



PROTECTION SECTOR

PEOPLE IN NEED



3,207,700

NEEDS-BASED APPEAL
\$ 214.3million

PEOPLE TARGETED



1,883,700

PARTNER APPEAL



\$ 213million

PARTNERS



68

GENDER MARKER



2¹

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SECTOR OUTCOMES

Outcome #1

Women, men, boys and girls have their fundamental rights respected

Indicators

- Percentage of persons with legal stay
- Percentage of children born in Lebanon whose birth is registered at the Nofous level
- Percentage of children born in Lebanon whose birth is registered at the Foreigners' Registry level
- Percentage of households who have moved accommodation in the last 6 months due to eviction

Outcome #2

Women, men, boys and girls are protected by a strong and accountable system against all risks of violence, exploitation and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), violence against children, sexual abuse and exploitation (SEA)

Indicators

- Percentage of children aged 14-2 years who experienced violent disciplinary practices
- Percentage of women and girls aged 49-15 years who state that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife

Outcome #3

Women, girls, men and boys live with dignity and are resilient to shocks

Indicators

- Percentage of persons referred provided with services
- Number of persons benefitting from resettlement or other humanitarian pathways
- Percentage of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour
- Percentage of children (boys and girls) who reported an improvement in their psychosocial well-being as measured through the SDQ
- Percentage of women married before 18 years of age

POPULATION BREAKDOWN

POPULATION COHORT	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	52% Female	48% Male
Vulnerable Lebanese	1,500,000	336,000	174,720	161,280
Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	1,500,000	780,000	720,000
Palestine Refugees from Syria	27,700	27,700	14,404	13,296
Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	180,000	20,000	10,400	9,600

¹ The response plan is designed to contribute significantly to gender equality.

Overall Sector Strategy

There has been a general deterioration of the protection situation in Lebanon affecting displaced persons of all ages and gender and vulnerable Lebanese communities, especially those with specific needs. The compounding crises are heightening protection risks, which are aggravated by insufficient respect for the rule of law, discriminatory practices, and inadequate access to law enforcement, justice, and basic services. The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated critical needs across all population groups, with a particular impact on those with heightened vulnerabilities, and it has placed unprecedented stress on protection services and community structures.

There remain critical issues that are negatively affecting the protection of persons displaced from Syria, Palestinian refugees from Lebanon and vulnerable Lebanese:

- **Limited ability of persons displaced from Syria to enjoy basic rights**, such as civil documents and legal residency, security of tenure, and protection against discriminatory measures, arbitrary arrest, and refoulement;
- **Increased violence** against women, children, and those facing multiple vulnerabilities;
- **Heightened risks of exploitation and abuse**, in particular for children who are subject to child labour, including in its worst forms, and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA);
- **Increased use of negative coping mechanisms;**
- **Further deterioration of the mental health of adults and children;**
- Increase in vulnerabilities of **persons with specific needs**; and
- **Limited access to durable solutions.**

The overarching objective of the Protection Sector is that **persons displaced from Syria and persons from host communities who are in a vulnerable situation have their rights respected and that they live in safety and dignity**. To address the critical issues identified as priorities, the Sector will aim to ensure that all persons:

- **Have their fundamental rights respected;**
- **Are protected by a strong and accountable system against all risks of violence, exploitation and abuse; and**
- **Live in dignity and are resilient to shocks.**

To achieve this, the Sector response aims to ensure measurable and positive changes to the protection situation of persons displaced from Syria, Palestinian refugees from Lebanon, and vulnerable Lebanese as follows:

- **To ensure that all women, girls, men, and boys have their rights upheld, that they are able to secure civil documentation and legal stay, and to be protected against arbitrary**

arrest, refoulement, discriminatory restrictive measures, and unlawful eviction, the Sector will promote a revision of the legal frameworks to foster their alignment with international standards and commitments to be more protective of all persons. The Sector will consistently advocate for legal procedures to be more accessible, affordable, and inclusive. The Sector will increase respect for due process and the rule of law by strengthening national and local institutions to facilitate consistent and more precise implementation of these procedures. It also aims to ensure that all persons are aware of their rights and able to exercise them.

