



SOCIAL STABILITY SECTOR

LCRP End of Year dashboard 2020



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

This dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Social Stability Sector in Lebanon aims to achieve the following results: OUTCOME 1: Strengthen municipalities, national and local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure; OUTCOME 2: Strengthen municipal and local community capacity to foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts; OUTCOME 3: Enhance LCRP capacities on tension monitoring and conflict sensitivity.

2020 Funding Status

Funding received since Jan 2020

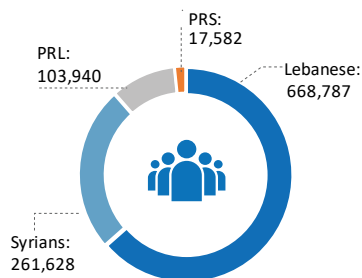
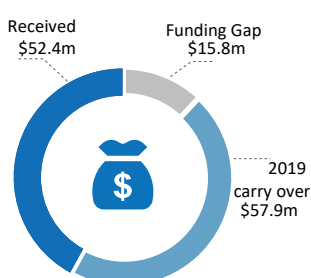
of people reached

by SoSt partners

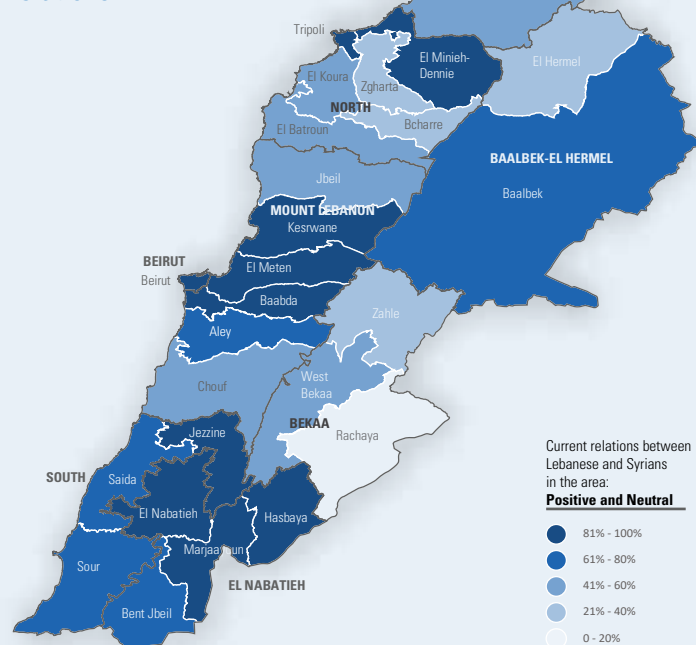
\$126m
Required

2,155,037
In need (target)

1,051,937
Reached (49%)



Mapping of positive and neutral Lebanese-Syrian relations



PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS



Outputs

Reached / Target

# of municipalities receiving Community Support or Basic Service Projects	65 / 200
# of municipalities implementing/using integrated solid waste management systems & approaches	6 / 60
# of municipalities reporting on security cells	931 / 1,009
# community municipal policing initiatives set up or supported	0 / 9
# of municipalities with self-functioning conflict mitigation mechanisms established	47 / 165
# youth participating empowerment initiatives	40,918 / 40,000
# journalists, media students and academic trained or engaged	19 / 275
# of partners staff trained on conflict sensitivity	60 / 350
0%	100%



Outcomes

LCRP 2017 Baseline Dec 2020 Current 2020 Target

OUTCOME 1:

% of people reporting positive impact of municipalities on their lives*

% of people living in vulnerable areas reporting competition for municipal and social services and utilities as source of tension*

% of people living in vulnerable areas who feel that they can voice concern with authorities in case of dissatisfaction*

OUTCOME 2:

% of people living in vulnerable areas to identify conflict resolution mechanisms/ actors in their community that they would turn to*

% of people displaying propensity for violence*

OUTCOME 3:

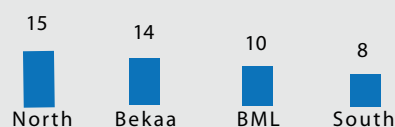
% of partners reporting that they have their own mechanisms to ensure conflict sensitivity

of LCRP sectors taking steps to include social stability consideration in their work***

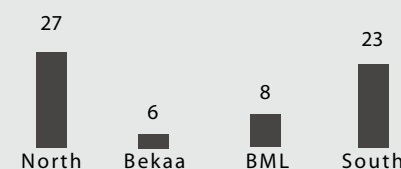
SYR	LEB	SYR	LEB	Target
75%	71%	55%	49%	85%
24%	36%	26%	34%	25%
39%	56%	21%	55%	70%
91%	89%	91%	96%	95%
31%	53%	40%	65%	35%
75%		78%		65%
1		10		9

ANALYSIS

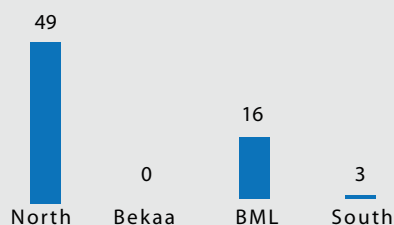
of municipalities with newly established dialogue and conflict prevention initiatives



of municipal and community support projects implemented



of youth empowerment initiatives



* Source: UNDP - ARK Perception Survey

**Source: Conflict Sensitivity and Social Stability Mainstreaming Survey

***Source: LCRP 2021 planning process

ANALYSIS OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Throughout 2020, Social Stability sector partners have continued to work to prevent and mitigate intra- and inter-communal tensions by: supporting municipalities to deliver services and alleviate resource pressure; by supporting communities to foster dialogue (including peacebuilding activities); as well as by mainstreaming conflict sensitivity within the overall Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (including expanding tension monitoring and analysis). With the compounded crisis that Lebanon was facing in 2020, the sector's initial workplan was disrupted and some activities had to be postponed. At the same time, the deteriorating situation in the country triggered a need for new and increased interventions by partners, which had not been captured in the sector's initial annual work plan. Thus, several partners adjusted their activities or shifted focus based on several needs assessments carried out in the beginning of the year. This shift negatively impacted achievements under specific outputs, mainly under outcome 1, which is related to working with local authorities on hard components such as infrastructures, since most of these activities could not be carried out during the COVID-19 lockdown. At the same time, achievements related to some of the sector's soft activities, such as dialogue mechanisms (contributing to Outcome 2) and monitoring of tensions (Outcome 3), were increased.

For outputs under Outcome 1, interventions were mainly related to working with municipalities and national and local institutions to strengthen their ability to alleviate resource pressure, reduce resentment, and build peace. However, due to the restrictions related to COVID-19, the sector faced challenges in expanding its outreach, and only managed to reach 67 communities (compared to an annual target of 251) by the end of the year, which was a significant decrease from the 242 communities that were reached in 2019.

Throughout the year, a total of 64 projects were identified thanks to participatory needs assessments conducted together with the local population in their municipalities. The projects that are based on participatory assessments are important as they ensure more transparent processes which reflect the needs of populations and also contributes to rebuilding trust in local authorities. Out of these 64 projects that address the identified priority needs, 10 large investments (above 100,000 USD) in basic services were finalized in 2020. These investments included the rehabilitation of infrastructure for livelihood, education, and agricultural land (e.g. rehabilitation of markets, material for civil defense teams, and establishment of public gardens). An estimated 127,600 direct and indirect beneficiaries were reached through these projects. Furthermore, 54 smaller investments (under 100,000 USD) in community support projects were implemented in 2020, falling short of the 200 projects initially targeted. Projects were mostly implemented through grants to CSOs so that they could implement activities at the local level in collaboration with local authorities. Successfully finalized projects were mainly related to supporting the health and education sectors. As such, supported communities and municipalities are better able to ensure the continuity of services at the local level.

