

THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME IN **LEBANON**

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



*Empowered lives,
Resilient nations.*



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List of Acronyms

CoM	Council of Ministers
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
ESDS	Education Sector Development Secretariat
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure
GDLRC	General Directorate for Land Registration and Cadastre
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GoL	Government of Lebanon
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDAL	Investment Development Authority of Lebanon
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IT	Information Technology
LAF	Lebanese Armed Forces
LCRP	Lebanon Crisis Response Plan
LHSP	Lebanon Host Communities Support Project
LRF	Lebanon Recovery Fund
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEHE	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoET	Ministry of Economy and Trade
MoEW	Ministry of Energy and Water
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoIM	Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
MoSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
MPs	Members of Parliament
MRR	Maps of Risks and Resources
MSS	Mechanisms for Social Stability
NAMAs	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMSAR	Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform
OPCM	Office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers
SCEC	Supervisory Commission for the Election Campaign
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small to medium enterprise
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme

Foreword

The biennium 2015-16 marked the end of the 15-year journey to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the beginning a new era of global development commitments in the form of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under the MDG framework, over 1 billion people were lifted out of extreme poverty; there were significant advances in the battle against hunger; and more girls were allowed to attend school. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been at the forefront of global efforts for sustainable development, helping countries to pursue and achieve the MDGs, and to integrate the SDGs into national planning.

In Lebanon, the existing development challenges have been aggravated by the multiple impacts of the Syrian conflict since 2011. The crisis has caused around 1.5 million people to flee into Lebanon – an unprecedentedly high level, relative to Lebanon's population, higher than for any other country in the world. This situation has generated great pressure on the country's economic, physical and social infrastructure, deepening the challenges of reducing poverty, inequality and unemployment, especially among youth. And it has strained the capacities of host communities already suffering from deprivation and inadequate services.

In response, Lebanon and its people have done much, at great cost, to accommodate and host the refugee population. Building on its history of partnership for development, UNDP has striven to support the country and affected communities in their efforts to cope with the impact of the Syrian crisis, working under the framework of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP).

At the same time, UNDP intensified its efforts in other areas, notably governance, crisis prevention, and environment. We assisted institutions to develop and implement reforms to strengthen good governance and build peace. We pursued initiatives for local development to build stable and resilient communities. And we have been at the forefront of the efforts to address environmental needs, working through programmes focused on sustainable energy, climate change, and natural resource management.

UNDP has also played a key role in the formulation of the new UN Strategic Framework (2017-2020) for Lebanon, which for the first time brings the work of all the UN Missions, Agencies, Funds and Programs present in the country under one coherent strategy to foster peace, stability and prosperity.

This report highlights some of the key achievements of UNDP in Lebanon during 2015-16. As the report shows, in addition to government institutions, UNDP works with an extended network of national and international partners, striving to build capacities and ensure sustainable impact.

UNDP has been operational in Lebanon for nearly five decades, and its presence in the country has been continuous and steadfast, in times of war, peace and transitions, responding to shifting challenges and priorities. In the same way, UNDP is committed to supporting Lebanon through the challenges of development today and over the coming years.



Philippe Lazzarini
UNDP Resident Representative



Luca Renda
UNDP Country Director

Donor Overview

We wish to acknowledge with thanks the generous contributions of donor partners to UNDP Lebanon's efforts.

The Government of Lebanon:

Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR)
Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL)
Lebanon Relief Fund (LRF)
Ministry of Energy and Water
Ministry of Environment
Ministry of Economy and Trade
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
Ministry of Social Affairs
Municipality of Nabatieh
Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform
Office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Lebanese Parliament
Ministry of Education and Higher Education
Railway and Public Transportation Authority

International Partners:

Government of Belgium
Government of Denmark
Government of United Kingdom (DFID)
Government of Ecuador
European Commission
Government of Finland
Global Environment Fund (GEF)
Government of Germany
Government of Italy
Government of Japan
Government of Kuwait
Government of Monaco
Government of Netherlands
Government of Norway
Government of Switzerland
Government of United States of America
Multilateral fund of the Montreal Protocol
USAID

USDOS/ BPRM
Berghof Foundation

Private Sector and others:

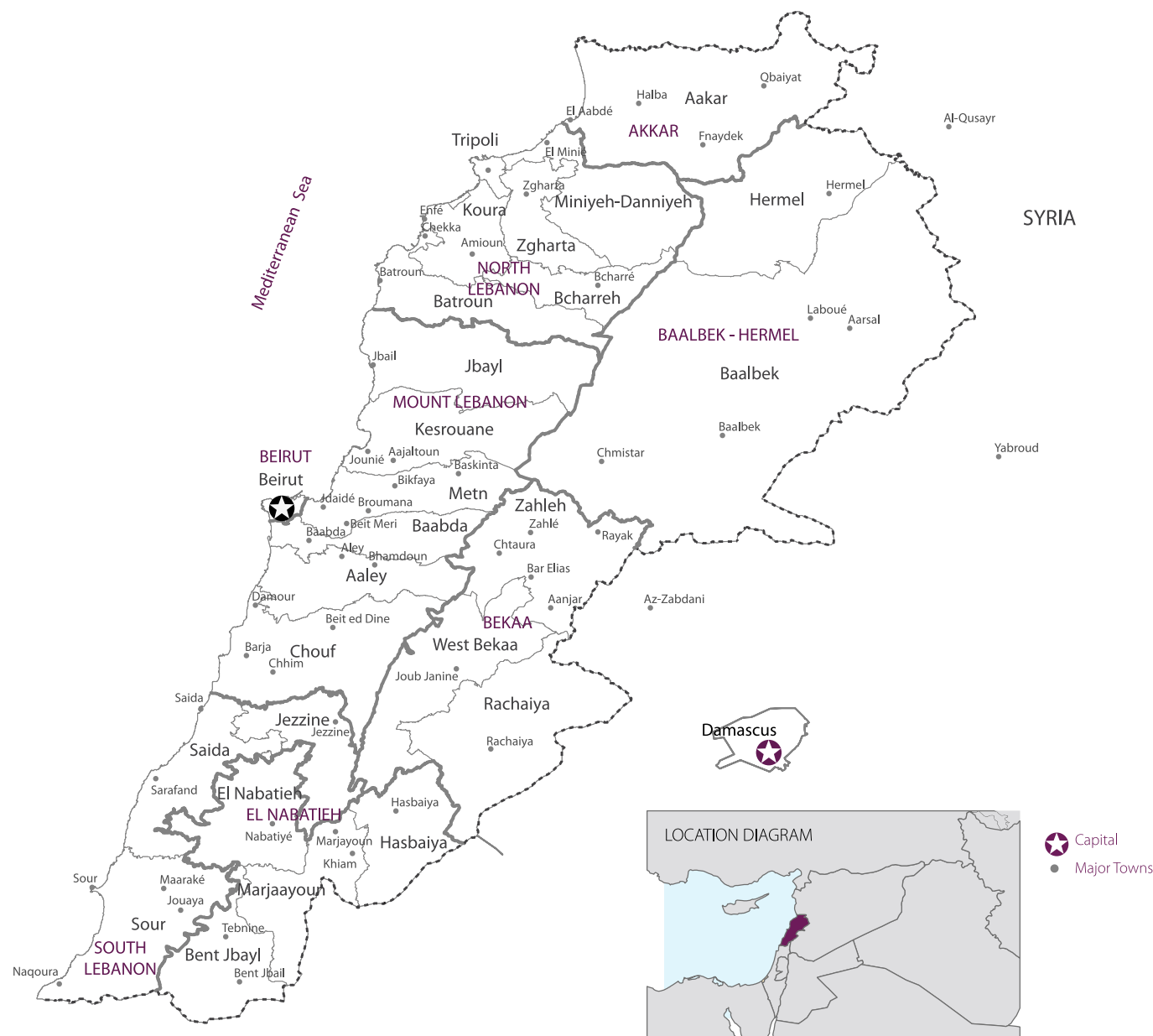
Mr. Albert Matta
Amis du Liban a Monaco
Amal Association
American University of Beirut
Avitem Association
Bank of Beirut and Arab Countries (BBAC)
Banque Libano-Francaise (BLF)
Coca Cola Foundation
Emkan Association
Mr. Fadi Salameh
Mr. Farid Chedid
Formatech
Gemayel Freres
Mr. Ghaleb Farha
IDRAAC Association
Karagheusian Association
LibanJus
LibanLait
Rene Moawad Foundation
Ms. Saada Al Assaad Fakhry
Ms. Salwa Ghaddar Younes
Senteurs d'Orient
Soderu Association
Tavola Valdese
Trama TechnoAmbiental
USEK University

UN Agencies Partners:

MDTFO/JP
OHCHR
UNHCR
UNOCHA

Lebanon and UNDP

Governorates, Cazas, and major towns in Lebanon



I. Lebanon Overview

Lebanon faces an array of challenges and needs, as it tries to chart a path to lasting stability, peace and prosperity. Economically and politically, the country has come far since the civil war that ended in 1990, and its progress has been reflected in improvements in incomes, infrastructure and services, and in progress relative to the Millennium Development Goals.

