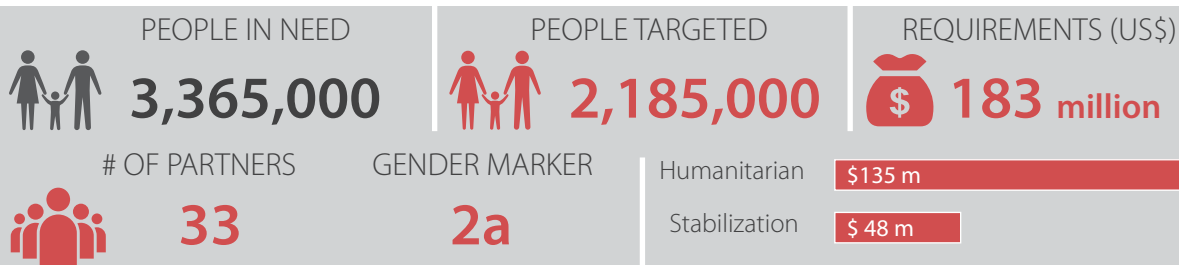




PROTECTION

Lead agencies: Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), UNHCR, UNICEF & UNFPA

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SECTOR OUTCOME

OUTCOME	INDICATORS	Value
OUTCOME 1: Persons displaced from Syria enjoy access to justice and legal stay	% of persons displaced from Syria who hold legal stay documentation	\$ 15.6 m
OUTCOME 2: Communities are empowered to identify, prevent and respond to protection risks	% of total referrals for protection interventions that are coming from community-based management and volunteer structures	\$ 41.9 m
OUTCOME 3: Basic rights and access to services is ensured and durable solutions realized	% decrease in protection violations against persons displaced from Syria	\$ 54.4 m
OUTCOME 4: The risks and consequences of SGBV are reduced and access to quality services is improved	% of survivors reporting receiving quality case management and specialized services	\$ 27.7 m
OUTCOME 5: Vulnerable boys and girls are protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect through equitable access to quality child protection services, systems and policies	# of children who receives specialized child protection services	\$ 27.7 m
	% of children in targeted child protection programmes reported to be showing and increase in psycho-social well being	\$ 43.4 m



PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS

- 1: Ensuring unhindered access to legal stay and civil documentation, as per Lebanese laws and regulation, and increasing legal awareness of documentation.
- 2: Improving identification of - and access to prevention and response services for - children survivors of violence, exploitation and abuse
- 3: Ensuring safe identification and referral for SGBV survivors, access to quality response services and support to community based safety nets to prevent and mitigate risks of SGBV
- 4: Addressing issues related to accommodation, including rent related security of tenure, as per Lebanese legislation
- 5: Security of the person - including security from violence, arbitrary detention, exploitation and explosive ordnances – as well as prevention of discrimination
- 6: Strengthening national systems including Social Development Centers and Community Development Centers to provide holistic and quality services for women and girls, men and boys



FUNDING STATUS

Funding already received for 2015:	\$ 16.3 m
Estimated sector needs for 2016:	\$ 171.3 m

1. Situation Analysis and Context

By early October 2014, Lebanon hosted over 1,130,000 Syrians registered with UNHCR as refugees, 80 per cent of these are women and children, and over half are boys and girls. Assessments indicate that almost three out of four households include at least one person with specific needs.¹

Furthermore, there have been 42,000 Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) recorded in Lebanon. Around half are living in existing Palestinian refugee camps and in so-called gatherings. The population of Palestine refugees who resided in Lebanon already prior to the Syria conflict number around 270,000 persons.

Lebanon, neither a State party to the 1951 Refugee Convention nor its 1967 Protocol, has played a positive role in ensuring protection of *de facto* refugees from Syria, in particular by upholding the principle of *non-refoulement*, and continues to be active in the coordination of protection activities.

While Lebanon generously maintained open borders during the first years of the Syrian conflict, entry into Lebanon from Syria has become increasingly more difficult, especially since mid-2014. This has resulted in a significant reduction in admissions of PRS and *de facto* refugees. The Government is soon to announce its border policy and has consulted on possible humanitarian exceptions that would allow admission of certain individuals based on defined humanitarian needs.

Legal stay in Lebanon is recognised through the possession of residency documents. Upon initial entry to Lebanon, Syrian nationals receive a residency permit valid for six months, renewable free of charge for an additional six months. Thereafter renewal is made upon payment of \$200 for persons 15 years of age and older. In an effort to address the fact that the residency cards had lapsed, including by those who were unable to pay the renewal fee, the Government of Lebanon in August waived the renewal fee (and regularisation fine) for Syrians and Palestine refugees resident in Lebanon until December 2014. This has enabled many tens of thousands to renew their residency permits.

