Lebanon – 3rd quarter 2022: <https://data.unhcr.org/fr/documents/details/96661>.

[13] Plan International (2021). Adolescent girls and boys needs in West Bekaa and Mount Lebanon: <https://plan-international.org/publications/adolescent-girls-and-boys-needs-west-bekaa-and-mount-lebanon>.

[14] Health related incidents ranged from demonstrations, display of arms, armed clashes, and road blockages due to high health costs, access/admittance to hospitals, and lack of power in hospitals.

[15] UNDP/ARK (2022). Regular Perception Surveys on Social Tensions throughout Lebanon Wave XIV.

[16] Displaced population from other nationalities include people from: Iraq, Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Iran, Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Eritrea.

2. OVERALL SECTOR STRATEGY

Theory of Change

The Health sector's theory of change is based on the principle that the removal of access barriers for women, men, girls and boys of all ages, disabilities, and diverse backgrounds, including from underserved and socially excluded groups, through safe, dignified, accountable and inclusive health service provision will require coordinated interventions in different areas. Areas of intervention are a strong and resilient comprehensive and complementary^[17] primary, secondary, and tertiary physical and mental health care; an effective outbreak and infectious diseases control; and increased health information provision to women, men, and youth, including children and adolescent boys and girls.

By removing access barriers to primary healthcare and hospital care information and services and by supporting health care institutions, the supply and demand of services will increase, and the proportion of the population benefiting from health care services will therefore increase. Additionally, supporting outbreak and infectious diseases control will protect the population from preventable diseases. Subsequently, excess mortality, morbidity, and disability, especially in poor and marginalized populations will be reduced, healthy lifestyles will be promoted with an emphasis on noncommunicable diseases (NCD), and human health risk factors that arise from environmental, economic, social, and behavioural causes will be reduced. Health systems that equitably improve physical and mental health and nutrition outcomes and respond to people's legitimate demands, will be promoted and financially fair. In addition, national policies will be bolstered, an institutional environment for the Health sector will be reinforced and an effective health dimension to social, economic, environmental and development pillars will be promoted. As a result, this will contribute to a positive health impact over the longer term, where vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national systems.

In line with the national mental health strategy^[18] and in close collaboration with the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) at the MoPH, the Health sector will ensure that mental health services are improved across Lebanon while having as a priority the need to increase access to quality and evidence-based mental health services, including psychotropic medications^[19] at both the outpatient and inpatient levels. At the outpatient level,

access will be increased through the integration of specific mental health packages in the primary care centres, as part of the subsidized comprehensive package of care, where trained and supervised staff will be able to detect, assess, provide initial management, and refer persons with mental health conditions to a multi-disciplinary mental health specialised team. And at the inpatient level through the establishment of psychiatry wards while taking into consideration the need to support psychiatry institutions^[20] as part of the transition to promoting people-centred and human rights-based community mental health services. The Health sector will as well ensure collaboration with the NMPH for the revision and update of the national mental health strategy beyond 2022 and will further coordinate with the Protection sector for the roll out and mainstreaming of mental health activities.

The sector will ensure that COVID-19 and cholera preventive measures are mainstreamed throughout all activities, including the safety of both health care workers and targeted populations.

Considering the economic situation, the increasing tensions between population groups around the issue of access to services and the increasing poverty headcount in the country, the Health sector will focus on ensuring inclusive access across all population groups. Additionally, in an increased effort to mitigate social tensions, non-Syrian displaced populations and non-sponsored migrant workers will indirectly benefit from increased access to primary health care and hospital care services offered by the Health sector's partners. The sector will work to enhance referral mechanisms and to ensure equitable access to quality physical and mental health care for the vulnerable population while prioritising the most marginalised groups and addressing gender inequalities through health interventions and emerging needs, such as the mental health and nutrition of the most vulnerable populations like infants, pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent boys and girls, and older persons.

The Health sector will increase its contribution to the response in 2023 to strengthen public health knowledge and evidence-based practices implemented by sector partners. For this, the Health sector has established a research committee^[21] with the objectives of decreasing duplication of assessments, channelling available research resources to the gap in information and not merely to academic interest, and ensuring ethical considerations are accounted for when the assessments or research target

^[17] Combined in such a way as to complete or supplements additional services.

^[18] MoPH (2015), *Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention, Promotion, and Treatment. Situation analysis and strategy for Lebanon 2015 – 2020*: [https://www.moph.gov.lb/userfiles/files/Mental per cent20Health per cent20and per cent20Substance per cent20Use per cent20Strategy per cent20for per cent20Lebanon per cent202015-2020-V1_1-English.pdf](https://www.moph.gov.lb/userfiles/files/Mental%20Health%20and%20Substance%20Use%20Strategy%20for%20Lebanon%202015-2020-V1_1-English.pdf).

^[19] In line with the National Guide for Rational Prescription of Medication for priority mental health and neurological conditions.

^[20] Institutions contracted with the Ministry of Public Health and registered as mental health institutions such as Deir Salib and Dar Ajaza.

^[21] The research committee is composed by members nominated and selected with the possibility of rotational membership. Members are composed of the Ministry of Public Health, United Nations agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations from the Health core working group.

displaced populations and vulnerable communities. The health research committee will function under the joint national health sector and will review planned assessments for justification and indications, methodology, ethical principles, and coordination with existing or planned assessments; and will review proposed research relating to health amongst displaced and vulnerable populations and ensure agreed criteria are met.

Following the guidance and under the ownership of the MoPH, multiple stakeholders from donors, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGO) participate in developing, financing, and implementing the Health sector strategy. These include organisations with a health mission, such as public health agencies, hospitals, academia, or qualified health centres. The Health sector will work closely with all sector partners to strengthen planning and coordination by reinforcing the existing coordination mechanisms, which are essential to ensuring a harmonised response and prioritisation of services. The solid strategic and technical involvement and the accountability of MoPH supports Health sector partners in implementing a guided response. And the strong coordination between MoPH and the different stakeholders contributes to a better alignment of the provision and utilisation of the scarce resources and therefore reduces duplication and gaps, enhances efficiency, and increases the return on investment. The sector will follow the 3RP guidance to ensure alignment and coherence with the response and will maintain close coordination and communication with the two co-existing response frameworks: firstly, the ERP framework^[22] established to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and the direct humanitarian health needs of vulnerable Lebanese and migrants impacted by the deteriorating economic and financial situation; and secondly, the 3RF^[23] designed to help Lebanon address the immediate and longer-term needs of the population affected by the Beirut Port explosions^[24]. This will enable a more efficient and effective delivery of services, which is particularly important when considering the multi-factorial nature of the ongoing and concurrent crises in Lebanon. It will also ensure smooth planning, implementation and reporting processes for Health sector partners and contribute to increased accountability. Under the umbrella of a joint national Health sector working group representative of

the different frameworks,^[25] regular meetings, guidance development, information dissemination, consistent reporting, contingency indicators monitoring, and situation analysis will be maintained and reinforced to ensure a precise, dynamic, and fluid coordination, avoid duplication, identify gaps in service provision and advise on programmes designs. The sector will be committed to providing programmatic guidance and support to partners based on needs and to meet, at a minimum, on a monthly basis for a comprehensive joint Health sector working group. Core group meetings will be conducted on trimester and ad-hoc basis when needed to follow up on the situation and make strategic sector decisions. Service mapping segregated by outcome and output level will be updated on a routine basis to prevent duplication of activities and advise on programmatic gaps. In addition to new ways to bring cross-sector partners together across levels, new forums will likely emerge. Innovative approaches to fostering multi-sector collaboration to achieve health equity and quality health outcomes for patients will require participation from different partners. The Health sector will closely work with other sectors, namely Social Stability, Protection, Child Protection, GBV, Education, Nutrition, and WASH to mitigate risks and mainstream notions of conflict sensitivity, gender, youth, persons with disabilities and environment.



Lebanese women (78%)
had more **difficulty to afford the**
cost of treatment more than men (67%)

MSNA 2022

Assumptions and Risks

In addition to the specific risks associated with each outcome discussed later under “sector results”, general assumptions and risks fall into three main categories: funding, equity, and data.

It is assumed that the global community will continue to support the Health sector in Lebanon and that support to health system strengthening will be increased. However, the health care system has been weakened by the socio-economic situation as well as the COVID-19 and cholera outbreaks. The volatility of the situation and the growing numbers of vulnerable populations, especially among the host community, are contributing to increased health risks. Global inflection, shortages of medicines, fuel and high prices of medical equipment and transportation are examples of the challenges faced by the Health sector. This leads to gaps in service which trigger deteriorating perceptions, competition for services, and tensions. One reason for this is also the increased pressure on public services as more Lebanese are shifting from private to public

^[22] The Emergency Response Plan (ERP) was published in the margins of the International Conference for Support of the Lebanese People chaired by France and the United Nations on 4 August 2021. The Emergency Response Plan seeks to mobilize US\$378 million to provide life-saving support to 1.1 million most vulnerable individuals, under Food Security, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence sectors.

^[23] The Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) is part of a comprehensive response to the massive explosion on the Port of Beirut on August 4, 2020. It is a people-centred recovery and reconstruction framework focusing on a period of 18 months that will bridge the immediate humanitarian response and the medium-term recovery and reconstruction efforts to put Lebanon on a path of sustainable development.

^[24] EU, UN, WB (2020), Lebanon Reform, Recovery & Reconstruction Framework (3RF): <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lebanon/publication/lebanon-reform-recovery-reconstruction-framework-3rf>.

^[25] Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, Emergency Response Plan (ERP), Recovery and Reconstruction Framework for Lebanon (3RF).

service delivery. The risks affecting this assumption are weakened global financing for health, global inflation, the ongoing situation in Ukraine and the possible shift of funding, the current Lebanese socio-economic crisis and austerity plan (including the subsidies withdrawal); and procurement challenges. These risks may weaken the health care system and delay or impede health programming, and therefore further hamper the access of vulnerable populations and communities to primary, secondary, and tertiary health care.

The Health sector remains determined to equitably expand access to health services and information. There is a risk, however, that the focus on the broad majority, with insufficient attention to the marginalised groups does jeopardise equitable access to health information and services. Supporting health systems without a strong equity focus could exacerbate inequities in both the supply and demand side of accessibility. A key role will be to draw attention to those “left behind” and most marginalised and priority groups, and to review systems and policies not only for achieving better averages, but to become more inclusive and equitable and to monitor patterns in utilisation and service delivery to identify who may be getting left behind.

Administrative data systems should be able to track access and health outcomes and point to health system gaps. There is a real risk that the available data does not sufficiently disaggregate, preventing the development of measures to reach and support those left behind. Data may not be available, especially on quality, or may not be sufficiently or systematically used, with limited accountability for results. Data protection and patient confidentiality are also at risk when it comes to using platforms outside the system. Support the strengthening of unified, systematised, and institutionalised health data systems is required, including staffing and technical support at both the national and local levels in addition to establishing health records that are linked between primary health care and hospital care. This includes support for more disaggregation of data – including information on age, gender, and persons with disabilities.

Sector Results: LCRP Impacts, Sector Outcomes, Outputs, and Indicators

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Health at both the strategic and technical levels and based on lessons learnt during the implementation of the LCRP 2017-2022, the Health sector will maintain its commitment to align its areas of work in 2023 with the sustainable development goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 3,^[26] with a focus on universal health coverage and recommended SDG targets for neonatal mortalities. The MoPH response

strategy,^[27] drafted in 2015 and updated in 2016^[28], serves as the guiding document for the LCRP Health sector strategy. In 2022, the Health sector engaged in the development of the new MoPH Health Sector Strategy and will make efforts to keep alignment with the new aspect of the strategy that is expected to be published by the end of the year. Activities under the LCRP fall within the scope of the MoPH strategy starting from community outreach, awareness and preventive activities to curative and referral services. By 2023, the Health sector continues to aim for the progressive expansion and integration of these services in the existing national health care system in an effort towards the provision of universal health coverage.

The Health sector has identified four main outcomes for the sector strategy in 2023 and its direct contributions to Impact 3 “vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national systems”. These outcomes are based on the sector’s analysis of the protective environment, considering the challenges faced by different age, gender, and diversity groups in accessing health services. The Health sector’s approach to the delivery of equitable health services is strongly rooted in a vulnerability and rights-based approach to programming. Outputs and activities under each outcome of the strategy are designed to ensure that different groups have equitable access to affordable, essential, and high-quality prevention, promotion, treatment, and referral care services.

While considering growing needs as well as acute emergencies, such as cholera, the Health sector will continue to invest in the public health system, and to strengthen and enhance institutional resilience with the ultimate goal of sustaining and assuring the quality of service provision. The Health sector will support the strengthening of the national health system by carrying out inter-related functions in human resources, finance, governance, capacity building, information and health information systems and medical products, including personal protective equipment (PPE), vaccines, and data technologies. This in return will help the sector overcome the acute difficulties and attain a positive and sustainable impact on health indicators and outcomes over the short, medium, and long terms. Whereas the Health sector will keep its focus on health system strengthening, the balance with direct service delivery components of the strategy will be maintained to cover critical short-term needs for vulnerable people. Supporting the Lebanese health system will help in recovering the trust of the local communities towards public services and will therefore

^[27] The Ministry of Public Health Response Strategy serves four strategic objectives: Increase access to health care services to reach as many displaced persons and host communities as possible, prioritizing the most vulnerable; Strengthen health care institutions and enable them to withstand the pressure caused by the increased demand on services and the scarcity of resources; Ensure health security including a strengthened surveillance system for the control of infectious diseases and outbreaks and Improve child survival rates.

^[28] Lebanon, Ministry of Public Health (2016)-Health Response Strategy: <http://www.moph.gov.lb/en/Pages/9/3447/health-response-strategy>.

^[26] SDG3: “Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.”

have a long-term positive impact on the government. This support will consequently pave the road for an informed and technically solid exit strategy.

Expected Results

Outcome 1: Improve access to comprehensive primary health care (PHC).

Strengthening the health care system remains a key priority in 2023, considering the increasing demand on services and scarcity of resources. This will ensure greater geographical coverage and accessibility, including for persons with disabilities, to quality primary and inclusive health care services. This will also increase the public trust toward the quality of subsidized services provided at the level of the primary health care centres. Under this outcome, it is assumed there will be an increased need for an affordable, subsidised comprehensive package of primary health care and that health partners will continue to provide support to the MoPH's primary health care network, which provides equitable and low-cost access to quality health services.

Output 1.1: Financial subsidies and health promotion provided to targeted population for improved access to a comprehensive primary health care package.

The sector aims to support equitable access to comprehensive^[29] quality primary health care to displaced Syrian and non-Syrian individuals (whether registered or non-registered as refugees by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)) and vulnerable Lebanese individuals, primarily through the MoPH network of primary health care centres and dispensaries (including the Ministry of Social Affairs' social development centres in instances where there is uneven geographical coverage, or where the caseload is too heavy for the network to bear.)^[30] A specific focus will be to increase mental health awareness and services to account for increasing needs and to increase physical and non-physical access to primary health care for persons with disabilities. To address the various consequences of period poverty among females in reproductive age, namely physical and mental wellbeing, mobility restrictions, school dropouts, social stigma, and taboo, maintaining dignity and bodily autonomy, the Health sector partners will ensure mainstreaming menstrual hygiene management in the various activities at the primary health care levels as well as foster family planning services and contraceptives for women in reproductive age including adolescents. Displaced non-Syrians will benefit from the primary health care support offered by partners on a non-discriminatory basis. Support to a

comprehensive primary health care package will continue taking into consideration, in 2023, COVID-19 and cholera preventive measures. Key elements under this output include:

Prioritise comprehensive financial support: improved comprehensive financial support will be provided to displaced Syrian and vulnerable Lebanese individuals, Palestinian refugees from Syria and Palestine refugees in Lebanon who are unable to access health services due to their economic conditions. Non-Syrian displaced populations, and non-sponsored migrant workers, will benefit from increased access to primary health care services offered by sector partners based on a non-discriminatory approach. Health partners will continue to support better access by reducing cost-related barriers, such as doctor's fees, additional treatment, and transportation expenses through complementary programme activities. Partners will provide additional focus to ensure a balanced targeting among population cohorts and to increase targeting to vulnerable Lebanese individuals considering the ongoing crises and financial hardship. In 2023, the sector will align with the national standardised long-term primary health care subsidisation protocol (LPSP). This unified financial model is used as the baseline for the national primary health care strategy currently being developed under the leadership of MoPH. The LPSP will help reduce out-of-pocket expenditures through a sustainable, long-term approach and will increase the public's trust in the Health sector. Health partners will be encouraged to implement this model in the centres they support and to continue exploring ways to further optimise the package of services offered to ensure an effective, cost-efficient, and sustainable response. This will be closely monitored in 2023 to identify best practices that can be further developed and expanded to ensure improved rollout of the LPSP and, ultimately, better health outcomes over the long term. Additionally, health partners will work to conduct an outcome and return-on-investment evaluation to measure the efficiency and efficacy of the implemented packages.

Use of mobile medical units on an exceptional basis: The Health sector will aim to provide primary health care services through Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) only on an exceptional basis. Activities such as vaccination campaigns, outbreak investigation and response, and the provision of primary health care services will be provided through mobile medical units linked to the closest fixed primary health care centre in areas where there is no primary health care coverage and in case of security-related and emergency situations. MMUs implemented in-line and in collaboration with existing national structures/mechanisms will enable the health system to quickly identify and respond to outbreaks and to increase access to primary health care services in case of a deteriorated situation. Consequently, this will contribute to decreasing morbidity and mortality rates. As mentioned, Health sector partners will deploy MMUs only when necessary, and, at the same time, the sector will ensure that access to primary health care centres is promoted and restored as soon as possible.

Rehabilitation services and assistive devices: The Health

^[29] Comprehensive primary health care is inclusive of vaccination, medication for acute and chronic conditions, child health, noncommunicable disease care, sexual and reproductive health, malnutrition screening and management, mental health, disability services, dental care as well as health promotion and referral.

^[30] Palestinian refugees from Syria and Lebanon are an exception as their access to primary health care is through The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) clinics.

sector will aim in 2023 to provide specialised support to persons with disabilities and older persons at risk. Health sector partners will provide specialised services to targeted populations per calendar month, including rehabilitation services such as physiotherapy, prosthetics and orthotics, assistive devices, occupational therapy, ergo therapy, speech therapy, institutional care land, or family rehabilitation. To monitor this activity, the Health sector partners will report on the number of persons with disabilities and older persons at risk receiving individual specialised support, and the indicator will be disaggregated by nationality, age group, gender, and type of disability (motor, visual, hearing, speaking and intellectual).

Strengthen complaint and feedback mechanisms: 50 out of 279 MoPH's primary health care centres have active complaint and feedback mechanisms to ensure patients can report any challenges. The complaint and feedback mechanisms are accessible for all groups, including persons with disabilities, older and young people, and marginalised groups. The data is recorded and managed confidentially. In addition, information on the Ministry's 24/7 hotline, which the displaced population can call for feedback and complaints, is circulated on a regular basis. The MoPH uses all possible resources to respond to all complaints; however, additional support from the Health and Protection sectors is still needed to strengthen and expand the current feedback mechanism^[31] and to collect and analyse data. Supporting the complaint and feedback mechanism will improve the service delivery and the accountability for the affected population, enhance public trust and inform the design of the programmes and therefore increase demand and access for primary health care, including mental health services.

The target for 2023 is a total of 5,379,961 subsidised or free consultations to be provided at the primary healthcare level to displaced Syrian and vulnerable Lebanese individuals and Palestinian refugees from Syria and Lebanon (2,547,161 for Lebanese, 2,730,000 for displaced Syrians, 62,800 for Palestinian refugees from Syria, and 40,000 for Palestine refugees in Lebanon).^[32] The target for 2023 considers both the growing needs among the Lebanese population and the capacity of the primary health care centres. Consultation reporting will be disaggregated by age, gender, and disability to allow monitoring of potential gender-related barriers to primary healthcare access that must be addressed. To improve the access of vulnerable populations to mental health services, and while considering the growing needs, 5 per cent of the population in need will be targeted, and monitoring of mental health consultations will be disaggregated by population cohort, age, and gender. Support to rehabilitation services and assistive devices targets 403,320 individuals (191,037 Lebanese, 204,750 displaced Syrians, 4,894 Palestinian refugees from Syria,

and 3,000 Palestine refugees in Lebanon) which is 15 per cent of the total population targeted for every nationality. For 2023, the Health sector aims to expand its support to all the 350 primary health care centres under the MoPH network and to the 27 United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) clinics.

Output 1.2: Free of charge noncommunicable diseases (NCD) medication provided at primary health care centre level.

The Health sector will continue to advocate for the timely procurement of quality NCD medications and equitable distribution to the population in need while taking into consideration the current medications shortage and procurement challenges. Health partners will support the MoPH to accurately estimate the medication needs based on utilisation, co-morbidity data and previous stocks interruption while also accounting for projected increases in demand as well as the need for buffer stocks. Partners supporting the provision of medication are encouraged to include support for the proper management of pharmaceutical waste as per the national guidelines. The provision of chronic disease medications free of charge will contribute to enhancing the quality of life for persons with chronic diseases, increase financial access to primary health care for patients with NCDs, decrease the burden on secondary and tertiary health care by helping to effectively manage disease, reduce the high cost of hospitalisation resulting from poorly controlled chronic medical conditions and it will consequently decrease morbidity and mortality rates. The Health sector strategy under the LCRP will account for the increased needs of the refugee population considering the current context of the economic and financial crisis and will continue to provide chronic disease medications for the vulnerable Lebanese already targeted in previous years. Displaced non-Syrians will also benefit from the medications support offered by partners on a non-discriminatory basis. The increased NCD medications needs among the Lebanese population that are perceived to be a direct result of the current crisis will be accounted for through the ERP. Institutional support and health system strengthening initiatives, such as training on medication and stock management, remain key to improve the existing primary health care supply chain and to ensure medications are distributed in a timely and consistent way. This includes electronic health records, electronic stock inventory and data driven decision making to maximize the efficient use of resources. By investing in supply chain management, the efficiency of the system and impact of Health sector medication support will be enhanced.

In 2023, the sector will target 230,000 individuals who are enrolled in the national chronic disease medications program at the MoPH (172,500 Lebanese, 41,400 displaced Syrians, 9,177 Palestinian refugees from Syria, and 6,923 Palestine refugees in Lebanon).^[33]

^[31] Lebanon, Inter-Agency (2020), *Minimum Standards on Complaints & Feedback for the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan*: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/79144>.

^[32] Palestinian refugees from Syria and Palestine refugees in Lebanon receive primary health care support through the UNRWA clinics.

^[33] Palestinian refugees from Syria and Palestine refugees in Lebanon receive subsidized chronic disease medications free of charge through the UNRWA clinics.

Output 1.3: Free-of-charge acute disease medication, medical supplies, and reproductive health (RH) commodities provided at primary health care centre level.

The Health sector will support the MoPH in the provision of acute disease medications free of charge, as well as medical supplies and RH commodities for displaced Syrian and vulnerable Lebanese individuals while taking into consideration the current medications shortage and procurement challenges. Partners supporting the provision of medication are recommended to include support for the proper management of pharmaceutical waste as per the national guidelines. Displaced non-Syrians will also benefit from the medications support offered by partners on a non-discriminatory basis. The Health sector strategy under the LCRP will account for the increased needs of the refugee population considering the current context of the economic and financial crisis and will continue to provide acute disease medications for the vulnerable Lebanese already targeted in previous years. The increase in needs among the Lebanese population that is perceived to be a direct result of the current crisis will be accounted for through the ERP. Another focus will be extending support to an efficient and timely supply chain management. The sector will continue to advocate for funding and will aim at aligning the list of acute disease medications with the treatment protocol. Health partners will closely coordinate to accurately estimate the needs and support in the procurement of acute disease medications as well as other medical commodities. This support will lead to increased availability of supplies, decreased financial barriers and support for greater access to primary health care. Furthermore, the provision of acute disease medications free of charge contributes to an enhanced preventive programming and strengthened growth monitoring for children; therefore, decreasing the risk of complications and the need for hospital care. Without timely access to quality acute disease medications, medical supplies (including PPE for health facilities not already supported under ERP and RH commodities), the risk of preventable hospitalisation, cholera, and COVID-19 infection will increase in Lebanon, which will increase the financial burden and negatively impact health indicators, especially for morbidity and mortality rates, including neonatal and maternal mortality. The sector will aim to ensure that the current mechanisms of national drug procurement for acute disease medications, medical supplies, and RH commodities (including family planning commodities, and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits) are aligned with the existing needs of vulnerable Lebanese and displaced Syrian individuals, as well as other population groups, and should avoid any duplication for parallel procurement mechanisms by health partners.

In 2023, the sector will target 1,613,988 for acute disease medication, medical supplies, and RH support (764,148 Lebanese, 819,000 displaced Syrians, 18,840 Palestinian refugees from Syria, and 12,000 Palestine refugees in Lebanon).^[34] This target takes into consideration that 30 per cent of the population accessing primary healthcare

will be seeking support for acute disease medication, medical supplies, and RH support.

Output 1.4: Free of charge routine vaccination provided for all children under five at the primary health care centre level and through vaccination campaigns.

Due to multiple crises, the first of which started in late 2019, the number of children under five receiving their routine vaccination was reported to be below the annual average. In 2023, the Health sector aims to support the MoPH to achieve 100 per cent vaccination coverage of displaced Syrian and non-Syrian children, Palestinian refugee children from Syria and Lebanon and vulnerable Lebanese children.^[35] based on the national vaccination calendar. This requires the enforcement of the MoPH's policy related to the provision of free vaccination at the primary health care level as well as the expansion/acceleration of routine vaccination activities with a focus on low vaccination coverage areas.^[36] and the improvement of the cold chain and supply systems. The MoPH is expanding the public-private partnership, namely the partnership with private physicians across all districts in Lebanon, in an aim to reach children mostly in need, especially in marginalised areas. This partnership between the MoPH and the private physicians offers a ground-breaking mode with a good chance of producing improvement in immunisation outcomes. In coordination with Nutrition partners, outreach activities related to vaccination will be coupled with malnutrition screenings, and referrals if needed, to maximise the impact of outreach efforts. This will be done through increased awareness on the availability of free vaccination services and infection, prevention, and control (IPC) measures at the primary health care centres and by supporting the MoPH to increase its cholera and COVID-19 prevention response. Messages will emphasise that routine immunisation is not only safe and effective but essential to protecting children from potentially fatal infections. Vigilance is required to ensure Lebanon remains polio free, to contain cholera and any other possible outbreaks. Advocacy to endorse legislation on free vaccination in the primary health care centres remains key to ensure increased vaccination coverage and to prevent future outbreaks. In addition, a more systematic vaccination process needs to be developed and endorsed for official return activities. The efforts of the Health sector to ensure that free vaccination is provided for all children under five will positively impact the vaccination status of the children in Lebanon, prevent vaccine-preventable diseases and consequently decrease rates of morbidity and mortality.

In 2023 the sector targets a total of 445,560 children under five^[37] to receive routine vaccinations distributed among

^[34] Palestinian refugees from Syria and Palestine refugees in Lebanon receive primary health care support through the UNRWA clinics.

^[35] It is estimated that 50 per cent of vulnerable Lebanese children receive vaccination through the public health system while the remaining 50 per cent receiving vaccination through private health system.

^[36] Results of the annual WHO expanded programme on immunization (EPI) coverage cluster survey.

^[37] Based on the LCRP population package for 2023, children under five are 5.5 per cent of the Lebanese population, 14.2 per cent of the displaced Syrian population and 9.7 per cent of the Palestinian population.

displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese and Palestinian refugees from Syria and Lebanon at the primary health care level (212,150 Lebanese, 212,992 displaced Syrians, 3,033 Palestinian refugees from Syria, and 17,386 Palestine refugees in Lebanon).

Output 1.5: Primary health care institutions' service delivery supported.

The expansion of the MoPH's primary health care centres network to up to 350 centres distributed equitably across Lebanon, the enhancement of the quality of services provided and the physical structure will strengthen the capacity of the ministry to respond to the primary health care needs of displaced Syrians and vulnerable Lebanese. Moreover, support across most primary health care centres is required in terms of increasing human resources, as they are understaffed and overloaded while at the same time an increasing number of medical staff is leaving the country because of the deteriorating overall situation. To partially mitigate the risk of the socio-economic crisis and the brain-drain, the Health sector will work in 2023 to develop staffing support guidance for all partners supporting primary health care centres; guidance will include support to new and existing staff. By providing staffing support, the Health sector will contribute to enhancing central data collection and analysis, to decreasing the workload at the facility level and to increasing the ministerial capacity to respond to increased demand. Nevertheless, the sector needs to identify and prioritize support for essential core staff whose services are critical in the long run; this will allow the ministry to retain trained and qualified personnel. The Health sector partners will support primary health care centres in enforcing the existent laws and memos, such as the provision of free-of-charge vaccination and the implementation of the patient co-payment modality.

A larger proportion of displaced Syrians with a disability **(42%)** reported their need for health compared to **14%** of those with no disability

VASyR 2022

Health partners will continue providing equipment, including PPE and IPC kits, to not only respond to current needs, but also to replace old and deteriorating equipment. This will allow the centres to deliver safe quality services and to expand the current coverage, which increases availability and therefore enhances access to primary health care services for vulnerable groups. Additionally, the Health sector will aim to build the capacity of staff through ongoing training, coaching and supervision according to identified gaps. A specific focus will be placed in 2023 on building the capacity of the health care staff on IPC, considering the recent outbreaks. Trainings will also include modules

on soft skills,^[38] safe identification and referral of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and survivor-centred approaches with a focus on respecting confidentiality and non-discrimination. Building the capacity of the health care providers will lead to an enhanced quality of service provision and therefore to an increased trust towards the public services, which will positively impact the access of vulnerable groups to primary health care services. The Health sector will encourage an equal ratio of female/male staff in every training^[39] and focus on monitoring key quality indicators for improved quality of care through increased coordination and referrals between partners and the use of common tools.

The sector will support the MoPH to strengthen its primary health care accreditation programme^[40] and internal Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) measures at the primary health care level. M&E activities shall focus on compliance with the national health strategy, especially in relations to harmonised costs for services based on LPSP and ensuring free immunisation services at all centres.

Additionally, the Health sector will explore ways to support the expansion of the existing health information system. In 2016, electronic patient files for beneficiaries were established, along with a medication electronic monitoring system^[41] in 13 primary health care centres. The collection of data through all primary health care centres will be further expanded and strengthened to ensure harmonised reporting through common tools and indicators as well as on the quality-of-service provision, including relevance, accuracy, completeness, and timeliness. This will lead to more regular access to data which will help to inform future health care priorities. In 2023, the Health sector will focus on enhancing the health information system, including the development of medical records that will be made available between the primary health care centres and the hospitals to facilitate referrals and medical follow up. The sector will work in 2023 to pilot the development of a registration platform where individuals can have their medical records and information recorded.

The sector aims to target all the primary health care centres in 2023 within the MoPH's network.

Risks associated with the outputs under Outcome 1 range from the lack of available funds to ensure timely and quality subsidised comprehensive primary health care services to non-compliance of primary health care centres with the instructions provided by MoPH, including hidden

^[38] As an example, the Clinical Management of Rape Training targeting health staff includes a module on soft skills.

^[39] It is observed that more female health staff attend trainings compared to male health staff – this is reflective of the general health workforce.

^[40] In 2008, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) initiated work on an accreditation mechanism for primary health care centres aiming to include all network centres to monitor and ensure quality in primary health care centres. The accreditation programme is fully funded by MoPH and implemented by the primary health care department.

^[41] PHENICS: health information system to link and unify the network of Ministry of Public Health - primary health care centres.

costs.^[42] Procurement challenges continue to worsen, particularly in the local market, for acute and chronic disease medications, including psychotropic medications, as well as medical supplies. The ongoing and accelerating flight of medical staff from the country due to the deteriorating situation are contributing to additional risks at the individual and institution levels. Together, these factors may result in decreased access to preventive primary health care services, including immunisation and antenatal care and could increase demand for complicated hospital care. The health system could become overloaded, and the vulnerable populations will face challenges to accessing needed health care, which will jeopardise their health status and put them at risk of preventable hospitalisation and health complications. In addition, financial hardship will continue to increase at the institutions level, which will jeopardise the Health system. Corresponding decline in determinants of health are likely to negatively affect national health indicators, including morbidity and mortality. Efforts from health partners are needed to advocate for predictable, sustainable funding, as well as new and increased resources, in order to support strengthening the health services to meet the needs of the ever-growing vulnerable populations as a result of the ongoing multiple crises. Partners also need to maintain and expand support to MoPH in order to improve health governance functions, including internal monitoring and evaluation measures. With time, and as the MoPH's capacities are strengthened, the institutional support is expected to progressively decrease.

Outcome 2: Improve access to hospital (including Emergency Room (ER) Care) and advanced referral care (including advanced diagnostic laboratory and radiology care).

The sector aims to provide physical and mental hospital care to 12 per cent of each population group. In addition, through health partners, the sector will aim to support, in 2023, the hospitals for service delivery by providing human resources, capacity building, and medical products including PPE.

Output 2.1: Financial support provided to targeted population for improved access to hospital and advanced referral care.

The Health sector aims to ensure access to physical and mental hospital and specialised referral care for displaced Syrian individuals (whether registered or non-registered as refugees by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Palestinian refugees from Syria and Palestine refugees in Lebanon in need of hospital care.^[43] Health partners will continue providing financial support to targeted population through the implementation of cost-sharing mechanisms. The main activity under this output is the

provision of financial support to access hospital services. This is currently done primarily through the UNHCR referral care programme^[44], which covers 75 per cent of the hospital bill and targets displaced Syrian and non-Syrian individuals.^[45] and through UNRWA's hospitalisation policy for Palestinian refugees from Syria and Palestine refugees in Lebanon. In a complementary manner, health partners will continue to provide financial support to cover the patient's share, which is five to 25 per cent of the bill, based on a prioritisation approach specified by every partner in consultation with the Health sector. Partners will also aim to cover those conditions which fall outside of UNHCR or UNRWA hospitalisation schemes.

Given the ongoing crisis and the growing number of vulnerable Lebanese and following a pilot that started in 2020, the Health sector will support vulnerable uninsured Lebanese individuals in 2023 with a cost-sharing scheme that includes public and private hospitals for those covered by the MoPH as a last resort. Therefore, Health sector partners will aim to cover the patient share for vulnerable Lebanese individuals after being admitted and supported by the MoPH. On exceptional basis and following a prioritisation approach, partners will provide effective coverage for Lebanese patients who fall outside the coverage criteria of the MoPH and are covered by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and the Civil Servant Cooperative (CSC) schemes.^[46] The support will focus on cases characterised by additional costs resulting from the use of material such as orthopaedics and cardiology. The sector will consider utilising public communication channels to inform the Lebanese population about the hospital care support programmes. Partners planning to support hospital care for vulnerable Lebanese will have to increase their mobilisation and outreach activities to expand the outreach to the population in need. The hospital care support provided for vulnerable Lebanese under LCRP differs from the one provided under ERP since the latter aims to cover the full hospitalisation bill of the patients. A close coordination will be maintained between both platforms to ensure the smooth planning, implementation, and reporting of the programmes. In addition, a joint taskforce will be established to develop a unified model for the subsidisation of hospital care for the vulnerable populations, where the mechanism put in place is well defined and coordinated among relevant stakeholders, including the MoPH. This will help identify coverage criteria and avoid duplication and therefore

^[44] UNHCR (2019), *Referral Care SOPs*.

^[45] As of July 2018, the cost-sharing mechanism requires beneficiaries of the programme to contribute with the first \$100 of the hospital bill and 25 per cent of any amount exceeding that. \$800 is the maximum amount required from the beneficiary. In 2020 and 2021, temporary changes to the cost-sharing scheme were implemented to mitigate the financial hardship for both displaced populations and hospitals. These revisions have been implemented during the fall and winter months when the livelihood opportunities for displaced populations are generally lower.

^[46] The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) is meant to cover all employees in the formal sector (private sector and government-owned corporations, in addition to contractual and wage earners of the public administration). The Civil Servants Cooperative (CSC) covers the regular government staff.

^[42] Examples of hidden costs: cost for opening a file, consultation fees prior to providing free of charge vaccination.

^[43] This includes advanced diagnostics, laboratory tests and radiology (on an outpatient basis) and admission to hospital, including emergency room care.

support donors in financing the access to hospital care for the target group of vulnerable populations. The sector will additionally aim, in 2023, to create a hospital care coordination forum in collaboration with MoPH to better advise, map and coordinate hospital care support.

The financial support provided helps decrease mortality rates and enhances the quality of life. In addition, this will contribute to improved neonatal and maternal health by supporting hospital-based deliveries and neonatal services. Social tension will also be mitigated through the balanced targeting approach. Furthermore, by ensuring guaranteed, timely payments for patient care, hospitals will be partly relieved of the additional pressure caused by the multifaceted crises and therefore the support will contribute to decreasing financial hardship at the hospital level. Considering the high cost of hospital care services in Lebanon and the increasing economic vulnerabilities across all populations, health partners need significant financial resources to maintain current levels of financial support provided. Additional resources are also needed to expand the support to medical conditions which do not fall under the current schemes and to support hospitalization for mental health conditions given the increased needs and scarce resources in terms of financials and hospitals capacity.

In 2023, the sector will target 99,010 displaced Syrian individuals, which is considered 12 per cent of the population registered with UNHCR,^[47] 76,415 Lebanese individuals, which represent 6 per cent of the Lebanese population in need, 3,768 Palestinian refugees from Syria and 2,400 Palestine refugees in Lebanon receiving hospital services. The targets are calculated based on a 12 per cent hospitalisation rate for displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees from Syria and Palestine refugees in Lebanon and based on a 6 per cent rate for Lebanese complementing the target covered by ERP.^[48]

Output 2.2: Public and private hospital service delivery supported.

The sector aims to support to public hospitals through the provision of equipment to address shortages, replace old and deteriorated ones and establish burn units and psychiatric wards in the North, South and Bekaa governorates. Special attention will be given in 2023 to support the operational costs at the hospitals level including but not limited to oxygen supplies and medical waste management. Interventions will also include supporting existing and recent hospital staffing capacity at both MoPH and hospital levels to compensate for the decreased number of staff caused by the socio-economic

crisis and the migration of medical staff already mentioned, as well as building the capacity of the hospital staff through trainings and follow-up (including management of psychiatric emergencies) where an equal ratio of female to male staff is encouraged.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak in refugee settings, the Health sector built on the financial support provided over the years for the hospitals to withstand the increasing pressure and cover hospitalisation fees for Syrian and non-Syrian displaced individuals and further supported and expanded the capacity of the hospitals^[49] to equitably implement free-of-charge COVID-19 testing and case management for the displaced populations. The additional capacity and resources built to respond to COVID-19 were provided with multi-use specifications, meaning they can be deployed in future health responses; in 2022, these resources were used in response to the cholera outbreak. The previously supported COVID-19 isolation units were converted into cholera treatment centres or cholera treatment units. Support to the hospitals will be coordinated with existing responses and provided based on needs. In terms of data collection and analysis and given the increased rates of neonatal mortality among the displaced population, the Health sector will work closely and support the MoPH to monitor and analyse the neonatal mortality rates among Lebanese. Moreover, the sector will work to strengthen mitigation measures ranging from supporting preventive primary health care, including antenatal services, to curative and hospital support, including neonatal care services.

Given the current multiple crises and the lack of sufficient intensive care unit (ICU) bed capacity at the hospital level, the Health sector will work in 2023 to elaborate on an initiative for an effective home-based treatment for terminal patients, linked with the national initiative of the MoPH to promote palliative care.

The risks associated with the outputs under Outcome 2 are both institutional and individual. At the institutional level, public and private hospitals are facing financial challenges to procure and maintain their medical equipment due to their limited ability to pay in hard currency. Additional challenges are being faced in terms of lack of electricity and fuel, in addition to insufficient staffing due to migration. Consequently, some of facilities have decreased staffing and working hours, and have closed several wards. At the individual level, vulnerable populations are unable to access hospital care easily due to the higher costs resulting from currency inflation. Decreased funding and the consequences of the revised UNHCR referral care standard operating procedure that imposes a higher patient share on displaced Syrian

^[47] This figure is based on the number of displaced Syrians registered by UNHCR as refugees, equivalent to 825,081 (as of end of September 2022). It is important to note however that all displaced Syrians (Government of Lebanon estimates are of 1,500,000 displaced Syrians in Lebanon), whether registered or non-registered with UNHCR as refugees, are eligible for hospital coverage according to UNHCR Standard Operating Procedures for Referral Care.

^[48] The hospitalization rate does not include health interventions done on an outpatient basis such as dialysis.

^[49] UNHCR expanded and rehabilitated the capacity of public and private hospitals across Lebanon to receive and treat COVID-19 patients free of charge and avoid competition for care. Support included beds and intensive care units (ICU) and equipment installation.

individuals^{[50][51]} presents an addition risk. An additional risk is the lack of interest and/or sufficient resources to support expensive services, such as dialysis and the treatment of cancer, thalassemia, haemophilia, and others, which will decrease health access and contribute to an increase in morbidity and mortality rates. Health partners can mitigate these risks through advocacy for funding, extended support for public hospital care, reinforced public-private hospital partnerships to cover uninsured populations in private hospitals and increase access to care and strengthened coordination where available funds equitably target the most urgent needs. An additional mitigation measure would be to increase and strengthen preventive primary care, such as vaccinations, antenatal, postnatal care, family planning and early detection and NCD programmes so that complications are prevented, and hospital care is less likely to be needed.

Outcome 3: Improve outbreak & infectious diseases preparedness and response.

Ensuring that Lebanon has in place a national diseases surveillance with emphasis on the EWARS is essential, considering the numerous challenges which exist. The system helps in estimating the number of children dropped out from routine immunisation, understanding potential health risks associated with environmental degradation, such as waterborne diseases, as well as the impact of poor WASH conditions in informal settlements. Moreover, it allows for the identification of risks associated with acute intoxication by chemicals, pesticides, or bacteria (i.e., food poisoning). The health system should be reinforced in line with the international health regulations requirements, especially for the cross-border population. Additionally, outbreak preparedness and response should be maintained. The ESU at the MoPH also needs to be further strengthened with human resources in complementarity with ERP and information and communication technology, to be able to maintain the testing, tracing, and referral for treatment strategy. The ESU must be further supported to accelerate decentralisation of surveillance at the district level. This will facilitate the preparedness and investigation and accelerate outbreak responses. For 2023, the Health sector will work on building the Public Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC), to be used as a platform for data pooling, sharing and decision making.

In 2023, the Health sector is targeting 800 EWARS centres.

Output 3.1: The National Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) expanded and reinforced.

The sector will strengthen outbreak control by expanding and building the capacity of the MoPH to use the EWARS. This system provides critical data in a timely manner and helps to inform monitoring, planning and decision-making in any outbreak containment and response. Between 2015 and 2019, support was provided for the development of an

information technology (IT) platform (DHIS2) established in around 950 health facilities.^[52] In the surveillance strategic framework and plan of action, support in 2023 will focus on: the harmonisation of the health reporting system, expansion of the national early warning and response system to multidisciplinary stakeholders (such as the Ministry of Agriculture), and improvement of information flow within the MoPH departments and between the ministry and other concerned stakeholders.^[53] Further support is needed in terms of data analysis at all administrative levels, and decentralisation of surveillance and decision making in terms of public health measures at the district level.

The expansion of the national EWARS and its decentralisation will target all primary health care centres within the MoPH's network, laboratories and hospitals, as well as the ESU at the national level. Priorities for 2023 include the reinforcement of existing surveillance sites and expansion by 20 new sites. To ensure positive outcomes staffing and logistical support, IT systems development and equipment is required along with technical support missions, joint training for surveillance and response teams as well as close monitoring of accuracy, timeliness, and completeness of reporting.

Output 3.2: Availability of selected contingency supplies ensured.

The sector will ensure that a six-month stock of selected contingency vaccines, emergency medications, therapeutic foods, micronutrients, laboratory reagents, response kits and PPE for quick and effective response to outbreaks is available and maintained.

Output 3.3: The National Tuberculosis and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Programmes strengthened.

The Health sector will continue supporting the National Tuberculosis (TB) Programme through staffing, capacity building, procurement of necessary materials, facility renovations and the procurement of anti-tuberculosis drugs, ancillary medicines, and other consumables. By implementing these activities, the Health sector will contribute to preventing, identifying, and treating tuberculosis cases in a safe and dignified manner, which will decrease morbidity and mortality rates.

In 2023, the Health sector is targeting 1,200 beneficiaries with TB medication support through the National Tuberculosis Programme.

As for the National AIDS Programme, the sector aims at supporting the development of a protocol for testing,

^[50] UNHCR reported a lower admission rate to hospital care in 2019 compared to 2018 and this is believed to be related to the new referral care standard operating procedures (SOPs).

^[51] UNHCR (2018), Referral Care SOPs.

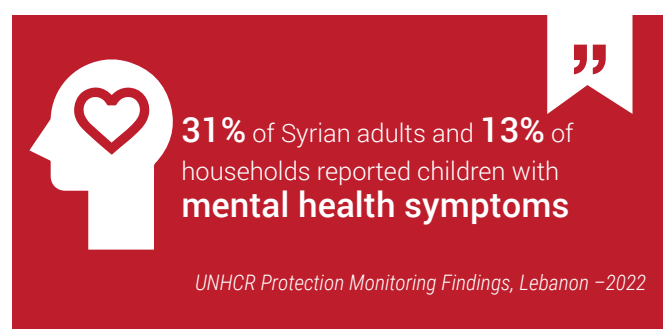
^[52] Health facilities include primary health care centres, dispensaries, and hospitals.

^[53] With the advent of COVID-19, additional support was provided in terms of human resources, provision of testing kits and personal protective equipment to the surveillance teams, as well as development of information technology applications for the call center, the positive cases tracing program and other technical support.

including screening for HIV and sexually transmitted infections in key population groups, doing confirmatory testing for positive cases and starting antiretroviral therapy (ART) for all Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) diagnosed cases as soon as diagnosis is confirmed. This will lead to dramatic reductions in HIV-associated morbidity and mortality^[54] and to an increase in the life expectancy of patients with HIV infections.

In 2023, the Health sector is targeting 2,000 beneficiaries with ARV medication support through the National AIDS Programme.

In addition, the sector aims to train 150 health care workers on the detection and care for TB and HIV.



If the support of the Health sector is not maintained under the above-mentioned outputs under Outcome 3, the ability of the country to ensure the continuation of care amidst the ongoing crisis and to respond to outbreaks will be jeopardised, which could lead to increased outbreaks, vaccine preventable diseases and subsequent morbidity and mortality. Hence, the need to: i. maintain the level of support provided to the national surveillance system and expend the support to the sub-national level, ii. increase trust toward public services iii. strengthen the preventive care, iv. Mainstream COVID-19 prevention and v. increase outbreak preparedness.

Outcome 4: “Basic Rights and Services”: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and have access to basic services and information (justice, health, education).

Investments in awareness raising and mobilisation activities at the individual, and institutional levels among women, men, and youth (children, boys and girls) is considered crucial to increasing demand for available health care services. At the same time, it offers added value to the community that will have lifelong positive effects on both the individuals and the local institutions. Consequently, this outcome will be achieved through the following three outputs. In 2023, a specific focus will be placed on the importance and availability of preventive and promotive care, such as vaccination, contraception, and antenatal care, and activities will be designed in an inclusive modality that allows individuals to overcome stigma and discrimination, especially for the most marginalised groups, including working and street children,

adolescent boys and girls, persons with disabilities and LGBTQI+ community members.

Output 4.1: Health awareness and information strengthened at the institutions level.

The Health sector will strengthen institutions-based health promotion and community outreach activities on various health topics (i.e., vaccination, pregnancy care, childcare, family planning, communicable and NCD, sexual and RH, mental health, substance abuse, nutrition, food safety, hygiene, COVID-19, cholera prevention and management, older women’s health, etc.). Efforts will aim at increasing awareness on the availability and acceptability, and therefore the accessibility, of services (including mental health, sexual and RH (including menstrual hygiene management and family planning), and gender-based violence services) at the facility and the individual/community levels. Information about available safe and confidential sexual and GBV services will be made available to communities and through trainings of primary health care and hospitals personnel and community volunteers on how to refer GBV cases. This will be conducted using a joint Health sector approach^[55] by developing a comprehensive package for awareness-raising activities adapted for different audiences, including individuals with disabilities, that can be adopted by all partners, making updated information available to the population in need, including service mapping, both online and in printed health brochures with targeted and relevant health information. The Health sector will work closely with the Nutrition sector to make sure that nutrition related messages are addressed in the comprehensive package of awareness, including maternal nutrition, exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, and feeding a sick child and that these activities are gender transformative by involving fathers and other male family members in childcare and nutrition activities. In addition, the standards, guidelines, and tools will be availed to enhance the effective coverage and quality of care at facility & community level. The use of media will also be considered for a broader communication when needed, given the role that the media can play in promoting healthy lifestyles. Health partners will harmonise health messages and target women and men within communities to influence decision-making and behaviour change. Awareness raising will also include the development and design of information packages and the use of various dissemination methods, in consultation with affected communities, to ensure that the materials are appropriate and accessible to all groups, including persons with disabilities, older persons and those who speak languages other than English, French, and Arabic. Where possible, inter-sector linkages will be made to maximize health-education dissemination channels, including through education facilities and after-school accelerated learning programmes for children who work and through the Protection and Child Protection sectors for the dissemination of health-related messages and information in women and girls’ safes spaces, community centres and child-friendly spaces. The sector will also

^[54] CDC (2017), *Benefits and Risks of Antiretroviral Therapy*.

