This dashboard summarizes progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Protection sector in Lebanon aims to achieve the following results: OUTCOME 1: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and have access to an effective justice and protection system; OUTCOME 2: Women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity are safe, empowered and supported in their communities; OUTCOME 3: Women, girls, men and boys in all their diversity live in dignity and are resilient to shocks.

### 2022 Sector Funding Status

**As at 31 December 2022**

- Required: $229M
- Received: $157.1 M ($69%)
- Carry over (from 2021): $14.8 M ($6%)
- Total received (since Jan-22): $171.9 M ($76.1%)

### Key Achievements

**# of persons who benefitted from counseling, legal assistance, and legal representation regarding legal stay.**

- 47,361 / 40,000

**# of households who benefitted from counseling, legal assistance, and legal representation regarding civil registration including birth registration, marriage, divorce and death.**

- 73,247 / 100,000

**# of active community focal points providing information, outreach and feedback to persons of concern and conducting referrals.**

- 26,276 / 8,658

**# of persons receiving protection case management, individual counselling and mental health and psychosocial support.**

- 21,439 / 30,000

**# of women, girls, men and boys accessing GBV services in safe spaces.**

- 65,032 / 90,000

**# of women, girls, men and boys who participate in targeted gender equality and empowerment activities in safe spaces or at community level as part of GBV prevention programs.**

- 105,886 / 150,000

**# of girls and boys receiving specialized/focused psychosocial support.**

- 41,956 / 30,000

**# of caregivers engaged in activities to promote well-being and protection of children (caregivers' programmes).**

- 19,433 / 34,100

**# Number of girls, boys engaged in community-based Child Protection activities.**

- 41,418 / 85,800

**# of cases of Syrians submitted for resettlement/other humanitarian admissions.**

- 9,656 / 8,520

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60 contributing partners: ABAAAD, ACTED, AMEL, Ana Aqra, AND, ARCPA, AVSI, Borderless, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CLDH, CONCERN, CVC Charity, DRC, Handicap International, HelpAge, Himaya, ICU, IMC, Inseros, IOCC Lebanon, IRC, JRS, KAFA, Key of Life, LAW, LECORVAW, Magna Lebanon, Makhzoumi, Migration Services and Development - MSD, Movement Social, Naba’a, Nadab, Near East Foundation, NRC, OXFAM, Plan International, PU-AMI, RI, RMF, SAWA Group, SCI, SFAC, SHEILD, Shift, SIF, Solidarités international, SWL, Tabitha-Dorcas, Tdh-It, Tdh-L, UNHCR, UNRWA, UPEL, URDA, WCH, WRF, WV, WVI, YNCA.
In 2022, Lebanon saw the socio-economic situation worsen, resources at a community level becoming increasingly strained, public institutions struggling to function and barriers to basic services and assistance increasing due to crippling inflation, fuel and telecommunication price hikes and electricity shortages. A combination of these factors continues to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities to protection risks and shocks and undermines positive coping strategies for displaced persons from Syria and other persons at risk; especially for older persons, female headed households, adolescents, and persons living with a disability. Record rates of displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees report relying on harmful coping strategies to get by, and households say they are not able to provide the same level of support to vulnerable family members. Those living in the lowest expenditure classes and in non-permanent shelters are worse off across the board. 24,140 Syrian children (6.8 per cent boys, 1.9 per cent girls) were reported to be engaged in child labour in the 2022 Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VASYR), while higher numbers were recorded in protection monitoring surveys and partners observed higher numbers of street-connected children. 21.9 per cent of Syrian girls aged fifteen to nineteen were reported to be married in 2022. The worsening socioeconomic situation in the country also had significant consequences on the wellbeing of adults and children. Deteriorating levels of psychological distress and mental health concerns were reported, in particular a higher number of cases involved in substance abuse that has also been identified as a risk associated with GBV.

Furthermore, in 2022, several factors converged at community level to create a complex operational environment and shrinking protection space particularly for displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees resulting in reduced feelings of safety in the community across population groups. This was largely driven by deteriorating inter and intra community relations, high-level political anti-refugee statements, increasing rates of violence, crime, concerns of safety and security threats, and an uptick in local level restrictive measures reported.