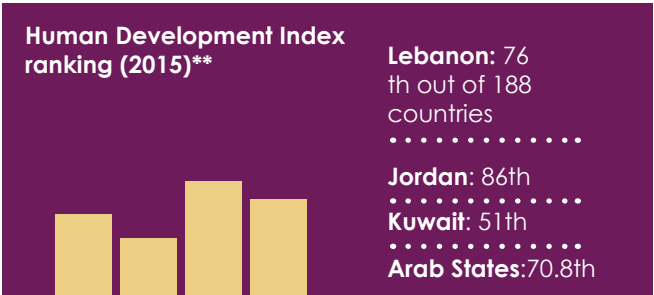
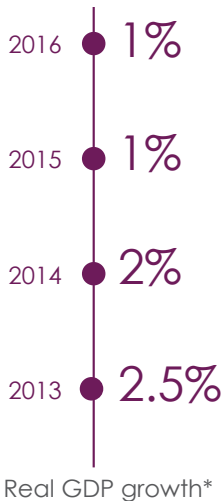
Nonetheless, the country has faced major challenges. Political instability, insecurity, and economic, humanitarian and social pressures have threatened to jeopardize the peace and progress built over the past two decades and more. The conflict in Syria since 2011 and the wave of refugees which it has sent into Lebanon have greatly increased the pressures and threatened to destabilize the country.

Lebanon at a glance

US **\$13,117** (est.)



5.9 million
(estimate) Population 2015



*International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2017
**2016 Human Development Report

UNDP in Lebanon

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network. It advocates for positive change and connects countries to knowledge and resources to help ordinary people build better lives. UNDP has been working in Lebanon since 1960, supporting the government and the people in their efforts to recover from the civil war, build lasting peace, generate sustainable and equitable growth, and mobilize funds from donors to help the country in these efforts. With the escalation of the crisis in Syria, UNDP's outreach has expanded to include supporting the Lebanese population to cope with the impact of the Syrian refugee influx.



Lebanon and the SDGs

Lebanon has achieved seven of its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets in health, primary education, and gender equality in education. Yet the most critical of the targets, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability, have not been achieved.

The country's aggravated humanitarian crisis due to the Syrian refugee influx has exposed Lebanon's developmental weaknesses. As the macroeconomic challenges mount, and political deadlock prevents strategic decision making, it was not expected that a significant transformation would occur before the 2015 milestone. Lebanon's most realistic option in the short term, given constraining circumstances, is to attempt to protect its MDG achievements and contain any deterioration in poverty levels and environmental sustainability, while maintaining macroeconomic stability.

In 2015, global voices demanded further leadership on poverty, inequality and climate change. In order to transform these demands into actions, world leaders gathered at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 25 September 2015, to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and set new global goals to replace the MDGs.

The 2030 Agenda comprises 17 new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or Global Goals, which aim to guide policy and funding for the following 15 years, beginning with a historic pledge to end poverty. Everywhere.



The Syrian Crisis

The economic and social impact of the Syrian crisis in Lebanon reached new heights in 2015-2016. In a country of four million Lebanese nationals, the Government of Lebanon has estimated that there are 1.5 million Syrian refugees, in addition to 300,000 Palestine refugees. The number of people living in poverty in Lebanon has risen by nearly two-thirds since 2011, and local unemployment has also increased significantly. After five years of economic hardship, access to and quality of essential services, including national health, education and infrastructure, have been negatively impacted. This has had the greatest impact on children and youth, affecting education attainment and youth employment (the youth unemployment rate is 33%). Although the number of Syrian refugees remained more or less stable in 2015, and almost USD 5 billion* invested to support Lebanon since 2011, individual and institutional vulnerabilities are consistently and rapidly deteriorating.

Five years into the crisis, vulnerable populations and institutions have fewer resources to deal with the effects of the increasingly protracted displacement, due to declining resources and limited opportunities to achieve economic independence. In 56 areas, the population has more than doubled within a few years, resulting in some host communities becoming a minority in their respective villages and municipalities. In 84 areas, the population increased by a rate between 50 and 100%. These rapid changes have had profound effects on local community dynamics, the management of authority and resources, and local tensions. This impact was most significant in areas already deprived prior to the crisis (251 areas are home to 67% of deprived Lebanese and 87% Syrian refugees). Local resources, which could barely provide for the host population pre-crisis, are now under even greater pressure.



*LCRP
Finance tracking service

II. Progress and Achievements 2015-2016

UNDP has been working in Lebanon since 1960, supporting the government and the people to help the country move towards a number of interlinked goals. These include good governance, peacebuilding and crisis prevention, social and local development and sustainable management of energy and the environment.

Building effective and inclusive governance is critical to developing lasting stability, peace and prosperity in Lebanon. It is vital that effective governance becomes standard across all institutions, levels of government, and their policies and implementation. Developments must be implemented across different areas including; economic governance, administrative reform, electoral practice, and approaches to dialogue. Improvements in these areas reinforce efforts to increase accountability, participation, respect for human rights, and is connected with building peace and preventing crises.

Given the large influx of refugees and the pressures this entails for host communities, Lebanon is at a time in which building peaceful resilient communities is more important than ever before. To achieve equitable human development and build a stable, lasting peace in Lebanon requires investing in social and local development. A core part of UNDP's work in Lebanon is to support national and local institutions and policies that serve development and poverty reduction. Further, with the escalation of the crisis in Syria, UNDP's outreach has expanded to include supporting Lebanese communities to cope with the impact of the Syrian refugee influx.

Due to its small size and dense population, Lebanon cannot afford to damage its environment or diminish its natural resources. In past years, developing environmental sustainability has been overlooked amidst other economic and political priorities. As such, the country must take extensive measures to protect the environment and promote sustainable energy and development. UNDP is at the forefront of efforts in Lebanon to address environmental needs, working through a number of programmes and projects focused on sustainable energy, climate change, and natural resource management. Moreover, investing in environmental sustainability can yield important economic, political and social benefits today and in the long term.

The following pages summarize some of the highlights of UNDP's work in each of these areas during 2015 and 2016.

Chapter 1

Promoting Stability and Good Governance



Institutional Development and Institutional Reform

Support to Office of Prime Minister

The project in the Office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (OPCM) aims to enhance decision-making capacity and monitoring, and follow-up on programme implementation. It also provides effective coordination with government institutions, making policy and programme implementation more efficient.

In 2015, there was progress toward modernizing the capacities of the Public Administration and enhancing institutional performance, as needs were assessed and reflected in the long term vision of the government through the drafting of the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS). In addition, the government benefited from extensive technological support, automating the OPCM by upgrading the networks, security infrastructure and support for the equipment in five disaster-risk Operation Rooms. In addition, negotiations for the transportation sector generated a USD 73 million loan. The project also provided technical advisory support for a cultural and religious tourism plan, for reforming the statistical system, for solid waste management and the wind energy and water sectors, leading into the partial implementation of the National Water Sector Strategy. Finally, the private sector was supported through the Improving the Business Environment in Lebanon initiative, including guidelines to settle debt resolution and legal instruments on private equity, commercial registry, insolvency and preferred shares.

In 2016, progress was greater. Within the transport sector, the Unified Land Transport Strategy for Lebanon included steps and financing mechanisms to attain the desired target of having an efficient, reliable, and economically feasible transport system, as well as improvements to the Rafic Hariri International Airport and local public parking facilities. The project also provided support within the water and energy sector. It contributed to



solid waste management by opening two new landfill sites, involving a greater number of municipalities. Moreover, the European Union (EU) supported programs for the creation of a working decentralized system for the municipal solid waste cleaning, collection, sorting, recycling, composting, and proper land filling within the geographical areas of each municipality. The OPCM also played a significant role in supporting the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers on various issues, and contributed to the NSDS, Improving the Business environment in Lebanon (IBEL) activities, scaling up the National Poverty Targeting Project, the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan, supporting activities for the Lebanon Host Communities, re-launching of the Lebanon Recovery Fund, Cultural and Religious Tourism, ICT activities and Food Safety Committee activities.

Support to the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform

The UNDP's assistance to the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR) has facilitated the implementation of reform goals since 1994. The new strategy for the reform and development of the Lebanese public administration required a new vision of support to administrative reform programs.

In 2016, four strategic plans with operational objectives were finalized for four ministries (Health, Tourism, Social Affairs, and Industry), and the Strategic Planning Methodology and Tool Kit was developed. A total of 31 Key Performance Areas (KPAs) and 1224 Sectoral and Organizational Performance Indicators (KPIs) in six ministries (Education, Finance, Economy and Trade Industry, Public Works (DG of Urban Planning), Water and Energy (DG of Hydraulic and Electric Resources)) were developed in collaboration with the Central Inspection.



The pressures resulting from the presence of Syrian refugees have been translated to heightened inter- and intra-community tensions, further stretching the limited abilities of the Lebanese security forces and municipalities to maintain stability. 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 ability of the national law enforcement authorities to manage conflicts at the local level has been compromised due to the significant increase in population.

To date, municipal police have not been provided with uniform procedures, resources or specific training for their responsibilities in addressing the refugee context.

In its capacity as a national sovereign entity that regulates and manages local authorities and internal security forces, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) oversees, executes and monitors the successful development and implementation of the strategy.

Support to Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) was tasked with the establishment of a Policy Advisory and Project Implementation Unit to support the implementation of the “Education Sector Development Plan” (ESDP). The unit supports the Ministry through the Education Sector Development Secretariat (ESDS) and the Office of the Director General in the subsequent phases of preparation, implementation and monitoring of the ESDP. It includes a team of technical specialists mainly in the areas of information technology (IT), institutional development and educational project implementation.



