Inter-Agency Coordination
Lebanon

Support To Public Institutions Under The LCRP 2016

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Executive summary - support to Lebanese Public Institutions through the LCRP in 2016

Current thinking argues strongly for national and local institutions to feature prominently in any humanitarian response. Efficiency and legitimacy considerations, as well as the tangible benefits such an approach brings to host communities and nations, provide a strong rationale for stabilization-oriented interventions.

Strengthening public institutions has been a key component of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) which estimates that 3.3 million individuals are in need either from an economic or social perspective. These people are best reached by strengthening existing systems and institutions. Indeed, the latter have gained critical local expertise as first responders to the crisis, providing innovative solutions to multi-faceted needs.

In 2016, $187.2 million was channeled to or through Lebanese institutions, which represents a slight increase compared to the 2015 figure of $171.5 million. By providing Lebanon's institutions with crucially needed support, the LCRP has empowered them to enroll over 190,000 Syrian children in public education, construct/rehabilitate 201 km of water networks and provide equipment and trainings to 5,311 Lebanese farmers, to name but a few achievements. These investments have focused on the poorest regions of the country where the majority of refugees are based. Furthermore, by placing public institutions at the forefront of efforts to mitigate the impact of the crisis, and emphasizing their strategic role in managing community tensions, Lebanon's stability and resilience is reinforced.[1]

Overall, the technical, operational and financial assistance provided in 2016 to Lebanese public institutions addressed challenges, gaps and priorities not least by supporting 601 additional staff members to these institutions.

1 The transition to a four-year funding and planning cycle, under the LCRP 2017-2020, is expected to further this programmatic shift toward a resilience-based approach to protracted crisis.

The ***Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)*** and its extended network of Social Development Centres (SDCs), seconded no less than 198 additional staff at both the central and local levels. This was achieved via an estimated $10.4 million in financial support that was mobilized to strengthen Lebanon's social system, in addition to $11.4m targeting specifically the implementation of the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). The additional capacity has enabled MoSA to not only respond to the crisis, but also build towards a future of delivering comprehensive social services.

The support provided to the public education system through the ***Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)*** enabled 402,172 children, of whom 204,347 were Lebanese, to enroll in formal public education across the country for the 2016 - 2017 school year. Overall $253 million was mobilized to implement MEHE's Reach All Children with Education (RACE) plan. However, for this report only $73m of that total is included. This funding covered the enrollment fees for school children, salaries of teachers, as well as running, administration and rehabilitation costs of second-shift schools.

To strengthen the public health system, the ***Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)*** received $14.4m in support of hospitals and healthcare centres, with 151 additional staff provided. Overall, 220 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCcs) were supported to better address the needs of the most vulnerable communities. In addition, 26 governmental hospitals were supplied with medical equipment and lifesaving drugs focusing on health emergencies and emergency obstetric care. This support has translated into considerable success. For example, 84% of displaced Syrian households indicated in the 2016 VASyR that they received the primary healthcare services they needed.

At the local level, $73m was invested in ***240 Municipalities and Unions*** to respond to increased pressure on services. Of this total, $28.5m was directly invested into 265 tangible interventions for 240 Municipalities including construction of public spaces, sports and recreational infrastructures,

equipment for local facilities and distribution of garbage bins. A further $35.3m were investments supporting water and waste water infrastructure at the local level as well as the Water Establishments,which enabled 68 wastewater treatment facilities to be rehabilitated/equipped and 79,000 households to access improved water supply services. The remaining $9.2 million was employed to support the capacity development of the Ministry of Energy and Water at the central level, as well as 97 additional staff integrated into Municipalities and Unions.

Food security partners supported the ***Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)*** in the areas of plant production and pine production management, reforestation, agricultural statistics and information systems. In 2016, partners reached 4,400 farmers affected by the Syrian crisis with livelihoods interventions, 2,000 vulnerable individuals for improved nutritional practices (micro-gardening and food preservation/transformation), 630 youth for enrolment in agricultural technical schools and 280 government staff with capacity building. Overall, $1.8m was provided to prevent the spread of diseases, enhance agricultural production and occupational health and safety as well as to improve the quality of and access to agriculture data. Through this support, MoA has made important strides in meeting the objective of sustainable food security in Lebanon.

Other major institutions that were supported under the LCRP include the Prime Minister's Office, Governors' offices and security forces with a view to enhance disaster risk management and reduction, information management and coordination and the operationalization of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and codes of conduct in crisis response.

This report provides an overview of the results achieved in 2016 by LCRP partners, including the Government of Lebanon, UN Agencies, NGOs and donors to strengthen public institutions.

Figure 1 - Support to Public Institutions At a Glance

Figure 2- Youth Employment Support Project in Tyre, South Lebanon. Photo credits: UNDP, 2016.

Support to Public Institutions under the LCRP 2016

Six years of conflict in Syria have resulted in a massive influx of displaced into Lebanon placing enormous pressure on the country and its people. With approximately 1.5 million displaced from Syria, Lebanon currently hosts the largest number of refugees per capita in the world.

Long-standing economic inequalities, combined with increased demographic, environmental and security challenges have impaired Lebanon's stability while placing an immense strain on public institutions and host communities. In a context of limited economic growth and shrinking national resources, Lebanon's ability to deliver basic services and mitigate social tensions is overwhelmed. According to the World Bank, Lebanon has incurred losses of US$ 13.1 billion since 2012, of which $5.6 billion pertains to 2015 alone. As a result, the access to and quality of basic services have significantly declined for the past few years and no less than $2.5 billion would be required to restore public services to their pre-Syrian crisis level.

With no end in sight to the current conflict, this humanitarian crisis has become protracted with long-lasting impact. To address this major challenge to the country's stability and future prosperity, a comprehensive crisis response framework was designed to address immediate humanitarian needs and facilitate long-term recovery. To this end, the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2015 – 2016 delivered integrated and mutually reinforcing humanitarian and stabilization interventions to mitigate the negative repercussions of the Syrian crisis.

It maintained a strong focus on humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities while continuously expanding investments, partnerships and delivery models to ensure a successful transition towards longer-term development strategies, in accordance with the commitments made at the London conference in 2016.[2]

Figure 3- Irrigation canal worker in Qabb Elias.
Photo credits: UNDP, 2016.

