



## PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO

COUNTRY	BUDGET 2017-20	YEARLY	TITLE
<b>LEBANON</b>			
LPr 1	4,000,000	1,000,000	Enhancing community security and access to Justice in Lebanese Host Communities
LPr 2	400,000,000	130,000,000	Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme (LHSP)
LPr 3	12,000,000	4,000,000	Living conditions in Palestinian Gatherings hosting Palestinian and Syrian refugees improved
LPr 4	864,230	432,115	Support Office for Consensus Building, Civil Peace, and Constitutional Strengthening
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>416,864,230</b>	<b>135,864,230</b>	

*UNDP Response in Lebanon*

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 previous 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, developed a 4-year 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 140 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.

## PROGRAMME BRIEF

2017-20



TIMELINE

\$ 4,000,000



COST

**PROJECT TITLE:****Enhancing community security and access to Justice in Lebanese Host Communities**

**Resilience/Stabilization Results Achieved:** As a key development partner of the Government of Lebanon, UNDP has been supporting the national and local level crisis response activities with a focus on the host communities. This is based on the LCRP governing structure under which UNDP leads on the stabilization dimension of the response plan. UNDP focuses mainly on catalytic activities that support the stabilization of Lebanon, however, many of the activities that benefit, host communities, also benefit the refugee populations residing in these communities. In addition, some activities are specifically designed to enhance the relations of the Lebanese and refugee populations in order to maintain stability and support social peace.

**The Development Challenge:** Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities are often unable to access basic security and justice services that respond to their concrete and perceived needs, in a context of growing tensions and increased human rights violations, putting the very social fabric of communities at risk.

Lebanon is hosting a large number of Syrian refugees (approximately 1.5 million individuals) within “host communities” that are among the poorest municipalities of the country. Yet, host communities and Syrian refugees are often unable to access basic justice and security services. As a result, host communities and Syrian refugees resort to informal justice and security institutions. The lack of justice and security services severely impacts the already most disadvantaged, namely the poor, women and girls, as well as the youth and the Syrian refugees. In many cases individuals are not even attempting to access justice and choose to avoid any security/justice mechanism, formal or informal, when they have grievances. Recent surveys indicate increased tensions between host communities and Syrian Refugees. Those tensions are aggravated by human rights violations that affect the most vulnerable and which have a negative impact on the local social fabric and national stability.

**THE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTION:**

By (i) developing and institutionalizing basic state security and justice services to host communities in municipalities; (ii) improving the coordination and linkages among state actors, as well as between formal and informal actors; and (iii) developing capacities of national state institutions to understand and respond to local security challenges and tensions and conflicts between host communities and Syrian refugees. UNDP is well placed to deliver upon the above given its’ knowledge and experience in the Rule of Law sphere coupled with its’ extensive experience of working with host communities.





### **OUR APPROACH:**

The project acknowledges the importance of perceptions of insecurity in addition to concrete security needs and will support national partners to address both challenges. It will work mainly at municipality level since this is where security issues arise and actors can address those issues; but will involve governorate and central institutions in order to reengage central institutions in the response to local conflicts and support to municipal capacity development. There will be a focus on a mix of both formal and informal institutions since the population access justice and security services through such a combination. Furthermore these institutions will be presented as the backbone of the state from the municipalities up to the district/governorate level and the relevant line Ministries. Finally there will be a mix of communication/awareness activities and service provision in order to address both perceptions of insecurity and concrete security issues.

### **THE IMPACT:**

While the project will support the rapid delivery of justice and security to host communities and Syrian refugees through municipalities; it will develop capacities of central institutions (Ministry of Interior & Municipalities (MoIM), Internal Security Forces (ISF) and the Ministry of Justice ( MoJ)) as well as governorate and district authorities to support municipalities to deliver those services in the long-run. In the area of security, this will be achieved by making the ISF a resources center for municipalities on training/coaching, human resources management and planning; supporting district/governorate authorities to respond to early warning; and developing capacities of the MoIM and MoJ to gather and analyze data that will inform national policies on Rule of Law in the future. In the area of justice, the sustainability of support to legal assistance will be achieved through a hybrid-system whereby the MoJ is involved in the design and quality assurance of legal assistance services to the most vulnerable that is provided by NGOs. This will include the development of a status and harmonized trainings for legal assistants.