1. ANALYSIS OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Output 1.1, 1.2: In 2022, 136,853 individuals/households were reached with legal counselling, assistance and representation services related to their civil documentation, legal residency and housing land and property (HLP) rights. Due to persistent judicial and public administrative strikes at the Personal Status Department and General Security Office, partners were obliged to sequence their services focusing on the provision of legal counselling which can be attributed to the unexpected increase in the overall persons reached by legal aid services for civil documentation, legal residency and HLP up by 14 per cent from 2021. It will be important in 2023 to monitor the continuation and impact of this shift. Partners move away from remote to more in-person legal awareness sessions, whilst reportedly increased quality of sessions, led to a minimal decline in numbers reached with 96,700 individuals reached (55 per cent female; 90 per cent Syrian; 6 per cent older persons) making up to 55 per cent of the annual target. Partners raised the discontinuation of courts as a major concern for GBV survivors to access legal services.

Output 1.3.7: During the reporting year, 25 Social Development Centers were supported to provide quality services. Centres are accessed to provide GBV services in addition to safe spaces and community centres that support survivors and those at risk through a variety of activities, including case management services and skills training.

Output 2.1: In 2022, 413,998 individuals (59 per cent female, 19 per cent children) benefitted from individual and collective awareness sessions on topics related to service access, COVID-19 and cholera risk mitigation and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Of these awareness sessions, 82 per cent were in-person and 25 per cent were individual sessions with partners making a deliberate effort to shift back to in-person sessions to ensure greater protection presence, address telecommunications barriers and ensure better quality. Despite this, only 2.1 per cent older persons and 1.2 per cent persons with disability were reached among participants. In 2023, partners can improve outreach to these groups through further tailoring outreach materials and training on communication skills for these groups. Fuel and telecommunications price hikes also impacted the ability of community focal points to carry out critical tasks with an average of 2,189 unique active community focal points (63 per cent female) providing information, outreach and feedback to persons of concern and conducting referrals on a monthly basis, compared to 2,855 in 2021. Yet despite these barriers, the number of persons actively approaching and participating in community centres and Social Development Centres (SDCs) has increased by a staggering 82 per cent with the highest attendance reported in Bekaa Governorate. This increase is attributed to the greater participation of Lebanese nationals reaching 16 per cent (23,578 individuals) of participants and due to higher unemployment rates, which are expected to continue.

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To ensure information on the GBV environment is context-specific and included in yearly planning, the GBV WG has developed a safety audit tool that was rolled out in the North, Bekaa and Akkar. Safety audits are a standard tool in the GBV sector to assess risks and potential hazards for different population groups. A safety audit is often used to inform advocacy on specific topics, plan strategic interventions and to inform programmatic priorities to be implemented. Out of the 67 communities where safety audits were conducted, 50 reported that findings of the assessment have contributed to increased actions to feel safer in their communities.

Prevention programs addressing negative attitudes and stigma on gender-based violence, including against persons with diverse Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression and Sexual Characteristics (SOGIESC) are critical to foster long-term behaviour and attitude change in communities contributing to reducing risks of violence against persons based on their gender. In 2022, the GBV WG actors reached 71 per cent of the annual target with 106,681 person activities taking place in safe spaces or at community level, as well as tailored programs addressing negative attitudes on gender and GBV. Some 19 per cent of all participants were children and 81 per cent were adults. With regards to the gender breakdown, only 17 per cent were males while 83 per cent were females. This presents significant need to further engage adolescent boys and men in longer-term prevention programs addressing the root causes of GBV, including concepts of power, gender norms and gender equality. Significant progress was made to ensure that prevention programs are accessible to diverse nationalities, including 58 per cent displaced Syrians, 44 per cent Lebanese, as well as 1.3 per cent Palestine refugees in Lebanon and 0.7 per cent Palestine refugees from Syria.

The CPWG continued to address the root causes of the main child protection risks (child labour, child marriage and violence against children) at the community level. Major progress was achieved in strengthening the capacity and engagement of community-based actors through social behaviour change/Qudwa and other community-based initiatives. In total, 639 community engagement initiatives (including 584 Qudwa initiatives) were implemented by 13 partners.

