

LEBANON



Programme Portfolio

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UNDP Response in Lebanon

After four years of receiving people displaced from Syria in Lebanon as a consequence of the war, Lebanon's Government and people now face a critical test of stability. The number of people living in Lebanon has increased by 30 percent compared to 2011 and now includes 1.2 million Syrians registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The number of poor living in Lebanon has also risen by an estimated 66 percent since 2011, to 2.2 million.

The increase in the displaced population has placed serious strains on already fragile public infrastructures, especially with respect to waste, water and sanitation systems. Schools and health centres are overwhelmed by the drastic increase in the population caused by the mass influx of Syrians. Central and local levels of government face a widening gap between the scale of emerging challenges and their fiscal and organizational capacities to meet them.

The unemployment rate has doubled in the past years and is disproportionately affecting women and youth. For the poorest local communities daily life is increasingly dominated by poverty and debt, rising waste and pollution, overstretched services and increased competition for work.

Lebanon has rebounded with the launch of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), which was co-hosted by the Lebanese Prime Minister and the UN Deputy Secretary-General. The LCRP was launched on 15 December 2014. This plan provides cohesive and forward-thinking action for Lebanon's positive future.

UNDP is the leading partner for development projects in Lebanon which is reflected by the wide range of donors, the European Union and the governments of Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK and other countries and institutions.

UNDP has a close and productive relationship with the government of Lebanon, as is demonstrated in its work with the ministry of social affairs in producing the maps of risks and resources for vulnerable communities and in leading the host community support programme. UNDP maintains solid relationships that date back from before the current crisis with the ministries of interior and water and energy, amongst others.

Also, UNDP is the lead agency on stabilization for the entire Lebanon crisis response plan and 3RP. In addition, UNDP leads the cross-agency sector groups on social stability and livelihoods, with its network of sub-offices staffed by persons with specific coordination functions, UNDP has strong operational capacity that provides outstanding value for investment.

Mitigating the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon: Facilitating policy dialogues between government institutions, local authorities, political parties and civil society organizations for more integrated national policies and response plans

The Project

This project aims to build consensus among stakeholders, including government representatives, local authorities, political groups, and civil society organizations on the formulation and implementation of integrated national policies to alleviate the impact of Syrian crisis on Lebanon. It does this by facilitating dialogue among concerned stakeholders to work towards political consensus on national priorities and a framework of action. The three dialogue cycles are:

- A political dialogue series between the main political stakeholders inside relevant ministries, representing the main political parties and decision makers
- A technical dialogue series between high level socio-economic experts, local authorities, civil society representatives, and UN mandated agencies
- A wrap up dialogue series to aid in the development of the integrated National Policies and response plans

The project is called the “Support Office for Consensus Building, Civil Peace, and Constitutional Strengthening II,” also known as the Common Space Initiative (CSI), and will be managed by the United Nations Development Programme in Lebanon.

Budget 400,000 USD

The Issue

Disagreement over political positions vis-à-vis the Syrian crisis in addition to the limited readiness and capacities of national institutions has led to an inability of the government of Lebanon to develop and implement national strategies and integrated response plans that respond to critical humanitarian needs and to the longer-term developmental challenges facing the host and the refugee communities.

Since the outbreak of the crisis, the lack of a consistent response strategy at the government level has been partially compensated by ad hoc policies implemented sporadically on national and local levels. While a multitude of studies and strategies have been offered by the various UN mandated agencies, additional work is needed to draw out issues and create consensus among the many stakeholders involved. To date, the role of the State remains limited to the validation or endorsement of the decisions and strategies of donors and international agencies. The government is coping with the daily situation and has not found ways to recover from the conflict’s impact or transform toward a long-term, integrated vision.⁵

As a first step toward an integrated response, in December 2014, the government of Lebanon and the UN launched the LCRP 2015-2016,⁶ a comprehensive strategic plan developed by Lebanese Ministries, UN agencies, and national and international NGOs. While the LCRP was endorsed by the government, integration of the two-year plan into existing national policies is still unclear. Also, the process of implementation will be managed in the current context characterized by a persisting vacuum in the presidency of the (Lebanese) Republic; the fragility of both the Parliament and the Council of Ministers; and sometimes inefficient institutional and financial sustainability of the Lebanese public administration concerned with the implementation.⁷ Despite these challenges, this project has identified a way forward.

5. Consultation and Research Institute, 2015, *Strategies of response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Lebanon*, Common Space Initiative.

6. Government of Lebanon and the United Nations, 2015, *Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2015-16*, Beirut: GOL/UN. Available online on: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/syria/document/lebanon-crisis-response-plan-2015-2016>

7. Consultation and Research Institute, 2015, *Strategies of response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Lebanon*, Common Space Initiative.

Strategy

Through the CSI, UNDP will intensify its support by providing mechanisms and spaces for dialogue to build strong links between all concerned stakeholders and to promote consensus on contested priorities (i.e. policies and response plans) for mitigating the impacts of the crisis. In close consultation with various national stakeholders, the Common Space Initiative will develop a strategy across three main dialogue series.

UNDP will engage a variety of its partners along the various stages of the processes:

- The Consultation and Research Institute (CRI) will prepare all background studies and technical research needed for the dialogue series
- Lebanese Political Parties will actively participate in the dialogue series, will ensure knowledge sharing within their political party, and propose a framework of action
- The Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Foreign Relations will all actively participate in the dialogue series, providing background knowledge and discussing priorities, needed policies and response plans
- Local authorities will actively participate in the dialogue series and provide knowledge and expertise from local practices and realities
- UNHCR, The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and the World Bank will actively participate in the dialogue series and support the dialogue processes with their perspective, resources and expertise. They will also facilitate better connections with the Lebanese Government and the relevant mandated institutions
- Civil Society organizations and Independent experts will actively participate in the dialogue series and will provide input, experience, and resources as they help validate the various proposals put forward

Partnership Framework

The Common Space Initiative will convene a dialogue series in three steps to help forge consensus.

A high-level political dialogue series with the main political stakeholders and decision makers inside relevant ministries will provide a common space for key issues to be raised and discussed. This first dialogue cycle will bring together national stakeholders representing the main political parties and decision makers. Topics will include:

- Joint assessment of the crisis' facets
- Development of a common understanding of the impact of the crisis on the country's socio-economic and political dialogue frameworks
- Agreement on national priorities and a framework
- Proposal of mitigation measures and strategies to engage in dialogue and consensus building processes
- Development of a response plan and policy formation

Activities

A Technical dialogue series between experts, including high level socio-economic experts, local authorities, civil society representatives, and UN mandated agencies will bring in local perspectives and details on how policies will be translated into action. The dialogue between the various experts will run in parallel to the political dialogue and aims at providing the necessary technical support to the political dialogue including:

- Validation of facts and figures
- Provision of necessary knowledge resources
- Building understanding on specific technical issues
- Providing options for the translation of agreed policies

A wrap-up dialogue series will finalize key issues and produce integrated national policies and response plans. Based on the framework reached in the political dialogue and supported by the technical dialogue, the final dialogue cycle will unite political stakeholders and decision makers together with the experts to focus on the translation of agreed upon frameworks into integrated national policies and response plans.