2017-20



TIMELINE

\$ 400,000,000



COST

**PROJECT TITLE:****Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme (LHSP)**

Resilience/Stabilization Results Achieved: The LHSP is UNDP's flagship programme in Lebanon. Since its inception in 2013 the programme has completed 454 projects in 120 localities. As a result of its pioneering efforts to deliver basic services, livelihoods and stability to vulnerable populations through community-based programming, the Government of Lebanon has requested that the LHSP be one the main vehicles for delivering donor assistance to the country.<sup>1</sup>

The LHSP provides core support to Lebanon's most vulnerable communities. It focuses on municipalities with the highest ratio of refugees to host community members and presents donors with an opportunity to support these communities in a way that combines flexible modalities of implementation with strong coordination, oversight capacity and government support.

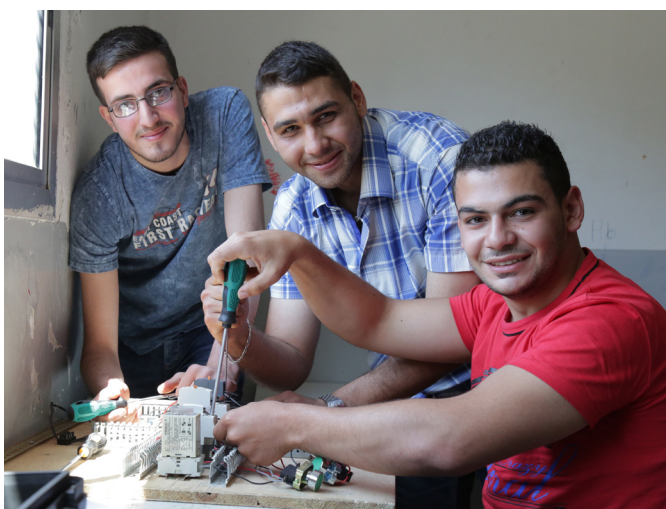
The key impact/outcome of this intervention has been the maintained stability at the local level with there being few if any occurrences of conflict between Host Community and Refugee populations despite the fact that tensions remain high.

**THE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE:**

Lebanon currently hosts the largest number of refugees per capita in the world. The presence of so many displaced people, combined with the economic downturn and insecurity created by the conflict, have placed further strain on Lebanon's fragile infrastructure, political institutions and social relations. While the country has done well to meet these challenges so far, there is evidence that the situation is deteriorating and that further support is needed in order to underwrite its long-term peace and stability. Host communities are severely affected by the crisis, with attitudes towards refugees hardening in the past year. In addition to pressure on services, economic hardship has pushed many Lebanese into poverty and caused a spike in youth unemployment.<sup>2</sup> Refugees are increasingly blamed for these effects with concern about livelihoods serving as a 'key driver of community division between host and refugee communities' and a 'leading cause of resentment'. This situation is particularly acute in heavily stressed regions, with 87 percent of displaced Syrians and 67 percent of poor Lebanese living in 251 cadastres.

**THE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTION:**

The solution to this problem requires that local actors are empowered to address the issue. Namely this means municipalities and other local stakeholders coupled with relevant line ministries leading in the response to the crisis in a manner that benefits both the Host Community and Refugee population. In short the huge labour pool available can be actively engaged via investments in essential local infrastructure. However such interventions should also be coupled with softer type initiatives that address community tensions at the local level. UNDP given its historical focus on local development plus strong links with key line Ministries is uniquely placed to deliver upon this challenge.



### **OUR APPROACH:**

To identify the specific challenges different host communities face and develop the right kind of operational response at the local level, the LHSP works in close partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and municipal governments to map threats, risks and concerns. Municipalities use the information collected through this process, known as the Mapping of Risks and Resources (MRR), which involves workshops conducted at the community level, to develop multi-sectorial Municipal Action Plans. Building upon information generated through the MRR process, the LHSP team facilitates further discussion with the municipality government and national counterparts about the projects which will have the greatest impact. Working with the municipalities, the LHSP technical team then help local officials design projects in four core areas: basic social services, livelihoods, social stability and energy and the environment. In cases where the most pressing concern is social stability, the LHSP team follows a unique protocol. Building on the MRR process, a specialist support team helps the municipality government conduct a more detailed conflict assessment, working with them to identify the cause of underlying tension and a mechanism that can be used to address conflict. These Mechanisms of Social Stability (MSS) involve the creation of community structures that allow different groups to voice their concerns and coordinate with local government so they are addressed