^[55] Jointly with ERP framework.

expand its support for the MEHE to strengthen COVID-19 and cholera preventive measures as well as vaccine uptake in schools. Providing information and education alongside addressing other accessibility barriers will contribute to decreasing social stigma and increasing demand for primary health care. Consequently, health promotion will increase equitable access to quality primary health care, including increased demand for preventive care, which will avert preventable medical complications. Coordination with the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) taskforce will be ensured at all times to maintain a harmonized and coherent approach to health promotion and awareness.

In 2023, the sector is targeting 279 primary health care centres for awareness raising.

The Health sector will continue supporting the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)/MoPH/WHO's school health programme. The programme comprises such activities as school health and nutrition education, opportunities for physical education and recreation, and programmes for counselling, social support, adequate nutrition, and mental health promotion. Maintaining the school health programme will create a healthier physical and emotional environment for adolescents and youth and will enhance the education outcomes which will lead, in the long run, to a more productive community. Other activities include the provision of support for the school e-health medical records (procurement of information technology equipment and capacity building) as well as support for the healthy school environment project. The school health program has been partially suspended since the onset of COVID-19. For 2023 it will be focusing on awareness raising, surveillance of outbreaks through rapid diagnostic tests, and on ensuring COVID-19 and cholera protection and prevention measures. In 2023 the sector is targeting 50 schools.

Output 4.2: Access to health care information to women, men, and youth (children, boys, and girls) increased at community level.

Women, men, and youth, including adolescent boys and girls, will be targeted with a comprehensive package of health awareness. Partners will be advised to follow the joint guidance to be issued by the joint Health sector coordination mechanisms for a standardisation and harmonisation of messages.

Persons with disabilities will be targeted with health care information which enhances their access to services. Marginalised adolescents and youth will be targeted to ensure health care information reaches out-of-school, street and working children, young people, and adolescents through a gender-sensitive approach. Information will include the adaptation of awareness materials and outreach methods, strengthened referral of at-risk children and adolescents to case management agencies. Other agencies will also be encouraged to refer to health care providers and improve the reach of vaccination through tailored vaccination campaigns, COVID-19 and cholera prevention, mental health, and sexual and RH activities.

In 2023, the sector is targeting 724,845 caregivers with integrated health awareness material messages calculated based on a 20 per cent target out of the population in need. In addition, the sector aims to implement 26,888 awareness sessions for adolescent and youth.

Whereas acceptability, social norms and stigma, and staff turnover may all be risk factors associated with the above-mentioned Outputs under Outcome 4.2, developing a contextualised package of health awareness materials, including linkages and referrals to protection services, and identifying and building the capacity of essential staff, remains key to sustaining the available services and information at different levels. The lack of data on out-of-school children, youth and adolescents is a risk for the programming of Output 4.2. Social stigma is another risk to engage on mental, sexual, and RH issues. A participatory community engagement and social mobilisation approach, as well as close coordination with the protection and child protection sectors, is needed to increase evidence-based programming and to mitigate the above-mentioned risks. In addition, greater coordination between sectors is needed to adapt health awareness and information materials and campaign outreach methods so that they reach working and street children. Increased access to health information will contribute to the decreased perception of aid bias and reduce the risk of conflict sensitivity in the country.

In line with the assumptions, associated risks and mitigation measures mentioned at every outcome level, needs prioritisation remains vital to ensuring a timely response to any funding gap. While the sector will aim to guarantee that all activities under the strategy are covered (while keeping close coordination and communication with the two co-existing response frameworks)^[56] priority will be given to increasing the equitable and inclusive access of vulnerable populations to life-saving primary health care and hospital care and to strengthening outbreak prevention and control. In line with LCRP Steering Committee guidance, the Health sector steering committee will ensure the alignment of unearmarked funds to key priorities and underfunded needs of the LCRP. The Health sector strategy does include different levels of priority needs for the vulnerable groups; however, the implementation of the activities is conducted based on the most urgent, life-saving ones. Second priority outputs will only be tackled when and if the urgent needs are met. In addition, supplementary research is ongoing^[57] for increased evidence-based programming and decision making. This is particularly applicable in the case of developing cost-effective strategies for the provision of subsidised packages of care that are harmonised to strengthen the national health system.

^[56] Emergency Response Plan (ERP) framework established to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and the direct humanitarian health needs of vulnerable Lebanese and migrants impacted by the deteriorating economic and financial situation; and the Recovery and Reconstruction Framework for Lebanon (3RF) designed to help Lebanon address the immediate and longer-term needs of the population affected by the Beirut Port explosions.

^[57] The European Union (EU) launched a third-party monitoring that will inter alia analyse current programming.

Identification of sector needs and targets at the individual/household, community, and institutional/physical environment level

While focusing on the the 332 localities that host the highest number of displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees an deprived Lebanese,^[58] the Health sector prioritizes geographical areas where there is a high concentration of vulnerable populations and encourages a ratio of 50/50 for the support of displaced population and host community. If needs arise outside the the 332 localities that host the highest number of displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees an deprived Lebanese, targeting is done in cons with MoPH.

The Health sector calculates the number of displaced Syrian individuals in need based on economic vulnerability, whereby data from the 2022 VASyR^[59] indicates that 91 per cent of displaced Syrian individuals are living below the poverty line, similarly, to last year and to 2020, and compared to 73 per cent in 2019. The Health sector targets 100 per cent of the Syrian population in need. Therefore, the number of displaced Syrian individuals in need and targeted by the sector is 1,365,000.

The number of Lebanese and Palestine Refugees in Lebanon in need is calculated in line with Global Health Cluster guidance (GHC). This number is based on indicators from broad categories of data such as health resources and health status, derived from two main sources: the 2022 Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) conducted across Lebanon and routine health data from the MoPH.

As a result, 2,122,634 Lebanese individuals are considered in need by the Health sector. The number represents approximately 53 per cent of the total Lebanese population^[60] and it is the same estimate resulting from the household deprivation score (HDS), developed by the WFP^[61] and used to assess non-monetary poverty among the Lebanese population.^[62] In previous years, the Health sector utilised the same percentage to calculate the number of Lebanese in need. The Health sector targets 60 per cent of the Lebanese population in need under LCRP, which is equivalent to 1,273,580 individuals for general health services (vaccination, medication, etc.) and 6 per cent of the targeted population for hospital care, which is equivalent to 76,415 individuals.

Respectively, 106,369 Palestine refugees in Lebanon are considered in need following the same GHC methodology. 20,000 are targeted under the LCRP, with the remaining eligible for support through UNRWA.

The reason the sector targets 60 per cent of the Lebanese population and a proportion from the Palestine refugees in Lebanon in need is mainly related to available resources and capacity of the Health sector in Lebanon. The Health sector maintains close coordination with the ERP to top off the additional needs among the Lebanese and Palestine refugees in Lebanon populations.

All 31,400 Palestinian refugees from Syria are considered in need and targeted by the Health sector.

It is important to note that there is a wide array of health services provided by actors outside of the LCRP, who therefore do not report against the LCRP targets. Solid coordination, consolidation, and exchange of health information is to be strengthened under the LCRP 2023.



Medair's community midwife in checks a vulnerable Syrian mother's blood pressure during a consultation at their home in an informal settlement, Bekaa, Lebanon - Medair, 2021

^[58] Please see map (<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/96471>) for details of the 332 localities that host the highest number of displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees and deprived Lebanese..

^[59] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2022), VASyR 2022.

^[60] Total Lebanese population: 3,864,296 individuals. Source: LCRP population package 2022.

^[61] World Food Program, Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis of Lebanese Residents, July 2022.

^[62] The household deprivation score (HDS), developed by the World Food Program (WFP) and used to assess non-monetary poverty among the Lebanese population, found that over half (53 per cent) of Lebanese households needed assistance to meet their basic needs by the end of 2021.

Population Cohorts	Total Population	Total Population in Need	Total Population Targeted	Total Population Targeted by Sex and Age									
				# Women	% Women	# Men	% Men	# Children (0-19)	% Children	# Adolescent (12-17)	% Adolescent (12-17)	# Persons with Disabilities	% Persons with Disabilities
Lebanese	3,864,296	2,122,634	1,273,580	662,262	52%	510,087	48%	396,720	31%	203,773	16%	191,037	15%
Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	1,365,000	1,365,000	701,610	51%	663,390	49%	709,800	52%	273,000	20%	204,750	15%
Palestinian refugee from Syria	31,400	31,400	31,400	16,265	52%	13,978	48%	12,664	40%	5,407	17%	4,710	15%
Palestine refugee in Lebanon	180,000	106,369	20,000	9,920	50%	10,080	50%	6,956	35%	3,056	15%	3,000	15%
GRAND TOTAL	5,575,696	3,625,403	2,689,980	1,390,000		1,198,000		1,126,000		485,000		403,497	

Type of institution	Total	# Targeted
CAS	1	0
Governors office	8	0
Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute	1	0
MEHE	1	0
MEHE/ Schools	1232	50
MEHE/ Universities		0
MoAg	1	0
MoCulture	1	0
MoEnv	1	0
MoEW	1	0
MoFA	1	0
MoIM	1	0
MoInd	1	0
MoJustice	1	0
MoLabor	1	0
MoPH	1	1
MoPH/ PHC	279	279
MoPH/ SHC, THC, Hospitals	128	30
MoSA	1	0
MoSA/ SDCs	233	12
MoSDA	1	0
MoYS	1	0
National employment office	1	0
NCLW	1	0
OMSWA	1	0
Prime Minister Office	1	0
Security forces	1	0
Unions of Municipalities	53	0
Municipalities	1108	0
Water establishments		0
Youth centers		0

3. MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER AND GBV, PROTECTION, CONFLICT SENSITIVITY, PSEA, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The Health sector's strategy aims at mainstreaming GBV, Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, PSEA, Environment and COVID-19. In 2023, the Health sector will maintain efforts to strengthen the mainstreaming of the core protection principles: 'meaningful access without discrimination', 'safety, dignity, and do-no-harm', 'accountability' and 'participation and empowerment' within the sector's strategy.

Gender and GBV

The Health sector will place special attention on health interventions for boys, girls, men, and women, including children under five years of age, PLW, adolescents (including adolescent girls married before the age of 18), persons with disabilities, older persons, survivors of gender-based violence, persons living with HIV/AIDS, persons facing gender-based discrimination, and other vulnerable groups. Acceptability barriers will also be tackled, including social stigma, especially RH-seeking behaviours for adolescent girls. As a response to this, the sector will aim to have a female gynaecologist available in each health facility and a female and male health worker to reach girls and boys with age-appropriate sexual and RH information.

Pregnant women often cannot pay for their deliveries, which can lead to their babies being retained in incubators and not returned to the mother until the bill is paid. In addition, pregnant women are not fast tracked for delivery appointments at hospitals. This is a barrier to safe and dignified delivery. Mothers are often unfamiliar with the system and call for appointments late. This means there are often no available delivery spaces, and the mother gives birth at home with an uncertified midwife, which puts the woman and her baby at risk if there are birth complications. This also means the new-born does not have a birth notification and therefore the birth cannot be registered at the personal status department.

Given the increased rates of gender-based violence (GBV), the Health sector will increase response capacity. This includes scaling up the capacity of health facilities to respond to and refer GBV cases; through capacity development of health care providers on GBV, namely safe identification and referral and integration of GBV in sexual and RH services. In addition, in line with the National Clinical Management of Rape Strategy, trainings of medical and paramedical staff will be expanded, support for monitoring and delivery of services will be provided in addition to strengthening coordination with relevant sectors, namely the Protection sector to ensure comprehensive care for rape survivors. Moreover, efforts will be conducted to

foster primary protection and sensitisation on the CMR services.

As child marriage is increasing, including among the Lebanese population, the Health sector will adapt the maternal health services to adolescent girls, to ensure pre-natal care and post-natal support, including PSS and advice, through a referral system. Sexual and RH and contraception information and sensitisations will be strengthened and made available for girls and boys. Strategic cooperation between the Child Protection sector and the Health sector will also be developed to address child marriage and the negative health consequences of early pregnancies for adolescent girls.

The Health sector will implement the recently endorsed Maternal Mental Health Guidelines for frontline workers that will allow medical and paramedical staff to identify and provide support to new mothers and refer them for professional support. In addition, PSS and mental health services will be adapted and expanded to meet the growing needs of women and girls. Targeted campaigns to address stigma and prejudice associated with seeking mental health support will be conducted, including campaigns that will strengthen the access of men and boys to these services.

The sector will support women involved in health care provision, promoting their working conditions and work environment, and will work on the establishment of safe and gender-responsive mechanisms, including strengthening access to medical services for individuals with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity to express their health needs. This includes working with grassroots women's organisations and organisations serving individuals with diverse gender identities and possibly making available childcare and safe and free transportation for individuals to channel their voices.

Protection

In 2019, the Health sector conducted a PRA in each regional field office to identify protection risks and barriers faced by different age, gender, disability, and diversity groups in accessing quality and accountable health care. Mitigation measures to address these barriers including sexual exploitation and abuse risks have been designed as a result. In 2023, the Health sector aims to work jointly with the ERP framework to update the PRA and to tailor contextualised mitigation measures to the changing context. To fulfil these commitments, the Health sector will work closely with the Protection sector, including Child

Protection and GBV sub-sectors over the course of the year.

Together with the Inter-Agency, the Protection sector and the national mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) task force, the Health sector will prioritise, in 2023, the implementation of mental health services for humanitarian workers responding to the needs of vulnerable populations to improve and promote staff care (organisational health) and self-care awareness among staff. In addition, the Protection and Health sectors will work together to mainstream MHPSS across sectors through the provision of psychological first aid (PFA) trainings and to harmonise and better classify the support provided for rehabilitation services and assistive devices under both sectors. In 2023, the Health and Protection sectors will make a concerted effort to explore improved collaboration related to ensuring a people-centred and human rights-based approach to community-based MHPSS services. Both sectors will work together to assess and support second-category hospitals for the admission of inpatient mental health cases.

The Health sector will conduct refresher trainings for all partners on the Inter-Agency minimum standard for referrals and work to improve the service mapping, particularly for MHPSS services. The sector will work on the establishment of a reporting system for partners to report and track referrals conducted to other service providers and will make sure to update the health service mapping as well as to share other sectors' service mapping the health care providers.

Health and Protection sectors will work together to monitor documentation barriers to accessing health services, including ID confiscation, where joint-monitoring and advocacy will be achieved between the sectors. Both sectors will work to ensure that alternative documentation requirements for stateless, and undocumented individuals are in place to facilitate access to health services. Furthermore, they will work together to adapt information materials to be inclusive of persons with disabilities.

The Health sector will be supportive of the National Action Plan on Birth Registration of Displaced Syrians and Palestinian Refugee from Syria (PRS) children born in Lebanon by mainstreaming key messages on birth registration through their awareness activities and by ensuring that children in need of support can access and complete the birth registration process.

PSEA

In 2023, the Health sector will work to ensure that complaint, feedback, and response mechanisms, including protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding, are known, accessible and responsive in relation to health services, and that interventions are informed by participation of women, men, girls, and boys. Building on existing platforms and infrastructure, the Health sector will continue its efforts to support partners to improve collective accountability to affected populations,

including PSEA and child safeguarding. A particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening gender and child-sensitive complaint, feedback, and response mechanisms (CFRM), with the aim of ensuring that trends inform sector interventions and modalities and that people who provide a complaint or feedback receive responses in a timely and appropriate manner. Information and communication channels must be designed in consultation with different age, gender and diversity groups and should address identified barriers. The sector will promote the Inter-Agency minimum standard on complaint and feedback and opportunities for training on accountability for affected populations (AAP). Health sector partners will also engage in the work of the PSEA network and promote training and mentorship opportunities.

Conflict sensitivity

Over the last three years, displaced-host community relations in Lebanon have been on a negative trajectory and the dividers were further reinforced. Dividers include perception of aid bias, competition on lower-skilled jobs and resources, discrimination, and stigmatisation, especially in regard to the spread of diseases, including COVID-19 and the recent cholera outbreak, at informal settlements and overcrowded areas. The sector recognizes that the pressure on health care institutions caused by the increased demand for services is a potential source of conflict. In addition, the differences in coverage schemes and out-of-pocket expenses for all types of health care between vulnerable Lebanese and displaced Syrian individuals remains a source of tension. To address this, efforts are geared towards balancing the targeting among all population cohorts, while increasing the support to vulnerable Lebanese individuals and strengthening the MoPH's at the national and regional level as well as the primary health care system overall, including the MoSA social development centres, to deal with the increased burden on the system and to ensure continued access for vulnerable Lebanese. To help streamline access to affordable hospital care for all population groups, the Health sector will work closely with the ERP coordination mechanism to align eligibility and vulnerability criteria as well as to identify pathways for patients to benefit from available support. The sector will aim at sharing information about the balanced support and the available services and communicate them systematically to different audiences as a key element to reduce aid bias perception and negative competition between communities on assistance. Building on previous years' conflict sensitivity, mainstreaming trainings to all LCRP sectors partners, including the Health sector, further trainings would be provided to partners on conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm will also be considered. In coordination with the Social Stability sector, the Health sector aims to build the capacity of health care staff on social tension and conflict management, including interpersonal skills that can be used in their daily tasks to protect themselves from any tension-related incidents, and to mitigate the risks of perception of aid bias, increased demands, and scarcity of resources. Together with the Social Stability sector, the

Health sector will conduct a quarterly review of tensions to ensure partners are periodically updated on the matter. Health sector partners will be encouraged to apply conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm principles throughout the design-and-implementation cycle of interventions^{[63][64]}.

Environment

Lack of safe water, poor wastewater management, solid and medical waste management, hygiene and living conditions, and unsafe food all influence the incidence and spread of communicable and noncommunicable diseases. Lebanon has been struggling with a national waste management crisis since 2015. This crisis has been addressed by the multidisciplinary national committee for waste management in coordination mostly with the WASH and Social Stability sectors. In addition, in 2020 Lebanon was faced with exceptional environmental hazards following several bush fires and the chemical nature of the Beirut Port explosions and has been facing a cholera

outbreak since 2022. The Health sector strategy focuses on providing technical advice and disseminating information to the public on safe practices in close coordination with the RCCE taskforce. Additionally, it emphasizes supporting the MoPH to sustainably minimise and manage medical waste at the primary health care and hospitals level, while also strengthening disease surveillance systems to contribute to improved outbreak control. Medical waste management will be conducted by Health sector partners using multi-year effective approaches that allows the centres to benefit from the sustainability of the services. Coordination with the Environmental Task Force based at the MoE in this regard is a must. Medical and infectious waste management has its own laws and regulations. The Health sector commits to adhering to the environmental markers procedure when implementing activities that might pose negative environmental risks.

COVID-19

The sector will ensure the mainstreaming of COVID-19-preventive measures throughout all activities, and the safety of both health care workers and targeted populations. Guidance and best practices will be shared within the LCRP and ERP frameworks.

[63] 3RP (2017). *Align planning with the 3RP guidance note on Conflict-Sensitive Programming (Guidance Note)*: <https://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/17-Conflict-Sensitivity-Guidance-Note.pdf>.





[64] UNDP. *Getting Started with Conflict Sensitivity in Lebanon*: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ffnyvC7HoflxjzHP15jwu2Y1hHU12kl/view>.







Baby held by her mother while waiting to get vaccinated at a Health sector supported primary health care center, Saida, Lebanon - Medair, 2022

OUTCOME 1: Improve access to comprehensive primary healthcare (PHC)

INDICATOR 1A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) accessing primary healthcare services	Number of displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) accessing primary healthcare services out of those who report needing primary healthcare services.	1. Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) 2. Multi Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) 3. UNHCR Health Access and Utilization Survey (HAUS) 4. Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) Health Information System (HIS) 5. UNRWA Assessments 6. UNRWA Health Information System	%	Yearly





 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	76%	100%	N/A	76%	100%	N/A	76%	100%	N/A	76%	100%

INDICATOR 1B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of vaccination coverage among children under 5 residing in Lebanon	Percentage of infants who received: 1. The 1st (DTP1) / 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 (IPV1) 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/WHO Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Cluster Survey	%	Yearly

 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	100%	N/A	N/A	100%	N/A	N/A	100%	N/A	N/A	100%

OUTCOME 2: Improve access to hospital (including. Emergency Room (ER) Care) and advanced referral care (including advanced diagnostic laboratory and radiology care)

INDICATOR 2A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of displaced Syrians, Lebanese, Palestinian refugee from Syria and Palestinian refugee in Lebanon admitted for hospitalization per year	Number of displaced Syrians, Lebanese, Palestinian refugee from Syria and Palestinian refugee in Lebanon admitted for hospitalization per year over total population	Measurements/tools: Activity Info, MoPH Hospital data, UNHCR Annual Referral Care Report, UNRWA Hospitalization data Responsibility: MoPH, UNHCR, UNRWA	%	Yearly

 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	6%	N/A	N/A	12%	N/A	N/A	12%	N/A	N/A	12%

OUTCOME 2: Improve Outbreak & Infectious Diseases Preparedness & Response





INDICATOR 2A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Number of functional EWARS centers	The sector aims to contribute to strengthening outbreak control through building the capacity of the MoPH in surveillance and response. The focus will be on public health Early Warning and Response System strengthening and expansion	“MoV: - MOPH periodical bulletins and alerts on website - MoPH list of EWARS functional centers every 6 months Responsibility: MoPH, WHO”	Functional EWARS centers	Yearly

Institutions

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	900	800

OUTCOME 3: Outcome 4: Basic Rights and Services”: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and have access to basic services and information (justice, health, education)

INDICATOR 2A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of the population reached with health integrated messages	The target is that 20% of the population in need is reached with health integrated messages	Health sector	%	Yearly

 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	424,527	N/A	N/A	273,000	N/A	N/A	6,280	N/A	N/A	21,274

Total

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	725,081



NUTRITION SECTOR

PEOPLE IN NEED**1,037,076****PEOPLE TARGETED****832,396****NEEDS-BASED APPEAL****\$45M****PARTNERS****13****GENDER MARKER****4***

*Intends to contribute to gender equality, including across age groups AND/OR people with disabilities

CONTACT**LEAD MINISTRIES****MoPH**

Dr. Randa Hamadeh

randa_ham@hotmail.com

Ms Pamela Zgheib

pamelazgheib80@gmail.com

COORDINATING AGENCY**UNICEF**

Amirhossein Yarparvar

ayarparvar@unicef.org

Action Against Hunger

Mira El Mokdad

mmokdad@lb.acfspain.org

UNDP

Position currently vacant

For more information, contact Elina Silen at elina.silen@undp.org

SECTOR OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1:

Young children and their caregivers have access to and demand for services aiming at prevention of all forms of malnutrition and the associated developmental risks (0-5 years of age)

INDICATORS

- Percentage of micronutrient supplementation coverage among children under 5 residing in Lebanon
- Percentage of children 0-5 months of age who were exclusively breast fed
- Percentage of children 6-24 months of age who received Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD)

OUTCOME 2:

School age children and adolescents have access to and demand for services aiming at prevention of all forms of malnutrition– particularly among girls

INDICATORS

- Percentage of micronutrient supplementation coverage among 15-19 year old adolescent girls together with provision of messages on healthy nutritional habits

OUTCOME 3:

Women have enhanced access to and demand for services aiming at prevention of all forms of malnutrition– particularly during pregnancy and lactation

INDICATORS

- Percentage of micronutrient supplementation coverage among PLW
- Percentage of Households using iodized salt
- Percentage of Pregnant women receiving nutrition counseling as part of their ANC care




OUTCOME 4:

Children have access to growth monitoring, screening, early detection and treatment of wasting in early childhood

INDICATORS

- Percentage of children under-5 with registered growth monitoring information
- Percentage of children under 5 recovered successfully (cured) from the malnutrition treatment program

POPULATION BREAKDOWN

POPULATION COHORT	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	FEMALE ♀	MALE ♂
 Vulnerable Lebanese	617,117	431,982	327,697	104,285
 Displaced Syrians	394,212	394,212	294,576	99,636
 Palestinian Refugees from Syria	6,202	6,202	4,942	1,259

1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

The multi-layered crisis in Lebanon has significantly compromised the nutritional status of infants, young children, adolescents and women. Stunting^[1] is still concerning in several pockets of society and among refugee populations. Due to the severe and irreversible outcome of stunting, it's one of the key indicators of the Sustainable Development Goal 2, as part of "ending all forms of malnutrition" by 2030, specifically reducing the prevalence of stunting by 40 per cent (from 2012 levels). The prevalence of stunting for children aged 6–59 months is 7 per cent nationally^[2], compared with 11.7 and 25 per cent among displaced Syrians residing outside of settlements and in informal settlements respectively^{[3][4]}.

The SDGs incorporated the WHA targets to reduce the proportion of children suffering from wasting^[5] to <5 per cent by 2025 and <3 per cent by 2030. United Nations agencies working on the prevention of child wasting have developed the Global Action Plan (GAP) on Child Wasting, which identifies critical outcomes for achieving the SDG targets on child wasting and improving early detection and treatment for those who need it.

While in Lebanon, the overall prevalence of wasting is less than 5 per cent among all population groups, major inequalities exist between these groups. In camps hosting Palestinian populations, for instance, the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under 5 years of age is 4 per cent, followed by 2.5 per cent among displaced Syrian children and 1.8 per cent among Lebanese children^[6]. Acute malnutrition among PLW is also highest in Palestinian camps (9.5%) and among displaced Syrians in settlements (8%). When looking at the admissions data of the acute malnutrition program, 78 per cent of children 6-59 months and 67 per cent of admitted PLW are non-Lebanese.

In Lebanon, anaemia^[7] is a public health concern nationally as well as among Palestinian and displaced Syrians in informal settlements. Almost 42 per cent of women and 43 per cent of children 6-59 months are suffering from a degree of anaemia, with the highest levels in Mount Lebanon and the North. When looking at the refugee population, we can see that the anaemia levels of women and children are also high among displaced Syrians living in informal settlements, at 31.4 per cent and 32.8 per cent respectively^[8].

Sub-optimal infant and young child feeding^[9] practices were observed nationally as well as among Palestinians in camps and displaced Syrians living in informal settlements. Nationally, EBF rates were 32.4 per cent^[10]. Compared to national prevalence, Palestinians and displaced Syrians had a higher proportion of children being breastfed exclusively, at 43.8 per cent and 65.2 per cent respectively. The global target for 2025 is to increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months up to at least 50 per cent.

Nationally, only 63.0 per cent of newborns were initiated early^[11]. Almost the same proportion was observed in Palestinians and Syrians, at 65.7 per cent and 58.6 per cent respectively. This indicated the need to scale up a baby-friendly hospital initiative among other interventions to ensure all children initiate breastfeeding early. Mixed milk feeding, which consists of breast milk plus a breast milk substitute is associated with increased risks of early cessation of breastfeeding, reduced breast milk production and altered gut microflora. Nationally, the proportion of children receiving mixed feeding was 39 per cent. Compared to the national rates of mixed feeding,

[1] Childhood stunting is one of the most significant impediments to human development. Stunting, or being too short for one's age, is a largely irreversible outcome of inadequate nutrition and repeated bouts of infection during the first 1000 days of a child's life. Stunting has long-term effects on individuals and societies, including diminished cognitive and physical development, reduced productive capacity and poor health, and an increased risk of degenerative diseases such as diabetes.

[2] UNICEF, Lebanon Nutrition Sector, Lebanon National SMART Survey Report, Lebanon, Feb 2022 www.unicef.org/mena/media/15741/file/National%20Nutrition%20SMART%20Survey%20Report%20.pdf.

[3] Ibid.

[4] UNICEF, Nutrition SMART survey, Lebanon 2013. Joint Nutrition Assessment Syrian Refugees in Lebanon 2013, <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/joint-nutrition-assessment-syrian-refugees-lebanon>.

[5] Wasting, or acute malnutrition, is a reduction or loss of body weight in relation to height. Addressing wasting is of critical importance because of the heightened risk of disease and death for children who lose too much of their body weight.

[6] Ibid.

[7] Women who are underweight and anaemic during pregnancy are more likely to have stunted children, perpetuating the intergenerational transmission of stunting. Iron deficiency anaemia and poor maternal nutrition during pregnancy and breastfeeding may increase the risk of preterm delivery or low birth weight of the baby and lead to stunted growth of the child. Children with anaemia deficiencies may become pale and weak, eat less, and tire easily. They gain weight poorly and have frequent respiratory and intestinal infections and irreversible impacts on wellbeing and cognitive capital of generations.

[8] UNICEF, Lebanon Nutrition Sector, Lebanon National SMART Survey Report, Lebanon, Feb 2022.

[9] The WHO and UNICEF recommended feeding practices for infants and young children can increase their chances of survival. It can also promote optimal growth and development, especially during the critical "window of opportunity" from pregnancy to 2 years of age. It recommends early initiation of breastfeeding within 1 hour of birth, breastfeeding exclusively for the first six months of life and continuing to be breastfed up to 2 years of age and beyond.

[10] Ibid.

[11] Initiation of breastfeeding within the first hour of birth gives the best possible start in life as it increases the chances that new-borns receive the first milk "colostrum", that is rich in antibodies and nutrients, vital in protecting the new-born against infections.

Palestinians recorded a higher rate of 53.3 per cent (26.6-78.7) with Syrians recording only 9.5 per cent (1.2-30.4).

Starting at 6 months, breastfeeding should be combined with safe, age-appropriate feeding of solid, semi-solid and soft foods. This is also in line with the National policy on infant and young child feeding in Lebanon, updated in November 2018. Diets of over 70 and 80 per cent of young children aged 6-23 months lack the needed diversity and adequacy essential for their growth and wellbeing. Vitamin A and protein-rich foods are missing in the diets of almost 80 per cent of young children, regardless of their origin. Seventeen, 21 and 29 per cent of Lebanese, Syrians living outside of informal settlements and Syrians in the informal settlements respectively are consuming 0-2 food groups out of 8 per day, which illustrates serious food poverty among children. Since children 6-17 months are more malnourished compared to other age categories, and since this is the age category where complementary foods are introduced, one can note that the suboptimal IYCF practices are a probable contributor.

This is attributed to deteriorated food and nutrition security and hence lack of access to nutritious food for children, poor practices at the family level, and lack of access to quality and adequate services. The preliminary results of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 2023 show that around 1.3 million Lebanese and 0.7 million displaced Syrians are facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above). An increase to 1.45 and 0.8 million, respectively, is projected for the next couple of months. Prolonged economic depression, with inflation reaching triple digits and poverty rising sharply, has stretched families' capacity for consumption-based coping mechanisms. In the absence of a large-scale accelerated multi-system preventive response, acute and chronic malnutrition levels are showing increasing trends in population groups. Based on a rapid nutrition assessment undertaken in October 2022, among 674 children under 5 from the displaced Syrian population in vulnerable localities in the North and Akkar, the acute malnutrition rates have increased to 3.9 per cent.

The provision of childcare services to support parents with early stimulation and responsive caregiving is dominated by private providers (80%), followed by public and semi-private providers (12% and 8% respectively). Services are concentrated in coastal areas, and this uneven distribution results in less access to childcare services in inland regions and rural areas. The affordability of ECD services has also become a major concern since the start of the economic crisis in 2019. encountered with payment difficulties has doubled, reaching 41 per cent. The access to primary healthcare and hospital care services was hindered from both the supply and demand sides at both the individual and the institution levels and it continues to be challenging for all population cohorts. In 2021, families encountered with payment difficulties for child development services has doubled, reaching 41 per cent^[12]. Access to primary

healthcare^[13] and hospital care services was hindered from both the supply and demand sides at both the individual and institutional levels, and it continues to be challenging for all population cohorts.

While more evidence is needed, given the increasing rates of anaemia and widespread diet inadequacies, it's expected that the rates of micronutrient deficiencies have risen. In the last Iodine Nutrition Survey conducted in 2013, the Median UIC (µg/L) was 66, which is dangerously below the cut-off of 100 among school-age children, compared to other countries in the region. This situation is likely to have further deteriorated due to weakened Quality Assurance and monitoring of the universal Salt iodisation during the time of the pandemic as well as due to inflation affecting the price and importation of the potassium iodate by the salt producers. A study of children 12–18 years old found a higher prevalence of overweight and obesity among boys (31.1%) compared to 20.9 per cent among girls^[14].

^[12] World Bank Group, *Study on childcare services in Lebanon reveals a struggling sector*, 2022, Lebanon.

^[13] Primary healthcare includes vaccination, medication for acute and chronic conditions, noncommunicable diseases care, sexual and reproductive healthcare, malnutrition screening and management, mental healthcare, dental care, basic laboratory, and diagnostics, as well as health promotion.

^[14] World Health Organization, *Global school-based Student Health Survey*, 2017. Available at www.moph.gov.lb/userfiles/files/GSHS_Report_2017.pdf.

2. OVERALL SECTOR STRATEGY

Theory of Change

The evolving nature of malnutrition in Lebanon demands a multifaceted response that supports optimal nutrition at every stage of life. The Nutrition sector's theory of change is realised through programs that share a coordinated premise: prevention comes first, in all contexts; if prevention fails, treatment is a must. The Nutrition sector strategy aims to prevent child, adolescent and women's malnutrition in all its forms across the life cycle. The Nutrition sector's theory of change is also based on the principle that removing bottlenecks at the policy, supply, demand and quality level for women, girls and boys of all ages, genders, disabilities, and diverse backgrounds (including from underserved and socially excluded groups reached by essential nutrition and child development services) will require coordinated interventions across multiple sectors and at different levels.

If we improve access to nutrition and child development services (supply side) and demand for these services (demand side) in early childhood (0–5 years) including nutrition counselling to promote breast-feeding and infant and young child feeding, micronutrient supplementation and integrated nutrition and stimulating care services. If Nutrition, Health, Food, Social Protection and WASH systems and sectors are provided with evidence, standards and capacities (policy) to create an enabling environment to deliver nutritious diets, promote practices and deliver the mentioned services to young children, then all forms of malnutrition, such as wasting, stunting, anaemia, micronutrient deficiencies and the associated developmental delays and deprivations, will be prevented. This will be achieved by reaching Outcome 1, as detailed in the next section.

Also, If we improve access to and demand for nutrition services (supply and demand) aiming at improving the nutritional wellbeing of school-age children and adolescents, including; improving the school food and nutrition environment, promoting healthy school meals and the provision of micronutrient supplements, especially for adolescent girls. If Education, Nutrition, Food, Social Protection and WASH systems and sectors are provided with evidence, standards and capacities (policy) to create a conducive environment to deliver the mentioned services, then school-age children and adolescents will benefit from nutritious diets, adequate nutrition services and practices, and all forms of malnutrition, especially anaemia, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity, will be prevented. This will be achieved by reaching Outcome 2, as detailed in the next section.

If we improve access to and demand for nutrition services aiming at improving the nutritional status of women, including; universal integration of nutrition counselling as part of the Antenatal Care, universal use of micronutrient supplements and the management of wasting during

pregnancy and lactation, and if Nutrition, Health, Food, Social Protection and WASH systems and sectors are provided with evidence, standards and capacities (policy) to create a conducive environment to deliver nutritious diets to women, and adequate nutrition services and practices to women and mothers, then all forms of malnutrition, especially wasting, anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies among women will be prevented. Moreover, this will also prevent the inter-generational impacts of malnutrition on newborns, such as low birth weight, prematurity and nutrition-induced (such as Iodine and Iron deficiency) cognitive loss. This will be achieved by reaching Outcome 3, as detailed in the next section.

Lastly, if we improve access to and demand for services (supply and demand) aiming at prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition (wasting), including; growth monitoring and promotion and screening as well as early detection, referral and treatment of child wasting, then growth faltering and delays can be identified soon. If the appropriate referral and services are provided to correct them, then the wasting will be prevented among children, and if prevention fails, the wasting can be detected and treated in a timely manner. This will be achieved by reaching Outcome 4, as detailed in the next section.

The Nutrition sector will maintain its commitment to align its areas of work in 2023 with the SDGs and Global Targets on Nutrition for 2025 and 2030, in particular SDG 2^[15], with a focus on ensuring that vulnerable people, including infants and children, have access to safe and nutritious food, and all forms of malnutrition among children under 5 and women and PLW. This commitment includes achieving the internationally agreed targets on stunting and anaemia in children under 5 years of age and addressing the nutritional needs of adolescent girls as well as PLW.

Also, the Nutrition Response is guided by the National Nutrition Strategy, which has been developed through a rigorous multi-sectoral consultative process with key national nutrition stakeholders^[16]. This strategy comes at a critical time, given that the country is facing several crises that have severe impacts on the health and nutrition of people in Lebanon. With the current pandemic and challenging economic situation in the country, it is crucial to accelerate coordinated, multi-sectoral and

[15] SDG 2 Zero Hunger; targets 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round. 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

[16] National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan, 2022-2026 [https://www.moph.gov.lb/en/Pages/2/62803/national-nutrition-strategy-action-plan-#:~:text=National%20Nutrition%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan%20\(2021%202026\)&text=The%20strategy%20aims%20to%20ensure,in%20nutrition%20and%20health%20services.](https://www.moph.gov.lb/en/Pages/2/62803/national-nutrition-strategy-action-plan-#:~:text=National%20Nutrition%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan%20(2021%202026)&text=The%20strategy%20aims%20to%20ensure,in%20nutrition%20and%20health%20services.)

targeted efforts to avoid exacerbation of the nutrition situation. While responding to immediate needs is critical, strengthening the nutrition governance in Lebanon for longer-term results will contribute massively to the development agenda, and hence it must also be prioritised. The strategy is shaped around strategic result areas:

- Strategy Area 1: Strengthened nutrition governance, accountability, and information management.
- Strategy Area 2: Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition services.
- Strategy Area 3: Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets.
- Strategy Area 4: Safe and supportive environment for nutrition for all ages.
- Strategy Area 5: Social protection for nutrition to ensure economic availability of safe food.

The Nutrition response in Lebanon falls within the scope of this strategy through community outreach, awareness and preventive and curative essential nutrition and child development activities and by keeping all sectors accountable. By 2023, the strategy will scale up the nutrition actions at all levels.

While considering growing needs and acute emergencies, such as cholera, the Nutrition sector will continue to invest in emergency nutrition programming by strengthening and enhancing institutional resilience, with the ultimate goal of protecting the nutritional wellbeing of the most vulnerable groups.

The sector will ensure that COVID-19 and cholera preventive measures are mainstreamed throughout all activities and that nutrition services have included measures to prevent deterioration of the nutritional deprivations due to these public health problems.

Multiple stakeholders, from donors to international and national non-governmental organisations participate in developing, financing and implementing the Nutrition sector strategy. These include organisations with nutrition, food, social protection, WASH and health missions. The nutrition sector will work closely with all sector partners to strengthen planning and coordination by reinforcing the existing coordination mechanisms, which are essential to ensuring a harmonised response and prioritisation of services. The sector will follow the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) guidance to ensure alignment and coherence with the response and will ensure that the needs of target groups of two co-existing response frameworks are well addressed: firstly, the ERP mechanism^[17], which was established in response to the COVID-19 outbreak

^[17] The Emergency Response Plan (ERP) was published in the margins of the International Conference for Support of the Lebanese People chaired by France and the United Nations on 4 August 2021. The Emergency Response Plan seeks to mobilize US\$378 million to provide life-saving support to 1.1 million most vulnerable individuals, under Food Security, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence sectors.

and the direct humanitarian health needs of vulnerable Lebanese and migrants impacted by the deteriorating economic and financial situation; and secondly, the Recovery and Reconstruction Framework for Lebanon (3RF)^[18], designed to help Lebanon address the immediate and for longer^[19]. This will enable a more efficient and effective delivery of services, which is particularly important when considering the multi-factorial nature of the ongoing and concurrent crises in Lebanon. It will also ensure smooth planning, implementation and reporting processes for Nutrition sector partners and will contribute to increased accountability. The sector will be committed to providing programmatic guidance and support to partners based on needs and to meet on a monthly basis to share all necessary decisions and guidance with partners and to monitor the sector's outcomes and indicators. A core group will be established, and meetings will be conducted on a trimesterly and ad-hoc basis when it becomes necessary to follow up on the situation and make strategic sector decisions. Service mapping segregated by outcome and output level will be updated on a routine basis to prevent the duplication of activities and advise on programmatic gaps. In addition to new ways of bringing cross-sector partners together across levels, new forums will likely emerge. Innovative approaches to fostering multi-sector collaboration to achieve nutrition equity and quality nutrition and child development outcomes for patients will require participation from different partners. The nutrition sector will work closely with other sectors, namely Health, Food, Social Stability, Protection, Child Protection, Education and WASH, to mitigate risks and mainstream notions of conflict sensitivity, gender, youth, persons with specific needs and environment.

Assumptions and Risks

General assumptions and risks for the Nutrition sector fall under two main categories: need-based funding. and increased food insecurity. This plan is based on several assumptions, including the assumption that sustained behaviour change interventions will increase the demand for and access to essential nutrition services and that the Primary Health Care Centers (PHCC) network and other delivery platforms do offer integrated services supported by partners. This will support the overall goal of increasing the demand for and coverage of essential nutrition services across the life cycle.

It is also assumed that the global community will scale up its support to the Nutrition sector in Lebanon and that support to nutrition strengthening will be increased.

^[18] The Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) is part of a comprehensive response to the massive explosion on the Port of Beirut on August 4, 2020. It is a people-centred recovery and reconstruction framework focusing on a period of 18 months that will bridge the immediate humanitarian response and the medium-term recovery and reconstruction efforts to put Lebanon on a path of sustainable development.

^[19] EU, UN, WB (2020), Lebanon Reform, Recovery & Reconstruction Framework (3RF): <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lebanon/publication/lebanon-reform-recovery-reconstruction-framework-3rf>.

However, all delivery systems have been weakened by the socio-economic situation as well as the disease outbreaks. The volatility of the situation and the growing numbers of vulnerable populations, especially among the host community, are contributing to increased nutrition risks. Increasing food insecurity and the risk of exacerbated disease outbreaks, which remains relatively likely, can result in increases in the number of children in need of nutrition services. The Nutrition sector will thus continue monitoring the trends and will put in place a contingency plan to accommodate any increased needs due to the aforementioned risks. Subject to economic instability, the food insecurity situation may rise more sharply than forecasted by the recent IPC. This will likely trigger further increases in the expected rate of malnutrition among the most vulnerable families, which can cause tensions. The risks affecting this assumption are weakened global financing for nutrition, and the current Lebanese socio-economic crisis and subsidies withdrawal, namely for critical food items. These risks may weaken the adequacy of nutrition services, adequate diets, and practices and therefore further hamper the nutritional status of the most vulnerable.

The Nutrition sector remains committed to ensuring that the response is provided on the basis of needs and deprived rights, instead of nationality and origin. There is a risk, however, that because of the funding environment, the response will be restricted to a certain population group. Hence the Nutrition sector will advocate for need- and right-based prioritisation, to ensure an equity-based response, while supporting a strong humanitarian development nexus, where systems have an enhanced capacity to provide sustainable, inclusive and equitable services.

Sector Results: LCRP Impacts, Sector Outcomes, Outputs, and Indicators

The Nutrition sector has identified four main outcomes for the sector strategy in 2023 as well as its direct contributions to Impact 3 “vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national systems”. These outcomes are based on the sector’s analysis of the context and nutritional vulnerabilities across the life cycle. They are informed by the nutrition response’s understanding that prevention comes first and that multiple delivery platforms must be held accountable and utilised to deliver essential nutrition interventions to prevent all forms of malnutrition.

The strategy also calls for a systems approach to improving nutrition outcomes. This approach aims to further utilise the five systems – Food, Health, Water and Sanitation (WASH), Education, and Social Protection – with the greatest potential to deliver nutritious diets, essential nutrition services and positive nutrition practices for children, adolescents and women.

An explicit focus on addressing malnutrition in all its forms. Malnutrition, in all its forms, is a violation of children’s right to nutrition and has impacts on the wellbeing of the population throughout the life course. The response aims to contribute to addressing the triple burden of malnutrition – undernutrition, both stunting and wasting; deficiencies in vitamins and other micronutrients; and overweight and obesity.

The strategy will also capture a comprehensive life cycle approach to nutrition programming. Maternal and child nutrition during the first 1,000 days coupled with a nurturing care framework – from conception to age two – remains core to the response. In addition, the strategy calls for an increased focus on nutrition in middle childhood and adolescence – a window of nutrition opportunity for girls and boys and a chance to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition.

A deliberate emphasis on improving diets, services and practices. The goal of the strategy is to protect and promote diets, services and practices that support optimal nutrition, growth and development. Acknowledging the triple burden of malnutrition, it highlights the centrality of nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable diets with adequate nutrition services and practices as the foundation of good nutrition for children, adolescents and women.

The approach to the delivery of equitable nutrition services is strongly rooted in a vulnerability and rights-based approach to programming. Outputs and activities under each outcome of the strategy are designed to ensure that different groups have equitable access to affordable, essential and high-quality prevention, promotion, treatment and referral nutrition care services. The response is informed by Result- and Right-Based Management principles, and it’s equity-focused, gender-responsive, context-specific, evidence informed and systems-centred.

With the compound crisis showing no signs of abating, the number of children suffering from malnutrition and developmental deprivations could increase drastically. Addressing this requires an amplified Nutrition sector under the LCRP. To that end, partners need to expand and scale up the nutrition and child development response to reach more children and women in need through facility and community platforms by leveraging multiple delivery systems. The nutrition response in Lebanon needs to address the underlying determinants of malnutrition by focusing on ensuring adequate diets, practices and essential nutrition and child development services across the continuum of care for children and women.

In view of the unique situation, the Nutrition sector remains committed in 2023 to supporting equitable and scaled-up nutrition and child development services for displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese individuals, Palestinian refugees from Syria and Palestine refugees in Lebanon within the national health system. Stateless individuals

and displaced non-Syrians^[20], including undocumented migrant workers, will benefit from the nutrition and child development services offered, on a non-discriminatory basis, by the Nutrition sector's partners.

The Nutrition Response Strategy will have four outcomes following the life cycle approach:

Outcome 1: Young children and their caregivers have access to and demand for services aiming at prevention of all forms of malnutrition and the associated developmental risks (0-5 years of age).

Outcome 2: School-age children and adolescents have access to and demand for services aiming at prevention of all forms of malnutrition – particularly among girls.

Outcome 3: Women have enhanced access to and demand for services aiming at the prevention of all forms of malnutrition – particularly during pregnancy and lactation.

Outcome 4: Children have access to growth monitoring, screening, early detection and treatment of wasting in early childhood.

Expected Results

Outcome 1: Young children and their caregivers have access to and demand for services aiming at the prevention of all forms of malnutrition and the associated developmental risks (0-5 years of age).

This outcome encompasses programming for the prevention of all forms of malnutrition in children under 5 years of age: undernutrition – both stunting and wasting – micronutrient deficiencies and overweight. Early childhood nutrition is the cornerstone of survival, growth and development. To prevent malnutrition in early childhood, infants and young children need breastmilk; age-appropriate nutritious, safe and affordable foods; safe drinking water; appropriate feeding, responsive care, stimulation and hygiene practices; healthy food environments; and adequate nutrition, health and sanitation services.

The Nutrition sector advocates for and supports plans and programmes to prevent malnutrition in early childhood. These plans and projects will protect, promote and support recommended breastfeeding practices for infants and young children from birth; promote and support age-appropriate complementary foods and feeding practices in the first two years of life; promote the use of adequate foods and feeding practices for children aged 3–5 years; support the use of micronutrient supplements where nutrient-poor diets and micronutrient deficiencies are common; and improve children's food environments to prevent all forms of malnutrition in early childhood.

Output 1.1: Optimum breastfeeding practices are

promoted, protected and supported in early childhood. Nutrition sector will coordinate actions and advocate for and support the MoPH to enforce the implementation of the National Law 47/2008 and the international Code on Regulating the Marketing of the Breast Milk Substitutes, to protect and promote breastfeeding. In addition, the sector will support projects to strengthen breastfeeding counselling by supporting services in primary health care centres through facility- and community-based projects. The sector will also be advocating for maternity protection policies and policies that support breastfeeding in the workplace; strengthening the enforcement of national legislation on the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and related World Health Assembly resolutions; and supporting the implementation of global standards and guidelines on optimum breastfeeding. The sector will support enhancing the quality of baby friendly hospital initiative services in 12 hospitals and will support MoPH to expand the initiative^[21] to eight additional hospitals in 2023.

Output 1.2: Optimum Infant and Young Child Feeding practices are promoted, protected, and supported with a focus on children 6-23 months of age.

The sector will advocate for and support policies, plans and projects that protect and promote age-appropriate complementary foods and feeding practices in the first two years of life. This includes promoting access to and use of nutritious, safe, diverse and affordable foods; supporting the use, where appropriate, of quality multiple micronutrient powders and fortified complementary foods; supporting MoPH to strengthen the adoption and enforcement of legislation to regulate the marketing of commercially-produced foods and beverages for children; and supporting MoPH to improve the coverage and quality of nutrition counselling to caregivers by service providers and community workers, and through multichannel social and behaviour change communication. This will be done by enhancing the quality and coverage of the nutrition counselling through the PHCCs and also by scaling up the Social Behaviour Change interventions focused on optimum complementary feeding through the MOPH led initiatives.

Output 1.3: Integrated Nutrition and Early Childhood Development are promoted, protected and supported during early years.

The sector will advocate for and support plans and projects that protect and promote the provision of integrated nutrition and early childhood development during early years in vulnerable localities. This includes community and multi-sector initiatives to prevent undernutrition – stunting and wasting, micronutrient deficiencies –

^[20] Displaced population from other nationalities include people from: Iraq, Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Iran, Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Eritrea.