- **To protect women, children, and persons who are at risk or who are vulnerable** the Sector will strengthen child protection (CP) and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response systems, and will work to improve the legal framework and ensure adequate implementation of laws and access to justice. Where gaps exist, mechanisms will be established to prevent and respond to SEA to ensure that all persons are less exposed to violence, abuse, and exploitation.
- **To ensure that persons with heightened protection risks will be adequately protected and not forced to rely on coping mechanisms that are harmful** to themselves or their families, the Sector will promote the provision of comprehensive, inclusive, available and accessible protection; SGBV and CP services, including mental health psychosocial support services, to individuals of all ages and backgrounds, including persons with disabilities, older persons, women, and children at risk. The Sector will support the empowerment of communities, families, and individuals to restore their social networks, decrease tensions, and to engage in their own protection while at the same time promoting positive social norms and behaviours. The Sector will also advocate for increased resettlement options for those most at risk.

The three key outcomes will be reached by taking into account positive changes that can be made at the institutional, community, family, and individual levels through strategic collaboration and joint objectives with other sectors, governmental entities, and development actors to uphold the rule of law, foster good governance, enhance accountability, increase capacities to ensure accessible public services, and address discrimination. The Sector will also pursue evidence-based advocacy required to improve protection outcomes in Lebanon. The sector strategy incorporates a stabilization approach by supporting reform within the legal system and promoting equal access to relevant and quality protection services for all children and adults in need. The Sector will also strengthen the link between humanitarian aid and development and systematically combine direct delivery of protection services, including CP and SGBV case management, psychosocial support, rehabilitation services, emergency and protection cash,

and a solid component of community empowerment, system strengthening and capacity-building.

The Protection Sector will strengthen its coordination with the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) and key sectors around critical priorities. The ISWG will be supported to ensure that protection mainstreaming is applied when planning sector interventions, including child protection and GBV risk mitigation. The Protection Sector will also support the ISWG to move towards more integrated packages of services targeting vulnerable families. This will promote the comprehensive and sustainable nature of the response by addressing the multiple drivers that increase a person's risks of becoming more vulnerable. It will be particularly relevant when managing complex issues, such as out-of-school children, child labour, child marriage, and violence against children. The Protection and Social Stability Sectors will strengthen existing joint analysis of protection risks and tensions, and will ensure an integrated approach to build on community-based initiatives that promote peaceful coexistence. The Protection Sector will also engage closely with the Health and Education Sectors to jointly prevent and address increasing mental health and psychosocial needs, violence against women and children, child marriage and child labour.

The Sector will work closely with the **Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities** at the central and local level on protection interventions, including access to territory, legal residency, access to justice, civil status documentation, and evictions. The Sector will also engage with other line ministries, including **Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Labour (MoL), Higher Council for Childhood, National Commission for Lebanese Women, Disaster Risk Management Unit, Internal Security Forces, municipal police, judges and bar associations, non-governmental agencies and civil society to strengthen national systems on protection, child protection and protection against SGBV.** This will include legislative and national policies to maintain a protective environment for everyone affected by the Syria crisis, and to increase access to justice for affected populations and ensure equitable treatment for all in accordance with global human rights standards.

The Protection Sector's strategy will follow **a rights-based approach, ensure the 'do no harm' principle and integrate conflict sensitivity** through timely identification and mitigation of risks across all activities. It will mainstream **age, ability and gender sensitivity**, systematically considering the specific risks, needs and capacities of the different groups and ensuring regular programmatic adaptation. A comprehensive understanding of the **threats, vulnerabilities and coping capacities of persons with specific needs and those most at risk, including persons with disabilities and socially marginalized groups, including those discriminated against on the basis of their gender,**

will continue to shape the Protection Sector's response to ensure inclusion of those most at risk. Refugees from other nationalities will be included in all advocacy efforts to improve access to civil documentation and legal residency.

Sector results: LCRP impacts, sector outcomes, outputs

Expected results and planned interventions

The Protection Sector contributes to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017–2020 (**LCRP Strategic Objective 1** (Ensure the protection of vulnerable populations), and to **Impact 2** (Immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations are met) and to **Impact 5** (Social stability is strengthened in Lebanon). The Sector also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially to SDG 5 on Gender Equality, SDG 8 on Decent Work, and SDG 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

The overarching sector objective is to ensure that persons from both the refugee and the host communities live in safety and dignity and can enjoy their basic rights. This is articulated through three main outcomes.

Outcome 1: Women, men, boys, and girls have their fundamental rights respected.