A facilitation team comprised of political scientists, socio-economic experts, process design specialists and facilitators will support the dialogue series. The facilitation team will be responsible to:

- Map all studies and strategies specific to the Syrian impact on Lebanon
- Analyze available resources and develop an analytical framework including: classification of studies, compilation of findings, comparative analysis of proposed scenarios, gap analysis of data to enhance informed dialogue mechanisms
- Develop a facilitation strategy and roadmap for the dialogue series in close coordination with the concerned stakeholders
- Facilitate all dialogue series
- Sustain the use of the dialogue process with concerned stakeholders
- Support stakeholders with knowledge production, dissemination, and roadmap planning, and
- Follow up on all dialogue results

Six years of UNDP experience has provided a foundation upon which the CSI, including established relationships across the political spectrum, will be strengthened to support to the government institution and past achievements. Past UNDP and CSI initiatives include: The Administrative Decentralization Draft Law, the Vision for the Reactivation of the Economic and Social Council of Lebanon, the Common Vision for the Lebanese Palestinian relations, and others.

The project will forge consensus on frameworks of action and long term integrated national policies. Moreover, response plans will be built among the concerned stakeholders. In the process, the project will:

- Increase knowledge about the short and long term impacts of the crisis as information is shared among government institutions, political parties, local authorities, experts and civil society
- Develop a common understanding of national challenges, opportunities and priorities among the concerned stakeholders to enhance dialogue and consensus building processes
- Integrate agreed upon national policies and response plans within the action plans of mandated ministries and local level institutions, and
- Engage in conflict resolution mechanisms for a more resilient political system in the long term

Impact

In October 2014, a Conference on the Syrian Refugee Situation – Supporting Stability in the Region was attended by The Gulf Cooperating Council, League of Arab States, UNDP, the World Bank and Member States including neighboring countries. Participants:

- Pointed out the necessity of a political solution
- Were alarmed by the protracted nature of the crisis and the continued pressures on host countries for years to come
- Recognized the need to adopt medium and long-term oriented solutions
- Noted that the focus must be on strengthening the structures and capacities of the host countries in order to enable them to master challenges and to prevent further destabilisation
- Affirmed that commitments must be made over several years so host countries are ensured greater planning certainty and predictability

Berlin Communiqué

This project aims to strengthen integrated health and social services in selected municipalities targeting the most vulnerable communities. It is part of the LCRP priority to strengthen the capacity of national and local delivery systems to expand access to and quality of basic public services. The project will strengthen capacity of:

- Municipalities
- Social development centres
- Primary health care centres, and
- Public schools delivering integrated services

In addition to strengthening services, the project will also decrease tensions and increase social cohesion because of improved access to services.

Budget 6,000,000 USD

The large influx of Syrians across Lebanon has directly affected the public service sectors at the national scale. The surge in demand for health and social services has exceeded the capacity to meet it, raising municipal costs. Social and health services are a priority need in vulnerable communities impacted by the crisis. A deeper understanding of these needs have been identified through a participatory, conflict-sensitive methodology (Maps of Risks and Resources). To date needs have been assessed in 150 communities out of the 242 most vulnerable locations in the country.

In 2013, UNDP jointly with the MoSA,⁸ launched the “Lebanese Host Communities Support Project” (LHSP) as a comprehensive, coordinated and durable multi-sectorial response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis and its implications on the country. The Project seeks to help increase stability, specifically in the areas affected by the Syrian crisis, through improving livelihood and service provision in a conflict sensitive manner, strengthening local and national capacities to the response.

As part of the Host Communities Support Project, UNDP, in collaboration with four ministries, launched the “Support to Integrated Service Provision at the local level” in 2014. Participating ministries include the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM). The aim of the initiative is to develop integrated social and health plans and services at the local level coordinated with municipalities.

The objective of the project is to strengthen integrated health and social services in the most vulnerable communities by a robust assessment of needs in areas of vulnerability, a clear understanding of government policy, and a dialogue between ministries and local working groups.

The sustainability of this strategy is based on strengthening the dialogue among line ministries and local stakeholders, taking into consideration the input coming from the regional level and the endorsement by the line ministries of the local plans for social and health services.

8. The Ministry of Social Affairs lead the institutional coordination of the LCRP for the Government of Lebanon.

UNDP has a strong partnership with the Lebanese authorities at both national and local level as well as civil society organisations, and others. UNDP is known for its ability to bring all sectors of a community together in a participatory approach to identify needs and to address community tensions.

Partnership Framework

Partners are engaged in various government working groups such as the Health and Education sector working groups and the Technical Committee of the Inter-Ministerial agreement and the local working groups. UNDP also works with municipalities to help integrated social and health services interventions at local and national level.

In each phase of the project, 29 municipalities are selected from the pilot phase of the initiative. In this framework, 72 public schools, 15 Social Development Centres (SDCs) and 15 Public Health Care Centres (PHCCs) are also targeted.

Subsequently, the Inter-Ministerial Initiative's Technical committee studies these assessments. Afterwards, the guidelines of the ministries are discussed at the local level with representatives of local stakeholders, such as PHCCs of the MoPH network, Social Development Centres of MoSA, and public schools of MEHE. The priorities for interventions are identified by the representatives of the local working group based on a mechanism developed by the initiative. The interventions are divided in two main categories:

Activities

- Improving infrastructure through rehabilitation and equipment
- Improving services and introducing an integrated approach in order to optimize resources

Once there is agreement, the interventions are carried out.

The primary impact of the project is a reduction in tension between refugees and host communities in the targeted areas. This is achieved by improved access and quality of social and health services in the targeted municipalities that are significantly affected by the influx of refugees.

The Lebanese Host Communities Support Project has implemented over 140 emergency projects across different sectors, including health, education, livelihood, water and waste management. These interventions have benefitted hundreds of thousands of people including Syrian refugees in the most vulnerable 100 out of 242 communities. In the last year, the project has benefitted approximately 900,000 people (56% Lebanese and 44% Syrian registered refugees).

Impact

The expected impact in 2015 will come from strengthening the capacity of the municipalities, social development centres, primary health care centres and public schools delivering integrated social and health services.