^[21] The first few days of a newborn's life are not only critical for the child, but also an important window for providing mothers with the support they need to breastfeed successfully. UNICEF and WHO launched the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative to encourage health facilities worldwide to better support breastfeeding. <https://www.unicef.org/documents/baby-friendly-hospital-initiative#:~:text=UNICEF%20and%20WHO%20launched%20the,new%20mothers%20and%20their%20infants.>

and early childhood developmental delays among the most vulnerable children under the age of 5 through an integrated service delivery model. These initiatives rely on key essential nutrition and developmental interventions that are aiming at enhancing adequate diets and nurturing care practices and nutrition services to prevent undernutrition and developmental delays. This way the nutritional and early childhood developmental vulnerabilities will be addressed through a more cost-effective integrated approach and with more focus on the critical periods of growth and development. In addition, the sector will support improvements to the environments in day-care and early childhood development centres by setting quality standards; and supporting the use of multiple micronutrient powders and the consumption of fortified foods that meet quality standards in places where nutrient-poor diets and micronutrient deficiencies are common. Where needed the Integrated Nutrition and Early Childhood Development Corners will be established to support caregivers in providing responsive feeding and care practices.

Output 1.4: Children in early years are provided with needed micronutrient supplementation.

Combating the micronutrient deficiencies, including Iron Deficiency and Iron Deficiency Anaemia, given the high prevalence of Anaemia in Lebanon (over 40%), requires – in addition to the promotion of diverse diets – the promotion of universal access to micronutrient supplements with adequate Iron content as well as Vitamin A supplements. MoPH will be provided with supplies and technical and capacity support for Iron supplementation and the point of use fortification with multiple micronutrients powders (MNPs) through the PHCCs and at community level through partners. This will increase the vitamin and mineral intake of infants and young children and improve iron status to prevent/treat micronutrient deficiencies at scale.

Outcome 2: School-age children and adolescents have access to and demand for services aiming at the prevention of all forms of malnutrition – particularly among girls.

This outcome encompasses sectors' approach for the prevention of all forms of malnutrition in school-age children and adolescents, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight. The prevention of malnutrition in this age group is a chance to seize the second window of opportunity for growth and development. Evidence suggests that investments in the nutrition of this age group can have a positive impact on current and future nutrition status, improve learning, help establish positive dietary practices that extend into adulthood, and help break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. The sector advocates for and supports plans and projects to prevent malnutrition in school-age children and adolescents. These plans and projects aim to promote nutritious food and nutritious environments in schools, promote the use of micronutrient supplementation and deworming prophylaxis, especially among girls; improve knowledge and skills about good nutrition among school-age children and adolescents; and promote good diets through social behaviour change interventions.

Output 2.1: Schools' food and nutrition environment are improved in favour of prevention of all forms of malnutrition.

The sector advocates for plans and projects that improve dietary quality among adolescent girls to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and anaemia. In coordination with WFP and the food sector, MEHE will be supported to revise or upgrade existing national guidance for nutritious and safe school meals to promote nutritious food and nutritious environments in schools. The MEHE and schools will also be supported to offer healthy school meals/ snacks coupled with social behaviour change on healthy nutrition. The sector will also advocate for the use of fortified foods for students in school districts with highest rates of anaemia, where nutrient-poor diets and micronutrient deficiencies are common. The sector will also support MoPH and MEHE for the provision of micronutrient supplementation and deworming to address deficiencies in essential micronutrients in adolescent girls and to address contributing factors to anaemia, especially in schools with weak access to WASH facilities. Sector will also advocate, coordinate and provide technical support to MoPH and MoA on strengthening salt iodisation programmes and other large-scale food fortification programs in Lebanon.

Output 2.2: School-age children and adolescents have promoted knowledge and skills on healthy nutrition.

Sector will support activities that aim at improving students and other adolescents' knowledge and skills with regard to good nutrition. This involves promoting school curricula for nutrition education and improving the capacities of teachers and school managers to deliver nutrition education and promote good nutrition and physical activity. The sector will also advocate for and support large-scale social and behaviour change communication programs that increase awareness about the benefits of good diets, healthy eating practices and physical activity among school-age adolescents and their families and communities. This involves identifying gender-sensitive, context-appropriate messages and messengers as well as effective delivery channels and communication strategies.

Outcome 3: Women have enhanced access to and demand for services aiming at the prevention of all forms of malnutrition – particularly during pregnancy and lactation.

This outcome encompasses the programming for the prevention of all forms of malnutrition among women during pregnancy and breastfeeding, two stages of particular nutritional vulnerability. The prevention of malnutrition during pregnancy and breastfeeding is critical for a woman's own wellbeing. It is also critical for her child, as children's nutritional status is closely linked to that of their mothers before, during and after pregnancy. In Lebanon, the burden of undernutrition among women is of concern (5 to 9.5 per cent of PLW among Lebanese, displaced Syrian and women in Palestinian camps are acutely malnourished), as coupled with high prevalence of anaemia (31 to 40 per cent across all population groups).

The Nutrition sector advocates for and supports gender-responsive plans and projects to prevent malnutrition in

women during pregnancy and breastfeeding. These projects support interventions to improve women's nutritional status before and during pregnancy and while breastfeeding. They promote nutrition care and support for adolescent mothers and other nutritionally at-risk women and foster innovations to improve the coverage and quality of maternal nutrition programs. Collectively, this results area aims to accelerate progress towards the global targets of reducing anaemia among women of reproductive age and low birthweight among new-borns, while contributing to other global nutrition targets for children.

Output 3.1: Pregnant and Lactating Women have promoted knowledge and skills on healthy nutrition.

The Nutrition sector advocates for and supports plans and projects that aim to improve the nutritional status of women during pregnancy and lactation. This includes strengthening behaviour change communication strategies that promote nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable diets for women during pregnancy and lactation. The Nutrition sector will also support MOPH by providing supplies needed for micronutrient supplementation (either iron and folic acid or multiple micronutrients, and calcium) and deworming prophylaxis in poor WASH localities (informal settlements). The sector will also provide support to strengthen the capacity of the MOPH and PHCC staff to provide quality nutrition counselling during antenatal care and lactation. In line with the WHO Recommendations on Antenatal Care for a Positive Pregnancy Experience^[22], this will include special attention to nutrition counselling for adolescent mothers.

In 2023, the nutrition sector will support the nutrition plan that aims for evidence generation for policy and programming, by undertaking a deep-dive analysis on the drivers and barriers of the high prevalence of anaemia among women and children in Lebanon. To address the unfinished agenda of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD), periodic monitoring of the IDD status among women will be performed, to come up with relevant policy and programmatic actions. The sector will adopt a family approach to childcare and nutrition provision by ensuring everyone, including fathers and other male care givers, receive training on the importance of healthy nutrition and nurturing as well as on the importance of responsive care.

Output 3.2: Pregnant and Lactating Women have access to and demand for services for detection, referral and management of acute malnutrition.

Maternal nutrition is closely linked to the survival and development of children during the first 1000 days of life. Maternal wasting, a measure of malnutrition, is measured using the mid-upper arm circumference. Maternal acute undernutrition predisposes the foetus and infant to greater risk of many problems, e.g. poor macro- or micronutrient intake by the mother can lead to more low birth weight

(LBW) or small for gestational age (SGA) births^[23]. Given the relatively high rates of acute malnutrition among PLW (5 to 9.5% of PLW among Lebanese, displaced Syrians, and women in Palestinian camps are acutely malnourished), the Nutrition sector will support provision of nutrition care and support to nutritionally at-risk pregnant and breastfeeding women. This will be done by supporting PHCCs and Community Health Workers to undertake screening for acute malnutrition using MUAC tape at the facility and community level, and mothers with acute malnutrition will be enrolled in a supplementary feeding program to receive balanced energy-protein supplementation where appropriate. This will be coupled with high-quality nutrition counselling and support around the monitoring of pregnancy weight gain.

70 % of 0–5-month-old children are missing exclusive breastfeeding,
their best start to life

Outcome 4: Children have access to growth monitoring, screening, early detection and treatment of wasting in early childhood.

This outcome encompasses the programming for the early detection and treatment of wasting in early childhood by strengthening the growth monitoring and promotion, enhanced screening, referral and integrated and community-based management of acute malnutrition. Scaling up efforts to protect children from risk factors that lead to undernutrition in early childhood is a key priority for the sector, as highlighted under outcome 1. But when efforts to prevent undernutrition fail, early detection and treatment of child wasting – in health facilities and communities – are essential for children's survival, growth and development. Timely and effective detection and treatment are particularly critical for children under 2 years of age, who are most vulnerable to the life-threatening consequences of wasting.

The diets of over **70 and 80%** of young children aged 6-23 months **lacks the needed diversity and adequacy needed for their growth and wellbeing**

UNICEF, Lebanon Nutrition Sector, Lebanon National SMART Survey Report, Lebanon, Feb 2022

Output 4.1: Young children have access to enhanced growth monitoring and promotion services (0-5 years old).

Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) is used primarily for two purposes. First, it identifies and classifies malnourished children, those at risk for becoming malnourished, and those who need special interventions and referrals for the management of severe malnutrition.

^[22] This guideline covers recommendations in various areas including nutrition, maternal and fetal assessment, preventative measures, interventions for common physiological symptoms and interventions to improve antenatal care utilization and quality of care. <https://www.who.int/publications/item/9789241549912>.

^[23] ENN, 2014, Maternal Nutrition in Emergencies: technical review and round table discussion

Second, it provides an opportunity to educate and motivate individuals, specifically mothers and caretakers, to improve their understanding of feeding and caring practices in order to enhance the child's health and nutritional status. The advantage of growth monitoring is that it has made the issue of child malnutrition visible, and it has a great impact on early action, prevention, detection and treatment. Given the fragile nutritional and food insecurity status in Lebanon, it's expected that the trends of nutritional deprivations will further increase; hence, growth monitoring and promotion are more important than ever. The sector will provide support to MOPH and partners for putting in place concerted efforts as well as investing and supporting growth monitoring as an entry point for the early detection, referral and management of malnutrition. While screening activities can take place at the community level through different platforms, growth monitoring will take place in full at PHCCs and dispensaries with equipped tools and skills. Partners are thus called upon to support the systematic capacity development of the workforce at all levels of growth monitoring and promotion.

Output 4.2: Children with wasting are screened, detected, referred and treated (0-5 years old).

In most countries, services for the treatment of wasting focus on children aged 6–59 months. Growing evidence indicates, however, that wasting occurs very early in life and primarily affects children aged 0–23 months. For these children, early detection and treatment are critical for three reasons:

- Children who suffer from wasting during the first two years of life face a greater risk of dying than their older peers.
- Evidence suggests that children who experience their first episode of wasting before they are 2 years old are more likely to suffer repeated episodes of wasting later in life.
- Many children suffering from wasting in the first two years of life are also at risk of stunted growth. Detecting and treating episodes of wasting during the first two years of life can have a positive impact on linear growth^[24].

^[24] Pelletier, D. L., Low, J. W., Johnson, F. C., et al. (1994). Child anthropometry and mortality in Malawi: Testing for effect modification by age and length of follow-up and confounding by socioeconomic factors. *The Journal of Nutrition*, 124(10 Suppl), 2082S-2105S. https://doi.org/10.1093/jn/124.suppl_10.2082S; and Fauveau, V., Briend, A., Chakraborty, J., et al. (1990). The contribution of severe malnutrition to child mortality in rural Bangladesh: Implications for targeting nutritional interventions. *Food and Nutrition Bulletin*, 12(3), 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15648265900120030767>.

Mertens, A., Benjamin-Chung, J., Colford, J. M., et al. (2020). Causes and consequences of child growth failure in low- and middle-income countries. *MedRxiv*, 2020.06.09.20127100. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.06.09.2012710068>.

Myatt, M., Khara, T., Schoenbuchner, S., et al. (2018). Children who are both wasted and stunted are also underweight and have a high risk of death: A descriptive epidemiology of multiple anthropometric deficits using data from 51 countries. *Archives of Public Health = Archives Belges De Sante Publique*, 76, 28. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13690-018-0277-1>.

The Nutrition sector will support plans and projects in Lebanon that enhance the quality and coverage of the community-based management of acute malnutrition. For this, we support partners in integrating the early detection and treatment of children with wasting into routine primary health care services, developing scale-up plans that maximise cost-effectiveness by focusing on the most vulnerable children, and monitoring implementation through national health and nutrition information systems. Community and family MUAC screening will be scaled up, while designated PHCs will be enrolling severely acute malnourished children without medical complications into the outpatient therapeutic feeding program. Designated hospitals will enrol severely acute malnourished children with medical complications into the inpatient therapeutic feeding program as per the national guideline. Designated PHCs will also be enrolling moderately acute malnourished children without complications into the supplementary feeding program. Families of children with acute malnutrition will also be referred to an existing social protection or cash assistance program as relevant.

Identification of sector needs and targets at the individual/household, community and institutional/physical environment level

While focusing on the most vulnerable cadasters, the Nutrition sector prioritises geographical areas that have a high concentration of vulnerable populations and encourages a ratio of 60/40 for the support of the displaced population and the host community, respectively. This is informed by the higher severity of nutritional needs among children and women from displaced populations, from which came 60-70 per cent of admissions to the malnutrition program. The Nutrition sector calculates the number of displaced Syrian individuals in need based on economic vulnerability, whereby data from the 2021 VASyR^[25] indicates that, similarly to last year, 91 per cent of displaced Syrian individuals are living below the poverty line, compared to 73 per cent in 2019. Since the sector is prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable age groups, it is targeting 91 per cent of young children, school-age children and adolescents and women among displaced Syrian individuals, which equates to 394,212 people.

All 6,000 children, adolescent and women Palestinian refugees from Syria are considered to be in need and are therefore targeted by the Nutrition sector. The number of Palestine refugees in Lebanon considered in need is based on economic vulnerability data indicating that 65 per cent of Palestine refugees in Lebanon are living below the poverty line. Thus, 13,682 Palestine refugees' children,

^[25] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2021), VASyR 2021.

and women in Lebanon are considered in need, and all will be targeted by ERP.

The Nutrition sector targets 70 per cent (431,982 individuals) of all Lebanese children, adolescents and women in need for the nutrition services explained above. The Nutrition sector will coordinate a unified response across both response plans and will ensure cost-effectiveness and efficiency in targeting.

Total sector needs and targets:

Population Cohorts	Total Population	Nutrition Sector Population Cohorts	Total Population in Need	Total Population Targeted	a. people are targeted for protection and direct assistance	b. people are targeted for service delivery, economic recovery and social stability
Lebanese	3,864,296	1,771,007	617,117	431,982	215,991	215,991
Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	948,750	394,212	394,212	197,106	197,106
Palestinian refugees from Syria	31,400	22,316	6,202	6,202	3,101	3,101
GRAND TOTAL	5,395,696	2,742,073	1,037,076	832,396	416,198	416,198

Population Cohorts	Total Population Targeted by Sex and Age											
	# Women	% Women	# Men	% Men	# Children	% Children	# Female Adolescent	% Female Adolescent	# PLW	% PLW	Add additional disaggregation (ex. With Sp Needs)	% Additional disaggregation
Lebanese	327,697	76%	104,285	24%	212,827	49%	110,955	25.69%	108,200	25.0%	64,797	15.0%
Displaced Syrians	294,576	75%	99,636	25%	202,020	51%	96,642	24.52%	95,550	24.2%	59,132	15.0%
Palestinian refugees from Syria	4,942	80%	1,259	20%	2,612	42%	1,391	22.43%	2,198	35.4%	930	15.0%
GRAND TOTAL	627,215	75%	205,181	25%	417,459	50%	208,988	25.11%	205,948	24.7%	124,859	15.0%

Type of Institutions	Total	Targeted
CAS	1	0
Governors office	8	0
Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute	1	0
MEHE	1	0
MEHE/ Schools	1232	50
MoAg	1	0
MoEnv	1	0
MoEW	1	0
MoFA	1	0
MoPH	1	1
MoPH/ PHC	246	246
MoPH/ SHC, THC, Hospitals	128	40
MoPlanning	1	0
MoSA	1	0
MoSA/ SDCs	233	12
MoSDA	1	0
MoYS	1	0
Prime Minister Office	1	0
Security forces	1	0
Unions of Municipalities	53	0
Municipalities	1108	0
Nutrition Academia	5	3



A lactation specialist discusses with a mother experiencing low milk flow techniques to improve milk production to support her baby's development - UNICEF, 2022

3. MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER AND GBV, PROTECTION, CONFLICT SENSITIVITY, PSEA, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The Nutrition sector's strategy aims at mainstreaming GBV, Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, PSEA, Environment and COVID-19. In 2023, the Nutrition sector will maintain efforts to strengthen the mainstreaming of the core protection principles: 'meaningful access without discrimination', 'safety, dignity and do-no-harm', 'accountability' and 'participation and empowerment' within the sector's strategy.

Gender and GBV

To ensure high-quality, safe and accessible nutrition services and to reach the most vulnerable populations, the Nutrition sector aims at the integration of GBV through the nutrition strategy. Not only is GBV one of the drivers of malnutrition, but caregivers' experience of GBV can also have negative implications for child nutrition outcomes. Gender/power dynamics in the home have major implications for the effectiveness of nutrition interventions and the uptake of services. Lack of food is a driver of forced marriage among adolescent girls below the age of 18 and increases the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. An increased GBV risk is also associated with the location and timing of nutrition services. Given the increased risk of GBV, the Nutrition sector will increase its response capacity. This includes scaling up the capacities of nutrition actors to respond to and refer GBV cases. The sector will aim at integrating nutrition and early childhood development services supported by partners. These services will be utilised to provide comprehensive support to children, along with their caregivers, who are facing emergency situations in a place where women and girls can go to feel safer, access information and support, participate in activities and strengthen relationships with peers.

The Nutrition sector will place special attention on nutrition interventions for boys, girls, men and women. This includes children under 5 years of age, pregnant and lactating women, adolescents (including adolescent girls married before the age of 18), persons with disabilities, older people, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, persons living with HIV/AIDS, persons facing gender-based discrimination, and other vulnerable groups. Acceptability barriers will also be tackled, including social stigma, especially RH-seeking behaviors for adolescent girls. As a response to this, the sector will aim to have infant and young child feeding specialists available in health facilities and at the community level (through a national hotline) to reach girls and boys with age-appropriate nutrition information. The sector will adopt a family approach to nutrition and giving childcare

by ensuring everyone, including fathers and other male caregivers receive training on the importance of healthy nutrition and nurturing and responsive care. The sector will also work with child protection actors to strengthen gender-transformative interventions that train fathers and grandmothers to support children's nutrition.

In addition, the sector is aiming at strengthening the community outreach component of the nutrition programs. This includes providing services in a manner that reduces the time spent at nutrition service points as well as the travel time to and from these points. This increases the safety, availability and accessibility of nutrition services for women, girls and other at-risk groups by mobilising community outreach workers for the provision of nutrition services at the community level.

Community-based nutrition programs will also monitor households' resource scarcity and any resulting conflicts at the family and community levels; and refer to GBV focal points assigned by the sector or service providers. Nutrition programs can provide nutritional support to survivors, including those who may have specific nutritional requirements for supporting the healing process.

The sector log frame aims at identifying, collecting and analysing a core set of indicators—disaggregated by sex and age, to monitor GBV risk-reduction activities throughout the program cycle.

Protection

The sector will ensure the integration of protection principles in the delivery of nutrition support, representing the key principles of protection, mainstreaming safety/dignity, avoidance of doing harm, access, participation and accountability. In addition, this will include child protection messages, as well as referral mechanisms, in activities related to nutrition, community outreach and raising awareness to make sure all girls and boys of all ages and their caregivers, especially pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, have access to safe, adequate and appropriate nutrition services and food.

The sector will ensure the safety of the environment in which assistance is provided for all beneficiaries and nutrition staff. It will also ensure that confidentiality and privacy are respected during activities such as consultation, counselling, or personal information sharing, and that assistance and services are accessible for everyone: children, people with disabilities, elderly people and those in other vulnerable categories.

Protection messages will be incorporated into nutrition-related community outreach and awareness-raising activities, including child protection/GBV prevention, where to report protection risk, the health needs of different forms of GBV, child protection issues – including violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect – the benefits of health treatment and how to access care. This information will be shared using multiple formats to ensure accessibility to all, including children.

The Nutrition sector will strengthen coordination with the PSEA network in addressing sexual exploitation and abuse and will assign one trained staff member to act as a child protection focal point. The sector will also advocate for inclusion of IYCF approaches and materials in protection policies and guidance material, and vice versa.

The sector will organise a training on protection and mental health and PSS for all frontline workers, as they can play a key role in identifying issues related to exclusion and discrimination and be proactive in ensuring the voices of marginalized groups are represented. In addition, the sector will strengthen existing referral systems with protection actors to provide an appropriate response and specialized assistance to persons with protection concerns.

Conflict sensitivity

Social cohesion is closely linked to inequalities and vulnerabilities in the food system as well as to nutritional health issues, including inequalities in access to safe, healthy and sustainable food, unequal working conditions, inequalities in dietary styles and eating as a part of social identity. Growing evidence shows that health and nutrition services can reinforce fragility if delivered in ways that exclude or marginalise certain groups. However, these services also have the potential to play an integral role in peacebuilding efforts.

The sector aims at improving government capacity for equitable service delivery. In addition, the sector will align eligibility and vulnerability criteria for both response plans as well as identify pathways for patients to benefit from available support. The sector will support governments in implementing communications strategies that underline the state's ambition to improve access to nutrition services. The sector will also ensure the training of nutrition actors on conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding to promote non-discriminatory practices, alleviate the psychosocial impacts of violent conflict and promote positive social norms among nutrition workers and recipients of care.

PSEA

The Nutrition sector will aim at mainstreaming child safeguarding, including the PSEA code of conduct (CoC) in nutrition activities. Knowledge among beneficiaries on PSEA will be strengthened to ensure girls and boys of all ages, especially pregnant and breastfeeding girls as well as child-headed households, have access to safe, adequate and appropriate nutrition services and food.

In coordination with the Child Protection sector and the PSEA network, the sector is aiming at building capacity for nutrition frontliners on PSEA awareness, implementation, monitoring and appropriate referral pathways.

Environment

Unclean water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene and living conditions are directly linked to undernutrition in children through increased risks of infection and risks of preventable diseases. Given the cholera outbreak recorded in Lebanon, the sector has contributed to the development of the RCCE, Health and WASH sector plans by integrating cholera prevention and optimal hygiene practices into infant and young child feeding activities among the most vulnerable populations. The Nutrition sector strategy also involves a multi-system approach to ensure WASH programs are designed to include the necessary nutrition-sensitive characteristics to effectively contribute to achieving better nutritional outcomes. The Nutrition sector strategy focuses on disseminating awareness messages to the public on the safe handling of complementary food, especially within the cholera context, among caregivers of children under 2 years of age.

COVID-19 and Cholera

The nutrition sector will ensure that preventive measures for COVID-19 and cholera are mainstreamed throughout all activities. To ensure the safety of health workers and target populations, capacity development will include nutrition actors. In addition, standard operating procedures will be developed to guide actors on the prevention/management of nutrition-related practices in the emerging context.

OUTCOME 1: Young children and their caregivers have access to and demand for services aiming at prevention of all forms of malnutrition and the associated developmental risks (0-5 years of age).

INDICATOR 1A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of micronutrient supplementation coverage among children under 5 residing in Lebanon	Percentage of children 6-24 month who have received 15 sachets of MNP per months.	(MoPH) Health Information System (HIS) Nutrition Survey	%	Yearly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	50



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	50	N/A	N/A	50	N/A	N/A	50	N/A	N/A	50



Others

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	50

INDICATOR 1B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of children 0-5 months of age who are exclusively breastfed	percentage of children 0-5 months of age who were exclusively breast fed	Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR), Multi-Sectoral Needs Analysis (MSNA) National Nutrition and other Household surveys	%	yearly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	45



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	40	N/A	N/A	65	N/A	N/A	40	N/A	N/A	40



Others

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	40

INDICATOR 1C	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of children 6-24 months of age who received Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD)	Percentage of children 6-24 month who receive foods from 5 or more groups out of 8 defined groups	Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR), Multi-Sectoral Needs Analysis (MSNA) National Nutrition and other Household surveys	%	yearly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	40



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	40	N/A	N/A	40	N/A	N/A	40	N/A	N/A	40



Others

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	40

OUTCOME 2: School age children and adolescents have access to and demand for services aiming at prevention of all forms of malnutrition– particularly among girls

INDICATOR 2A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of micronutrient supplementation coverage among 15-19 year old adolescent girls together with provision of messages on healthy nutritional habits	Percentage of adolescent girls who have received micronutrient supplement	Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) National Nutrition and other Household surveys	%	Yearly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	50



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	50	N/A	N/A	50	N/A	N/A	50	N/A	N/A	50



Others

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	50

OUTCOME 3: Women have enhanced access to and demand for services aiming at prevention of all forms of malnutrition– particularly during pregnancy and lactation

INDICATOR 3A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of micronutrient supplementation coverage among PLW	Number of PLW among displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) accessing micronutrient supplements out of total PLW.	Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) National Nutrition and other Household surveys- MOPH HIS data	%	Yearly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



Others

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A

INDICATOR 3B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of Households using Iodized salt	Number of households among displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) using iodized salt out of total households.	Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) National Nutrition and other Household surveys	%	Yearly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

INDICATOR 3C	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of Pregnant women receiving nutrition counseling as part of their ANC care	Number of pregnant women among displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) accessing nutrition counseling during ANC out of total pregnant women.	Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) National Nutrition and other Household surveys- MOPH HIS data	%	Yearly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



Others

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A

OUTCOME 4: Children have access to growth monitoring, screening, early detection and treatment of wasting in early childhood.

INDICATOR 4A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of children under-5 with registered growth monitoring information	Number of under-5 year old children among displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) accessing Growth Monitoring and Promotion out of total children under-5 year old.	(MoPH) Health Information System (HIS) Nutrition Survey	Functional EWARS centers	Yearly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	70



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



Others

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A

INDICATOR 4B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of children under 5 recovered successfully (cured) from the malnutrition treatment program	Cured or recovery Rate % calculated as; Number of children under 5 diagnosed that recovered successfully (cured) out of those exited/ discharged (i.e. cured+defaulters+ death) from the treatment program	(MOPH) Health Information System	%	Monthly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	75



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



LIVELIHOODS SECTOR

PEOPLE IN NEED



389,071

PEOPLE TARGETED



99,355

NEEDS-BASED APPEAL



\$248M

PARTNERS



70

GENDER MARKER



4*

*Intends to contribute to gender equality, including across age groups AND/OR people with disabilities

CONTACT

LEAD MINISTRIES

Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)

Afaf Khalil

afafkhalil.t.2020@gmail.com

Ministry of Economy and Trade (MoET)

Vola Haidar

Vhaidar@economy.gov.lb

Ministry of Labor (MoL)

Denise Dahrouj

ddahrouj@hotmail.com

COORDINATING AGENCY

UNDP

Yousra Taleb

yousra.taleb@undp.org

SECTOR OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1:

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

INDICATORS

- Number of decent job created and/or maintained (30% created and 70% maintained)
- Number of target Lebanese Businesses (Micro, small, medium, solo and social enterprises) and cooperatives that report increased performance and expanded market access (new clients, contracts, market access) as a result of programme activities (60% of targeted businesses)

OUTCOME 2:

Improve workforce employability

INDICATORS

- Number of job seekers placed into jobs (at least 50% women)
- Number of targeted vulnerable men and women engaged in home-based income generation (at least 50% women)

OUTCOME 3:

Strengthen policy development and enable environment for job creation

INDICATORS

- Number of policies, regulations and strategies amended and/or proposed approved/adopted by the Government

POPULATION BREAKDOWN

POPULATION COHORT	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	FEMALE ♀	MALE ♂
Vulnerable Lebanese	322,228	49,678	25,336	24,342
Displaced Syrians	48,351	44,710	22,802	21,908
Palestinian Refugees from Syria	5,549	1,490	760	730
Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	12,943	3,477	1,773	1,704

1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Three years into one of the worst economic and financial crises the world has seen, and eleven years into the Syria crisis, the world's largest refugee and displacement crisis, Lebanon continues to confront the most devastating multi-layered predicament in its modern history. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was estimated to have declined by 10.5 per cent in 2021 and was projected to further contract by 6.5 per cent in 2022^[1]. The continuing inadequate macroeconomic policy reforms and the minimum level of stability on the political and security scenes foretell further deterioration of both the social and the economic situation in Lebanon. In July 2022 and because of the continuing fall in the GDP and the sizable exchange-rate devaluation, the World Bank changed Lebanon's classification to a "Lower Middle Income" country after 25 years of being categorised as an Upper-Middle Income country^[2]. The inflation rate, which reached a devastating 890 per cent in June 2022, is disproportionately affecting the poor and the middle class, and more than half the country's population lives below the poverty line^[3]. The Lebanese unemployment rate more than doubled from 11.4 per cent in 2018-19 to 29.6 per cent in 2022. The labour force participation rate declined from 48.8 per cent to 43.4 per cent, indicating that less than half of the working-age population were either working for pay or seeking employment. In January 2022, 23 per cent of employees were earning less than 1,066,700 LBP (which corresponds to two-thirds of the median monthly earnings of employees at their main job) and were thus considered to be low-pay workers as compared to 21.8 per cent in 2018-19^[4]. Furthermore, 62 per cent of Lebanese households reported facing challenges affording basic needs as a result of lost or reduced employment^[5]. Similar to previous years, the unemployment rate for women stood at 32.7 per cent, 4 per centage points higher than the unemployment rate for men, at 28.4 per cent. Women's labour force participation rate was 22.2 per cent (compared to 66.2 per cent for men). The youth unemployment rate was almost double that of adults at a staggering 47.8 per cent versus 25.6 per cent. Although unemployment increased nationally, the largest increase in unemployment was in Baalbek-Hermel, where it rose from 11 per cent in 2018-19 to 40.7 per cent in January 2022^[6].

With their pre-existing vulnerabilities, the displaced Syrians are among those who had the hardest hit by the crises. 55 per cent of the refugees within the working age group remain outside the labour force, with women's

labour force participation rate (LFPR) as low as 19 per cent. Construction and agriculture are the two main employment sectors for the displaced Syrians, yet even those with employment remain unable to cover the costs of their food and non-food essential needs from their earnings. In fact, households were only making 21 per cent of the monthly Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (S/MEB) value from employment^[7]. The unemployment rate of 13 per cent does not reflect a high per centage of employment (33 per cent) but is rather the result of the low labour force participation rate, which stands at only 45 per cent. PRL and PRS are also at the end of their rope with skyrocketing unemployment rates and increasing despair.

Of all population groups, women are the most affected by the crises, as they are the first to lose their jobs and must balance domestic and childcare responsibilities. Women also have a much lower likelihood of having financial accounts, debit, or credit cards than men, even after controlling for education and welfare status. Additionally, women are more likely to depend on another family member for access to financial services. Following the multiple crises affecting the country, the share of job losses among women was notably higher than that among men.

Aside from individuals, the crisis fell hardest on businesses that face temporary and permanent closures due to continued supply chain disruptions, increasing prices of raw material and production costs and limited access to financial resources.

Lastly, it is important to highlight that the perceived drivers of local tensions between the Lebanese host community and displaced Syrians were primarily economic, including grievances related to 'competition for lower skilled jobs' (50%). Among all waves of the UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Surveys, 2017-2022, this has remained the most frequently cited source of inter-communal tensions, by both Lebanese and Syrians^[8]. Although this tension factor recorded the highest rate inter-communally, it was also reported as a source of intra-communal tension by 34 per cent of respondents. While competition over high-skilled jobs was scarcely cited across governorates as a factor for inter-communal tensions (reported by 4% nationally, 0% in Akkar and 9% in the North), competition over lower-skilled jobs was cited by 89 per cent of respondents in the Bekaa (highest) and 37 per cent of respondents in the South (lowest). Nationally, competition over lower-skilled jobs was cited by 50 per cent of respondents as a source of inter-communal tensions.

[1] <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lebanon/publication/economic-update-april-2022>.

[2] <https://economics.creditlibanais.com/Article/211158#en>.

[3] World Bank (2022). *Lebanon Economic Update, April 2022*.

[4] https://www.ilo.org/beirut/publications/WCMS_844837/lang-en/index.htm.

[5] Reach Lebanon Multisector Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2021 - <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/multi-sector-needs-assessment-msna-key-findings-livelihoods-march-2022>.

[6] *Ibid*.

[7] VaSYR 2022 preliminary findings.

[8] Regular Perception Surveys on Social Tensions throughout Lebanon Wave XIV https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yADfaDM8_m1F5x5gidPXgAsl511ZPsEH/view.

2. OVERALL SECTOR STRATEGY

The Livelihoods sector will continue with its main overarching objectives to alleviate the socio-economic shocks on the most vulnerable groups, including women, youth and persons with disabilities, through short- and long-term livelihoods support that will build their skills in order to increase their employability or allow for self-employment. Secondly, to engage and strengthen the private sector actors to identify and support key elements of growth and sustainability. And finally, to increase and strengthen mainstreaming efforts to ensure women's inclusion, conflict sensitivity and increased access to persons with disabilities across all sector activities as a result of reinforced referrals, dedicated technical guidance and support.

The sector's Theory of Change encompasses two interlinked constituents that contribute to medium- and longer-term recovery and stabilisation and alleviates the tensions between Lebanese host communities and displaced Syrians resulting from competition over livelihoods opportunities.

- If businesses in key economic sectors are supported, then local economic development will be stimulated, and job retention and creation will be actualized. All while working with the private sector and governmental institutions to enable the environment for job creation, reduce the gender gap in the economy and enforce decent work conditions.
- If the capacities of the most vulnerable populations are built through theoretical and practical training on skills related to and needed by the key economic sectors, then individuals in these communities will transition towards self-reliance.

Assumptions and risks

The sector identified several contextual and circumstantial assumptions that are vital to the achievement of its objectives.

- The first assumption is a consistent funding that would allow the implementation of long-term interventions to support businesses in key economic sectors to improve their capacities and increase their access to financial resources as well as their internal and external market share and thus their revenues. This would ensure market-system development to maintain access to decent and long-term employment and income-generation. It further assumes that nexus-based approaches to economic recovery are continued, rather than deprioritised in favour of humanitarian interventions, in order to further strengthen the resilience of Lebanese markets against existing and newly arising shocks^[9].

- The second assumption is harmonisation of the transfer value to support the beneficiaries' abilities to meet their basic needs and to respond to the continuous currency fluctuation and devaluation that is leading to the loss of money value. Continuous monitoring and adaptation of transfer values are needed to ensure decent wages. As such, the sector will continue advocating for and promoting evidence-based approaches, such as the UNDP-led Wage Monitoring Assessment and information from the World Food Program (WFP) S/MEB. It is important to have the engagement of line ministries, donors and key sectors and partners.
- The third assumption is that donors will allow adequate budget allocations to cover additional costs to ensure beneficiaries' accessibility to and benefit from programmes. This includes, but is not limited to, support for transportation, fuel, electricity, ICT equipment and in-kind and/or food support as well as childcare services and alteration/adaptation of locations to allow accessibility to persons with disabilities.

Working in a rapidly deteriorating environment, the sector has identified several risk factors that can affect the implementation of the activities:

- A prolonged political and governmental paralysis could slow down the required overhaul of the economic crisis. This will also delay the implementation of possible international financial aid schemes to Lebanon, for example, the IMF, which will in turn further deepen the economic vulnerabilities of people in need, thus increasing the pressure on partners. To this end, the sector will advocate for increased funding to ensure access to temporary employment for the most vulnerable through the Labour-Intensive Programmes and permanent employment through the support to businesses to allow the creation of job opportunities. Furthermore, the implementation of the sector's third outcome, which pertains to policies, will be challenging if the current political situation persists (i.e., caretaker Government). For this, it will be recommended that partners continue working with the employees and employers' unions and syndicates while pursuing collaborations with the relevant ministries. (Probability: high, Impact: high)
- Increased economic vulnerabilities could contribute to more tensions between the host community members and the displaced Syrians due to competition over lower-skilled jobs. For this, the sector will coordinate closely with the Social Stability sector to mainstream conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm across the Livelihoods sector's activities through both training and implementation workshops and dedicated mainstreaming guidance notes. On the other hand, the sector will continue to facilitate cash for work task forces at the regional levels, where partners implementing cash for work activities have more in-depth sharing of information on their

^[9] Lebanon is now the most remittance-dependent country on the planet, with remittances accounting for a staggering 53.8% of GDP in 2021. While it is difficult to determine the full extent to which Lebanese families receive remittances, an estimated 15% to 30% of households in 2022 rely on remittances as a source of income, up from 10% in 2018 and 2019. <https://mercycorps.org.lb/understanding-the-limitations-of-remittances-as-an-informal-social-safety-net-in-lebanon/>.

ongoing and planned activities to ensure harmonisation and complementarity. This will also prevent gaps and overlaps which might lead to perceptions of aid bias, tensions between the beneficiaries and increased pressure from local authorities. (Probability: high, Impact: high)

- Continued use and implementation of local-level market assessments which impede the possibility of implementing national-level value chain interventions as well as the possibility of understanding the national market dynamics, thus limiting the impact of interventions supporting businesses. The sector will advocate for a national market assessment and will continue its efforts to collect and disseminate assessments conducted by the different partners. The sector will also consult with the relevant line ministries (Ministry of Economy and Trade (MoET), Ministry of Industry (Mol), Ministry of Labor (MoL) and MoA) to identify key economic sectors according to the national priorities set by the government. (Probability: high, Impact: medium)
- Despite the economic crisis, the participation of women in the labour force is still significantly low due to continuing societal constraints as well as the market's failure to be gender sensitive. The sector will work with partners through policy interventions that can lift the barriers and promote women's work and boost their entrepreneurship. Coordination with relevant authorities and institutes will ensure the implementation and activation of protection from sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse at the workplace mechanism. The sector will also continue to promote and provide technical support to ensure gender mainstreaming in all the activities (this includes recommendations on providing safe transportation to women participants and childcare services). (Probability: high, Impact: high)
- Finally, increased vulnerabilities lead to increased exploitation, especially of the most vulnerable individuals. The sector will work on building the capacities of the sector partners towards having minimum standards in place for confidential and anonymous complaints and redress mechanisms, and for activating appropriate channels on the protection against sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation, to support vulnerable individuals in securing safe access to their workplace. Moreover, with the support of other sectors (i.e., Protection), the Livelihoods sector will continue to strengthen identification and referral capacities amongst partners' staff. Furthermore, the sector partners will be encouraged to include sensitisation on decent work conditions in all their activities, whether with businesses and employers or with individuals benefiting from cash for work activities, market-based skills training, and work-based learning. (Probability: high, Impact: high)

Sector Results: LCRP impacts, Sector Outcomes and Outputs

Through its outcomes, outputs and activities, the sector contributes to all four LCRP Strategic Objectives. The awareness and sensitisation sessions on decent work conditions to both individuals and businesses to protect them from exploitation at the workplace and to increase their awareness of their rights and duties (Outcome 1 and Outcome 2) will contribute directly to the Strategic Objective one: "Ensure protection of vulnerable populations." The Strategic Objective two: "Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations" is achieved through the labour-intensive programmes that offer beneficiaries access to income that would support them in covering their basic needs (Outcome 1). In addition to its contribution to the second LCRP Strategic Objective, labour-intensive programmes (Outcome 1) also contribute to the Strategic Objective three, "Support service provision through national systems", as it supports municipalities in delivering basic services that the economic crisis makes it difficult for them to deliver. These services include the rehabilitation of infrastructure assets (such as retaining walls), environmental assets (such as reforestation, cleaning campaigns) and productive assets (such as agricultural lands).

Furthermore, the Livelihoods sector plays a critical role in Lebanon's stability by stimulating local economic growth that aims to increase the vulnerable communities' and individuals' self-reliance (Outcome 1). Through this, the sector contributes to Strategic Objective four "Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability". Through its three outcomes, the sector's contributions to achieving economic growth and decent work while working on ending poverty and ensuring gender equality, align with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) numbers eight, one and five respectively^[10].

The sector strategy will be aligned with the Government of Lebanon Stabilisation Roadmap^[11], the National Strategy for Social Protection^[12], the strategy of the MoSA^[13], the MoET's Lebanon SME Strategy^[14], the Ministry of Agriculture's National Agriculture Strategy 2020-2025 and the Ministry of Labour's Decent Work Country Programme 2017-2020^[15]. The strategy will also align with MoSA, MoL and International Labor Organization (ILO) National Guidelines on Employment Intensive Projects, Lebanon's National Action Plan on

[10] <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

[11] Based on MoSA internal discussions with line ministries.

[12] A reform objective in Lebanon.

[13] It includes the National Social Protection Policy and the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPT) <http://www.socialaffairs.gov.lb/en/MSASubPage.aspx?News=9>, including the Rural Development Plan by the Rural Development Committee and the Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme.

[14] https://www.economy.gov.lb/public/uploads/files/6833_5879_4642.pdf.

[15] MoL confirmed that the programme and strategies within it are still valid and should be referred to.

Women's Economic Empowerment and the National Action Plan to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour In Lebanon by 2016^[16]. All interventions will also be in line with the applicable legal frameworks of national laws and regulations on labour and employment, and with the Government policy paper on Syrian displacement to Lebanon. Moreover, the sector will, where appropriate, align with the National Strategic Framework for Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Lebanon 2023 – 2027 and the Lebanon 5-year Higher Education plan 2022- 2026 and the National Youth Policy Action plan 2022 – 2024^[17].

Expected results

One main factor contributing to the increasing poverty is unemployment, which is driven by the economic crisis and the inability of the economy to create sufficient employment opportunities. As such, the sector will focus on the demand side of the labour market by supporting businesses. This will not only protect employment but also enhance productivity and foster the creation of new jobs with decent working conditions for both host and refugee communities. This includes promoting and strengthening the participation of the most vulnerable groups, including women, youth and persons with disabilities.

The sector framework is structured around three outcomes reflecting the priorities in terms of supporting the local economic growth and creating employment/income-generating opportunities, increasing workforce employability and institutional support.

Outcome 1: Stimulate local economic growth and market systems to foster income-generating opportunities and decent and safe employment.

The first outcome focuses on supporting market systems to stimulate local economic growth and encourage the creation and retention of short- and long-term employment to protect the vulnerable individuals, with particular attention paid to women and youth. Partners are recommended to mainstream sensitisation on decent work conditions across all the activities under this outcome, which will be achieved through three outputs.

Output 1.1: Medium, Small and Micro enterprises (MSMEs) strengthened to enable growth and decent job creation.

MSMEs play a vital role in economic development. Similarly, access to entrepreneurship and self-employment can offer effective coping strategies for poor and vulnerable communities to strengthen their livelihoods and create new opportunities for decent work. For this, it is imperative to raise the productivity and competitiveness of enterprises to support the local economic resilience to shocks and its ability to substitute

imports and finally to invest in human resources development. The interventions will aim to directly support 8,000 solo, micro, small, and social medium enterprises^[18], and cooperatives with a specific focus on women-led businesses^{[19][20][21]}. The support will include^[22]:

1. Capacity building on business development and management, financial management and market research.
2. Ideation, seed-funding, marketing, branding, e-commerce, access to financial resources favouring a blended finance approach (loans with interest subsidies and mixed with grants), cash and/or in-kind grants and incubation and digitalisation services.
3. Exploring market linkages^[23], and formalisation/registration and classification to facilitate access to international markets.
4. Production and processing, including process development, product design and packaging improvement, industrial hygiene and safety standards and quality control.

To this end, the sector promotes women's entrepreneurship in the green economy to transform potential energy solutions into women's economic empowerment. Furthermore, the sector will also support the establishment of 1,100 new businesses (start-ups)^[24].

^[18] The sector will refer to the MoET classification of businesses which identified nano enterprises as those with less than 4 employees, micro enterprises between 4 and 10 employees, small enterprises with 11 to 50 employees and medium enterprises with 51 to 100 employees. https://www.economy.gov.lb/public/uploads/files/6833_5879_4642.pdf.

^[19] Sectors of business could include Agriculture (agritech, aquaculture, post-harvest infrastructure), Agro-food (including wine, olive oil, dried fruits and nuts, chocolate and other sweet products, dairy products), Industry-manufacturing (pharmaceutical industry, natural cosmetics, chemical industry, printing industry, furniture and wood industry, mechanical/electrical machinery, glass production), ICT sector (software companies, digital/start-up economy, business process services, telecom solutions, data centers and ICT manufacturing), Media (animated videos for learning purposes, marketing and advertising channels), Tourism (linked with media, arts and entertainment, marketing of products, education sector), Animal production and veterinary services (animal shelters, animal food processing and animal breeding). For more info https://www.ilo.org/beirut/publications/WCMS_848390/lang-en/index.htm.

^[20] Priority sectors identified and prioritized by MoET and MoI and include Agriculture and agro-food, manufacturing and construction, pharmaceutical and medical equipment, renewable and green energy, creative and cultural industries and textile and furniture.

^[21] Using a job creation impact estimate this support will contribute to maintaining/creating 10,400 jobs.

^[22] In 2022 a dedicated task force from Core Group members drafted a guidance note on Support to Businesses which will be disseminated in 2023.

^[23] Business to business, cross sectors, within the same value chain, or with foreign markets. It could also mean strengthening linkages between businesses and support functions.

^[24] Unlike home-based income generating activities, the beneficiaries of the start-up businesses are not beneficiaries of market-based skills training or work-based learning activities.

^[16] MoL and MoSA highlight the importance of complying with the national plan despite being outdated.

^[17] Strategies to be published in January 2023.

Output 1.2: Competitive integrated value chains strengthened and upgraded^[25]

The sector aims to strengthen and/or upgrade 90 value chains at both local and national levels. This could also include components of value chains depending on the availability and size of funding. Partners working under Output 1.1 will be encouraged to ensure that the businesses they support are guided into shifting to key value chains with high potential for creation of employment opportunities^[26]. The sector will promote equal access of women-led businesses to the support provided and will increase youth involvement via innovation solutions. Key areas of intervention include:

1. Assessments to identify value chains in need of support to achieve growth.
2. Supporting knowledge and compliance with quality standards to improve exports.
3. Strengthening market linkages and seeking new approaches to cluster support either within the same value chains or between different entities across the country to ensure complementarity between interventions.

The Livelihoods sector will continue to work closely with the Food Security and Agriculture sector and the Ministry of Agriculture on agriculture and agro-food cooperatives to ensure a coordinated approach^{[27][28]}.

Output 1.3: Vulnerable men and women have access to temporary employment in productive public infrastructures and environmental assets that have a local economic and stabilisation impact.

The output aims to engage 40,000 individuals from the most vulnerable groups, including women (30%) and persons with disabilities (5%), in decent immediate and temporary employment opportunities. Partners can also temporarily subsidise wages through their cash-for-work interventions to support job retention in MSMEs and cooperatives. When identifying projects, the sector will ensure that they address local municipal as well as governmental priorities to reduce tensions. Coordination will be close with the Food Security and Agriculture sector and Ministry of

Agriculture on projects related to agriculture^[29]. Partners will facilitate the inclusion of women by putting in place special measures to encourage participation, such as safe transportation and childcare services.

Outcome 2: Improve workforce employability

To alleviate poverty and counter dependency on aid, the sector will focus on increasing the employability of vulnerable populations, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities. The sector also aims to bridge the gap between the labour force demand and labour force supply. Additionally, partners will support 2,000 beneficiaries in starting their own home-based, income-generating activities^[30]. Partners are encouraged to mainstream sensitisation on decent work conditions across all the activities under this outcome. This will be achieved through the following outputs:

Output 2.1: Vulnerable men and women have strengthened and appropriate technical skills to match the needs of the job market

To increase their employability, the sector will provide market-based skills training^[31] to 15,000 beneficiaries. The activities for displaced Syrians will be divided among the three sectors as per MoL policies^[32]. Through guidance notes and technical support, the sector will ensure that partners consider gender-transformative programmes for women participants and will promote engagement of women in the green economy to transform potential energy solutions into women's economic empowerment. It will also emphasise the need to counter factors limiting women's participation through the provision of services such as safe transportation and childcare. Furthermore, the sector will foster and facilitate communication and coordination between partners that are implementing activities related to supporting businesses as well as the partners under this output, in order to support the latter in designing projects that respond to the market needs.

Output 2.2: Career guidance, awareness-raising sessions, job matching, and work-based learning^[33] opportunities offered to job seekers.

For 2023, the sector will keep the same target of the previous year (26,000) across the three activities under this output (15,000 career guidance, job matching and 9,000 work-based learning and 2,000 job seekers starting their own businesses)^[34]. To ensure higher potential for employment, partners are advised to strengthen linkages between market-based skills training and work-based

^[25] In 2022 a dedicated task force from Core Group members drafted a guideline on Support to Value Chains which will be disseminated in 2023.

^[26] Refer to footnotes 19 and 20.

^[27] MoA emphasises the need for coordination on the following activities: Agricultural roads (construction or rehabilitation) (Green plan), Agricultural cooperatives (General Directorate of Cooperatives), Irrigation network (on farm networks), Hill lakes (less than 100,000 m3), wholesale and retail markets, all other activities like distribution of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, plants...), Fish sector, Animal sector, Forestation and reforestation and Fruit cooling rooms. MoA also emphasized the importance of coordinating interventions related to the production of wheat.

^[28] The Support to MSMEs and Cooperatives interactive dashboard will serve as a planning tool for partners of both sectors to ensure complementarity, avoid duplications, gaps and overlapping.

^[29] See footnote 27.

^[30] These should be beneficiaries of Market-based skills training activities.

