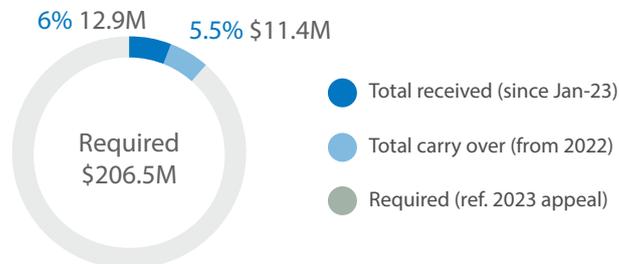




This dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Water Sector in Lebanon is working towards its expected outcome: more vulnerable people in Lebanon are accessing sufficient, safe water for drinking and domestic use with reduced health and environmental impacts from unsafe wastewater management.

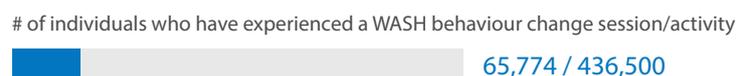
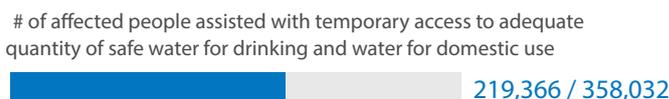
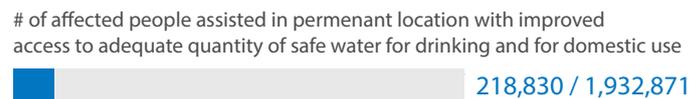
2023 Sector Funding Status

As of 31st of March 2023

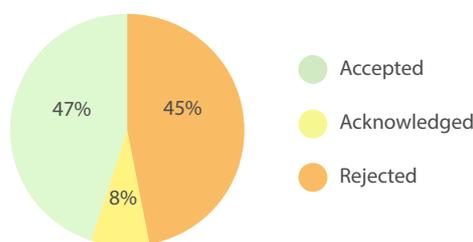


Progress against targets

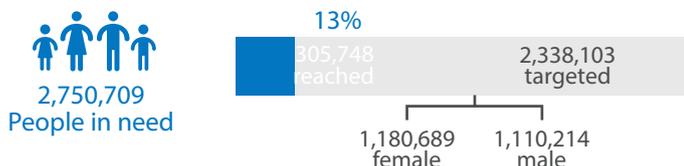
Key Achievements



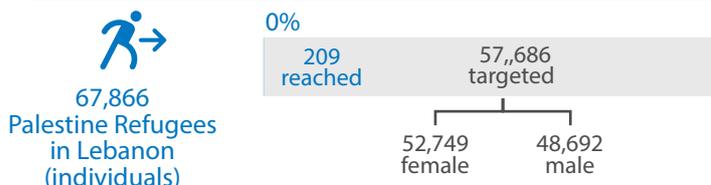
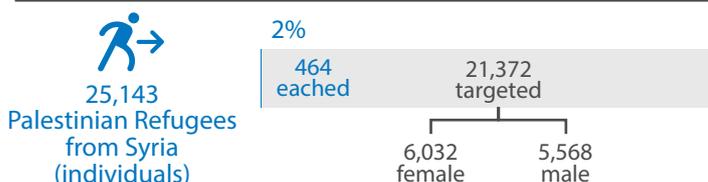
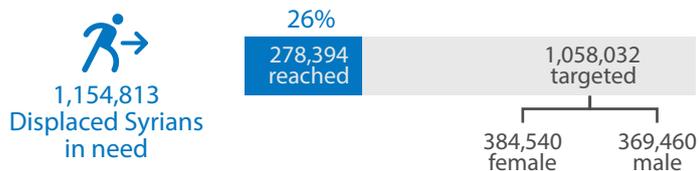
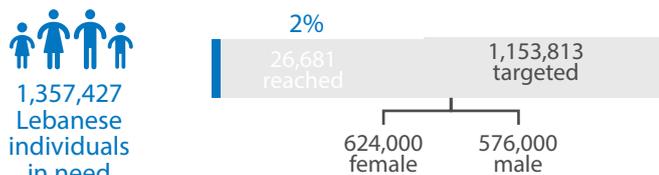
There were only 320 referrals to the Water sector in Q1 2023, representing less than 2 per cent of the total referrals made in Lebanon. Out of those, 47 per cent have been accepted, 8 per cent were acknowledged, and 45 per cent were rejected, while for the remaining ones, no feedback has been recorded yet. The main reason for referral rejection was not meeting the eligibility criteria for the service (79%), followed by a lack of capacity to provide the service (19%). The majority of all referrals made to the Water sector were from Mount Lebanon Governorate (55%), followed by Akkar (19%) and Bekaa (14%).