Under the scope of this innovative and ambitious plan, more than $187.2 million was channelled to public institutions in 2016 to strengthen service delivery, policy development, capacity building and institutional stability. The present brochure provides a detailed overview of the technical, operational, financial and staffing support provided to Lebanese public institutions by LCRP partners in 2016 and how this support has empowered the institutions to deliver better quality services to Lebanon's vulnerable communities.

Figure 4- Impact of the conflict in Syria on Lebanon

Figure 5- Support to public institutions

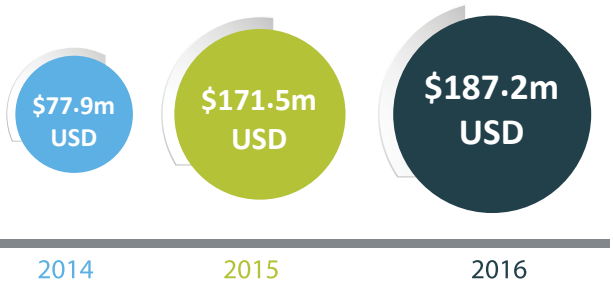
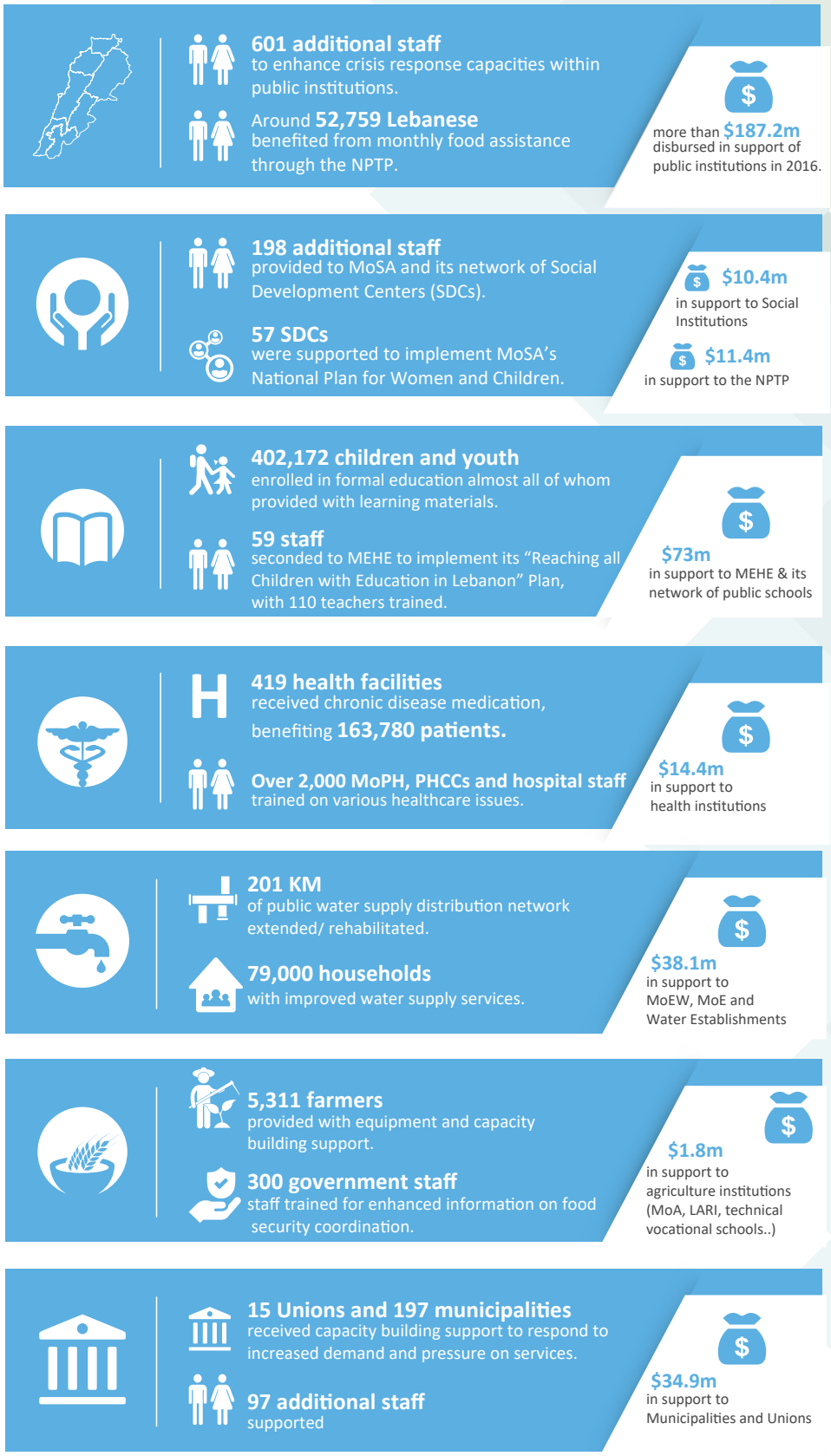


Figure 6- Key Figures



Story from the field - Going back to school

Figure 14- Children in class in a public school in Chebaa, Nabatiyeh. Photo credits: UNDP, 2016.

Ahmad Hourani is 12 and has already been displaced twice since the onset of the Syrian crisis. The constant movement has meant that his education has been severely disrupted. «I studied until Grade 3 [age 8-9] in Syria,» he explains, «but then we had to leave. In Arsaal, I went to a public school for a year. I passed the grade, and made some Lebanese friends. The teachers were really nice, the only problem was that I had to walk for an hour and a half to get to school. Still, I was happy there.»

These days, Hourani lives in Akkar, Lebanon's impoverished northern-most region. When he first arrived, he was dismayed to discover that he had forgotten his Grade 3 certificate in Arsaal, and thought that this would prevent him from enrolling in school again. So as a stopgap measure, he registered himself in the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) at the nearby Kerbet Char Public School along with 93 other children. The ALP is an intensive four-month catch-up program, regulated by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), which aims to help children who have been out of school for over two years, a common problem among displaced Syrians.

Successful completion automatically leads to enrolment in a Lebanese public school, which this year is free for all children thanks to a joint initiative between the UN, international donors and MEHE.

A smart boy who studies hard, Hourani is likely to be one of those graduating to formal schooling once more this year. «I can write and read in Arabic, and I can do a little bit as well in French. I forgot all the English I learned in Arsaal though,» he says with a small sigh. «But I find the programme here easy. I like maths best.» Like many young Syrian boys in Lebanon, he faces pressure to work to support his family. In July, his father got sick, and had to pull Hourani out of school for a week to cover for him on a farm. Now that his father is better, however, he is back in school and looks forward to the future: «When I am older I want to sell sweets,» he says with a grin. «My favorite is the helwet jeben [sweet cheese rolls], but I cannot eat too many in a day or I get sick.»