FACTS AND FIGURES

90.5% of Lebanese and **91%** of Syrians agree or strongly agree with the statement "People in this area can be trusted".

57.8% of Lebanese and **88.5%** of Syrians agree or strongly agree with the statement "Lebanese and Syrians in this community are able to work together to solve problems they have together".

90% of people believe the Lebanese people have been good hosts to refugees since 2011.

However,

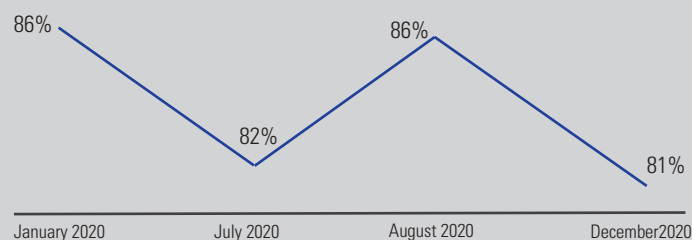
81% have reported that the current economic conditions regarding access to cash are driving tensions, with notable spikes during the protest wave and after the Beirut blast.

82% of people agree that the presence of many Syrian refugees is placing too much strain on Lebanon's resources, like water and electricity.

24% of Syrian families have experienced verbal or physical harassment in the last three months.

25% of people reported that current relations between Lebanese and Syrian individuals are negative in their areas.

Agreement with statement, 'The current economic conditions regarding access to cash are driving tensions between groups here'.



Source: ARK & UNDP, Regular Perception Surveys of Social Tensions in Lebanon: Wave IX (December 2020)

Some 82 municipalities and Unions of Municipalities also benefited from capacity building, a number below the annual target of 212. With these training sessions, 287 municipal workers are now better able to deliver municipal services to citizens, improve communication with communities, mediate conflict, as well as organize HR, finance, procurement and other administrative functions in line with relevant regulations. Women staff represented 14% of trainees, which despite being a relatively low percentage, is in line with the proportion of women working in municipal administrations. In addition to capacity building, 65 municipalities were directly supported in strategic planning and service delivery, mostly by supporting the drafting of strategic plans and operational agendas as identified during the participatory needs assessments.

Solid waste management has always been a key source of tension between communities. Improved integrated solid waste management, therefore, remained a key focus of the sector in 2020 as a way to reduce social tensions. Besides the distribution of bins (226 this year) and machinery, 75 metric tons of solid waste (15% of the 5,000 mt reported collected and sorted by the sector) were recycled or diverted to sanitary landfill. Yet again, results fall behind the yearly objective under Outcome 1 (200 metric tons as target).

The lack of funding is one key factor limiting the ability of local authorities to provide basic services such as Solid Waste Management. It also limits partners' capacity to intervene, as community support projects often include co-funding requirements from local actors or local government counterparts.

Activities were also conducted with institutions at the national level (Output 1.3). The capacity to respond to rising tensions was improved at the national level thanks to the joint work of specialized teams working alongside ministries to strengthen internal processes and national policies. Specific outputs were reported, namely several guidance notes were published by the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM)¹ and Ministry of Environment (MoE)². However, no intervention was reported locally in terms of capacity building of the local municipal police in 2020 (Outcome 1.4). It will be important to revive these interventions in the coming year, as they contribute to conflict sensitive approaches and interventions of authorities at the local level.