^[31] ILO Mapping of training and post-training service providers in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour https://ilo.org/beirut/publications/WCMS_861817/lang-ar/index.htm.

^[32] Agriculture, construction, and environment.

^[33] During 2022 a dedicated task force from the core group drafted work-based learning guidelines which will be disseminated in 2023.

^[34] For the displaced Syrians these will be limited to the three sectors as per MoL policies.

learning. This will expose the beneficiaries to both the theoretical and practical sides of the training subject. Like output 1.1, partners will also be encouraged to create links between their work-based learning programmes and support to businesses programmes, as the former aims to equip the beneficiary with skills needed in the market and the latter aims at supporting businesses to create employment opportunities.

The sector also recommends programmes to prioritise targeting of new entrants to the labour market, such as youth and women (including female heads of households), whose ability to generate income will be crucial to lifting themselves and their families out of poverty. The sector will make efforts to shift the training contents for women and girls to sectors that are required by the market, in line with recent market assessments, while also ensuring that women have access to safe transportation and childcare. This will be done alongside skills leading to home-based opportunities (within the sectors specified by MoL for displaced Syrians) with a conflict-sensitive approach ensuring that competition with the host community over jobs is not exacerbated. Furthermore, partners are recommended to mainstream financial literacy training in all training modules to build the beneficiaries' capacities in better managing their scarce financial resources.

Outcome 3: Strengthen policy development and enable environment for job creation.

This outcome will be achieved through two outputs:

Output 3.1: GoL supported to approve decrees/regulation/awareness-raising material on decent work conditions.

This output will be addressed by working with the MoL, both at the policy and enforcement levels, with a particular focus on increasing labour inspection capacity. In addition, the Livelihoods sector will work with Lebanese-owned enterprises and cooperatives to improve decent work conditions (and support the formalisation of businesses which should also contribute to this objective), while engaging in advocacy and awareness-raising activities focusing on minimum labour standards and regulations. The sector will require close collaboration with the MoL and its national and regional employment offices (NEOs). The Ministry, as the key administrative authority in the field of labour, responsible for employment conditions, labour relations, and for shaping employment policy, will be supported in developing and implementing labour policies within the boundaries of Lebanese laws. This will notably require support to labour inspection capacity to ensure enforcement of labour regulations that protect employees and employers and uphold the principles of decent work for both Lebanese and Syrians' labour.

Output 3.2: Policies, strategies and plans supporting job creation, MSMEs and livelihoods developed to improve the business eco-system.

The sector will encourage policy- and strategy-level development and institutional-level support to improve the

enabling environment for job creation^[35]. Overall, the sector aims to support the development/amendment/proposition of six policies, strategies, and plans to the Government. This could include supporting the Ministries to adopt gender responsive policies strengthening women's access to employment, including in non-traditional sectors: industry sectors like plumbing, digital economy, paint production, and transport; to support the enterprises of women working in renewable energy; and in strengthening the fight against harassment in the workplace, including implementing the 2020 law on sexual harassment and including provisions against harassment in the Labour Code. Finally, the MoET and its network of local Chambers of Commerce will be supported in the implementation of the SME strategy.

62% of Lebanese households reported facing challenges affording basic needs as a result of lost or reduced employment

Reach Lebanon Multisector Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2021

Identification of sector needs and targets at the individual/HH, community and institutional/physical environment level.

Through the Lebanon Follow-up Labour Force Survey (ILO-CAS)^[36], the sector was able to identify those in need at the individual level using both the labour force participation rate and the unemployment rate. Similarly, the VaSYR 2022 preliminary findings were used to identify the population in need for displaced Syrians. The data gaps on vulnerable Palestine refugees in Lebanon and Palestinian refugees from Syria challenged the process^[37], thus the approximation used in the previous year was applied for this strategy. The sector target numbers were set using the 50/50 ratio between Lebanese and non-Lebanese (45 per cent displaced Syrians, 1.5 per cent Palestinian refugee from Syria and 3.5 per cent Palestinian refugee in Lebanon), noting that 5 per cent of target beneficiaries are persons with disabilities and 30 per cent are women (in some activities this is 50 per cent). Finally, gaps also persist in systemised local market assessments which will support the identification of intervention types and a national labour market assessment.

The sector will continue to use the geographical targeting for its labour-intensive programming, reflecting on the updated map of the 332 localities that host the highest number of displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees and

^[35] <https://www.labor.gov.lb/Temp/Files/e6c49b3c-ec31-4604-a76f-f02ca3210220.pdf> MoL three-year plan to improve employment and employment opportunities.

^[36] https://www.ilo.org/beirut/publications/WCMS_844837/lang-en/index.htm.

^[37] The Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA-OCHA) and the UNRWA Crisis Monitoring Report (September 2022) are not generalizable to the entire population.

deprived Lebanese^[38]. Meanwhile, categorical targeting will be used to identify beneficiaries of labour-intensive programmes, market-based skills training, and work-based learning activities^[39]. It is important to prioritise, to the extent possible, women, vulnerable households who are beneficiaries of cash assistance programmes (including beneficiaries of NPTP and ESSN for the Lebanese and beneficiaries of MPC for displaced Syrians), persons with disabilities, caregivers of persons with disabilities and caregivers of children engaged in labour. As for the value chain approach, the sector will use available data stored on the Inter-Agency Service Mapping Platform to

identify ongoing interventions and advise implementing partners on how to complement activities. The national employment regional offices should play a critical role in matching vulnerable individuals with opportunities generated by these programmes and will be supported through the third outcome of the strategy. Finally, the state of inter-communal relations is another important lens for geographic targeting, as job competition remains a widely cited source of tension^[40].

[38] Please see map (<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/96471>) for details of the 332 localities that host the highest number of displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees and deprived Lebanese.

[39] During 2022 a dedicated task force from the core group drafted a note on Recommended Parameters on Outreach, Identification, and selection of Beneficiaries which will be disseminated in 2023.

[40] The context analysis will be updated periodically as tensions and conflicts are dynamic and change depending on internal/external elements, especially those related to the political and socio-economic situation. The updates will be shared through the Tension Monitoring System (TMS) reports.

Total sector needs and targets:

Population Cohorts	Total Population	Total Population in Need	Total Population Targeted	Total Population Targeted			
				# Women	% Women	# Men	% Men
Lebanese	3,864,296	322,228	49,678	25,336	51%	24,342	49%
Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	48,351	44,710	22,802	51%	21,908	49%
Palestinian refugee from Syria	31,400	5,549	1,490	760	51%	730	49%
Palestine refugee in Lebanon	180,000	12,943	3,477	1,773	51%	1,704	49%
GRAND TOTAL	5,575,696	389,071	99,355	50,671	51%	48,684	49%

Type of Institutions	Total Targeted
MSMEs	8,000
Ministries (MoSA, MoET, MoL, MOInd, MoA, MEHE)	6



Training youth to learn new skills, earn an income and distribute bread packages to vulnerable families - ANERA

3. MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER AND GBV, PROTECTION, CONFLICT SENSITIVITY, PSEA, ENVIROMENT AND HEALTH

Gender

The Livelihoods sector will continue working closely with the Gender working group and the Inter-sector gender specialist to ensure the mainstreaming of gender across the sector's activities. This will be achieved through 1) dedicated gender mainstreaming workshops and training for partners, 2) production of guidelines and related recommendations^[41], and 3) providing support to partners when needed and if requested, including revision of proposals. Furthermore, the sector will continue advocating for gender-transformative programming to ensure increased access and engagement of women in non-traditional sectors when feasible.

Protection, child protection, persons with disabilities and PSEA

The sector will work with the Protection sector to ensure a protection mainstreaming approach to address issues inclusive of gender, youth and persons with disabilities, through identification of risks to meaningful access, accountability and participation and by taking steps to mitigate these risks. This includes ensuring that complaint, feedback and response mechanisms, including protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding are known, accessible and responsive in relation to the Livelihoods sector services. Emphasis on strengthening gender- and child-sensitive complaint, feedback and response mechanisms (CFRM) with the aim of ensuring that trends inform sector interventions and modalities and that people who provide a complaint or feedback receive responses in a timely and appropriate manner.

Information and communication channels must be designed in consultation with different age, gender and diversity groups and address identified barriers. The sector will promote the Inter-Agency minimum standard on complaint and feedback and opportunities for training on accountability for affected populations (AAP).

Another key component that the sector will work on is advocating decent work conditions, including raising awareness on child labour amongst employers and raising awareness of employees' rights and how to safeguard those. With regard to child protection, efforts will continue to prioritise caregivers of children engaged in the worst

forms of labour in the Livelihoods activities with the understanding that caregivers' access to employment and income will eradicate the need to send the child to work. To that end, the sector will work with the Child Protection working group to draft questions for the partners' vulnerability assessments to better facilitate the identification of these individuals. Finally, to ensure better inclusion of persons with disabilities in Livelihoods activities, the sector encourages partners to identify and target their support to key economic sectors in which jobs and opportunities accessible to persons with disabilities can be found.

The sector will ensure that sector indicators are age-, gender-, and disability-sensitive to 1) allow for accountability and 2) allow for reflection on the progress made and potential changes that could improve the approach to achieving targets. A dedicated PSEA sector focal point will support the sector in linking partners to PSEA Network training opportunities, guidance and key discussions. It will also regularly update partners on material produced by the PSEA network.

Conflict sensitivity

With its employment-oriented activities (cash for work, MBST and WBL), the sector aims to alleviate the tension resulting from competition over jobs. To achieve this outcome, however, interventions must be carefully designed to be conflict sensitive. The same applies to support provided to businesses activities. Programmes should strictly follow the Lebanese labour laws and regulations. As such, partners will need to undertake careful market analysis before programme development. They must also ensure that selection criteria are fair, transparent and publicly available. Furthermore, the sector will promote the utilisation of the Tension Monitoring System products (including the regular quarterly perception survey) to guide their programming. Regular presentations of tension trends related to livelihoods will be shared with sector partners. The sector partners will be encouraged to participate in dedicated conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm general and implementation workshops. Sector partners will also be supported in the uptake and utilisation of the three Lebanon context-specific guidance notes and three conflict sensitivity toolboxes for Lebanon, including one on conflict-sensitive cash assistance.

Lastly, the sector will explore the need for sector-specific conflict sensitivity checklists that can either be applied holistically across the different activities or specifically to one type of activity.

^[41] Gender Mainstreaming and women inclusion in Livelihoods activities guideline will be finalized in 2022 and disseminated in 2023.

Environment

The Livelihoods sector will continue to support environmental protection through the implementation of labour-intensive interventions, such as forest management and reforestation projects, land restoration activities (e.g. restoration of terraces), water conservation measures (e.g. shallow ponds for conserving soil moisture, re-building of stone weirs) and litter-cleaning campaigns (along waterways and roadsides). The Environmental Task Force highlighted the need for sector partners to ensure that labour-intensive activities include control mechanisms

so that they remain in line with environmentally approved plans. The sector will work with the ETF at the MoE on how partners can put such mechanisms in place. Livelihoods actors will also focus on promoting climate-sensitive value chains and sectors to promote circular economy to increase efficiency of resource management and limit production waste.



Women reusable pads manufacturing initiative, Tripoli, Lebanon - Oxfam, 2022

OUTCOME 1: Stimulate local economic growth and market systems to foster income-generating opportunities and decent and safe employment

INDICATOR 1A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Number total number of decent job created and/or maintained (30 % created and 70% maintained)	New jobs created in supported Lebanese Businesses (Micro, small, medium, solo and social enterprises) and cooperatives who have hired new employees since the support was provided (30% of target). Jobs maintained in supported Lebanese Businesses (Micro, small, medium, solo and social enterprises) it can be considered that any support provided helps the business to maintain the jobs in this business = the #employees of the businesses they support as well as self-employed individuals (for micro-finance support) (70% of target).	Project reports from partners based on follow up individually (by phone or through visit) with all supported businesses after the support (grant, training) has been provided, 3 to 6 months after the support to the business ended.	Jobs	Quarterly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
494	9,364	10,400



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	5,200	N/A	N/A	4,680	N/A	N/A	156	N/A	N/A	364

INDICATOR 1B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Number target Lebanese Businesses (Micro, small, medium, solo and social enterprises) and cooperatives that report increased performance and expanded market access (new clients, contracts, market access) as a result of programme activities (60% of targeted businesses)	Supported Lebanese Businesses (Micro, small, medium, solo and social enterprises) and cooperatives who report increasing profitability / production / expanded market access (new contracts, clients, market) 6 months after receiving support. This does not include start-ups under the assumption that they do not have a baseline to compare or report increased revenues	Project reports from partners based on follow up monitoring to supported Lebanese businesses/ cooperatives, activity info	Businesses	Bi-yearly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	9,141	4,800

Micro-businesses			Nano-businesses			Social Entreprises		
Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022
N/A	N/A	405	N/A	N/A	405	N/A	N/A	108

SMEs			Start-ups			Cooperatives		
Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022	Baseline	Result 2021	Target 2022
N/A	N/A	540	N/A	N/A	270	N/A	N/A	972

OUTCOME 2: Improve workforce employability

INDICATOR 2A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Number of job seekers placed into jobs (at least 50% women).	Job seekers placed into jobs (at least 50% women)	Job seekers placed into jobs (at least 50% women)	Individuals	Monthly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	1,492	2,000



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	1,000	N/A	N/A	900	N/A	N/A	30	N/A	N/A	70

INDICATOR 2B

DESCRIPTION

MEANS OF VERIFICATION

UNIT

FREQUENCY

Number targeted vulnerable men and women engaged in home-based income generation (at least 50% women)

Individuals using the skills gained in trainings for activities at home

Activity Info

Individuals

Monthly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	766	2,000



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	1,000	N/A	N/A	900	N/A	N/A	30	N/A	N/A	70

OUTCOME 3: Strengthen policy development and enable environment for job creation

INDICATOR 3A

DESCRIPTION

MEANS OF VERIFICATION

UNIT

FREQUENCY

Number of policies, regulations and strategies amended and/or proposed approved/adopted by the Government

Decree, regulation, policy and strategy in place to support livelihoods, job creation or business eco-system and decent work

Official Gazettes & Official document from GoL and partners report

Document

Quarterly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
7	0	4



PROTECTION SECTOR

PEOPLE IN NEED



3,209,000

PEOPLE TARGETED



1,935,000

NEEDS-BASED APPEAL



\$235M

PARTNERS



63

GENDER MARKER



4*

*Intends to contribute to gender equality, including across age groups AND/OR people with disabilities

CONTACT

LEAD MINISTRY

Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)

Afaf Khalil

afafkhalil.t.2020@gmail.com

COORDINATING AGENCIES

UNHCR

Elsa Bousquet

bousquet@unhcr.org

Collette Hogg

hoggc@unhcr.org

UNICEF

Joud Munwar

jmunwar@unicef.org

UNFPA

Erica Talentino

talentino@unfpa.org

SECTOR OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1:

Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and access to an effective justice and protection system

INDICATORS

- Percentage of persons with legal stay
- Percentage of children born in Lebanon whose birth is registered at the Nofous level
- Percentage of children born in Lebanon whose birth is registered at the Foreigners' Registry level
- Percentage of households who have moved accommodation in the last 6 months due to eviction
- Percentage of children aged 2-14 who experienced violent disciplinary practices
- Percentage of women and girls aged 15-49 who state that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife

OUTCOME 2:

Women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity are safe, empowered and supported in their communities

INDICATORS

- Percentage of women and girls who report actions taken in their communities in the past 6 months that made them feel safer (disaggregated by disability and age)
- Percentage of women, men, girls and boys report feeling very or fairly safe walking around their neighborhood
- Percentage of diverse women, men, girls and boys who report knowing how to report a complaint or provide feedback on humanitarian assistance







OUTCOME 3:

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

INDICATORS

- Percentage of persons referred provided with services
- Percentage of persons receiving protection and emergency cash assistance who report it contributed to addressing their protection risk/incident
- Number of persons benefitting from resettlement or other humanitarian pathways
- Percentage of children aged 5-17 engaged in child labour
- Percentage of children (boys and girls) who reported an improvement in their psychosocial well-being as measured through the SDQ
- Percentage of women (20-24) married before 18

POPULATION BREAKDOWN

POPULATION COHORT	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	FEMALE  MALE 	
 Vulnerable Lebanese	1,500,000	336,000	174,720	161,280
 Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	1,500,000	780,000	720,000
 Palestinian Refugees from Syria	29,000	29,000	14,404	13,296
 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	180,000	70,000	10,400	9,600

1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

In 2022 Lebanon saw the socio-economic situation worsen, with resources at a community level becoming increasingly strained, public institutions struggling to function and barriers to basic services and assistance increasing due to crippling inflation, fuel and telecommunication price hikes and electricity shortages. A combination of these factors continues to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities to protection risks and shocks and undermines positive coping strategies for displaced persons from Syria and other persons at risk, especially for older persons, FHH, and persons living with a disability. Record rates of Syrian and Palestinian refugees report relying on harmful coping strategies to get by, and households say they are not able to provide the same level of support to vulnerable family members. Those living in the lowest expenditure classes and in non-permanent shelters are worse off across the board.

Financial and non-financial constraints are leading to compounding sources of stress and causing families to make tough decisions regarding their use of resources, including in relation to their access to education, shelter, healthcare, food and legal documentation. Although COVID-19 related mobility restrictions have abated, the newly emerging cholera health crisis poses a real threat to all population groups, in particular pregnant women, children under five, immunocompromised and older persons. Many of them may lack the financial means to implement adequate prevention measures or seek treatment and have limited access to healthcare due to their low rates of legal residency or not being in possession of documents. Indicators assessing the protection space of displaced Syrians and other vulnerable groups in Lebanon, collected through several sources, are predominantly in relation to legal residency, civil documentation, eviction, safety and security concerns, community relations, and harmful food-related coping strategies.

A critical issue is the limited ability of displaced persons from Syria and other at-risk groups to exercise their basic rights due to barriers in obtaining legal residency, civil documentation and security of tenure, as well as the implementation of discriminatory restrictive measures, risk of arrest, detention and deportation. Despite the importance of legal residency in facilitating one's movement and access to basic services and assistance, supporting one's safety, including preventing arrest and detention and risk of deportation, legal residency rates for displaced Syrians (above fifteen years old) remain at an all-time low, of 17 per cent with legal residency.^[1] Forty-nine per cent of Palestinian refugees from Syria surveyed by UNRWA in 2021 and 20 per cent of refugees from other nationalities have legal residency and 44 per cent of migrant households have some or no members with legal

residency.^[2] Women, youth and adolescent girls continue to have the lowest legal residency rates.^[3] Access to civil status documentation is also a critical concern. Birth registration is essential to ensuring a child's legal identity, preventing the risk of statelessness and accessing services, while the inability to register other civil events in Lebanon, including marriage, divorce and death has implications on legal protection, including guardianship and inheritance rights.^[4] Positively, birth and marriage rates have risen to their highest level since 2018;^[5] however, 64 per cent of Syrian refugee births still remain unregistered at the Foreigner's Registry, and 2 per cent have no documentation, while 75 per cent of Palestinian refugees from Syria and 1 per cent of migrant births have a certificate at the Foreigner's Registry and the number of unregistered births within the Lebanese community remains unknown.^[6] Lastly, weak regulatory frameworks and forms of shelter vulnerability, including inadequate housing conditions and tenure vulnerability fail to guarantee legal protection against eviction and its associated risks, including harassment, sexual and non-sexual forms of exploitation and other threats.^[7] 7.1 per cent of Syrian households, 1 per cent of Lebanese and 1 per cent of migrants live under an eviction notice. Forced eviction threats and incidents have multi-dimensional impacts. Displaced Syrians most commonly report psychological distress, the engagement of harmful coping mechanisms to prevent eviction, as well as the loss of employment, lack of food and homelessness after an eviction incident.^[8] Eviction also impacts a person's ability to feel safe, disrupts their community networks, and their children's education.

Displaced persons from Syria, Palestine refugees in Lebanon, migrants and vulnerable Lebanese face several stumbling blocks when trying to access the formal justice system due to high costs, limited knowledge of the judicial apparatus and legal aid services, distrust of the system and judicial strikes. Lack of legal residency and fear of retaliation as well as a non-protective domestic legal framework for women, children, migrants, survivors of trafficking and persons with diverse gender and sexual orientation also hampers access to legal remedies. Patriarchal social norms influence the way women and girls seek legal remedies and, both Syrian and Palestinian

^[1] Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VASyR) 2022.

^[2] Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2022 for Lebanese, Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon and Migrants; Vulnerability Assessment of Refugees of Other Nationalities, UNHCR, 2020, p.18; UNRWA protection-monitoring report for Palestinian refugees, 2021.

^[3] VASyR 2022.

^[4] VASyR, 2022.

^[5] VASyR, 2022.

^[6] UNRWA protection monitoring 2021; MSNA 2022.

^[7] VASyR 2022.

^[8] UNHCR Protection Monitoring, September 2022.

refugees resort increasingly to traditional informal justice mechanisms.^[9]

In 2022, several factors converged at community level to create a complex operational environment and shrinking protection space for refugees, resulting in reduced feelings of safety in the community across population groups. This was largely driven by deteriorating inter- and intra-community relations, high-level anti-refugee statements, increasing rates of violence, crime and concerns of safety and security threats, and an uptick in local-level restrictive measures.^[10] There is a concern these trends will continue including the negative rhetoric and scapegoating of refugees for various ends. This has the potential to reduce the participation and involvement of women, men, girls and boys of all ages and diverse backgrounds in decisions which affect their lives and create barriers to accessing information. This may be particularly the case for women and girls, persons with low literacy rates and persons living with disabilities, who often depend on others for access to reliable sources of information. Furthermore, the combined impact of the socio-economic crisis, reduced municipal capacities, growing protection needs and barriers to accessing services has negatively impacted the ability of the community to provide those at heightened risk with support, which is critical to ensuring their protection.^[11]

Women, men, girls and boys of all ages and diverse backgrounds are more frequently exposed and susceptible to the damaging effects of shocks, increased levels of violence, deprivation, exploitation, abuse and neglect and resorting to record rates of harmful coping strategies, compromising their inability to live in dignity and to recover safely. With people increasingly unable to pay rent, find work and meet their basic needs, coupled with more limited community and family support, there is an increase in dependency on harmful coping mechanisms observed. Ninety-eight per cent of Syrian households, 87.2 per cent of migrants, 74 per cent of Lebanese and 62.2 per cent of Palestinian refugees reported using at least one harmful coping strategy to access food in 2022.^[12] 24,140 Syrian children (6.8% boys, 1.9% girls) are engaged in child labour in 2022, and higher numbers of street-connected children have been observed.^[13] 21.9 per cent of Syrian girls, aged fifteen to nineteen, were reported to be married in 2022, and child marriage more than doubled in Baalbeck-Hermel, followed by Beirut and the North.^[14] There is a high likelihood of underreporting for child labour and child marriage cases, which has likely increased due to difficulties accessing education and families looking for ways to ease financial pressure. At least 1 in 10 Lebanese, migrant and Syrian households report that

female household members avoid certain areas because they feel or perceive them as unsafe. For PRL households, this rises to 1 in 3 households.^[15] GBV has devastating consequences but remains unreported despite GBV actors highlighting increased risks of sexual exploitation, sex work and sexual violence against children, particularly adolescent girls. As of June 2022, the main forms of GBV reported were 36 per cent physical assault and 34 per cent psychological and emotional abuse, with over half of these incidents being perpetrated by the intimate partner. For migrant domestic workers, meanwhile, many experience sexual harassment by employers.^[16] Further, incidents of online sexual harassment and extortion cases have remained high after a significant rise observed during COVID-19 lockdown. Deteriorating levels of psychological distress and mental health concerns have also been reported. In particular a higher number of cases involved in substance use that is also a contributing factor increasing risks of GBV. Thirty-one per cent of Syrian refugee adults surveyed in protection monitoring reported mental health symptoms. On average there is one suicide attempt within the Lebanese community every six hours according to the embrace hotline.^[17]

Refugees in Lebanon have limited pathways to achieving a durable legal status that ensures protection for their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. Lebanon is not a party to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. In December 2018, however, Lebanon joined the UN General Assembly in affirming the Global Compact on Refugees and is a signatory to the core human rights conventions. The GoL has consistently affirmed its commitment to the principle of non-refoulement. Furthermore, the GoL and its international partners “reiterated that the main durable solution for displaced Syrians in Lebanon is their safe, dignified and non-coercive return to their country of origin, in accordance with international law and the principle of non-refoulement.” Furthermore, resettlement figures have dwindled in recent years, but remain an important alternative durable solution which must be promoted.

[9] <https://lebanon.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/SGBVSTUDY2022.pdf>.

[10] UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV, August 2022 and UNHCR Protection Monitoring 2022.

[11] UNHCR protection monitoring findings, quarter 3, 2022.

[12] VASyR and MSNA 2022.

[13] VASyR 2022.

[14] VASyR 2022.

[15] Vasyr and MSNA 2022.

[16] Egna Legna Besidet, LAU, 2022.

[17] UNHCR Protection Monitoring, quarter 3, 2022.

2. OVERALL SECTOR STRATEGY

Theory of Change

The overarching objective of the Protection sector is that displaced women, men, girls and boys from Syria and other vulnerable individuals at heightened risk in Lebanon, live in a safe and protective environment (impact 1) where their fundamental rights are respected, they are safe and supported in their communities and households and they live in dignity. This result will be achieved collectively through three key outcomes which aim to address the critical issues identified in the situation analysis. These positive and measurable changes are achieved as follows:

- Outcome 1 reflects the Protection sector's approach to improving persons' access to their fundamental rights and its work at the institutional level to strengthen national and local protection prevention and response systems. It is achieved through three interdependent pillars: 1) people have access to information on their rights and legal procedures in relation to legal residency, civil documentation and housing, land and property 2) people have access to quality legal counselling, assistance and representation, including survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV), victims of trafficking and children in conflict with the law, particularly in relation to matters of civil documentation, legal residency, housing land and property rights (HLP); and, 3) protection systems for Child Protection (CP), GBV and counter-trafficking are strengthened, legal frameworks align with international standards, due process and the rule of law are respected, and legal procedures are inclusive, accessible and implemented consistently and evenly. If these pillars are achieved, then women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity will have their fundamental rights respected and have access to an effective justice and protection system.
- Outcome 2 represents the Protection sector's community-based protection approach, which includes its efforts to promote a safe community environment. It is achieved by three interconnected pillars: 1) women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have access to information and resources to make and act upon informed decisions, including in response to protection issues, and have the opportunity to participate in inclusive and safe community spaces; 2) women, girls, men and boys in all their diversity and community influencers are engaged in social and behaviour change initiatives on matters of equality, GBV, child protection and mental health; and, 3) women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity know and can access functional complaint and feedback mechanisms, including for reporting sexual exploitation and abuse and child safeguarding concerns. If these pillars are achieved, then women,

men, girls and boys in all their diversity will be safe, empowered and supported by their communities.

- Outcome 3 works to respond at the individual and household level to reduce protection risks as a result of shocks as well as violence, deliberate deprivation, coercion, exploitation, abuse and neglect and to strengthen capacities to mitigate harm preventing harmful coping strategies. It is achieved through two interdependent pathways: 1) Protection, child protection and GBV case management, PSS, protection cash assistance and other specialised protection services are available, accessible, safe and informed by the participation of all ages, genders, disability and diversity backgrounds, leading to improved self-reliance, reduced risk of harm and recovery from shocks and; 2) there is improved access to durable solutions for those at heightened risk. If these pillars are achieved, then women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity can live in dignity and will be resilient to shocks.

The sector's theory of change importantly relies on complementary and sustainable interventions delivered with and through other sectors, government, non-government entities and other response frameworks. It will be essential to the achievement of outcomes that strong partnerships are forged with national and local governments and that coordination is maintained with the Inter-Sector Working Group, specifically with the social stability, basic assistance, livelihood, shelter, education, and health sectors. In 2023, the sector will make a concerted effort to progress on localisation by strengthening its partnerships with local civil society organizations and women-led organizations, and by strengthening the leadership role of NGOs in the sector. It will be paramount that sufficient funding levels are maintained to local responders to avoid critical response gaps. Paramount will be the sectors' role in promoting protection mainstreaming, GBV mainstreaming as well as the provision of a sustainable and integrated package of services which effectively address chronic protection needs, particularly for complex cases.

The Protection sector follows an intersectional, people-centred, human rights-based and conflict-sensitive approach through the timely identification and mitigation of risks across all activities. This is underpinned by a comprehensive and regular protection analysis of the threats, vulnerabilities and coping capacities of different age, gender, ability and diversity groups. The sector will mainstream age, disability, gender and diversity considerations at each stage of the programme cycle. It will also respect a One Refugee Approach whereby non-displaced Syrians (including refugees from other nationalities) and other vulnerable groups (including stateless persons) will be included in sector advocacy and protection services.

Assumptions and risks

Recognising the unpredictable planning context in Lebanon, the Protection sector theory of change is underpinned by three important assumptions for 2023:

- That despite the fragile political situation and the deteriorated socio-economic situation, the GoL, along with its local-level structures, will continue to facilitate access to essential, quality and impartial humanitarian assistance, including protection services to persons at risk in Lebanon. To mitigate any potential risks in this regard, the Protection sector will maintain its transparent and jointly coordinated approach with the relevant line ministries (see partnership section), particularly its strong collaboration with the MoSA and the MoIM at the local level.
- Lebanon continues to receive appropriate donor attention. Sufficient aid is channelled to protection as well as other complementary multi-sector assistance packages in line with Protection sector priorities and growing protection needs for displaced persons from Syria and other at-risk groups. In this regard, the Protection sector will continue to advocate for sufficient and multi-year funding for protection interventions as well as for other sectors which are critical to maintaining integrated protection programs and mainstreaming persons at risk into medium and longer-term forms of assistance. Maximising efficiency gains through coordination and collaboration across protection agencies where possible will be critical. Furthermore, due to a strategic need to develop sustainable and effective protection systems, the Protection sector will strengthen its focus on interventions that have a longer-term impact by supporting local ownership, community empowerment and systems-building at different levels. This will be achieved by the provision of technical support to foster policy development, support capacity development interventions and ownership of local institutions and NGOs, CBOs and WLOs. This includes providing support to SDCs and ensuring the strategic engagement of community and religious leaders on social norm and attitude changes on issues such as child protection and GBV.
- Intra- and intercommunal tensions will continue; however, they will likely be confined to medium impact incidents that can be safely mitigated through programmatic adaption, protection and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming as well as improved joint analysis between both protection and social stability sectors.

The Protection sector has identified three high-probability and high-impact risks which may offset the sector's strategic achievements next year and for which robust mitigation measures will be put in place:

- Further deterioration of the socio-economic situation will exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and reliance on harmful coping strategies, as well as aggravate existing

barriers to accessing services and assistance. As fuel and telecommunication prices hike, electricity, water and stamp shortages as well as possible health outbreak restrictions (cholera and COVID-19) are likely to remain.^[18] Taken together, this will likely mean that protection needs across community groups will grow and more people will be at risk of falling through the cracks. Key mitigation measures will be required, including measures to ensure protection considerations in targeting across sectors. This includes improved prioritisation of those most at risk, maintained linkages across sectors to ensure a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach, strengthened referral pathways where gaps are identified, program adjustment, prioritising the importance of in-person services and continuing to strengthen the quality of services, including their inclusivity and accessibility.

- Current political uncertainty and deadlock is likely to continue to undermine governance, legal and policy reforms and the implementation of national action plans which aim to strengthen the protection system for women, children and socially excluded groups. This also has the potential to derail the Protection sector advocacy goals related to legal reforms, including enhancing the rule of law as well as the implementation of consistent legal procedures and access to justice. At a regional level, local political dynamics may create challenges for humanitarian access, resulting in a lack of clarity on coordination with local authorities. The Protection sector will work to mitigate this risk by adapting national advocacy and action plan interventions to target civil servant and public administration level officials in addition to ministerial and parliamentary stakeholders. Further, it will be even more important that all organisations maintain a consistent commitment to principled humanitarian action and arrangements on ways of working.
- The risk of escalating social tensions due to the municipal and presidential elections, the current socioeconomic crisis, including deteriorating services and strained resources at the community level, and the potential for a wide-spread health outbreak risk resulting in inter- and intracommunal disputes and security incidents. It could also lead to several protection implications, such as restrictive measures and the increased scapegoating and harassment of refugees. To mitigate the potential risk of harm, which will have a greater impact on refugees, the Protection sector will aim to strengthen its joint analysis with the Social Stability sector and the Tension Monitoring System to anticipate triggers and to identify preventative measures and timely responses. The Protection sector must also adopt a conflict-sensitive approach to advocacy and its interventions, as well as maintain its flexibility to make timely programmatic adaptations.

^[18] See updated LCRP Business Continuity Plan, April 2022.

Sector Results: LCRP impacts, Sector Outcomes and Outputs

The results of the Protection Sector directly contribute to the LCRP's Strategic Objective 1 and Impact 1 to ensure the protection of vulnerable populations. The sector also indirectly contributes to other impacts as well as other sector outputs and outcomes. It contributes to Impact 2 (Immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations are met) through outcome 1 and 3, Impact 3 (vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national (public and private) systems through outcome 1; and Impact 5 (social stability is strengthened in Lebanon) through outcome 1 and 2.^[19] The sector also contributes to the SDG, especially to SDG 5 on Gender Equality, SDG 8 on Decent Work and SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Expected results

The overarching sector objective is to ensure that displaced women, men, girls and boys from Syria and other vulnerable populations at heightened risk in Lebanon, including stateless persons, live in a safe and protective environment where they can enjoy their fundamental rights and live in safety and dignity. These are articulated through three outcomes which are each based on interconnected pathways.

Outcome 1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and have access to an effective justice and protection system.

This outcome will be achieved through a three-pronged approach to (a) ensure people have the knowledge and opportunity to exercise their rights; (b) to provide direct legal counselling, assistance and representation service, and (c) to strengthen Lebanon's legal and protection framework, including respect for the rule of law and implementation of legal procedures. This output will focus on the sector's partnership with the government to support public systems to better protect the most at-risk groups as well as the sector's partnership with local civil society and women-led organisations on key advocacy priorities.

Output 1.1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have access to information on their rights and legal procedures in relation to legal residency, civil documentation and HLP.

The Protection sector will ensure that women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have access to information about their rights, legal procedures and available legal services, particularly in relation to their legal residency,

civil documentation and HLP rights. For legal residency, the emphasis will be on ensuring people understand the criteria and procedures to obtain legal residency so they can obtain residency themselves or seek assistance if needed. There will be a particular focus on raising awareness among those individuals who are eligible to renew their legal residency.^[20] For civil documentation, the emphasis will be on ensuring people understand the procedures to obtain documentation for civil events by themselves, or to seek assistance if needed to reduce risk of statelessness and the denial of inheritance and guardianship rights as well as other rights. Outreach on legal residency and civil documentation will be targeted toward refugees living in non-permanent and non-residential shelters due to their low rates of legal residency and documentation. Similarly, for housing, land and property, the emphasis will be on raising awareness of tenancy rights and obligations among tenants, property owners and local authorities, with particular attention paid to lease agreements, due process in relation to eviction and how to seek assistance when required.

The sector will emphasise the need to provide tailored, age-, gender- and region-specific information and outreach on rights, available services and legal procedures. This is integral to addressing specific misconceptions and concerns among specific groups (youth and women), for which a high percentage of individuals are without legal stay. Tailored outreach will be guided by regular monitoring and analysis of the legal, policy, practical and attitudinal barriers faced through consultations with target populations of different age, gender and diversity backgrounds as well as through community support structures that play a vital role in understanding social and attitudinal barriers hindering access. Community outreach volunteers will be particularly vital in reaching out to stateless individuals in the community. To assist in scaling up the number of individuals reached, emphasis will be placed on mainstreaming key messages related to legal residency, birth and marriage registration and tenancy rights and obligations into awareness-raising activities within protection and other sectors including education, health and shelter, as well as through existing community outreach and support structures and frontline staff. In addition, case workers and frontline shelter staff will be trained, as part of their regular work, to provide key messages on rights and legal procedures and identify support needs, including on HLP due diligence. They will also be trained to refer for legal aid when required.

Output 1.2: Women, men, girls, and boys in all their diversity have access to quality legal counselling, assistance and representation on matters of legal residency, civil documentation, HLP, GBV and child protection

Legal counselling, assistance and representation is available and accessible to women, men, girls and boys to support access to civil documentation, including through accompaniment to the Personal Status Department

^[19] The Protection sector linkages with impact 2 stem from the sector's work to support access to justice as well as its prevention and response to eviction. Its contribution to impact 3, meanwhile, stems from its work to strengthen the legal framework to better protect women and children and its efforts to promote gender equality and equitable access to education. Through conflict-sensitive interventions, the Protection sector works to contribute to social stability outcomes in impact 5.

^[20] Youth under 18 years old can use a civil extract no older than three years as an identity document.

(PSD) and through mobile PSD units where available; to support access to legal residency, including through accompaniment to the General Directorate of the GSO; and, to support access to housing, land and property rights with a focus on strengthening the security of tenure arrangements to prevent the risk of forced eviction. Legal actor eviction deviation and post-eviction efforts will aim to enhance lease agreements between tenant and property owner, resolve disputes through collaborative dispute resolution (CDR) and legal mediation efforts and, where possible, represent tenants to press charges in case of demonstrable proof of payment. Where relevant, CDR mechanisms will be reviewed in collaboration with Shelter (and potentially Social Stability) colleagues to maintain their effectiveness despite ongoing changes in the context of social and housing tensions.

Legal counselling, assistance and representation support will also be available for detainees, stateless individuals, survivors of GBV, women at risk, children in contact with the law and survivors of trafficking across population groups. The balance of benefits across nationalities is particularly important in places of detention and will be ensured. Legal aid programs have a dedicated outreach component to ensure that services are known and accessible across community groups, including for vulnerable Lebanese and stateless individuals. Remote modalities will only be used when essential to address access and mobility challenges (i.e., legal counselling over the phone on simple issues). To ensure the provision of effective legal aid programs, the Protection sector will continue to monitor the implementation of legal procedures and policies, to adapt programs to address the relevant legal, policy and practical barriers restricting access, such as cost increases, inaccurate or inconsistent implementation and discriminatory practices.

Legal residency rates for displaced Syrians (above fifteen years old) remain at an all-time low with **17%** with legal residency

UNHCR Protection Monitoring 2022

Output 1.3: Protection and legal frameworks are strengthened, and barriers to accessing legal procedures are addressed.

The Protection sector will work at an institutional level to ensure that legal procedures and processes in relation to civil documentation, legal residency and security of tenure as well as other fundamental rights are inclusive, accessible and affordable and are implemented accurately and evenly by the responsible institutions. In the Lebanon Partnership Paper, the Government of Lebanon and international partners have highlighted the importance of supporting and upholding the rule of law to preserve the

dignified stay of persons displaced from Syria.^[21] To achieve this, the sector will support the strengthening of a national system that ensures that the rights and protection of host and displaced communities are respected and fulfilled. This will be done through the monitoring of the protection environment and advocacy on key issues to maintain the protection of persons from both communities. To this end, the sector will collaborate with local organisations, civil society organisations and coalitions engaged in protection, legal aid and justice programming, including those working on women's, gender, detention and disability rights issues.

The reversal of the downward trend for all communities in terms of access to residency is of primary importance.^[22] The Lebanon Partnership Paper agreed upon between the GoL and the co-chairs of the 'Brussels II Conference' in 2018 will continue to provide strategic direction to the sector in fostering legal residency.^[23] The paper points to expanding the fee waiver to all displaced persons to ensure free-of-charge access to legal residency, independent of registration status or means of entry. This will continue to be a top priority for the Protection sector in 2023 given that most displaced persons are unable to cover the fees and/or obtain or maintain a sponsor. The paper also outlines the need for enhanced efforts to ensure that the 2017 residency fee waiver is consistently and evenly applied across the GSO in all regions. The Protection sector will continue to provide support to strengthen the GSO's capacities. This includes support to alternative solar energy solutions, based on regular assessment of GSO needs, capacities and performance in the field, to roll out tailored, sustainable, and effective capacity-building interventions.

Multi-year investments to facilitate access to civil documentation, including birth, marriage, divorce and death registration have led to gradual improvements in registration rates for persons displaced from Syria and other vulnerable populations.^[24] The sector will continue to engage in efforts to develop the national action plan on birth registration for displaced persons from Syria, including for Lebanese children and migrants, through close engagement with the Inter-Ministerial Committee, in particular with the MoSA and the MoIM. It will also support the mainstreaming of birth registration across

^[21] Brussels II Conference (24-25 April 2018), *Supporting the future of Syria and the Region - Lebanon Partnership Paper*, para. 46, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/34145/lebanon-partnership-paper.pdf>.

^[22] In 2022, 84 per cent of displaced Syrians are without residency, VASYR 2022; 51 per cent of Palestinian refugees from Syria surveyed by UNRWA in 2021 are without residency, UNWRA protection monitoring reports 2021. Eighty per cent of refugees from other nationalities are without residency, with 86 per cent of non-Iraqi refugees from other nationalities without residency (VARON 2020) and 44% of migrant's households have some or no members with legal residency.

^[23] Lebanon Partnership Paper (April 2018), para. 42.

^[24] Non-Syrians will be included in interventions of the Protection sector where relevant to ensure a non-discriminatory and "one refugee" approach is being applied.

other sectors.^[25] In 2022, new measures were employed to address registration barriers, such as the facilitation of proof of marriage requests by Sunni Courts, standardising fees at the level of the Mokhtar and extending the late birth registration waiver to 8 February 2022. In 2023, it will be important to maintain advocacy on the need for religious courts to further facilitate the marriage registration process for displaced persons from Syria, to expand the late birth registration waiver to Syrian children born after the 8 February 2022 and to expand the waiver to include children of other nationalities, including Lebanese children. This will lead to the simplification of procedures and standard and reduced fees related to obtaining civil documentation. Furthermore, the sector will advocate for the sufficient supply of stamps for legal actors with the Ministry of Finance to reduce inflated stamp prices for individuals and to prevent bottlenecks. Capacity-building interventions will be conducted to enhance the capacities of local and national institutions to register civil events and deliver documentation, including through support to equipment and staffing to the PSD. Interventions will be prioritised based on different institutions' needs, on identified knowledge gaps and on the results of capacity-building activities previously conducted.

Building on the progress made towards developing policy frameworks for the protection of women, children and other at-risk groups, the Protection sector will continue its commitment to advance national action plans and policies to enhance protection responses and procedures for GBV, child protection and counter-trafficking through close engagement with line ministries. Child Protection and GBV sub-sectors will continue to provide technical advice and support to the MoSA, Ministry of Higher Education, MoPH and Ministry of Justice (MOJ), to ensure the advancement of endorsed national policies and strategies, specifically the Strategic Plan on the Protection of Women and Children, the Child Marriage National Action Plan with the Higher Council of Childhood and the MoPH-led Clinical Management of Rape Strategy. Moreover, GBV partners will continue to reinforce the national GBV SOPs and National Action Plan 1325 of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. In Palestinian refugee camps there will be an emphasis on recruiting female officers. For counter-trafficking, this will include supporting the adoption and implementation of the national strategy to identify and protect survivors of trafficking. Relevant government staff will also be trained on the provision of quality case management and PSS services in line with global standards. Together with humanitarian staff, government staff will also receive training on contextualised operational guidance in relation to caring for child survivors of sexual assault and dealing with PSEA cases. The Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) will be used, and the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) will be enhanced, including the upgrade to Version

Two and through the training of relevant government and non-government actors.

The sector will continue, together with civil society and women-led organizations, to advocate for legal reform. In particular, they will advocate for the amendment of Law 25 of bill 422 on Child Marriage and the MOJ proposal to amend law 164/2011 on counter-trafficking as well as to advocate for the enforcement of the new laws – 205/2020 (on sexual harassment) and the law 204/2020 (which amended law 293 on domestic violence). Technical support will be provided to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to lead necessary legal reforms relevant to child justice and to support the provision of judicial support to children in contact with the law. Through these efforts, the sector will ensure that children who seek redress through informal justice procedures have their rights safeguarded; and decisions made by the relevant actors are in the best interest of the child.

The Protection and Social Stability sectors will continue to work to reduce the harmful impact of declining inter-community relations, safety and security incidents and restrictive measures on the lives of refugees and socially excluded groups. In 2023, the Protection sector will continue to monitor discriminatory and restrictive measures specifically targeting refugees, such as forced individual and collective evictions, movement restrictions, economic measures and others. This will complement the analysis of the Social Stability sector and the Tensions Monitoring System to better anticipate triggers and harmful impacts to inform programming and advocacy at national and regional levels; strong cooperation at the regional level with MoIM, MoSA and other local authorities will be maintained to prevent and respond to the application of discriminatory restrictive measures, including forced evictions; the sector will invest in capacity building and ongoing dialogue with relevant authorities to improve knowledge of and adherence to laws and protection processes which protect at-risk groups. In line with the strategic reform framework developed by MOIM and the Internal Security Forces (ISF), the sector will also train municipal police on human rights, protection, gender, GBV and counter-trafficking. MOIM will also be supported to integrate child protection standards in their curriculum used by the ISF academy to train municipal police. This will also be a specific focus within Palestinian refugee camps. Furthermore, the sector will support the training of media stakeholders on unconscious bias and the international refugee and domestic legal framework to promote non-discriminatory and balanced narratives. This will also facilitate the mainstreaming of key messages on support to Lebanese through media outlets and civil society actors to address negative misconceptions about refugees and perceived aid perception bias; and lastly, the sector will aim to strengthen the protection capacities of social stability community groups at the municipal level to mitigate local tensions and foster dialogue and interaction. Frontline protection staff will be trained on working with community-based structures and on eviction issues on negotiation and de-escalation.

^[25] Non-Syrians will be included in interventions of the Protection sector where relevant to ensure a non-discriminatory and "one refugee" approach is being applied.

The Protection sector will continue to engage with the government to promote protection-sensitive border management, in line with Lebanon's legal framework and international law, to avoid immigration detention, to uphold Lebanon's non-refoulement obligations and to secure procedural safeguards in case of deportations, including the determination of the best interests of the child and respect for the principle of family unity. The sector will advocate with relevant authorities for the scale up of efforts to ensure the protection and rescue of people in distress at sea.^[26] Furthermore, and in accordance with the Lebanon Partnership Paper,^[27] the sector will continue advocating for the resumption of the UNHCR registration of Syrian refugees, to enhance protection and contribute to a fuller understanding of the scale and scope of needs and consequently of the support required. This will also help facilitate solutions in the form of resettlement to third countries and the safe, dignified, non-coercive return of refugees when conditions permit.

Outcome 2: Women, men, girls, and boys in all their diversity are safe, empowered and supported in their communities.

Protection sector's community-based protection approach recognizes the importance that the wider environment – interpersonal relationships, community, and society – plays in a person's protection and how a person's circumstances both shape and are shaped by their community. The sector aims to foster a community environment that is safe, inclusive, participatory, and empowering for refugees, vulnerable Lebanese and socially excluded groups of all ages, genders, disability, and diversity backgrounds including stateless persons. Through a community-based, rights-based, and conflict-sensitive approach the Protection sector aims to build on and mobilise the strengths and skills of the community to strengthen the social fabric of the community in an effort to enhance the resilience of women, men, girls and boys by supporting them to find solutions to the protection issues which affect their lives.

Output 2.1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have the information and resources to act upon informed decisions and participate in inclusive and accessible community spaces

Access to reliable and timely information remains a key priority and is critical for individuals to enjoy their rights and to make and act upon informed decisions in their everyday lives and for their futures. In this regard, the Protection sector will continue to disseminate regionally specific, accessible, and up-to-date information on services, assistance and protection-related issues. A diverse range of two-way communication channels will be employed, informed by age, gender and nationality preferences, to address access constraints, especially for persons with disabilities, older persons, children, those with low literacy levels or who do not speak Arabic. Greater attention will be paid to designing inclusive and

child-friendly information materials in accessible formats (easy to read, interpreters) and ensuring interpreters are available when needed. Respect for the decision-making capacities all persons is emphasised. Innovative outreach methods will also be explored with respect to engaging with vulnerable Lebanese, migrants and stateless persons.

Community centres and Social Development Centres will remain safe and inclusive spaces for the participation of all persons of different ages, genders, disabilities and diversity backgrounds, and especially for women, youth, persons at risk of exclusion and persons in need of community support networks. Mobile activities linked to community centres will be conducted to address transportation and telecommunication barriers. Partnerships with community support structures, outreach volunteers and groups will support the identification, referral and response to community- and household-level protection concerns, such as engaging in community-led initiatives to provide solutions to identified risks, influencing the adoption of health outbreak prevention and control messaging, and supporting persons at heightened risk in their communities, such as older persons or persons with a disability without adequate support. Improving the knowledge and capacity of the community to prevent and respond to protection concerns and to protect those who are most at risk will remain a key objective in 2022. In this respect, capacity-building plans based on an assessment of community needs and strengths will be put in place. This support will include but is not limited to the provision of up-to-date localised service mappings, safe identification and referral trainings, training on Psychological First Aid (PFA) as well as how to provide basic PSS.

A critical component of the community-based protection approach is the need for protection partners to ensure the inclusion, participation and empowerment of women, men, girls and boys of all diversity backgrounds at each stage of the programme cycle. Furthermore, their feedback, priorities, and concerns – as well as those reported by community structures and outreach volunteers, civil society organisations (CSOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) – will inform the work of the sector. The sector should in turn use these relationships to expand its reach within the community, particularly for hard-to-reach areas or groups such as stateless migrants. Local non-governmental and civil society organisations and local coalitions, as well as women, youth and disability-led groups and organisations working specifically on these issues, are often able to bring an important perspective and inform safety and protection issues for these groups as well as provide important recommendations for response.