Lack of legal residency status constricts the freedom of movement of *de facto* refugees and thus, their access to basic services, assistance and income-earning opportunities. Without proof of legal status, they may also be at risk of arrest and detention. Lack of legal status also creates barriers to obtaining civil status documentation, most notably birth registration, which may create heightened risks of statelessness, and prevent children born in Lebanon of Syrian parents from being able to accompany them to Syria when return is possible. The same barriers may prevent persons displaced from Syria from obtaining marriage, divorce and death certificates, with implications regarding legal guardianship over children and inheritance rights, including upon return to Syria. This, in combination with a lack of access to legal remedies, increases vulnerability to abuse of persons displaced from Syria, particularly for women and children. Protection partners, and Government authorities are working together to address these concerns.

Serious breaches of Lebanese territory and the taking of Lebanese security personal hostage by Syrian armed groups, led to enhanced security measures throughout Lebanon. These are seen as important to safeguard Lebanon and all its residents from greater insecurity and violence. Security measures affect Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians alike. Some measures have focused on sensitive areas including informal settlements and collective shelters where over 30% of *de facto* refugees reside. Notices to move premises in these and other areas have affected some 10,000 *de facto* refugees – and protection and shelter partners continue to try and find alternative accommodation, which is increasingly scarce.

Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian women and children are disproportionately affected by sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV). Recent assessments confirm that domestic violence, sexual harassment and exploitation, as well as forced/early marriage, remain the main protection concerns for women and adolescent girls.² Unaccompanied girls, single heads of households, child mothers/spouses, and women/girls living with disabilities are particularly exposed to such risks. According to a recent regional report on the situation of women and girls affected by the Syrian crisis, restriction on mobility, especially in urban areas, limit women and girls' ability to access services provided by the

¹ Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR), WFP, 2014.

² IRC regional report September 2014 Are We Listening? Acting on Our Commitment to Women and Girls Affected by the Syrian Conflict. UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNESCO, Save the Children, 2014 "Situation Analysis of Youth in Lebanon Affected by the Syrian Crisis"

government and/or humanitarian partners. Women and girls are also far less likely to participate in social and economic activities, restricting their ability to ease the financial burden of their families³.

Recent studies show a rise in negative feelings and coping strategies among displaced youth and adolescents, including hopelessness and anger. Feelings of isolation and insecurity are particularly affecting women and adolescent girls and boys. According to this recent regional report, one in three women said that they left the house never, rarely or only when necessary due to unfamiliarity, insecurity and increase responsibilities⁴.

Some 87 per cent of assisted SGBV survivors are females, while one out of four reported incidents related to sexual violence, including rape.⁵ Physical assault represents almost half of the reported cases, with an overwhelming dominance of intimate partner violence. The 2014 SGBV information management system's trends also reveal that compared to 2013, an increasing number of individuals are repeatedly subjected to emotional abuse.⁶

Between January and October 2014, more than 4,407 Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian children were individually assisted, including psycho-social support, emergency care arrangement and reunification. Additionally, through initiatives launched in partnership with the government, civil society organizations, the UN and University Saint Joseph, more than 1,300 social workers and case workers, including government staff, benefited from training and coaching to improve the quality of services. From January to October 2014, over 335,651 children, including adolescents and youth, and over 126,406 caregivers benefited from other psychosocial support activities.

According to participatory assessments conducted with persons displaced from Syria, men and boys report experiencing stress and feeling powerless because of their inability to fulfill traditional roles as family providers and protectors. Moreover, approximately 17 per cent of those who accessed safe space and 13 per cent of assisted survivors of violence in 2014 were men and boys.

The deteriorating socio-economic situation, coupled with limited access to education, has resulted in an increase of reported cases of child labor and child marriage. The breakdown of community protection mechanisms due to the displacement also places children and caregivers at greater risk of violence. Tensions between communities displaced from Syria and host communities are worsening, with children emulating the discriminatory attitudes they witness. This is exacerbated by perceptions of unequal support for increasingly vulnerable host communities, and strained public services.

³ Ibid.

⁴ UNHCR 2014 "Women Alone. The fight for survival by Syria's refugee women"

⁵ Analysis based on the 2013-2014 GBVIMS reports.

⁶ Ibid.

2. Overview of 2015 Response

The protection space in Lebanon is shrinking as tolerance for the presence of persons displaced from Syria decreases.