**Outcome 3.1:** A total of 21,439 individuals at heightened risk of violence, coercion, exploitation, abuse and neglect benefited from Protection case management and psychosocial support services in 2022. The intake capacity of case management agencies remained stable compared to 2021. Positively outreach to older persons and persons with disability expanded with 14 per cent of the caseload older persons and 13 per cent persons with disabilities. Outreach also increased slightly to the Lebanese community making up 13 per cent of the caseload. A 4 per cent increase in the number of persons with disabilities and older persons at risk receiving individual specialised support was reported, reaching 9,333 individuals in 2022. 17 per cent are older persons above sixty years old, while of persons with a disability 40 per cent have motor/mobility difficulties, 23 per cent visual difficulties and 11.3 per cent an intellectual disability. This service has the highest reach of Lebanese individuals at 30 per cent of the total case load. There was a 25 per cent increase in individuals benefiting from protection cash in 2022 compared to 2021, with 50,982 individuals/households receiving cash to reduce a protection risk or emergency shock such as violence, exploitation, eviction and resorting to harmful coping mechanisms, as well as enhancing access to essential and lifesaving services. Positively, 98 per cent of cash recipients reported receiving protection and emergency cash assistance ‘significantly safely’ (93 per cent) and ‘somewhat safely’ (5 per cent).

The CPWG initiated discussions around the Data Protection and Information Sharing Protocol (DPISP). The DPISP is currently being signed off by CPWG actors and will support them in defining what information about the child(ren) can be shared, when and with whom. The document outlines how this information will be shared (verbally, electronically or through a paper system) and the appropriate procedures to ensure confidentiality of the child is protected and always respected. This process is essential in protecting the safety and confidentiality of the children and families that CP actors collect data from.

Under the GBV WG, the GBV Information Management System (GBV IMS) Task Force is coordinating and guiding case management actors on quality standards in GBV case management and provides technical and capacity support for agencies using the GBVIMS tools. In 2022, two capacity building initiatives were rolled out, the GBV Capacity Building Initiative (CBI) which built the capacity of 18 trainers to train agencies on GBV CM global guidelines, joining the global pool of GBV case management trainers. In addition to the training, a coaching plan was signed off by CPWG actors and will support them in informing programmatic priorities to be implemented. Out of the 67 countries where data was collected, 50 reported that findings of the assessment have contributed to increased actions to feel safer in their communities.

2. Key Contributions of the Sector to LCRC Outcome and Impacts

**Outcome 1:** Women, men, girls & boys in all their diversity have their fundamental rights respected and access to an effective justice and protection system

Political deadlock in Lebanon meant there were limited available opportunities for institutional-level gains with regards to national action plans on birth, child labour and child marriage, as well as on policy changes for legal residency. Yet despite the uncondusive environment, long-requested recommendations from the Protection sector did result in important policy changes to birth registration in 2022, including: exemption from the procedure of late birth registration for children born between January 1, 2011 and February 8, 2022; a waiver of the requirement of legal stay to register the birth of Syrian children, and those of Palestinian refugees from Syria; a partial waiver (only one spouse) of legal stay to register marriages among Syrian nationals and Palestinian refugees from Syria; and the facilitation of proof of marriage to register births by allowing Syrian parents married in Lebanon to present a marriage certificate executed in Lebanon instead of the family booklet or marriage certificate issued from Syria as previously required. It is difficult to measure the direct impact of these changes at this stage, but these measures are expected to further facilitate the birth and marriage registration process for displaced persons from Syria and positively impact registration rates. In 2022, protection partner...
outreach, counselling, and assistance lead to increases in marriages registered at the foreigner's registry from 30 per cent in 2021 to 33 per cent, and birth registration rates increased from 31 per cent in 2021 to 36 per cent (VASyR 2022).

According to UNHCR protection monitoring reports, the top three impacts of lack of legal residency are limited freedom of movement, reduced job opportunities and limited social networks. Individuals without legal residency are more likely to be arbitrarily arrested and detained and face a risk of deportation orders. Given the deteriorating protection context and rise in restrictive measures including raids reported in 2022, holding legal residency provides a critical layer of life-saving protection to individuals. Despite this, persons displaced from Syria report that the number and severity of barriers to accessing legal residency continues to increase yearly. In this context, protection partners' legal counselling, assistance and representation efforts including GSO-accompaniment has been crucial in maintaining legal residency rates and prevented a further decline in overall numbers. Legal residency rates in 2022 remained stable compared with 2021, with 17 per cent of displaced Syrians holding legal residency (VASyR 2022).

Actual eviction and eviction threats were a serious and widespread concern amongst displaced Syrian and vulnerable Lebanese households in rental accommodation in 2022, with an overall increase in the number of persons experiencing eviction threat from 5.4 per cent in 2021 to 7.1 per cent in 2022. Risk of and actual eviction has multiple cross-sectoral impacts. It leads to several secondary protection risks including confiscation of belongings including identification documents, mental health and psychosocial wellbeing deterioration, sexual abuse, forced prostitution and exploitation, withdrawal of children from education, disruption of social networks and homelessness. In 2022, Shelter, Protection and Social Stability sectors developed a "National Individual Eviction Guidance Note" recognising the critical role and responsibility of each sector in addressing forced eviction in a holistic manner. This has been important in advocating for crucial shelter remedies and improving the prioritisation of protection cases for response. Close collaboration and preventative programming between shelter and protection partners in 2022 led to a slight decrease in the overall number of Syrian households who moved home due to eviction in the past 12 months, from 15 per cent in 2021 to 11 per cent in 2022.