2023 population reached

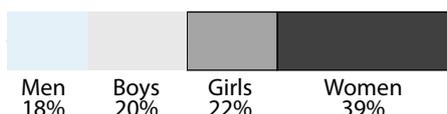


2023 population figures by cohort



Age/Gender Breakdown

men/women/boys/girls who have experienced a WASH behaviour change session/activity





MULTI-SECTORAL SITUATION UPDATE

In the first quarter of 2023, families across Lebanon continued to face diminishing purchasing power, affecting vulnerable peoples' ability to meet basic needs. The Lebanese Pound continued to fluctuate, reaching average levels of LBP 134,900 to the dollar in the month of March. Lebanon's annual inflation rate jumped to 264 per cent in March of 2023 from 190 per cent in the previous month. This was the highest inflation since comparable records began in 2008. The Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) increased by 36 per cent from January to February 2023, reaching almost LBP 18,000,000 per family per month. This is the largest monthly increase noted since June of 2020. Over the last year, the price of water delivered by private water tankers increased by 330 per cent, while the price of bottled water, still used by most as a main source for drinking, increased by 250 per cent. An increased number of people from all population groups reported not having access to enough water, with the heaviest impact on the most unprivileged families. Protection monitoring demonstrates that average refugee household income remains well below the SMEB, with greater aid dependency reported. Reduced spending on food, rent, medicine, and healthcare is reported by most households and gaps in meeting survival needs drive harmful coping mechanisms. Concerningly, protection monitoring demonstrates growing debt and eviction threats with the highest recorded so far in the first quarter of this year. These challenges are driven by inability to meet basic needs which in

turn lead to a number of harmful coping strategies and protection risks. Meanwhile in March, fuel prices transitioned to USD further impacting the ability of people to afford transportation costs especially those with specific transportation needs such as persons with disabilities. Inter-communal relations are the most negative that they have been since 2017, as reported through the regular UNDP-ARK perception survey. As of March 2023, 46 per cent of respondents cite that the relations between Syrians and Lebanese are 'negative' or 'very negative', compared to 37 per cent in August 2022. The primary driver for inter-communal tension is competition over lower-skilled jobs, cited by 60 per cent as the key tension driver, an increase from 50 per cent in August 2022. The second most cited tension driver is competition for services, particularly electricity and solid waste management, cited by 31 per cent as a source of tension. Women and girls continue to report their exposure to Gender Based Violence (GBV) at homes and in public spaces. Girls also report feeling unsafe and at risk of GBV on their way to school, but the incidents remain underreported. Female headed households, LGBTIQ+ persons and other vulnerable groups are at heightened risk of exploitation often living in sub-standard shelter conditions. Financial constraints and limited livelihood opportunities have also resulted in reduced access to menstrual hygiene products for women and girls.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