Against this backdrop, in 2015, the protection strategy will prioritize the following:

- ✓ Access to registration for *de facto* refugees and assistance;
- ✓ Facilitating access of persons displaced from Syria to civil documentation, as per Lebanese laws and regulations, and in view of requirements for their repatriation*;
- ✓ Access to information on available services, including increased legal awareness;
- ✓ Improved identification and access to prevention and response services for children and women at risk of violence and survivors of violence, including of SGBV, exploitation and abuse;
- ✓ Awareness of rights (access to justice and legal stay and promotion of durable solutions outside Lebanon);
- ✓ Addressing issues related to accommodation, including rental-related tenure security;
- ✓ Security of the person - including security from violence, arbitrary detention, exploitation and explosive ordnances – as well as prevention of discrimination.

* As noted during the Berlin Conference on the Syrian Refugee Situation, in which the Government of Lebanon was represented, “a comprehensive political solution to the conflict in Syria would create an ideal condition for repatriation, while recognizing that conditions for return in safety may precede such a solution. Participants will strive to support efforts leading towards the durable solution of repatriation, abiding by the principle of non-refoulement.” Declaration, Berlin Conference on the Syrian Refugee Situation, Supporting Stability in the Region, 28 October 2014, Auswärtiges Amt, Berlin.

Protection activities and interventions on behalf of the most vulnerable persons in Lebanon will continue to prevent and respond to immediate protection threats, provide remedies to victims of violations and create systems and an environment where rights are respected and fulfilled. Local NGOs, public actors, vulnerable communities and persons displaced from Syria will be further capacitated to identify protection risks and victims and to address their own protection needs when possible.

In order to ensure sustainability, protection interventions will increasingly use existing public systems to address the needs of both vulnerable communities and persons displaced from Syria; align activities with national plans, such as the National Social Development Strategy and MOSA’s National Plan to Safeguard Children and Women in Lebanon; support systems-building over individual interventions; further integrate and harmonize protection outreach, identification and response activities; and increasingly emphasize community-based approaches, through which communities are empowered to identify, prevent and respond to their protection concerns.

In the spirit of Lebanon’s continued commitment to the principle of non-*refoulement* and with full respect to its sovereign rights and responsibilities, the Government of Lebanon is devising a set of criteria for admission to the territory. This is part of a broader consultative process and includes plans to enhance border processes with the assistance of donors and specialized partners. Enhancing border processes includes technical and institutional support to the General Directorate of General Security, both at border points and renewal centres throughout Lebanon, regarding movements to and from Syria and residency in Lebanon.

Legal stay, regularization and renewal of residency documentation will continue to require legal awareness campaigns, individual counseling and representation by legal partners. Registration and verification of *de facto* refugees will be sustained in line with Government policies, providing opportunities to identify persons with specific needs and collect and update information on all Syrians registered with UNHCR as refugees.

Barriers to civil status documentation, in particular lack of information on procedures, will be addressed through awareness-raising and mass information, as well as individual legal counseling and direct support. In addition, institutional support will be provided to authorities involved in civil registration at local and national levels.

In light of the protection developments in the country, shelter partners will also be involved with the protection response in respect to accommodation and rental-related tenure security.

Activities of outreach volunteers, protection field monitors and other community initiatives will be further integrated to provide analysis and insight into protection risks and trends, as well as refer persons in need of immediate support. Response mechanisms will also be increasingly integrated at the community, local and national levels through dialogue with local communities, proposals for community-based solutions and provision of assistance to service providers.

An integral part of the community-based protection strategy is the support that will be provided to Community Development Centers (CDCs) and Social Development Centers (SDCs), which serve as platforms for the delivery of protection services for local community members and persons displaced from Syria. By involving community members in the design and delivery of the activities, whether through committees, youth clubs or structured consultations, communities will be empowered to identify and respond to protection risks.

Lebanese returnees from Syria represent a largely under-assisted and less visible group. These families, estimated at around 20,000 persons (as of September 2014), had mostly been living in Syria for decades before fleeing the conflict. Their situation is difficult as most returned with few belongings, are underemployed and often reside in substandard shelters. Accordingly, recording and profiling Lebanese returnees will remain a priority.

Current SGBV and Child Protection interventions will be further developed and expanded to fall within the framework of the MoSA National Plan to Safeguard Children and Women in Lebanon.