Support to Health Institutions

Support to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)

Under the LCRP 2016, sector partners extended their support to the public health system to increase access to and quality of health services. The financial, technical and operational assistance provided to healthcare institutions was essential to withstand the pressure caused by increased demand on services. Overall, $14.4m was made available to support the Ministry of Public Health, Primary Healthcare Centers and public hospitals (of which $9.4m specifically targeted the MoPH) and 151 additional staff were provided to enhance health service delivery across the country.

Strengthened communicable disease control

In line with national efforts to ensure health security and strengthen the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) for outbreaks, several technical assessments and missions took place to improve the effectiveness of the national surveillance and response system. Efforts focused on building the capacity of national health staff (health inspectors, physicians, pharmacists, nurses, lab technicians, first responders and MoPH central and peripheral teams) to monitor and respond to priority diseases. The preparedness and response capacity of MoPH to deal with any potential threats generated from hazard incidents has also been significantly improved through the establishment and equipment of a national HAZMAT[6] Medical Team.

In 2016, partners came together in a national outbreak simulation exercise to assess and improve the efficiency of the national plans for responding to the detection of imported wild polioviruses (WPV) and vaccine-derived polioviruses (VDPV). Furthermore, acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance and supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) were conducted to monitor the progress of poliomyelitis eradication. To further enhance the operational capacity of MoPH with regards to the early recognition, containment, and prevention of communicable diseases, vehicles were also provided to the Epidemiological Surveillance Unit (ESU). In addition, laboratory capacity was improved through training of lab personnel and procurement of reagents and test kits for the detection of specific diseases.

To mitigate the risks associated with Tuberculosis, a five-year Tuberculosis Control framework was developed for prevention and monitoring, along with tuberculosis program guidelines for infection control. Partners launched a nationwide tuberculosis screening campaign targeting vulnerable populations[7] to ensure the systematic and free of charge referral and treatment of suspected cases at NTP centers. To build the capacities of NTP staff, trainings were delivered to 75 health professionals across the country. Further medical supplies, TB medication and equipment (GeneXpert and X-ray machines and microscopes) were provided to the MoPH and National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP) centers.

KEY NUMBERS:

$14.4m in support to MoPH and Healthcare Centres

151 staff seconded to MoPH facilities

180,000 children vaccinated during two polio mop-up campaigns

419 health facilities received chronic disease medications, benefiting **163,780** patients

220 PHCCs received acute disease medications and reproductive health commodities

1,230,532 primary healthcare consultations provided through fixed health outlets

Over **2,000** MoPH, PHCCs and hospitals staff trained on various healthcare issues

In line with national efforts, MoPH established a five-year Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) strategy to reinforce routine immunization and cold chain management. In addition, trainings were organized on effective vaccine management at PHC level. Overall, 180,000 children received vaccinations through two polio mop-up vaccination campaigns in 2016 and many others benefited from routine vaccination across the country.

Improved food safety

Equipment and supplies for inspection and training were distributed to MoPH, enabling 164 health and municipal inspectors to be trained on sampling techniques and standardization. In parallel, the Ministry was supported in the setting up of a food safety database to facilitate the collection, sharing and analysis of data related to the handling, preparation, and storage of food to efficiently prevent foodborne illnesses.

Support to Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCCs)

In Lebanon, Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCCs) are at the forefront of ambulatory health services provision for the most vulnerable population. They have faced unprecedented challenges in carrying out their mandate following the surge in primary healthcare demands. In 2016, $4.6m was channeled to PHC centers to provide subsidized services to vulnerable Lebanese and those displaced from Syria.

163,800 patients received chronic disease medication

Chronic disease medications were distributed to 419 health facilities, including 220 MoPH-PHCCs, to treat patients suffering from chronic non-communicable diseases, such as hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes or asthma. In addition, numerous health facilities and all MoPH-PHCCs received essential acute disease medications, vaccines and reproductive health commodities. The clinical management of Rape (CMR) was also enhanced in many primary healthcare facilities through staff training and distribution of post-exposure prophylaxis (or PEP) kits to prevent HIV infection.

2,000 healthcare providers strengthened their skills

The delivery of basic health services was stepped up through the capacity building of over 2,000 healthcare providers at PHC level. Among them, 178 staff were trained on the appropriate management, storing and use of chronic diseases medications as well as 600 staff on mental healthcare and psychological first aid. To prevent the spread of infectious diseases, 339 PHC staff were trained on tuberculosis awareness and referral systems from PHCs to TB centers. The quality of vaccine management was enhanced through the training of 985 staff on Effective Vaccine Management (EVM). Additional capacity building support was provided to enhance malnutrition screening and referral, as well as reproductive health.

To further improve health service delivery, LCRP partners supported the development of national protocols for malnutrition management and of a three-year strategy on reproductive health.

A pilot mental health registry was also established to identify the evolution of mental disorders across the country. This initiative will be expanded in the coming year with the support of practitioners to enhance psycho-social support, counseling and mental health programmes.

Support to Public Hospitals

Enhancing the availability and quality of healthcare services at hospital level, 25 specialized pediatricians from 10 public hospitals were trained on the inpatient treatment of acute malnutrition with complications. This was done to ensure a continuum of care and to build the capacity of hospitals to treat children suffering from acute malnutrition.

In line with the MoPH National Mental Health Strategy (2015-2020), staff in all private and public hospitals participated in training courses on managing mental health emergencies. Also, in the context of strengthening the response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and ensuring availability of appropriate services to survivors of rape, a governmental hospital was trained on the Clinical Management of Rape (CMR). Overall, 8 governmental hospitals have received such trainings in the past few years, all of which received PEP kits in 2016. In terms of medical equipment, a CT/MRI scanner worth over $1.5m was installed at Rafik Hariri government hospital in Beirut to facilitate the early diagnostic of diseases for vulnerable patients.

Finally, in order to enhance reporting on maternal health indicators and ensure an accurate maternal mortality rate (MMR), 156 staff from 137 hospitals (including 26 government hospitals) received refresher trainings related to the online Maternal and Neonatal Mortality National Notification System. The system had been launched in early 2011 following a Ministerial Memorandum issued by MoPH.