### **THE IMPACT:**

To date, the LHSP has delivered:

- 296 projects related to service delivery with combined budgets of \$27.6 million
- 86 livelihoods projects with a combined budget of \$11m
- 77 mechanisms of social stability, involving 195 local authorities, with a combined budget of \$4.6 million
- 70 electrical transformers, 3000 solar powered lights and 600 energy efficient stoves to the most vulnerable communities.
- Through the implementation of the projects created an estimated 166,169 workman days.

The support provided to basic services by the LHSP has assisted 814,100 poor Lebanese and over 323,400 Syrian refugees, while the mechanisms of social stability have engaged around 4,000 local actors and benefited over 40,000 people.

Furthermore, there is evidence that work to bridge the gap between government and local communities has successfully reduced social tensions. Where the LHSP has completed social stability projects, an independent evaluation found that 'municipalities are increasingly viewed as both trusted to take the right action and able to do so'. In the majority of cases, these projects have also led to renewed confidence in the capacity of local actors to deliver services, and in the capacity of the Lebanese government to respond to the crisis successfully.





2017-20



TIMELINE

\$ 12,000,000

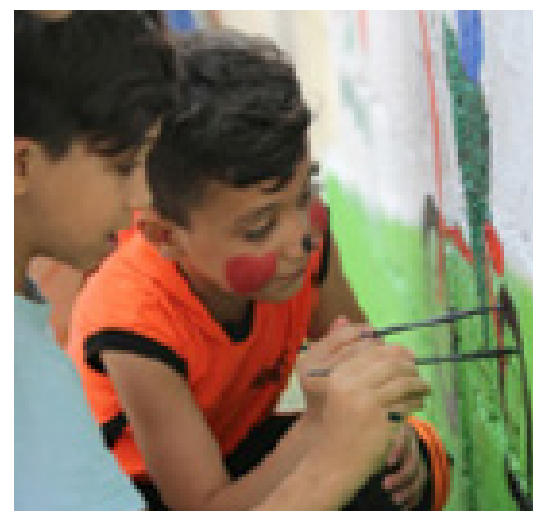


COST

**PROJECT TITLE:****Living conditions in Palestinian Gatherings hosting Palestinian and Syrian refugees improved****RESILIENCE/STABILIZATION RESULTS ACHIEVED:**

The uniquely vulnerable population living in Palestinian Gatherings represent a specific relief/development challenge. During the last three years UNDP has developed an approach that is participatory and conflict-sensitive, working with communities to develop neighborhood improvement plans. It also works closely with women and youth, providing them with vocational training and small grants to start their own businesses. Due to its strong reputation at the community level, the Gatherings Project has had particular success in reaching woman and girls both as beneficiaries and decision-makers. In short the intervention has ensured that key basic urban services are provided, improved awareness around WASH issues, facilitated the provision of Shelter and provided income generating opportunities.

Palestinian Gatherings represent one of the most vulnerable and marginalized host communities in Lebanon. 135,000 Palestinian as well as Syrian refugees live in 42 Palestinian Gatherings distributed throughout Lebanon. The populations living in these Gatherings suffer from dire conditions, marked by lack of service provision; run-down physical environments; poverty and limited access to jobs and income generation opportunities. In addition to poverty caused by insufficient household income, legal restrictions on work and property ownership imposed on Palestinian refugees in Lebanon contribute to the worsening of their socio-economic conditions. While all registered Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are entitled to UNRWA health, education and relief services, UNRWA's mandate defines its role in the provision of urban and infrastructure services to the borders of the twelve recognized refugee camps. At the same time, while municipalities in general do not provide these services in the Gatherings, there exists no mechanisms for coordination between municipalities and local actors in the Gatherings to address the needs of refugees. Being informal areas, instead, refugees rely on short-term alternative solutions to access services, resources and jobs, which are usually associated with informality, risk and lack of efficiency. The situation has worsened since the Syrian crisis that resulted in a 25% population increase in these already impoverished areas with the arrival of some 25,000 refugees. As a result, Palestinian Gatherings have been witnessing unmet demand on services and infrastructure networks, unprecedented pressure on available shelters and spaces, and additional competition over resources, jobs and relief. This situation has resulted in increased tensions and conflicts in the Gatherings, undermining stability and leading to violence and risky behavior.