In order to achieve this result, the Sector will promote the strengthening of Lebanon's legal framework related to civil documentation, legal residency, security of tenure, and protection against discriminatory measures, arbitrary arrest, and refoulement, as well as respect for the rule of law in the implementation of laws and regulations by public institutions. It will also increase the knowledge of all persons on their rights and ability to access procedures.

Output 1.1: Legal procedures related to civil documentation, legal residency, and security of tenure are inclusive, accessible, and affordable, and are implemented accurately and evenly by the relevant institutions.

The Government of Lebanon and international partners have highlighted, in the Lebanon Partnership Paper, the importance of supporting and upholding the rule of law to preserve the dignified stay of persons displaced from Syria.¹ To achieve this, the Sector will prioritize interventions that help to maintain the protection of persons from both host and displaced communities, and will support the strengthening of a national system that ensures that the rights of all persons of all abilities are respected and fulfilled. This will be done through continuous advocacy to improve the legal framework and enhance the rule of law, and through the capacity-building of relevant institutions.

More specifically, the Protection Sector will enhance

(1) Brussels II Conference (24–25 April 2018), Supporting the future of Syria and the region: Lebanon Partnership Paper, para. 46, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/34145/lebanon-partnership-paper.pdf> [further "Lebanon Partnership Paper"].

efforts to ensure continuous improvement in **access to civil documentation, including birth, marriage, divorce, and death registration**, for persons displaced from Syria and other vulnerable populations.² The Sector will advocate to expand the late birth registration waiver as of 1 January 2021 and for the inclusion of other nationalities, including Lebanese children. The Sector will also advocate for the harmonization and reduction of fees related to obtaining civil documentation. Capacity-building interventions will be conducted to enhance the capacities of local and national institutions to register civil events and deliver documentation, including through support in the form of equipment and staffing to the Personal Status Department. Interventions will be prioritized based on the specific needs of various institutions, on identified knowledge gaps, and on the results of capacity-building activities previously conducted.

The reversal of the downward trend in terms of access to residency is of primary importance.³ Access to legal residency has a critical impact on the overall protection of displaced persons and on their ability to enjoy all basic rights and to access all services. Lack of valid legal residency remains the main reason for arrest and detention both for Syrians and refugees of other nationalities, which may in certain circumstances also put these individuals at risk of deportation. The Lebanon Partnership Paper⁴ will continue to provide strategic direction to the Sector in **fostering legal stay**. The paper points to expanding the fee waiver to all displaced persons to ensure free-of-charge access to legal residency independent of registration status or means of entry. Advocacy for extension of the fee waiver in 2021 is a top priority given that most displaced persons are unable to cover the fees and/or obtain/maintain a sponsor. The paper also outlines the need for enhanced efforts to ensure that the 2017 residency fee waiver is consistently and evenly applied across the General Directorate of the General Security Offices (GSO) in all regions. The Protection Sector will continue to provide financial and technical support to strengthen the GSO's capacities, based on regular assessment of its needs, capacities, and performance in the field in order to roll out tailored, sustainable, and effective capacity-building interventions.

The Protection Sector will continue to engage with the government to promote **protection-sensitive border management**, in line with Lebanon's legal framework and international law, to avoid immigration detention, **to uphold Lebanon's non-refoulement obligations**, and to secure procedural safeguards in case of deportations, including the determination of the best interests of the child and respect for the principle of family unity. Furthermore, and in accordance with the Lebanon Partnership Paper,⁵ the Sector will continue advocating

for the **resumption of UNHCR registration of Syrian refugees**, which will contribute to a fuller understanding of the scale and scope of needs and consequently of the support required. This will also help facilitate **solutions** in the form of resettlement to third countries and the safe, dignified, non-coercive returns of refugees when conditions permit.

The Protection Sector will also continue to **track collective evictions as well as curfews and other restrictive measures targeting specifically refugees**, including at the municipal level. It will work with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, MSA, local authorities and partners **to prevent the application of discriminatory measures and of forced and unlawful evictions** (both individual and collective), including when related to the COVID-19 outbreak and to discrimination.

Output 1.2: Women, men, boys, and girls know and exercise their rights, especially in relation to civil documentation, legal residency and security of tenure

To improve **access to civil documentation**, emphasis will be on raising awareness and disseminating harmonized information to ensure people are able to seek assistance or obtain registration by themselves. Messages will be localized and adapted in consultation with target populations of different ages, gender, and backgrounds to better address the specific challenges and knowledge gaps among different groups, including persons with specific needs. Legal counselling, assistance, and representation will be provided as needed to persons who require additional tailored support. The Protection Sector will also increase efforts to provide information and outreach to all persons of concern on the criteria and procedures used to obtain **legal residency**, as well as legal counselling and assistance including through accompaniment to the General Security Offices.