The National Water Sector Strategy (NWS) has been updated in 2022 incorporating the comments from the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment process and in line with the five-year recovery plan introduced in mid-2022. This is linked to the sector output 1.1 "Develop institutional governance to adopt key water strategies", and will be enhanced through the work of several Task Forces established by the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) in early 2023. The results of the newly launched MoEW Task Forces (Water Source Monitoring, Updating Customer Database, Collaboration with Municipalities, Solarization and Energy Management, Water Quality, Non-Revenue Water, Support of Water Establishments' Staffing, Wastewater, and Digitalization), will play a role in achieving sectoral output 1.1. Moreover, depending on the particular focus of each task force, their outcomes may also contribute to achieving output 1.2., 2.1 and 2.2. In terms of direct support to water institutions' operations and building their capacity [Output 1.2], in Q1 2023 AFD Technical Assistance, UN and NGOs continued to second 14 technical staff to all regional Water Establishments. During the first three months of 2023, the Sector continued to assist people living in temporary locations, mainly displaced Syrians, with access to adequate quantities of safe water for drinking and domestic use [Output 2.1] and with improved access to sanitation and safely managed wastewater services [Output 2.2]. Around 219 thousand people have been reached for both outputs: (2.1.) The most vulnerable people have secured access to sufficient quantity of quality, reliable and equitable Water services and (2.2) The most vulnerable people have secured access to sufficient quantity of quality, reliable and equitable Sanitation services. More than 455,000 m3 of safe drinking water was delivered via water trucking services, 107 m3 of household water storage was provided, and over 144,000 m3 of sludge was removed from the informal settlements and safely disposed of in wastewater treatment plants. Most of that was removed through regular service provision, while only 18 per cent were removed on a call or upon referral. In addition, 241 latrines used by 1,200 beneficiaries were rehabilitated or constructed to meet environmentally friendly practices. The reported support for water and sanitation in permanent locations [outputs 2.1. and 2.2.] shows limited progress, with only nearly 19 thousand beneficiaries, mainly Lebanese, reached by the sector partners' activities. Nevertheless, such a low reach in Q1 is not unusual, given the lifecycle of stabilization projects and a low level of reported funds. Several grant agreements with donors are being finalized and the projects are expected to commence in Q2 of 2023. All stabilization projects with WaSH outcomes benefiting the population

in permanent locations, regardless of the response framework, are visualized on this dashboard (<https://t.ly/3-Qu>). On the other hand, the low number of beneficiaries reached through the operation and maintenance support to water establishments (WEs) (like provision of chlorine, spare parts, fuel and other consumables etc.), is linked to the fact that those activities are in a vast majority reported under the Emergency Response Plan on a bi-annual basis. Nearly 66 thousand individuals 65774 (14,862 girls, 13,341 boys, 25,738 women, and 11,833 men) had experienced a WaSH behaviour change session/activity, including menstrual hygiene activities. This represents 15 per cent of the sector target, and will be scaled up in the year's second half in link with the anticipated waves of water-borne diseases, including cholera. Menstrual hygiene activities hold great importance as it addresses the specific needs of girls and women, reaching a significant number of individuals, contributing to sector targets, and challenging societal norms. By prioritizing menstrual hygiene within the broader WaSH program, it strives to improve health, dignity, and empowerment, promoting positive behavioral changes and fostering a more inclusive and informed society.

Referral trends: (# referrals made to your sector, % success rate, by governorate); please highlight key achievements and challenges in referral response and required follow-up actions.

There were only 320 referrals to the Water sector in Q1 2023, representing less than 2 per cent of the total referrals made in Lebanon. Out of those, 47 per cent have been accepted, 18 per cent were acknowledged, and 45 per cent were rejected, while for the remaining ones, no feedback has been recorded yet. The main reason for referral rejection was not meeting the eligibility criteria for the service (79%), followed by a lack of capacity to provide the service (19%). The majority of all referrals made to the Water sector were from Mount Lebanon Governorate (55%), followed by Akkar (19%) and Bekaa (14%).

Mainstreaming activities (gender, protection, conflict sensitivity, if applicable). In mid-March, the sector held the conflict sensitivity workshop facilitated by Ripple Peace Research & Consulting, aiming to support conflict sensitivity mainstreaming for WaSH partners, with a focus on Informal Settlements programmes. The two half-day sessions were focused on issues around access to water and were followed by another session facilitated by the WaSH in temporary locations thematic group of the WaSH sector dedicated to issues around sanitation. In total nearly 30 people from over 20 organizations attended the work. The AAP training for the WaSH sector partners will be held in Q2 of 2023.