200,000 students in 1,300 public schools benefited from ICT support and online tools



Expenditure 2016: USD 157,062.46

There were a number of successes in 2016 in the education sector. The School Information Management System was deployed in all public schools. This resulted in the delivery of 1,255 PCs, the training of 2,500 teachers, allowing for the registration of 300,000 students on the database. In addition, the project provided technical support and automation to national examination processes. Most importantly, not only were the needs of the public school system addressed, but there was also a focus on youth. Online tools such as emails and blogs were provided to 200,000 students in 1,300 public schools so that they could use the Internet for communication.



Economic Governance

Institutional Capacity of the Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL)

The UNDP established the Institutional Capacity of the Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL) project in 2003 to provide strategic and advisory support for the day-to-day functions of the authority. Over the years, the role of the UNDP project has taken a more operational focus to compensate for the lack of staff and technical capacity in IDAL.

Contributions were reflected via a thorough drafting of all components of the Investment Strategy.

Industry specific support on enhancing investments was provided for ICT, media/film and agriculture.

Expected Results

- Support to strengthen IDAL's policy making, planning, and monitoring capacities maintained
- Support for IDAL in promoting investment to growth promising sectors provided
- Support IDAL's capacity to streamline investor servicing
- Support for IDAL in promoting the export of Lebanese products

Achievements

Achievements of the project since January 2011:

- Drafting of a medium term and annual strategy for IDAL
- Drafting of amendments to the National Investment law for Lebanon (Law no. 360)
- Development of an investment strategy for Lebanon across multiple sectors
- Launching of three programs to support the export of Lebanese products
- Development and implementation of a communication and digital strategy for IDAL
- Launching of a new website for IDAL and introducing IDAL on all social media



Institutional Assistance for Economic Policy and Trade

The UNDP project at the Ministry of Economy and Trade (MoET) was initiated in 2001 with revisions in 2004, 2005, 2010 and 2011. Accordingly, an improved project design was undertaken at the end of 2010 to cover the 2011-2013, and 2014-2016 periods. The project focused on enhancing capacity towards efficient and focused policy advice. For example, UNDP contributed to 26 media interviews for the MoET, 64 technical interventions and 32 economic reports. More specific advisory support targeted EU neighborhood policy, investment development, and addressed the impacts of the Syrian crisis (LRF/LCRP/LHSP) leading to resource mobilization. The Syrian file was important for coordination activities, in addition to initiatives on behalf of the government with the EU, the World Bank and rating agencies.



Technical support to 700 SMEs and possible grant opportunities for more than 170 SMEs.



The project ensures that the initiatives related to livelihood and development should contain an element related to the empowerment of women.

Achievements

- Advice on trade policy and international relations development including on World Trade Organization accession, the European Neighborhood Policy, Regional and Bilateral Trade Agreements, donors, coordination and organization of various joint committee meetings.
- Providing economic analysis such as preparing economic reform plans, salaries and wage impact assessment, sector analysis, promoting public-private partnerships and cooperation and developing SME strategies.
- Developing and supporting initiatives to minimize the impact of the Syrian Crisis on the economy and trade.
- Advising and contributing to the development of the related legislative agenda.
- Providing institutional support to the automation of the MoET online services.
- Providing extensive technical support to 700 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through the Lebanon Ecosystem Survey with the World Bank and grant opportunities for more than 170 SMEs.
- Providing advice, technical knowledge on public finance and economic developments on policies and research.
- Developing a statistical database on the service sectors and conducting competitiveness studies.
- Running training and capacity building workshops for the public and private sectors to raise awareness on international trade trends.
- Developing export strategy and partnerships with international organizations, and drafting, amending, and modernizing relevant legislation.

Support to Ministry of Finance

This project has evolved as a result of the valuable partnership between UNDP and the Ministry of Finance (MoF), which started in 1994. The present project, launched in February 2014, supports MoF to develop robust public finance policies and enhance effective fiscal management.

In 2015, building on more than 20 years of partnership, further advisory support was provided on fiscal policies to design a medium term macro-fiscal framework. This was provided in addition to the long-standing support on the ministerial agenda, official interventions, and decision-making. UNDP supported fiscal policies through the management of two Eurobond transactions amounting to USD 3.8 billion, a record for the largest transaction made by the MoF. The MoF also introduced new systems, such as Value Added Tax (VAT) in a number of administrations, and allowed efficient access to administrative procedures, such as the e-services platform. Another major focus for UNDP was building capacity and addressing a new national priority: the oil and gas sector.



EU - Lebanon Trade Steering Committee Meeting

The private sector plays an important role as an engine of economic growth and job creation in developing countries. It provides goods and services, generates tax revenues to finance essential social and economic infrastructure and develops new and innovative solutions that can help tackle developmental challenges. It can also be a central actor in addressing climate change. The private sector project in Lebanon was developed as a mechanism to best utilize its resources, and to maximize its relationships with other actors to provide the greatest possible impact. The project also aimed to institutionalize processes to include UNDP and its main counterparts (multinational firms, large national companies, micro/small/medium enterprises, financial institutions, business intermediaries, etc.). In 2015, the private sector strategy was launched and activities were institutionalized.

Examples of activities include:

- Youth integration in the labor market.
- Support for local entrepreneurs in the establishment of start-ups in Mount Lebanon.
- Labor needs assessment for the construction, industry, and IT sectors.

In 2016, the UNDP technical assistance project focused mainly on maintaining a fiscal stability and debt sustainability policy framework. This was set in the context of changing realities in Lebanon due to the Syrian conflict, as well as lower oil prices, potential oil and gas exploration, and new policy measures. The project also aimed to achieve the following outputs:

- Debt management, front and middle office functions implemented
- Legal advice and support to Eurobonds/Contractors and Expropriation Bonds, World Bank file, Global Forum on Transparency of Information for tax purposes (GF), Investment Agreements, European Investment Bank (EIB), and the oil and gas file
- Support for MoF reform, programme and coordination
- Support for tax reform programme initiatives
- Support for customs reform programme initiatives

Economic	Legal Review	Tax Reform	Cadastre Reform	Customs Reform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transformed MoF into the most transparent public organization in Lebanon Developed Medium term fiscal and debt frameworks Managed the relationship with ratings agencies, banks, international financial institutions and main donors Received a tailored oil and gas seminar by an International Monetary Fund (IMF) expert in order to develop the necessary skills in the team to cover the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiated multiple World Bank loans on behalf of MoF within the deadline set by the World Bank Completed the phase 1 questionnaire "Peer review of the implementation of the international standards for transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed and implemented new compliance and risk management through the management and monitoring of EU-funded project Implemented new automated business functions (new VAT forms, new Standard Audit Report for Income Tax and VAT) Implemented the e-registration procedures and the e-filing for both VAT and BPT (Built Property Tax) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the minister in launching a comprehensive reform initiative for the cadastre administration to be implemented over five years with the support of the World Bank Implemented Acreage Books Automated System and the Vulnerability Patching procedures at Cadastre Developed a new project enabling the identification of property owners for the Beirut registry office Developed and operationalized the General Directorate for Land Registration and Cadastre (GDLRC) Hot-Line support system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved the collaboration and transparent information flow between stakeholders in the public and private sectors Enhanced the business service delivery through the implementation of specialized warehouses, pledges, exit of goods, brokers' guarantees, location of goods, declaration spreadsheets, and temporary storage delay management

Support to the Economic and Social Fund for Development

The UNDP supports the Economic and Social Fund for Development (ESFD) through enhanced employment opportunities and community development activities. In 2016, the ESFD completed the implementation of 102 small projects and eight infrastructure projects in the sectors of potable water, waste water and solid waste. These projects contributed to the improvement of municipal services in small and vulnerable municipalities, and in communities hosting high concentration of Syrian refugees in the north of Lebanon and Bekaa.

In parallel, the ESFD launched several activities that helped revive the local economy. This included the implementation of hill lakes, irrigation canals and agricultural extension programs. It also accelerated vocational training and supported active cooperatives.



The ESFD financed a total of 500 projects (loans equaling 14.5 billion LBP under its Risk Sharing Scheme (RSS) in 2016, to increase the growth and prosperity for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).



In 2016, **200 projects** benefitted from Business Development Services (BDS) services, bringing the total number of SMEs who benefitted to **1,500** since 2011.



Inclusive Participation and Representation-Electoral Support

Electoral Assistance

The main objective of the Lebanese Election Assistance Project's (LEAP) is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the national institutions in electoral management and administration, in accordance with the international standards. LEAP is conducted via five components: (1) election management (2) campaign supervision (3) voter education (4) election dispute resolution (5) women's participation in elections. The project works closely with its main partner, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM), who is responsible for electoral management, and also supports other key electoral actors, such as the Supervisory Commission for the Election Campaign (SCEC), judicial bodies with responsibilities for electoral disputes, as well as civil society groups active on electoral issues.

In 2016, LEAP supported the successful preparation, organization and conduct of municipal elections in four consecutive phases across the country. The conduct of these local elections in a largely peaceful and conducive environment represented a democratic milestone for the country, after the postponement of the parliamentary elections in 2013 and 2014.

In 1999, UNDP in Lebanon launched a project in Parliament entitled "Technical Support to the Lebanese Parliament" in the framework of a cooperation agreement, signed by UNDP and the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. The project has been modified frequently in order to respond to the changing needs, but also to keep abreast with requirements as a result of the political situation in the country.