Outcome 2: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity are safe, empowered and supported in their communities

Knowledge of and accessibility to complaint and feedback mechanisms is critical for individuals to feel safe and supported when interacting with humanitarian staff in their communities and homes. Positively, 74 per cent of Syrian women, men, girls and boys reported knowing how to file a complaint against a staff member and how to provide feedback on a humanitarian program, while 86 per cent said that humanitarian agencies explained how to provide feedback during their visit. This was highest in Bekaa (94 per cent), Beirut (90 per cent) and lowest in Baalbeck & Hermel (72 per cent) (VASyR 2022). Furthermore, an average of 27 per cent of Syrian refugees reported having used a complaint mechanism in the past 6 months, reaching 43 per cent in the South. Interestingly, of those reporting on complaint and feedback mechanisms 52 per cent were women, 2.5 per cent were above 60 years old and 1.4 per cent were persons with a disability (PWG indicator 2022). This demonstrates the need for more tailored outreach to older persons and persons with disability on this matter. Despite these overall positive results in the mainstreaming of Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and protection through the Protection sector's work, 2 per cent of female headed-households report worrying about exploitation when accessing humanitarian assistance (4 per cent when accessing food), compared to 1 per cent of male headed-households (3 per cent when accessing food) (VASyR 2022). The Protection sector aims to address this gender divide in its 2023 strategy and ensure adequate information provision and access to reporting on issues of sexual exploitation and abuse.

2,189 active community focal points positively supported the most vulnerable individuals in their communities and contributed to preventing the escalation from low to high-risk cases. In 2022, UNHCR-supported outreach volunteers reached 636,109 displaced Syrians during 25,969 awareness raising and information sessions and performed 12,899 home visits to people in their community. In addition, they also referred 34,737 persons at heightened risk to partners working across sectors.

In 2022, half of Syrian households reported that women and girls feel very safe walking alone at night, while 9 per cent reported feeling very unsafe or never walking alone at night (VASyR 2022). Meanwhile, 53 per cent of Lebanese reported feeling unsafe in their area or neighbourhood at night (ARK/UNDP Perceptions Survey 2022). Streets/neighbourhoods (66 per cent) and markets (58 per cent) are reported as the most avoided places due to concerns about safety during the day. Community centres supported by the Protection sector play a critical role in people's feelings of safety in their community. They are an important tool for prevention and are places where support can be provided for the most at-risk individuals in the community. These centres, in an environment where incidents of violence and crime are reportedly on the rise, there is limited electricity and reduced presence of law enforcement, have been critical community hubs where people can build social connections, receive information, and learn new skills.

Outcome 3: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity live with dignity and are resilient to shocks

In 2022, 31,703 individuals at heightened risk of violence, coercion, exploitation, abuse, neglect and deliberate deprivation including children at risk and GBV survivors were successfully referred to Protection sector partners across the country, and positively accepted to receive protection services. This accounts for 42 per cent of the total number of referrals sent to Protection sector service providers during the year.

Of those individuals receiving protection cash services in 2022, 94 per cent reported it contributed 'significantly' (72 per cent) or 'somewhat' (21 per cent) to addressing their protection risk or incident. 79 per cent of those who responded to the survey were Syrian, 9 per cent Lebanese and 13 per cent other population groups including migrants, stateless individuals, and refugees of other nationalities. Furthermore, 89 per cent of individuals reported that the protection cash transfer value was 'adequate' (42 per cent) or 'somewhat adequate' (46 per cent) to meet their protection need, demonstrating the appropriateness of the cash transfer value and cash as a modality to support individuals at risk and/or who have experienced a sudden shock and change of circumstances to recover safely. However, operational challenges toward the end of 2022 linked to extreme fluctuations of the exchange rate, liquidity issues and bank strikes mean that it will be necessary for the Protection sector to conduct a review of the protection sector cash guidance in the first half of 2023 with partners.
In 2022, 9,656 submissions of persons at risk were made for resettlement and other humanitarian pathways to thirteen countries. This accounted for a 16.7 per cent increase since 2021. Of this number, 8,224 individuals departed in 2022, resulting in a 24 per cent increase from 2021.