Whilst Social Stability Sector partners struggled to meet targets under Outcome 1, partners achieved positive progress on the sector's soft components. The sector expanded its reach in implementing new local and municipal dialogue and conflict prevention initiatives that seek to address the root causes of conflict and tensions (Outcome 2 of the sector). 47 new dialogue mechanisms were established in 2020, below the target of 135 but largely more than last year (25 in 2019 – Output 2.1). In addition, 68 youth-led initiatives were implemented by partners throughout the year, a similar achievement than last years (67 initiatives) before Covid-19 constraints). The vast majority of these initiatives were peacebuilding clubs. Only a few of them were proposing active citizenship and cultural activities. Youth beneficiaries were reached through clubs as well as training sessions that included conflict resolution components. Overall, 40,918 youth were mobilized in these activities (yearly objective of 40,000), and are now better able to positively engage and participate in their communities and beyond. The sharp increase in soft activities outreach compared to 2019 can partly be explained by their compatibility with the remote work modalities in place for most of 2020 due to COVID-19 related constraints (In 2019, only 18,318 youth were reached). The only indicator that falls largely behind target for this year, under Outcome 2, is the capacity building of media institutions and journalists, with only 19 journalists trained despite a target of 275 individuals for the year. That is because work with traditional media institutions was more difficult to carry out remotely. At the same time, many activities were conducted on social media to tackle fake news, including training sessions with influencers and other key individuals, as well as with youth initiatives, which are reported under Output 2.2 mentioned above.

Throughout the year, the Social Stability Sector contributed to enhance the LCRP's capacities on tensions monitoring and conflict sensitivity (Outcome 3) by successfully conducting three key complementary activities under Output 3.1: tension monitoring and analysis (including dissemination), training of partners, and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming of all sectors of the LCRP. As of December, 14 tension monitoring briefs had been published and disseminated through various instances and successfully feeding into strategy definition, implementation, coordination and capacity building of actors. However, these results are behind the yearly objective of 24 publications each year. Furthermore, 60 LCRP partners were trained on conflict sensitivity and its application in their operations. Four of these partners also benefitted from in-depth training to review their conflict sensitive processes. Finally, 149 individuals participated in workshops on conflict sensitivity mainstreaming in all 10 sectors of the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan. This series of workshops aimed at drafting four guidance notes for partners. These were drafted in 2020 and will be disseminated early 2021.



2. KEY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SECTOR TO LCRP OUTCOME AND IMPACTS

Despite facing numerous challenges, the Social Stability sector partners made important strides in terms of contributing to primarily Strategic Objective 4 of the LCRP by reinforcing Lebanon's economic, social, and environmental stability. Given the Sector's strong focus on support to municipalities, it also directly contributed to Strategic Objective 3 by supporting service provision through national systems. Despite the impact of COVID-19, coupled with the socio-economic crisis, the sector fulfilled most of the targets contributing to Strategic Objective 4 (Outcomes 2 and 3 of the sector logframe). However, it fell short of the contribution to Strategic Objective 3, mainly due to gaps in support to municipalities (Outcome 1 of the sector logframe). Where targets were reached, achievements were successfully translated in positive outcomes, highlighting the success of chosen approaches and the need for further investments in 2021.

1.Guidance for human rights respect in municipal police interventions along with global support to municipal police initiatives in terms of communications.
2.MoE guideline on SWM under COVID crisis.

One of the key indicators under Outcome 1 is trust in municipalities. Across the country, citizens' trust in municipalities has been deteriorating since the end of 2019. While 83% of citizens in February of 2018 considered that municipalities improved their lives, given their role in the area of residence, this positive perception decreased sharply in the end of 2019 and stood at 45% in January 2020. However, the perceptions of municipalities turned and started to improve again, despite the lack of funds, and possibly due to the increased role played by municipalities, given the COVID-19 pandemic. As of January 2021, some 50% expressed trust in municipalities. Although this number remains on the lower end, municipal authorities are amongst the most widely trusted institutions in Lebanon, especially in comparison to other institutions which are witnessing a continued decrease in trust. There are also regional differences in terms of overall perceptions of improving life where it stood at 64% in the Beqaa, 58% in Mount Lebanon and others were mainly in line with national findings.