### **THE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTION:**

An integrated approach that brings together various components and focuses on community empowerment and engagement of local actors should be adopted. This will provide sustainable solutions that take into consideration the current needs of the original and new refugees, while laying the foundations for longer-term development. In addition to the above where issues identified at the local level require a central level input the project will reach out to the relevant line ministries and engage. By default, this already takes place but on certain issues there is a far larger input required from the line ministry from the very beginning. This in particular relates to issues associated with water, electricity, and waste water management.



### **OUR APPROACH:**

Building on its efforts in Palestinian Gatherings since 2012, UNDP will improve living conditions for 40,000 refugees living in the Gatherings and surrounding communities. UNDP will improve WASH conditions in the Gatherings through providing sustainable solutions that take into consideration the current needs of original and new refugees, while laying the foundations for longer-term development. For this reason, WASH activities will focus on upgrading and rehabilitating existing water and sanitation networks and facilities and strengthening coordination mechanisms among various actors for improved service delivery. Another component of UNDP's intervention focuses on promoting inclusive, safer and more accessible environments in the Gatherings. This will be implemented through a participatory neighborhood upgrading approach to develop plans that address availability of community spaces, safe roads and upgraded urban assets. Most importantly, UNDP will empower youth living in Palestinian Gatherings to combat and avoid violent behaviors and prevent them having to resort to extreme means of survival. This will be achieved through support to livelihood and income generating opportunities both at community and individual levels that target youth and women. The following initiatives will be implemented:

- Enhancing refugees' access to adequate water and sanitation networks and services at community level.
- Promoting safe and inclusive neighborhoods through the development of Neighborhood Improvement Plans and undertaking upgrading projects.
- Rehabilitating shelter units to ensure shelter protection, proper WASH connections and the availability of toilets and WASH facilities.
- Combating poverty and youth risky behaviour through empowerment and socio-economic interventions that mainly target youth and women.



**THE IMPACT:**

Since 2012, relations among local authorities, host communities and refugees improved in municipalities where grants were provided to implement basic urban service projects benefitting people residing in both Palestinian Gatherings and mixed neighborhoods. The most recent independent evaluation of the Palestinian Gatherings project found that 'it has been marked by outstanding achievements. Despite sporadic episodes of violence, the assessor concluded that the project's 'achievements included the timely, adequate, equitable and continuous delivery of services and improvement of existing ones, and the creation of new ones, in response to the needs that emerged due to the prevailing crisis.

The more specific outputs that the project has delivered are as follows:

- Better access to clean water, sewage disposal, solid waste collection, roads and electricity networks in 42 gatherings provided through infrastructure projects benefitting 75,000;
- 875 housing units for Palestinian refugees rehabilitated and equipped in 35 Palestinian Gatherings and surrounding localities;
- 36,730 household and baby hygiene kits distributed to 5,000 households of Palestinian refugees from Syria residing in 30 Palestinian Gatherings;
- 17,500 Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian refugees benefitted from WASH awareness raising campaigns.



2017-19



\$ 864,230

**PROJECT TITLE:****Support Office for Consensus Building, Civil Peace, and Constitutional Strengthening****RESILIENCE/STABILIZATION RESULTS ACHIEVED:**

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**THE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTION:**

The aim of the Common Space Initiative is to support consensus building, sustainable civil peace and constitutional strengthening, and stakeholder dialogues in Lebanon. The CSI has developed into a significant structural and Lebanese-owned mechanism to address deep-rooted conflict in Lebanon through a process of dialogue, joint reflection and consensus-building. It has also become a regional resource for joint reflection between key stakeholders and a technical support provider to National Dialogues, and political and constitutional reform process in the Middle East.

**OUR APPROACH:**

This support is provided through a range of services including technical assistance, technical information and shared knowledge resources, collective and action research, common meeting spaces for stakeholders and the facilitation of expertise. Support is available to all relevant national parties and stakeholders, including relevant government ministries, political parties and civil society organizations, as well as structures and institutions responsible for political and constitutional reforms.