Tailored awareness-raising activities and legal activities will be guided through regular analysis of the ability of persons displaced from Syria to obtain legal residency, as well as analysis of the evolution of legal, policy, and practical barriers, such as mobility restriction or an increase in associated costs. Standardized information on the importance of securing legal residency and civil documentation, especially birth registration, will be systematically included in all outreach and awareness-raising activities by CP, SGBV, and Protection actors. This will assist in scaling up the number of individuals reached. Youth (especially those between 15 and 17 years due to specific legal requirements)⁶ and women will be particularly targeted, and information sessions will be adapted to address specific misconceptions and concerns among those groups for which the percentage of individuals without legal stay remains particularly high. Inclusive and efficient remote modalities, such as **legal counselling via the phone on simple issues that**

(2) Non-Syrians where relevant will be included in interventions of the Protection sector to ensure that a non-discriminatory and "one refugee" approach is being applied.

(3) In 2020, 80 per cent of displaced Syrians are without residency. Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, 2020.

(4) Lebanon Partnership Paper (April 2018), para. 42.

(5) Lebanon Partnership Paper (April 2018), paras. 44 and 47.

(6) Youth under 18 years can use a civil extract no older than three years as an Identity document. If they obtain the residency based on sponsorship, they are exempted from the legal residency fees.

do not require face-to-face discussion, will be used to address access and mobility challenges, including those related to civil unrest and to restrictive measures in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak.

The Protection Sector will also work closely with the Shelter Sector to address issues related to **security of tenure**, including through **an area-based approach**. This approach aims at ensuring a holistic response to communities' most urgent needs. Priority sites will be identified based on a joint review of needs conducted by the Shelter, WASH, and Protection Sectors that will take into account protection risks, social tensions, and shelter and WASH technical assessments. Safe identification and referral of cases, including persons with specific needs, will be systematically mainstreamed in the approach. It will also consider existing inter-agency standards and the capacities of partners to provide complementary interventions. Information, counselling, and legal assistance in relation to housing, land, and property rights will be provided broadly to individuals, including as part of the area-based approach. These interventions will also be part of prevention and response to evictions in a context where this increasingly represents a major risk to affected populations. In addition to legal mediation and counselling, persons at risk of eviction or who have been evicted due to their inability to pay rent will be supported in close coordination with the Shelter and Livelihood Sectors through the provision of specific assistance. Those who experience aggravated risks due to having to change their shelter arrangements will be prioritized, such as persons with specific needs (including persons with disabilities and older persons) and women and children at risk.

Outcome 2: Women, men, boys, and girls are protected by a strong and accountable system against all risks of violence, exploitation, and abuse

The Protection Sector has observed an increase in neglect, violence, abuse, and exploitation, which has led to a worsening of the child protection and SGBV situation in country. There are high levels of violence against women and children, such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, child marriage and child labour (including its worst forms⁷ and children affected by armed violence), as well as heightened risks of sexual exploitation and abuse. In partnership with the Government of Lebanon, the Sector will continue to support public systems with the development and roll out of strategies and frameworks at the national, regional, and local level to protect all persons, especially those most at risk of violence, exploitation, abuse, or neglect.

Output 2.1. The national protection system and its legal framework are strengthened to better respond to protection concerns of women, girls, men and boys at the national and local levels

(7) ILO Convention No. 182 defines the worst forms of child labour as slavery, debt bondage, prostitution, pornography, forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict, use of children in drug trafficking and other illicit activities, and all other work harmful or hazardous to the health, safety, or morals of girls and boys under 18 years of age.

The Protection Sector will reinforce national SGBV response and child protection systems through close engagement in the development and implementation of the government's **SGBV response and child protection policies and plans**. For Child Protection, this will include advancement of the MEHE's and MoPH's child protection policies and support to MoJ to undertake steps towards children's rights reform. For SGBV response actors, this will entail advancing implementation of the Child Marriage Action Plan with the Higher Council of Childhood and the Ministry of Social Affairs, the national SGBV Standard Operating Procedures, and the National Action Plan 1325 of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security. SGBV response actors will also support the roll out of the national Clinical Management of Rape strategy implemented with MoPH.