Working with Members of Parliament (MPs), Parliamentary Committees and the Parliament's Administration, the project supports the efforts of Parliament in achieving its developmental objectives, and in reinforcing its structures, processes and human resources, in order to improve the effectiveness of its legislative oversight and representative functions. It also aims to strengthen the relationship between the Parliament and civil society. Special emphasis is placed on supporting national development goals, related to the MDGs, promoting gender equality, sustainable development legislation, youth participation and human rights protection.



UNDP LEAP partnered with national CSOs and international organizations to strengthen women participation and representation in political life by co-organizing seven training sessions for women candidates, and developing knowledge brochures and thematic videos.



Additional partnerships, including ones with the human rights parliamentary committee, NGOs and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner (OHCHR) has addressed human rights, and involved UNDP in the universal periodic review process.

There has also been positive change in terms of inclusiveness and participation. The GoL has successfully taken steps to support women participation in 2015. They have provided practical tools to the Lebanese parliament, decision makers, and stakeholders to consider a gender quota as a temporary measure to address deficiencies.

Gender participation

Lebanon has a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.433, ranking it 78 out of 148 countries in the 2012 index. In Lebanon, women hold 3.1% of parliamentary seats and 53% of adult women have reached a secondary or higher level of education. This is compared to 55.4% for their male counterparts. The focus of UNDP on gender equality and women's empowerment has been on community-based women's income generation projects, youth empowerment projects, amendments of laws, capacity building of NGOs and increasing women's participation. These have had a positive impact on women's lives in the communities. It should be noted that throughout the report there are gender considerations in various projects.

Lebanon has a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.433, ranking it 78 out of 148 countries in the 2012 index.



National Dialogue and Peace Building

The Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) is an inter-governmental agency established in 2005 that deals with the general policies targeting the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. The Committee serves as a focal point between the Palestinian refugees and local and international stakeholders. It provides policy recommendations to the Government of Lebanon, based on the national interests of the Lebanese people and the rights of Palestinian refugees to a decent life until they return home. This project seeks to strengthen the capacity of the LPDC to develop and implement a comprehensive policy on Palestinian refugee issues, with a view to improving the living conditions of Palestine refugees in Lebanon.



Peace Building art exhibition

Achievements & Expected Results

- Launching a youth initiative aimed at developing and implementing participatory dialogue sessions, in order to empower the Palestinian youth to freely express the profound issues experienced in their daily life
- Publishing the first part of the report on Palestine refugees in Lebanon entitled "The Cost of Brotherhood in Times of Conflict" (refer to the last section of this report)
- Making the necessary preliminary steps in order to initiate the implementation of a general census of Palestine refugees in Lebanon

The UNDP also pursued processes to support Lebanese- Palestinian dialogue. This took the form of four forums, 20 task groups, and 60 facilitated meetings, and resulted in a new version of the common vision document and provision of knowledge resources and legal mappings. Finally, the impact of the successful design and implementation of mechanisms in Lebanon was catalyzed into regional political judiciary reform, peace and transformation dialogue and knowledge initiatives.

The project:

- Supported various dialogue forums in the development of policy papers, draft laws and the formulation of a common vision. Published outcomes include: "Decentralization Draft Law"; "Towards the Reactivation of the Economic and Social Council in Lebanon: Vision and Recommendations"; and "Common Vision for the Lebanese Palestinian Relations."



Socio-Economic/Political dialogue was engaged regarding the mitigation of the impact of Syrian refugees crisis on Lebanon, and resulted in the institution of a dialogue platform in July 2015.

Common Space Initiative

The aim of the Common Space Initiative is to support consensus building, sustainable civil peace and constitutional strengthening, and stakeholder dialogues in Lebanon. 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.

Common Space Initiative enabled contributions to support dialogue structures, political-making bodies and successfully build consensus to be made. As such, platforms for ongoing knowledge sharing were developed (three tools and six in-depth evaluations) and disseminated. This process engaged political parties and national dialogue advisors/experts, resulting in new facilitation strategies and a more effective response to national dialogue initiatives. Niche areas of reform and political dialogue were also addressed. Socio-economic/ political dialogue was engaged around of the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on Lebanon, and resulted in the institution of a dialogue platform in July 2015 (convened four times) and included the seven main political parties.

Chapter 2

Building Peaceful and Resilient Communities



The Lebanon Host Communities Support Program

Since 2013, the Lebanon Host Communities Support Program (LHSP) has been implemented through the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)-UNDP partnership as a comprehensive, coordinated, and durable response for increasing stability and ensuring peaceful co-existence in communities affected by the Syrian crisis. The Program targets municipalities characterized by high levels of pre-crisis poverty, high concentrations of Syrian refugees and high risk of conflict, aiming to support the response through full coordination with local authorities, and in collaboration with relevant ministries.

The Program was developed under a number of guiding principles:

- Efficient use of funds, by targeting the most vulnerable host communities.
- Ensuring stakeholder participation in affected areas, through the identification, implementation and monitoring of interventions in a transparent manner.
- Treating social well-being as both a targeted activity, as well as a cross cutting theme.
- Strengthening local capacities to operate and sustain interventions to ensure sustainability.

Through a participatory, conflict sensitive methodology called Maps of Risks and Resources (MRR), communities can identify their most relevant problems and define alternative solutions and projects, which are consolidated in the Municipal Multi-Sectorial Action Plan.

In 2016, the Lebanon Host Communities Support Program:

- Strengthened the capacity of local and national actors in the delivery of basic and social services.
- Improved local level dispute resolution and community security by launching the Mechanism for Social Stability in 34 communities, conducting conflict analysis exercises, and conducting capacity building programmes for local authorities and actors.
- Strengthened the capacity of the GoL to respond to the influx of Syrian refugees.
- Several of the projects included in this report directly serve the outcomes of the LHSP.



Beneficiaries (syrian/lebanese)

522,409 | 299,601

LEBANESE | SYRIANS



A priority of UNDP has been increasing livelihood and economic opportunities, such as job creation and business development for vulnerable populations, especially women and youth, to recover from economic crisis.

122 Municipal Services projects in 2015



74 targeted municipalities



95 municipalities have conducted the Maps of Risks and Resources (MRR) and produced the Multi-Sectoral Municipal Action Plan



Mechanisms for Social Stability launched in **34 communities**

152 Municipal Services projects in 2016



121 targeted municipalities



125 municipalities have conducted the MRR and produced the Multi - Sectorial Municipal Action Plan



Mechanisms for Social Stability launched in **31 communities**


Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities

The 42 Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon are considered to be among the most vulnerable. The ongoing influx of Syrians refugees and Palestinians from Syria settling in these gatherings has placed more pressure on an already weakened infrastructure. This has contributed to increased tensions between Palestinian Gatherings and neighboring Lebanese communities.

Therefore, UNDP has implemented a long-term intervention aimed at enhancing the living conditions in Palestinian Gatherings. This will ensure access to sufficient basic urban services and improved living conditions.

The project has improved conditions in 42 Palestinian Gatherings by increasing access to shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene. Activities carried out under the project include:

- Creating an information sharing portal to highlight the needs in Palestinian Gatherings and coordinating the response (to be launched in 2017).
- Identifying and mapping 20 additional Palestinian Gatherings; needs of their 12,000 dwellers assessed.
- Chairing the Gatherings Working Group, which continues to meet monthly for coordination with national and international actors.
- 306 shelters rehabilitated and equipped with WASH facilities in 15 gatherings.
- 400 families in Beirut and 2,242 families in Tyre engaged in sorting waste at source and have benefitted from Neighborhood Upgrading Plan.
- 55 women from Beirut trained on income generating activities.
- 57 women and youth from Tyre trained on design/management of small businesses; 54 supported to launch businesses through grants.
- 53 WASH and infrastructure projects implemented in 20 gatherings.



Expenditure 2016:
USD 5.14 million



In 2016, there were 78,762 dwellers in Palestinian Gatherings across Lebanon

PRL	PRS	Other*
37,176	30,000	11,586

*Syrians residing in Syria (SRS) + Lebanese + other nationalities

Hygiene Promotion and Awareness


- 19,690 hygiene kits and 1,307 baby kits distributed to 5,500 PRS families in Palestinian Gatherings across Lebanon.
- 286 Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian youth participated in eco sports tournament to promote waste reduction and recycling in North Lebanon.
- 2,500 Ramadan calendars promoting waste reduction distributed.
- “WASH-friendly school toolkit” produced with UNRWA and 17 health educators trained in North Lebanon.

Peacebuilding


The UNDP “Peacebuilding in Lebanon” program has worked since 2007 on enhancing mutual understanding and promoting social cohesion via a participatory approach with youth, educators, media, NGOs, municipal council members, mukhtars, and local leaders. The project supports different groups from local leaders and local actors, to educators, journalists, youth, and civil society activists, in developing medium and long-term strategies for peace building, crisis management, and conflict prevention.



Local leaders play a hugely important role in managing local residents' affairs, and thus dealing with local conflicts. This project therefore supports local leaders in crisis management, especially in light of the impact of the Syrian crisis on host communities, and includes villages throughout Lebanon. The project works with the heads and members of municipal councils, as well as with representatives from various sectors in the community to develop “Mechanisms for Social Stability” (MSS). These mechanisms promote social stability through engaging local stakeholders in a participatory process to address challenges facing both Lebanese communities and the Syrian refugees.



