



Support to Lebanese Public Institutions and Communities

By UN and NGO Partners Under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2016
Mid-Year Update



LCRP 2016

Support to Public Institutions

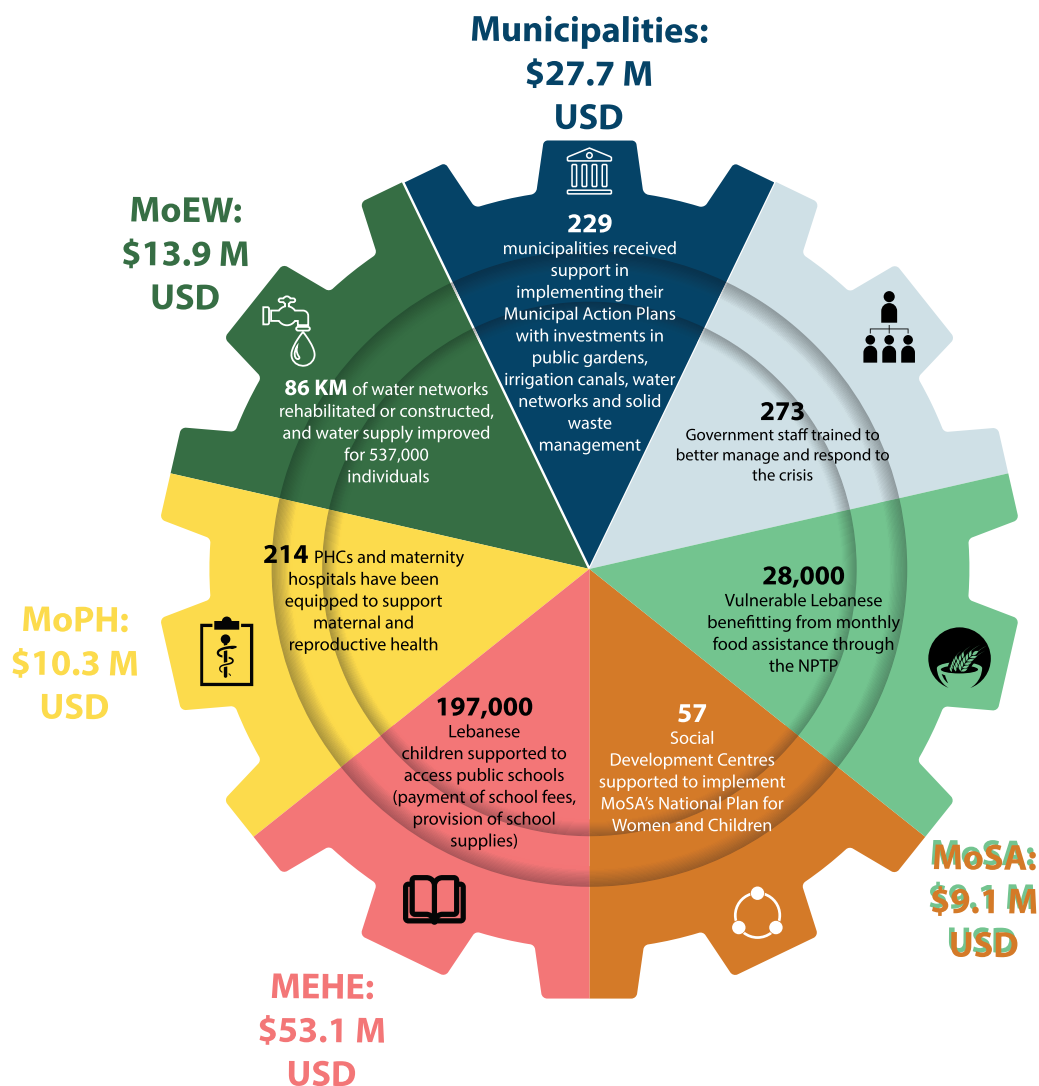


The support to public institutions has continued to focus on supporting service delivery, policy development and enhancing capacities of public officials and civil servants to respond to the crisis.

More than **120 million USD** of assistance was committed or channeled to public institutions so far in 2016.
521 additional staff were seconded or financed to enhance the crisis response capacity of public institutions.