2017 NEXT STEPS

In 2017, $53m is requested within the health sector appeal to strengthen the national health systems and public health institutions.

Under the LCRP 2017-2020, the following key strategic priorities have been outlined to enhance the Lebanese public health system:

- The expansion of the MoPH-PHCs network to respond to needs, fill geographical gaps and ensure sustainability of services.
- The sector will strengthen healthcare institutions through capacity building support to enable them to withstand the pressure caused by increased demand on services and scarcity of resources.
- The sector will support the expansion of the existing health information system (HIS), with a particular focus on early warning sentinel surveillance sites to improve monitoring, planning and better informed decision-making.

In support of the above, the financial, operational and technical assistance provided to the Lebanese healthcare system will in 2017 focus on:

- Improving access to comprehensive primary healthcare throughout MoPH-PHCs network (i.e. provision of free vaccination, acute/chronic medication, equipment, capacity building and staffing support to primary healthcare institutions);
- Facilitating access to hospitals and specialized referral care in all 26 public hospitals (emergency/life-saving and obstetric care, provision of equipment and trainings);
- Enhancing outbreak control through the expansion of the existing Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) to ensure availability of contingency stocks and conducting vaccination campaigns;
- Improving children and youth health, primarily through a dedicated support to the National School Health Programme and the "Child survival initiative".

The overall objective of LCRP partners in the coming years will be to ensure the full integration of services in the existing national healthcare system, in line with commitments reflected in the Grand Bargain and at the World Humanitarian Summit.

Story from the field - Keeping Lebanon Polio-Free

Figure 15- 2016 oral poliovirus vaccination (OPV) campaign. Photo credits: WHO, 2016.

Lebanon has been certified as polio-free since 2003. However, with the recent polio outbreak observed in 2014 in neighboring countries, the country was exposed to a significant threat associated with the recurrence of polio risk - a risk further exacerbated by the widespread of refugees across the country, many of whom are living in substandard conditions.

In response, the Ministry of Public Health in coordination with WHO, UNICEF and UNHCR launched a national polio mop-up campaign across Lebanon to keep the country polio-free, including in particularly vulnerable areas. These efforts were part of the national response to prevent the resurgence of the poliovirus in the country which enabled over 180,000 children to be vaccinated throughout the country in 2016, regardless of nationality.

Moreover, MoPH was supported by WHO in strengthening its monitoring and surveillance system to better detect and prevent acute flaccid paralysis (AFP). These combined efforts enabled Lebanon to remarkably improve its performance and to exceed the non-polio AFP (NPAFP) threshold of 2 per 100,000 to reach an annual NPAFP rate of 5.8 per 100,000, with more than 80% accuracy.

Furthermore, the epidemiologic surveillance unit at MoPH initiated the environmental surveillance of poliovirus in order to identify areas with increased risks and improve vaccination strategies to better reach susceptible and vulnerable populations.

Figure 16 - A newly inaugurated football field provides a communal playground for the children in Al Khiara in the Bekaa valley. Photo credits UNDP, 2016.

Support to Energy and Water Institutions

Support to the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), Water Establishments and Electricite du Liban

The delivery of basic energy, water and sanitation services already faced serious pre-crisis challenges due to structural deficiencies. With the rapid and sharp increase in demand, the water supply, energy and solid waste systems have been placed under extreme pressure to address needs.
As a result, Lebanon currently suffers from a water supply deficit of around 40%. Almost two thirds of people across Lebanon are drinking unsafely managed water from their primary household source. Over a million people are not connected to a water network, and the majority of families lack access to safe water because of contamination and lack of adequate treatment facilities. In parallel, wastewater management continues to be poor, with 92 percent of sewage being discharged directly into watercourses without treatment.

KEY NUMBERS:

$38.1m in support to MoEW, MoE and Water Establishments for service delivery and infrastructure

13 additional staff provided to MoEW, MoE and Water Establishments

68 wastewater treatment facilities augmented/ rehabilitated

201km of public water supply distribution networks constructed or rehabilitated

79,000 households with improved water supply services

More sustainable management of water resources
In this critical context, partners provided essential financial and technical support to the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) to enhance the delivery of basic services (electricity, water, sanitation and hygiene) and mitigate the impact of the Syrian crisis on the environment. Overall in 2016, $38m was channeled to Energy and Water institutions and 7 additional staff were provided at the national level to improve energy production and the sustainable management of water resources. In addition to several research studies, a feasibility analysis was conducted in four sites to pilot aquifer recharge interventions aimed at addressing water scarcity. Building on these efforts, hydrogeological assessments were undertaken in 12 districts to assess the possibility of alternative water sources. At the policy level, the first national household water quality survey was recently implemented to establish a baseline for the sustainable development goal (SDG). In addition, a wastewater treatment plant audit is being conducted to ameliorate wastewater management capacities.

More sustainable electricity supply
MoEW and Electricite du Liban (EdL) significantly upgraded the infrastructure and renewable energy supply of vulnerable municipalities in 2016 with LCRP support. A technical assessment of the impact on the electricity sector of the Syrian crisis was completed and will serve as a baseline for the energy strategy moving forward. By the end of 2016, 340 solar-powered street lights and transformers had been installed in Akkar and over 500 solar lighting and photovoltaic kits distributed to poor households across the country. In Machta Hammoud, Machta Hassan and Chadra, supply and distribution of electricity increased because of the installation and rehabilitation of substations, transformers and solar-powered equipment.

Clean water and sanitation
2016 saw important improvements in better and safer access to water, sanitation and hygiene through stronger national service delivery systems. Activities mitigating the risk of disease outbreaks implemented with sector partners contributed substantively to this outcome. National agencies, such as the Litany River Authority, also received monitoring equipment and practical training to improve telemetry services and enhance operation and maintenance of water supply networks, management and wastewater systems. Finally, 76 mass media and awareness-raising campaigns were organized throughout the country to improve hygiene, water conservation and solid waste management.

The four Water Establishments[8] and the Litani River Authority are responsible for the design, implementation, operation and maintenance of water and wastewater services in Lebanon. Under the LCRP, these institutions have played a critical role in the implementation of the energy and water sector strategy. Overall, $35.3m was invested to support Water Establishments in the implementation of infrastructure projects in 2016, along with 5 additional staff. With a view to enhance water quality services, laboratory staff were trained on the appropriate use of water quality equipment and a communication strategy was developed to increase water service rates and reinforce the financial independence of Water Establishments.