SGBV interventions will be progressively expanded from emergency response to longer term programming, along the following main axes:

- Survivors and women at risk will continue to have access to safe spaces where psycho-social, medical and legal services will be provided. Survivors' choice will remain the paramount principle of the provision of services. In 2014, on average 130 women and girls accessed such spaces every day (40 per cent of which were below 18). In 2015, mobile outreach and services will complement this approach to reach remote areas- especially needed given the increasing restrictions on movements of women and adolescent girls. Survivors of SGBV at immediate risk will continue to have access to safe shelter and legal counselling. Programmes will ensure facilities and services are accessible to girls and boys. The SGBV sector will work closely with all other sectors, in particular education, child protection, WASH and livelihoods, to ensure risk mitigation measures are included in their strategies and standard tools will be developed to ensure equal access of women and girls, men and boys to services and facilities.⁷
- Communities and local leaders and authorities will be supported to address the root causes of SGBV within host and refugee communities. Through awareness raising campaigns, peer and community networks will be strengthened. Men and boys will be engaged as agents of change. This will be achieved through a combined approach of awareness raising, training, establishment of peer and community networks, community based safety planning.
- Men and boys will be engaged as agents of change through the development of tailored programmes which includes, amongst other, capacity building in mobilizing their peers and communication to promote positive changes to traditional behaviours leading to SGBV and gender inequality.
- In 2015, the approach to SGBV capacity building will aim to transfer knowledge, define standard tools and provide on the job support to social workers and specialized service providers, including medical and legal providers. Frontline responders and communities will be capacitated to identify survivors, provide services and ensure the participation of women and girls, men and boys in the design of their programmes. The sector will also engage with MoPH to develop a protocol on the clinical management of rape, and medical care for survivors. SDCs and community-based organizations will be further supported to provide child- and adolescent-friendly services and safe spaces for women and girls.

The existing national child protection system will be strengthened at central and local level to ensure that the immediate needs of vulnerable communities and persons displaced from Syria are met in an equitable manner. Five priorities have been identified:

⁷ In line with IASC 2005 Guidelines for GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Settings "All humanitarian personnel should therefore assume and believe that GBV, and in particular sexual violence, is taking place and is a serious and life-threatening protection issue, regardless of the presence or absence of concrete and reliable evidence"

- Prevention of violations through psycho-social support for children and caregivers, including outreach
- Response to violations through access management including access to specialized services
- Strengthening of national policy and legal framework through the continued development and implementation of practical guidance to ensure delivery of quality services in line with international standards
- Capacity building of local actors, NGOs and institutions on established child protection standards will continue through the existing national coaching program
- Mainstreaming of child protection in other sectors such as health and education

Generation of knowledge and data will continue to inform high level policy discussions and child protection programming to ensure the needs are met.

A significant focus of the child protection strategy is to systematize its engagement and support to national authorities and civil society at central and local levels to ensure that the most vulnerable children, women and families, have access to a core package of family care/support services. This package which will be delivered through SDCs and Family Support Networks (FSNs); it includes psychosocial support services through child and adolescent friendly services and safe spaces for women and girls including life skills education, assistance to survivors of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, support to parents and families through day care centers and parenting classes, information on access to basic and specialized services including health, education and protection and in coordination with MOPH immunization and medical consultation. This engagement is defined in MOSA's *National Plan to Safeguard Children and Women in Lebanon*.

The sector will engage more systematically with the education sector to ensure that public schools and other learning spaces provide a protective environment for children and adolescents.

A significant focus of child protection sector will be on programming for adolescent girls and boys to strengthen their resilience, especially for those who dropped out of schools, in order to reduce and prevent exposure to at-risk behaviour, child labour, forced recruitment and child marriage.

Prevention through psychosocial support programmes for boys, girls and caregivers will continue to be a priority, not only to respond to needs but also to mitigate the impact of violence and building resilience of children and their caregivers and to prevent dangerous behaviours and further violence within the family and in the community.

Building capacity and awareness among sectors regarding their role in preventing and responding to child protection is critical. The sector will focus more particularly on education and continue to build on its work with the education sector as well as with MOSA and MEHE.

The sector will continue provision of services for individual cases, including through strengthening the capacities of social workers, case workers, and line ministries. Case management and specialised services will contribute to address child labour, child marriage, and will be a primary intervention in supporting unaccompanied minors and separated children. To support case management programme the sector will work on developing and implementing child protection information management system. It includes establishing alternative and emergency care options for children in need. High-level policy discussions on shifting from reliance on institutional care arrangements to family based care arrangements will continue to be a priority. Working with children, caregivers, families and communities at large is crucial to complement the support to institutions and create a safer environment for children.