The Project

The overall objective of the proposed Information Management and Analysis Support (IMAS) initiative is to enhance the capacity of key government actors to better collaborate across a complex network of initiatives with international and local organisations and to improve the stabilization and resilience information available. The project will:

- Create a national stabilization and resilience IMAS system
- Support national integrated strategic analysis and prioritization for stabilization and resilience programming, and
- Integrate information and analysis, particularly about violence/security tracking and conflict risk analysis from the Information and Knowledge Management Unit of the UNDP Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) into the IMAS information, analysis and toolkits for stabilization & resilience programming

The project will do this by mapping context-specific, situational, cross-sectorial, multi-actor, stabilization and resilience (S&R) strategic analysis and prioritization. This will also include integrated programming and effective coordination for the government, UN agencies, (I)NGOs and donors in Lebanon, through the provision of information management and analysis-support tools, and the set-up of a national IMAS team.

Budget 2,233,608 USD

The Issue

The sheer scope of the humanitarian and developmental interventions carried out by UN agencies, the World Bank, bi-laterals, the national governments and international and national NGOs, underscores the necessity of a comprehensive system to help coordinate the multiplicity of assistance modalities. An information system is needed to manage projects, activities, expenditures, aid flows and funding mechanisms carried out by all stakeholders in order to optimize resources.

A prerequisite for the Government of Lebanon, as well as the UN and the international community actors in Lebanon, is to have a comprehensive mapping of interventions. This will allow access to the multiple information sources and analysis that can effectively support cross-sectorial, multi-actor, conflict-sensitive strategic programming. This is particularly needed in the context of the protracted crisis, where targets, goals and assumptions are subject to fluid change. The project will increase the capacity of partners to operate effectively in highly unstable environments, with greater flexibility in developing operational and programmatic responses that can better articulate critical needs with local strengths and opportunities, through an increased situational awareness, both individually and collectively.

Strategy

The objective of this project is to enhance the information base for all concerned actors in S&R analysis, planning and programming through standardized, geo-referenced (when possible) compilation of available data, accessible through an on-line interactive S&R-focused Geographic information system (GIS) Atlas.

Key strategies are:

- To share information among all partners and to assure sustainable tracking of international aid-supported projects and activities in Lebanon in order to create national system(s) of social tensions and risk mapping (including critical violence incident tracking)

- To support municipal-level risk and needs mapping as well as input a national integrated resilience and stabilization coordination mechanism. Finally, the project will build the capacity of key government staff in information management and S&R analysis, planning and programming

Partnership Framework

The Council of Development and Reconstruction (CDR) is designated as the National Implementing Agency for this project with participation of the Office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM), MoSA and MoIM. The Implementing Agency is accountable to UNDP for all resources allocated for the project.

A Project Board will be established to provide technical support, share relevant information, and review progress. The Project Board will be comprised of:

- An executive: a representative of UNDP providing in particular technical guidance to the project and secretariat services
- A senior supplier: representative of CDR Board
- Senior beneficiaries: representatives from CDR administration, as well as MoSA, MoIM and the project management office (PMO). Donors and other government agencies will also be involved

Creation of a National Stabilization and Resilience Information Management and Analysis Support (IMAS) system

- In order to respond to the need for a nationally-led, integrated stabilization/resilience analysis and planning process in Lebanon, a national IMAS system will be put in place within and among the key Government aid management and planning agencies (CDR, MoSA, PMO and MoIM)
- This IMAS will begin by mapping existing data, from UN/NGO, Government and private sector sources, developing a metadata tracking tool and creating a **Lebanon Digital Atlas** with all geo-referenced datasets, which can be updated regularly
- A second component of the IMAS system will be the roll-out of a dynamically updated aid projects tracking tool, integrated with the Lebanon Digital Atlas built on the existing aid coordination tracking system to re-start effective aid tracking and coordination
- A third component of the IMAS system will be an on-line **Aid Coordination Information Portal**, which will provide interactive access to the S&R Lebanon Digital Atlas and its' related Data and Map Resource Center, including a national Aid Flows Tracking report for the **National Aid Coordination Portal Dashboard**
- This portal will ideally be linked with the existing UNHCR Information Portal, so as to provide an integrated information and analysis resource center for both humanitarian, non-humanitarian, and security and risk partners

Activities

Support national integrated strategic analysis and prioritization for stabilization and resilience programming

- Building on the information gathering and sharing tools described above, a dynamic system of key social tension/risk mapping and monitoring will be designed, set up and maintained, in order to provide close-to-real-time inputs. This will be overlaid with the security and risk digital atlas in order

to prioritize security and risk responses. Further mapping will be incorporated from the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNDP to include stabilization needs of the most vulnerable municipalities. This tension and risk monitoring system will help address critical needs more quickly and effectively

Integrate information and analysis, particularly about violence/security tracking and conflict risk analysis from the Information and Knowledge Management Unit of the UNDP RCO into the IMAS information, analysis and toolkits for stabilization & resilience programming

- To support UNDP's role in enhancing security and risk programming within the UN, and its' mandate to help optimize Government technical capacities in critical development issues, an Information and Knowledge Management Unit has been created, bringing together existing resources

Impact

By the end of 2015 the ***national IMAS team*** will have operationalized the three key components for information management and analysis: the ***Lebanon Digital Atlas***, the ***MRR mapping*** and the ***Lebanon Aid Tracking and Coordination Portal***.

IMAS will dramatically reduce duplication of efforts, increase effectiveness in stabilization initiatives and increase access and accuracy of S&R information. This will improve integrated strategic analysis for interventions, particularly about violence/security tracking and conflict risk analysis.





The Project

This Project will empower change agents and municipal police to reduce tensions and prevent violent conflicts between the Lebanese themselves and Syrian refugees. Key components of the project are to:

- Develop standard municipal policing procedures and a code of conduct in partnership with relevant stakeholders whether international, national, or local
- Provide training and material assistance to municipal police in accordance with the newly developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and code of conduct
- Enhance relations and partnerships between law enforcement authorities and the community including refugees, and
- Engage the media and youth through schools to promote peace building

The project responds to the immediate needs requested by national counterparts at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, and at the same time, continues the UNDP support to municipalities and leaders at the local level to manage the crisis and reduce tensions. The project targets 100 communities over a period of two years covering the most impacted hosting communities, reinforcing social stability.

Budget 2,000,000 USD

The Issue

Five years into the Syrian crisis, Lebanon is currently facing its biggest challenge post its own civil war. With almost a quarter of its population comprising of refugees, Lebanon is under immense pressure due to the increased demand on infrastructure and public services. These pressures have also been translated in heightened inter and intra-community tensions therefore further stretching the limited abilities of the Lebanese security forces and municipalities to maintain stability in the region. Law enforcement authorities are adapting to a dynamic context where they are required to provide policing for a larger and more diverse population, including refugees.

The efforts of the national law enforcement authorities, to manage conflicts at the local level has become relatively challenging due to the significant increase in population. In this context, local elected authorities across Lebanon have been at the forefront of managing the implication of the significant increase of population, specifically in terms of basic services provisions, livelihood programmes, humanitarian assistance, and security. The international community has responded by attempting to meet the needs of the humanitarian refugees, and the hosting communities in the area of basic services and livelihoods. However, with little clarity to when the crisis in Syria will reach an end, security in general remains to be a serious component that has to be tackled in order to maintain stability between the Lebanese and Syrians as well as amongst Syrians themselves while catering to the specific needs of the already vulnerable status of the Syrian refugees.