Water delivery improved for 19,000 households in the North

The North Lebanon Water Establishment (NLWE) benefited from the support of sector partners in improving the delivery of water, wastewater and irrigation services. Key achievements included the installation/rehabilitation of over 50km of water supply distribution networks in the North and Akkar governorates[9] and the construction of a large-scale irrigation network in Akkar to ensure the sustainable management of water resources for local farmers. In addition, water sources, boreholes, reservoirs, pumping and transmission lines were constructed to increase the access to and quantity of available water in vulnerable municipalities.[10] Overall, 19,000 households and 600 non-residential units now have increased access to a reliable water supply. In parallel, sewage networks and wastewater treatment plants were constructed in Mashta Hammoud, Mashta Hassan and Chadra to reduce the environmental impact of the crisis for 2,100 households.

Finally, the management of water supply systems was strengthened in Qoubaiyat municipality through GIS training, digitizing asset data and developing a water safety, operation and maintenance plan.

23,000 households benefit from improvement to water network service

To support the Bekaa Water Establishment (BWE), the water supply network was extended and rehabilitated in Chtaura municipality. The BWE developed a water monitoring and management plan with the assistance of sector partners to reduce the municipality's vulnerability to water shortages.

The rehabilitation and construction of boreholes, reservoirs, pumping and transmission lines benefited vulnerable communities in several localities including Taalbaya, Majdel Anjar, Qab Elias, Anjar, and Zahle. Over 65km of water supply networks were rehabilitated which means that 23,000 households are now connected to the public network. With a view to promoting cost recovery and demand management for water supply, a subscription and water meter installation campaign was launched in three Bekaa municipalities (Zabboud, El Ain and Bejjeje-Jabboule). BWE also received trainings and equipment to conduct geophysical surveys and research projects aimed at increasing the cost recovery of public water supply services. Finally, a pilot wastewater treatment plant was constructed in Taanayel, along with 8km of wastewater network in Ablah, Taalbaya and Majdel Anjar municipalities.

Sustainable access to safe drinking water ensured

The South Lebanon Water Establishment (SLWE) was assisted to enhance the access to safe water supply for vulnerable Syrian and Lebanese communities in the South and Nabatiyeh governorates with a focus on Saida, Ghazzieh, Taybeh, Bint Jbeil and Marjaayoun. This was notably achieved through the construction/rehabilitation of over 65 km of water networks, 8 water sources, water treatment plants, pumping stations, wells and reservoirs. Overall, the access to and quality of water supply services was enhanced for 21,000 households throughout the year.

The Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment (BMLWE) continued to benefit from the technical, staffing and operational support of partners in 2016. On the back of this assistance, BWE facilitated the collection, analysis and dissemination of valuable information related to water and wastewater management and services. In addition, 2.5km of water supply network was constructed in Barja and Ketermaya municipalities, 9km of irrigation canals were rehabilitated in Kfarnabrakh and wells were drilled and equipped in Dahr el Bachek Governmental hospital in Roumieh. Overall, water delivery was improved for 16,000 households in the region.

The Ministry of Environment (MoE)

The Syrian crisis is putting enormous pressure on Lebanon's natural resources and ecosystems, leading to increased environmental degradation and pollution. In 2016, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) benefited from the technical, financial and operational support of international partners to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the environment and protect biodiversity, including through the provision of one additional staff to MoE.

In terms of policy development support, environmental management plans were drafted to support two Unions of Municipalities and guidance notes were developed to promote environmentally-sound approaches among local decision makers.

Figure 17- Key features of the support provided to Energy and Water institutions in 2016

2017 NEXT STEPS

An appeal for $262 million was made within the Water and Energy sectors of the LCRP to primarily support the Ministry of Energy and Water, the Ministry of Environment and the four Water establishments in 2017. One of the main objectives will be to ensure that all vulnerable people in Lebanon have access to safe drinking water whilst mitigating environmental degradation.

At the institutional and policy level, the sector will fill existing gaps and empower the MoEW and Water Establishments to launch a long-delayed strategy to monitor water quality and quantity. The response will also develop a stronger evidence-based approach to water investments, notably through the elaboration and implementation of a water and sanitation vulnerability framework, integrating health related data.

At the service delivery level, partners will increase the efficiency of water and sanitation systems while rehabilitating and extending water infrastructures.
The objective will be to ensure vulnerable people can have access to safe and reliable drinking water across the country.

As part of the support provided to host communities, the response will aim to build the capacity of Water Establishments to recover costs through appropriate tariff systems and deliver a higher standard of service that ensures better quality, quantity and improved operation and maintenance capacities.
At the community level, partners will promote awareness-raising practices targeting human health, environment protection and water security, and engage beneficiaries in the planning and identification of sustainable solutions to their water and wastewater needs.

As mentioned above, priority interventions will focus on policy development and service delivery support and notably include:

- A review and update of MoEW strategies and frameworks; Development of a national integrated water quality and quantity action plan;
- Development of a WASH Vulnerability Framework;
- Extension, rehabilitation and construction of public water supply systems;
- Development of a Water Establishment Communication and Community Trust-Building Strategy.

Support to Municipalities and Unions

Support to Municipalities and Unions of Municipalities (UoM)

Municipalities as first crisis responders

Since the onset of the Syrian crisis, municipalities have faced growing challenges to meet the needs of host and refugee communities in a context of already limited resources and capacity. Confronted with countless challenges such as pressure on the job market, rising commodity prices and strained municipal systems, local authorities have been under extreme pressure to deliver basic services to a growing local population. Since 2011, the population in 56 cadasters has doubled in size and a further 84 cadasters have seen their population increase between 50 and 100 percent.[11] With over 1,100 municipalities and 50 Unions of municipalities spread across the Lebanese territory, local public institutions have been at the forefront of the crisis response, yet 70 percent of these municipalities were too small even pre-crisis to deliver basic services and 57 percent lack an administrative structure.[12]

Building legitimacy through better services

To tackle these challenges, municipalities benefited from the continuous support and guidance of LCRP partners. Capital investments and capacity building support were provided to enhance the delivery of basic services in the municipalities, including small-scale infrastructure, public spaces, hospitals and healthcare centers, public schools and housing. These interventions directly contributed to raising the confidence and trust placed in local institutions.