Ministry of Education and Higher Education and public schools	\$53.1m	39 staff
Ministry of Public Health, PHCs and public hospitals	\$10.3m	111 staff
Municipalities	\$27.7m	71 staff
Ministry of Water and Energy & Water Establishments	\$13.9m	7 staff
Ministry of Social Affairs and its network of SDCs (including NPTP support)	\$9.1m	194 staff
Ministry of Agriculture	\$2.1m	1 staff
Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Governors' offices, security forces and other institutions	\$3.8m	98 staff
Total	\$120m	521 staff



Support to Social Institutions

- **70,000 Lebanese households received Winter Assistance (175,000 blankets and 2.9m USD in cash transfers through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP)).**
- **57 SDCs received financial, technical, and additional staffing support, enabling amongst others 27,000 individuals to receive psychosocial support services (including 6,500 Lebanese).**

Under MoSA's National Plan for Women and Children, 57 SDCs benefited from the financial and technical support of partners (notably through the secondment of qualified staff), enabling 27,000 individuals to receive psychosocial support services, 151,000 children and caregivers to learn more on child protection issues, as well as 5,000 children to be evaluated for specialized services.

The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) along with its Social Development Centres (SDCs) provide both the overall leadership role of the crisis response and some of the most pressing service delivery as first responders in the field. An estimated 7.4 million USD in financial support was therefore mobilized to strengthen Lebanon's social system, in addition to 1.7m USD targeting specifically the implementation of the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP).

Since the beginning of the year, 70,000 poor Lebanese households were supported through the provision of winter cash and core relief items (the highest number ever reached) and 28,000 NPTP beneficiaries received monthly food assistance. Overall, no less than 194 additional staff were seconded to social institutions both at the central and local levels to ensure adequate staffing capacity to respond to the crisis.



Winter storm in Lebanon.
Photo credits: UNHCR

Support to the Social Development Center of Al Marj

The SDC of Al Marj in West Bekaa was founded in 2001 to provide specialized services to vulnerable beneficiaries, including children, women, the elderly and persons with disability. "When we first opened the Centre, we were operating one clinic and one office for the NPTP which benefits the most vulnerable Lebanese families," says Mr. Hazaa Darwish, the SDC's director. "Following the onset of the Syrian crisis, the Centre expanded its services to include Syrian beneficiaries."

Today, with the support of UNHCR and partners, Al Marj SDC has 42 employees including doctors, nurses and a dentist. It is fully equipped and provides services ranging from healthcare consultations and counselling to awareness-raising sessions on health related issues.

The centre welcomes one of the highest numbers of Lebanese and Syrian beneficiaries in the region and covers around 10 nearby villages. "On average, we receive approximately 4,000 Lebanese beneficiaries a month and about 1,300 Syrians," the SDC receptionist explains.



Support to Education Institutions

- **357,000 children supported to access formal basic education (197,000 of whom are Lebanese).**
- **302,000 school-aged children provided with learning materials.**

The bulk of the support to public institutions so far (53.1m USD in total) went to the public education system through the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and local schools. Through the implementation of MEHE's Reach All Children with Education (RACE) plan, 357,000 children have been supported to access formal basic education (197,000 of whom are Lebanese). With over 150,000 refugee children enrolled in public schools, partners have managed to increase the refugee attendance rate by more than 100% since 2013-14. In addition, 302,000 school-aged children have been provided with learning materials and stationary.

Key achievements so far also include the launch of a homework support program in 123 schools and in 165 community venues across the country to prevent vulnerable children from dropping out. Conscious of the need to diversify learning pathways, partners contributed to the enrollment of 5,000 out-of-school children in Accelerated Learning Programs (ALP) and to the development of a National Framework for the Regularization of Non-Formal Education aimed at enhancing learning opportunities for youth.

The long-term objective is to reduce the number of dropouts and enhance the level of qualification among vulnerable youth to provide them with the means to be productive members of society.

Overall, 32 additional staff were seconded to MEHE to ensure the continued successful implementation of the RACE strategy and development of RACE II.



*Lebanese and Syrian children in class.
Photo credits: UNICEF*

School Rehabilitation Project in West Bekaa

The rehabilitation works in public schools is part of UNICEF's support to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education by improving the physical learning environment of a number of public schools throughout Lebanon, with a focus on the most vulnerable communities.

Sohmor's Mixed Intermediate Public School (West Bekaa region) has been one of the schools supported this year, to the satisfaction of all involved.