Child protection will work with other sectors, such as health and education, to ensure that public schools and other learning spaces provide a protective environment for children and adolescents. These efforts are undertaken in close coordination with MoSA and MEHE. Child protection sector will provide programming to strengthen the resilience of adolescent girls and boys, especially for those who have dropped out of schools. These programmes will aim to reduce and prevent exposure to at-risk behaviour, child labour, forced recruitment and child marriage.

3. Overall Sector Target Caseload

Population cohorts

Category	Female	Male	Total
Syrians registered with UNHCR as refugees	788,000	712,000	1,500,000
Palestine refugees from Syria	22,700	22,300	45,000
Vulnerable Lebanese	220,000	100,000	320,000
Lebanese Returnees	24,900	25,100	50,000
Palestine refugees from Lebanon	143,100	126,900	270,000

Gateways for service delivery

Category	Number	Modality of implementation/ how the institution is engaged
Municipalities	108	In kind / capacity building
SDCs	76	In kind / capacity building
Community Centres (includes safe spaces and mobile outreach)	110	In kind / capacity building
Civil society actors/ community based organizations	35	In kind / capacity building
Universities and other academic institutions	3	Capacity building
National government ministries and offices.	6	In kind / capacity building
Border posts	5	In kind / capacity building
Health Facilities	58	In kind / capacity building
Palestinian camps	12	In kind / capacity building
Palestinian gatherings	200	In kind / capacity building
Informal settlements	300	In kind / capacity building

While registration will target all new arrivals, protection interventions will primarily target persons with specific needs, including:

- Persons with immediate legal or physical protection needs, such as persons at immediate risk of arbitrary detention or forcible return, or persons facing a threat to life, safety or other fundamental human rights
- Women and girls at risk
- Survivors of violence or torture
- Older persons at risk
- Persons with disabilities or medical needs
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons
- Children and adolescents at risk

Three types of institutions will be targeted for institutional support and capacity building, namely:

- Government institutions that manage the border or issue civil and legal stay documentation, for example GSO, ISF, LAF and the Personal Status Department;
- Local civil society actors; and,
- Community Development Centres and Social Development Centres.

These types of institutions are targeted to ensure sustainability. Services provided by the institutions will benefit vulnerable communities, including persons displaced from Syria.

SGBV and child protection, prevention and response services are open to all population groups, be they Syrians registered with UNHCR as refugees, Palestine refugees from Syria or in Lebanon, or vulnerable and Lebanese returnees, as well as migrant workers. Furthermore, the national law 422, which establishes the national child protection system, applies to all children.

In 2015, the child protection sector will remain focused on adolescent girls and boys, including girls who are married or at risk of marriage; out-of-school, and separated or unaccompanied children and adolescents and child headed households.

4. Mainstreaming of Protection

In 2015, Protection will be further mainstreamed into all other sectors. Key mainstreaming areas for the Protection sector are as follows:

1. **Shelter** assistance will continue to prioritize assistance by protection criteria. This is informed by the specific needs of families. Standardized lease agreements will pay due consideration to rights and obligations of landlords and tenants.
2. **Basic assistance and food security:** Persons with specific needs who are also economically vulnerable will benefit from market-based interventions and receive food assistance.
3. **Social stability:** Community conflict mitigation mechanisms will lessen tensions between host and refugee communities, reducing the likelihood of some protection incidents.
4. **Education:** Through joint information initiatives and other interventions, education actors will work to identify and address barriers that prevent adolescent girls from accessing formal and non-formal education, such as forced/early marriage. Links between psychosocial support interventions and education will be strengthened, and out-of-school children will be referred to education actors for formal and non-formal learning opportunities.
5. **Livelihoods:** – Women and girls will benefit from culturally-adapted opportunities to become self-reliant.
6. **Health** and SGBV will continue to work closely to support health facilities in providing appropriate medical treatment for survivors. Medical personnel will be trained on the clinical management of rape, and all medical and non-medical personnel will be trained to ensure the confidentiality, safety and respect of survivors receiving treatment.

5. Partnerships

This Sector is under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

List of Partner Agencies

ABAAD	Intersos	Mercy Corps	Save the Children	UNICEF
ActionAid	IOM	NRC	SOS Village	UNRWA
CLMC Lebanon	IR Lebanon	OXFAM	Terres des Hommes – Italia	WCH
CONCERN	IRC	PU-AMI	Terres des Hommes - Lebanon	WRF
DRC	MAG	RET	UNFPA	WVI
HI	Makhzoumi	RI	UNHABITAT	
International Alert	MAP	Safadi Foundation	UNHCR	