Output 2.2: Women, girls, men and boys in all their diversity, including community influencers, are engaged in social and behaviour change on matters of equality, GBV and child protection in their community.

The Protection sector will foster the meaningful engagement of communities through social and behavioural change efforts, to address the root causes of harmful behaviours against women, girls and boys. By

^[26] Protection sector advocacy messages, June 2022.

^[27] Lebanon Partnership Paper (April 2018), para. 44 and 47.

working closely with community and religious leaders, caregivers and children, harmful social and gender norms will be challenged to support a normative shift in practices that are considered harmful for children and women while encouraging behaviours and norms that promote their wellbeing, dignity and equality. These efforts will include women's empowerment, male engagement to support gender equality and foster positive masculinity, mental health support programs, disability inclusion and non-discrimination of socially excluded groups, including minorities.^[28]

Child protection actors will focus on addressing social norms which contribute to violence against and abuse and neglect of children as well as to child labour, child marriage and other GBV risks for children, particularly sexual violence toward adolescent girls. Through community-based social norm and behaviour change activities, child protection actors will provide children, caregivers and community members with information and knowledge on child protection risks and available support services in case of need. Further, they will stimulate collective reflection and community-led action which can initiate behaviour change. Through these activities, including parenting programmes, caregivers will be provided with the necessary support to ensure children's wellbeing and ensure the prevention of violence against children, child labour and child marriage.

Similarly, the GBV sector will deliver targeted gender equality programming in women and girls' safe spaces and at a community-level shift from community awareness towards attitudinal and behavioural change. This includes creating male engagement approaches that are accountable to women and girls as well as working with religious and community leaders. The sector will continue to engage in GBV risk mitigation by conducting women-led safety audits and working with communities on the implementation of recommendations to improve safety for women and girls. Dignity kits distribution and work to enhance menstrual hygiene to address period poverty and ensure maintenance of girls in schools and social life will also be used as means of outreach and risk mitigation intervention.

Output 2.3: Known, safe, accessible and responsive complaint and feedback, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding mechanisms are in place.

Building on existing platforms and infrastructure, the Protection sector will continue its efforts to support protection partners as well as the broader Inter-Agency Coordination Group to improve collective accountability to affected populations, including PSEA and child safeguarding. There will be a particular emphasis on strengthening gender- and child-sensitive complaint, feedback and response mechanisms (CFRM), particularly to close the feedback loop to ensure that analysis and

trends inform sector interventions and modalities and that people who provide a complaint are responded to in a timely and appropriate manner. Information and communication channels must be designed in consultation with different age, gender and diversity groups and address identified barriers for persons with disabilities, older persons, women at risk, children and socially excluded groups (including on the basis of gender). The sector will promote the Inter-Agency minimum standard on complaint and feedback and the provision of training on accountability for affected populations (AAP).

Furthermore, the Protection Sector will scale up efforts to reduce risk of SEA for all vulnerable populations, in particular children and persons with disabilities, through adapted awareness-raising interventions on PSEA mechanisms. The sector will work closely with the PSEA network to support capacity-building initiatives on PSEA targeting in line with PSEA SOPs and mitigation measures to reduce risk of SEA in interventions particularly cash assistance.^[29] Mechanisms to handle complaints will be strengthened by all organizations and their implementing partners in the sector. The strengthening of PSEA systems will be more systematically integrated in international organizations' partnership with local actors for project implementation. The sector will address the risk of SEA by providing partners with the relevant guidance and support to mainstream appropriate mechanisms to handle SEA complaints. Links will be made to the Inter-Agency Community-based Complaint and Feedback Mechanism (CBCM) - PSEA, that is being established under the PSEA Network. At the same time, efforts will be made to ensure that Codes of Conduct which include commitments on PSEA are signed by all partner staff, consultants, volunteers and contractors. The sector will also strengthen and support international and local partners' capacities to implement child safeguarding policies and procedures, including community complaint mechanisms, to prevent any harm or abuse by employees, partners, volunteers and/or other representatives, as well as non-staff (including suppliers and contractors) against children from the affected population.



64% of Syrian refugee births remain unregistered at the Foreigner's Registry

VASyR 2022

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

At an individual and household level, the Protection sector aims to address growing levels of violence, coercion, deliberate deprivation and exploitation, including trafficking, abuse and neglect against women, children, and persons at heightened risk. The sector will also address

^[28] This, for instance, will be achieved through positive parenting sessions encouraging role models and positive alternatives, and psychosocial support activities for adolescent girls addressing child marriage.

^[29] Protection Sector Protection Cash Guidance, July 2022; English: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/97075> Arabic: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/97076>.

high levels of mental health and psychosocial concerns and growing reliance on harmful coping strategies. The sector will transition back to an in-person approach to service provision unless in exceptional circumstances and for which there should be an added emphasis on program quality.

Output 3.1: Protection, Child Protection and GBV case management, psychosocial support, protection cash and other specialised services, are available, accessible, safe, and informed by women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity.

The Protection sector will strive to ensure that persons at heightened risk have access to an integrated package of quality prevention and response services that improve their safety and psychological wellbeing. Scaled up support will be provided through the provision of case management, PSS, and protection cash assistance.

Case management will remain the cornerstone for providing individual tailored support and protection to the most at-risk individuals to address violence, coercion, deliberate deprivation, abuse and neglect, including specialized GBV case management. The sector supports an approach which takes a strengths-based/survivor-centered, person-in-environment and trauma-informed approach to working with persons at heightened risk seeing them as active agents in dealing with difficult situations and the critical role their strengths, access to resources, relationships and capacities play in supporting their protection. This approach also recognises the important role the community and family can play to support cases within the action plan (and where additional harm is not identified). Given the significant needs, medium and high-risk cases will be prioritised, while low risk cases will be referred and integrated into community-based protection interventions. In 2023, the sector will promote the transition to an in-person approach to case management which prioritises the relationship between the person at risk and their case worker (except in the case of an exceptional circumstance). The sector will also emphasise the critical importance of adequate supervision of case workers and staff welfare considerations to ensure quality service provision in line with global and sectoral minimum standards. Case worker capacities will be strengthened to enhance the support to survivors at risk of trafficking, substance abuse cases and individuals with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. Stronger linkages between protection, education and health sectors will be made to ensure that quality specialized rehabilitation services, including assistive devices, are available for persons with disabilities and older persons at risk via protection and health partners. Disability inclusion mainstreaming will be ensured through systematic identification of disability using a functional approach^[30] (e.g., Washington Group Short Set of Questions) and through the adaptation of case management services.

Individual case management will be complemented by focused and non-focused PSS at the group and individual level that targets women at risk, including GBV survivors, survivors of trafficking, children and their caregivers, and other persons at heightened risk. Services for children will be reinforced through the engagement of their caregivers in focused and non-focused PSS activities and positive parenting sessions. These sessions will be provided together to enhance their effectiveness as the opportunity costs of participation may be high and inaccessible for the family. Efforts will be made to provide children and their caregivers with flexible hours to allow for children engaged in income-generating activities, such as street-connected children, to attend. Combining interventions through an integrated multi-sectoral package of services (including cash assistance) is essential to supporting individuals and families facing multiple deprivations and complex issues, such as child labour, child marriage and violence in the household, and can facilitate their access to and participation in protection activities. Importantly, although multidimensional poverty is often observed as the strongest driver of deprivation, factors like strong cultural and social norms, civil or legal status (e.g. child of single mother, migrant worker, undocumented or stateless person) and disability significantly exacerbate harm and limit access to services and protection. Strengthening complementary referrals to basic assistance, food security, shelter, education, and health will be imperative within the case management action plan, as well as drawing on family and community supports, and ultimately transitioning the most at-risk cases to more sustainable forms of assistance, such as livelihoods and social protection schemes where possible. Moreover, there is a demonstrated need to implement targeted services for adolescent girls and women, including both physical and virtual safe spaces supporting their safety and empowerment and to allow them to access information on available services, such as sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and mental health services and others. To this end, GBV partners will continue to operate Women and Girls' safe spaces and run community centres, or health clinics with integrated GBV services to ensure confidentiality of services allowing for safe disclosure and increased uptake. The sector will also continue to support existing safe shelter options to allow survivors at heightened risk to seek assistance within a safe environment. While being safe at the shelter, survivors and those at risk of GBV will receive individual case management services. As a sector, GBV partners will further advocate for inclusive admission criteria and tailored safety and protection options for heightened risk groups, including those marginalised within the society.

The Protection sector recognises the crucial role that MHPSS interventions play in achieving protection outcomes. Observed increases in mental health concerns and demand for services demonstrates the need for greater collaboration between the Protection and Health sectors and the National Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Task Force to streamline coordination and referrals and

^[30] A functional approach is designed to identify in a comparable manner people with a greater risk than the general population of not participating by collecting information on the difficulty of performing basic activities.

maximise efficiencies.^[31] For case workers, given the rise in suicidal ideations and psychological symptoms reported, there is a need to strengthen the integration of basic MHPSS assessments into case management tools and to train on suicide prevention and response within safety plans. Additional, joint-priority areas for 2023 are: to train caseworker and frontline protection staff on safe identification and referrals for persons with MHPSS concerns; to ensure an up-to-date service mapping of MHPSS services, including specialised in- and outpatient care for substance abuse cases; and, to mainstream key messages on MHPSS concerns and available services into health and protection information and outreach channels to address stigma and access barriers.



Parents and caregivers from the local community are completing a three-month training period, to be prepared to become advocates for children under the framework of UNICEF's QUDWA Strategy, Arsal, Lebanon – IRC, 2022

Protection and emergency cash assistance are critical interventions to prevent and respond to specific protection risks with the aim of achieving protection outcomes. The Protection Sector Guidance Note on Protection Cash was expanded in 2022 to include guidance on the provision of recurrent protection cash assistance and the use of cash as part of case management, in line with the scaling up of protection case management interventions and a more appropriate transfer value.^[32] Cash is often most successful in meeting protection outcomes when used alongside complementary interventions as part of an integrated multi-sectoral package to enhance the capacity of individuals/households to cope with shocks. Consistent and coordinated protection cash practices and improved monitoring and reporting on the impact of protection cash interventions on protection and social stability outcomes will be vital. The provision of cash plays a critical role in reducing the use of harmful coping mechanisms. In this respect, the Protection sector will continue to explore referral options for the most vulnerable individuals to Basic Assistance, Food Security and Agriculture and Livelihoods sectors to enhance the complementarity and sustainability of interventions. In 2023, Protection

sector will work with Livelihoods to; fast-track referrals for caregivers with children at risk or engaged in child labour or child marriage, including for female-headed households and GBV survivors; to promote the notion that small adaptations be made to livelihood activities for the inclusion of persons with moderate to minor disabilities; and to jointly advocate for sufficient multi-year funding for specific livelihood programmes to be established for persons with severe disabilities. This will be done with an aim to reduce the vulnerability of displaced persons to exploitation, to improve psychological wellbeing and mitigate potential dependency on humanitarian aid and support contributions to the local economy.

In recognition of the multi-dimensional impact that forced eviction has on a person's life, the Protection sector takes a cross-sectoral approach to preparedness, prevention, and response to forced eviction, in line with the Inter-Agency National Guidance note on individual forced eviction, which was developed in 2022. General preparedness measures will be maintained and improved across protection, shelter and social stability sectors, including referral pathways and regional operational coordination. The latter includes ad-hoc eviction task forces, early warning channels for identification, including protection monitoring, and last resort relocation options which are in place and known by staff, particularly to support protection cases in need of emergency and safe shelter options. Persons at heightened risk, especially where the risk of eviction has an associated protection risk/incident (extortion, forced labour, physical and psychological abuse, interruption of life-saving services, deliberate deprivation of services, homelessness, GBV and CP risks, confiscation of belongings and documentation) or who face aggravated protection risks due to a change in their shelter arrangements (including persons with disabilities, persons with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), older persons) will be prioritised. Response to eviction will be tailored to the merits of the case and support tenants as much as possible to resolve eviction threats and incidents by drawing on their own resources and support networks. Unless harmful, eviction response efforts will focus on eviction deviation. When eviction is unavoidable, all possible steps will be taken, in collaboration with the Shelter sector, to prevent homelessness. The protection sector will provide case management, including counselling. In specific situations and only when suitable, safe and with a sustainable impact, emergency cash and recurrent protection cash assistance will be provided, usually alongside collaborative dispute resolution efforts, where it has proved most effective.^[33] As captured in outcome 1, legal partners will continue to provide legal counselling, assistance and representation to enhance the tenant's security of tenure, including through the facilitation of lease agreements, to support the tenant in case they wish to press charges and can demonstrate proof of payment. CDR, including legal mediation between tenant and property owner, will be conducted where it is demonstrated to be impactful in certain circumstances, such as overturning eviction, extending eviction notices, drafting a rent instalment plan and supporting the retrieval

^[31] <https://www.moph.gov.lb/en/Pages/6/553/the-national-mental-health-program>.

^[32] Protection Sector Protection Cash Guidance, July 2022; English: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/97075> Arabic: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/97076>.

^[33] *Ibid.*

of confiscated belongings or documentation. Negotiations will be collaborative and based on good faith. They will be sensitive to the tenant and property owner relationship while advocating that due legal process is followed in accordance with the law. In all situations, the aim will be to transition the most at-risk households, which face recurrent risks of eviction, to a more sustainable solution through referral for cash-for-rent, multipurpose cash assistance, livelihoods and more targeted forms of social protection where possible and available.

Output 3.2: Refugees have improved access to durable solutions.

To ensure the protection of displaced Syrians and refugees of other nationalities, it is essential they are able to access and make free and informed decisions on durable solutions. In that respect, the sector will continue to advocate for increased opportunities for resettlement for persons at heightened risk, in line with the Lebanon Partnership Paper, as they remain limited. Simultaneously, the sector will strengthen the identification of persons displaced from Syria with compelling protection needs and ensuring their referral to resettlement or other humanitarian admission programmes.^[34] At the same time, “the Government of Lebanon and its international partners [have] reiterated that the main durable solution for displaced Syrians in Lebanon is their safe, dignified and non-coercive return to their country of origin, in accordance with international law and the principle of non-refoulement.”^[35] In that regard, the Protection sector will continue to remind authorities that conditions in Syria are not yet conducive to return despite some small scale individual movements and to advocate that discussions on return plans take into account protection thresholds.^[36] It will also continue to provide basic counselling as part of regular activities and support displaced persons who have decided to return to Syria or another country of origin to assist them to re-establish themselves and access basic services upon return.

Identification of sector needs and targets at the individual/household, community and institutional/physical environment level^[37]

The three outcomes of the Protection sector have been prioritised by focusing on the positive changes that can be made at the individual, household, community and institutional levels as well as through strategic collaboration and partnerships with other sectors, governmental entities and development actors. To ensure complementarity with other response frameworks, the

child protection and gender-based violence sub-sectors have ensured that targets for the Lebanese community for specific activities that exceed the scope of the LCRP are allocated to the emergency response plan.

At the individual and household level captured in outcome 3, the sector targets based on a recognition that a person's characteristics and circumstances, such as their age, gender, disability or other diversity characteristics, result in risk factors when they interact with threats and barriers in their wider environment (i.e. interpersonal relations, community and society). As such, categorical needs assessments must be informed by a regular protection analysis of the threats, vulnerabilities and coping capacities and not through a predetermined category of vulnerabilities. The sector adopts the one refugee inclusive targeting approach inclusive of refugees of other nationalities, migrants and other persons at risk. Targets have been set based on needs identified at the onset of the LCRP and have been adjusted to reflect increased needs based on the protection analysis, drawn from 2022 protection-monitoring results, the VASYR 2022, MSNA 2022, IOM assessments and other specific assessments, as well as through exchanges with partners. A total of 1,939,736 displaced Syrians, Lebanese and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon will be targeted through Protection sector interventions.

At the community level, captured in outcome 2, the sector targets and leverages its existing community structures (community organisations, groups, centres and social stability mechanisms). New or scaled-up interventions are informed by findings from protection monitoring assessments, real time monitoring, GBV and CP IMS trends and by the updated the 332 localities that host the highest number of displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees and deprived Lebanese which highlights vulnerable areas with a high refugee-to-host community ratio.

At the institutional level, national and local institutions will be prioritised based on the capacities, needs and results of previous capacity-building initiatives. For capacity building, technical and financial support, the sector targets government institutions engaged in management of the border, civil documents and legal residency processing and law enforcement, such as the GSO, ISF, PSD, and LAF. Also targeted will be local CSOs, MoSA and social development centres that are used for child protection services and safe spaces for survivors of violence, and the ISF academy and municipal police under MoIM. MoSA and MOIM are key partners in collective eviction and other restrictive measure negotiations at the local level. Legal aid systems are reinforced to support access to justice, including representation through close engagement with the MoJ, the Courts and the Bar associations and the MoL. Health facilities will receive capacity-development training on clinical management of rape (CMR) in collaboration with the MoPH and the Clinical Management of Rape Taskforce under the national CMR strategy. Partnerships will be encouraged over one-off interventions to foster a comprehensive, effective and durable approach to capacity-building.

^[34] Lebanon Partnership Paper (April 2018), para. 47.

^[35] Lebanon Partnership Paper (April 2018), para. 41.

^[36] Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategy: Protection Thresholds and Parameters for Refugee Return to Syria (2018, UNHCR).

^[37] This can include Governorates, Districts, Cadastres, villages ...etc.

3. MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER AND GBV, PROTECTION, CONFLICT SENSITIVITY, PSEA, ENVIROMENT AND HEALTH

The Protection sector will support the Inter-Sector Working Group to ensure that protection principles (meaningful access without discrimination, safety, dignity and avoidance of causing harm, participation and empowerment and accountability) are mainstreamed across the 2023 LCRP. Through a protection mainstreaming approach, other cross-cutting issues (do-no-harm, age, gender, disability) will be mainstreamed with specific support provided by technical focal points.

In 2023, the Protection sector will focus on the following key priorities:

To build on existing protection analysis to enhance an intersectional approach to the analysis of age, gender, disability and diversity factors across community groups where possible, filling identified data gaps and ensuring protection risks are considered and mitigated across sectors

To support other sectors to identify protection risks and implement mitigation measures through sector-specific PRA with focused support provided to Shelter, Basic Assistance, Health and WASH sectors

To improve the monitoring and reporting of protection mainstreaming actions conducted

Accountability to Affected Populations will continue to be central to the response. At a minimum, trainings on the Inter-Agency referral tools will be provided, the Inter-Agency online service mapping and referral reporting system will be maintained and updated. Options will also be explored to include complaint and feedback reporting.

The Protection Mainstreaming Community of Practice will continue to support staff, across sectors, who are working within their organisations on protection mainstreaming and related cross-cutting topics. It will be a space to support learning needs and best practices, where technical trainings and events will also be arranged.

Conflict Sensitivity

The conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm principles are a core tenet of protection programming. Protection partners develop activities based on a thorough analysis of inter-group dividers and connectors. Care is taken not only to avoid worsening dividers but also to build upon and avoid undermining existing connectors, which are an important aspect of a community's positive coping capacities. Protection programming will be closely informed by appropriate tensions monitoring and conflict sensitivity analysis, in a context where tensions related to access

to services, goods and assistance are increasingly a source of tensions.^[38] In 2023 the sector will explore more deeply the potential risks resulting from its interventions, particularly cash assistance targeting and outreach volunteer partner selection, and put in place adaptation or mitigation measures to avoid worsening tensions. Partner participation in conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm training will be promoted as well as training on negotiation and de-escalation skills particularly for staff engaged in collaborative dispute resolution, and a quarterly tensions update will be presented in the protection working group.^[39] In 2023, the sector will support efforts to improve effective communication about assistance for the Lebanese as well as eligibility criteria. Coordination with the Social Stability sector will be enhanced to ensure the use of regular tensions monitoring and protection risks analysis to support all sectors.

Age, Gender, Disability

The Protection sector takes an intersectional approach to vulnerability. In doing so it will enhance its age, gender and disability analysis in order to identify protection risks and develop mitigation measures adapted to the diverse needs of women, girls, men and boys. The sector's approach will also promote gender equality, particularly throughout its interventions. Protection programming aims to be gender-transformative; at minimum, however, it should be gender-responsive, avoid reinforcing existing stereotypes and make efforts to understand the perspectives and experiences of diverse women, men, girls and boys. Existing gender norms, including entrenched masculinity models, will be more systematically assessed and consistently addressed to ensure that the sector tackles gender dynamics, which are the root cause of some of the most complex protection issues, such as child marriage. The sector will promote the inclusion of gender mainstreaming and targeted action for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all protection mainstreaming activities.

The sector will continue to support GBV risk mitigation and mainstreaming activities in line with the Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action. The sector will increasingly engage with grassroots women's organisations in order to support them and strengthen their capacities. It will also work on strengthening referrals and building the capacity

^[38] UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV, August 2022.

^[39] Incorporation of the guiding principles on conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm will be done in line with 'Guidance Note One: Getting Started with Conflict Sensitivity in Lebanon' by UNDP Lebanon 2022.

of humanitarian workers and sectorial risk mitigation interventions based on localised safety audit results.

Barriers – environmental, attitudinal, institutional and communication-related – to the full access to and participation of persons with disabilities, older persons and women and adolescent girls should be removed through capacity-building and programme adjustment.

Persons with disabilities and their caregivers will be more systematically consulted and their contributions will be reflected in programme design, implementation and monitoring.

The Inter-Agency mapping of services^[40] will be regularly reviewed to ensure that specialised services for persons with disabilities are identified, strengthened and included in referral pathways.

The sector will actively promote the use of contextually appropriate and verifiable data collection tools in the Protection and other sectors as well as through inter-sectoral tools. This will allow for greater identification, better understanding of barriers to services, and for humanitarian activities being equitable for all.

Closer attention will be paid to ensuring that programmes are accessible and inclusive across sectors, and to ensure the inclusive design of communication and information channels and materials, including through the development and dissemination of adapted guidance.^[41]

Environment

Given the implications of environment-related issues on protection risks, including the threat of collective evictions and community tensions, the Protection sector will work in coordination with the Social Stability Sector (including the Solid Waste Management Task Force) and the WASH sector to mitigate environmental degradation and its impact on protection concerns and the inclusion of protection criteria in the prioritisation of these sites should be included. The sector will coordinate with the ETF based at the MoE for raising awareness on environment and hygiene related messages to communities through community structures. Awareness on the inclusion of environmental considerations in programs related to social behaviour change will also be raised.

^[40] Inter-Agency Service Mapping found here: <http://ialebanon.unhcr.org/ServiceMapping/index.html> and Inter-Agency Minimum Standards on Referrals found here: [Inter-Agency Minimum Standards on Referrals.pdf](#).

^[41] Such as IASC (2019), *Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action*, and DG ECHO (2019), *The Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in EU-funded Humanitarian Aid Operations*.

Population Cohorts	Total Population	Total Population in Need	Total Population Targeted	Total Population Targeted by Sex and Age					
				# Women	% Women	# Men	% Men	# Children (0–18)	% Children
Lebanese	3,864,296	1,500,000	336,000	174,720	52%	161,280	48%	44,612	13%
Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	780,000	52%	720,000	48%	95,845	6%
Palestinian refugee from Syria	29,000	29,000	29,000	14,404	50%	13,296	46%	6,158	21%
Palestine refugee in Lebanon	180,000	180,000	70,000	10,400	15%	9,600	14%	15,455	22%
GRAND TOTAL	5,573,296	3,209,000	1,935,000	979,524	51%	904,176	47%	162,070	8%

Type of institution	Total	# Targeted
Municipalities	1,005	249
Primary health care centres	102	35
Secondary health care centres/Hospitals	153	25
Schools	n/a	n/a
Water establishments	n/a	n/a
Social development centres	233	75
Central ministries	23	6



Syrian refugee writing on the attendance sheet during a project, Zgharta – World Vision Lebanon, 2023

OUTCOME 1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and access to an effective justice and protection system.

INDICATOR 1A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of persons with legal stay	Percentage of persons who have legal residency, out of the total displaced Syrian population. This indicator will be disaggregated by age group and sex.	VASyR	%	Yearly



Displaced Syrians

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
26%	17%	40%

INDICATOR 1B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of children born in Lebanon whose birth is registered at the Nofous level	Percentage of children (0-5 years old) born in Lebanon whose birth is registered at the level of the Nofous. This indicator will be disaggregated by sex.	VASyR	%	Yearly



Displaced Syrians

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
36%	53%	50%

INDICATOR 1C	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of children born in Lebanon whose birth is registered at the Foreigners' Registry level	Percentage of children (aged 0-5 years) born in Lebanon whose birth is registered at the level of the Foreigners' Registry (Personal Status Department). This indicator will be disaggregated by sex.	VASyR	%	Yearly



Displaced Syrians

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
17%	36%	40%

INDICATOR 1D	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of households who have moved accommodation in the last 6 months due to eviction	Percentage of households who have moved accommodation in the last 6 months due to eviction. This indicator will be disaggregated by age group and sex.	VASyR	%	Yearly



Displaced Syrians

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	2%	2.80%

INDICATOR 1E	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of children aged 2-14 who experienced violent disciplinary practices	UNICEF Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey Indicator 8.3 Numerator = Number of children age 2-14 years who experienced psychological aggression or physical punishment during the last one month Denominator = Total number of children age 1-14 years	MICS 2018 & 2021	%	Every 2 years



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians







Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)


Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
57%	N/A	40%	65%	58%	45%	77%	N/A	45%	82%	N/A	45%

INDICATOR 1F	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of women and girls aged 15-49 who state that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife	Standard MICS indicator used to assess the attitudes of women age 15-49 towards wife beating by asking the respondents whether husbands are justified to hit or beat their wives in a variety of situations, including (i) goes out without telling him, (ii) neglects the children, (iii) argues with him, (iv) refuses sex with him, and (v) burns the food. The purpose of these questions are to capture the social justification of violence (in contexts where women have a lower status in society) as a disciplinary action when a woman does not comply with certain expected gender roles. By 2018, a reduction of 12% of the baseline in targeted communities is expected. By 2020, a reduction of 20% in targeted communities is expected.	MICS 2018, 2021	%	Every 2 years


 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
6%	N/A	5%	10%	N/A	8%	5%	N/A	4%	11%	N/A	9%

OUTCOME 2: Women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity are safe, empowered and supported in their communities.


INDICATOR 2A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of women and girls who report actions taken in their communities in the past 6 months that made them feel safer (disaggregated by disability and age)	As per GBV M&E Toolkit - Tool 4, the indicator will be measured through regular monitoring of safe spaces (e.g. FGDs) and internal safety audits / safety assessments conducted in intervention areas. Questions will evaluate whether women and girls, including with disabilities, are able to report at least one intervention taken in their communities that made them feel safer. Communities are defined as places where individuals live, work and/or convene.	Tool 4 of the GBV toolkit; KAP survey and FGD	%	Quarterly

 Displaced Syrians		
Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	70%	N/A

INDICATOR 2B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of women, men, girls and boys report feeling very or fairly safe walking around their neighborhood	VASyR question: "How safe do you feel walking alone in your area or neighborhood?" (Asked to the main respondent/ collected at HH level)	VASyR	%	Yearly

 Displaced Syrians		
Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
77%	83%	N/A

INDICATOR 2C	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of diverse women, men, girls and boys who report knowing how to report a complaint or provide feedback on humanitarian assistance	Question to be designed & included in 2022 VASyR.	VASyR	%	Yearly

 Displaced Syrians		
Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	74%	N/A

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

INDICATOR 3A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of persons referred provided with services	Percentage of persons referred, provided with services under the categories of the Inter-Agency Referral Database, e.g.: Legal, Persons with Specific Needs, etc.), and whose cases were successfully closed. Calculation method: [Referrals accepted and successfully closed, all sectors] / [Total referrals to all sectors]	Inter-Agency Tracking System through ActivityInfo	%	Quarterly

Total

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	42%	N/A

INDICATOR 3B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of persons receiving protection and emergency cash assistance who report it contributed to addressing their protection risk/incident	This requires reporting on the number of surveyed individuals through outcome monitoring and of that number who said cash contributed to addressing a protection risk/incident. This indicator will be disaggregated by nationality, age (0-17, 18-59 and 60+), sex and disability. Reporting indicators: # of individuals surveyed in outcome monitoring (who received cash) # of individuals surveyed in outcome monitoring who report that cash contributed to addressing a protection risk/incident. Reported by IMO as a % calculated out of all partner data. See Protection Sector Cash Core Indicator Toolkit for further details. (GBV, CP, PRT partners)	ActivityInfo; partner reports	%	Quarterly

Total

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	94%	N/A

INDICATOR 3D	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Number of persons benefitting from resettlement or other humanitarian pathways	Number of persons who have benefitted from resettlement or other humanitarian admission programmes procedures who have departed. This indicator will be disaggregated by nationality.	ProGress reports (UNHCR only)	Indiv	Quarterly

Total

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
7771	8,224	N/A

INDICATOR 3E	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of children aged 5-17 engaged in child labour	UNICEF Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey Indicator 8.2 Numerator = Number of children age 5-17 years who are involved in child labour Denominator = Total number of children age 5-17 years	MICS 2022 & VASyR 2022 & MSNA 2022	%	Every 2 years

**Displaced Syrians**

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
7%	4%	N/A

INDICATOR 3F	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of children (boys and girls) who reported an improvement in their psychosocial well-being as measured through the SDQ	Children (who are enrolled in PSS programmes) who report and increase in their well-being based on SDQ carried out in PSS activities.	Collected via monitoring tool - SDQ administered in PSS programmes	%	Semi-annual



Displaced Syrians

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
45%	N/A	N/A

INDICATOR 3E	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of women (20-24) married before 18	Standard MICS indicator on Child Marriage targeting women aged 20-24 married before age 18. The indicator will be measured every two years. By 2018, a reduction of 12% of the baseline in targeted communities is expected. By 2020, a reduction of 20% in targeted communities is expected.	MICS 2018, 2021	%	Every 2 years



Displaced Syrians

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
41%	N/A	N/A



SHELTER SECTOR

PEOPLE IN NEED**1,993,390****PEOPLE TARGETED****681,311****NEEDS-BASED APPEAL****\$115M****PARTNERS****18****GENDER MARKER****4***

*Intends to contribute to gender equality, including across age groups AND/OR people with disabilities

CONTACT**LEAD MINISTRY**

Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)
Mazen Riachi
riachimasen@outlook.com

COORDINATING AGENCY

UNHCR
Abdulrahman Abdelghani
abdelgab@unhcr.org
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Reihaneh Mozaffari
reihaneh.mozaffari@nrc.no

SECTOR OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1:

Reduce immediate protection-related shelter needs of most vulnerable households

INDICATOR

- Percentage of most vulnerable households whose shelters in informal settlements or in substandard residential and non-residential buildings have improved privacy, safety and security

OUTCOME 2:

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

INDICATORS

- Percentage of residential households in disadvantaged areas benefitting from shelter upgrades to minimum standards
- Percentage of 332 most vulnerable localities (cadastral level) containing a multi-sectorally assessed or profiled area





OUTCOME 3:

Enhance the contribution of national institutions and organizations to the housing situation in Lebanon

INDICATORS

- Percentage of institutions and organisations participating in the Shelter sector response that are Lebanese
- Number of Lebanese institutions and organisations with improved ability to contribute to housing policy discussions through exposure to new housing-related evidence

POPULATION BREAKDOWN

POPULATION COHORT	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	FEMALE ♀	MALE ♂
 Vulnerable Lebanese	911,990	81,651	42,458	39,193
 Displaced Syrians	870,000	561,660	286,446	275,214
 Palestinian Refugees from Syria	31,400	19,000	9,880	9,120
 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	180,000	19,000	9,880	9,120

1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

The multiple crises facing Lebanon in recent years have resulted in a dramatic increase in poverty across all populations. This has strained the already vulnerable populations' access to basic services and affordable housing.

Vulnerable Lebanese, along with displaced Syrians, migrants, Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS), live in poor neighbourhoods throughout the country, particularly in dense urban centres. Neighbourhood profiles^[1] of vulnerable urban and peri-urban areas create illustrative snapshots showing that Lebanese and non-Lebanese low-income groups share the difficulties in accessing secure, adequate^[2] and affordable housing.

In recent years, as the state supply of services such as electricity and water has decreased, housing for the majority of vulnerable populations has become increasingly unaffordable. Households rely on expensive informal solutions, which can exceed rent expenditure in some regions.^[3] Further exacerbating the strain, rent for Syrian households across all shelter types has almost tripled in the past year as property owners increased rent twice on average,^[4] with similar increases impacting the other vulnerable population groups.^[5] For the first time in 2022, measurable dollarized rent was observed with four per cent^[6] recorded by June and anecdotal reports from field partners indicating that 30 per cent of rent was dollarised in some areas by the fall of 2022. This is primarily attributed to property owners looking to preserve the value of an increasingly important income stream.^[7]

Rising eviction threats for Syrian households from five per cent in 2021 to seven per cent in 2022, linked predominantly to an inability to pay rent, is concerning given that 84 per cent of Syrian^[8] households rent accommodations. Over 50 per cent of Syrian households have accrued rental debt with households late on average by more than three months of rent while also having paid 50 per cent of the agreed monthly rent in the last 30 days.^[9] Twenty-three per cent of Lebanese are renting,^[10] half of which are taking

on debt primarily to pay for rent.^[11] The deteriorating trend affecting all population groups is particularly worrying as eviction threats are linked to the feeling of insecurity even inside the home.^[12]

The impact of the overall situation can be expected to disproportionately affect already vulnerable groups, including female-headed households (FHH), socially excluded groups, and persons with specific needs who face specific shelter-related protection risks. Female-headed households are more likely than male-headed households to take on debt, with FHH paying 13 per cent less of the total rent amount.^[13] These groups are more susceptible than others to exploitation by property owners, resorting to negative coping mechanisms to access adequate housing.

Over 50% of Syrian households have accrued **rental debt** with households late on average by more than three months of rent while also having paid 50% of the agreed monthly rent in the last 30 days

VASyR 2022

Seventy per cent of displaced Syrians live in residential and 10 per cent in non-residential shelters while 21 per cent live in non-permanent structures in informal settlements. Female-headed households are more likely to live in informal settlements than Syrian male-headed households (27% vs. 19%) with the majority concentrated in the Bekaa and Baalbek-Hermel governorates. Overall, 58 per cent^[14] of displaced Syrians live in inadequate shelter conditions^[15] distributed across the three shelter types with the highest percentage of inadequacy (78%) being in informal settlements.^[16] The large proportion of households living in substandard shelters and the continued debt accumulation, highlight the struggle of displaced Syrians to access affordable and adequate shelter. This is particularly concerning for the three per cent

[1] UN-Habitat and UNICEF.

[2] None of the following conditions are present: structure in dangerous condition, physical quality of shelter below shelter standard, overcrowding (<4.5sqm per person).

[3] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2022), VASyR 2022.

[4] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2022), VASyR 2022.

[5] Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), 2022.

[6] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2022), VASyR 2022.

[7] Shelter sector (2022), Field Consultations Nov. 2022.

[8] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2022), VASyR 2022.

[9] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2022), VASyR 2022.

[10] Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), 2022.

[11] Housing can be a factor in GBV survivors' abilities to leave violent home situations. Women are often dependent on their family for housing and lack rights to their homes. Often they may not be named on any lease agreement and do not have a separate income or ability to pay rent.

[12] UNHCR's Participatory Assessment (PA), 2022.

[13] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2022), VASyR 2022.

[14] This is based on direct observations by VASyR 2022 enumerators when visiting the shelters.

[15] One or more of the following is present: structure in dangerous condition, physical quality of shelter below shelter standard, overcrowding (<4.sqm per person).

[16] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2022), VASyR 2022.

of displaced Syrians (equally for males and females) who have expressed concerns over being sexually exploited when accessing the housing market.^[17]

Lebanese, Palestinian refugee in Lebanon and migrants all predominantly live in residential units while less than 2.5 per cent of the population live in non-permanent or non-residential units. Forty per cent of Lebanese and 29 per cent of migrant households live in inadequate conditions.^[18] Additionally, 65 per cent of Palestinian refugee in Lebanon shelter conditions are inadequate.^[19] According to UNRWA's 'Inventory and Needs Assessment on Environmental Infrastructure and Environmental Health in the 12 Palestine Refugee Camps in Lebanon', 'Many shelters are at risk of collapse or are uninhabitable due to leaks and unhygienic conditions. The vast majority of the 14,000 buildings and 40,000 shelters were unplanned, nor were they built using safe engineering or construction practices. Most lack a foundation and were created with cheap and inappropriate construction materials, leading to cracks, leakages and – in many instances – structural failure' (UNRWA, 2017^[20]).

Amongst Palestinian refugees from Syria, 41 per cent are hosted in the twelve official Palestine refugee camps,

which also accommodate 45 per cent of Palestine refugees from Lebanon. The remaining Palestinian refugees from Lebanon and Syria live in areas adjacent to camps or other locations. In the Palestinian camps, the majority of shelters are unplanned, are at risk of collapse and offer unhygienic conditions due to factors including leaks and inappropriate construction materials.^[21]

Shelter partners have relayed that the low funding of shelter programmes has led to visible frustration by all vulnerable groups. The relatively small targets compare to previous years that partners can deliver are contributing to the perception of unequal or unfair distribution of assistance.^[22]

^[17] UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2022), VASyR 2022.

^[18] Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), 2022.

^[19] Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), 2022.

^[20] UNRWA (2017), *Inventory and Needs Assessment on Environmental Infrastructure and Environmental Health in the twelve Palestine refugee camps in Lebanon, Response Plan 2018 – 2021 by Field Infrastructure and Camp Improvement Programme*.

^[21] UNRWA (2017), *Environmental Health Response Plan in the 12 Palestine Refugee Camps in Lebanon (2018-2021) with Inventory and Needs A.*

^[22] Shelter sector (2022), *Field Consultations Nov. 2022*.

2. OVERALL SECTOR STRATEGY

Theory of change

The Shelter sector aims to ensure the protection of vulnerable populations and to contribute to social stability by improving access to physically adequate shelters with the security of tenure. Improved access to adequate shelters will be accomplished by providing protection-focused assistance that addresses the shelter inadequacies of vulnerable households. Three complimentary entry points are utilised to achieve this:

The sector will respond to the needs of individual households by improving shelter conditions to create living spaces for women, girls, boys and men to feel safe, to live in privacy and security, as well as to mitigate health risks (both physical and psychosocial).

With this trend stronger in disadvantaged areas, the sector will contribute to multisectoral initiatives in coordination with other sectors to address the shelter needs of identified vulnerable women, girls, boys and men in disadvantaged geographic areas. The results will also promote peaceful coexistence and social stability. The multisectoral, area-based approach to interventions will also improve the sustainability of the results, as compared to single sector responses.

As the housing situation is closely correlated with the capabilities of national institutions, support to develop capacities that were possible at both the national and local levels can enable increasing sustainability and the creation of durable solutions for vulnerable populations.

In 2023, the Shelter sector strategy continues to take into account the following considerations in the planning of targeted shelter interventions for vulnerable households:

Government restrictions remain on the type and durability of permitted shelter materials which can be utilised in informal settlements. Moreover, the number of actors supporting this assistance has reduced significantly.

While efforts to reduce overcrowding in residential and non-residential shelters are supported in principle, this has proven achievable only when available housing options are adequate and affordable. The sector recognises that households do not favour being moved from their existing social and work networks and from educational opportunities, except when facing a threat to their physical safety or other serious protection risks.

Some substandard buildings, particularly those in the non-residential category, offer such inadequate living conditions that the cost and legal documents/permits required to upgrade them to minimum standards are out of scope for Shelter partners.

By relying on the PRA, which was jointly developed with the Protection sector in 2021, the Shelter sector will

understand the protection vulnerabilities of those in need of shelter assistance. This will ensure the sector's adherence to protection principles and other cross-cutting issues throughout.

Risks and Assumptions

The ability to achieve the above is likely to be reduced should the following scenarios and their associated risks occur:

The Shelter sector assumes that the implementation of urban shelter interventions will support the slowing down or even the reversal of the trend of downgrading shelter types and conditions. Further reduction in funding available to the sector has limited the partners' ability to assist households with shelter vulnerabilities, with some districts currently not covered by any Shelter sector partner. This will affect particularly those living outside informal settlements. The sector will continue to advocate with donors on the protection dividends of adequate shelter and the criticality of the housing sector to sustainable development generally, as set out in the housing chapter of the 3RF. (Probability: High; Impact: Very high)

A key assumption for the sector is the ability to provide conditional cash assistance sufficient to mitigate evictions by assisting with rent payments. The transfer value of the cash for rent programme is linked to the rental market of residential shelters, which in turn remains highly dependent on the volatile informal exchange rate. This situation poses a risk to the stability and consistency of the cash for rent transfers, potentially affecting the value of amounts transferred to assisted households. By establishing a 'Cash for Rent Transfer Value Dashboard', the sector has worked to harmonize the cash for rent amounts since February 2022.^[23] The sector ensures an evidence-based and collective process of monitoring and updating transfer values quarterly by utilising the rent amounts collected as part of the protection monitoring survey, which are then validated through shelter partners and field teams. This adopted methodology has been integral to responding to the challenges of rental market fluctuations and regional differences between governorates. (Probability: Very high; Impact: Very high)

The sector assumes that shelter interventions would improve the accessibility of FHH, women at risk and socially excluded groups, people with specific needs (PwSN) and elderly individuals to adequate shelters. The dramatic increase in poverty over the past three years has inevitably placed additional strain on the ability of already vulnerable populations to access adequate shelters,

^[23] Rent disbursement maximums are set at the governorate level using quarterly average rent data from the Protection Monitoring Survey and then validated by regional coordinators and partners.

with the threat of evictions^[24] on the rise and pressure to downgrade shelter standards or access to services to meet households' other basic needs. The impact can be expected to disproportionately affect already vulnerable groups, including FHH, persons with disabilities and the elderly. The sector will continue to prioritise these demographics for tailored assistance and will also work with the Protection sector to raise awareness of Housing Land and Property (HLP) rights amongst households, property owners and relevant national entities. (Probability: High; Impact: Very high)

The successful implementation of integrated multi-sectoral interventions is dependent on the adoption of the approach by the Inter-sector. There is a difficulty in demonstrating to other sectors the added value of working at an area-based level in a multi-sectoral coordinated manner, which may compromise the ability of partners to secure funding. The sector will formulate good practice guidelines, including local case studies for dissemination amongst donors, other sectors and local entities. Challenges to securing adequate funding levels remain the largest obstruction to sustainable results. (Probability: Medium; Impact: High)

The local availability of shelter/construction materials is a key element to the successful implementation of shelter programming. The economic crisis, the disruptions linked to the situation in Ukraine, the banking system and the continued volatility of the local currency could delay partners in implementing shelter activities that require the procurement of shelter material, fuel, contractor engagement and cash disbursement. The Shelter sector will constantly monitor the procurement plan of shelter materials and ensure alignment with the sector's winterisation programme. To mitigate the effects of the economic crisis on programming, the sector can frontload the purchase of materials to avoid foreseen price increases, when funding is available. The sector will also flag programme implementation delays/interruptions resulting from banking restrictions to donors and other relevant stakeholders for advocacy purposes. (Probability: High. Impact: Medium)

The sector assumes that the shelter contingency stocks available in the country are sufficient to respond to shelter-related emergencies. Further shocks stemming from the regulatory environment may generate pressure on emergency contingency stocks, with implications for the ability to meet immediate needs. The sector will continue to update the contingency stock database and assess existing warehousing capacity in the four regions to allow for the prepositioning of shelter stock. The sector will remain prepared to utilise the available shelter stock, earmarked for regular programming, to respond to emergencies and advocate for replenishment so as not to jeopardize the yearly winterisation programme. (Probability: Medium; Impact: High)

The sector assumes that there will be no disruption to

the work schedule of shelter programming. In previous years, road blockages, fuel and material shortages and the Covid lockdowns impacted the sector's service delivery. The sector will continue to keep business continuity and contingency plans updated and relevant to mitigate the effects of any operational disruption while maximising service delivery. (Probability: High; Impact: High)

The sector assumes that the funding situation will continue to be challenging and anticipates further reductions. Partners do not have the funding/capacity to fully cover the shelter needs of vulnerable populations in all geographical areas. The sector will continue to prioritise the most vulnerable and will aim to maximise the limited resources at its disposal to ensure it can maintain core activities and an effective emergency response. The sector anticipates an increased probability of social instability and protection risks in areas where needs that are left uncovered are unmet in a timely manner. (Probability: Very high; Impact: Very high)

The projected continued increase in rental costs, coupled with a decrease in the number of households receiving multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) due to the overall funding outlook, is expected to negatively impact the capability of vulnerable households to meet their rental obligations. This will likely increase tensions between tenants and property owners as well as increase evictions and eviction threats. With the sector's chronic underfunding and the subsequent shrinkage in the response capacity of sector partners, absorbing additional cash for rent caseloads will put further pressure on the sector to prioritise amongst extremely vulnerable households at risk of homelessness with competing protection vulnerabilities. The sector in partnership with Protection and Social Stability sectors will continue proactive efforts to stop evictions before they occur while supporting evicted households whenever possible in accordance with the jointly developed 'National Guidance note on individual forced eviction.' (Probability: High; Impact: high)

Sector Results: LCRP impacts, sector Outcomes, Outputs

Expected results

The Shelter sector contributes to all four of the LCRP's Strategic Objectives:

- Strategic Objective 1: 'Ensure protection of vulnerable populations'.
- Strategic Objective 2: 'Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations'.
- Strategic Objective 3: 'Support service provision through national systems'.
- Strategic Objective 4: 'Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability'.

^[24] Reported evictions are largely due to the increasing inability of tenants to pay rent and increasing unwillingness of landlords to extend credit.

The sector's response is organized around three outcomes:

Outcome 1: Reduce immediate protection-related shelter needs of most vulnerable households.

This first outcome contributes to Impact 1 of the LCRP. Displaced persons from Syria and vulnerable populations live in a safe protective environment. This outcome will be achieved by mitigating the deterioration of shelter conditions or shelter security of tenure for households with acute needs through the provision of protection-focused assistance.

Delivering humanitarian shelter assistance to displaced Syrian households residing in residential buildings, non-residential buildings and informal settlements, where hazardous conditions are prevalent, can positively impact the overall well-being of vulnerable households^[25] as well as help ensure their physical protection. Delivering protection-focused shelter assistance will safeguard the health, privacy, safety, security and dignity of vulnerable households. Such assistance also helps reduce the shock of emergencies caused by fire, floods, evictions and adverse weather events as well as helps mitigate the knock-on effect of shelter inadequacy on vulnerable households, including the worsening of their protection and health needs.^[26]

For the outcome to be achieved, it is assumed that assisted households will properly utilise shelter materials or cash assistance provided in accordance with the sector's guidance in relation to their particular needs. It is also assumed that landlords, particularly those owning low-quality shelter units, will show interest in reducing rental fees and formalising rental agreements in exchange for upgrades or cash assistance offered by the shelter programs. These interventions will prioritise FHH, persons with specific shelter-related risks and socially excluded groups.

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

The Shelter sector utilises several modalities to improve the shelter conditions of vulnerable households living in informal settlements. These include the provision of shelter materials through in-kind assistance, the provision of fire-fighting equipment coupled with fire prevention sensitisation and the improvement of site conditions for enhanced accessibility and assistance delivery. The

effectiveness of shelter weatherproofing is dependent on the proper installation of materials. As such, the sector shares technical guidance and manuals with beneficiaries on recommended practices in shelter maintenance. People with specific needs, including older persons and FHHs, report difficulties in weatherproofing their shelters mostly due to a lack of technical skills or abilities, given the differences in culturally grounded gender and age roles. Having to rely on external support to install shelter material can lead to increased risks of exploitation, especially for women and girls-at-risk. In order to mitigate such risks, the sector provides tailored shelter assistance and labour support as needed.

Not originally designed for residential use, non-residential structures (garages, factories, workshops etc.) are by default considered unsuitable for living. Two per cent of displaced Syrians reside in non-residential collective shelters,^[27] which are found to be critically substandard with the prevalence of protection vulnerability linked to safety and privacy issues caused by sharing facilities such as toilets and kitchens. These are severely underserved by the response, leading to hidden pockets of vulnerability, due both to low visibility and the need for recurrent shelter assistance to maintain acceptable living conditions. Basic but effective shelter and WASH interventions can improve living conditions, especially in areas characterised by extreme weather events. These interventions include weatherproofing and minor repair activities, which utilise construction material to seal shelters from external elements and improve their privacy, safety and security.

The sector in 2022 increasingly relied on conditional cash assistance to mitigate eviction threats and respond to evictions as economic conditions deteriorated. In 2023 the sector will continue to provide conditional cash assistance to socio-economically vulnerable households who are unable to pay rent after their rental lease agreement has lapsed. This will help mitigate eviction risk and provide households who are recovering from a shock/emergency with a temporary rent safety net for up to 12 months, until they can meet their rental obligation. Lastly, conditional cash for rent will also be utilised pre-emptively as a standalone intervention to support households living in adequate residential shelters in mitigating eviction risk due to the inability to pay rent. This will be implemented as part of a holistic approach to mitigate the impact of evictions in collaboration with the Basic Assistance and Protection sectors.^[28] Coordination with the Protection sector is also necessary to appropriately identify any potential protection risks related to cash assistance aimed at eviction prevention and to put in place mitigation measures as developed in the "National Guidance note

^[25] In addition to poor physical shelter standards, the overwhelming majority of displaced Syrians in informal settlements, non-residential shelters and residential shelters are living below the S/MEB (96%, 94% and 87%, respectively [VASyR, 2022]). Furthermore, a disproportionate share of households in informal settlements are female-headed (23.2%, compared to 16.4% and 15.9% in non-residential and residential shelters, respectively) (VASyR, 2022).