This growing sense of legitimacy was further reinforced following the municipal elections held in 2016 which made municipalities the only directly elected institutions in the last seven years. Over $34.9m was invested into the work of Unions and municipalities in 2016, along with 97 additional staff. In total, 265 municipal projects worth $28.5m were implemented to expand and upgrade service delivery at the local level, representing respectively a 34% and 41% increase compared to 2015. It notably enabled wastewater and water supply networks to be renovated and upgraded in over 100 municipalities. Complementing these activities, labour-intensive interventions focusing on small-scale infrastructure rehabilitation and environmental assets improvement were conducted in 122 municipalities.

Building on these achievements, the Regional Technical Offices (RTO) of 8 Union of Municipalities were fully equipped and operationalized to strengthen local governance and strategic service delivery and planning at the local level. These RTOs provided essential services to over 200 municipalities across Lebanon, including technical assistance, coordination and capacity building. Their scope of work encompasses a broad range of activities based on the UoM mandate, including urban planning, construction and maintenance of infrastructure and urban services as well as Information Management. Partners' assistance to these regional offices included the provision of office equipment and software, staffing support (covering the salaries of civil engineers, architects, surveying engineers, field monitors, IT or GIS operators), as well as trainings.

KEY NUMBERS:

$34.9m in support to Municipalities and Unions

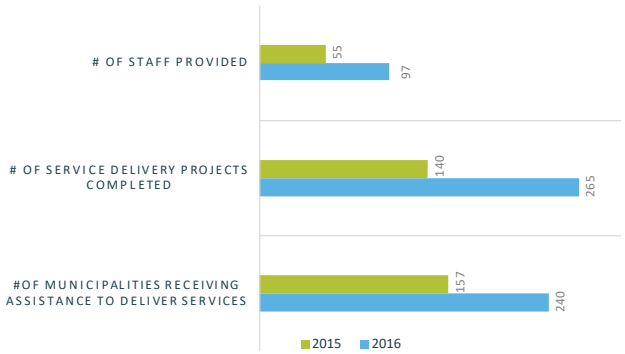
97 additional staff provided to municipalities and Unions of municipalities

15 Unions of municipalities and **197** municipalities received capacity building support to respond to increased demand and pressure on services

240 municipalities received support to deliver services:

$28.5m invested in **265** tangible infrastructure and labour-intensive municipal projects – over 40% more than in 2015 (with at least 58 more ongoing, worth $62.7m)

Figure 18- Support to Municipalities and Unions of Municipalities



More effective solid waste management as a precursor for community resilience

To address the unfolding environmental crisis, technical and material assistance was provided to 80 municipalities and Unions as well as 12 Palestinian camps to enhance solid waste management at the local level. Key achievements in 2016 include the construction of a solid waste sorting/composting plant in Qabb Elias and Miniera and the rehabilitation of dumpsites in Ghazzeh, Bourj Hammoud and Bourj Barajneh, in addition to providing 10,365 solid waste containers and various types of equipment including compactors, bob cats, pickups and dumpers to the municipalities. Lastly, an often forgotten issue is that of medical waste which increases as a result of the larger number of people seeking medical assistance and treatment. Therefore, partners have also supported the Infectious Healthcare Waste Management national network which treats over 80 percent of the medical waste generated in Lebanon.

In view of their mandate to provide decent and affordable shelter, municipalities were also supported in the rehabilitation and upgrading of substandard buildings, benefiting 59,000 vulnerable individuals.[13]

These interventions represent a significant investment in the host community which in turn contributes to expanding the affordable housing stock and the local economy.

Responding to tensions and managing stability

Overall, 197 municipalities and 15 Unions received capacity building support to comprehensively address conflicts at the local level. Municipal authorities expanded and deepened their conflict resolution efforts thanks to the training of 194 officials in crisis management. On the back of these new strengths, they set up 34 municipal dialogue and conflict prevention committees allowing civil servants and community representatives to manage socio-economic, socio-cultural and security issues to prevent further escalation and ensure a rapid response. The trainings covered a broad range of topics including healthcare provision, operation and maintenance of water supply, solid waste and water management as well as wastewater and drainage systems.

2017 NEXT STEPS

Through the Social Stability sector, partners have appealed for $109m to continue their support to municipalities and Unions in 2017. Partners will seek to strengthen national and local service delivery systems to build confidence in the quality and accessibility of public services in 46 Unions and 244 Municipalities located in the 251 vulnerable cadasters.

To cope with the unfolding shelter crisis, an appeal of $69m was made to expand the housing offer and strengthen the shelter response. Overall, 200 municipalities and 30 Unions will be supported through capacity building and/or the rehabilitation and upgrading of substandard buildings.

LCRP partners will also improve sites and infrastructure conditions in poor urban areas and neighborhoods, where an increasing number of vulnerable individuals reside. Through the implementation of pilot projects, the living conditions of the population in these poverty belts will be ameliorated.

To sustain the impact of such projects and strengthen the role of municipalities, partners will facilitate participatory processes and reinforce the capacities of both municipalities as well as Unions in terms of planning, mediation and conflict prevention and management.

Story from the field - Mapping risks and finding solutions

Figure 19- Construction of an irrigation canal in Qabb Elias. Photo credits: UNDP, 2016.

«The importance of the MRR is not only in creating a Multi-Sectoral Municipal Action Plan, but also in creating a dialogue at the local level between the residents and the municipality.» says Mrs. Suheir El Ghali, LHSP National Coordinator at MoSA.

To facilitate the identification of priority interventions at the local level, a participatory planning process called the Mapping of Risks and Resources (MRR), has been used for the past two years to identify and address key priorities in the 251 most vulnerable localities.
Generating invaluable information about the most pressing issues faced by community members, the results of the mapping process have been integrated into an open access software platform, hosted by MoSA and the Prime Minister's office, which allows all LCRP partners to identify and address key priority needs in their respective areas of intervention.

In the municipality of Qabb Elias, participants in the MRR process identified access to water for agricultural production as a key priority for their communities.

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

As a result of this, the Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP), jointly implemented by the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNDP decided to rehabilitate the Qabb Elias irrigation canals to support the farmers.

«We used to suffer from water loss; the soil canals would absorb three times the amount that reached us. With the new cement canals, water reaches our lands in five minutes rather than two hours,» said Bilal Hussein Ferro, water attendant in Qabb Elias. With the upgrade of the new canal system, agriculture lands receive 60% more water. The new project will help farmers diversify their produce to include crops such as peach, apple, potato, lettuce, zucchini and peas.