Beneficiaries(syrian/lebanese)
2000 : **1600**
LEBANESE : SYRIANS



13 issues of the joint Peace Building news supplements published with Annahar, As-Safir, and the Daily Star newspapers




350,000 copies of the joint news supplements distributed



85 journalists engaged in the supplements



34 media outlets monitored under the “Journalists’ Pact for Strengthening Civil Peace in Lebanon”



29 schools approached for the concept of violence free schools
11 in beirut southern suburbs
15 in bekaa

2274 People benefiting from the concept of violence free schools (teachers, parents, students)

Security at Local Level

At the community level, tensions are evident between Syrian refugees and their Lebanese host communities, which appear to be driven by perceptions of Syrian criminality among the host community and security forces. As a result, there have been incidents of the ill-treatment of refugees. Moreover, competition for jobs and access to local services and infrastructure and the perceptions that humanitarian distribution targets Syrian refugees but largely excludes poor Lebanese have contributed to the tensions between the communities. In addition, the incidents of people trafficking, including sexual exploitation (mostly of Syrian refugee women and girls) and forced labor have significantly increased.

UNDP is mandated to focus on the stabilization/resilience component within the 3RP: Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (Lebanon's specific commitment to this is summed up in the LCRP).

Municipal Police

The Municipal Police have played an important role responding to the tension between host communities and refugees, despite the lack of adequate funding or training. It was observed that the police enforce curfews on Syrian refugees in many areas, in breach of Lebanese law as well as of international human rights standards.

An in-depth human rights based assessment report of the justice and security sector with a specific focus on municipal police needs, work in prisons, reducing violence at community level, legal aid and the needs of MoIM security. The report established programmatic baselines.

Community security (municipal policing).

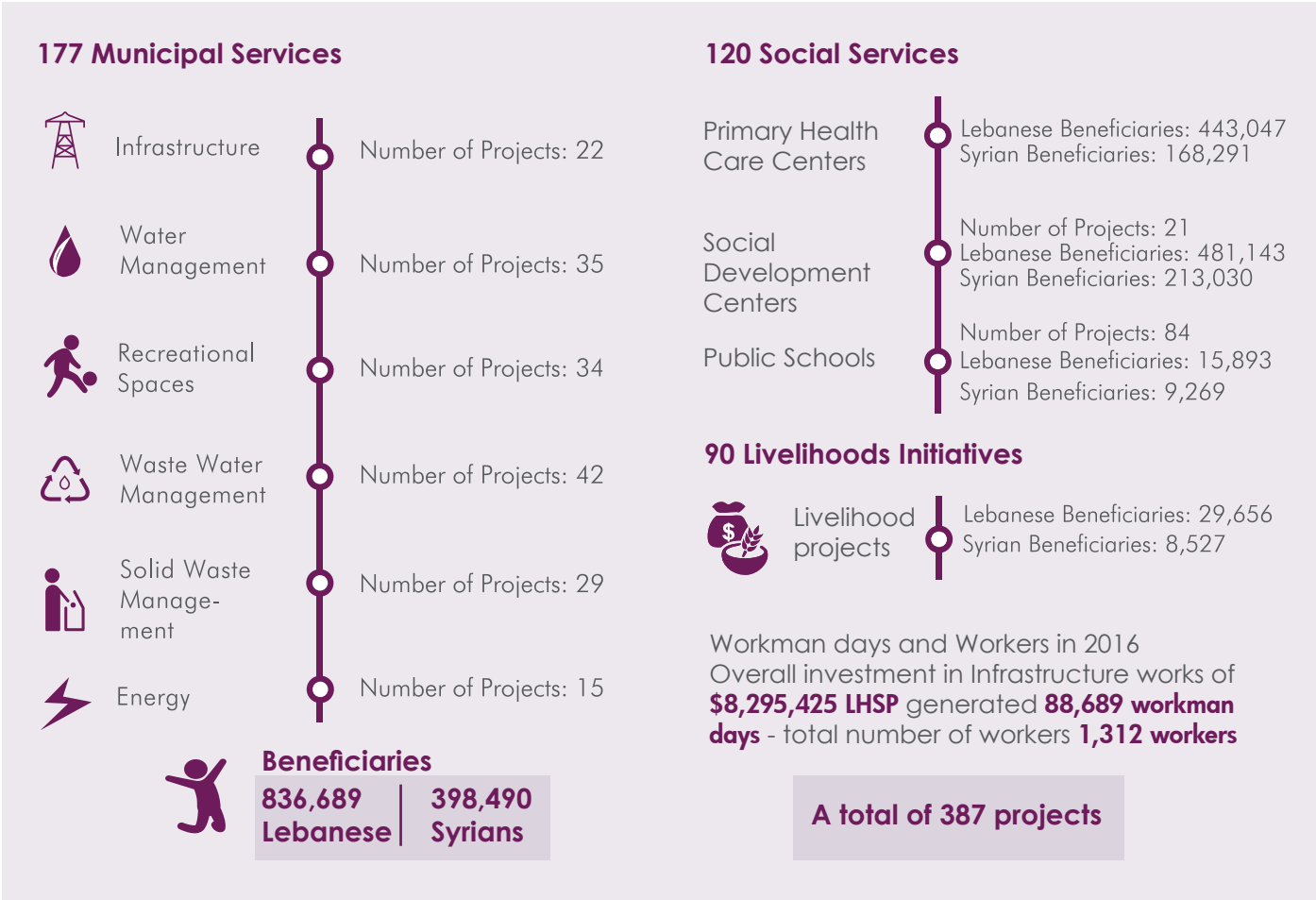
- Developed standard municipal policing procedures and a code of conduct in partnership with relevant stakeholders
- Provided training and material assistance to municipal police in accordance with the newly developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and code of conduct.
- Enhanced relations and partnerships between law enforcement authorities and the community, including refugees.
- Provided training and assistance to the central and regional security cells.

UNDP and UNHCR supported the MoIM and Internal Security Forces (ISF) Academy to develop Standard Operating Procedures and launch the work of the MoIM security cells.

Improving livelihood

UNDP has initiated a quick response to support host communities who already suffer from harsh socio-economic conditions.

It continues to implement extensive work that improves economic recovery, community security and social cohesion in the affected Lebanese communities through an inclusive community based approach, which will ultimately increase livelihood options and local level service delivery.



Disaster Risk Management

Lebanon's geography exposes it to seismic hazards and the possibility of tsunamis. The country is also prone to a range of small-scale hazards such as floods, forest fires, landslides, and droughts. Moreover, political volatility and insecurity expose Lebanon to the risk of war, internal strife and terror attacks. This exposure to threats, coupled with the multiple vulnerabilities of the Lebanese population due to weak infrastructure and a large number of refugees living in precarious conditions, significantly increases the risk of instability.

In this context, and as a result of the strategic partnership between UNDP Lebanon and the Office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (OPCM), UNDP and OPCM launched a project titled "Strengthening Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Capacities in Lebanon." This project is aimed at supporting the Lebanese government in its efforts to reduce exposure and vulnerabilities, in order to diminish the risks.



Strengthening DRM Capacities in Lebanon

- 2016 ■ -Running a National Field Simulation in the framework of the National Response Plan for crisis and disasters earthquake scenario on 19 November 2016.
- 2015 ■ -Increase national resilience against disaster risks through the establishment of institutional mechanisms for DRM.
- 2014 ■ -Enhance local and community capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to reduce loss of life and property.
- 2013 ■ -Integrate DRR considerations into the development planning of critical economic and social sectors, to reduce the vulnerabilities of development infrastructure and assets.

 Risk Management benefits both Lebanese and Syrian residents



Engaging Youth

UNDP is leading the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP), developed in 2015, to address the needs of young men and women in the Arab Region. A central theme of the programme is the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment.

The first social innovation camp for youth in the Arab region was held from 13 -15 June 2015. This was a pioneering effort for The Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS), being the first such event that UNDP had organized. The camp brought together youth between the ages of 19 and 35 (33 males and 32 females), from 19 Arab countries to examine key developmental challenges facing the region, and collaboratively suggest innovative solutions to address them. Four youth participated from Lebanon.

The challenges considered in the camp coincided with those identified in the Arab Human Development Report 2015 on Youth:

1. Education
2. Health
3. Employment and entrepreneurship
4. Religion and identity
5. Civic engagement
6. Conflict and peacebuilding
7. Young women's leadership and participation in the public space



The first YLP, held in 2015, brought together 40 young men and women from 18 Arab Countries. The YLP aimed to strengthen capacity and support the exchange of experiences and knowledge of participants, in terms of skills and methods of leadership for sustainable development, in order to address major challenges in their communities. Two Lebanese youth participated in this programme.

The second YLP (2016) focused on the development of analytical thinking skills and social innovation, in the pursuit of the achievement of the SDGs, particularly in the thematic pillars of social cohesion, good governance, gender equality, and economic empowerment. In addition, the programme sought to encourage partnerships, strengthening of networks, knowledge sharing and coalition building among youth across Arab countries. At the end of the programme, the young participants became strong advocates for the SDGs, and began implementation of their innovative ideas for social change.

Following from this, four national workshops were held, and 12 Lebanese youth participated. These national workshops aimed at providing guidance for the youth to transform their ideas into plans that could be implemented. The youth were given information and the network required to turn their ideas into reality, leading to change in their communities. Moreover, five Lebanese youth participated in the regional workshop in Kuwait in mid-December 2016.