Worsening socioeconomic constraints and inability of communities to secure their livelihoods have contributed globally and in Lebanon to changes in gender norms as well as to increase in reported GBV incidents. Through safe spaces and amended case management practices included remote facilitation, lifesaving GBV case management services were maintained and a reduced ability to access and use protection services, with women a close second and older persons and children third. Furthermore, in terms of humanitarian staff, over two thirds of respondents indicated they feel that their own safety and that of their colleagues is affected by the current situation and many employees providing protection services said they are suffering from the impact of the deteriorating conditions themselves.

Key mitigation measures partners are employing include shifting back to in-person activities, using alternative power solutions (including solar) for protection programs, exploring ways to increase work through community-based structures as a measure to adapt to the socio-economic crisis, as well as increasing support for transportation costs for community members in need of assistance and incentive workers or volunteers. To get around hold ups in legal assistance and representation due to judicial and administrative strikes, partners sequenced their activities, for example focusing on legal outreach and counselling. In response to stamp shortages, partners are using stamps which are more easily available in the market (i.e., 5000 LBP is more common than 1000 LBP stamps). This means partners are accumulating cases for processing to pay in bulk using larger stamp values. In addition to these important operational mitigation measures, the Sector has also drafted several key recommendations for donors and actions which are required at the sector level. These will be followed up on in 2023.

3. CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The impacts of the socio-economic crisis are far-reaching. In 2022, the Protection sector conducted an ‘Impact Survey’ to better understand the impact of key developments in Lebanon on protection programming, including the socio-economic crisis and political deadlock. Partners identified the following key factors as most impacting their ability to provide protection services: high fuel costs (transportation), limited referral options due to funding reductions in other sectors, exchange rate instability, judicial and public administration strikes, telecommunications cost increases and the impact of the crisis on staff mental health and psychosocial wellbeing. Case management and Psychosocial support (PSS) was the service most referenced as being affected by the crisis, followed by cash for protection and legal services. High fuel costs are preventing organizations from reaching those in need and preventing those in need from seeking services in-person. Legal actors reported having to postpone court hearings, as well as protracted and paused judicial processes for sensitive GBV, juveniles and stateless cases due to judicial strikes, further pre-trial delays for detainees and being unable to submit protection orders for children in contact with the law and GBV survivors. The most cited impacts on services resulting from adaptation efforts in the face of challenges were lower participation, increased operational programming costs, difficulties managing budgets and difficulty maintaining contact with individuals.

People living with a disability were the group most cited as having a reduced ability to access and use protection services, with women a close second and older persons and children third. Furthermore, in terms of humanitarian staff, over two thirds of respondents indicated they feel that their own safety and that of their colleagues is affected by the current situation and many employees providing protection services said they are suffering from the impact of the deteriorating conditions themselves.

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4. Case Study

Empowered Aid: Transforming Gender & Power Dynamics in Aid Distribution is a three-year project that aims to reduce the risks that may lead to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in aid distributions and reduce other gender-based violence risks. The project utilizes participatory action research methods to engage women and girls throughout the program and applies their knowledge on how to better understand and prevent SEA. In Lebanon, Empowered Aid, the Global Women's Institute (GWI) worked with CARE International and World Vision with Syrian refugee women and girls to document SEA risks when accessing humanitarian assistance, including food, WaSH, shelter, and cash assistance, and share recommendations. During the second year (2021), the project focused on adapting distribution monitoring tools that more proactively identify and address risks for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), while in 2022 it focused on sharing learnings and trainings. One woman shared feedback when the modalities of distribution changed from beneficiaries picking up items to a door-to-door practice, that she felt safer and that risks resulting from going to distribution points including transportation were reduced. Another woman explained that the change in distribution modalities also had positive impact on her child care tasks: She stated: "Through the “Empower Aid” program I can stay home which is also for my kids because I can stay home with my kids and I am not being forced to leave them alone.” This reflects on the positive impact the project has also on the challenges single mothers face in leaving children alone to receive humanitarian assistance. Another displaced Syrian woman living in Lebanon mentioned that transportation has been reported as a main risk factor shared by women approaching distribution points and an additional cost barrier to receive humanitarian assistance. Ensuring female staff are integrated in distribution processes or hired as drivers for door-to-door distribution was a change that had a significant positive impact on women’s feeling and perception of safety as the risk of exposure to GBV was mitigated and reduced.
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