While municipalities remain one of the most trusted authorities in the country, this is a notable decrease in 2020 that can be explained through all factors mentioned in the first section (i.e inability to deliver physical services during covid-19 times, lack of funds for financing services and salaries, increased communal insecurity). Through improved service delivery, municipalities and public institutions' legitimacy can be drastically strengthened, hence mitigating tensions and building trust between communities and state institutions. Concurrently, as of 2021, 48% agreed with statement, 'The municipality is doing the best it can to respond to the needs of people in this community', compared to 45% in January 2020. Competition for municipal and social services and utilities are also increasingly reported as a main source of tension. From 15% of Syrian and 28% of Lebanese residents of vulnerable areas in 2019, the proportions rose to 26% and 34% respectively in 2020.

The large number of activities under Outcome 2 has translated into positive outcomes with more than 96% of surveyed Lebanese host communities living in vulnerable areas reportedly able to identify conflict resolution mechanisms in their communities, an increase from 92% in 2019. For Syrian residents, this percentage reached 91%, up from 82% in December 2019³.

However, the overall situation in the country is hampering progress towards the outcome level results in other areas. Regarding the propensity for violence, results were more contrasted with an increase in the proportion of Lebanese residents of vulnerable areas displaying a propensity for violence from 61% in December 2019 to 65% in 2020, far from the 40% target. For Syrian residents in the same areas, the proportion remained stable, in line with the target (41% in 2019, 40% in 2020). The result for Lebanese residents is imputable to the deterioration in the overall context, and the associated increase in frustrations and despair. It is also suggesting a need to ensure service continuity at the municipal level to limit the competition for resources and services between individuals and communities.

As for Outcome 3, LCRP partners report that they have a good understanding of conflict sensitive principles and actually apply them in their programming. As of the end of 2020, 80% (78 partners) of Social Stability and Tension Monitoring partners responded to the conflict sensitivity mainstreaming survey, conducted by UNDP, indicated that they found the social stability sector helpful in mainstreaming conflict sensitivity and disseminating analysis on tensions. Also, 78% (59 partners) responded that their organizations conducted their own conflict analysis. Moreover, 88% (94 partners) stated that their organization takes steps to ensure that the analysis results in changes to programming all the time and sometimes (against a yearly objective of 65%). However, given the increased need for conflict sensitive programming amidst the current contextual challenges in Lebanon, further mainstreaming is key during 2021. The need for conflict sensitivity mainstreaming through the dissemination of guidance and trainings could benefit the overall response as only 25% of respondents stated that they read or use material for every projects. Another 30% declared that they do it only for some projects, while 23% do it only rarely.



3. KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2021

In 2021, the Sector will continue to implement its work under the same three key pillars and related outcomes, with few adjustments to take into account rising tensions, increasing challenges faced by local authorities to provide services under their mandate, and the impact of COVID-19 and the economic crisis on communities. The three key priorities are:

The first priority will be to continue support to municipalities to alleviate resources pressure, mainly through supporting them to deliver services within their mandate and strengthening their ability to maintain social stability. To that end, the work in the virtual space will be increased, where it is possible, to ensure the continuity of support despite Covid-19 restrictions. This will mainly be applicable for capacity building activities and direct support in management and planning. Due to shrinking public funds, partners will include hard costs as well as operational costs of municipal authorities to ensure service continuity. Overall, 26 partners have appealed to support municipalities in service delivery in 2021.

The second priority will be to strengthen local and municipal dialogue mechanisms and build on peacebuilding dividends achieved from existing mechanisms set up by the sector partners. Given the central role of conflict dialogue mechanisms in defusing tensions and reducing the propensity to violence, establishing, developing and maintaining dialogue mechanisms will remain a crucial focus of the sector's strategy in 2021. With 2020 achievements, local communities, municipalities and national institutions have now increased their capacity to address the sources of tensions and to promote positive interactions. This will help to strengthen the connections and reduce the tensions between different groups, and therefore help reduce propensities for

3. UNDP/ARK perception survey, wave 9 (December 2020).