Strengthening the commitment, accountability, and national capacity of the social, justice, education and health sectors in Lebanon will promote the sustainability of protection mechanisms through enhanced SGBV response and child protection structures and procedures across the country.

Building on the progress made towards developing policy frameworks for the protection of women and children in Lebanon, the Protection Sector will continue to support MoSA in rolling out its Strategic Plan for the Protection of Women and Children 2020–2026⁸ and to advance the Child Marriage Action Plan, as well as to strengthen the legal and policy framework. Efforts will continue to be made for the amendment of Law 25 of bill 422 on Child Marriage and Law 293 on Family Violence coupled with the provision of quality services for women and boys and girls who are at risk or survivors of violence.

In Palestinian refugee camps, the Protection Sector will work with relevant authorities, including security forces, to improve knowledge of and adherence to these laws. Technical support will continue to be provided to MoJ in order to bring about the necessary legal reform that is relevant to child justice and to provide the needed judicial support to children in contact with the law. The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities will also be supported to integrate child protection standards into their curriculum/resources used by the Internal Security Forces academy to train municipal police. Other line ministries, such as MEHE and MoPH, will also be supported to operationalize and effectively enforce commitments made in 2018 through the MEHE Policy for the Protection of Students in the School Environment and through policy recommendations to MoPH on Strengthening Child Protection Practices in Health Care Institutions and the implementation of national Clinical Management of Rape strategies.

The Sector will also invest in ongoing training and coaching on child protection and SGBV response for case management agencies and relevant government staff to ensure case management and psychosocial support

(8) Part of this strategy is also an element of 'Qudwa', a national social behavioural change and communication plan to prevent child marriage, child labour, and violence against girls, boys, and women that was also launched. The Qudwa initiative is designed to encourage behaviours that promote the well-being, dignity, and equality of women, girls, and boys.

services are provided in a safe and consistent manner, in line with global minimum standards.

Furthermore, this will be further complemented by the continuous use of the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System and the gradual roll out of the new Child Protection Information Management System. The Sector will continue to support the development of harmonized child protection and SGBV response tools and learning resources as well as the mainstreaming of existing guidance and tools, including those on providing remote service delivery to all persons and caregivers, with specific focus on male engagement.

Output 2.2: Known, accessible, and available mechanisms are in place to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)

The Protection Sector will scale up efforts to reduce the risk of SEA for all vulnerable populations, in particular children and persons with disabilities, through adapted awareness-raising interventions **on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) mechanisms**. The Sector will **mitigate the risk of SEA across all interventions**, with a focus on areas of particular concern, such as cash assistance.⁹ Partners will ensure that vulnerable populations are able to access SEA reporting mechanisms through regular and inclusive consultations with communities. **Mechanisms to handle complaints will be strengthened by all organizations and their implementing partners**. Strengthening of PSEA systems will be more systematically integrated into the partnerships of international organizations, with local actors for project implementation. The Sector will address the risk of SEA by providing partners with the relevant guidance and support to mainstream appropriate mechanisms to handle SEA complaints. Links will be made to the Inter-Agency Community-based Complaint and Feedback Mechanism, which is being established under the PSEA network; and efforts will be made to ensure that Codes of Conduct include commitments on PSEA are signed by all partner staff, consultants, volunteers and contractors.

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

The Protection Sector will foster an environment that is safe and empowering for vulnerable populations to enhance their ability to protect themselves, to adapt to the constantly evolving environment, and to recover from the successive shocks. This will be done using a participatory approach to meaningfully engage all persons at the individual and community level. The Sector will continue to strengthen public protection services and to ensure the provision of complementary services by humanitarian actors both in person and through remote modalities to respond to emerging gaps, while ensuring a continuous review and adaptation of tools and guidance for the provision of safe and accessible programming in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak.

(9) Protection Sector Guidance Note on the Use of Cash for Emergency Protection Responses, p. 5.

Community groups will be expanded to allow for the reliable and efficient dissemination of information, and will be further engaged for promoting practices and behaviours that protect children and women.

Output 3.1: Protection, CP, and SGBV services, including mental health and psychosocial services, are available, accessible, and inclusive to all, including persons with specific needs

In addition to strengthening systems, the sector will strive to ensure that all persons, including survivors of violence and persons with specific needs, have access to an integrated package of quality prevention and response services that improve their safety and psychological well-being.