For the first time in post-war Lebanon, law enforcement has been significantly undertaken by locally elected authorities through their municipal police. To reap the benefits of this devolvement of power special attention needs to be given to the development of a comprehensive locally-driven security strategy that guarantees both the security of the host- and refugee-communities.

To date, municipal police have not been provided with uniform procedures, resources, or specific training needed for their responsibilities (i.e. addressing the refugee communities). The lack of clarity on the municipal police mandate coupled with the limited guidance from central authorities is resulting in municipalities devising their own mechanisms for law enforcement. In this system, municipal police are the primary respondents to security incidents. The complexity of these devised mechanisms vary from one area to another depending on the size of the municipality, its available resources, and its geographical location.

UNDP is at the forefront of ensuring a stabilization-oriented response to crisis. UNDP jointly with the MoSA and MoIM have been working together on the Peace Building Project as a comprehensive, coordinated and durable response towards the Syrian Refugee Crisis and its implications on the country. The Project seeks to help increase stability, specifically in the areas affected by the Syrian crisis, through improving and promoting social cohesion and strengthening the capacities of municipalities, municipal police forces, and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities to manage the crisis.

Strategy

The exit strategy of the intervention is based on the increased capacities of the MoIM and stakeholders regarding crisis management and conflict resolution, as a result of the development of local mechanisms for social stability Municipal Social Stability (MSS).

UNDP has a strong partnership with the Lebanese authorities at the national and local levels and this is enhanced by the relationships established with other actors, civil society etc. UNDP is known for its capacity to bring all sectors of a community together in a participatory approach to identify needs and to address community tensions. UNDP is the overall lead on the LCRP with regards to Stabilization as well as leading the Social Stability and Livelihood sectors.

Partnership Framework

In its capacity as a national sovereign entity that regulates and manages local authorities and internal security forces, the MoIM will be the main partner that overlooks, executes, and monitors the successful development and implementation of the strategy.

To prevent violent conflicts between the Lebanese themselves and Syrian refugees, the programme will empower change agents and municipal police to reduce tensions by:

Developing standard municipal policing procedures and a code of conduct in partnership with relevant stakeholders whether international, national, or local

- Municipal police will be assisted in developing a policing strategy that clarifies their role as first responder, communication with Internal Security Forces (ISF) and other counterparts and understanding the needs of the local community and refugees. As part of this, municipal police will be assisted in developing standard operating procedures to implement the strategy as well as a code of conduct which will set out the legal and ethical standards by which all municipal police must abide. Once endorsed by MoIM, these standard procedures and code of conduct can be disseminated to municipalities throughout the country

Activities

Providing training and material assistance to municipal police in accordance with the newly developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and code of conduct

- Municipal police will be provided with training related to the standard operating procedures and code of conduct, community policing, preventive and response mechanisms, conflict resolution, mediation, and dealing with trauma. In collaboration with other security sector reform programs, the training will build on modules and best practices developed by the Community Policing Pilot Project in Ras Beirut and can be conducted at the ISF Academy or in the municipalities themselves. Depending on the municipalities' needs, some material assistance will be provided, primarily in the areas of communication, transportation and office equipment

Enhancing relations and partnerships between law enforcement authorities and the community including refugees

- Municipal police, ISF, and the local community will be engaged in partnership activities aimed at enhancing communication and interaction between them and improving perceptions of the police. Trainings on joint problem identification and conflict mediation will be provided, after which municipal police and community representatives will develop and implement joint projects aimed at improving the security environment. The first group of union of municipalities and municipalities that will be targeted will be selected according to the number of refugees

Engaging the media and youth through schools to promote peace building

- The project will address the gaps in knowledge, attitudes and practices of the students through training and capacity development of educators, school managers and the pupils on peace building and conflict management and will also nurture a culture of joint planning and execution of shared initiatives, including infrastructure improvement in the schools. Similarly, the project will engage journalists for the purpose of creating a space that shows the positives that come out of the crisis on a daily basis. Joint news supplements will be produced with a focus on the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon but with a constructive angle that celebrates the opportunities and success stories that are lived by the Lebanese and Syrians

Impact

The expected impact of the project is a reduction of tensions between the refugee population and host communities in the targeted areas. By the end of the project, municipalities and MoIM's capacities to promote social stability and maintain security will be strengthened.



This project will increase societal resilience against disasters, especially in refugee-hosting high risk cazas (districts) and municipalities through

- Awareness raising workshops for PCM) staff and leadership about disaster risks facing Lebanon and strategies by which the PCM can address those risks in its development projects
- Training on disaster risk reduction (DRR); including examples of earthquake, flood and forest fire mitigation and prevention
- Help the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) improve capacities for hazard forecasting, as well as the dissemination of warning information to multiple stakeholders
- Improve physical and technical as well as emergency preparedness of the municipal governments for disaster responses by supply of necessary equipment, machinery and tools

The project will help provide faster response in a volatile, disaster event to minimize the high risk of suffering by the most vulnerable, including refugees.

Budget 2,481,330 USD

Numerous crises that have hit Lebanon in recent years have provided stakeholders with a greater awareness of disaster risks. The establishment of the Disaster Management Unit at the Prime Minister's office and capacity development activities undertaken by the unit have significantly enhanced stakeholders understanding of a proactive DRR approach. However, the country still has substantive needs with regards to its capacity for disaster risk reduction, which are described below.

The Institutional Mechanism

- The lack of a national focal point institution to lead the country in the areas of disaster risk reduction and crisis management is key. Current bodies involved in disaster risk management include The High Relief Committee (HRC) and the National Coordination Committee (NCC). The bodies that exist at the moment are but rootless forums for coordination. They lack institutional foundation to perform the tasks that are required of an effective national entity.
- Numerous entities are performing a stop gap role; e.g. the DRM Unit, the office of the Secretary General of the HRC and the Advisor to Prime Minister on DRR amongst others, offering temporary solutions without institutional foundation.
- A national focal point institution is required to perform the tasks of policy making, monitoring the implementation of policies, training, awareness raising, issuance of technical guidelines for application by stakeholders, dissemination of early warnings and the coordination of actual emergency response and recovery after crisis/disaster.

Disaster Risk Information

- The disaster risk management project of UNDP has supported the production of risk information products (the digital library, the DesInventor, the national risk profile, the national flood hazard map). However, Lebanon still lacks sufficient risk information that could guide the action of ministries and municipalities towards integration of DRR into their regular development planning (land-use and urban planning, infrastructure development). The CNRS is currently producing a

The Project

The Issue

national seismic risk map, which would partially fill the gap of risk information at the national level. In the next stage Lebanon needs to produce local level risk maps for selected high-risk regions and municipalities so that stakeholders could take measures to reduce societal exposure and vulnerability.