The mayor of Qabb Elias, Jihad Al Mouallem, was also satisfied with the results of the irrigation canals. "The project will increase irrigated crops and this will help the economy, raise the income of the farmer, and benefit the Bekaa region. Today, with the new irrigation canals, our lands have enough water."

The project promotes the agriculture sector in the area, which is considered to be the primary source of income in Qabb Elias. In addition, 500 local farmers from Qabb Elias and the surrounding villages are being trained in business development and the benefits of cooperative work.

The LHSP is a multi-donor programme aimed at increasing stability and building the capacity of communities affected by the Syrian crisis to address tensions, prevent conflicts, and ensure peaceful co-existence. The assistance provided consists of a range of projects to enhance the provision of service and increase livelihood opportunities for the host and refugee population.

Support to Agricultural Institutions

Support to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

The agriculture sector generates around 4.7% of Lebanon's GDP and employs roughly 10% of the Lebanese labour force.[14] As the fourth largest employer in Lebanon, agriculture is a key economic sector having a direct impact on food security and livelihoods opportunities among the most vulnerable communities.

Towards longer-term agricultural development

In 2016, increased food assistance managed to prevent a continued sharp deterioration in the food security situation, yet did not manage to reverse the trend. With over 93% of the displaced Syrian population and at least 10% of Lebanese households still depicting some level of food insecurity,[15] partners are searching for more sustainable solutions, with a focus on improving agricultural production, agricultural assets and infrastructure.

Overall, $1.8m was channeled to MoA and agriculture institutions, along with the provision of staffing support. Partners' assistance focused on plant protection and pine production management, reforestation, occupational safety and health as well as the development of a sound agricultural statistics and information system, with over 300 MoA staff trained in 2016.

Fostering agricultural livelihoods for the next generation

Strengthening the agricultural labour force, partners provided crucially needed support to boost capacity building and employment opportunities. In joint efforts with MoA, they supported farmers in applying quality irrigation practices and increasing soil fertility. Overall, 5,311 farmers affected by the Syrian crisis benefited from the provision of equipment and capacity building to maximize their yields and minimize water use for production purposes. The response also stimulated agricultural livelihoods through the enrollment of 630 youth in agricultural technical schools, the provision of a vocational training curricula as well as internship and on-the-job opportunities.

Furthermore, plant protection and pine production management was enhanced through the implementation of a sustainable countrywide surveillance programme aimed at monitoring and mitigating the invasion of specific plant diseases. Partners provided technical trainings to MoA and the Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute (LARI) staff, agricultural stakeholders and livestock farmers to disseminate and operationalize the standard operating procedures manual for plant protection and pine production management.

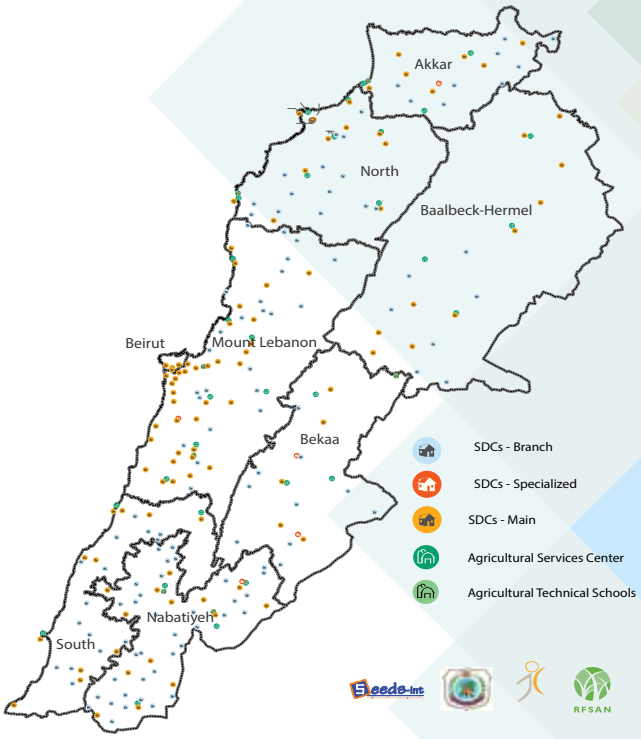
KEY NUMBERS:

$1.8m in support to MoA
300 MoA staff trained
5,311 farmers supported

Sustainable reforestation for a greener Lebanon

To promote long-term sustainable reforestation across Lebanon, a national system was set up to ensure the effective planning, implementation and monitoring of reforestation activities. The coordination and management capacities of national staff were enhanced to facilitate the efficient implementation of reforestation programmes with a focus on protection of native species and high-risks forests.

Figure 20- Support to Agricultural Institutions under the LCRP 2016



Protecting farmers from occupational risks and disasters

A national farmers' registry was established to identify Lebanese farmers, inform policy making and promote the integration of social protection mechanisms in the agriculture sector. Complementing these efforts, the ties between agricultural centres and SDCs were bolstered to streamline coordination, linkages and referral mechanisms at the central and local levels. In terms of occupational safety and health, standards were developed to protect farm workers, especially women and children, from hazardous working conditions in agriculture. LCRP partners also developed and disseminated practitioners' guides to prevent the use of pesticides and reduce exposure to toxic chemicals.

Building the capacities of public institutions to plan, monitor and respond to food shocks, a disaster risk management (DRM) plan was developed with a focus on risk assessment and profiling. Its main objective is to strengthen the agricultural sector's resilience to food shocks through contingency planning and preparedness.

Figure 21- Farmers displaying their produce at the Nabatiyeh vegetable market. Photo credits: UNDP, 2016.

2017 NEXT STEPS

Under the Food Security sector, an appeal of more than $164m was made for 2017 to support primarily the Ministry of Agriculture in addressing the basic needs of 940,000 vulnerable Lebanese and displaced.

The main objective of partners will be to reduce food insecurity and improve agricultural resilience by 2020. Key priorities under the stabilization dimension of the sector response plan will focus on enhancing food security, availability and access mainly by:

- supporting the agricultural labour market, value chains and investments;
- enhancing Lebanese social safety net systems and farmers' social protection;
- promoting sustainable food production; and
- supporting national institutions and actors' capacities.

In 2017, food security partners will continue to support the implementation of MoA strategy 2015-2019 with regards to the promotion of agricultural livelihoods and capacity building of national and local agricultural institutions and stakeholders (i.e. the LARI, the Green Plan, technical agriculture schools, and so forth). The main objective will be to increase productivity, food safety, quality and competitiveness of the Lebanese agricultural products (both from plant or animal origin). This will be achieved by strengthening value chains, enhancing food processing and marketing and encouraging market linkages through public-private partnerships.

