



Urgent gaps in delivering the 2018 Lebanon Crisis Response and key priorities at the start of 2018

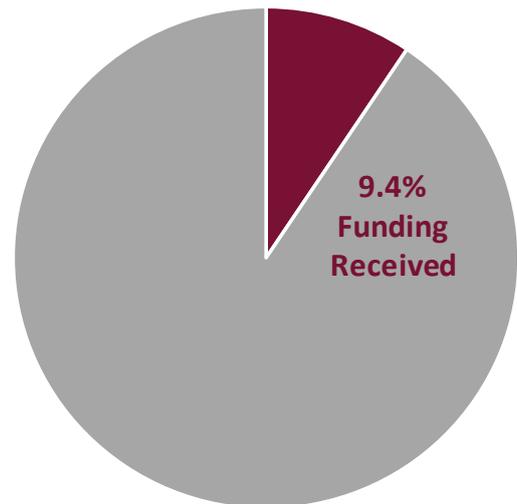
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Summary

The 2018 Lebanon Crisis Response has secured US\$ 251.3 million between January and March of this year, against an appeal of US\$ 2.68 billion (9.4 percent).¹ Coupled with 2017 multi-year funding as well as carry-over funding from 2017 (US\$ 308 million), a total of US\$ 559.3 million is currently available to implement activities under the 2018 LCRP.²

2018 Overall Requirement: US\$ 2.68 Billion

New funds received against 2018 appeal: US\$ 251.3 Million



The lack of predictable funding at the beginning of the year is having an impact on the ability of partners to ensure coverage of critical activities in key sectors in 2018. Additionally, with low levels of multi-year funding, planning beyond essential services remains challenging.

The water, protection, health and social stability sectors face persistent funding shortfalls, as noted also by the Government-led High Level Steering Committee. These sectors provide critical support to the most vulnerable, alleviate resource pressures, as well as mitigate social tensions in a context of growing host community fatigue.

In addition, the Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region, to be held on 24-25 April 2018, provides an opportunity to highlight the continued need to address education and livelihoods challenges in Lebanon.

Impact of critical funding gaps



Water

US\$ 77 million is needed in 2018 to provide basic WASH services (US\$ 32m) and to ensure the sustainability of WASH services (US\$ 45m).

- **High numbers of individuals cut off from essential WASH services:** Without additional funding beyond the US\$ 7 million secured thus far in 2018, 83 percent of people living in informal settlements (215,000 out of 260,000) will not have any WASH support from May onwards. This includes essential services such as delivery of safe water, regular desludging of septic tanks, critical hygiene activities, and emergency latrines for early response. The lack of such WASH services will lead to a high risk of outbreak of water-borne diseases and possible conflict with host communities over water resources

¹ According to LCRP financial tracking as of 31 March 2018.

² \$308 million include funds received either late in 2017 or for multi-year projects which were started in 2017.



and environmental degradation. More sustainable solutions that would mitigate risks of environmental health and social tension, whilst reducing water trucking and desludging dependency, would require buy-in and significant capital investment.



Protection

US\$ 23.3 million is needed in 2018 to ensure access to critical services for 5,200 persons with specific needs (US\$ 7m), as well as predictable and continuous access to protection services for high-risk children (US\$ 6.3m) and women and girls at risk or survivors of SGBV (US\$ 10m).

- **Essential services for persons with specific needs not provided:** In 2017, only 20 percent of the 5,200 persons with specific needs had access to necessary assistive devices and supplies, case management, and psycho-social and community-based protection support. Assistance to persons with specific needs has consistently remained underfunded since 2016, increasing the numbers of those facing isolation, deterioration of their psycho-social wellbeing, and at heightened risk of abuse and exploitation.
- **No access to essential protection services for high-risk children:** 6,000 high-risk children (street and working children, unaccompanied children and children suffering from family violence) cannot access individual case management, psycho-social support and specialized services to address their protection needs. Without these services, children are exposed to ongoing violence, exploitation and abuse, and the long-lasting negative impact these have on their development.
- **Critical SGBV services not provided:** Approximately 30,000 women, girls and boys, including SGBV survivors and persons at risk, do not have access to psycho-social, medical, and legal services across Lebanon. This has a wide-ranging negative impact on all aspects of their physical and mental health and safety.



Health

US\$ 43 million is needed until the end of 2018 to cover critical life-saving services for Syrian refugees (US\$ 41.2m), as well as both primary and secondary healthcare services for Palestine refugees (US\$ 1.8m).