Human Resources

- All stakeholders have expressed the need for more specialized disaster management training. It appears that in the previous phases more training has been conducted about generic aspects; (e.g. disaster preparedness, and emergency response).

Physical Capacities for Emergency Response

- Awareness levels of all key stakeholders have significantly increased, especially concerning emergency response. However, physical and technical capacities remain rather weak in the areas of search and rescue, evacuation, fire-fighting, and medical first aid.
- Except for the Beirut Fire Brigade Service, the other services lack sufficient machinery, equipment and transportation facilities to provide effective emergency support. In most cases, the available trucks, fire tenders and ambulances are worn out and require repairs or new procurement.
- The municipalities also lack rescue equipment, fire-fighting equipment (cutters, ropes, ladders, cameras, telescopes) and the IT infrastructure (e.g. satellite radios, computers, scanners, TVs, printers).

A culture of risk-sensitive development planning

- Most ministries and municipalities have not started the process of integrating DRR concerns into their regular development planning. Unless the sectorial ministries and the municipalities integrate a disaster risk reduction approach into their regular development work, the reduction of societal vulnerability and enhancement of resilience will not be achievable.
- A crucial next step is to produce/provide necessary risk information (local risk maps for high risk areas), provide basic orientation to ministries and municipalities about DRR integration and formulate a mechanism to engage them in a continued process for a few years.

In conclusion, the country suffers from a weak disaster risk management system which includes the lack of an effective policy, a functional institution, an end-to-end early warning system, technical know-how and societal awareness and preparedness.

Strategy

UNDP is working closely with the relevant ministries to guarantee that interventions are supported in the framework of national priorities and respective policies: the governance structure of the project is directly linked to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers which ensures consistency in selecting, targeting, and formulation of interventions according to the main national policies.

Partnership Framework

UNDP has a strong partnership with the Lebanese authorities at national and local levels and this is consolidated by the relationships established with other actors and civil society. UNDP is known for its capacity to bring all sectors together in a participatory approach to work collaboratively. For this project, UNDP will work with the Office of the Prime Minister, as the national focal point, and will also

maintain its strategic partnerships with the CRNS, Lebanese Red Cross, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), Civil Defence, MoIM, and the HRC in order to ensure sound and sustainable interventions that have institutional capacity improvement at the heart of the intervention.

The Project will undertake following activities:

- An awareness raising workshop for the President's Council of Ministers (PCM) staff and leadership about disaster risk facing Lebanon and strategies by which the PCM can address those risks in its development projects
 - Expose the highest level decision makers (including the Prime Minister, the cabinet Ministers and selected parliamentarians) to best practice of disaster risk management. Organize a study visit to countries that are comparable to the Lebanese system and culture
 - Organize a national conference for parliamentarians, ministers, religious leaders from all denominations of the country and other national opinion makers. The conference will include presentations about disaster risks facing Lebanon and effective national governance systems for disaster risk reduction
- Training on disaster risk reduction; including examples of earthquake, flood, forest fire mitigation and prevention. This training will involve:
 - Table top exercises held at the PCM to provide hands-on exposure to its leadership and staff concerning integration of DRR into specific upcoming projects
 - A workshop on actions needed to modify the procedures and planning instruments for PCM designed and approved projects, to ensure DRR integration into them
- In the area of early warning, help the CNRS improve capacities for hazard forecasting, as well as the dissemination of warning information to multiple stakeholders from national, to household to community levels
 - Work with the CNRS to help it acquire important data including satellite imagery, remote sensing, and weather and climate data. The Project will help the CNRS to set up a National Early Warning Committee either under the National Disaster Management Authority if it is established or independently. The multi-sectorial committee will serve as the forum to discuss important warning information and to communicate it to stakeholders
- Support the following actions at the municipalities level:
 - Improve the physical capacities of municipal governments for disaster response by supply of necessary equipment, machinery and tools. This will include provision of ambulances, fire fighting vehicles, search and rescue equipment, IT equipment and softwares for emergency response management (e.g. resource management databases)
 - Increase the technical capacities of municipal governments by providing training on disaster risk reduction and conducting simulations on emergency response
 - Improve community preparedness through awareness-raising, drills, and educational activities at the schools

Activities

Impact

National governance for disaster risk reduction will be improved through establishment of institutional mechanisms, instruments and technical capacities. This will increase stakeholders' capability to undertake risk-sensitive development planning based upon advance risk information systems.

In this phase, the Project will support the National Council for Scientific Research to produce risk maps for five (5) high risk cazas (districts), especially those which are hosting Syrian refugees, where due to the inundation of large number of refugees, the risks of environmental degradation and social conflicts have intensified.

Being the most vulnerable segment, refugees are also at high risk of suffering in case of a future natural disaster event. Therefore, the production of disaster risk maps will help the municipal authorities and national departments to plan action for increasing resilience of the high-risk refugee hosting areas.





This project seeks to address the challenges faced by Lebanon, in light of the Syrian crisis, in relation to the deteriorating economic conditions in the country and the increasing unemployment rates, poverty levels and consequently social instability, particularly in the most vulnerable host communities. This will be tackled through economic stabilization and recovery initiatives, including support to start-ups, small and medium-sized enterprise (SMEs) and cooperatives, valorization of value chains, improving workforce employability as well as the implementation of rapid employment schemes, with the dual benefit of providing immediate financial contributions to vulnerable beneficiaries while supporting local economic development needs aggravated by the Syrian crisis.

The Project

Key aspects of the project include:

- Vulnerable persons, in particular women and youth, affected by the Syria crisis benefit from rapid employment schemes based on community priorities, including agricultural and infrastructure development, health and environment awareness raising and disaster risk reduction initiatives
- Improved workforce employability of vulnerable persons
- Improved capacity of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector to create jobs

Ultimately, the project will increase stability and social cohesion and help create a path forward for financial stability among the most vulnerable.

Budget 98,200,000 USD

The objective of this project is to help vulnerable groups, especially Lebanese women and youth, and MSMEs, to cope with and recover from the economic shock through stabilizing and improving income and revenue.

UNDP Lebanon's livelihoods approach identifies three specific intervention tracks: stabilized livelihoods; local economic recovery for medium to long-term employment, income generation and reintegration; and sustainable employment and inclusive economic growth.

The project will build on previous livelihoods work, including:

- A Cash For Work initiatives working on reforestation and forest management implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture
- Cash for Work initiative that supports Community promoters implemented in partnership with UNFPA
- Employability of young people is supported via paid internships and skills development programmes, based on demand
- The establishment of Local Economic Development Agencies (LEDAs) in four different locations
- Identification, planning and construction of productive rural infrastructure such as markets, agricultural roads, and irrigation canals
- Support to existing and start up of small and medium enterprises

Strategy

The economic and social impact of the crisis on Lebanon reached new heights in 2014. By November, Lebanon had received more than 1.5 million individuals fleeing the conflict in Syria, including 1.2 million Syrians registered with UNHCR as refugees by the end of 2014, resulting in an increase of 30 % of the overall population of Lebanon.

