



Republic of Lebanon  
Ministry of Social Affairs



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

# LHSP

The Lebanon Host Communities  
Support Project





Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.



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Ministry of Social Affairs

The Ministry of Social Affairs was established by Law 212 of 2/4/1993. It was granted the authority to put in place an integrated social development plan and control its implementation; to implement social projects; to remediate the social impact of the war; and to promptly intervene in urgent situations to provide aid and relief. Within the scope of such functions, the Ministry of Social Affairs has been entrusted with the task of coordinating the work of the Government of Lebanon in all matters related to the response to the crisis caused by the exodus of the Syrians displaced to Lebanon, and with the task of coordinating with the United Nations Organizations and other concerned entities in this regard.

# LHSP

## The Lebanon Host Communities Support Project

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This sudden and large influx of displaced from Syria is now placing enormous pressure on the country and its people, especially those in vulnerable areas, where displaced concentrations are greatest. According to competent ministries and UN agencies, the demand for public services such as electricity, water, and sewage has multiplied and reached a point beyond the capacity of the limited available resources.

The Lebanese economic, social, political and security situation has also taken a massive hit from the Syrian crisis. This has led to the exacerbation of the problems that Lebanon was grappling with even before the eruption of the Syrian conflict, due to its limited financial and institutional capacities. In view of all these facts, Lebanon found itself in need of more support from the Arab countries and the international community.

# Background

The Syrian crisis is having a profound impact on Lebanon, resulting in negative repercussions that have reached a scale unprecedented in the history of refugee-driven emergencies. Lebanon hosts the most Syrians compared to neighboring countries. The number of UNHCR-registered/awaiting registration refugees has soared in 2014 to over a quarter of the Lebanese population. Syrians are scattered in different locations throughout Lebanon — with the vast majority concentrated in Aakkar, the North, Baalbeck-Hermel and the Bekaa, living in informal settlements or in accommodations — a factor that has only served to worsen the issue and complicate the process of remediation.





# CHALLENGES

The Lebanese families, villages, towns and cities have often demonstrated enormous generosity for Syrians, welcoming them into their homes, showing solidarity and willingness to help. However, the burden has reached a point beyond the ability of the hosting villages and families, putting the resilience of the Lebanese people under serious threat. The crisis has not only challenged the country's existing social and economic infrastructure, but has also exacerbated significant development deficiencies such as unemployment especially among women and the youth, along with a weak local and national institutional capacity incapable of addressing the needs. This has led to the creation of tensions between Lebanese population and Syrian displaced, a tension that is likely to increase in the future if not alleviated or prevented.

For this reason, the international recognition of the urgent need to scale up support for Lebanese host communities - as part of the response to the Syrian crisis - has reached new levels. Since the beginning of 2015, and due to the fact that the crisis in Syria has entered its fourth year with no foreseeable peaceful solution, the response has been focusing on reframing the current challenges and bridging humanitarian action with medium and longer term support to stability and development.



Mount Lebanon, 2014



A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a green shirt, is focused on her work at a sewing machine. The machine is white and industrial, with various components visible. In the background, there are stacks of dark fabric and some equipment. The lighting is bright, coming from a window on the left.

# LHSP

## The Lebanon Host Communities Support Project

The Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP) is developed within the framework of the interventions conducted by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to implement activities aiming at enhancing stability and promoting development as part of the national strategy to respond to the crisis that has been straining Lebanon since 2011.

The LHSP was launched in 2013 as a first comprehensive, coordinated and durable response to the repercussions of the Syrian Crisis on Lebanon.

It aims at building the capacities of the communities affected by the Syrian crisis, increasing stability, alleviating tension and preventing conflict, through the creation of job opportunities and the provision of basic services.

Mount Lebanon, 2014





## Areas targeted by the Intervention



The LHSP aims at creating a general positive impact by enhancing stability and development opportunities across all Lebanese regions. The Project also conducts local interventions in the vulnerable areas, villages, municipalities and neighborhoods that host high ratio of Syrian displaced to Lebanese population. These communities are at high risk of tension and conflict due to the lack of services and the competition over job opportunities and other factors.

The areas and points of local intervention are selected based on standardized national criteria, which mainly include the following:

- » The ratio of Syrian displaced to Lebanese population.
- » The total number of Syrian displaced and Lebanese inhabitants.
- » The poverty rate in the area.







# LHSP Identification of Projects

## Participatory Social Research Methodology - Maps of Risks & Resources - MRR

The LHSP implements a participatory social research methodology, which includes the MRR, in order to identify priority needs of host communities and determine adequate responses, through a local participatory/conflict-sensitive approach.

The field research is implemented at local level, by joint working teams composed of representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs, the UNDP, and the local authority, in partnership with civil society and private sector stakeholders. As part of the field work, qualitative and quantitative research tools are used, interviews and meetings are scheduled.

The risks and problems as well as their causes and their direct impact on the local community and on the available resources are identified in order to propose prioritized sustainable solutions and interventions in the immediate and medium terms.