In parallel, support will be provided to national institutions and other actors involved in food security with regards to safety nets, contingency planning, disaster and crisis management, monitoring, analysis and information management. Agriculture authorities at both the central and local levels (among which 7 MoA offices and 27 MoA centres) will be supported to strengthen food security assistance.

Story from the field - Surveillance and management of fruit flies in Lebanon

Figure 22- Processing fresh strawberries at the Bissariyeh Food Processing Centre. Photo credits: UNDP, 2016.

Without an effective early detection and management strategy, fruit flies can cause major economic losses to Lebanese fruit producers by not only reducing the overall quality and quantity of production, but also undermining exports. Financial losses associated with fruit flies can exceed 80%.

Under the scope of its "Surveillance and Management of Fruit Flies in Lebanon" project, FAO has provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute since November 2014.

The main objective of FAO's project is to establish a national mapping survey for fruit flies and strengthen the national monitoring capacities. To this date, FAO has organized 54 awareness seminars targeting farmers and producers, as well as 14 workshops and training sessions targeting the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Engineers in the Order of Engineers, Airport Authorities and the Lebanese Customs. Six new workshops are scheduled to take place before April 2017.

The latest activity, as part of this project, will enable FAO to launch an airport campaign preventing the entry and outbreak of fruit flies by banning travelers from bringing in fresh fruits and vegetables into the country, in collaboration with Airport Authorities and Lebanese Customs.

Additional support to public institutions

In 2016, an additional financial contribution of $3.1m along with 82 additional staff were provided to strengthen disaster risk management and reduction (DRM/DRR), crisis prevention and response, as well as information management capacities within the government.

Technical assistance was provided to the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) and four Governors' offices to enhance their information management, planning and coordination capacities, including through additional staffing.

Disaster risk management and early warning strengthened

The executive leadership was strengthened, with a focus on the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM), governorates and security forces. The Prime Minister's Office was assisted in the implementation of the newly-developed National Response Plan for disaster risk management, through the organization of national and field-level simulations and the provision of specialized equipment. National and mobile operation rooms were also equipped and operationalized in four Ministries and seven Governors' offices to conduct risk assessments.

Early warning capacity is crucial to prevent current social and political tensions from escalating into inter-community violence. Responding to this need, LCRP partners, the MoIM and security forces are developing an early warning system allowing for real-time information collection and analysis pertaining to tensions and conflict in Lebanon. This innovative tool draws on a stability monitoring framework which provides comparable, time-series data on the evolution of inter-group perceptions on key drivers of tensions. It will be fully operationalized in 2017 with the support of LCRP partners. Building on these efforts, 26 security cells across the country have been equipped with and trained on a tension assessment tool and software, data analysis and reporting to follow up on security issues related to the Syrian crisis in Lebanon.

Better trained security forces

In the aftermath of the Ras-Baalbek/Qaa attacks of June 2016, the security situation remained volatile in Lebanon, with a rise in social tensions and a deterioration of inter-community perceptions. Local incidents of violence and deepening regional divisions continued to challenge and test the limits of the security apparatus. To stem the tide, partners provided internal security and municipal police forces with equipment, trainings and policy development support. The Code of Conduct (CoC) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the Municipality Police were finalized and operationalized. Besides, the General Directorate of

KEY NUMBERS:

$3.2M support to other public institutions
82 additional staff provided

General Security, received equipment for its registration centres and assistance for its border monitoring mission. By training over 500 security officials (including LAF, ISF and GSO staff), LCRP partners also mainstreamed expertise on human trafficking, refugee specific issues, child protection and human rights within the security sector.

At the decentralized level, a standardized and uniform structure was established for disaster risk management with the support of the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS), following the dissemination of multi-hazard risk assessments in pilot governorates. Fully equipped regional operations rooms were inaugurated in seven governors' offices (Akkar, Baalbek, Keserwan, Aley, Zgharta, Nabtiyeh and Bekaa), as well as in four ministries (MoEW, MoIM, MoFA, MPW). Support also materialized in the setting up of high-tech communication systems, drafting action plans and organization of training sessions and simulations on the management and operation of crisis rooms.

Additionally, the DRM staff continued their awareness-raising campaigns on Disaster Risk Reduction, making DRR concepts and recommendations more familiar to the Lebanese public at large. In 2016, a tailored DRR educational board game was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Education targeting children with practical and simplified day-to-day DRR actions. Under the LCRP 2017-2020, the disaster risk management capacities of national and local level authorities will be further upgraded to increase Lebanon's resistance against future shocks.

Figure 23- DRM Field simulation. Photo credits: UNDP, 2016.

ENDNOTES

1. The London Conference on supporting Syria and the region, which took placed in February 2016, mobilized pledges amounting to $5.9 bn for 2016 and $5.4 bn for 2017-2020, the highest amount ever committed in response to one crisis.
2. The transition to a four-year funding and planning cycle, under the LCRP 2017-2020, is expected to further this programmatic shift toward a resilience-based approach to protracted crisis.
3. Including mine risk education, prevention of child labour, early childhood development, children rights and parenting skills.
4. Including legal advisors, education/child protection/public health specialists, engineers, IT experts and finance officers.
5. The NFE includes Community-Based Early Childhood Education (CB-ECE), Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) and retention support.
6. Hazardous Material Medical Team.
7. Including displaced Syrians residing in informal settlements/ collective shelters and Palestine refugees living in camps.
8. Located in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, the North, the South and the Bekaa governorates.
9. Notably in Borj El Arab (19km) Minieh Donnieh (17km), Behouita, Kahf el Malloul (9km), Amayer, Aamaret El-Baykat, Tripoli and Quobayat.
10. Including in Cheikh Zeinad, Aarida, Borj El Arab and Faour in Zgharta.
11. Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon (2015), Inter-Agency map of the Most Vulnerable Localities in Lebanon.
12. Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS-2015), About administrative decentralization in Lebanon.
13. Substandard buildings include unfinished houses, dilapidated or damaged houses, converted garages/ shops and work sites.
14. IDAL, Agricultural Fact Book 2016.
15. UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2016), Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees; FAO, MoA, REACH (2015), Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA) of host communities.

Please note that throughout this report, large numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
In addition, the names used in the stories may have been changed for public use.

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