Livelihoods in Lebanon have been severely impacted by the demographic and economic shocks as a consequence of the Syrian conflict. Due to the dependence on imports and services, economic productivity in Lebanon is highly influenced by regional and international shocks. Therefore the Syrian crisis has had a severe impact on the Lebanese economy at all levels, negatively affecting the key sectors such as trade, tourism and hospitality, real estate, energy and construction. This can be attributed to plummeting investors' and consumers' confidence due to uncertainty about the security situation, as well as the closure of strategic export/import routes for Lebanese products to Syria and the Gulf countries.

Agriculture, the third most important sector in Lebanon is the main sector of livelihoods in rural areas. The sector contributes nearly 7% to GDP and employs around 15% of the active population. The agriculture sector has experienced a growth of 7.7 % in the last 7 years. However, it has experienced a significant decrease in growth rate since 2010 caused by the Syrian crisis as the exports of agriculture products through the Syrian border decreased by 50% in 2010 and 35% in 2013. Long-standing economic inequalities are consequently becoming more widespread, affecting social relationships and wellbeing, and ultimately threatening the country's stability.

Lebanon's private sector is still largely unsupported, with local economies heavily dependent on remittances (16% of GDP or US\$7.6 billion in 2014). The large manufacturing enterprises, which struggle to maintain output, and MSME are increasingly unable to cope with the high cost of energy and operations, and the disruption of exports. In Lebanon, over 90% of enterprises currently active in the economy can be categorized as SMEs. However, the country faces several challenges that impede the potential benefits of SMEs; Lebanon often has insufficient support across the different stages of enterprise evolution and dimensions of the SME ecosystem.

The Lebanon Roadmap for Priority Interventions for Stabilization from the Syrian Conflict, issued by the Government of Lebanon in October 2013, prioritizes employment and job creation, with a strategic focus on youth employment and support to Lebanon's MSMEs ecosystem. This includes targeted financial and non-financial services (such as technical vocational training) to MSMEs in key sectors most affected by the impact of the Syrian crisis.

Within the LCRP the strategy of the livelihoods sector aims to contribute to stabilization through interventions that promote permanent job creation for Lebanese and temporary rapid income generating activities for refugees from Syria and Palestinians. Although the legal framework restricts the work of refugees the law does allow for Syrian nationals to work in certain occupations within the field of agriculture, construction and cleaning. The Support to Livelihoods and Local Economic Development in Host Communities programme pivots around the LCRP livelihood sector strategy and aims to support the priorities set by ministries and other national institutions.

The Issue

Partnership Framework

UNDP has established long-standing partnerships with a range of Ministries such as MoSA; MoIM; (MoE); Water and Energy as well as with the Office of the Prime Minister and the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR). Those strong partnerships are of particular strategic importance to achieve results in the current complex and sensitive context of the country.

UNDP has a proven track record of working with local authorities in all parts of Lebanon to address community needs in a conflict sensitive manner. This can facilitate local development, peace building and social stability. Moreover, UNDP collaborates with a number of international agencies to integrate activities together for more strategic and comprehensive interventions, some of these agencies will include: International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNHCR, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and others. UNDP, as the lead of the livelihood sector, plays a key role in bringing all the different actors working in this sector together to coordinate their work. This means that there is a strong partnership with Government and UN agencies, international and local NGOs, the private sector, and other actors working in this sphere.

The UNDP Support to Livelihoods and Local Economic Development in Host Communities programme works in five areas to impact recovery and sustainable development:

Vulnerable persons, in particular women and youth, affected by the Syria crisis benefit from rapid employment schemes based on community priorities, including:

- Community health
 - Health awareness raising in key areas (such as hygiene, reproductive health, early marriage, nutrition, family planning, Gender Based Violence etc.)
 - This activity targets women beneficiaries from host communities and links them to existing local health care institutions
- Environmental awareness raising and DRR
 - Rapid employment initiatives for Promotion of Environmental Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction may include: Reforestation and rehabilitation of forests that were damaged as a result of coping strategies, cleaning of drainage, canals and rivers for flood prevention, planting of trees along riverbanks to prevent floods, construction of flood relief canals and flood protection walls, Rehabilitation/repair of river embankment and coastal zones to protect against floods and impacts of storms. The identified Rapid Employment schemes will compliment national DRR strategies
- Sustainable Agriculture
 - Rapid employment initiatives for agriculture may include: Construction or improvement of agricultural roads, construction or repair of terraces, fencing, construction of wells and water collection cisterns, rainwater harvesting, rehabilitation of agricultural land, rehabilitation or construction of irrigation infrastructure for enhanced crop cultivation and replanting of destroyed crops
 - This work will be conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, National Reforestation Initiative and the Forest Fire Management strategy

Activities

- Community Infrastructure
 - Rapid employment initiatives for small-scale community infrastructure may include: Water management systems and other water infrastructure, waste management and community centres as well as the rehabilitation of sanitation infrastructure, public roads, small bridges, public spaces and sidewalks
 - Activities in this area will be identified through a conflict sensitive needs assessment led by the Ministry of Social Affairs to identify risks, problems and possible solutions at the community level

Workforce employability improved

- Workforce employability includes:
 - Institutional capacity building, such as improving job matching services and enhancing educational curriculums
 - Market based assessments and private sector linkages to enhance demand driven skills development as well advocating for private sector schemes for investment in skills related to current competitive sectors and potential growth sectors
 - Capacity building intended to develop a skilled workforce, such as market driven training (e.g. technical training, business and communication, practical trainings etc.) and linkages with SMEs (e.g. internships, traineeships, job orientation etc.)

Capacity of MSMEs sector to create jobs improved

- Support to MSMEs will include:
 - Capacity building of institutions that support the MSME environment, including addressing gaps in the MSME ecosystem and building the capacities of current institutions
 - Support to existing MSMEs, such as improving the workplace, business development support (e.g. business support services, business linkages and marketing, development of business plans etc.) human resource support (development of current staff skills, assessment of skill needs etc.), decrease in production cost (e.g. energy saving), linking with universities (promotion of research and innovation)
 - Support to Startups, include developing entrepreneurship spirit, dissemination of in-kind and in cash support and incubation support services

Competitive Integrated Value Chains strengthened and upgraded

- Identify industries and areas where job creation would be particularly valuable in a geographic area or particularly advantageous to create employment for vulnerable people

Policies, strategies and plans supporting job creation, MSMEs and livelihoods

- Support for development of regional economic development strategies through private-public partnerships, such as support to the existing four LEDAs located in the North, South, Bekaa Valley and Beirut's Southern Suburbs

Activities

Impact

This project will increase the purchasing power of vulnerable groups through rapid employment. Secondly, it will meet priority needs identified by local communities such as rebuilding infrastructure, reducing disaster risk and enhancing health awareness. It also promotes the implementation of national strategies at the local level.