The results of the field work are presented in a narrative-analytical report about the village or town or neighborhood. Thereafter an action plan is proposed to the municipal council and local authorities, which includes the adequate interventions and the priorities

MOSA implements the methodology with the technical assistance of UNDP.

## Executive Steps of the Participatory Social Research

The participatory social research involves consecutive steps executed within days, and includes the following steps;

- Collection of available data through rapid office work.
- Holding a general meeting to explain the LHSP objectives to local stakeholders.
- Conducting discussions, exchanging experiences pre and post-crisis, and analyzing the present situation.
- Collection of village data using a special form.
- Adoption of adequate research tools to obtain necessary information (interviews, focus groups) each representing a specific sector (education, health, livelihood, etc...).
- Identification of risks.
- Identification of problems associated with the risks.
- Identification of the causes and their impact on the local community.
- Identification of available resources and dynamics to solve the problems and reduce risk severity, and build community's ability to achieve development.
- Problems geo referencing on the map.
- Data entry using the IM tool enabled with a GIS capacity (GIS-enabled database tool).
- Development of a local or municipal Action Plan for each municipality or neighborhood.
- Development of an analytical-narrative report about the village, town or neighborhood.

After completion of individual reports about villages, towns and neighborhoods, the central working team - in cooperation with the areas working teams - conduct an advanced analysis that puts each village, town or neighborhood in a wider regional framework, study commonalities and differences and the possibility to intervene through common projects, or put in place more integrated regional action plans, particularly in the medium and long terms.





# LHSP Interventions

The Project supports the implementation of interventions aimed at:

- » Improving the livelihoods and economic opportunities of citizens, in particular women, the youth and marginalized groups.
- » Enhance national and local capacities in assessing and responding to needs and identify risks through a participatory work methodology.
- » Improving the capacities of municipalities and different civil society organizations in resolving local conflicts and facing the challenges in an effective manner.





## LHSP Social Stability

Achievement and promotion of social stability is a main component of any society, especially in the time of crisis. It constitutes an important dimension of the stability component of a national crisis response plan. Social stability will constitute a component of the LHSP, while benefitting from the experience of on-going programs.

The UNDP has been working, since 2007, on enhancing the capacities of local leaders, media, NGOs and educators in crisis management and social stability, in particular in response to the repercussions of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon. The Programme works with local leaders on developing local mechanisms and strategies for social stability in a number of Lebanese regions.

The UNDP also works with journalists and media and produces joint news supplements with local newspapers such as Annahar, As-Safir and The Daily Star and provides media space for

Lebanese and Syrian journalists coming from various media outlets to tackle the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon from a positive perspective, conveying by this a positive message through the media.

Additionally, the UNDP integrates social stability concepts into formal curricula and school environment and advocates for a culture of tolerance especially in mixed Lebanese-Syrian schools. It supports a number of NGOs in implementing projects aimed at achieving social stability through educational activities, and other activities related to crisis management targeting Lebanese and Syrians.

North Lebanon, Wadi Khaled, 2015





## LHSP Governance Structure

The LHSP is managed by a Steering Committee assisted by a Technical Group. The daily operations of the LHSP are managed by a specialized team.

### The Steering Committee

Provides strategic direction and ensures proper and effective implementation of the LHSP. It is chaired by MoSA while UNDP provides secretariat functions. The Steering Committee's main responsibilities are to provide guidance and direction to LHSP, ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency, and build a consensus around the project and strategies and planned results.

The Steering Committee is composed of decision makers and invitees members.

- The decision makers are the government representatives.
- The invitees are the donors.

### The Technical Group

The Technical Group operationalizes the Steering Committee. It reviews projects and provides technical advice and takes decisions in relation thereof.

It produces criteria and basic tools to ensure consistency in selecting, designing, targeting and implementing projects as well as monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

The Technical Group reviews periodically the mapping of vulnerable communities most affected by the displaced influx and those most at risk.

The Technical Group decision makers are the multi-sectorial experts from:

- Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Presidency of Council of Ministers.
- Ministry of Interior and Municipalities.
- Council of Development and Reconstruction.
- Relevant ministries, as per the reviewed proposals.

The invitees' members include the donors of projects under discussion/review.

### The Specialized team

The daily operations of the LHSP are managed by a joint specialized team from MoSA and UNDP, supervising a field team in the different regions.





Together  
we support Lebanon  
and its stability



South Lebanon, Habbariyeh, 2014









## For More Information



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United Nations Development Programme

Arab African International Bank Bldg.

Banks Street

Nejmeh, Beirut 2011 5211

Lebanon

E-mail: [registry@undp.org.lb](mailto:registry@undp.org.lb)

Website: [www.lb.undp.org](http://www.lb.undp.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UNDPLEbanon](https://www.facebook.com/UNDPLEbanon)



Republic of Lebanon  
Ministry of Social Affairs

MoSA Bldg.

Toufiq Youssef Aouad street, behind Ministry of  
Justice - Badaro

Beirut - Lebanon

E-mail: [mosa.undp.lhsp@gmail.com](mailto:mosa.undp.lhsp@gmail.com)

Website: [www.socialaffairs.gov.lb](http://www.socialaffairs.gov.lb)

Tel.: +961 1 611260