^[26] For instance, the sealing of shelters (weatherproofing) can enhance the effectiveness of the winter support activities of the Basic Assistance sector, such as cash for fuel or provision of stoves. Also, installing partitions within a shelter to separate the sleeping spaces can reduce risk of GBV.

^[27] Abandoned factories, farms, resorts, hotels and schools, where households share facilities such as the kitchen and/or bathrooms.

^[28] General preparedness measures will be put in place including maintaining an updated mapping of operational actors across sectors who can prevent and respond to eviction threats, actual evictions and their impacts as well as mapping the roles and responsibilities particularly of shelter, basic assistance, protection and livelihood partners as part of a cross-sectoral action plan for response.

on individual forced eviction". This includes support from the Protection sector to review the cash-for-rent minimum standards. Protection sector support will also be required to prioritise case management for protection cases and ensure complementarity with existing protection cash programming (i.e. Protection Cash Assistance Program and ECA). In parallel, shelter partners will be trained to safely identify and refer persons with specific needs to protection actors or other relevant service providers.

The sector will respond to the shelter needs of vulnerable households living in inadequate residential shelters by implementing physical upgrades, coupled with tenure security enhancements,^[29] including due diligence checks, in close coordination and collaboration with the Protection sector, particularly legal actors. As such, shelter partners will facilitate the signing of lease agreements between landlords and tenants for a minimum of twelve months after shelter improvements have been executed. This will include strengthening safe access for women to rent in their own names.

These urban and peri-urban interventions will prioritise persons at heightened risk, especially where the risk of eviction has an associated protection risk/incident (extortion, forced labour, physical and psychological abuse, interruption of life-saving services, deliberate deprivation of services, homelessness, GBV and CP risks, confiscation of belongings and documentation) or who face aggravated protection risks due to a change in their shelter arrangements (persons with disabilities, LGBTIQ+, older persons). CDR, including legal mediation between tenant and property owner will be conducted where it is demonstrated to be impactful in certain circumstances such as overturning eviction, extending eviction notices, drafting a rent instalment plan, and supporting the retrieval of confiscated belongings or documentation. Negotiations will be collaborative and based on good faith. They will also be sensitive to the tenant and property owner relationship while advocating that due legal process is followed. In all situations, the aim will be to transition the households most at risk, which face a recurrent risk of eviction, to a more sustainable solution.

Activities under this output include:

1) Weatherproofing and repair of substandard residential and non-residential structures; 2) Upgrading of substandard residential shelters to meet minimum humanitarian standards for the benefit of protection cases, female-headed households, people with specific shelter-related risks such as persons living with a disability, older persons and socially excluded groups; 3) Weatherproofing and maintenance of make-shift shelters within informal settlements; 4) Providing cash for rent for vulnerable households living in adequate shelters; 5) Conducting site improvements in informal settlements; and 6) Providing fire risk mitigation, including awareness sessions,

firefighting training and distribution of firefighting kits, in informal settlements and buildings.

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

This second outcome is contributing to both Impact 4, 'Mitigated deterioration in the economic condition of vulnerable populations', and Impact 5, 'Social Stability is strengthened in Lebanon'. This outcome will be achieved by improving access to adequate shelters that are of minimum standard and affordable to vulnerable populations. To that end, geographic areas of multisectoral vulnerability will be targeted and vulnerable areas will undergo multi-sectoral assessments/profiling and upgrading.

Area-based coordination involves undertaking coordination within a defined geographic area whilst taking a holistic, multi-sectoral perspective to assess the needs of and provide assistance to vulnerable households. Area-based coordination mechanisms can provide a useful framework to promote joint leadership with national partners and local authorities. By working in partnership with municipal authorities responsible for the long-term development of a neighbourhood or municipality, area-based coordination mechanisms provide opportunities to ensure that humanitarian responses contribute to long-term planning processes.

For this outcome to be achieved, it is assumed that involved sectors will coordinate successfully towards implementing a multi-sectoral programme. It is also assumed that landlords will approve of the upgrading of their property in exchange for favourable tenure conditions benefitting the targeted population.

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

In 2023, the sector will continue to support sustainable living conditions by improving access to adequate shelters in disadvantaged areas. This involves understanding the multi-sectoral needs of vulnerable areas (e.g. disadvantaged neighbourhoods, adjacent areas of Palestinian refugee camps and villages) which will serve as a basis for coordinating and implementing shelter upgrading. This will be implemented either through a single-sector approach or within a multi-sectoral area-based framework that augments the stock of low-income housing in coordination with other sectors, mainly Protection, Water and Social Stability. The sector will collaborate with municipalities and other service providers to build their capacities to lead these processes so that multi-dimensional risks facing vulnerable urban households can be mitigated holistically and through sustainable, accountable institutional structures.

The sector will encourage partners to focus on sectoral and geographical coordination, particularly in dense urban areas where visual inspection does not readily distinguish vulnerable households from other households through visual inspection; where communities are mixed and inter-community tensions may exist; where

^[29] Through the provision of a dedicated cash mechanism, refer to technical note Upgrading of residential shelters.

basic services and social services are shared; and where governance institutions with mandates over the area may lack the capacities to regulate and/or deliver public services and goods. Partners will use area-based coordination mechanisms as organizing frameworks for better coordination between the humanitarian community and national institutions and organisations in ways that contribute to stabilisation.

Activities under this output include:

- 1) Upgrading of substandard residential shelters to minimum standards as part of a planned multi-sectoral approach;
- 2) Upgrading of substandard residential shelters to minimum standards as part of a single-sector approach;
- 3) Upgrading of common areas within substandard residential and non-residential buildings.

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

In geographically defined disadvantaged areas, partners will gather and/or use existing multisectoral gender-sensitive data to analyse aspects of the local context relevant to shelter conditions, including population characteristics, demographic pressure on basic services, housing stock quality, housing market prices, governance characteristics, gender dynamics and intercommunity tensions. Partners will use such holistic understandings of places and their resident communities to programme shelter interventions which will benefit the shelter-vulnerable from both the host and displaced communities. These interventions will also include the identification and implementation of gender-responsive improvements to the building, plot and community level spaces driven by community involvement,^[30] engagement and (where possible) utilising the skillsets of local tradesmen.

Activities under this output include:

1. Multi-sectoral assessments/profiles of areas hosting vulnerable populations.
2. Community support projects at the building, building plot and neighbourhoods levels (e.g. infrastructural or recreational projects).^[31]

Outcome 3: Enhance the contribution of national institutions and organisations to the housing situation in Lebanon.

This third outcome contributes to Impact 3: Vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services through national systems. This will be achieved by focusing on three different approaches: 1) promotion of knowledge generation through national studies and reports relevant to shelter and housing; 2) scaling up linkages with national and subnational organizations and institutions;^[32] and 3) taking necessary steps to

bolster institutional commitments around localisation by strengthening national NGO engagement within the coordination structure and response.

Localising a humanitarian response is a process of recognising, respecting and strengthening the leadership of local authorities and the capacity of local civil society^[33] in humanitarian action to better address the needs of affected populations. As such, the Shelter sector will continue to build on cumulative efforts of the Inter-Agency to promote assistance provided through national systems to contribute to improving the shelter and housing situation in Lebanon.^[34]

For this outcome to be achieved, it is assumed that national institutions and organisations will actively participate in capacity-building initiatives such as training sessions and workshops held by the Shelter sector. Continued interest from the GoL in exploring steps towards establishing a national housing policy is also assumed.

Output 3.1: Capacity building support to national organisations and institutions contributing to shelter and housing situation in Lebanon.

In 2023, the sector will reinforce its commitment to engage more local organisations in the response. As such, the sector will continue to scale up programmatic and coordination linkages with national and subnational organisations and institutions in the shelter response for host and displaced communities to support efficiency and stabilisation. Furthermore, as current shortages of adequate and affordable shelter accessible to vulnerable households are influenced by longstanding challenges in the Lebanese housing market, strengthening the capacities of Lebanese entities (through sensitisation, information generation and dissemination and capacity building on the implementation of shelter/housing programming) should also help foster an enabling environment for addressing structural housing problems.

In collaboration with national organisations and institutions, the sector will promote knowledge generation and management through national studies and reports relevant to shelter and housing.^[35] In 2023, this body of knowledge will be consolidated, synthesised and augmented by partners to contribute to a better understanding of Lebanon's housing sector, with respect to both short-term shelter needs and longer-term housing market supply-demand issues. A robust evidence base will be necessary to inform the GoL's national housing policy discussions, and for development-orientated actors to improve the housing situation in Lebanon. The 3RF, launched December 2020, was designed to address immediate and medium-term articulates in its Housing chapter evidence and information management needs

^[30] Including women's voices to safety, design of facilities, and accessibility.

^[31] When possible, such projects will be gender responsive and ensure representation of women.

^[32] National NGOs as well as public, private and academic sector entities.

^[33] In a demographically representative manner.

^[34] Involved stakeholders will be encouraged to serve the most vulnerable based on common targeting and eligibility criteria.

^[35] Like all shelter products, such information production and dissemination will be managed in ways that do-no-harm in regard to social cohesion.

that the sector will seek to address through knowledge generation in 2023 and beyond.

The 3RF housing chapter, which has been considered in the formulation of this Shelter strategy, recognises that “there is a strong need to immediately address the recovery of urban housing with early steps towards conceptualising and consensus-building around a reform agenda for an inclusive housing sector and with a recovery strategy and investments at the city and neighbourhood levels, paired with technical and financial support, as well as capacity building”. The 3RF provides a complementary ‘whole of society’ framework for the Shelter strategy that will support ongoing planning around humanitarian-development nexus issues focused on the Beirut blast-affected area, and consistent with those specified under this output.



Building nearly completed rehabilitation, Beirut, Lebanon - UN Habitat, 2022

Activities under this output include:

1) Strengthening the shelter-related capacity of local and national organizations through training, coordination and collaboration; 2) Conducting and disseminating studies to better understand the housing context, and; 3) Engaging the private sector, national state entities and academic and local organisations in expertise and research-sharing on the housing sector at national and field levels.

Special attention is given to the inter-sectoral coordination of activities within the following thematic areas:

Identifying vulnerability and complementary targeting: linkages to Water, Energy, Livelihoods, Social Stability and Protection.

Social Assistance and Services: Linkages with Water, Energy, Social Stability and Livelihoods.

- The Shelter sector will collaborate with the above sectors through regular meetings at the national and field level to foster efficient joint coordination and programming to pursue the following:
- Coordinating efforts with the Water sector to ensure complementarity when improving water and sanitation conditions in residential and non-residential buildings. The Shelter sector is responsible for water and sanitation interventions at a unit and building level, while the Water sector is responsible for upgrading infrastructure and plots, such as water and sewage connections to public networks extending beyond the building. This is especially needed in poor areas with high population pressure coupled with the deteriorating quality of and inadequate access to safe water and sanitation as well as poor hygiene practices and wastewater management. Such deteriorating services as increasingly leading to inter- and intra-community tensions, particularly in the context of the ongoing cholera outbreak. A coordinated response to household health and sanitation issues can contribute to enhancing the living conditions of vulnerable populations^[36] by complementing the under-resourced public institutions and minimising the impact on Lebanon's environment whilst simultaneously contributing to social stability,
- Site improvements in informal settlements and mitigation of flooding risks through separate but coordinated activities. The Shelter sector will take into account the Water sector's ongoing needs assessments in informal settlements to coordinate assistance and to accordingly prioritise its informal settlement-related activities, such as weatherproofing, site improvement and fire risk mitigation.
- The upgrading of common areas within buildings, a Shelter sector activity involving repairing and improving the infrastructure at the building level and within its plot boundary, e.g. water and sewage pipes, stairwells and lockable doors/gates. The Shelter sector will refer buildings that are not connected to public water/sewage networks to the Water sector.
- Advocating with landlords for the instalment of legal electrical connections to the national grid in line with guidance from the Energy sector. The Shelter sector also promotes the installation of proper electrical connections and lighting in buildings and informal settlements. This includes assisting in 1) installing lighting in latrines and common areas to mitigate GBV risks as well as enhance accessibility for the elderly and people with disabilities; 2) improving the wiring to enhance the safety of the connection within residential and non-residential shelters; 3) raising the wiring in informal settlements to mitigate shelter safety risks, including that of fire. In 2023 the sector, in partnership with key stakeholders, will explore initiatives to develop mitigating solutions to the intermittent and unaffordable

^[36] Especially the living conditions of women, including those related to female hygiene.

energy supply by exploring the mixed use of solar panels, batteries and low-energy products.

- By addressing shelter needs through an area-based approach, the sector can contribute to the mitigation of tensions between displaced host communities, particularly for those living in dense urban settings. This is because competition for access to basic services and goods, housing and jobs are key tension drivers. Improvement in access to services for all can contribute to mitigating tensions.
- Collaborative efforts to establish guidelines and recommendations on the dismantlement of vacant tents and decommissioning of latrines in informal settlements. This includes working with the Social Stability sector on solid waste management—mainly construction material—as well as with the Livelihoods sector to identify skilled workers who can be employed to implement the required work as defined in the guidelines.
- Shelter activities are also an opportunity to generate income in areas with high unemployment. The sector will actively inform the Livelihoods sector of urban areas where livelihoods have emerged as a crucial need as identified through area-based approaches to assessments and interventions. To maximise the impact of the sectors' respective interventions, the possibility of providing trainees/beneficiaries of Livelihood sector activities with employment opportunities through shelter contractors will be explored.
- The sector will work closely with the Livelihood sector to identify programmes which could enhance shelter beneficiaries' ability to self-sustain following the end of the shelter assistance period.

Linkages with the Protection sector

For the Shelter sector to achieve its strategic outcomes for the protection of vulnerable populations, the main areas of coordination with the Protection sector will continue to be the following:

- Strengthening referral pathways between Shelter and Protection sectors, particularly for cases of forced evictions and people with specific needs, including older persons at risk and persons with disabilities, is important. Timely and coordinated referrals will be imperative to achieving cross-sectoral eviction prevention and response intervention with the Protection and other sectors, to achieve eviction deviation, relocation and mitigation of impacts. This includes collaborative dispute resolution, legal counselling, assistance and representation for HLP, as required, and will be critical to mitigating the risk of eviction.
- Close coordination and collaboration between the Shelter, Protection and Social Stability sectors through the eviction task force to update the jointly developed "National Guidance note on individual forced eviction." This includes revising the response to individual

evictions and continuously updating the sector roles and responsibilities with regards to preparedness, prevention and response, as well as promoting a cross-sectoral response.



Rent for Syrian households across all shelter types **has almost tripled in the past year** as property owners increased rent twice on average

VASyR 2022

- As they are cornerstones of access to adequate housing, security of tenure and wider HLP considerations are critical areas for engagement with the Protection sector. In 2023, the Shelter and Protection sectors will jointly work on HLP issues through regular thematic discussions between partners to ensure a strong and collaborative cross-sectoral response to eviction prevention and response. HLP rights will be mainstreamed throughout sector interventions, with sensitisation programming already undertaken by some partners, to be adopted more widely. Shelter partners will be supported in conducting information and awareness sessions on the HLP rights sector and will continue to work closely with the Protection sector to update HLP technical guidelines^[37] that foster security of tenure, especially for female-headed households, PWSN and socially excluded groups.

Identification of sector needs and targets at the individual/HH, community and institutional/physical environment level

In 2023, the Shelter sector is targeting 681,312^[38] individuals, including Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian households.^[39] The total count of individuals targeted has decreased by nine per cent, down from 744,862 individuals targeted in 2022. Although the sector has increased the cash for rent targets for both vulnerable Lebanese and displaced Syrian households, the decrease in the overall target is mainly due to: 1) the elimination of the target of residential structures in dangerous conditions^[40]; 2) the prioritisation of households living in residential shelters with four rather

^[37] Following the Beirut blast, a HLP Temporary Technical Committee was established in order to help address issues related to HLP and advise on integrating HLP programming into the planned shelter rehabilitation and repair program.

^[38] This excludes the 75,000 individuals that are budgeted for assistance in the case of security-related evictions as a contingency plan.

^[39] Other nationalities are also targeted primarily in Beirut and Mount Lebanon based on referrals and needs identified through field visits.

^[40] Activities targeting buildings in danger of collapse are covered under the 3RF Housing sector for the Beirut port explosion affected areas with an aim to scale up the intervention and expand geographically in the future.

than three substandard physical conditions in comparison with previous years, due to increasing funding restraints.^[41]

Within the targeted cohorts, the Shelter sector will further prioritise its interventions for individuals who have specific shelter needs due to certain common characteristics and/or circumstances. This includes female-headed households and households with at least one person with specific needs, including households with at least one person who lives with a disability, who is an older person at risk, who is from a socially excluded group as well as individuals who are survivors of GBV (including sexual exploitation and abuse). To track progress against this aim, Shelter sector partners will provide, where possible, disaggregated data on beneficiaries.^[42]

Baseline figure

The shelter needs of displaced Syrians are identified through the 2022 VASyR and extrapolated over the entire displaced Syrian population figure of 1.5 million individuals. In practice, shelter agencies assist socio-economically vulnerable displaced Syrian households that live in inadequate shelter conditions regardless of their registration status. The Shelter sector's scope of work, however, excludes the following:

- a) Shelters located in geographical settings that are particularly unfavourable for residential uses.^[43]
- b) Residential and non-residential shelters that are inadequate, based on overcrowding criteria only. Living in overcrowded shelters is particularly common as a coping mechanism to reduce rental outlay but the response^[44] is beyond the sector's scope of interventions. However, informal settlements are amenable to measures to reduce overcrowding^[45] through the distribution of shelter kits that would permit the extension of existing structures or the establishment of new ones.^[46] Decongestion of informal settlements is an important COVID-19

response mechanism because these are the densest shelter type.

- c) Buildings in dangerous condition^[47] that require extensive technical evaluation and substantial investments exceeding the financial capacities of the Shelter sector. In such cases, the Shelter sector will flag these concerns with the residents as well as advocate for the relocation of the households with local authorities and landlords.



Target Figures by Nationality

Targets by shelter intervention at the country level are as follows:

Target figures for displaced Syrians

- 277,379 individuals^[48] (18% of all displaced Syrians) with shelter needs living in informal settlements (2022: 260,087; 2021: 252,000; 2020: 240,000 individuals; 2019: 246,000 individuals; 2018: 208,800 individuals).
- 96,957 individuals^[49] (6% of displaced Syrians) living in substandard physical conditions in residential buildings (2022: 152,737; 2021: 133,665; 2020: 237,374 individuals; 2019: 225,300 individuals; 2018: 182,998 individuals).
- 84,856 individuals^[50] (6% of displaced Syrians) living in substandard conditions in non-residential buildings (2022: 81,452; 2021: 74,520; 2020: 53,198; 2019: 87,400 individuals; 2018: 67,680 individuals).

^[41] The eight shelter conditions included in the VASyR questionnaire are the following: 1) Window/ doors are not sealed to natural elements; 2) Leaking roof; 3) Leakage/ rottenness in the walls/ floors; 4) Water pipes not functional; 5) Sanitation pipes not functional; 6) Latrine/ toilet is not useable (damaged, full, no handwashing facilities, etc.); 7) Bathing / washing facilities are not useable (damaged, no privacy, etc.); 8) Electricity installation/ connection are not adequately installed or not safe.

^[42] Activities reported on ActivityInfo are set up to be disaggregated by nationality cohort, gender [female-headed household] and PWSN.

^[43] Areas in proximity to physical danger, that are remote from services, or that are otherwise inconducive to being used for dwelling.

^[44] Overcrowding does not necessarily require a response involving building upgrading but is likely to require financial assistance (e.g. unconditional cash grants).

^[45] Reducing overcrowding can mitigate the risk of protection concerns such as sexual abuse against women, girls and boy.

^[46] This is applicable when there is extra land space within an informal settlement and conditional to the approval of landlords and local authorities.

^[47] Shelters that have structural or other physical damage that might pose a threat to residents. This applies only to residential and non-residential buildings.

^[48] 85% of the 324,000 displaced Syrians in informal settlements are assumed to require shelter assistance based on unified assessments undertaken by Shelter partners in 2022. VASyR 2022 indicates that 84% of displaced Syrians in informal settlements require shelter assistance which is consistent with the finding derived from the comprehensive unified weatherproofing assessments which covers all informal settlements.

^[49] 9.4% of the 1,031,455 displaced Syrians in residential shelters are assumed to be living below physical humanitarian standards (VASyR, 2022). This corresponds to individuals who are living in shelters with at least four substandard physical conditions out of the eight conditions identified by the sector to determine the severity of shelter vulnerability. This is a change from last year's targeting of individuals who are living in shelters with at least three substandard physical conditions (19%) for prioritization purposes.

^[50] 58% of the 150,000 displaced Syrians in non-residential structures are assumed to be below physical humanitarian standards (VASyR, 2022).

- 102,468 individuals assisted with Cash for Rent (seven per cent of displaced Syrians) (2022: 82,055; 2021: 65,320; 2020: 22,500).
- 75,000 individuals (5% of displaced Syrians) indicating that they are threatened by security-related evictions (2022: 75,000 individuals).

Overall, there are 561,660^[51] displaced Syrians targeted with shelter assistance (2022: 587,560; 2021: 573,445).

Target figures for vulnerable Lebanese

The MSNA 2022 has provided a general overview of the housing situation of the Lebanese, which was poorly understood in previous years. The sector will target the shelter needs of two per cent^[52] of extremely vulnerable households who are assumed to be living in substandard physical conditions and located in the 332 localities that host the highest number of displaced Syrians,

^[51] The overall figure, however, excludes the 75,000 individuals that are budgeted for assistance in the case of security-related evictions as a contingency plan.

^[52] 2.1 per cent of the 569,994 vulnerable Lebanese living in the 332 localities that host the highest number of displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees and deprived Lebanese are assumed to be living in shelters below physical humanitarian standards. This corresponds to individuals who are living in shelters with at least four substandard physical conditions out of the eight conditions identified by the sector to determine the severity of shelter vulnerability.

Palestinian refugees and deprived Lebanese. Based on the above the sector will target:

- 59,849 vulnerable Lebanese individuals living in substandard physical conditions in residential buildings located in disadvantaged areas (2022: 101,302; 2021: 118,237; 2020: 77,280; 2019: 77,280; 2018: 74,166; 2017: 77,298).
- 21,802 vulnerable Lebanese to be assisted with Cash for Rent.

Target figures for Palestinian refugees from Syria and Palestine refugees in Lebanon

The MSNA 2022 has provided an indicative figure of 10.5 per cent of Palestine refugees in Lebanon who are assumed to be living in substandard physical conditions. As for 2023, for parity, an equal number of Palestine refugees in Lebanon and Palestinian refugees from Syria are targeted for shelter assistance. It is assumed that funding assistance specific to Palestinians will augment the overall population target reached in practice.

19,000 of the most vulnerable Palestinian refugees from Syria in substandard shelter conditions (61 per cent of the 31,400 Palestinian refugees from Syria).

19,000 of the most vulnerable Palestinian refugees in Lebanon living in substandard shelter conditions (10.5 per cent of the 180,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon).

Total sector needs and targets in 2023

Population Cohort	Total Population	Total Population in Need	Total Population Targeted	Total population targeted	
				# female	# male
Lebanese	3,864,296	911,990	81,651	42,458	39,193
Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	870,000	561,660	286,446	275,214
Palestine Refugees from Syria	31,400	31,400	19,000	9,880	9,120
Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	180,000	180,000	19,000	9,880	9,120
GRAND TOTAL	5,575,696	1,993,390	681,311		

Type of institution	Total Targeted
Municipality	40 municipalities, unions of municipalities
Central ministries	MOIM, MoSA
Public institutions and Directorate	Public Corporation for Housing [within MoSA], Directorate General of Urban Planning [within MoPWT]
Syndicates	Real Estate Development Association of Lebanon [REDA];, order of Architects and Engineers [OEA]

3. MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER AND GBV, PROTECTION, CONFLICT SENSITIVITY, PSEA, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Protection (including Accountability to Affected Populations)

In 2023, the Shelter sector will continue to strengthen the mainstreaming of the core protection principles within its activities, including: meaningful access without discrimination; safety, dignity and do-no-harm, accountability and participation and empowerment. The sector will also continue to review the PRA in 2023 to ensure emerging risks are identified and mitigation measures are established. Key agreed mitigation measures that the sector will work toward in 2023 are:

In support of an inclusive and accountable programming approach, the sector will continue to ensure that data collected and reported against is disaggregated by aspects of gender, age and disability in 2023. This means that shelter partner assessment, monitoring and evaluation tools will include the Washington Group Questions to ensure accurate identification and reporting on disability perspectives and experiences. Needs assessments and post-monitoring forms will include the collection of information on qualitative indicators on how current shelter arrangements are impacting beneficiary feelings of privacy, safety and security with the understanding that these experiences differ depending on the age, gender and protection profile of the served population. Improved age, gender and disability analysis in this respect will improve inclusion for equitable service provision, help to better understand the impact of programming on the cohorts it targets and enhance accountability. Activities will be regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure the impact on different groups is in accordance with sector standards and to ensure they contribute to achieving overall sector objectives.

People with specific needs shall be respected and accounted for in all relevant shelter programmes using technical guidelines that respond to the specific shelter needs of certain groups, particularly older persons and people living with a physical disability including mobility impairments. Interventions should be based on universal design principles and where not reasonable, accommodations will be made to improve accessibility and circulation within as well as in common areas of shelters.

The Shelter sector will also take concrete steps to improve the safe identification and referral of vulnerable individuals to needed services. In 2023, sector members will review and adopt the Inter-Agency minimum standard on referrals. Training will be offered to sector partners with the sector's support to shelter partners on reporting referrals

conducted through the Inter-Agency reporting system in order to enhance accountability for referrals. Close coordination and capacity support from the Protection sector and its sub-sectors (GBV and CP) will be sought. In particular, in 2023, there will be close work between legal and shelter actors regarding two-way referrals for eviction preparedness and response, including for improved security of tenure and due diligence assessments by legal actors.

The sector, in partnership with the Protection sector, will coordinate to mitigate and respond to eviction and evictions threats. Partners will be guided by the newly developed "National Guidance note on individual forced eviction".

The sector will take steps to strengthen complaint and feedback mechanisms (CFM) for affected populations, which is also an inter-sector priority. In this respect, the sector will promote the review and adoption of the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards on Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms. Reporting mechanisms will be enhanced for households and individuals at risk of exploitation and/or abuse to be able to report complaints and grievances. They will also take into consideration the age, gender and other diversity factors of the served population where applicable.

In 2023, close work will be done with the Protection sector and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) focal points to ensure there are robust reporting mechanisms in place which are responsive and inclusive. The sector will aim to support partners in this regard through the roll-out of the Inter-Agency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on PSEA, for which partners should be trained.

The sector will build on the success of a pilot in the North between Shelter and Protection units to relocate households/individuals with specific protection concerns to emergency temporary shelters, while the case management agency develops an action plan for the household, to avoid homelessness. In 2023 the sector will expand the pilot to other regions and look to develop harmonised national guidance.

Gender

Gender needs assessments are incorporated in shelter assessments and in the design of shelter activities. The Shelter sector will work on incorporating gender-based violence (GBV) guidelines into shelter programming, giving special consideration to gender dimensions in the revision of existing technical guidelines. This has become more crucial in the context of recurring power

cuts due to reducing fuel subsidies. The Shelter sector has also suggested that field staff receive training on GBV issues related to shelter as well as on referral pathways for survivors of GBV. Gender mainstreaming in shelter activities will foster a more effective response leading to safer environments for women, girls, boys and men alike.

Specific needs of women, girls, boys and men will be accounted for in the sector's guidelines on four levels: 1) ensuring spatial separation between living and sleeping spaces for privacy and the mitigation of gender-based violence risks; 2) Installation of lighting and lockable doors inside shelters, common areas of buildings and in areas within building/settlement plot boundaries; and 3) providing labour assistance where needed (often for female-headed households) for the implementation of shelter interventions to ensure the effectiveness of provided assistance and lastly 4) in collaboration with the Protection sector, the Shelter sector will ensure that vulnerable households who are eligible for relocation are making informed decisions when choosing a shelter through consultation and counselling on available shelter options and the profiles of households with whom they will be co-sharing a shelter.

Conflict sensitivity

The Shelter sector will prioritize beneficiaries who are severely or highly vulnerable through an inclusive process, encompassing displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese households. Their identified shelter needs are addressed taking into account their regional and local context, regardless of nationality. Shelter interventions have the potential to mitigate tensions between refugees and host communities of different gender and age groups by reducing frictions, particularly those related to the security of tenure and evictions that result from the incapacity to pay rent. Area-based multi-sectoral assessments will actively identify inter-community connectors and dividers to inform conflict-sensitive community-level responses that respect the do-no-harm principle. The sector will also continue to participate in conflict sensitivity sensitisation trainings and commits to regular information sharing with the SoST sector on tension drivers linked to assistance delivery and rental/housing market inequity. The sector will advocate for looser programmatic quotas for Lebanese and other population groups, as they can be a major driver of tension between coexisting urban communities. Finally, the sector will continue to adapt the collaborative dispute resolution (CDR) mechanisms employed to suit the changing context when needed.

Environment

The Sector will collaborate and coordinate with the inter-sectoral Environmental Task Force (ETF) based at the MoE to mainstream environmental considerations and seek their guidance on environmental policies and application of the environmental marker guide to ensure the response

to any complaints that may arise. In addition, the ETF will be involved in capacity building and will provide training regarding relevant environmental safeguards, particularly in informal settlements.

In collaboration with other sectors – namely Social Stability and Water – the Shelter sector contributes to minimising the negative impacts on the environment through the following:

Site improvement activities are conducted to mitigate flooding risks in informal settlements during the winter season. This activity is achieved through the levelling and gravelling of the ground and by maintaining proper water circulation by opening/enlarging and cleaning ditches and irrigation canals. Moreover, this activity improves site access and access to WASH services.

Furthermore, the sector will continue its partnership with the ETF to develop a safe and accessible method to dispose of shelter material, particularly weatherproofing kits.^[53] With the increasing price of fuel, it is expected that major environmental and health hazards will rise due to the foreseen burning of shelter materials discarded when materials are replaced due to wear and tear or when informal settlements are dismantled. The sector will advocate for and raise awareness of the need to ban the burning of weatherproofing materials discarded during the refurbishment or evacuation of shelters.

In residential and non-residential buildings, the sector will advocate for energy-efficient solutions, in terms of both materials and techniques, within given resource constraints. This will be at the levels of minor and major repairs.

In its contribution to fostering government-led discussions about national housing, the sector will refer to the Energy sector for advice on opportunities for improving the energy efficiency of both existing stocks, through retrofitting, as well as that of new builds.

Fire risk

The risk of fire outbreak is especially high in informal settlements, where ad-hoc planning and the absence of breaks between tents can facilitate the spread of fire. Fire risks are also high in substandard residential and non-residential buildings where poor quality and/or damaged doors do not provide a good barrier to the quick spread of fire from one apartment to the next.

The Shelter sector, in collaboration with the Lebanese Civil Defence (LCD) and the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC), has elaborated technical guidelines and IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material to raise awareness of fire risks. It also trains at-risk populations on how to fight fires and make good use of the fire-fighting kits that are installed in informal settlements and substandard residential and non-residential buildings.

^[53] Kits are composed of Plastic Sheeting and Timber.

COVID-19

The sector will continue to ensure that COVID-19 preventive measures are mainstreamed throughout all activities, including the safety of both shelter staff and targeted populations.

OUTCOME 1: Reduce immediate protection-related shelter needs of most vulnerable households.

INDICATOR 1	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of most vulnerable households whose shelters in informal settlements or in substandard residential and non-residential buildings have improved privacy, safety and security.	Shelter assistance that addresses climate and fire risks, eviction risk and partitioning and security of access needs. = ([total HHs reached] / ([total targeted HHs in IS] + [total targeted HHs in non residential] + [ALL female-headed HHs in residential buildings] + [ALL PWSN-affected HHs in residential buildings]))*100	Activity Info-Responsibility of the Shelter Sector	% HHs	Quarterly



Displaced Syrians

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
40%	50%	79%

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

INDICATOR 2A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of residential households in disadvantaged areas benefitting from shelter upgrades to minimum standards.	The upgrading of residential shelters to minimum standards in accordance with Shelter sector guidelines in disadvantaged areas. = ([total HHs reached] / [total targeted HHs in substandard residential buildings in disadvantaged areas])*100 NB Excludes FHH/PWSN residential upgrading for protection/referral cases covered in objective 1. NB The denominator in the above is assumed to be equivalent to all substandard residential buildings accommodating all cohorts.	Activity Info-Responsibility of the Shelter Sector	% of HHs	Monthly



Lebanese

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	0.1%	7%



Displaced Syrians

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	0.5%	34%



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	1%	63%



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	0.4%	11%

Total

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	0.6%	28%

INDICATOR 2B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of 332 most vulnerable localities (cadastral level) containing a multi-sectorally assessed or profiled area	<p>"Localities in Lebanon listed amongst the 332 most vulnerable, with a high percentage of vulnerable populations, contain areas that are profiled in a multi-sectoral manner; or their shelter and other needs are assessed in such a manner that the main results are compatible between the assessments and profiles.</p> <p>= ([total number of cadastres containing assessed areas] / [total number of cadastres with a high percentage of vulnerable households in Lebanon in accordance with the 332 list])*100 "</p>	Activity Info-Responsibility of the Shelter Sector	% of 332 most vulnerable localities in Lebanon	Quarterly

Institution

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
2%	5%	16%

OUTCOME 3: Enhance the contribution of national institutions and organizations to the housing situation in Lebanon.

INDICATOR 3A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of institutions and organisations participating in the Shelter sector response that are Lebanese.	<p>Lebanese institutions and organisations include national state entities as well as local and national NGOs.</p> <p>= ([number of Lebanese institutions and organizations participating in the Shelter sector] / [total number of institutions and organizations participating in the Shelter sector])*100</p>	Activity Info-Responsibility of the Shelter Sector	% of all institutions and organisations	Quarterly

Institution

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	64%	80%

INDICATOR 3B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Number of Lebanese institutions and organisations with improved ability to contribute to housing policy discussions through exposure to new housing-related evidence.	<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 targetted 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 all institutions and organisations	Quarterly

Institution

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	2%	20%



SOCIAL STABILITY SECTOR

PEOPLE IN NEED



3,774,982

PEOPLE TARGETED



3,249,772

NEEDS-BASED APPEAL



\$171M

PARTNERS



42

GENDER MARKER



4*

*Intends to contribute to gender equality, including across age groups AND/OR people with disabilities

CONTACT

LEAD MINISTRIES

Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)

Ola Boutros

olaboutros@gmail.com

Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM)

Randa Hobeiche

randahobeiche@yahoo.com

COORDINATING AGENCIES

UNDP

William Barakat

william.barakat@undp.org

UNHCR

Rasha Akil

akil@unhcr.org

SECTOR OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1:

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

INDICATORS

- Percentage of people reporting positive impact of municipalities on their lives
- Percentage of people reporting competition for services and utilities as source of tension
- Percentage of people who feel that they can voice concern with authorities in case of dissatisfaction

OUTCOME 2:

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

INDICATORS

- Percentage of people able to identify conflict resolution mechanisms/actors in their community they would turn to
- Percentage of people identifying factors that could improve inter-community relationships
- Percentage of people displaying propensity for violence





OUTCOME 3:

Enhance the LCRP's capacities on tensions monitoring and conflict sensitivity

INDICATORS

- Percentage of partners reporting that they have their own mechanisms to ensure conflict sensitivity
- Number of LCRP sectors taking steps to ensure conflict sensitivity in their strategy and delivery of work plans

POPULATION BREAKDOWN

POPULATION COHORT	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	FEMALE ♀ MALE ♂	
 Vulnerable Lebanese	2,063,582	1,538,372	799,953	738,419
 Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	1,500,000	765,000	735,000
 Palestinian Refugees from Syria	31,400	31,400	16,328	15,072
 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	180,000	180,000	93,600	86,400

1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

The multiple crises in Lebanon are continuing to drive tensions which are exacerbated by the loss of jobs and rising poverty as well as by the deterioration of services, including municipal services such as solid waste management, community security and wastewater. In this context, communal relations are deteriorating at all levels, increasingly leading to incidents and escalations.

The relations between displaced Syrians and host community members remain strained, driven by different factors, including cultural differences, but mainly driven by economic factors. Through the UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV, the ranking of tension factors has remained approximately constant over recent waves. In August 2022, 50 per cent of those surveyed named 'competition for lower-skilled jobs' as the main tension driver. Over all waves of the survey, since 2017, 'competition for lower skilled jobs' has remained the most-frequently cited source of inter-communal tensions, as reported by both Lebanese and Syrians. Other frequently cited tension factors include 'competition for services and utilities' (30%), 'competition for the establishment of businesses' (18%), 'the political situation regionally and nationally' (17%), and 'cultural differences' (9%). Overall, some 37 per cent of respondents reported in 2022 negative inter-communal relations, as compared to 21 per cent in July 2018. Relations are most fragile in Beqaa, Akkar and the South.^[1] Negative sentiments continue to manifest themselves on social media with inflammatory messages, accusing and blaming displaced Syrians for being the main cause behind community insecurity incidents and the economic crisis, negatively affecting inter-communal relations. These negative sentiments are also impacting the protection space. 2022 witnessed a rise in restrictive measures by municipalities, particularly curfews^[2] and other movement restrictions,^[3] economically imposed restrictive measures, self-movements restrictions – particularly at informal settlements – collective evictions,^[4] etc. Restrictive measures grew alongside these rising social tensions. The number of displaced Syrians who reported living under restrictive measures grew by 29 per cent, when compared to quarter 2 of the previous year, in Beirut and Mount Lebanon and 167 per cent in the South and Nabatiyeh. UNHCR's monitoring shows a sharp increase in movement restrictions recorded in quarter 3: with 61 new measures recorded compared to 22 in the second quarter and 8 during the first. Correspondingly, the majority of these new movement restrictions were

implemented in the South and Nabatiyeh (61%), as well as in Beirut and Mount Lebanon (18%). Over half (56%) of the movement restrictions implemented in quarter 3 were temporary measures surrounding Ashura celebrations. While the remainder measures were mostly introduced in response to security incidents committed by any population groups occurring in the community.^[5]

Simultaneously, over the last three years, intra-Lebanese relations, which were previously very positive, have been deteriorating. In 2018, 4 per cent of Lebanese described the quality of relations as negative relations between different Lebanese groups. As of August 2022, 39 per cent of respondents now report negative relations. Accordingly, when comparing data from the UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV, the quality of relations between Lebanese groups are now at similarly negative levels as the quality of Syrian - Lebanese relations tension levels and are increasingly resulting in various incidents. For intra-Lebanese tensions, the trajectory and drivers are often more political in nature. In July 2022, 58 per cent of the Lebanese cited political differences as the main tension driver compared to 33 per cent in July 2019. The second most reported driver of intra-Lebanese tensions is differences in socio-economic status, where 38 per cent cited 'inflation or lack of access to cash' as tension driver in Wave XIV (August 2022). The deteriorating intra-Lebanese relations are mirrored in social media with polarised rhetoric and increasing tensions.

The sustained deterioration in the economy, high levels of political instability, persistent concerns about access to food, clean water, electricity, and medical care as well as the strained capacity of security institutions to respond, coupled with increased crime rates, have also contributed to worsening perceptions of physical safety and security, nationwide. Despite some minor improvements in perceptions of safety and security survey, 53 per cent Lebanese and 64 per cent of displaced Syrians report feeling unsafe in their area or neighbourhood at night. Prior to the parliamentary elections in 2022, 58 per cent of Lebanese were concerned about violence related to elections. However, no major incidents materialised. In August 2022, 40 per cent of the population believed that violence is sometimes necessary when interests are being threatened and 75 per cent worried about the threat of crime sometimes, often or all the time.

These factors will remain threats to Lebanon's stability in 2023, where inter and intra-communal tensions are likely to persist and will potentially escalate.

In terms of the gender aspect, as per consultations with partners during the LCRP Inter-Agency situation analysis workshops in October 2022, men commonly respond to perceived or real inter-communal tensions by restricting women's movement and access to public space. Such

[1] The UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV, August 2022.

[2] VASyR 2022.

[3] Protection Monitoring August 2022.

[4] Collective eviction Q2 2022: This year has also witnessed an increase in collective evictions where 678 individuals were affected by actual collective eviction during the reporting period of the Q2, with 7,629 individuals received new collective eviction notices issued in the same quarter. Key drivers: repurposing of property for enhanced profitability, inability to pay rent and tensions.

[5] LCRP Protection Sector Quarter 3 dashboard.

patterns have been observed between displaced Syrians and the Lebanese host communities. As a result of such tensions, women are less likely to work and to participate in the workforce and in public life, fostering dependency on men and/or the humanitarian system. At the same time, a little under half of households reported that women and girls feel very unsafe walking alone at night. Markets (58%) and streets/neighbourhoods (66%) are the places most avoided by women and girls due to lack of safety in Lebanon. At least one in ten Lebanese and Syrian households report that female household members avoid certain areas because they are unsafe. For Palestine refugees in Lebanon, this rises to 1 in 3 households. Sixteen per cent of households felt that the school the children attend is unsafe, due mainly to discrimination, including verbal harassment against students. This was highest in the Akkar governorate at 29 per cent.



Supporting Sorting from the Source through the Provision of Solid Waste Management Equipment, Majdl Anjar, Bekaa, Lebanon - UNDP, 2022

On the situation of municipalities in 2022, many are now unable to deliver basic services under their mandates and are at risk of collapse due to limited funds. Requests to LCRP partners for support have increased and are often centred around operation and management mostly e.g. fuel provision and/or solar energy provision to operate services, support in maintenance of vehicles, and other direct support (cash etc.), have progressively increased. The extent of the needs is now impacting the ability of municipalities to engage in partners' projects, hence affecting the operational environment for LCRP partners that are increasingly under pressure to support municipalities. Lebanese and Syrians alike remain extremely concerned about access to essential goods and services, such as food, fuel, water, medicine, and medical care. The electricity crisis has had a lasting impact on quality of life and other areas of need, such as access to safe drinking water. Moreover, public institutions, including social development centres, Governorate offices, etc. are facing challenges in operation and management and are at risk of being paralysed if the economic situation continues. Key challenges for municipalities include the delayed independent Municipal Fund that, if disbursed, will

not be enough due to depreciation of LBP currency against the USD, reduced tax collection and its depreciated value, weak infrastructure and lack of personnel and capacity, including municipal police. This is leading to gaps in security control and in the ability to cover maintenance and operational costs, severely affecting services delivery, particularly solid waste management,^[6] with an increase of irregular dumping, accumulation and burning of waste in the streets, issues with access to water^[7] and a shortage of wastewater discharge and treatment with spillover effects. This is leading to further pressure on public and natural health and environmental hazards, leading to increased tensions, issues with some organisations' access to certain areas and shrinking the protection space.

Women's participation in local and national governance and decision-making structures as well as leadership and mediation and peace building mechanisms, remains low. Women are under-represented in the security forces, including municipal police, a shortage exacerbated by the non-employment governmental policy. Only 5 per cent of women are represented in the Lebanese Armed Forces (UNSC July 2022).^[8]

In addition, the country has witnessed a series of onward movements, irregular immigration vessels attempting to escape the deteriorating economic circumstances by sea.

^[6] Solid waste is particularly causing tensions in areas close to informal settlements and collective shelters.

^[7] Concerns about access to safe drinking water have surged, where the percentage of population that worries about access to safe drinking water sometimes, often, or all the time increased from 38.1% in February 2018 to 71.2% in July 2022.

^[8] Report on the visit to Lebanon by members of the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, 28–30 June 2022 (S/2022/593) – UNSC July 2022 - <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/report-visit-lebanon-members-informal-expert-group-women-and-peace-and-security-28-30-june-2022-s2022593-enar>.

2. OVERALL SECTOR STRATEGY

Theory of Change

The continued escalation of tensions, insecurity and violence will likely persist or may increase in 2023, highlighting the increased importance of enhancing social stability. The overall objective of the Social Stability sector remains to mitigate interlinked communal tensions so that stability does not deteriorate further in 2023, and to ensure that mechanisms remain in place to prevent tensions and violent conflicts. The Sector aims at de-escalating intra- and inter-communal tensions including between host communities and displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees while simultaneously aiming at enhancing their relations with public authorities by supporting local and national mechanisms to address and mitigate drivers of tensions and build social stability, including through the increased leadership and participation of women and girls.

The Sector's theory of change is as follows:

If public service delivery is supported and maintained (such as infrastructure, community security and solid waste management), then the legitimacy of public institutions, particularly municipalities and unions of municipalities will be ensured, and thus will engender a greater sense of trust. This should be achieved while ensuring a participatory and inclusive decision process involving volunteers, youth, boys and girls, women, people with disabilities (PwD) and older persons. Due to municipalities' growing inability to deliver services under their mandate, such support is even more critical in 2023 than it has been in previous years. This will ultimately alleviate pressure on resources and services while also mitigating tensions between communities and the state, ultimately reducing tensions. Key enablers for the theory are women's participation and leadership in local governance structures, capacity building for women leaders and their organisations on peacebuilding and women's active involvement in mediation.

If the capacity of local communities, municipalities, social stability committees (conflict mitigation mechanisms at the local level), media, Governorates, youth and national institutions to address sources of tensions, through dialogue and by promoting positive interactions and messaging, is improved, this will strengthen connections and reduce divisions. This will assist communities in finding common solutions to grievances and to reducing propensities for violence, particularly among the most vulnerable. If promoting dialogue and positive interactions and maximising positive impacts of interventions, through mainstreaming gender-responsive conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm approaches throughout the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and by providing partners with regular online and offline tensions data and analysis, then sector partners will be better able to design and implement interventions that are sensitive to local contexts, thus minimising harm, maximising positive impacts and maintaining stability. A key enabler for this reasoning is to

continue strengthening the gender and conflict analysis in 2023. This will contribute to better planning interventions based on analysis, including intersecting and layered vulnerability due to the compounding crises experienced by women, men, youth and the elderly as well as people from different socio-economic backgrounds. Based on this strengthened analysis, the sector will provide capacity building on gender and tensions and will develop a strategy to scale up activities involving women and girls and peacebuilding.

The sector will also put greater effort into ensuring conflict-sensitive engagement with authorities, design of projects, procurement processes and selection of areas with geographical balance. This will be based on conflict sensitivity, context-based guidance notes and toolboxes (practical checklists) products by the sector and will mitigate tensions and maximise positive impacts on social stability. In addition, the sector will include women and youth, elderly and people with disabilities, in consideration of priorities in terms of vulnerability, access and marginalisation from services.

Assumptions and Risks

The strategy has been drafted based on the following key assumptions:

In terms of local-level service provision (solid waste, community security, wastewater, etc.), the assumption is that municipalities will not be able to maintain at least the same level to deliver services according to their mandates, viewing that they are affected by shortages of financial and human resources. Most municipalities are struggling to ensure operations, management and sustainability of projects and services. This situation will likely affect partners' interventions, leading to delays for most projects and suspension of some. To mitigate these challenges, the sector will continue to update the LCRP Business Continuity Plan, which identifies prevention and preparedness measures to ensure the continuation of these interventions.

The compounded financial, economic, political, and health crises will likely continue to drive the inter- and intra-communal tensions landscape as well as community insecurity. This assumption continues to inform the strategy which seeks to mitigate tensions, prevent violence and ensure stability, while minimising harm to community groups. Given the contextual developments, it is expected that a deterioration in relations may result in sporadic escalations. The planning that has been conducted assumes that no large-scale inter-/intra-communal incident would occur, hence there will not be a fundamental shifting in relations within the Lebanese communities or between host communities and displaced Syrians. However, tensions will likely result in incidents of localised violence.

In 2023, it is assumed that partners will be able to cope with constraints in access to commodities (including fuel), challenges around service provision, the increased costs of telecommunication as well as local currency depreciation. This will require the sector to prioritise adaptation and preparedness measures in line with the LCRP Business Continuity Plan, taking relevant risk management and mitigation measures into consideration.

Finally, planning has also been conducted on the assumption that there is sufficient operational space for LCRP partners. However, it is recognised that the operational space is being challenged, as observed during 2022, due to continuous shortages of resources at the municipality level, the economic crisis, shortage of funds, etc., to cover the operation and management and sustainability costs of projects.

With the deteriorating situation, there is a risk that the increased tensions, violence, demonstrations, theft and armed clashes will impact the operational environment as well as social stability. A few key related risks that are foreseen within the sector in 2023 are:

First, there is a risk of increased pressure on communities and partners due to gaps in municipal service provision, shortages of resources and limited funds. Issues to date have mainly been related to increased requests by authorities for support, often reaching beyond their capacities and mandate. Such requests include direct support like paying salaries, covering fuel for vehicles, asking for maintenance and operation support and solar panels installation. Within their limited capacities, sector partners are trying to adapt by prioritising municipalities' basic needs and by designing projects with minimal operation and management costs (to reduce financial burdens on municipalities); combining livelihoods components with basic services projects (adding an income generation component); capacitating municipalities to better manage their operations and services during crises, optimise their financial revenues and expenses as well as enhance their inclusive and collaborative governance for priorities' assessment and solutions, which could improve their management of resources and accountability and attract donors and funding consequently. To mitigate this risk, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) as the sector lead will continue to support at the national and local levels the management of critical situations, including through engagement with local authorities and by addressing sector partners' access issues and restrictive measures, clarifying misperceptions, such as the perception that only displaced Syrians are receiving assistance, or that they are the direct cause of the economic situation, pollution, crimes and the spread of diseases, etc.