**THE IMPACT:**

The principal outcomes of the project are the follows:

1. Support to national dialogues' structures, mechanisms and committees provided; and
2. Support to problem-solving and consensus building, on essential policy issues provided.

*The four Outputs are:*

- 1.1 Support to dialogues, dialogue structures, policy making bodies, and consensus building mechanisms provided;*
  - 2.1 Political and constitutional reforms and dialogues supported and strengthened; including on the impact of Syria Refugees on Lebanon.*
  - 2.2 Deadlock breaking mechanisms, safety nets, and civil peace support created;*
  - 2.3 Regional technical support and knowledge resources provided;*
  - 2.4 Common Space Initiative operations and management efficiency enhanced*
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# STORY FROM LEBANON

Within the framework of the Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP), jointly implemented by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the rehabilitation of Qabb Elias irrigation canals project was implemented to support the farmers' livelihood in the area and its surroundings.

Residents in Qabb Elias rely mainly on agriculture; however, water was not sufficient and agricultural lands were underwatered. Farmers used to rely on water coming from the river through natural canals taking hours to reach their lands, which forced them to rely on water trucking and pumps to irrigate their crops.

The project was identified as a priority by the local community, stakeholders and the municipality of Qabb Elias, through the Maps of Risks and Resources (MRR); a conflict sensitive participatory approach applied by LHSP. This project would help farmers diversify their produce to include crops such as peach, apple, potato, lettuce, zucchini and peas.

"We used to suffer from water loss; the soil canals would absorb three times the amount that reached us. With the new cement canals, water reaches our lands in five minutes rather than two hours," said Bilal Hussein Ferro, water attendant in Qabb Elias. With the upgrade of the new canal system, 60% more water reaches the agricultural lands.



*We used to suffer from water loss; the soil canals would absorb three times the amount that reached us. With the new cement canals, water reaches our lands in five minutes rather than two hours*

UNDP and Makassed have come together to turn the Ward Al Makassed center into an all year round income-generating space empowering vulnerable women in Tariq ElJdide and its Palestinian Gatherings, through training, marketing and sales activities. Ward Al Makassed has helped 40 women from neighboring Lebanese and Palestinian communities overcome barriers to economic participation, by providing them with a four-month intensive training on food preparation, artisanal handicrafts and beauty care.

"27 years ago, I had to leave my work at a leading bank in Beirut to take care of my three children, sick father and blind brother. I found myself living isolated from everything; I was locked in sorrow. Halfway through my cooking course at Ward Al Makassed, I felt confident enough to present my vegetarian kitchen: 'Mom & Dad Daily'. I already have over 160 likes on my page on Facebook. I am not going to stop here; I will soon take a marketing course to further develop my brand." Ghada, 54



*I found myself living isolated from everything; I was locked in sorrow. Halfway through my cooking course at Ward Al Makassed, I felt confident enough to present my vegetarian kitchen: 'Mom & Dad Daily... I will soon take a marketing course to further develop my brand.'*



*The long-term advantages of this strategy are the decrease of diseases, and the reduced expenses on drinking water (by 60%)... every family is now saving 60 000 LL per month.*

Wadi Khaled, one of the poorest villages in Northern Lebanon, does not have a sufficient water supply for its populations. With the rise in the numbers of Syrian refugees (8000) in Wadi Khaled, the need indeed grew for water.

The UNDP Lebanon, collaborated with the Wadi Khaled municipalities in order to achieve an efficient system for water supply and distribution.. The UNDP supplied the municipality with a tractor that collects water to distribute to inhabitants. Presently, the municipalities pay 10 000 LL per tank whereas it used to cost them 25 000 LL before UNDP's involvement.

The Head of Municipalities, Nouredine el Ahmad stated that the benefiter extended from Wadi Khaled to the villages of Amayer, Rejb Issa, and El Hij. The process is at work 24 hours a day. Those benefitting of this water supply are 25000 including Syrian refugees. The long-term advantages of this

strategy are the decrease of diseases, and the reduced expenses on drinking water (by 60%).

With the assistance of the UNDP, every family is now saving 60 000 LL per month. The positive consequences include fewer diseases, thus less health expenses, and an eventual sanitary environment.