WOMENS EMPOWERMENT

CO Initiatives and Gender in Numbers

3 = Number of projects developed in 2016-17 with a Gender Marker of GEN3: totally focusing on gender equality and women empowerment; and The number was 0 in 2015.	36 = Total number of female UN Volunteers working with UNDP, out of a total of 50. They therefore represent 72%.
197 = Total number of female UNDP Lebanon Staff Members, out of a total of 374. They therefore represent 52.67%.	420,032 = Number of total female beneficiaries in 2016 by UNDP's project "Lebanese Host Communities Support Programme".
12,150,683 = Total amount in USD of expenditures targeting gender equality and women empowerment in 2016 by the Country Office, out of the 71 Million Delivery, which represents 17%.	10,745,339 = Total amount in USD of estimated budget targeting gender equality and women empowerment in 2017 by the Country Office, out of the 66 Million planned delivery, which represents 16%. This figure is an estimate and is likely to increase.

2016: UNDP LEBANON LAUNCHES ITS GENDER STRATEGY

At the beginning of 2016, UNDP Lebanon developed for the first time and launched the Gender Strategy, which is aligned with UNDP's "Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017, the future we want: rights and empowerment". The strategy sets the tone for UNDP's future programming focusing on gender mainstreaming and provides concrete recommendations and entry points to facilitate the work of the four portfolios. The strategy also addresses the Country Office's internal structure, looking into personnel development and sensitization, and suggests as well specific reforms to be implemented.

NEWS FROM THE GENDER FOCAL TEAM

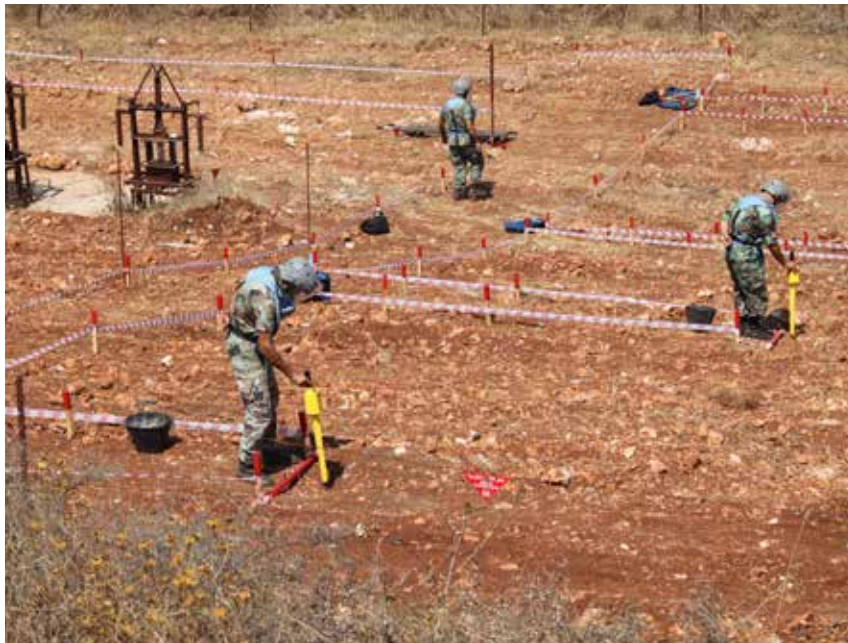
Under the guidance and leadership of the CO's Assistant Resident Representative, and with the facilitation of the Gender Focal Point, the Gender Focal Team acts as a cross cutting group consisting of representatives from different units in the CO. The Gender Team is mandated with the mainstreaming of gender into all policies, programmes, and operational functions of the CO. In 2016, the Gender Focal Team reviewed the CO's approach to gender work, finalized the CO's strategy, encouraged gender programming by emphasizing the importance of the gender marker and the inclusion of a gender component in new areas of intervention. Most importantly, it has placed high priority on coordination with all national stakeholders, and joint UN programming.

GOVERNANCE THEMATIC MEETING: GENDER EQUALITY

On February 15, 2017, and as part of the series of Governance Thematic Meetings, the CO convened a meeting on Gender equality, which brought together Projects' representatives from the four portfolios, working on gender mainstreaming (or planning to do so), along with Country Office members of different units. The meeting was a forum to identify areas of potential joint collaboration among units and projects. Potential solutions were suggested for the development of synergies and task force groups were created for future discussions on more specific issues, particularly gender based violence, livelihoods, gender quota, and early marriage.

Mine Action

In Lebanon, the devastating impact of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) continues to be acute, given that the level of contamination is high. Decades of internal and external conflict in Lebanon have resulted in the pollution of vast swathes of land by mines and ERW. After more than a decade and a half of persistent work, and despite many accomplishments, the problem remains particularly severe due to high population density and the presence of significant areas of unused land (for example, in mountainous regions). To date, the combined efforts of the Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC), Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), and national and international demining organizations have resulted in the clearance of 298 villages. However, 414 villages (amounting to around 61,130,046 square meters) are yet to be cleared. An estimated 38% of this land can be used for agricultural purposes.



“UNDP was the white hand that helped make extremely difficult working conditions much easier for us to thrive in.”

- Lebanon has cleared some 67% of areas contaminated by mines, cluster munitions and UXOs.
- Supporting inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development through mine action in order to reduce the social, economic, and environmental impact of landmines and the explosive remnants of war (ERW).



Chapter 3

Protecting the Environment and Expanding access to Clean Energy



Protecting the Environment

UNDP is at the forefront of efforts in Lebanon to address environmental needs, working through a number of programmes and projects focused on sustainable energy, climate change, and natural resource management.

Cleaning-up the Saida Dump

The Saida solid waste dumpsite, located on the shore of the city of Saida, was a major public health and environmental catastrophe contributing to the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea and reaching as far as Cyprus. Over the years, the dumpsite received approximately 300 tons of solid waste per day from 15 municipalities in the vicinity of the city. This resulted in a waste mountain of 55 meters in height and stretching for several kilometers. In partnership with the MoE and the Municipality of Saida, UNDP rehabilitated the dumpsite by treating the waste and constructing an environmentally sound landfill in its place. The procedure used for the rehabilitation of the dumpsite, called "Landfill Mining", included the excavation of the existing waste, its on-site treatment followed by burial in properly lined cells. The landfill was then re-opened, compacted and topped with a layer of agricultural soil. This will be transformed into a public park (area 6.5ha) and made accessible to the public.

Protecting migratory birds

In partnership with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and local and international NGOs specialized in the protection of birds, a project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was implemented. The project raised awareness on the importance of protecting the soaring birds that fly twice each year over Lebanon during the migratory seasons. These birds are important for biological diversity and play a role in maintaining ecosystem balances at both a global and local levels.

The project worked with national authorities to promote the protection of these birds from hunting by integrating them into the list of protected birds and by raising awareness. The project integrated the bird migratory routes into the national land-use plan to provide additional protection. It also ensured that all new projects in renewable energy, particularly wind farms, take these routes into considerations in order to reduce risks to the birds during their flight.

Targeted awareness campaigns on Migratory Soaring Birds (MSB) issues: Develop one TV spot (30-20 seconds), for the 3 most endangered and threatened birds in Lebanon. Develop a new 3-minute song for the project with a video clip and replication DVD. Develop other media communication tools.



Making the oil and gas sector green

This project supports the Lebanese Petroleum Administration (LPA), affiliated to the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW). The project has prepared guidelines and plans that protect the environment from offshore oil and gas extraction activities.

Also, the project has undertaken in-depth studies on the uses of natural gas and other low carbon fuels in the transport and energy sectors. This contributes in promoting a more affordable, sustainable and environmentally friendly fuel mix for Lebanon.

Sustainable Land Management in the Qaraoun Catchment

The Qaraoun catchment is a critical source of water for urban use and food production, and an important source of ecosystem services and a habitat for threatened biodiversity. Yet, the catchment suffers from accelerating land degradation, undermining ecosystem functions and derivative services. Land degradation is attributable to historic deforestation, excessive firewood collection, overgrazing, expansion of urban settlements and inappropriate infrastructure placement.

While development and productivity are essential, these should not occur at the expense of the environment. The project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the UNDP, is designed to engineer a paradigm shift from unsustainable to sustainable land management in the Qaraoun Catchment.

The objective of this project is to alleviate land degradation, maintain ecosystem services and improve livelihoods.

In 2016, the project started carrying out local level interventions where specific Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices are being implemented in the West Bekaa, Rashaya, and Zahleh districts in specific farms, forests, and rangelands to reverse the impacts of land degradation.



Total budget for 4 years: 3,487,671



The objective of this project seeks to alleviate land degradation, maintain ecosystem services, and improve livelihoods.



Clean Water and Sanitation

Improving water data and management

Despite having relatively more water resources than its neighboring countries, Lebanon is at risk of water shortages due to poor water management and climatic changes. In 2010, UNDP partnered with the MoEW to launch the Lebanese Centre for Water Management and Conservation (LCWWM) project, aimed at assisting the government in promoting water conservation, supporting improved water management, and updating water data. One of the first activities undertaken was an update of groundwater data; the last assessment dates back to the early 1970s. There was an urgent need to update the groundwater map of Lebanon given the changes in climate conditions and ecosystems during the previous decades. This comprehensive study spanned several years and included measurements and surveys across the whole territory. It was funded by a grant from the Italian Government.

Another activity, which continued into 2015 -16, was raising awareness among school children on the need to conserve water. Interactive sessions were held for nearly 1,000 boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 14 and information on the subject was distributed in several languages.