- **Impeded access to critical life-saving and obstetric care for Syrian refugees:** Only US\$ 8.8 million has been secured thus far in 2018 to ensure access to life-saving hospital care, and an additional US\$ 41.2 million is needed to cover this until end of 2018. Around 65,000 Syrian refugees will be unable to access life-saving and obstetric care, likely leading to an increase in deaths, including maternal and child deaths.
- **Hindered access to health services for Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) and vulnerable Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL):** Primary and secondary health services for 32,000 Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) and 20,000 vulnerable Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL) are at risk of being stopped during the first quarter of 2018. This will lead to increased morbidities and death, in particular among children, pregnant women and patients with chronic non-communicable diseases.



Social Stability

US\$ 31.5 million is immediately required in 2018 to ensure that at least half of the most vulnerable municipalities receive immediate support to address resource pressure and to mitigate social tensions in their communities.

- **Overstretched service providers and rising tensions among communities:** In 2018, 40 percent of the Lebanese identify competition for services as a key source of inter-community tensions – an increase of 16 percent compared to eight months ago – and 84 percent feel that vulnerable Lebanese have been lacking assistance.
- **Less localities receiving municipal support:** Only 83 localities received municipal service support in 2017 to address immediate pressure on basic service delivery and public infrastructure, compared to 100 in 2016. With current funding, community support interventions are ongoing in only 24 out of the 251 most vulnerable cadasters. There is a great likelihood that this will lead to communities being increasingly underserved, more vulnerable, and more likely to experience tensions at a time of growing host community fatigue.



Education

US\$ 34.6 million is immediately required in 2018 to cover tuition fees for the current school year (US\$ 11.6m) and urgent school rehabilitation (US\$ 23m).

- **Reduced access to education:** Funds are only available to cover the cost of 135,704 children, despite 155,014 children being enrolled currently in second shift schools. This will leave 19,310 enrolled children without assistance to cover tuition fees. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education's ability to continue to ensure education coverage for the current unfunded children and any additional children will be jeopardized without securing additional funds.
- **School rehabilitation:** 152 school buildings require urgent necessary rehabilitation work to ensure the safety and well-being of children.



Livelihoods

US\$ 40 million is required in 2018 to support micro, small and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs), develop five key value chains and generate short-term employment opportunities across 45 vulnerable cadasters.

- **Rising tensions between host and refugee communities, with competition in job market as most commonly cited cause:** Scaled-up investments are required to boost the demand side of the job market by supporting small businesses as the main job creators in vulnerable areas, and by developing strategic value chains. While these programmes are more medium-term by nature, they must be initiated urgently and complemented with labour-intensive programming to provide short-term income opportunities.



Additional funding gaps



Basic Assistance

US\$ 9.1 million is required in 2018 to support nearly 10,400 Palestine refugee families to cover their basic needs.

- **Basic needs of Palestine refugees not covered:** Nearly 10,400 Palestine refugee households living in extreme poverty and unable to provide for their basic needs (food, shelter and health care) will no longer be supported with monthly cash assistance of US\$ 100 after April 2018. This being their primary source of income, they will fall into deeper poverty and risk increasingly resorting to negative coping mechanisms.



Food Security

US\$ 116 million is needed to cover food assistance for displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese and Palestine refugees from Syria (US\$ 95m) until end of August 2018 and to deliver sustainable farming inputs and training (US\$ 21m) until end of August 2018.

- **Access to food reduced:** Without additional funding in 2018, sector partners will be forced to prioritize core food assistance to only a small selection of people already determined to be among the most vulnerable. This means that severely vulnerable people will no longer be assisted and will be more likely to resort to negative coping mechanisms to survive.
- **Sustainable farming not supported:** Without additional investments, the capacity of food security actors to support Lebanese small farmers (approx. 21,000) in enhancing farming production to mitigate against consequences of natural disasters/hazards, will be at risk.



Shelter

US\$ 1 million is needed in 2018 to strengthen fire preparedness and awareness and to provide firefighting materials to mitigate fire risks in informal settlements.

- **Many informal settlements exposed to fire risks:** Due to the temporary nature of these settlements, materials used to make tents, as well as the ad hoc planning of the settlements themselves, contributed to 302 fires in informal settlements in 2017. This has led to a loss of over 20 lives, and more than 300 tents completely or partially destroyed. While discussions with municipalities continue for improved materials and layout in informal settlements, fire mitigation and awareness sessions for children, women and men, as well as firefighting kits (fire extinguishers, fire beaters, etc.), are required to ensure that refugee communities are better prepared and equipped to respond to fires, to help prevent deaths and injuries.



Energy

US\$ 25 million is required until the end of 2018 to improve the availability and accessibility of electricity for vulnerable communities.

- **Electricity distribution network overloaded due to increased demand:** Reinforcement of the electricity distribution network is needed, especially in localities which host large numbers of Syrian refugees, to reduce the impact on the quality of electricity supply to Lebanese households and the risk of damage and fire. The upgrade of transformers will also help to reduce inter-community tensions.