To ensure that all individuals are equally protected, the Sector will prioritize activities that aim to enhance the **delivery of quality and inclusive protection services** to those most at risks or who are marginalized, including women and children at risk, SGBV survivors, persons with disabilities and those discriminated against on the basis of their gender. The Sector will promote equal access to services to all, including to specialized rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. **Disability inclusion mainstreaming** will be ensured through systematic identification of disability using a functional approach¹⁰ (e.g., Washington Group Questions) and through prioritizing interventions based on risk assessments and vulnerability criteria that include disability together with age, gender, and other relevant factors. The adaptation of general services and the systematic inclusion of disability in monitoring to measure access to services will also be critical interventions to ensure an inclusive approach.

Case management will remain the cornerstone for providing individual support and to protect the most vulnerable and at-risk populations, including women and children. Individual case management will be complemented by **focused psychosocial support** (FPSS) group activities that also target women at risk, including SGBV survivors, children, and their caregivers for promoting their safety and empowerment. Services for children will be reinforced through the engagement of their caregivers in FPSS activities and positive parenting sessions. Taken separately, sector-specific programmes can be limited in their effectiveness as the opportunity costs of participation may be high and inaccessible for the family, for instance, when attending FPSS sessions will prevent a child from participating in income-generating activities for some hours to support his or her family. Combining interventions through an **integrated multisectoral package of services** (including cash assistance) is essential to support families facing multiple deprivations and complex issues, such as child labour, child marriage, and violence in the household. Although multidimensional poverty is often the strongest driver of deprivation, other factors such

(10) A functional approach is designed to identify in a comparable manner people with a greater risk than the general population of not participating by collecting information on difficulty performing basic activities.

as strong cultural and social norms, civil or legal status (e.g., child of single mother, migrant worker, stateless person) and disability, also contribute to exacerbating deprivation. Moreover, there is a demonstrated need to maintain both physical and virtual safe spaces for adolescent girls and women to support their safety and empowerment, and to allow them to access information on available services for sexual and reproductive health, mental health and others.

Protection and emergency cash assistance are critical interventions to respond to specific protection risks. In line with the Protection Sector Guidance Note on the Use of Cash for Emergency Protection Response,¹¹ cash will be used to complement sector interventions, often as part of integrated multisectoral packages, and to enhance the capacity of vulnerable populations to cope with shocks. The provision of cash plays a critical role in reducing the risk of individuals and families to resort to adopting **harmful coping mechanisms**. The Protection Sector will continue to work closely with the Basic Assistance and Livelihoods Sectors to increase referrals between sectors, to ensure that persons and families at risk are prioritized and supported adequately based on their needs and capacity, and to enhance the sustainability of interventions. Close cooperation between the Sectors will be reinforced to identify linkages on ability to meet basic needs and protection risks, in particular harmful coping mechanisms. The Sectors will also work closely on joint advocacy to ensure sufficient funding that takes into account the increased vulnerability of all populations and the need for more inclusive livelihoods opportunities. The Protection and Livelihoods Sectors will support advocacy for an inclusive recovery plan that takes into consideration the needs of displaced persons to access safe livelihood opportunities. This will be done with an aim to reduce the vulnerability of displaced persons to exploitation, to mitigate potential dependency on humanitarian aid, and to support their contributions to the local economy.

Emphasis will be on further enhancing access to **mental health** assistance by collaborating closely with the **Health Sector**, the **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Task Force**, and the **National Mental Health Programme**.¹² Provision of remote quality psychosocial support will be reinforced to address access barriers and movement restrictions, in coordination with the Health Sector. Additionally, the safe identification and referral of cases between the Health and Protection Sectors, including at primary health care centres and social development centres as well as from other sectors, will be improved through joint capacity-building initiatives. Psychological first-aid training will also be rolled out in collaboration with the Mental Health Psychosocial Support Task Force and priority Sectors, such as Health,

Shelter, WASH, Food Security and Education, with a specific focus on frontline workers.