Water support for host communities in North Lebanon

Even prior to 2012, the energy and water infrastructure in Lebanon had been negatively impacted by years of conflict and instability, resulting in poor overall management of these public services. The refugee crisis has exacerbated this situation by putting additional pressure on an already vulnerable system.

Since 2015, UNDP has implemented several projects to increase access to water supply in Wadi Khaled in the north of Lebanon. The work included the construction of domestic water networks in four villages- Knaisee, Hnaider, Qarha and Al Majdal.

The project installed pumps, rehabilitated reservoirs and connected households to the network in these villages. The construction of a

wastewater network and treatment system was also initiated. The work was fully coordinated with the municipality, the North Lebanon Water Establishment and the MoEW. It is estimated that during the construction phase, a period of approximately 1.5 years, 60 workers were employed from the area.



Lebanese beneficiaries

5000 men and 2600 women

Lebanese staff hired locally

575 working days for 60 workers



Irrigation

- The Lebanese agricultural sector, like the industrial sector, is facing many challenges. A study by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has highlighted that the influx of Syrian refugees has led to an accelerated degradation of forest and water resources, particularly in the rural communities of north Lebanon and the irrigated farmlands of the Bekaa. There is growing evidence of an increased demand on water resources particularly for irrigation purposes. This is a result of an increase in water consumption by refugees and Lebanese farmers trying to increase supply of food crops to meet the higher demand for food. Overall, the agricultural sector constitutes a major source of livelihood for both the host community (with estimates of 20 to 25% participation rates) and the refugee population, many of whom work as seasonal labor.

The specific activities associated with irrigation are as follows:

- Vulnerable communities that depend on agriculture and that have the potential to expand agricultural land if water resources are made available will be identified based on the results of the Maps of Risks and Resources (MRR) and consultations with the Ministry of Energy and Water as well as other partners.
- Technical assessments, engineering designs and site verifications will take place to refine needs and gather required data.
- Up to five large irrigation canals will be rehabilitated or constructed depending on budget availability and needs. In addition, up to five water reservoirs will be built to increase water resources. Infrastructure that serves more than one community or village will be prioritized.



Expenditure 2015-2016:
4.45 million



Renewable Energy and Climate Change

Country Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Demonstration Project for the Recovery of Lebanon (CEDRO)

Since 2007, UNDP has run the CEDRO programme. This supports the Government of Lebanon to develop a national sustainable energy strategy and implement pilot projects that help mitigate against climate change. In the early phases of the CEDRO programme, funded by the Government of Spain, over 100 renewable energy applications were demonstrated nationwide in public sector buildings. These ranged from photovoltaic (PV) and micro-wind systems, to large-scale solar hot water (SHW) and small-scale hydropower projects.

The fourth phase of the programme, CEDRO IV, funded by the European Union, is working on the installation of medium-sized solar energy systems in industries and other facilities that generate clean energy during power outages. The project has also introduced the manufacturing of "environmentally friendly logs" that can be used for heating and cooking. These logs are produced from wood material that is collected from the pruning and clearing of forests. This helps in creating sustainable sources of energy for household heating while protecting forests from fires. This application is under implementation in two forests in Lebanon; one in Bkassine in south Lebanon and the other in Andkit in the north. An innovative renewable energy technology that uses heat from the earth to provide cooling, heating and hot water supply for buildings is being installed in the MEDRAR Medical Center (MMC) in Choukine, south Lebanon. This medical center will serve the less privileged in the area.

Machrek Energy Development – Solar Project

The Machrek Energy Development (MEDSolar) project is a regional project that aims to promote and implement innovative technologies, as well as knowledge transfer in the field of solar energy, particularly solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.

Instead of using exclusively polluting and expensive fuel generators during electricity blackouts, the project implements solar photovoltaic systems hybridized to the existing onsite generators, thus supplying the facilities with three power sources; the national utility grid, generators and the solar system.

MEDSolar project implemented these solar photovoltaic systems in four sites in Lebanon, providing a total photovoltaic capacity of 522 kWp. A little over 700 MWh of energy will be generated by these systems and 550 tons of CO2 equivalent will be saved each year.

Achievements:



2,500 vulnerable Lebanese households benefited from solar-powered lighting systems that provided assistance during electricity shortages in the Akkar and Bekaa areas.



8,500 people benefited from construction of water pumps, reservoirs, and networks.



600 energy efficient stoves and two winters' supply of environmentally friendly briquettes were delivered to the Akkar and Bekaa areas.



1,250 solar-powered streetlights were also installed in several municipalities in the Akkar area.

National Action to Mainstream Climate Change



A citizen using the biomass briquettes

Climate change has been identified as one of the greatest environmental challenges. Rising global temperatures will bring changes in the weather patterns, rising sea levels and an increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

According to the World Bank, the cost of climate change in Lebanon is estimated to be around USD 90 million per year.

The Government of Lebanon has set a target of a 12% renewable energy mix target by 2020.

In 2013, UNDP implemented the National Action Programme to Mainstream Climate Change into Lebanon's Development Agenda. The project is aimed at integrating climate change concepts and measures that mitigate the effects of climate change into ministerial development agendas and plans. Examples of the type of support provided were:

- Engagement of ministries, governmental and national institutions in continuous planning and decision making on climate change issues.
- Identifying and developing Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and pilot demonstration adaptation projects. NAMAs are project concepts that, if implemented, would develop certain economic sectors, such as transport or waste management, while reducing carbon emissions.

- Engagement of Lebanon in the international climate change arena and promoting new national and international climate financial mechanisms.

Sustainable energy for host communities under the Lebanon Recovery Fund (LRF)

Many Lebanese communities hosting Syrian Refugees in rural areas are struggling with electricity shortages. Funded by the German Government under the Lebanon Recovery Fund (LRF), UNDP has launched a project to provide access to sustainable energy for host communities. The project delivered small photovoltaic lighting kits (that can generate 60W of energy to light three living spaces and one outlet for phone charging), stoves and environmentally friendly briquettes to the most vulnerable communities in Akkar and Bekaa region.

Nearly 600 energy efficient stoves were installed, benefiting about 3,000 individuals during two winter seasons. Through this project, UNDP is investing in renewable energy while providing support to the communities most in need.

Chapter 4

Engaging Diaspora



Live Lebanon



In 2010, UNDP launched Live Lebanon, the Lebanese expatriate project, whose overall aim is to mobilize Lebanese expatriates to support local development in the most deprived areas of Lebanon. Planned in collaboration with municipalities, cooperatives and NGOs, Live Lebanon is divided into four campaigns: Young Lebanon, Green Lebanon, Prosperous Lebanon and Healthy Lebanon.

Examples of projects funded by Live Lebanon in 2015 include rehabilitation of water network in the village of Ain el Tineh in the North benefiting 1,400 residents, supporting 4 women cooperatives and benefiting more than 100 women in the South and Bekaa and providing solar street for the village of Marjeoun in the South.

Examples of projects in 2016 included rehabilitation of the Maroun Aboud school in Aley and procuring a power generator for Al Mhata village in Bhamdoun. The "Ensa Joura" National Roads Campaign, an initiative to fix potholes in different areas using the eco-friendly velocity road repair machine, included all governorates in Lebanon.



I am glad that there is now a fast and efficient way to fix a major problem faced on Lebanon's roads."

- Member of Zahleh's Municipality regarding the Ensa Joura project.

2016 ■ 6 PROJECTS

Aley, Qlayaa, Bhamdoun, El Tineh, Kharayeb
Ensa Joura project covered all governorates

2015 ■ 5 PROJECTS

Marjeyoun, Abbasiyeh, Kfarsir, Qana, Ain el Tineh

TOKTEN

The TOKTEN concept is a global UNDP mechanism targeting expatriate nationals, who had migrated to other countries and achieved professional success abroad, and mobilizing them to undertake short-term consultancies in their country of origin.

TOKTEN is based on a spirit of volunteerism, which means that the volunteers are not paid direct salaries.

In Lebanon, TOKTEN was launched in 2005 and it follows the global UNDP concept whose approach aids in reducing the effects of the “brain-drain”, with several advantages such as the shared Lebanese language and traditions, at a relatively low cost and speed of implementation.

In the last couple of years, TOKTEN was successful in implementing many diversified initiatives and collaborating with several public institutions such as the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, the Lebanese Armed Forces, the Ministry of Environment, the Institute of Finance and the Central Bank among others.

These initiatives aim to tackle different sectors such as the Food Safety, Cybersecurity, Air Quality, Financial Investigations, Prison reform, Crime Scene Investigations, IT governance in the banking sector, Women Empowerment, as well as the Medical Treatment guidelines.

In sum, the TOKTEN program prioritizes development needs, and continues to implement more projects which target priority issues in Lebanon that necessitate international expertise. This mechanism's added value resides in its flexibility, the simplicity of its process, custom made rapid response to acute needs in the public sector through the expertise of expatriate professionals, aiming at supporting, complementing and strengthening the development process of Lebanon.



“Everyone is here for something and if we don’t work toward that something then we are failing at being present in this world.”

- Dr. Ivone Abdel-Baki, an Ecuadorian diplomat of Lebanese decent on International Women’s Day at a TOKTEN conference.



Participants and audience at a TOKTEN conference on International Women's Day.