"Before the rehabilitation, children were learning in dire conditions!" a young, spirited teacher explained. "There was writing all over the school walls, and the chalkboards were in terrible shape! Our classrooms were grey and gloomy, there was water dripping from the walls, and the cold and dampness affected our children's health! Thankfully now everything has been painted in waterproof paint, and our children are learning in a much more stimulating and healthier environment".

Support to Health Institutions

- **223 Primary Health Care centers (PHCs) received acute and chronic disease medication, benefiting 269,000 patients (including 35,000 vulnerable Lebanese).**
- **727,000 primary healthcare consultations have been subsidised to facilitate access to public health care (of which 92,000 benefited Lebanese patients).**

More than 10.3m USD was injected to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), hospitals and health care centres across the country, with 111 additional staff seconded.

Support to health institutions materialized in the provision of maternal and reproductive health equipment to 214 PHCs and maternity hospitals and in the distribution of acute and chronic diseases medication to 223 PHCs, benefiting 269,000 patients. The access to health services was enhanced through the integration of 9 PHCs in the MoPH official network (now comprised of a total of 223 PHCs) and the provision of 727,000 subsidized primary healthcare consultations since January. In parallel, 56 contracted hospitals were supported to provide life-saving and obstetric care to 26,000 patients.

Finally, investments have been made to strengthen the support to the National Tuberculosis Program to reduce avoidable tuberculosis-related mortality and illnesses. This was achieved through enhanced prevention, diagnostic and treatment services for vulnerable communities, notably through the rehabilitation and equipment of tuberculosis treatment centers, as well as the recruitment and training of 29 technical staff and the opening of a new center in Halba-Akkar. In addition, sector partners played an active role in the implementation and scaling up of the National Mental Health Programme strategy to integrate mental health into primary healthcare and build the capacities of health professionals in assessing, managing and referring mental health cases in Lebanon.



Akkar Charity Medical Center.
Photo credits: James Giles

Maternal Health Services - A Midwife Story

“Working as a midwife, I have witnessed many changes since I started meeting women during their pregnancies and following up with them after delivery. I noticed that after regular counseling, more started going to primary healthcare centres to get check-ups during their pregnancies; more started getting an echography every trimester; and more were having the necessary blood tests.

Next up, fewer women have been choosing to deliver their babies at home, better understanding the risks for themselves and their children and learning more about possible complications. Another awareness-raising area that I focus on is family planning and particularly discussing the best contraceptive methods.”

Sandy Charabati - Midwife



Support to Energy and Water Institutions, Municipalities and Unions

- **86km of public water supply distribution network extended/rehabilitated, covering 30 Municipalities.**
- **537,000 vulnerable individuals with improved water supply (nearly 400,000 of whom are Lebanese).**
- **360,000 people have the means to safely dispose of solid waste (including 227,000 Lebanese).**

Efforts made by partners to scale up water and wastewater management and services have enabled 537,000 vulnerable individuals to have access to improved water supply (notably through construction/ rehabilitation of 86 km of public water supply distribution network covering 30 Municipalities). In addition, 360,000 people can now safely dispose of solid waste across the country (including through the provision of 5,000 solid waste management containers to enhance environmental protection).

In parallel, 27.7m USD was channeled to 26 Union of Municipalities and 229 Municipalities to respond to increased demand and pressure on services. This includes 71 additional staff being embedded within Municipalities and Unions to work on the crisis response.

Overall, 5m USD was invested in 66 completed tangible municipal projects, with more than 125 projects currently ongoing focusing on the construction of public spaces, recreational infrastructure, equipping of local facilities, distribution of garbage bins and rehabilitation of water networks and sources.

Overall, 170 municipalities are directly benefiting from labor-intensive projects to perform small-scale infrastructure rehabilitation and cleaning services.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs, 100 new ‘maps of risks and resources’ (MRR) have been conducted , thus ensuring that all municipal priorities are mapped across the 251 most vulnerable localities of Lebanon.



Construction of latrines.
Photo credits: James Giles

Mapping of Risks and Resources (MRR)

During the first five months of the year, MOSA survey teams worked relentlessly to complete the 5-day consultation process in 100 Municipalities to finalize the mapping of risks and resources and develop Municipal Action Plans. The MRR is a participatory planning process developed by partners to identify priority interventions at the local level. With all 251 most vulnerable localities now covered, results are available online through the website of the Ministry for all partners to consult.

"Municipalities are on the frontline of coping with this crisis and face many challenges to do so. The consultative process outlined for municipalities to map the risks and resources of their communities is a very positive step in ensuring that the local response fits what people really need most on the ground".

