UNDP has made supporting the national efforts of the Government of Lebanon to manage the refugee crisis a priority since the onset of the crisis in early 2011, which has seen a country of some 4.5 million people, receive over one million registered refugees from Syria.

UNDP has provided both policy and operational support. At the policy level, UNDP has supported the development of the 2015 – 2016 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, leading the Stabilization aspect of the response under the 3RP. Recognising the protracted nature of the Syria crisis, the Government of Lebanon, with support from UNHCR and UNDP as co-leads of the response, is now looking to develop a longer-term response plan for 2017 – 2020.

The great majority of UNDP’s support comes at the operational level by assisting municipalities to expand access to currently over-stretched social services, and to increase livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities through the Lebanon Host Communities Project. A secondary but also important aspect of UNDP’s work in response to the crisis is that of enhancing relations between local and refugee populations in order to support social peace.

UNDP is also working in 45 Palestinian gatherings to provide better access to clean water, waste management, roads and electricity networks.

Thus far the work of UNDP Lebanon in response to the Syria crisis has supported 110 municipalities and reached over 1.4 million people, approximately three-quarters being Lebanese and the remainder refugees from Syria. This support for stabilization is tightly integrated into UNDP’s overall work in the country, which since 2010 has focused on institutional development and democratic governance, social development and addressing regional disparities, promoting environmental sustainability, and fostering conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

In close partnership with the Government UNDP is committed over the foreseeable future to assist Lebanon and its host communities to find more sustainable solutions that strengthen the resilience of institutions, host communities and refugees.

Looking Ahead: Funding and Programme Priorities for 2016

US$178 million is urgently needed to scale-up UNDP Lebanon’s work in support of resilience and stability and expand to an additional 134 municipalities under major strain. This funding will enable UNDP Lebanon to reach an additional 1 to 1.5 million people across the country at its time of greatest need.
“I would like to tell you a story, a story of a young boy who used to study nursing, but had to quit due to financial problems. One day, he received a call to attend a school to continue his profession. This education was provided for free, he was also offered a job opportunity after that; this young boy is me, thank you all for making my dream come true, for standing by me and leading me on the right track, for training me to be able to work and move forward.” – Said Ibrahim Fayad, Akkar, Lebanon

“I am very proud of myself today, I know more administrative work, I have experience that enables me to be stronger within my community. I am proud of myself because I am not only Josianne now, the young lady who does house work, but I have become a lady with a certificate that will make me stronger.” – Josianne Issa, Akkar, Lebanon

In September 2015, UNDP and the Lebanon Ministry of Social Affairs organized a graduation ceremony for a group of 100 young girls and boys from different areas of the Akkar District in Northern Lebanon who completed a Rapid Vocational Training programme designed to help young people transition from school to the workforce.

Organized within the scope of a Youth Economic Empowerment Project under UNDP’s support for the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, the training programme prepares young people to take up work in gardening, food processing, hospitality, phone repair, and administrative services. Training sessions were rolled out over six months and included coursework in each discipline and practical training in partnership with local firms.

Akkar District is among Lebanon’s poorest areas, and since the beginning of the crisis in Syria has suffered from profound slowdowns in economic activity, and stress on basic services such as education, water and health as inflows of Syrian refugees have increased demand. The Ministry of Social Affairs sees Akkar as an area that needs urgent support to withstand the current crisis.

Wael El Ali, “I am 21 years old, I work as a waiter at a restaurant here in Akkar,” said Wael El Ali, one of the graduates. “I heard about the training session and I wanted to seize the opportunity in order to improve my skills and my performance at work. I really have a big dream and the trainers encouraged me. Thank you for making my dream and the dream of my friends here in Akkar come true.”

STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS OF LEBANESE YOUTH
KEY TO RESILIENCE

UNDP’s Lebanon Host Communities Project, 2016

Budget
150 million
Funds Received
23 million
Budget Gap
127 million