The project will also reduce unemployment, particularly for vulnerable women and youth; improve current workforce skills linked to market demand; create a more competitive MSME sector with strong institutional capacities; and strengthen the entrepreneurship environment.





The Project

Since 2012, UNDP has been working in Palestinian gatherings (informal communities) in Lebanon to help meet urgent infrastructure and shelter needs due to new refugees from Syria. This project scales up UNDP's previous work in the Palestinian gatherings and provides more sustainable solutions for the basic needs of new Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) and lays the foundation for healthier living environments for host Palestinian refugee communities in Lebanon (PRL). The project will help reduce tension in Palestinian gatherings by targeting both host refugee as well as new refugee communities. It will also engage surrounding municipalities and communities.

Budget 4,500,000 USD

The Issue

The situation of refugee communities living in Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon is particularly severe. In addition to the 12 official Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon, a total of 42 Palestinian gatherings are distributed along the regions of Lebanon, housing Palestinian refugees in the South (Tyr and Saida), North, Beirut and Bekaa (refer to the map at the end of the document). Palestinian gatherings are informal settlements 'constituting relatively homogenous refugee communities, such as smaller villages or households living in the same multi-story residential buildings' (Fafo, 2003)⁹. With the outbreak of the Syrian crisis, the population in the Gatherings has escalated from an estimated 110,000 to 140,000 with the arrival of new refugees, mostly also Palestinian, displaced from Syria. The sudden population increase in these high-density areas has amplified a difficult situation that has long existed: inadequate access to basic urban services and infrastructure networks as well as deteriorated hygiene and shelter conditions.

Being informal areas, Palestinian gatherings remained excluded from national strategies or local development plans. This increases poverty and marginalization of the local refugee communities and contributes to the deterioration of the living environment. The forty-two gatherings fall under the municipal domain of twenty-five municipalities; however, municipalities in general do not intervene to provide basic urban services or improve the physical environment in these areas.

The lack of municipal intervention is attributed to a number of reasons mainly: lack of financial resources; the security situation in the gatherings mainly adjacent to camps; and most importantly misconceptions that the gatherings are served by UNRWA. In fact, as per UNRWA's mandate, the Agency's services targeting refugees living in the gatherings are restricted to education and health coverage. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) interventions in terms of basic urban services, including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and shelter self-help programmes are restricted to the boundaries of the 12 official camps. Due to the lack of service providers, refugees living in the gatherings resort to a number of informal self-help initiatives to access and maintain basic urban services. While these informal practices that are affordable to dwellers ensure their access to some services, the services themselves are inadequate, insufficient and characterized by huge gaps and shortfalls. In addition, they are ultimately connected in an ad-hoc manner to the surrounding municipal networks or to the camps' networks in the case of gatherings that are adjacent to camps; no coordination mechanisms exist between the locations.

9. Fafo was founded by the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) in 1982 as an internal research department. In 1993, Fafo was established as an independent research foundation with an endowment made up of contributions from both organised labour in Norway and Norwegian businesses, including LO, Orkla ASA, Umoe AS, Elkem ASA, Coop Norge, Sparebank1 Gruppen, Fagforbundet, and Telenor AS. Today, both labour and business representatives sit on Fafo's board.

Since 2012, with the increased influx of Palestinian and Syrian refugees from Syria, the conditions of the living environment in the gatherings have been dramatically worsening. In April 2013, UNDP and UN-Habitat completed a Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) that covered all forty-two Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon. Of the 53,000 Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria into Lebanon (UNRWA, 2013), an estimated 26,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria in addition to some 4,000 Syrian refugees are living in Palestinian gatherings. This has raised the number of dwellers in Palestinian gatherings to an estimated 140,000, more than 90% of whom are Palestinian refugees (PRL & PRS), exerting unprecedented pressure on the already insufficient and deteriorating basic urban services and infrastructure networks.

New refugees are either renting shelters or hosted by the original refugees, bringing to bear additional burdens on the already poor original host refugee communities. This situation has worsened living conditions and increased environmental and health risks in the gatherings and their surroundings. Furthermore, the worsening of living conditions and the competition for limited resources and work opportunities has contributed to rising tensions within the gatherings as well as with the surrounding areas also hosting refugees from Syria.

The goal of this project is to carry out a comprehensive and sustainable approach to improving living conditions in the Palestinian gatherings of South and North Lebanon. It will do this by focusing on the living environment (basic urban services, hygiene and shelter). Key strategies of the project are to:

- Link relief response to longer-term sustainable development of the living environment in Palestinian gatherings
- Strengthen the resilience of original host refugee communities and improving living conditions for new refugees from Syria in the gatherings
- Reduce tensions by addressing concerns of both host and new refugees in the gatherings and by engaging local actors and local authorities

Strategy

The project targets the regions that include the highest numbers of vulnerable Palestinian gatherings, namely the 34 gatherings located in the South (Tyr and Saida) and North of Lebanon. These gatherings house an estimated 115,000 refugees, whether original refugees (95,000 PRL) or new refugees displaced from Syria (20,000 PRS). This project is planned over three years 2015 – 2017.

UNDP has a strong partnership with the Lebanese authorities at national and local levels this is also mirrored with the Palestinian refugee communities in Palestinian gatherings, specifically, women, NGOs, youth groups, and Palestinian Refugee Popular Committees. At the national level, the project will continue to work with the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee at the Prime Minister's Office to ensure that interventions fall within the national priorities.

Partnership Framework

In addition, UNDP will work to coordinate both UN agencies and international and local NGOs through the LCRP coordination structures. In this context, the relevant bodies are the Infrastructure and WASH sector working groups.