"The national government believes in the development role that municipalities can play. Our aim is to increase stability, address tensions, prevent conflict and ensure peaceful co-existence to the effect of the crisis, through improving livelihood and services provision. Municipalities have been and continue to be the backbone of the response to the impact of the Syria crisis. They deserve our admiration and support."

Minister Derbas at the national launch of the MRR results, 11 July 2016.



Additional Support to Public Institutions

- **Prime Minister's Office, 7 Ministries and 5 Governors' Offices provided with fully operationalized crisis rooms and response plans to enhance risk prevention and management.**

Other major institutions have been supported under the LCRP 2016, totaling over 3.8m USD in financial support and 98 additional staff. Partners, among which UNDP and the EU, contributed notably to the scaling up of disaster risk management through the operationalization of a national operation room at the Prime Minister Office, operation room equipment and crisis response plans in 7 Ministries and 5 Governors' Offices.

The National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) was supported in mapping flood hazards as part of their natural disaster assessment and prevention. In parallel, the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) received assistance in the implementation of the Labour Force and Households Living Conditions Survey.

Finally, partners continued to support the institutionalization of municipal police forces in partnership with MoM, through the development of an Internal Security Forces (ISF) academy training manual, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and codes of conduct in crisis response.



*Disaster risk management simulation.
Photo credits: UNDP*

Risk Assessment Training at the Grand Serail

Lebanon is subject to a wide range of natural hazards, the biggest threat being of a severe earthquake and/or an associated tsunami.

For the past few years, partners have supported the Lebanese Government develop its disaster management and risk reduction strategy to provide an effective, well-equipped and standardized response to disasters. A flood risk assessment and mapping has been developed, among other tools, to guide the National DRR strategy.

Building on these efforts, the UNDP Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Unit at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Euromed PPRD South II Program, held a four-day training workshop in May 2016 on Risk Assessment and Mapping.

This workshop provided key ministries, agencies and local authorities with a general overview of risk assessment and the usage of Geographic Information System (GIS) to enhance risk prevention and response in Lebanon.

Support to Agricultural Institutions

- **1,600 farmers received technical assistance and agricultural/ livestock equipment to increase food production.**
- **173 government staff trained to enhance food security coordination and information management capacities.**

Food Security partners continued to support the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to improve food safety and sustainability, as well as agricultural production. Efforts were made to increase the quality of food safety procedures, improve agricultural statistics and information systems to better inform public policy decisions and to scale up plant and forestry production management.

Overall, 2.1m USD has been injected to agricultural institutions to promote food security and productivity.

As a result, more than 1,600 farmers were provided with training and equipment to increase agriculture and livestock production. In addition, 173 government staff were trained on using the mobile data collection tools necessary to conduct the 2016 agricultural production survey and on the surveillance and monitoring of plant diseases.



*Syrian refugees working on leafy green seeds fields.
Photo credits: ILO*

Quinoa Crop Enters the Lebanese Agricultural System

Over the past two years, FAO has provided support to the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture in order to assess the potential for the introduction, production and adaptation of Quinoa (a grain crop) in the Lebanese farming system.

Under the scope of this ambitious project, seeds of 19 different varieties of quinoa were provided to the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI) and tested for their suitability in various agro-ecological zones in the region.

With exceptional resistance to drought, poor soils and high salinity, Quinoa has been successfully marketed, produced and sold in Lebanon since its introduction on the domestic market.

"The trials conducted proved that it is possible for Quinoa to be adopted as an alternative crop in Lebanon, but this is only the result of a single project," says Ms. Mary-Louise Hayek, project coordinator at the FAO in Lebanon, "at this stage, we need more funding to obtain more seeds and machinery and to strengthen the skills of the technical staff in order to properly train the farmers on the cultivation of this crop in Lebanon and make it available in the local market."

Additional Direct Support to Lebanese:

- 263** Companies received financial services, in-kind and cash grants.
- 878** Lebanese entrepreneurs were trained in business management.
- 2,000** Lebanese were supported through employability programmes providing trainings, internships and employment services.
- 1,400** Lebanese benefitted from rapid employment programmes.
- 1,200** Sub-standard homes were upgraded and weatherproofed to improve living conditions, benefiting 5,000 poor Lebanese.



*Interventions in the Livelihoods and Shelter sectors under the LCRP 2016.
Photo credits: AKonrat*

Please note that throughout this document, large numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

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