A second risk is that as municipalities are unable to cover maintenance or operation costs of infrastructure and projects implemented by partners, they could be unable to continue/carry forward interventions by LCRP partners. As a mitigation measure, projects implementation should, where possible, prioritise municipalities'

emerging priorities, viewing the changed context within partners capacities and re-designed in 2023 to address sustainability challenges (for operation and maintenance), especially relevant for equipment and infrastructure.

The third risk is the community insecurity and constraints faced by security institutions. In 2023, the risk of further insecurity will likely be driven by the continuation of the economic crisis. Mitigation measure will be to continue supporting the municipal police, within partners' limited capacities.

The fourth risk is the continued deterioration of intra-Lebanese relations. Dissatisfaction among Lebanese has been exacerbated over the past two years, primarily driven by worsening socio-economic conditions and political/sectarian differences. This indicates a continued risk in 2023. Planned municipal elections in May 2023 risk exacerbating intra-Lebanese tensions. A mitigation measure will be to continue to monitor online and offline tensions and identify potential areas of concern where mitigation is needed. Another mitigation measure is to intervene with peacebuilding agents to ensure the de-escalation of tensions through social and peace dialogues. Conflict-sensitive support to communities and geographic areas will also help mitigate tensions and maximise positive impacts along with all the other measures detailed in this strategy.

Sector Results: LCRP impacts, Sector Outcomes, Outputs

The Social Stability sector strategy primarily feeds into the Strategic Objective 4 of the LCRP 2022-2023 by reinforcing Lebanon's economic, social, and environmental stability. Given the sector's focus on support to municipalities, it also directly contributes to Strategic Objective 3, by supporting service provision through national systems, and indirectly to the first objective, by creating a favourable environment for the protection of vulnerable groups. In terms of impact, the sector directly contributes to three impact statements:

Impact 3, which aims to provide vulnerable populations with equitable access to basic social services and public utilities and infrastructure (health, education, water, energy, solid waste, shelter, and social protection) through national (public and private) systems.

Impact 5, which aims to strengthen social stability in Lebanon.

Impact 6, which aims to mitigate the environmental effect of the Syria crisis, to avoid further degradation of the natural ecosystem and ensure its long-term sustainability.

The contribution of the sectoral outcomes towards the impact statements is the following:

Developing capacities of national and local institutions is an enabler that aims at improving municipal services, leading to vulnerable populations to have equitable access

to basic services through national systems (Outcome 1 contributes to Impact 3).

Supporting public service delivery, building the capacity of local communities and municipalities, integrating conflict sensitivity into programmes, and strengthening social stability, reducing tensions and enabling peace (Outcome 2 contributes to Impact 5).

The communities and municipalities' involvement in proper solid waste management systems and environmental approaches will ensure a cleaner environment (air, ground, water), thus Outcome 3 contributing to Impact 6.

For all these results to materialise, the assumptions detailed in the previous chapter should hold.

As such, the Social Stability strategy also serves Lebanon's longer-term development goals by contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 16. Through its work with target groups, the sector also contributes to UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 (Youth, Peace & Security)^[9] and 1325 (Women, Peace & Security).^[10]

Expected results

The sector will implement its work under the three related outcomes, with adjustments to account for the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, which is leading to increased vulnerabilities, rising tensions, challenges faced by local authorities to provide services under their mandate, and impact on the security and protection situation. Given the multiple crises, such challenges are likely to persist and escalate in 2023.

Thus, in this context, it will be increasingly important to support municipalities, unions of municipalities, public institutions, communities, and national and local systems, to ensure service continuity and to strengthen their capacity to address potential sources of tensions and prevent violent conflict.

The overall impact of the sector strategy will be measured by the level of negative communal relations, tensions and insecurity and the occurrence of incidents in targeted localities, as well as the extent to which disputes have been addressed in targeted municipalities.^[11]

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

This outcome contributes to the Impact 3 (access to basic services) and Impact 5 (social stability strengthened).

Sector partners will have to put in place financial

sustainability plans and ensure, in consultation with concerned ministries, municipalities and donors, that funding is channelled towards the most needed strategic services that can be financed in the future, including cost recovery options and innovative partnerships. Components for better participation, transparency and accountability need to be integrated into the support to municipalities, such as sound strategic planning and prioritisation based on consultations with women, girls, boys and men, as well as the local private sector, to support local economic development and the creation of job opportunities, where possible. Incentives for transparency and continued systematic participatory approaches with local communities will be essential in that regard. Transparency measures at the municipal level, including around public procurement, and improved municipal finance systems and financial reporting, will also be supported by partners. Given the limited resources and capacities of municipalities and UoMs, partners face increasing pressure to provide support upon request, exceeding partners' capacities and resources. In 2023, the sector will continue to support harmonisation of the response and systematic communication with authorities. As the lead of the sector, MOIM will support partners by providing guidance and support to mitigate challenges and ensuring coordination with all key national counterparts at the national and local levels.

Output 1.1: Increased services based on participatory processes delivered at municipal level.

Partners will implement community support projects (CSPs) and basic services (BS) interventions with municipalities and UoMs, based on participatory processes to alleviate resource pressure^[12] in coordination with authorities (Municipalities, Governors and Qaemaqams). These services would include – but are not limited to – wastewater, water supply, energy and the rehabilitation of public spaces, public facilities, recreational areas, cultural sites, roads, agricultural roads, and other infrastructure that may come out as a priority based on local and area needs assessments. Priorities in 2023 will be to support municipalities in safeguarding the most essential services, including solid waste, wastewater treatment and municipal police. Close coordination will be maintained with the Energy and Water sectors to address common priorities. The different activities will have an integral component of strengthening capacities and ensuring continuity of key services such as local infrastructure, community engagement and empowering Social Development Centres (SDCs), amongst others.

Within the current context, and with shortages of financial and human resources for municipalities, project implementation needs to consider the sustainability of interventions (for operationalisation and/or maintenance), including equipment and infrastructure. Building on

[9] Available at: [https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2250\(2015\)](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2250(2015)).

[10] Available at: [https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325\(2000\)](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325(2000)).

[11] Whilst acknowledging the inherent challenges in measuring conflict prevention.

[12] One of the major successful models under the LCRP is the creation of mechanisms for stability and local development (MSLD) by the LHSP under UNDP, through which inclusive and participatory priorities assessments take place via municipalities including communities' active engagement.

2022, the sector will prioritise the design of projects that contribute to sustainability and minimum operation and management (O&M) costs in order to reduce financial burdens on municipalities. Partners are encouraged to design projects that include income generation (e.g. intensive labour) & local economic development coupled with services delivery projects e.g. circular economy (recycling etc.) and engagement of private sector, and support in structural support to municipalities e.g. financial management, transparency etc.

As of August 2022, 37% of respondents perceive relations as negative or very negative ↗ from 24% in January 2021. Competition for lower skilled jobs¹³ has remained the most-frequently cited source of inter-communal tensions, by both Lebanese and Syrians

UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV, August 2022

In 2023, more efforts will be put forward to support sector partners to prioritise interventions and select target areas. Prioritisation will take into consideration a multitude of factors and indicators, such as vulnerability, higher propensity to tensions and outbreaks of violence. Based on lessons learned, the sector will put more effort into ensuring geographical balance by building on the sector mapping of CSPs and BS interventions and analysing the impact of these projects.

As in 2022, within the current context, project implementation needs to include elements that provide municipal authorities with direct support to ensure sustainability (for operationalisation and/or maintenance) during a grace period (especially relevant for equipment and infrastructure). Ensuring that municipal authorities diversify their funding amidst delays in central funding helps limit the risks of interrupted municipal services. This includes financing sustainable resource projects that would support addressing growing challenges and help prevent emerging issues, such as access to clean water, power and solid waste management. This may include rainwater harvesting, solar energy, end-of-life disposal schemes, etc.

Output 1.2: Integrated solid waste management services provided by partners to reduce social tensions.

The sector will continue to support integrated solid waste management in close coordination with the MoE, the leading Ministry on solid waste. Throughout the implementation of all solid waste management interventions, it is essential that sector partners coordinate closely with the MoE and ensure projects' alignment with the Ministry's national action plan and priorities for 2023. Such services aim to ultimately reduce pressure on services, mitigate environmental risks and decrease social tensions. The various elements of the integrated approach are: waste reduction, reuse, sorting at source, recycling, upcycling, waste collection and treatment, safe disposal sites, provision of equipment, capacity building to municipalities, raising awareness, rehabilitation

of existing solid waste management facilities and undertaking the necessary environmental studies (e.g. initial environmental examination, environmental impact assessment and environmental audits) when needed and as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Decree 8633.¹³

Given the limited resources of municipalities and their inability to provide solid waste management services, the sector will optimise support to municipalities by continuing the coordination of SWM interventions through the Solid Waste Management Task Force. The SWM Task Force is the entity in which key partners under the Social Stability sector share knowledge and experience and collaborate on interventions under SWM across all regions. The SWM Task Force is led by the Ministry of Environment, coordinating with MoSA – MoIM. UN leading Agency of the task force is UNDP, coordinating with UNHCR, and relevant sectors, particularly the Water sector. NGO and other UN Agencies' members of the task force are to be identified in 2023 based on the mapping of 2022.

The SWM Task Force will also support local coordination by connecting villages, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and local resources for the implementation of common solutions and the exchange of resources. This will also ensure that municipalities are connected to solid waste management facilities, collectors and recyclers based on the MoE mapping through sector partners. In addition, the sector will continue advocacy efforts and the sharing of evidence-based analysis to advocate for fundraising, transfer of independent municipal funds to municipalities and the implementation of cost recovery solutions at the municipal level.

In close coordination with the Livelihoods sector, the Social Stability sector will encourage partners to integrate, when applicable, cash-for-work and cash-for-training interventions to ensure income generating opportunities for municipalities and communities. In addition, behavioural change on solid waste management is one of the key interventions that the sector will foster through awareness sessions and training. Implementation of a circular economy can be a way forward to reduce, reuse and recycle waste by communities recognising the return of benefit for recyclers and collectors. The sector will also prioritise innovative solutions, building on last year's successful models, such as collection of waste through digital application platforms managed by organisations or social enterprises. Additionally, the sector will explore ways forward to engage the private sector through the mapping of key social enterprises for the exchange of knowledge and potential collaborations as well as the replication of successful municipal management models for solid waste management during crises.

Output 1.3: National institutions have strengthened capacity to provide operational support and guidance to local crisis response.

¹³ Environmental Impact Assessment Decree, MoE Decree 8633 of 2012, <http://erml.moe.gov.lb/ViewLegislations.aspx>.

This output reflects the work of supporting local authorities in performing their growing role in managing crises, including the impact of the Syria crisis, COVID-19 and, most recently, the cholera outbreak.

Under the output, efforts will be made to support national institutions such as the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) unit in the Prime Minister's office, the MoIM and The Directorate General of Local Administration and Councils (DGLAC), MoE, MoSA and Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) in strengthening relevant local institutions, so that they may promptly respond to emerging needs at the local level. Support will also be provided to the Governors' offices in coordination and relations with municipalities, on coordination, strategic planning, and situation analysis in order to play a key role in enhancing social stability at the local level. This assistance includes staffing, training/coaching as well as the provision of equipment.

The disaster response structure in Lebanon was identified by the Lebanese Government through the National Response Framework of 2012, based on the level of response that can start with a local intervention to mobilise national resources depending on the type of incident, impact, severity, and number of agencies involved.

Disaster response structures were established at the regional level within six Governorates and at the casa level (district) in some of the regions (Mount Lebanon, South and North) through a comprehensive approach. Key elements of the response will be to continue to support such regional response structures as well as set up those structures in Beirut and Nabatiyeh and to update the Governorate Response Plans. This will ultimately help to assist the Governorates to identify high-risk sensitive areas to disasters at the local level, improve interconnectivity, communication, and coordination between the Governorates Operations Rooms and the National Operation Room during normal and crisis modes as well as building capacities.

In addition, support will be provided at the municipal level to increase the local authorities' understanding of risks that may affect communities with comprehensive local information about hazards and risks, including who is exposed and who is most vulnerable. This will be done by strengthening municipal planning so that they can take steps to anticipate disasters and to protect assets and livelihoods. For risk and vulnerability assessments, for example, elements will include mitigation selection and planning, Climate-change Adaptation and Resilience Planning; and Emergency preparedness and response management planning. Support will also be provided to link up to feedback and accountability mechanisms to support governors' offices and their units to work on social stability. Specific activities will include training and seconding, data and evidence generation for evidence-based policy making and response, data generation for policy advocacy and policy development and supporting coordination mechanisms, at the local level. Additional measures include the reporting of municipalities to the

operations room through security surveys, which requires additional support in terms of equipment and analysis capacity.

Output 1.4: Municipal police have strengthened capacity to ensure community security

In the context of multi-faceted and compounded crises, municipal police corps across the country have increasingly been propelled in the role of front-line responders, whether in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the growing social unrest, or the increase in security-related incidents. An ever-growing proportion of the population now relies on and interacts daily with the municipal police, especially in rural areas. As such, supporting municipalities in Lebanon to develop the capacities of the municipal police to provide security services to the population is key. The municipal authorities, as first responders, have a vital role to play in gaining the trust of local communities by providing an unbiased, human-rights-based and professional service.

Scaling up community policing schemes in key municipalities, in line with MoIM's codes of conduct, and establishing the related management systems, will not only prevent alternative security arrangements from being made but also support the institutionalisation of a new approach in Lebanon. Establishing accountability mechanisms while strengthening these institutions will be vital. Increasing cross-country adherence to the reform framework is critical to ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable provision of community security services at the municipal level. The output includes support of the strategic reform framework for the transformation of the municipal police, developed by the MoIM and ISF, and articulated around five main components, including unified SOPs, CoC and trainings and unification of uniforms. Furthermore, in line with the 1325 National Action Plan, the sector will also support the empowerment and recruitment of women police upon available resources.

Efforts should also be put forward to mitigate the effects of the crisis on municipal police forces, including their attrition across the country and diminished operational capacities.

In addition to the above, the sector will collaborate with the Protection sector, in collaboration with CSOs and human rights organisations, to review codes of conduct and SOPs, and train partners on protection, gender, GBV and anti-trafficking.

Outcome 2: Strengthen municipal and local community capacity to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions.

This Outcome contributes to Impact 5 of the LCRP (social stability is strengthened in Lebanon).

The sector will continue to support local dialogue committees (conflict mitigation mechanisms) that aim at analysing and addressing drivers of tensions between and within local communities and alert authorities and municipalities when needed. Specific programmes will

target youth, girls and boys, elderly, and people with a disability, who are particularly socially excluded and lack spaces to engage. In this respect, Social Stability partners will work closely with the Protection sector and Child Protection sub-sector to train appropriate service providers on protection, child protection, safe identification, and referrals of youth at risk, including the identification of mental health psychosocial support (MHPSS) concerns. The sector will implement youth initiatives in the poorest localities and areas with high tensions. A key element of the sector strategy concerns training journalists and media students and authorities, and engaging national, local, and social media in defusing tensions through objective and balanced reporting^[14] to mitigate the growing online tensions and fake news.

Output 2.1: Municipalities and local actors have improved capacities for dialogue and conflict prevention.

This output aims to strengthen local capacities for preventing tensions and supporting activities to set up local community initiatives, referred to as “conflicts mitigation mechanisms” or “mechanisms for social stability” – coordinated with local authorities – which focus on conflict prevention and dispute resolution. This will include establishing and supporting inclusive conflict mitigation mechanisms and building their capacity on conflict resolution and peacebuilding as well as project management.

Activities will also support national organisations to substantially contribute to local dialogue initiatives.

The creation of local committees, with equal participation from women, girls, boys and men, not only contributes to enhancing dialogue, but also to mapping priorities through a participatory approach and tensions mitigation channels and may positively reflect on the community through the production of an action plan that can be used as a platform to attract donors funding and implement community-based priority interventions. One successful example of such an effective approach is the Mechanisms for Stability and Local Development (MSLD) implemented by the UNDP. Key lessons learned from these transparent mappings of dividers and connectors, needs, interests, perceptions and expectations of each community group in targeted municipalities, feed into building awareness and communication as a social dialogue and conflict mitigation action plan.

Thematic discussions will be organised to identify ways to ensure the sustainability of these mechanisms in view of the current context.

Activities will include both physical and digital soft components and apply participatory approaches to involve community focal points that represent all the sectors (education, health, infrastructure, environment, economic

etc.), including civic society, with a focus on youth and female members. 2023 LCRP Social Stability sector Planning reflection discussions in 2022 identified this as a successful approach which ensures sustainability and a sense of ownership of projects, especially if coordination and collaboration among NGOs and agencies is efficiently ensured. Through an analysis of pre-existing community-level coping strategies, the sector will take every effort to build on these as it supports new and already established mechanisms, to avoid unintended harm and undermining positive coping capacities within the community.

In 2023, the sector will continue to coordinate closely with other sectors including the Protection sector on communication and engagement with communities through existing mechanisms.

The sector will also support local civil society organisations (CSOs) by mapping out key initiatives and partners supporting CSOs. It will also inform policy related to the crisis response and provide capacity building to CSOs to engage in social and peacebuilding dialogues with local communities, local authorities, state institutions, international organisations and academia.

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

This output reflects the sector's dedicated focus on youth, both to harvest their positive contribution to social stability, and most importantly to prevent their marginalisation and drifting in negative coping mechanisms such as drug use, radicalisation and crimes.

In 2022, more than **30%** of the population considers that competition for services and utilities **is a key driver of tensions** (29.6% of Lebanese and 33.3% of Syrians)

UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV, August 2022

By engaging youth in activities which benefit the community while enhancing their skills, their communal belonging and role will be strengthened. In addition, activities aiming at building relations with youth in other communities will also be conducted with a conflict-sensitive lens. While the focus on ‘youth at risk’ will tend to target primarily young men, other peacebuilding initiatives will ensure meaningful participation of all groups with particular focus on girls’ leadership and participation. Sector consultation discussions showed lower motivation and an increased drop-out rate of young men from youth-led initiatives and training due to pressing livelihood priorities including increased transportation and telecommunication fees, preference to engage in income generation activities etc. In addition, the sector will encourage partners to adapt activities’ timings to youth’s working hours and education schedules, which would enhance commitment in activities. In addition, realistic reimbursement of costs associated with youth participation in initiatives and integration of

^[14] 34 Lebanese media outlets (newspaper, radio and TV stations) have signed in 2013, the Journalist Pact for Civil Peace in Lebanon. Social stability partners are monitoring since then, the implementation of the pact by these outlets and organizing regular sessions between them.

in-kind and equipment support to training centres would increase youth motivation and prevent them from dropping out.

The sector will build on last year's successes in providing positive communication and leadership skills. Linking different youth groups and online platforms for social dialogues will engage youth and offer them a space to voice their concerns and share experiences and common priorities. In addition, the sector will prioritise improving local-level referrals through the Inter-Agency service mapping and by reviving municipal youth councils through volunteerism. The sector will promote better coverage of youth with disabilities and youth among Palestine refugees in Lebanon.

Output 2.3: National, local and social media engaged in defusing tensions.

The sector will emphasise its media engagement given the media's influence on public perceptions of the impact of the Syria crisis. This output aims at promoting positive, hate-free, fact-based offline and social media spaces. Media focal points (youth, journalists, media professionals and institutions, CSOs and local authorities etc.) will be engaged and trained on methods which promote objective and conflict-sensitive reporting and the culture of fact checking to counter fake news. It will be ensured that positive, safe, inclusive narratives and spaces for dialogue are presented in the national discourse and will serve to offset the increasingly hostile messaging often found in the media among Lebanese, or between host community and displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees. In this respect, the Protection sector will support improved awareness of the human rights framework and address unconscious bias.

Given the surge in hate speech and tensions on social media, and the impact of fake news on social stability, in 2023, the sector will continue to monitor tensions online.

In addition, the sector will conduct deep dives into the role of media and online spaces in increasing tensions, as well as explore ways of carrying out online peacebuilding interventions that aim primarily at de-escalating tensions, in coordination with relevant Ministries, including the Ministry of Information.

Outcome 3: Enhance the LCRP's capacities on tension monitoring and conflict sensitivity.

This contributes to Impact 5 of the LCRP (Social Stability is strengthened in Lebanon).

The sector will continue the work to build capacity and provide support to partners on conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm principles. In 2023, the focus will be on supporting the uptake of the three context-specific and practical guidance notes for Lebanon that were published and rolled out in 2022, focusing on supporting partners under the response framework in three key areas:

- Getting Started with conflict sensitivity in Lebanon

- Conflict sensitivity throughout the Project Design Cycle in Lebanon

- Conflict-sensitive Procurement, Recruitment and Accountability in Lebanon

Further to this, extensive work was conducted in gathering partners from all sectors to develop three conflict-sensitivity toolboxes on three emerging issues under the response:

1. Conflict-sensitive engagement with local authorities in Lebanon;
2. Institutionalising conflict sensitivity at the organisational level; and,
3. Conflict-sensitive Cash Assistance in Lebanon.

In 2023, these toolboxes will be rolled out under the response and Focus will be on supporting the uptake of these three toolboxes by partners.

As the need for conflict-sensitive approaches continues with the deterioration of the situation, key focus in 2023 will be to continue to build conflict sensitivity capacities for partners by supporting them in the uptake and implementation of existing guidance. In addition, continued training of front-line staff on CS and DNH will be carried out as well as a training of trainers in Arabic to boost the resource base of trainers in Lebanon. This will be coupled with technical support and advisory services to partners based on contextual developments as well as the development of ad-hoc checklists and guidance on a demand basis. Finally, regular tensions overview analysis and presentation will be provided to LCRP partners across sectors to ensure that information is regularly shared and accounted for.

Output 3.1: LCRP partners have improved skills and practices for conflict sensitivity supported by tensions monitoring analysis.

This output reflects the sector's efforts to inform the response with tensions monitoring and analysis as well as dedicated guidance and training activities to ensure conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm. To mitigate the risk of inter- or intra-communal tensions, it is imperative that tension risks and drivers are analysed and addressed so that efforts focus on mitigation, prevention, do-no-harm and conflict sensitivity in a fragile context. The sector will continue to monitor and analyse offline and online tensions and incidents, including through a gender lens, to enhance actors' understanding of the tensions and inform a more conflict-sensitive approach across all sectors.

In 2023, the sector will continue to prioritise the capacity building of partners through a number of key elements: 1) Continue to train partners on Conflict Sensitivity and Do-No-Harm, with advanced sessions for staff of specific organisations as a second step; 2) Conduct a training of trainers for Conflict Sensitivity and Do-No-Harm to build a resource base of trainers in Lebanon; 3) Support partners in the implementation and utilisation of the three context-

specific guidance notes and three toolboxes; 4) Provide advisory and technical support to partners, including through regular tension and conflict analysis with a focus on risk mitigation; 5) Develop ad-hoc guidance on a demand basis.

In 2023, increased focus will be put on monitoring and mitigation tensions online, based on the latest data and analysis. This will be aiming to combat hate-speech and misinformation/disinformation at the local and national levels. To this end, social stability priorities will need to better incorporate a digital strategy and approach to analyze how online platforms are amplifying intergroup tensions and the messages of its audience.

Intra-Lebanese relations have been deteriorating with **39% of Lebanese** having reported **negative intra-Lebanese relations**

UNDP-ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV, August 2022

Finally, the sector will continue to share guidance and engage with partners and programmes outside the LCRP with focus on local NGOs.

Identification of sector needs and targets at the individual/ Households, community and institutional/ physical environment level

The sector utilises geographical targeting, which focuses on a geographic area where indicators suggest the highest prevalence of issues vulnerabilities and poverty. The map for geographical targeting under the LCRP, named “the 332 localities that host the highest number of displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees and deprived Lebanese” (<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/96471>), was recently updated to replace the “map of the 251 most vulnerable cadastres” for 2023 interventions. The map identifies and ranks localities in Lebanon that host the highest number of displaced Syrians, Palestine refugees and vulnerable Lebanese.

In 2023, more efforts will be put forward to support sector partners to prioritise geographic areas, viewing that all localities in the 332 map are vulnerable with a high ratio of displaced persons. In addition, the sector will continue to focus on area-based approaches to ensure cost-efficiency and cover larger populations, which would positively impact social stability.

The sector will also bring attention to gender equality in the targeting and coverage of women and adolescent girls in the sector programmes and activities, supporting their leadership in preventing and addressing tensions.

Three key dimensions to targeting will be considered by Social Stability partners in 2023:

First, social stability interventions have typically targeted institutions and communities in vulnerable areas. However, with the recent rise in intra-communal tensions, social tensions are now not always correlated with vulnerability as defined in the new 332 Localities map in Lebanon which details the localities that host the highest number of displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees and deprived Lebanese. As such, areas with high tensions outside of the 332 Localities map do exist. Therefore, while the 332 Map will remain a key reference for the sector to identify localities, where displaced Syrians, Palestine refugees and vulnerable Lebanese are concentrated (hosting 87% of displaced Syrian/Palestinian refugees and 74% of deprived Lebanese), an additional layer of analysis that measures social tensions will be used to ensure that all high-tension areas are addressed. This additional layer of analysis will be provided to partners in 2023 in the form of detailed and frequently updated tension analysis.

Second, to ensure that the sector delivers better impact and equivalent treatment of geographically and socially interconnected places, targeting should increasingly apply a cluster or area-based approach where possible. The rationale of the approach is that geographically linked areas, which share common problems and resources and a willingness to address them jointly, should be targeted through shared projects by sector partners. In fact, a cluster approach which engages surrounding municipalities is often indispensable to developing sustainable solutions to problems, enhancing sustainability, achieving higher impact and ensuring economies of scale.

Third, in line with the sector’s community engagement efforts, the poorest communities will be targeted. Marginalised youths will be prioritised, particularly for school and university dropouts, to protect them from marginalisation and radicalisation and from drifting into negative coping mechanisms. There will also be proper representation of women and girls. Robust referral pathways to case management agencies or trained social workers are essential to ensuring these efforts do not risk causing harm. Active efforts will be undertaken, for example, by partners holding separate sessions to account for the fact that barriers for their substantive engagement may be found in existing conflict dialogue initiatives, to ensure the views of these cohorts are accounted for. This will be done through protection risk analyses and the inclusion of questions on this topic within the annual Conflict Sensitivity and Do-No-Harm Mainstreaming Survey.

Total sector needs and targets in 2022

Population Cohort	Total Population	Total Population in Need	Total Population Targeted	Total population targeted									
				# female	% female	# male	% male	# Children (0-17)	% Children	# Adolescent (10-17)	% Adolescent	Additional disaggregation (ex. With Sp Needs)	% additional disaggregation
Lebanese	3,864,296	2,063,582	1,538,372	799,953	52%	738,419	48%	479,972	31%	250,755	16%	153,837	10.0%
Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	765,000	51%	735,000	49%	781,500	52%	306,000	20%	135,000	9.0%
Palestinian Refugees from Syria	31,400	31,400	31,400	16,328	52%	15,072	48%	10,990	35%	4,804	15%	2,512	8.0%
Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	180,000	180,000	180,000	93,600	52%	86,400	48%	63,000	35%	27,540	15%	18,000	10.0%
GRAND TOTAL	5,575,696	3,774,982	3,249,772	1,675,000		1,575,000		1,335,000		589,000		309,000	

Type of institution	Total	Targeted
Municipalities	1058	328
Hospitals	173	147
Schools	1232	864
Water establishments	4	4
Social Development Centers	140	118
Central Ministries	22	6
Primary Health Care	245	215
Governors Offices	8	8
Districts	26	25

3. MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER AND GBV, PROTECTION, CONFLICT SENSITIVITY, PSEA, ENVIROMENT AND HEALTH

Conflict Sensitivity

The sector will continue to monitor and analyse tensions and incidents to inform conflict sensitivity mainstreaming and to mitigate and/or decrease the potential risks and escalations. Focus is set on strengthening all sectors' collective results on conflict sensitivity, measurement and collective lessons learning and their application. In 2023, the sector will support partners across the response in ensuring conflict-sensitive strategies through technical support, advisory, capacity building and practical guidance on lessons learned in Lebanon, with the aim of strengthening the LCRP's collective results on conflict sensitivity.

LCRP partners will be supported to implement and utilise the Lebanon-specific conflict sensitivity guidance notes and toolboxes that were developed in 2022. To build partners' capacity, additional training sessions on Conflict Sensitivity and Do-No-Harm will be rolled out, including training of trainers in Arabic to build a resource base of trainers in Lebanon. This will be coupled with technical support on thematic issues based on contextual developments and developments of guidance notes and checklists on demand.

Protection and accountability to affected populations

In collaboration with affected communities and authorities, working closely with the Protection sector, the sector will aim to minimise any negative effects of the response on the protective environment of the host community and displaced persons. The sector will deepen its collaboration with the Protection sector to maximise the complementarity of response and preparedness by focusing mainly on 1) updating the PRA to identify the implications of activities on the protection of people and take relevant measures to reduce risks; 2) exploring pragmatic ways to conduct joint tension and protection monitoring analysis going forward; 3) exploring ways to promote positive and neutral reporting through social media on both communities. The sector will also continue to strengthen safe identification and referrals by promoting the Inter-Agency minimum standard for referral, keeping up-to-date and accurate information on services on the inter-sector service mapping platform and inform other sectors about referrals accepted by the sector, particularly under youth empowerment support. The sector will work closely with the Protection Sector to ensure the participation and empowerment of women, girls and persons with disabilities through the sector's activities.

Age, and persons with disabilities

Given the challenges that tensions have on the safety and dignity of persons with specific needs, efforts will continue to be made to involve persons with disabilities, elderly and youth in sector outreach, consultations, and activities, as they tend to be underrepresented. The sector will continue to work with committees to bring together community members, local authorities, civil society and the affected population, including PwD, elderly and youths.

Gender

With the support of the Inter-Agency Gender specialist, the sector will conduct a mapping of relevant social stability interventions for gender mainstreaming. The sector will identify which types of interventions (e.g. in community support projects, conflict mitigation mechanisms, youth-led initiatives etc.) would benefit from guidance and training on gender mainstreaming. Training modules will then be developed in these on how to mainstream gender in the LCRP Social Stability sector. In addition, the sector will support partners to improve assessment and analysis processes (before projects design) in coordination with the Protection & GBV sector, to better reflect the concerns and needs of women, men, boys, and girls, to ensure Gender mainstreaming in project design and implementation phases. On the tension analysis level, the sector would engage partners to discuss pragmatic approaches on how to make the tension analysis more gender focused and responsive.

Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and accountability to affected populations

In 2023, the sector will work to ensure that complaint, feedback and response mechanisms, including from SEA and child safeguarding, are known, accessible and responsive in relation to Social Stability services, and interventions are informed by the participation of women, men, girls, and boys. Building on existing platforms and infrastructures, the Social Stability sector will continue its efforts to support partners to improve collective accountability to affected populations, including concerns related to PSEA and child safeguarding. A particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening gender- and child-sensitive complaint, feedback, and response mechanisms (CFRM), with the aim of ensuring that trends inform sector interventions and modalities and that people who provide

a complaint or feedback are responded to in a timely and appropriate manner. Information and communication channels must be designed in consultation with different age, gender and diversity groups and address identified barriers. The sector will promote the Inter-Agency minimum standard on complaint and feedback and opportunities for training on AAP. Sector members will also engage in the work of the PSEA network by appointing a PSEA focal point to volunteer and become a member of the PSEA network in order to ensure consistent flow of information and actions related to PSEA in the Social Stability sector. The sector members will attend capacity-building sessions on PSEA integration in their programming. The sector will include updates on PSEA as part of the regular Working Groups coordination meetings, and address issues related to barriers to safe and confidential feedback in coordination with the PSEA Coordinator at different levels. This includes the assessment, implementation, and post-implementation phase of interventions, specifically at projects where subjects are more likely to be exposed to SEA, such as individuals engaged in youth support activities, in labour intensive activities through Social Stability infrastructure & development projects (community support and basic services projects). The sector will encourage its members to disseminate information on PSEA feedback mechanisms.

Environment

The environmental focus will mainly be on solid waste management and the introduction of renewable energy in efforts to improve environmental conditions in localities and alleviate social tensions. The sector will train municipalities on environmental management and responding to natural related challenges and malpractices, including flooding and forest fire prevention. It will also engage the inter-Agency ETF led by the MoE to mainstream environmental considerations in other programmatic areas, including refresher training on environment assessment markers for sector partners. This includes nature-based solutions, impacts on water and wastewater, ecosystems, and land degradation. The sector will leverage existing expertise and local presence to respond swiftly to locally raised complaints to offset tensions, in close coordination with partners. The response will be focused on areas where tension is highest and on the most densely populated areas with a high presence of displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees, given the perception of their association to negative environmental impact. The sector will also coordinate with the Shelter, Water, Energy and Food Security and Agriculture sectors on addressing tension fuelling issues including solid waste management and energy provision.



Construction of a Multipurpose Centre for Artisanal Products in Ainab village, Aley, Lebanon - UNDP, 2022

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

INDICATOR 1A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage 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	%	Quarterly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
71%	24%	35%



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

INDICATOR 1B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of people reporting competition for services and utilities as 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	%	Quarterly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
34%	30%	30%



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

INDICATOR 1C	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of people who feel that they can voice concern with authorities in case of dissatisfaction	The indicator measures accountability of local authorities	UNDP/ARK regular perception survey	%	Quarterly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
58.8%	26%	35%



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

INDICATOR 2A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of people able to identify conflict resolution mechanisms/actors in their community they would turn to	The indicator measures whether a conflict resolution infrastructure exists at the local level through formal and informal institutions that local communities feel comfortable to turn to for dispute resolution as per the perceptions of affected communities	UNDP/ARK regular perception survey. Baseline: People identify at least one community institution/actor they would turn to in case of dispute.	%	Quarterly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
89%	93%	95%



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

INDICATOR 2B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage 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	UNDP/ARK regular perception survey	%	Quarterly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
54%	61%	60%



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

INDICATOR 2C	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of people displaying propensity for violence	The indicators measure propensity for violence	UNDP/ARK regular perception survey	%	Quarterly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
50%	40%	50%



Lebanese



Displaced Syrians



Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)



Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL)

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023	Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

OUTCOME 3: Enhance the LCRP's capacities on tensions monitoring and conflict sensitivity

INDICATOR 3A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of partners reporting that they have their own mechanisms to ensure conflict sensitivity	Percentage of partners under all LCRP sectors reporting reading and using conflict analysis material	Conflict sensitivity mainstreaming Survey of all LCRP sectors Partners	%	yearly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
75%	80%	80%

INDICATOR 3B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Number of LCRP sectors taking steps to ensure conflict sensitivity in their strategy and delivery of work plans	LCRP sectors (10 in total) that take steps/initiatives to integrate conflict sensitivity consideration in their work - i.e. by including specific activities related to tensions in their strategy or in the approach (targetting, training, SoPs, M&E framework etc...).	Sectors strategies and documents published on the interagency portal	#	yearly

TOTAL

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
1	10	10



WATER SECTOR

PEOPLE IN NEED



2,695,180

PEOPLE TARGETED



2,290,903

NEEDS-BASED APPEAL



\$207M

PARTNERS



30

GENDER MARKER



4*

*Intends to contribute to gender equality, including across age groups AND/OR people with disabilities

CONTACT

LEAD MINISTRY

Ministry of Energy & Water (MoEW)
Suzy Hoayek
suzy.hoayek@gmail.com

COORDINATING AGENCIES

UNICEF
Jakub Pajak
jpajak@unicef.org
Leb Relief
Michele Citton
m.citton@lebreliet.org

SECTOR OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1:

Strengthen national, regional and local public institutions' capacities to deliver improved public policies, goods and services (water and sanitation)

INDICATORS





- Percentage of increase in budget Balance of WEs has improved as a result of updated tariffing
- Percentage of increase in yearly subscriptions rate
- Percentage of water establishment continue operating as result of strengthening WE 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

INDICATORS

- Percentage increase in proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (SDG 6.1.1)
- Percentage increase in proportion of wastewater safely treated (Household component to WWTPs of SDG 6.3.1)
- Percentage increase of boys, girls, women and men with appropriate hygiene knowledge, attitudes and practices
- Percentage of water pumping stations and wastewater treatment facilities with decreased dependence on fossil fuels (solarized or powered by other renewable energy, gravity-fed)

POPULATION COHORT	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	FEMALE ♀ MALE ♂	
 Vulnerable Lebanese	1,357,427	1,153,813	599,983	553,830
 Displaced Syrians	1,244,744	1,058,032	539,596	518,436
 Palestinian Refugees from Syria	25,143	21,372	11,113	10,259
 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	67,866	57,686	29,997	27,689

1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

In the upcoming 12th year since the onset of the Syria crisis, all affected population groups residing in Lebanon are struggling to cover basic WASH needs, both in temporary and permanent locations. Nearly 2.8 million people in Lebanon are increasingly facing challenges with accessing safe and sufficient quantities of water for drinking and domestic use as well as safe sanitation. The crises are compromising both the institutional capacity to supply services as well as household purchasing power. This is driving poverty and deprivation and inhibiting access to services.^[1] Water systems are working intermittently for a few hours a day, while the majority of wastewater treatment plants are no longer functioning due to electricity cuts and the unaffordability of fuel to run the backup power generators. In such circumstances the recent cholera outbreak in Lebanon poses an additional and urgent threat, exacerbating public health risks. The sector estimates that the WASH-related needs across all 26 districts in Lebanon have increased by at least 25 per cent compared to early 2022. The socio-economic deterioration in the country is having a cascading effect on the services provision, protection risks and tensions, affecting all levels of society, from institutions to households.^[2]

Socio Economic

The Water Establishments (WEs) and, more generally, the water and wastewater operators across the country have been severely impacted by the economic crisis. According to the December 2022 draft of WEs' financial reporting to the MoEW for Q1-Q3 2022, 3 out of 4 Water Establishments are experiencing severe balance deficits.^[3] The lifting of fuel subsidies, in particular, has seen the WEs' expenditures on fuel increase exponentially throughout 2021, reaching its peak during the energy crisis of summer 2021. Support to WEs' Operation and Maintenance cost and fuel distribution to water pumping stations across the country under the ERP partially alleviated the water supply crisis. Nevertheless, the situation further deteriorated throughout 2022, when the ERP fuel provision ceased in March 2022. The ongoing crisis is severely impacting electricity production by the EDL, which forms the main energy source for 87 per cent of the water supply systems across Lebanon.^[4] During 2022 only 2 to 5 hours of electricity from EDL was received in much of the country, with zero hours provided in some parts of Lebanon. From September 2022 to December 2022 there was near-total power blackout across the entire country. These

circumstances are reflected in a direct decrease in water supplied through public networks.

WEs are also deeply affected by the crisis in terms of human resources. One analysis conducted in November 2021 by the North Lebanon Water Establishments office showed that WEs' employees in October 2021 were spending more in commuting costs than what they were receiving as salaries due to the increase in fuel prices. The brain-drain of critical technical and managerial staff heavily impacts public water supply services.

Different municipalities across all governorates that are managing their water and wastewater services are also impacted by the crisis and are decreasing or stopping operations with consequential impacts on the population.

In temporary locations, where the resident population is composed on average of 53 per cent children and at least 10 per cent FHH, the crisis is leading to an increase in eviction notices from landlords and neighbouring communities. The national average of water stress in ISs has increased from 54 per cent in 2021^[5] to 71 per cent in 2022.^[6] An increased number of informal settlements, 45 per cent vis-a-vis 37 per cent in 2021, have been relying on water trucking provided by the humanitarian community as their main water source.^[7]

Access to Services

Access to Water

With decreased availability of public water in the country, households are relying more on private alternatives at higher prices. According to the water market price monitoring conducted by the Water sector partners, the average price of water delivered by water tankers in August 2022 was around five dollars per cubic meter at the black-market rate,^[8] matching the highest cost per cubic meter in Europe.^[9] The price of both trucked water and bottled water in LBP increased over 6-fold over the past year.^[10]

The deepening energy and economic crisis continue to heavily impact the public water supply as is reflected in the UNDP/ARK Regular Perception Survey, Wave XIV.^[11] The percentage of people across population groups who worry about access to safe drinking water sometimes, often, or all the time increased from 38 per cent in February

[1] When water becomes a privilege: the consequences of shutting down the public water system in Lebanon, WaSH Sector, October 2022.

[2] WORLD BANK (2021), Lebanon Economic Monitor, Spring 2021: Lebanon Sinking (to the Top 3).

[3] Draft. MoEW/UNICEF (2022), Water Establishments Financial Report for Q1-Q3 2022.

[4] WaSH Sector, Water Supply Vulnerability Mapping, November 2021.

[5] Bonel K., Wehbi M. (2021) WaSH Sector Assessment Platform update.

[6] Bonel K., Wehbi M. (2022) WaSH Sector Assessment Platform update.

[7] Ibid.

[8] Water Market Monitoring (2022), WASH Sector.

[9] Water news Europe (2022).

[10] Water Market Monitoring (2022), WASH Sector.

[11] UNDP & ARK (2022), Regular Perceptions Survey of Social Tensions Throughout Lebanon.

2018 to 71 per cent in August 2022. At the same time, the percentage of respondents that rated the quality of water in their area as poor or very poor increased from 25 per cent in February 2018 to 68 per cent in August 2022 on a national level.

At the same time, when public services were maintained via international funding sources, Water Establishments reported an increasing trend in subscriptions. In November 2021, for instance, the North Lebanon Water Establishment (NLWE) witnessed an increase of around 50 per cent in their yearly subscription rate compared to 2020.

An increased number of people from all population groups reported not having access to enough water. 32 per cent of Lebanese HHs and 44 per cent PRL HHs reported not having a sufficient quantity of water to cover at least one basic need (drinking, cooking, personal hygiene, other domestic purposes) vis-a-vis 20 per cent and 19 per cent in 2021.^[12] Amongst displaced Syrian HHs, 56 per cent reported insufficient or barely sufficient water for washing and domestic purposes vis-a-vis 33 per cent in 2021.^[13] Bottled water remains the highest drinking water source amongst all population groups except displaced Syrian living in the ISs. Nevertheless a noticeable decrease in bottled water use has been observed for all groups. Fifty per cent of Lebanese HHs and 41 per cent of PRL HHs reported bottled water as their primary source of drinking water vis-a-vis 59 per cent and 79 per cent in 2021. For displaced Syrian HHs, 34 per cent relied on bottled water as their main drinking water source (compared to 38% in 2021 and 37% in 2020). The decrease in bottled water use might be linked to the increase in its price, a six-fold increase from 2021.^[14] Palestinian refugees from Syria /Palestine Refugees in Lebanon living in camps and gatherings are also struggling to access to clean water, with much of the camp population in coastal areas relying on water with high salinity and poor infrastructures.

Access to Sanitation

The majority (92%) of displaced Syrian HHs had access to an improved sanitation facility, a slight increase from 2021 (89%).^[15] Access to an improved sanitation facility was reported at 98 per cent for households in residential shelters. The use of basic sanitation service, which is an improved, private sanitation facility, was found to be at 60 per cent, a 16 per cent decrease from last year's 76 per cent. Among the displaced Syrian household members with a disability, 94 per cent had access to a sanitation facility adjusted for disabilities, an increase of 9 percentage points from 2021 (85%).

Nevertheless, only a portion of sanitation facilities can be considered as accessing safely managed sanitation service, i.e. using improved sanitation facilities which

are not shared with other households with the excreta produced either: treated and disposed of in situ, or stored temporarily and then emptied and treated off-site, or transported through a sewer with wastewater and then treated off-site. According to the 2021 Water sector's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Vulnerability mapping, a notable 480 cadastres (a population 1.9 million) out of a sample of 699 cadastres across Lebanon are not currently served by a wastewater treatment plant.

Access to hygiene

A high proportion of households reported issues related to accessing hygiene items (e.g. soaps, cleaning products, diapers, etc.) and adopted different coping strategies. This reflects the economic conditions and HHs' impoverishment, with 44 per cent of Lebanese and 33 per cent of PRL HHs facing such challenges. Similarly, 30 per cent of Lebanese females, 29 per cent of migrants and 21 per cent of PRL claimed that the menstrual materials are too expensive. The highest proportion of HHs with no soap by a handwashing facility or no water has been observed in Akkar, Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa (12%).^[16] Migrants and PRL face more issues with appropriate handwashing facilities than Lebanese HHs. Twenty-three per cent of Syrian HHs with babies reported not having enough baby care items (diapers, etc.), with the highest percentages reported in Nabatiyeh (47%) and in the North (34%).

Decreased access to WaSH materialised at all societal levels, including a range of institutions, such as schools, detention centres, healthcare centres and other community centres across the country.

Protection Risks

In an increasing number of informal settlements, it is reported that foregone rental payments are driving extortion by landlords, who often deny access to water in exchange for forced labour. In northern Lebanon, the second highest driver of collective evictions (five households or more) in 2021 was due to the reappropriation of land for other more profitable purposes, such as agriculture.^[17] Poor solid waste management in informal settlements further leads to hygiene and sanitation concerns for the population, as well as tensions with owners of neighbouring land, and can lead to eviction or threats of eviction. There are increasing concerns that with less fuel and electricity available, women and girls are at greater risk of sexual assault and rape while accessing basic services like water and latrines, especially after dark and in informal settlements, where the majority of female-headed households live. Also, cholera strikes indiscriminately of sex, age and social status. However, social roles do contribute to individuals' vulnerability to cholera. Studies have shown that women and girls are

^[12] MSNA 2022 and MSNA 2021.

^[13] VaSyr 2022 and VaSyr 2021.

^[14] Water Market Monitoring (2021), WASH Sector.

^[15] VaSyr 2022 and VaSyr 2021.

^[16] MSNA 2022.

^[17] UNDP & ARK (2021), *Regular Perceptions Survey of Social Tensions Throughout Lebanon*.

more affected by cholera outbreaks,^[18] and gender data from the early stage of Lebanon's response shows similar trends.^[19] Strengthening the prevention of protection risks affecting women and girls requires an increased number of safe and dignified consultations with women and girls and with women's grassroots organisations.

Tensions

In July 2022, 79 per cent of Lebanese agreed with the statement that "The presence of so many Syrian refugees in Lebanon today is placing too much strain on Lebanon's resources, like water and electricity", with more than 90 per cent of agreement in Bekaa, Beirut and the North Governorates.^[20] Tension monitoring data shows, however, that it is not primarily the variation in negative perceptions about the strain refugees are placing on resources that is driving tensions. It is rather the variations in negative perceptions about the quality of water and the access to water, in addition to consistently high levels of negative perceptions about the pressure of Syrians on resources. Water and Social Stability sector partners reported that the deteriorating perceptions are increasingly leading to tensions and incidents. In Bekaa, it has also led to a few access issues in municipalities across the Bekaa, in the last months. Wastewater management is also reported to be an increased source of tension in permanent communities in particular in marginalised neighbourhoods.

Environment

The decrease in operations of wastewater treatment plants across the country as a result of the crisis is increasing the uncontrolled discharge of wastewater across the country, exacerbating an already critical situation. These practices continue to degrade the water quality of the Lebanese rivers, springs, wetlands and aquifers. Many of these systems receive pollutant loads that are orders of magnitude higher than their carrying capacities. As such, many systems are impaired and their ecosystem functions disrupted.^[21] Furthermore, solid waste disposal in surface water and on riverbeds remains not only an environmental concern but also raises a public health concern as winter arrives and flooding episodes are witnessed at stressed locations.

Public Health Risks

The cholera outbreak was declared on the 6th of October 2022 by the MoPH. As of 28 November, the outbreak has spread to the eight governorates and to 20 out of 26

cadasters. The cases are increasing as the outbreak is spreading to new communities. Inadequate access to safe water and sanitation as well as poor hygiene practices and wastewater management directly contribute to the escalation of the outbreak. The fragile socio-economic situation of the country, the shortages of humanitarian funds and the limited resources of public institutions can result in dire health consequences for all population groups.

MoPH surveillance data for 2006 to 2022 shows that the number of Water borne diseases (WBD) in 2022 are 312 per cent higher than the average of the last 15 years. This is due to the recent cholera outbreak, which accounts for 55 per cent of the reported WBD cases and to Hepatitis A, which accounts for 25 per cent of WBD reported cases in 2022.

Several health challenges exist in informal settlements, mainly due to overcrowding, living conditions and the sanitation situation. Access to health services is also perpetuating health issues in the settlements. A study conducted in 2020 found that 33 per cent of children in ISs had at least one health problem. With no multidimensional interventions that consider improvements to living conditions, the health of young, displaced Syrians will continue to worsen.

Women and Girls

Women and girls bear the responsibility for water and sanitation in the households, including the purchase of water, which is becoming increasingly challenging, and its use (cooking, cleaning, sanitation, hygiene). Due to water shortages, women and girls and persons with disabilities are at risk of exploitation while accessing water, in particular, due to greater dependency on intermediaries and contractors. Most of the women and girls in ISs have access to HH-level WaSH facilities. Nevertheless, some still use the shared ones that expose them to the risk of sexual harassment and exploitation. Women also have specific hygiene needs during menstruation, pregnancy and child rearing, for which safe and sufficient water is needed. The economic crisis is making it more difficult for women to access sanitary pads, and although disposable sanitary pads are being distributed by WaSH partners, the number distributed is often not enough to meet the needs of the household. Disposal of disposable pads have also been an issue in some ISs.

^[18] Rancourt, N. (2013). *Gender and Vulnerability to Cholera in Sierra Leone: Gender analysis of the 2012 cholera outbreak and an assessment of Oxfam's response*. Oxfam GB.

^[19] Lebanon MoPH data on positive cases in Lebanon 57 % of the cases are females, against 43 % male.