Activities

To reduce tensions and build for sustainability, the project will implement a participatory bottom-up approach that brings together the various actors both at the national and local levels. UNDP will build on the network of structures and partnerships already established in the context of its programme in Palestinian gatherings, which would enable it to scale up its programme in the gatherings without delay. These include:

- Partnerships with governmental institutions such as the Lebanon Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC), MoSA, the Council of Development and Reconstruction (CDR) and with other UN agencies such as UN-Habitat, UNRWA and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- Reliable relationships with popular and local committees and CBOs in the gatherings, engaged through a bottom-up approach in the various stages of needs assessment, planning, decision-making and follow-up on implementation in the 30 gatherings
- Successful attempts at engaging municipalities, out of which 6 so far have directly implemented projects in Palestinian gatherings through grants
- Support to active local NGOs to carry out sustainable services and programmes in the gatherings
- Coordination among organizations and institutions working in the gatherings, most recently culminated through leading the Gatherings Working Group coordination platform
- Coordination with the WASH and shelter sectors established within the context of LCRP

Impact

The project will improve living conditions in Palestinian gathering host communities through comprehensive, sustainable solutions by:

- Providing environmentally and economically sustainable systems of basic urban services (including water, sanitation and hygiene) in the gatherings, reaching 25,000 refugees. These services will be implemented
 - At the community level, in the form of sustainable infrastructure projects and BUS interventions
 - At household level to ensure availability of facilities and installments, proper connection to infrastructure networks and maximum conservation of water
- Improving hygiene conditions for host and new refugee communities in the gatherings, reaching 15,000 refugees. The goal is to change hygiene behaviors in the gatherings through the implementation of awareness raising campaigns
- Developing a national coordination and information-sharing platform for response and development in Palestinian gatherings, resulting in increased efficiency, responsiveness and cost-effectiveness
- Establishing an information sharing and coordination platform through the Gatherings Working Group (an inter-agency group chaired by UNDP). The platform will generate information and data to guide planning of interventions in the gatherings together with organizations active in these areas in the two sectors of basic urban services (BUS) and shelter



The Project

This project will build local and national capacity to deliver basic services (water, sanitation, health) in the areas affected by the Syria crisis. This will increase stability and reduce tensions in these areas. The project builds on UNDP joint work with MoSA¹⁰ launched in 2013: the “Lebanese Host Communities Support Project” (LHSP). This is a comprehensive, coordinated and durable multi-sectorial response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Budget 60,000,000 USD

The impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon is reaching a scale unprecedented in the history of complex, refugee-driven emergencies, with almost 1.2 million registered refugees (25% of Lebanese population) placing enormous pressure on the country and its people, especially those in the poorest areas, where refugee concentrations and ratio (Lebanese/Syrian) have been greatest. In addition, Lebanon currently hosts 270,000 Palestine refugees.

Recent statistics show that, 29% of the displaced Syrians are unable to meet their survival needs and an estimate of one-third lack legal stay documentation, limiting their capacity to sustain their own well-being. Moreover, an estimated 330,000 Lebanese are living in extreme poverty. In total, over two million people in the country – most of them concentrated in the poorest communities - are now vulnerable to the worst effects of poverty: homelessness, illness and malnutrition, and negative coping strategies such as child labor or child marriage.

Since 2011, Lebanese unemployment has doubled with the highest ratios among youth reaching 34%. Moreover, Lebanese national health, education and infrastructure services are overstretched with the local municipal structures bearing the brunt of the needs of the growing local communities. The crisis is exacerbating significant development deficiencies such as unemployment, especially among women and youth, basic services at the municipal level and profound disparities between the wealthy and the poor. Tensions are rising and can be especially observed in the most under-served parts of the country. A collective, reinforced effort to tackle these development gaps in the context of an on-going humanitarian crisis is essential to Lebanon's stability and potential.

The large influx of Syrians across Lebanon has directly affected the public and service sectors at the national scale. The surge in demand for land, waste disposal, water resources, and electricity, health and education has raced ahead of capacity to meet it, raising municipal costs. Public institutions cannot cope with the added volume of needs in a country, where major development challenges predated the crisis, and the private sector traditionally delivers many public services

Municipalities are struggling to bear the burden – one study showed that municipal spending on waste disposal climbed 40 percent between 2012 and 2013- suggesting a strong focus on local capacities for 2015. Heads of Municipalities and their municipal-level staff are challenged daily to meet the increasing needs of their constituents with scarce resources, while simultaneously remedying the effects of the Syria refugee crisis.

The Issue

10. The Ministry of Social Affairs lead the institutional coordination of the LCRP for the Government of Lebanon.

Most municipalities, especially small towns located in the rural and remote areas, rely on funds transfers from the national government and its public entities (specifically transfers from the Independent Municipal Fund (IMF)). Unfortunately, there is an average of a 1-2 year delay in the transfer of these funds; moreover, the national government did not allocate additional funds to the IMF to address the increased needs of the municipalities in light of the Syrian Crisis and overuse of the existing, already weak, municipal services. Addressing basic services needs in particular should align humanitarian interventions to public services and infrastructure development in national systems and programs.

Strategy

The goal of this project is to enhance municipal services in 100 of the 242 most vulnerable municipalities, impacting both host community and refugee populations. It will do this by strengthening the capacity of national and local delivery systems to expand access to and quality of basic public services. This will lead to a reduction in tension levels. The project will continue until the municipalities' capacity increases as defined by the Map of Risks and Resources and they have the ability to manage interventions in the long-term.

UNDP has strong partnerships with the Lebanese authorities at national and local levels as well as other actors such as civil society. At the national level, UNDP is working closely with the relevant ministries to guarantee that local interventions are supported in the framework of national priorities and respective policies. MoSA¹¹ is the key government partner and the institutional coordinator for the LCRP.

The governance structure of the LHSP project is through a Steering Committee and Inter-Ministerial Technical Group, which produces criteria and basic tools to ensure consistency in selecting, targeting, and formulation of projects according to the main national policies. The MoSA structures at area level, set up for supporting the implementation of LHSP, guarantee the ownership of the national government and the alignment with national policies.

The local working groups existing at the community level guarantee the local ownership of the interventions. The Multi Sectorial Municipal Action Plans are prepared for effective interventions, promoting synergies and avoiding the duplications of efforts.

UNDP is known for its capacity to bring all sectors of a community together in a participatory approach to identify needs and to address community tensions. UNDP is the overall lead on the LCRP with regards to Stabilization as well as leading the Social Stability and Livelihood sectors.

UNDP will assess needs and develop interventions through a participatory conflict-sensitive methodology (Maps of Risks and Resources), which will result in a Multi-Sectorial Municipal Action Plan. This plan supports coordinated interventions at municipal and cluster level. Over 150 communities out of 242 have already been mapped and priority projects have already been identified, in coordination with municipalities, civil society organizations, MoSA and main-line ministries.

11. The Ministry of Social Affairs lead the institutional coordination of the LCRP for the Government of Lebanon.

UNDP is working closely with the relevant ministries to guarantee that local interventions are supported in the framework of national priorities and respective policies: the governance structure of the LHSP project operates with an inter-sectoral structure of decision making (Steering Committee and Inter-Ministerial Technical Group), which produces criteria and basic tools to ensure consistency in selecting, targeting, and formulation of projects according to the main national policies.

By the end of 2015, 100 high-risk municipalities and local actors in those municipalities will have stronger capacity to deliver basic services in a participatory manner. Services will have improved in the 100 target municipalities, which are significantly affected by the influx of refugees. The overall impact of the project is a reduction in the level of tension between refugees and host communities in target areas. This will benefit around 900,000 registered refugees (56% Lebanese and 44% Syrian). The project was developed under the LCRP/Social Stability Sector, targeting 100 out of 242 most vulnerable communities with the mandate to complete the work in one year.

Impact