KEY CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR TO LCRP OUTCOME AND IMPACTS

Despite several grant agreements with donors being finalized and respective funds not yet reported in Q1, the overall level of funding for 2023 Q1 is worryingly 3-fold lower than in 2022 Q1. The sector will carefully analyse the funding situation in the mid-year review process, and work on necessary mitigation and advocacy actions.

Limited electricity supply through the public electrical grid continues to impact water production and supply as the public grid forms the main energy source for 87 per cent of the water supply systems across Lebanon. Similarly, wastewater treatment is heavily impacted by electricity shortages. Despite the electricity supply has slightly improved compared to Q4 of 2022, energy remains the main bottleneck for the water and sanitation systems' adequate operation.

The four regional WEs operating water supply and wastewater treatment systems across Lebanon continue to face other severe challenges linked to continuity of service provision. The current tariffs are inadequate to the context, while collection and subscription rates are chronically insufficient. This contributes to a huge gap between expenses and revenues, resulting in the inability of WEs to cover

operation and maintenance costs. The WEs are also facing a brain drain of critical technical and managerial staff. Due to ongoing economic challenges, the personnel are unable to reach the workplace or are leaving their positions and in some instances the country in search of a dignified life and to make ends meet. Without humanitarian and stabilization support to WEs, such as projects focused on water and sanitation infrastructure repair, rehabilitation and augmentation, operation and maintenance support with spare parts and consumables etc. the utilities would have collapsed a while ago. This highlights that the continuity of external support is crucial to maintain the minimum level of service provision and minimising public health risks.

The situation also has a dramatic impact on the most vulnerable households across the country and across all population cohorts. Over the last year, the price of water delivered by private water tankers increased by 330 per cent, while the price of bottled water, still used by most as a main source for drinking, increased by 250 per cent. An increased number of people from all population groups reported not having access to enough water, with the heaviest impact on the most

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING QUARTER

One of the top priorities for Q2 is to commence the programme aiming to: 1) support the rehabilitation, operation and maintenance of critical wastewater treatment plants across Lebanon, 2) support the MoEW sectoral reforms related to wastewater, and 3) raise public awareness on wastewater and its impact on the environment. In total 11 wastewater treatment plants and 25 related pumping/lifting stations will be supported. Those activities are critical to mitigate the public health risk including another wave of cholera outbreaks.

Continuity of operation and maintenance support to water supply systems managed by the WEs are equally essential to maintain the minimum level of water provision. The sector will also keep advocating for and implementing projects aiming at reducing the reliance of water systems on fossil fuel, such as solarization of water schemes where feasible. Finalization in Q2 the water and sanitation infrastructure assessment focused on the feasibility of solarization, a voluntary-based initiative by the WaSH sector partners, would greatly contribute to those efforts. The Water sector will closely monitor, in close collaboration with the Health sector, the epidemiological situation with cholera cases and other water-borne diseases and act accordingly. In case of

newly reported suspected or confirmed cases, the Water sector will immediately activate the Case Area Targeted Interventions (CATI), and if required the water and/or sanitation system-level support, following the results of the WaSH assessment.

To mitigate the impact of the perceived funding constraints in 2023 and aim to provide access to WaSH in a more equitable way, the sector has adjusted its approach for WaSH service provision to Informal Settlements and will roll it out during the following quarter of 2023, focusing on prioritization of sites eligible for WaSH services, where feasible reducing reliance on water trucking sesludging services provided by humanitarian actors, managing conflicts around access to water and sanitation, and managing theft and selling of WaSH facilities. Implementation of the Water Action Plan and continuation of Sanitation Action Plans are key to its achievements however, the capital cost investments are necessary to move forward with the plans.

Reporting Partners in Q1 2023

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following organizations: UNICEF, ACF Spain, ACTED, ADRA, ANERA, ARCS, AVSI, Borderless, DPNA, DRC, ICRC, IMC, Intersos, IR Lebanon, IRC, Leb Relief, Lost, Mada, Nabad, NRC, Oxfam, RMF, Sawa Group, Save the Children, Solidarites International and World Vission.