^[20] UNDP & ARK (2022), *Regular Perceptions Survey of Social Tensions Throughout Lebanon*.

^[21] UNCR, UNDP, UNICEF (2020), *Lebanon State of the Environment and Future Outlook 2020*.

2. OVERALL SECTOR STRATEGY

Theory of Change

The updated Theory of Change for 2023, develops as illustrated in figure 1.



An increased number of people from all population groups reported **not having access to enough water**, 32 percent of Lebanese, 44 percent of Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL), and 56 percent of displaced Syrians

MSNA 2022, VASyr 2022

On the other hand, by supporting vulnerable populations in both host and displaced communities to equitable access to water and wastewater services, and fostering sustainable and responsible social and WaSH behaviour, the risks for health problems and environmental issues will be decreased, thus contributing to Impacts 2 (Immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations are met) and Impact 6 (Mitigated environmental impact of the Syrian crisis, to avoid further degradation of the natural ecosystem and ensure its long-term sustainability).

On one hand, by supporting building capacities and developing institutional governance, the water institutions will be able to deliver improved policies and strategies and maintain services at national, regional and local levels, contributing to LCRP Strategic objective 3 (Support service provision through national systems), and the provision of Wash services to vulnerable populations (Impact 3).

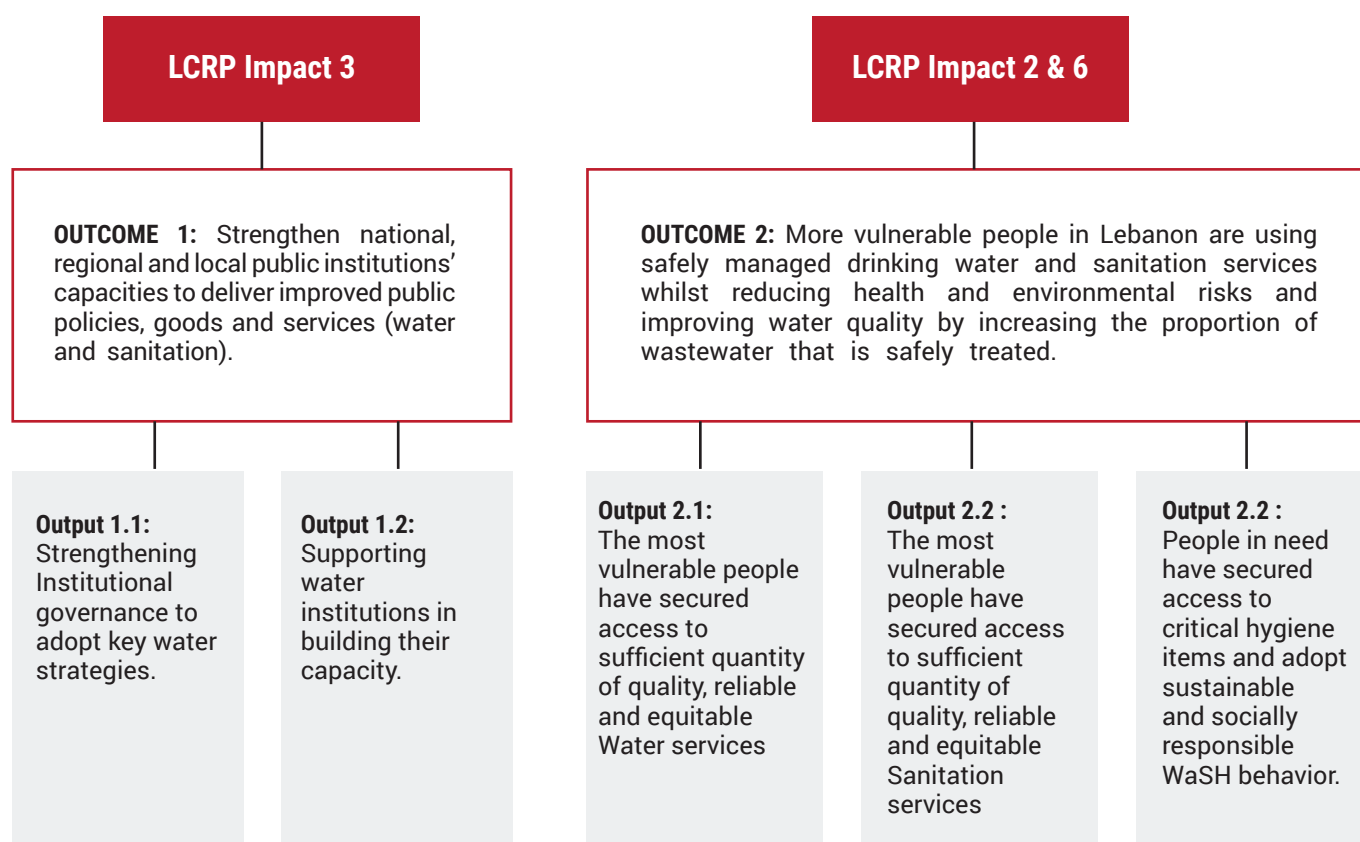


Figure 1: Water sector updated Theory of Change for 2023

Assumptions and risks

The sector strategy is based on the following assumptions, which are necessary to enable implementation of interventions and achieve the sector outputs:

- Water Sector Recovery Plan (5-year plan) will receive the full political support it needs to make it a success. In parallel to the national water and wastewater sector strategy, an urgent recovery plan targeting cost-recovery and key investments is an imminent need. It aims at breaking the vicious cycle of inadequate service and low collection and requires serious financial support and political commitment from the GoL, in coordination with the international community. The recovery plan draws the path towards a more stable and financially sound water sector in a 5-year management plan, based on a vision aiming at maintaining and improving the service to the citizens while building the technical and financial resilience of the WEs as well as the enabling legal and institutional setting.
- The update of the National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS) ratified by the Council of Ministers, knowing that the ratification of the Water Code was completed in October 2020. The National Water Sector Strategy defines the vision of the sector; it consists of a clear roadmap for new interventions. The Water Code is essential in addressing the current challenges of the Water sector; it clarifies the role and responsibilities of the actors and strengthens accountability towards citizens. The Strategic Environmental and Social assessment will be issued late 2022 and will be a consultation tool to promote the NWSS.
- Commitment and accountability across the Government will be in place to ensure the continuity of the supply and quality of water. Water quality and supply is a cross-ministerial issue and, thus, the MoEW depends on a shared commitment across the Government of Lebanon to limit practices (in both public and private sectors) that impact water quality.
- Donors provide sufficient funding to meet LCRP commitments: Q3 for 2022 has indicated only 43 per cent of its funding requirement, including carryover from 2021. Unless adequate funding is received, the sector will struggle to provide meaningful assistance and meet its targets. There are other frameworks that also require funding, such as the ERP, a humanitarian action against the economic collapse of Lebanon, specifically. The flexibility of the LCRP plan and process needs to be maintained for further prioritisation, using specific criteria (equity, socioeconomic status, alignment, conflict sensitivity and multi-sectoral impact) if underfunding continues to ensure that the most vulnerable communities/households are addressed first at the expense of much needed medium-term sectoral reforms which could lead to more sustainable solutions for the future. The sector will continue to advocate for a shared common vision for the Water Sector as critical to Lebanon's long-term wellbeing and stability.
- While these assumptions are pertinent to supporting the implementation of the sector strategy, the main risks that could hinder achievements include:
- The economic situation will further deteriorate in 2023. Continued inflation exacerbated by unregulated currency exchanges and the likelihood of further currency devaluation will increase the vulnerability of populations as well as key institutions such as WEs. With the increase in the cost to beneficiaries of alternative sources such as bottled water and water trucking, the strong assumption is that support will continue through the WEs to encourage further subscriptions and collection through a realistic tariff.
- The cholera outbreak will further exacerbate WaSH needs and impose restrictions on access to the field at certain times.
- Deterioration of the Nutritional situation. Proxy indicators are indicating that if the economic situation continues to deteriorate, pregnant and lactating mothers, plus infants and children under 2, will become a beneficiary target for WaSH. Quality of water will be essential for this group, as the situation is exacerbated at this stage by a sixfold increase in the price of bottled water. The continued support of WEs with a subscription to a more affordable tariff will need to be maintained with close monitoring on the quality of water provided.
- Rapidly deteriorating perceptions around water and/or an increase in water-related incidents could both escalate and become more violent, reducing partners' access. Tensions and incidents around water require continuous joint monitoring with the Social Stability sector.

Partnerships

The Water Sector works in close collaboration with MoEW and WEs, partners and other sectors in drafting and implementing a WaSH response. Ensuring two-way communication between the field and national levels with the different stakeholders is crucial in all WaSH responses. Since 2020, several thematic groups have worked under the Water sector (Stabilisation, Community Engagement, Sanitation, Water Quality) as well as the sectoral Task Forces (COVID, Cholera, Solarisation) to enough space for technical discussion and improve the participation of the partners in the sector. The groups are open for local and international NGOs as well as academic and governmental institutions. Potential new local partners (Local Non-Governmental Organizations (LNGO) and Universities) will be reached through networking and capacity-building plans by the beginning of the year, in continuation with LCRP 2021. Other sectors, mainly Shelter, Protection, GBV, Health and Nutrition, as well as RCCE Task Force, are also invited to some of the thematic groups' meetings depending on the meeting agenda. In addition, collaboration with other sectors is maintained through bilateral discussions and inter-sector meetings. Partnership with other sectors to outline or

develop practical guidance and joint-response is as well highlighted under the output paragraphs; special attention will be given to strengthening the coordination with the Health, Energy and Social Stability Sectors in a cross-sectoral thematic such as Solid Waste Management, tensions analysis and mapping or Environmental Health. Finally, the Water Sector will strengthen its collaboration in 2022 with the Education sector for WaSH in Schools programming including menstrual hygiene, as well as with the Protection sector over menstrual hygiene management and protection mainstreaming priorities.

The Water sector acts as the joined-up coordination platform for all frameworks in Lebanon: LCRP and ERP, and the sector's Terms of Reference have been updated and formally endorsed by the sector core group, MoEW and UNICEF as the Cluster Lead Agency, and the Humanitarian Country Team. The joined-up WaSH sector is a part of the Global WaSH Cluster.

Sector Results: LCRP impacts, Sector Outcomes, Outputs

The sector response for 2023 will contribute to two outcomes: Outcome 1: "Strengthen national, regional and local public institutions' capacities to deliver improved public policies, goods and services (water and sanitation)"; and 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".

Outcome 1: Strengthen national, regional and local public institutions' capacities to deliver improved public policies, goods and services (water and sanitation).

The success of the Outcome 1 will be measured against three critical outcome indicators that will reflect the success in the support of the national institutions in facing the current crisis: A) % of increase in budget Balance of WEs has improved as a result of updated tariffing and B) % of increase in yearly subscriptions rate to WEs and c) % of water pumping stations and wastewater treatment facilities with decreased dependence on fossil fuels (solarised or powered by other renewable energy, gravity-fed)".

Output 1.1: Develop institutional governance to adopt key water strategies.

The updated NWSS defines the main challenges faced by the Sector at the institutional, technical and financial levels. It identifies strategic components to improve sustainable and integrated water resources management and the main directions for new WaSH interventions.

In order to support longer-term sustainability of WaSH service access beyond 2023, including development of cost recovery schemes, the Sector will promote multi-stakeholder engagement at national, regional and local levels for informed and outcome-oriented contributions to

water policy design, including participation of civil society, youth, academia and policy experts.

To respond to the financial breakdown of the WEs, the MoEW will be working on an emergency national tariff increase in collaboration with the Water Sector. This will serve as a key action to mitigate the impact of the crisis on national institutions and continue to serve the host and refugee populations.

Furthermore, in line with the NWSS, the Water sector will support and promote the integrated management of water at basin scale and foster coordination between the different scales and stakeholders. The sector will promote participation between national and local actors to enhance WaSH-service delivery in vulnerable communities by reinforcing and formalising the roles of local NGOs and civil society organisations in the implementation of new projects. The efficiency, equity and sustainability of services for vulnerable populations will benefit from the local actors' understanding of the rights holders' context at the household level. This will also directly contribute to more support and funding tools for local and national responders, as committed under the Grand Bargain.

Output 1.2: supporting water institutions operations and building their capacity.

Human Resources challenges of WEs: At an institutional level, the NWSS identifies the lack of human resources and the lack of capacities as one of the main institutional challenges in the sector. On top of that, the current depreciation of the Lebanese pound is widening this institutional gap, affecting staff capacity to reach work and hence service provision. The Sector will continue to support human resources at the MoEW and WEs either directly by seconding staff to the technical and coordination departments or by strengthening the capacity of the existing staff and incentivising them, or by temporarily supporting part of the HR costs, which would be similar to what other sectors are doing to meet critical needs. In such cases a clear criteria or specific technical functions will be determined beforehand when support is provided to cover part of HR costs to avoid manipulation and political instrumentalisation of support.

Accountability of WEs: At an accountability level, some water public institutions lack communication with water users and stakeholders. The lack of transparency and accountability towards citizens, the inadequate billing systems, the poor water and wastewater service in the different areas, the lack of trust in public authorities and the users' reduced purchasing power resulted in a very low collection rate in 2021. The Water Sector will continue to support WEs to tailor/update their community engagement approaches to transform into 'user-centric' utilities, and to improve communication with the community, with an emphasis on regaining trust and increasing accountability. The investments in the local capacity of WEs will increase production, ameliorate the management of the existing resources and result in expanding service in under-served areas. It reduces the barriers that prevent vulnerable people from having access to such services. When

applicable, the Water sector will support WEs to develop and communicate clear, friendly and accessible complaint mechanisms that could provide direct feedback on the development of the NWSS.

Capacity building

The Water Sector also recommends that capacity building programs be designed closely with Water Establishments to ensure a needs-based approach, ownership and sustainability. It can include advanced training, on-the-job coaching and the provision of assets and materials. Water Establishment facilities require upgrading to improve the perception of their capacity to deliver services^[22].

Fossil fuel dependency

Given the current energetic crises, a focus on programs supporting solarisation and renewable energy transformation of the water and wastewater sector will continue. The Water sector, in collaboration with the Energy sector, will support transitioning towards renewable energy sources instead of fossil fuel dependant operations, and transformation to gravity-fed systems where feasible.

The sector will provide in-kind support to fill gaps in the operation and maintenance of services and facilities on a temporary basis, including fuel and chlorine. When deemed possible, and after using a reliable National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP) to identify the most vulnerable Lebanese households, the Water sector will promote service subsidies provided to the most vulnerable populations through an integrated approach covering the WaSH services for host and displaced communities when appropriate.

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.

Outcome 2 is being developed as a comprehensive outcome that would reflect increased access to WaSH services for targeted populations. The outcome is structured following the SDG Goal 6, and will be measured through 3 outcome indicators, against the two-year LCRP strategy, nominally: A) Per cent increase in proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (SDG 6.1.1), B) Per cent increase in proportion of wastewater safely treated (Household component to WWTPs of SDG 6.3.1); and C) Per cent increase of boys, girls, women and men with appropriate hygiene knowledge, attitudes and practices for water and wastewater. An additional outcome indicator to

reflect the impacts of the programs in ISs is also included D) Average of WaSH vulnerability reduced in temporary locations.

The Outcome 2 is achieved through three outputs: reflecting access to water (Output 2.1), access to sanitation (Output 2.2) and access to critical hygiene items and safe hygiene practices (Output 2.2).

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 a sufficient quantity of quality, reliable and equitable Sanitation services.

These two outputs aim to enhance the quality of WaSH services. The sector has two components: 1) Supporting humanitarian water and wastewater service delivery for those with least access; and 2) Improving the quality, quantity and reliability of water and wastewater services through national and regional systems.

In continuation with the 2021 Sector Strategy, for the first component, supporting humanitarian water and wastewater service delivery for those with the least access, primarily displaced Syrians in temporary locations, the focus is on implementing more localised, cost-effective and environmentally friendly solutions to reach them.

The environmental impact of informal settlements has been added to the list of criteria used to prioritise sites. In line with guidance from the MoEW, the sector will implement improved on-site water and wastewater systems that will minimise the impact on public health and the environment of the most prioritised informal settlements.

Thanks to the promising results from the different innovative wastewater treatment pilots, the Water sector continues to implement its sanitation strategy^[23] for the fourth year now towards cost-effective and environmentally friendly sanitation services in informal settlements.

Transition informal settlements through cost-effective, environmentally friendly and localised solutions for water and wastewater service provision to decrease vulnerability and reduce dependency on water trucking and desludging and reduce associated public health risks. This will be implemented based on funding availability and will be in line with MoEW's approved modalities and guidelines. This involves: prioritising household latrines; regulating and improving the monitoring of desludging operations with the possibility of moving into on-call service when possible; implementing innovative on-site cost-efficient and environmentally friendly treatment systems, where feasible and technically applicable, based on the evaluation and lessons learned of the ongoing pilot systems; and empowering beneficiaries and local entities to assume greater responsibility vis-à-vis the systems installed. Water Sector partners will continue to actively monitor the status and working conditions of the different

^[22] It is recommended to have close collaboration and coordination with WEs Director and managers when implementing capacity building programs to demonstrate impact, track progress, and ensure integration into the function/processes of the Water Establishment. It is recommended to design Key Performance Indicators (KPI) of the training and monitor the progress. Capacity building programs should target different levels in WEs, where targeting of regional Water Establishment offices is paramount.

^[23] LCRP 2020 Water Sector.

infrastructures installed and will remain accountable for maintenance and repairs beyond the capacity of the beneficiaries.

As part of the transitioning informal settlements actions the water sector will:

- collect reliable first-hand data to have a better understanding of household water management practices to optimise support;
- provide cost-effective water supply that serves the informal settlement populations and optimise the use of water trucking services with guidance from a study on water trucking and desludging markets;
- support regulated trucking only where possible;
- build on the planned lessons learnt from a pilot “Cash for WaSH” project to potentially scale up cash modality whilst ensuring safety and respecting Do-No-Harm principles;
- empower beneficiaries and local entities to maintain safe responsible water use;
- prioritisation will always be given to households with people with special needs (female-headed households, elderly, people with disabilities, etc.) to ensure their access to service; and,
- whenever support is provided to ISs, consideration of neighbouring host communities should be taken into account to avoid igniting tensions.

Ensure emergency preparedness by analysing trends, identifying sufficient capacity in all areas of the response, and proactively intervening using accurate information on critical needs. Build the capacity of partners to safely identify and refer protection risks during site visits, using the service mapping and the IA referral form.

Participate in the development of a Winter Support Preparedness and Response Plan at field level to optimise efficiency and the inter-sector coordination. Some of the key elements included for preparedness are performing awareness and cleaning campaigns for channels in the ISs and in the hosting villages/localities at the end of summer, completing a full set of desludging before the winter and updating the winterisation response plan. The interventions might be also linked with the rehabilitation of the riparian ecosystems and riverbeds using sustainable and ecological techniques in coordination with both MoEW, MOE, and the municipalities. Key activities for the WaSH response are dewatering flooded areas in the ISs, and supporting families in relocation for the sake of their WaSH needs.

The second component is to:

improve the quality, quantity and reliability of water and wastewater services delivered to vulnerable communities through national and regional systems.

The sector will also contribute to the implementation

of the NWSS infrastructure roadmap by focusing on safe water supply management and by improving wastewater management. In line with MoE's environmental safeguards, the sector will target the most vulnerable areas and address the most urgent issues. In line with the recommendations for ‘slum areas’ in the NWSS, the Water sector will promote piloting of service provision in underserved urban areas, leaving no one behind. The service delivery, operation and maintenance and fee collection, meanwhile, will be managed by local authorities, according to their agreement with the Water Establishments.

The Water sector strongly recommends that infrastructure projects, implemented with Water Establishments, municipalities and other public institutions should always ensure completion of a full water or wastewater system. The water Sector strongly recommends that effort be made between Lebanese authorities, donors and implementing partners to jointly implement works to complete larger schemes in these areas and to continue projects that the MoEW and WEs had already started but that failed to be completed due to the devaluation of the Lebanese pound. LCRP partners shall refrain from projects that require commitments from local authorities to complete part of the works, unless the authority has demonstrated capacity (in terms of equipment, materials and labour) to implement works within the agreed period.

The Water sector will strengthen Coordination with the Energy Sector on renewable energy projects in the Water sector, in response to the current energy crisis and in line with the NWSS.

In addition, the sector will continue to protect the drinking water sources from contamination and overexploitation through direct improvement of wastewater collection and treatment, rehabilitation of water networks and preparation of Water Safety Plans (WSP). Implementation of these plans by all WEs is paramount, including operational and compliance monitoring. The sector highlights the importance of providing immediate assistance to WE laboratories, coupled with capacity-building programs for its staff. In addition to building the capacity of the sector partners on the Water Safety Plan, the sector will also monitor water trucking and water quality.

The Water sector, in collaboration with the Shelter sector, will increase its focus on urban^[24] and peri-urban^[25] WaSH needs outside informal settlements (vulnerable people living in poorly served non-residential and residential buildings). To do so, it will further develop the preliminary WaSH vulnerability map using the available data from the VaSyR, Collective Sites Mapping Tool (COSIMA) and neighbourhood profiling and WaSH Assessment Platform (WAP). It will also involve local entities (particularly municipalities, unions of municipalities and governors). In

^[24] More than 88 percent of the population was estimated to live in urban areas in 2014, UN-Habitat, “Lebanon - Urban Issues”.

^[25] Peri-urban areas (also called rurban space, outskirts) are defined by the structure resulting from the process of peri-urbanisation. It can be described as the landscape interface between the rural-urban transition zone where urban and rural uses mix, as defined by UNESCA.

addition, criteria will be developed to address WaSH needs for different shelter types as well as supporting and adopting an integrated area-based approach to address needs.

The Water sector will capitalise on “cash for work” success stories from partners to build capacity and create jobs for vulnerable people with balanced hiring across communities (Lebanese, displaced Syrians and other people displaced from Syria), including creating opportunities for women. When deemed possible, the sector will seek coordination with Technical, Vocational and Education Training schools to implement comprehensive actions.

The Water sector will maintain close collaboration with the Basic Assistance sector to prioritise the vulnerable host community living in underserved areas, either targeting them through the Multipurpose Cash Assistance Program (MCAP) or through in-kind assistance. The Sector will strengthen referrals between both sectors to avoid duplication and ensure complementary assistance. The sector will strengthen relations with the Protection sector to ensure safe referral of individuals with protection concerns.

Output 2.3: People in need have secured access to critical hygiene items and adopt sustainable and socially responsible WaSH behavior.

The Water sector will continue to work towards enabling communities to practise and adopt sustainable and responsible behaviour relating to water, sanitation and hygiene. For water, this includes the responsible and environmentally sustainable use of resources and ensuring that community members can responsibly and cooperatively work together to access and use the resources made available to them. For sanitation, this includes adapting, when applicable, to the Lebanese context community management of sanitation facilities, including construction, governance and desludging. For hygiene, the Water sector will focus on community-led health and hygiene promotion activities for behaviour change as well as information sharing to mitigate health impacts.

The sector will work towards expanding on the ways in which we engage and mobilise communities, and complete studies on community ownership and needs within health and hygiene promotion; further ensuring that messages address needs, are innovative and transfer more ownership to communities themselves. The working group will continue working on modalities for community engagement; including WaSH committees, WaSH focal points and community mobilisers, to identify the best ways to ensure sustainable ownership of WaSH services. In this regard, the sector partners will ensure that women and girls are involved in planning and maintenance of WaSH facilities within the limits of their ISs, and that they can provide feedback.

Broadly speaking, two main areas will be pursued: increased ownership of services through community engagement

and improved awareness on social and responsible behaviours and promoting sharing responsibilities.

To increase ownership of services through community engagement, interventions will:

- Improve inclusive community mobilisation on safe water handling, treatment and storage at the household level. The Water sector will continue to investigate and adapt the way we engage communities in the management, ownership and delivery of WaSH services within their IS, and through the community mobilisation working group will attempt to find ways in which this can be improved.
- Launch mobilisation campaigns, such as the cleaning of irrigation canals to prevent flooding and riverbanks.
- Promote user-demand for services - Increasing ownership by encouraging community members to engage in requesting the needs of the system, e.g. community members themselves would request desludging, as opposed to the sector providing this in regular intervals.
- To achieve community engagement, continue working towards the integration of youth in WaSH activities as the main drive and child committees where applicable.
- Improve the link between livelihood activities and community mobilisation.

To improve awareness on social and responsible behaviours and promoting sharing responsibilities:

- Adapt hygiene messaging; improve tools and guidance and engage communities in the work towards adoption of targeted safe hygiene promotion behaviours. The messages and awareness-raising materials will continue to be tailored to target the different age and gender groups of all cohorts.
- Continue to work on menstrual hygiene promotion at all levels.
- Improve inclusive mobilisation activities/initiatives on inclusive and proper management and monitoring of water and wastewater within the household, emphasising proper water handling and storage, stop open defecation, prevent vector-related disease, and the non-connection of household latrines to water courses at displaced settings in addition to improving general environmental cleanliness and implementing the Water Safety Plan at site level.
- Improve community ownership of the environment; engage community members in sustainability and environmental issues, such as solid waste management at IS-level, the conservation of resources, water scarcity issues, the rehabilitation of riparian zones etc., linking to livelihoods activities where possible.
- Coordinate with the Social Stability sector to promote mobilisation activities and awareness-raising campaigns on solid waste management practices in informal settlements by the WaSH Partners; this to

be coupled by an integrated solid waste management campaign implemented by municipalities.

- Coordinate with the Health sector to mitigate the health effects of unsafe water and minimise communicable diseases. In particular, the focus will be on mitigating the ongoing cholera outbreak, and on continuing the joint efforts for COVID-19 response, Hepatitis A and other water-borne diseases.
- Improve monitoring at the host community level to prevent and mitigate potential onsite water contamination based on the Joint Monitoring Programme^[26] (JMP) and WSP results of the pilot areas, Water Borne Diseases data from MoPH and WAP results: reservoirs cleaning, etc.
- Create global SOPs and guidance on inclusive community mobilisation. In close collaboration with the GBV Sector, the SOP will be well defined in order to consider the engagement of different age and gender groups.

To improve awareness on social and responsible behaviours and promote sharing responsibilities between the community, implementing partners and public authorities, the sector will focus on two levels: at the displaced community level, including informal settlements and collective shelters, and at the host community level.

Provide in-kind support in cases of unaffordable hygiene materials (with particular attention to soap, cleaning products and menstrual hygiene items) to vulnerable households from displaced and host communities particularly those affected by emergencies, such as ongoing cholera outbreak. Particular attention will be paid to displaced newcomers, or persons otherwise at risk, focusing on the needs of women and girls, persons with specific needs, persons with disabilities and those living in substandard living conditions and underserved areas. The sector will complement this with hygiene promotion activities coupled with distribution of disinfectant materials and IPC kits to support confirmed and suspected cholera cases.

Support the development of hygiene promotion programmes, including menstrual hygiene, delivered through other sectors in public facilities such as schools, detention centres, healthcare centres, social development centres and other community centres and municipal gardens. It will also train hygiene promoters from the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), the MEHE, and the MoSA on comprehensive hygiene, water safety and conservation as well as integrated municipal solid waste management, sustainability of WaSH facilities or environmental safeguards at the municipal level to complement the

community-based mobilisation programmes already running in informal settlements and vulnerable locations.

At the displaced community level, the sector will continue working on measures to improve community engagement and ownership of WaSH services, including the monitoring, operation and maintenance of WaSH facilities in informal settlements and collective shelters. By engaging community members to be owners of their services and manage and maintain their WaSH systems, this also contributes to the prevention of diseases and to environmental degradation. This will be outlined and worked on through the global guideline on community mobilisation, to be created by the Community Engagement working group.

The national average of water stress in Informal Temporary Settlements has increased from **54%** in 2021 to **71%** in 2022

Bonel K., Wehbi M. (2021 & 2022)
WaSH Sector Assessment Platform update

At the host community level: Under the leadership of the Communication Working Group at WEs and in close collaboration with sector partners, the Water sector encourages the continuation of pilots and social awareness and subscription campaigns to improve the relationship between WEs and users and consequently limit the financial challenges of WEs. Community representatives should be engaged to advocate for WaSH projects and promote communication with the community and service provider. Furthermore, the Water sector will promote partnerships with local educational institutions, including schools and universities, in water management or infrastructure projects, to include the future generation in discussions regarding improved civic duty around water management and to rapidly increase the project's reach.

Identification of sector needs and targets at the individual/HH, community and institutional/physical environment level

Sector needs and targets have been compiled based on the population data package for LCRP 2023, assuming to be able to reach 85 per cent of the PIN if the plan is fully funded. Geographical targeting and prioritization will be reassessed against the new findings from the 2022 Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Vulnerability Mapping ongoing at sector Level, the update of the the 332 localities that host the highest number of displaced Syrians, Palestinian refugees and deprived Lebanese' (<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/96471>) as well as the sectoral severity estimations. The estimated budget breakdown has been determined from previous years implementation using unit cost for beneficiaries and other estimates based on ground data.

^[26] It should be noted that Lebanon is one of the first countries in the world, through the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), to establish a clear baseline from which to measure progress on achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all (SDG6.1).

Total sector needs and targets

Population Cohorts	Total Population	Total Population in Need	Total Population Targeted	Total Population Targeted by Sex and Age										Add additional disaggregation (ex. With Sp Needs)	% additional disaggregation
				# Women	% Women	# Men	% Men	# Children (0-18)	% Children	# Adults (19-64)	% Adults (19-64)	# Older People (65 and over)	% Older People (65 and over)		
Lebanese		1,357,427	1,153,813	599,983	52%	553,830	48%	357,682	31%	669,212	58%	126,919	11%	173,072	15%
Displaced Syrians		1,244,744	1,058,032	539,596	51%	518,436	49%	571,337	54%	476,114	45%	10,580	1%	158,705	15%
Palestinian refugee from Syria		25,143	21,372	11,113	52%	10,259	48%	7,053	33%	12,182	57%	2,137	10%	3,206	15%
Palestine refugee in Lebanon		67,866	57,686	29,997	52%	27,689	48%	19,036	33%	32,881	57%	5,769	10%	8,653	15%
GRAND TOTAL		2,750,709	2,338,103	1,180,689		1,110,214		955,108		1,190,389		145,406		343,635	

Type of institution	Total	# Targeted
Municipalities	1010	1010
Hospitals		
Schools		
Water establishments and LRA	5	5
School Development Centers		
Central Ministries	2	2
(add where applicable)		



Refugee women cleaning a tank during a WASH session, Beqaa, Lebanon – World Vision Lebanon, 2022

3. MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER AND GBV, PROTECTION, CONFLICT SENSITIVITY, PSEA, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Gender and Youth

Gender and youth considerations are mainstreamed in the Water Sector response, mainly at the programming and field levels. The sector promotes gender mainstreaming through the implementation of the Gender in Humanitarian Action Handbook and the incorporation of the global sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) guidelines, by incorporating gender and GBV in needs assessments. The Water Sector is committed to collecting and using sex, age and disability disaggregated data during assessment, monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the sector builds the capacity of the staff that are engaged in outreach activities on WaSH-related GBV risks and referrals. At field level, partners will continue to increase focus on the dignity and protection needs of women and girls, with reference to the minimum standards for safety and dignity. Menstrual hygiene management and promotion activities will be strengthened, including strengthening the participation of women and girls in defining the content of MH kits and MHP sessions. With close collaboration with the Protection Sector and GBV Task Force, Special mainstreaming of adolescent girls' needs will be addressed through specific activities and provision of items (dignity kit and menstrual hygiene items).

There will be a continuance of capacity-building to mitigate the risks of GBV where women lack access to segregated, safe toilets. For instance, ensuring there are sex-segregated toilets where there are no family latrines and washing facilities.

Women and girls are sometimes responsible for collecting water and other key tasks like maintenance of water and sanitation facilities and hygiene. These tasks expose them to risks and heavy burdens, especially when facilities are far away from their shelter, difficult to use or not functioning properly. To that end, women and girls will continue to engage in the WaSH and Youth committees formed at the informal settlement level.

Conflict sensitivity

Water and wastewater continue to be two major sources of tension between communities in Lebanon. The Water sector will continue to reduce social tensions by supporting equitable and dignified access for all vulnerable communities, whether Lebanese, Palestine Refugees or displaced Syrians. Equal access to services not only mitigates the risk of resource-based tensions and conflict but also promotes an environment in which

people feel their needs are met fairly.^[27] Many sector activities contribute to building community resilience (awareness raising, training, community mobilisation – particularly to forming community committees), and to creating productive for discussion and problem-solving.^[28] Sector partners are also undertaking studies of how WaSH projects can be used as a catalyst for peace. Importantly, as evidenced through surveying, the positive impact of hard components, such as community support projects, (including support to local authorities on service provision, such as safe water supply or solid waste management) is maximised when coupled with soft interventions such as dialogue processes. Partners will continue to be encouraged to ensure that consultation processes that preferably bring differing communities together accompany their WaSH interventions through the project cycle.

Conflict sensitivity is one of the leading prioritisation criteria for the sector, and the Water sector will continue to coordinate with the Social Stability sector and Tensions Task Force to analyse areas of tension in order to find ways of addressing concerns related to water and sanitation. This can be achieved by understanding the key causes of tensions, as well as the training of partners on Conflict Sensitivity & Do-No-Harm. In addition, when possible, partners will be encouraged to conduct their own analyses and take mitigating measures to emerging conflict risks by applying the Do-No-Harm framework to their interventions, which will also include the standardisation and harmonisation of services.

In partnership with the Social Stability sector, the sector will support partners in the uptake and implementation of the three context-specific and practical guidance notes for Lebanon that were published and rolled out, focusing on supporting partners under the response framework in three key areas:

Getting Started with conflict sensitivity in Lebanon.

Conflict Sensitivity throughout the Project Design Cycle in Lebanon.

Conflict-sensitive Procurement, Recruitment and Accountability in Lebanon.

In addition to this, the response has three conflict-

^[27] Align planning with the 3RP guidance note on Conflict-Sensitive Programming (Guidance Note).

^[28] Incorporate the guiding principles on CS & DNH with "Guidance Note 1: Getting Started with Conflict Sensitivity in Lebanon" by UNDP Lebanon: [Click here](#).

sensitivity toolboxes on three emerging issues: 1): Conflict-Sensitive engagement with local authorities in Lebanon; 2) Institutionalising conflict sensitivity at the organisational level; and 3) Conflict Sensitive Cash Assistance in Lebanon. In 2023, these toolboxes will be rolled out under the response and support will be provided to partners in their applications.

Regarding management of solid waste, the Water Sector will collaborate closely with the Solid Waste Task Force to ensure that all waste produced by WaSH activities is properly collected and safely disposed. Overall, the Water sector will take the responsibility to ensure this synergy takes place with the Social Stability Sector.

Protection

Protection, gender and disability are reflected in WaSH needs assessments and monitoring and evaluation tools. Through improved data collection on persons with disabilities using the Washington group questions, 19 the Water sector has a better understanding of the WaSH needs for this group and will take steps to disaggregate its indicators by age, gender and disability. To ensure further inclusion of persons with specific needs, women and girls, the Water sector will continue to work with WaSH youth and children's committees in informal settlements to identify and respond to protection risks. It will also take steps to improve the consultation, participation and ownership of persons of different age, gender, disability and nationality groups in needs assessments and response planning. Furthermore, the Water sector will use the IA referral tools and follow the minimum standards on referrals to ensure a timely and accountable response to needs, thereby preventing tensions and aid perception bias.

Close coordination and capacity support from the Protection sector and its sub-sectors will continue to be needed (GBV and CP), including to prevent any GBV risks related to WaSH services. In this regard, the sector will – in 2022 – prioritise the use of minimum standards on community-based interventions (CBI) developed by the Protection sector.

Finally, the major infrastructural projects implemented in municipalities will also be functional in order to guarantee more space for protection organisations working with refugees and/or vulnerable populations. The Water sector commits to strengthening partnership and coordination at the municipal and regional levels between infrastructural WaSH projects and protection organisations working in the same areas.

Accountability to affected populations

For the Water sector, the main theme for AAP is quality assurance. To ensure this, the sector will continue to enhance the standards and SOPs. Steps will be taken to strengthen complaints and feedback mechanisms for

affected populations, as well as harmonisation through the Community Engagement Thematic group. The Water sector partners will continue to include feedback mechanisms from community to partner as part of their accountability. This will allow the continuation of the affected population to report on grievances, request assistance and provide feedback in relation to water and wastewater services. The sector will continue to play an active role in the monitoring of the various feedback mechanisms to ensure client-responsive actions are taken, and that trends are analysed where possible. As Water sector partners are using different methods for feedback, the sector will continue to promote the alignment of partner mechanisms to inter-agency minimum standards on complaints and feedback, including analysis of disaggregated data where possible. The active participation of the community will continue to direct WaSH activities through committees, outreach volunteers and community reference groups.

PSEA

The Water sector will continue to ensure prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse, and the potential for other forms of misconduct are fully considered and integrated into the sector response. The Water sector will be responsible for ensuring that sector partners commit to training or awareness-raising sessions for frontline staff on codes of conduct, including PSEA. This will raise the awareness of recipients and communities on codes of conduct and reporting/feedback mechanisms organised by the PSEA technical working group. In addition, the Water sector will continue to include leaflets as part of the in-kind assistance packages distributed. Furthermore, the Water sector will continue to promote the gender balance of distribution teams.

Environment

The mainstreaming of the environmental aspects is ensured in the Water sector response. Protecting the environment, safeguarding natural water sources, promoting integrated resource management and preventing and mitigating environmental contamination are the main considerations that will be mainstreamed in WaSH projects. The sector will continue to monitor and closely cooperate with the Environmental Task Force to identify causes of pollution related to the overall poor conditions of the wastewater disposal and treatment infrastructure in Lebanon, degradation of agricultural lands and environmental risks linked with informal settlements, and will advocate for support the large Wastewater Treatment Plants and onsite wastewater treatment in ISs to reduce the environmental risk and subsequent health risk of a water-borne disease. The sector will ensure the integration of the environmental marker system and consideration of Environmental Impact Assessment and Initial Environmental Examination in partners' projects. The sector will continue to highlight the importance of adopting environmentally friendly practices at source to reduce environmental impact, recycle and

reuse in workplaces. The Water sector will also continue to promote sustainable use of resources in IS and work towards avoiding scarcity issues, and in coordination with the Social Stability sector work on restoring degraded land and ecosystems impacted by ISs.

General Considerations

In 2022, the Water sector strategy will ensure a comprehensive approach and will:

- Align with the Water Sector Recovery Plan (5-year plan). In parallel to the national water and wastewater sector strategy, an urgent recovery plan targeting cost-recovery and key investments is an imminent need. It aims at breaking the vicious cycle of inadequate service and low collection and requires serious financial support and political commitment from the government of Lebanon, in coordination with the international community. The recovery plan draws the path towards a more stable and financially sound water sector in a 5-year management plan, based on a vision aiming at maintaining and improving the service to the citizens while building the technical and financial resilience of the WEs as well as the enabling legal and institutional setting.
- Be guided by the updated NWSS that will be published by the end of 2023. The updated strategy provides a comprehensive road map for water, wastewater and irrigation in Lebanon, including on infrastructure, and management and reforms. It will provide the parameters for improving services at the national and regional levels under the Water Establishments. The updated strategy will include an analysis on the impact of climate change and the Syria crisis on the Water sector. It will also ensure equitable attention for any population regardless of their nationality and include a pro-poor consideration for the populations who are often left without access to official water services or who receive inadequate service and quality.
- Align with Lebanon's efforts to meet commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 11 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 6, which seeks to ensure access to water and sanitation for all.
- Support, under the leadership of the MoPH, Lebanon's multi-sectoral efforts to combat the ongoing cholera outbreak.
- Support Lebanon's effort to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, particularly in terms of prevention through hygiene awareness and promotion. To do so, the sector relies on assessments conducted at several levels: 1) baseline for SDG 6.1 and SDG 6.1.3 has been established in 2016, 2) VaSYR 2020, 3) WaSH Vulnerability Assessment (WAP) in informal settlements.
- Build on the lessons learned from pilot projects and capitalise on the successful pilot experiences (including Water Safety Plans, Cash for WaSH, rainwater

harvesting, on-site improved sanitation in ISs, subscriber database update, Non-Revenue Water management and sustainability check) to propose improved and innovative solutions to sustain access of vulnerable communities to water and wastewater services.

- Engage with other frameworks and WaSH programs implemented in Lebanon. The Water Sector will seek complementarity with different programs, sharing of experience, knowledge, research and studies pertaining to the water sector to ensure non-duplication of activities. The sector will continue its efforts to fully join up existing humanitarian frameworks in 2023.
- Finally, in coordination with the Social Stability sector, the sector aims to contribute substantially to preventing social tensions between different community groups and within groups through targeted interventions in specific areas, such as building dialogue and consultation processes around WaSH interventions.

Year	2023			
Outcomes	Budget	ONLY LCRP	% Humanitarian	% Stabilisation
Outcome 1: Strengthen national, regional and local public institutions' capacities to deliver improved public policies, goods and services (water and sanitation).				
Output 1.1: Develop institutional governance to adopt key water strategies.	10,000,000	10,000,000	10%	90%
Output 1.2: supporting water institutions operations and building their capacity.	29,520,000	29,520,000	10%	90%
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 in hosting and displaced communities have access to sufficient quantity of quality, reliable and equitable water services	157,920,000	89,800,000	30%	70%
Output 2.2: The most vulnerable in hosting and displaced communities have access to sufficient quantity of quality, reliable and equitable wastewater services	76,100,000	61,000,000	30%	70%
Output 2.3: Displaced and host communities adopt sustainable and responsible social and WaSH behavior.	32,381,818	16,200,000	60%	40%

OUTCOME 1: Strengthen national, regional and local public institutions' capacities to deliver improved public policies, goods and services (water and sanitation).

INDICATOR 1A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of increase in budget Balance of WEs has improved as a result of updated tariffing		Water Establishment Reports UNICEF	#	Yearly

Budget

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	

INDICATOR 1B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of increase in yearly subscriptions rate		Water Establishment Reports UNICEF	#	Yearly

Subscription

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	

INDICATOR 1C	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of water establishment continue operating as result of strengthening WE capacity		Water Establishment Reports UNICEF	#	Yearly

Subscription

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
4	4	4

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.

INDICATOR 2A	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage increase in proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (SDG 6.1.1)"	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services. Drinking water: 1. from an improved water source, 2. that is located on premises, 3. available when needed, and 4. free from faecal contamination.	MICS 2023 Monitoring Plan at Source level (WEs data)	%	4 years

Budget

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	

INDICATOR 2B	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage increase in proportion of wastewater safely treated (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

Budget

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	

INDICATOR 2C	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage increase of boys, girls, women and men with appropriate hygiene knowledge, attitudes and practices	Proportion of population that has knowledge of: 1. 3 out of 5 critical times for handwashing (before eating, before feeding the baby, before handling food, after using toilet, after change diapers) 2. 2 out of 4 ways to prevent of disease transmission (hand washing, drinking safe water, using latrines, food safety) and practice: 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) 4. disposing solid waste safely and hygienically (municipality collected)	WASH SAP (HCMT) for Informal Settlements Sector KAP surveys for communities/ PDM (Cholera+LHF)	%	yearly

Budget

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	

INDICATOR 2D	DESCRIPTION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	UNIT	FREQUENCY
Percentage of water pumping stations and wastewater treatment facilities with decreased dependence on fossil fuels (solarized or powered by other renewable energy, gravity-fed)		WatSan Vulnerability mapping Activity Info Reporting	%	yearly

Budget

Baseline	Result 2022	Target 2023
N/A	N/A	



PART 3

ANNEXES

PLANNING FIGURES
ACRONYMS

ANNEX 1. PLANNING FIGURES

Category	Cohorts	Projected Population 2022						
		Total	% Female	# Female	% Male	# Male	% Children	# Children
Population Cohorts	Lebanese	3,864,296	52%	2,009,434	48%	1,854,862	31%	1,197,932
	Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	51%	765,000	49%	735,000	51%	765,000
	Palestinian Refugees from Syria	31,400	52%	16,328	48%	15,072	35%	10,990
	Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon	180,000	52%	93,600	48%	86,400	35%	63,000
	Total Population	5,575,696	52%	2,884,362	48%	2,691,334	37%	2,036,922
Population in Need	Lebanese	2,122,634	52%	1,103,770	48%	1,018,864	31%	658,017
	Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	51%	765,000	49%	735,000	51%	765,000
	Palestinian Refugees from Syria	31,400	52%	16,328	48%	15,072	35%	10,990
	Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon	180,000	52%	93,600	48%	86,400	35%	63,000
	Total People in Need	3,834,034	52%	1,978,698	48%	1,855,336	39%	1,497,007
Population Targeted	Lebanese	1,538,372	52%	799,953	48%	738,419	31%	476,895
	Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	51%	765,000	49%	735,000	51%	765,000
	Palestinian Refugees from Syria	31,400	52%	16,328	48%	15,072	35%	10,990
	Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon	180,000	52%	93,600	48%	86,400	35%	63,000
	Total People Targeted	3,249,772	52%	1,674,881	48%	1,574,891	40%	1,315,885

ANNEX 2. ACRONYMS

AAP Accountability to Affected People	IT Information Technology
AIDS Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	IYCF Infant and Young Child Feeding
CBI Community-Based Interventions	JMP Joint Monitoring Programme
CERD Centre for Educational Research and Development	JTF Joint Technical Taskforce
CFM Complaints and Feedback Mechanism	KPI Key Performance Indicators
CoC Code of Conduct	LBP Lebanese Pounds
COSIMA Collective Sites Mapping Tool	LCD Lebanese Civil Defense
COVID-19 Corona Virus Disease	LCRP Lebanon Crisis Response Plan
CPI Consumer Price Index	LED Light-Emitting Diode
CS Conflict Sensitivity	LNGO Local Non-Governmental Organisations
CSC Civil Servants Cooperative	LOUISE The Lebanon One Unified Inter- Organisational System for E-card
DNH Do No Harm	LPSP Long-term Primary Healthcare Subsidisation Protocol
DRM Disaster Risk Management	LCR Lebanese Red Cross
ECA Educational Credential Assessment	LVAP Lebanese Vulnerability Assessment Panel
EdL Electricité du Liban	M&E Monitoring and Evaluation
EIA Energy Information Administration	MCAP Multipurpose Cash Assistance Program
EPI Expanded Programme on Immunisation	MEHE Ministry of Education and Higher Education
ER Emergency Room	MHH Male Headed Households
ERP Emergency Response Plan	MHM Menstrual Hygiene Management
ESSN Emergency Social Safety Net	MHPSS Mental Health Psychosocial Support
ETF Environmental Taskforce	MMU medical Mobile Unit
EWARS Early Warning and Response System	MoA Ministry of Agriculture
FHH Female Headed Households GAM Gender and Age Marker GAP Good Agricultural Practices GBV Gender-Based Violence	MoE Ministry of Environment
GBVIMS Gender-Based Violence Information Management System	MoET Ministry of Economy and Trade
GoL Government of Lebanon	MoEW Ministry of Energy and Water
GRM Grievance Redress Mechanism HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus HLP Housing Land and Property	MoL Ministry of Labor
IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee	MoI Ministry of Industry
ICT information and Communication Technology	MoIM Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
ICU Intensive Care Unit	MoSA Ministry of Social Affairs
IEC Information, Education and Communication	MoPH Ministry of Public Health
IDD Iodine Deficiency Disorders	MPCA Multipurpose Cash Assistance
ILO International Labor Organisation	MSME Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
IPC Infection, Prevention and Control	MSNA Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment
IPM Integrated Pest Management	MSLD Mechanisms for Stability and Local Development
ISF Internal Security Force	NAS National Agriculture Strategy
	NEO National Employment Offices
	NFE Non-Formal Education

NGO Non-Governmental Organisations	UN-Habitat United Nations Human Settlement Programme
NFI Non-Food Items	UNDP United Nations Development Programme
NLWE North Lebanon Water Establishment	UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
NMHP National Mental Health Programme	UNICEF United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
NPTP National Poverty Targeting Programme	UNRWA United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East
NSSF National Social Security Fund	USD United States Dollars
NWSS National Water Sector Strategy	VAM Lebanon m-VAM Vulnerability and Food Security Assessment
OHTL Overhead Transmission Lines	VASyR Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon
OCHA United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	VSD Variable Speed Drives
PCAP Protection Cash Assistance Program	WAP WASH Assessment Platform
PHCC Primary Health Care Center	WASH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
PEP Post-Exposure Prophylaxis	WFP World Food Programme
PFA Psychological First Aid	WE Water Establishment
PLW Pregnant and Lactating Women	WHO World Health Organisation
PPE Personal Protective Equipment	WSP Water Safety Plans
PRA Protection Risk Analysis	
PRL Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	
PRS Palestinian Refugees from Syria	
PSEA Protection from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation	
PSS Psychosocial Support	
PV photovoltaic	
PwSN Persons with Specific Needs	
3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan	
3RF Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework	
RC/HC Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator	
RH Reproductive Health	
UNSCR 1325 United Nations Security Council	
SDC Social Development Centre	
SDGs Sustainable Development Goals	
SGBV Sexual and Gender-Based Violence	
SIMS Student Information Management System	
SMART Survey Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely	
S/MEB Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket	
SOP Standard Operation Procedures	
SS High Voltage Substations	
STEM Science, Technology, Engineering and Math	
TVET Technical and Vocational Education Training	
UGC Underground High Voltage Cables	
UNESCWA United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia	
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund	

Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2023

**Produced by the Government of Lebanon and the United Nations,
January 2023.**