III. LOOKING FORWARD: 2016-2017...AND BEYOND

In an on-going effort to achieve major targets within the SDGs, the UNDP in Lebanon will continue to improve its role in alleviating the challenges arising from the influence of the Syrian conflict, promoting peace, dialogue, inclusive governance, improving living conditions for refugees and host communities and contributing to the sustainability of energy and the preservation of the environment.

In 2017, UNDP aims to attract long-term funding, for a period of two or more years, in order to solidify its commitments. UNDP also plans to improve the administration of funds through government institutions in order to simplify procedures. Nevertheless, it will participate in the World Humanitarian Summit to discuss the organization's role in dealing with protracted crises and in influencing the Human Development Nexus. Similarly, UNDP will be involved with UNHCR's Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon in order to establish outcome level frameworks for a more stable approach to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP).

Internally, UNDP will continue to conduct extensive and cutting edge research, following up on the Lebanon Poverty Assessment, as well as advocating for policy change and utilizing its expertise in Rule of Law. It will also encourage greater private sector participation in the LCRP. UNDP will endeavor to meet the requirements set by international environmental conventions and protocols such as the Montreal Protocol, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity. It also aspires to address issues around climate change and water management, including the promotion of water management and conservation, protection of vulnerable water resources and raising of awareness among the population.

Finally, with the aim of mitigating the effects of climate change and promoting sustainable energy, UNDP supports the Government of Lebanon to meet its %12 renewable energy target by 2020, while promoting demand-side energy management and conservation.

The United Nations Strategic Framework Lebanon 2017-2020

The UNSF presents the key shared objectives of the UN system, the areas in which it intends to support the Government of Lebanon and its people, and the expected outcomes of its assistance. The UNSF was developed by the United Nations system in Lebanon in consultation with national counterparts including line ministries, Government technical offices, civil society organizations, as well as international partners.

In view of the multi-dimensional challenges Lebanon is facing, and the multiple global mandates under which the UN operates, the UN recognizes that an effective response to support Lebanon in maintaining peace, stability and development requires unity of purpose and the integration of strategies and interventions under a common vision: the 'Whole-of-Lebanon' approach. The approach calls for a holistic analysis and UN response to Lebanon's challenges. It proposes leveraging and integrating the UN's diverse expertise, capacities and resources to support the Government of Lebanon to meet its priorities and manage security, political, governance and socio-economic challenges to stability. The approach also aims to support Lebanon on the path to longer term sustainable development in accordance with the vision, principles and goals of the 2030 Agenda. Accordingly, the UN's agreed mission statement is to support 'a secure, stable and prosperous Lebanon, exercising full sovereignty while respecting, protecting and ensuring the rights of all'. In carrying out this mission, three core priorities:

- 1: All people in Lebanon have peace and security.
- 2: Lebanon enjoys domestic stability and practices effective governance.
- 3: Lebanon reduces poverty and promotes sustainable development while addressing immediate needs in a human rights/gender sensitive manner.

Lebanon Crisis Response Plan

UNDP is at the forefront of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), an integrated humanitarian and stabilization strategy. 2016 was the second year of the LCRP, and serves as a transitional phase into a long-term strategic framework for 2017-2020. As in the previous year, the Government of Lebanon (GoL), national and international partners came together to deliver integrated humanitarian and stabilization interventions.

The LCRP promotes the strategic priorities identified by the GoL and partners (United Nations, national and international NGOs and donors), emphasizing the role of the GoL in leading the response with the oversight of the cabinet's Crisis Cell. Interventions in the LCRP are aligned to national policies and strategies, and seek to complement and build on other international assistance in the country. The LCRP is designed to:

- 1) Ensure humanitarian assistance and protection for the most vulnerable Syrian refugees and the poorest Lebanese
- 2) Strengthen the capacity of national and local service delivery systems to expand access to, and quality of, basic public services
- 3) Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social, environmental and institutional stability.

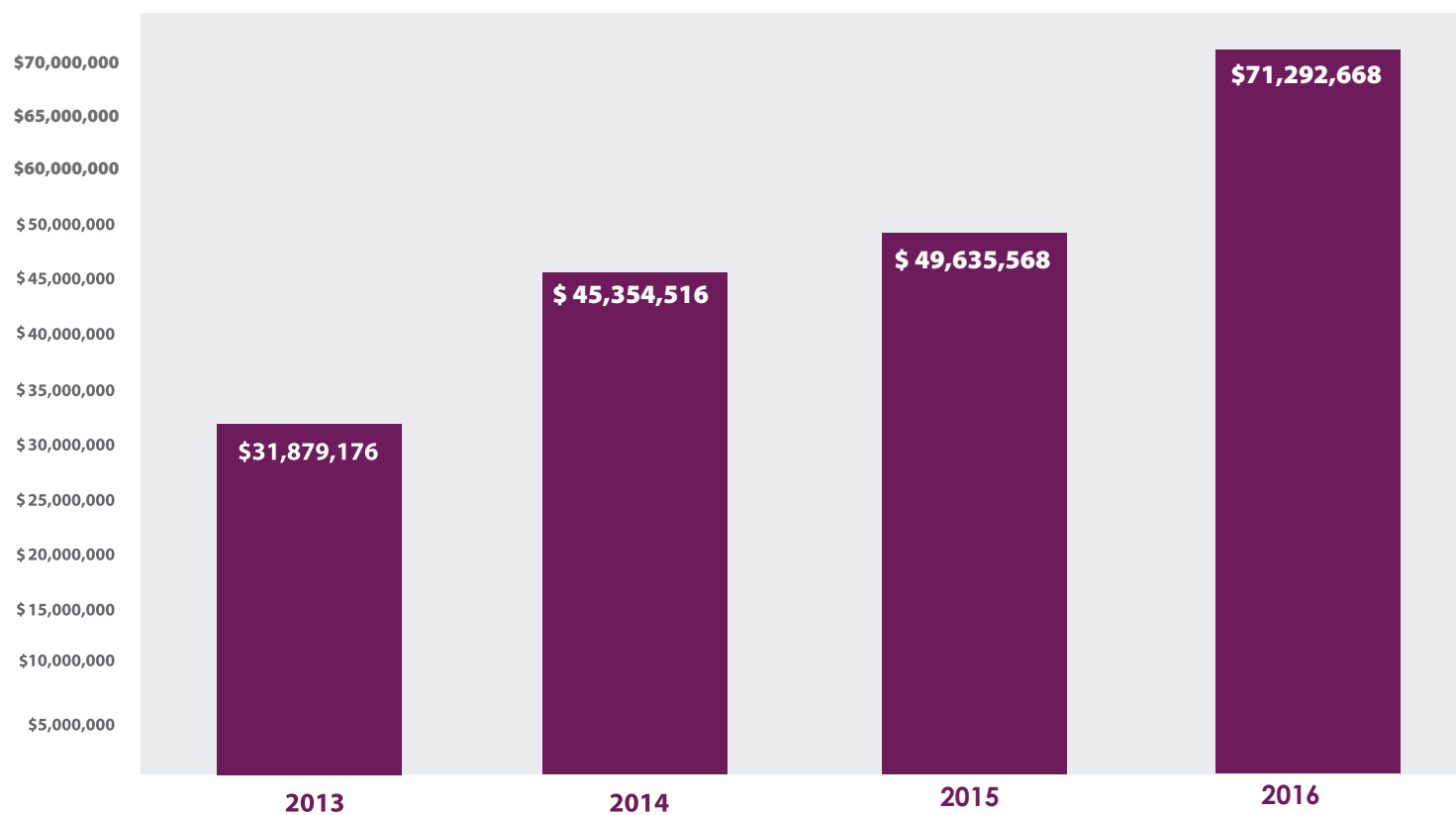
US\$2.75bn

The total funding required
under the LCRP for 2017



10 sectors

2013-2015 Programme Expenditures*



*The above Chart represents total expenditures from UN, Donors and Government contributions.

Reports/Studies Published



1. Lebanon Self-Assessment – Third National Communication – UNFCCC
2. Montreal Protocol in Lebanon – Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Report
3. Groundwater Database
4. Lebanon's First Biennial Report
5. Flood Risk Assessment Report
6. Private Sector Strategy
7. Secured lending Law -Draft Law Submitted to Parliament
8. Maps of Risks and Resources (MRR)
9. Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP) Evaluation
10. Peace Building News Supplement (10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th issue)
11. Ministry of Environment and UNDP Partnership: Key Achievements 2010 to The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2020-2017
12. The Earthing and Lightning Overvoltage Protection for PV Plants Guideline Report
13. Journalists' Pact for strengthening Civil Peace in Lebanon
14. Partnering for Resilience and Stability in Lebanon
15. Women in Municipal Elections 2016: UNIFIL Area of Operations
16. The 2015 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Status Report for Lebanon
17. Women Participation in Municipal Elections 2016
18. Series of sectoral studies to identify competitive advantages of economic sectors (Information Technology, Telecommunication, Business Process Outsourcing Industry, Chemical Industry, Printing Industry, Clean Technology, Pharmaceutical Industry)
19. Directories of Companies in IT, Call Centers and Agriculture
20. Investment opportunities in the IT and Agro Food sectors
21. Spotlight on Youth in Lebanon
22. Expanding Sustainable Energy in Lebanon
23. Support to Lebanese Public Institutions - Under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2015
24. National Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Mitigation Analysis for the Land-Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry Sector in Lebanon
25. National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report and Mitigation Analysis for the Agriculture Sector in Lebanon

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