Output 3.2: Women, men, boys and girls are enabled to improve their protection, including through strengthened community and family support

The Protection Sector will foster meaningful **engagement with both displaced and host communities across gender, age, nationality, disability and socioeconomic status** throughout the programme cycle. It will partner with local influencers and other community groups and networks, civil society, local leaders, and key gatekeepers. The sector strategy will prioritize the following interventions:

- **Empowerment of displaced and host communities to enhance resilience, inclusion, and participation** and to **reduce social isolation and mitigate inter/intra-communal tensions** that have been magnified by the compounding crises. Access to reliable and timely information is critical for individuals to enjoy their rights and access services. Therefore, the Protection Sector will enhance the dissemination of accessible, accurate, and updated information to all on services and eligibility criteria, and on protection related concerns. Innovative and inclusive outreach modalities will be used to address mobility constraints, access barriers, and other limitations faced by specific groups, including persons with disabilities and older persons. Targeted capacity-building plans based on regular assessment of communities needs and strengths, community-based interventions and social mobilization will be used to support communities and local influencers in the identification and referral of adults and children with protection concerns, and to enhance the inclusion of the most marginalized groups. In addition, the capacity of the community to prevent and respond to community risks and concerns will be further supported. The inclusiveness of community groups will be improved and specific attention will be paid to the inclusion of women, youth and persons with disabilities. Finally, coordination with the Social Stability sector will be strengthened through joint engagement with host and displaced communities, with a specific focus on tension 'hot spots' to reduce tension, create space for positive interactions and enhance positive narratives. The finalization and dissemination of the inter-agency standards for community-based interventions will aim to harmonize and strengthen community engagement approaches within the Protection Sector and then other sectors. These efforts will include the following:
- **Challenging harmful social norms and practices and promoting positive norms and behavioural change** towards protective practices, gender equality (including women empowerment and positive masculinity fostering), disability inclusion, inclusion of socially marginalized groups (including those discriminated against on the basis of

(11) As stated in the Guidance note, "The eligibility criteria for ECA is based on three key cumulative criteria. Are eligible individuals/households who: face a specific protection risk (as a result of a shock or accumulation of factors); and have limited coping mechanisms due to a specific vulnerability (incl. persons with disabilities, older persons at risk, female-headed households); and for whom a one-off payment of cash assistance may address or mitigate a serious and direct harm."

(12) See <https://www.moph.gov.lb/en/Pages/6/553/the-national-mental-health-program>.

their gender), stronger child participation¹³ and engagement of men. The Protection Sector will foster meaningful engagement of communities **in social and behavioural change**, which will contribute to a protective environment for vulnerable groups. Targeted community-based initiatives will be supported to further engage and empower communities, including adolescents and youth, to identify their own child protection/gender-based violence issues and solutions and to find their own 'champions' and role models. The Sector will also aim to stimulate a substantive dialogue within communities around the main drivers leading to harmful traditional practices and violence, such as child labour, child marriage, intimate partner violence, the use of violent discipline and sexual exploitation and abuse. It will continue to promote non-violent approaches to manage relationships within the family and the community, enhancing positive parenting skills, and building resilience to deal with the stressful consequences linked to the protracted nature of displacement. This will allow the Sector to capitalize on community allies, including men and boys, to challenge harmful social norms and promote behavioural change and gender equality.

- **Strengthening accountability of local institutions and service providers vis-à-vis affected people.** This will be done by promoting an open dialogue with communities on protection risks and needs by encouraging feedback on programmatic interventions and modalities, including remote modalities, through adapted and inclusive complaint and feedback mechanisms to inform design and delivery of services; and by fostering the development of contextualized, effective, and sustainable solutions with the communities. Efforts will be made to ensure that these mechanisms are designed in consultation with all groups and are appropriate for and accessible to all vulnerable populations, including persons with specific needs, such as persons with disability, older persons, women at risk, and children.

Output 3.3: Displaced persons from Syria have access to durable solutions

To ensure the protection of displaced Syrians, it is essential that they are able to access and make free and informed decisions on durable solutions. In that respect, "the Government of Lebanon and its international partners reiterated that the main durable solution for Syrian refugees in Lebanon is their safe, dignified and non-coercive return to their country of origin, in accordance with international law and the principle of non-refoulement."¹⁴ The Protection Sector will provide basic counselling, and will support displaced persons who have decided to return to Syria to assist them to re-establish

themselves and to access basic services upon return. The Sector will continue to advocate that discussions on plans to return take into account protection thresholds.¹⁵ At the same time, the identification of persons displaced from Syrians with compelling protection needs and their referral to resettlement or other humanitarian admission programmes will be strengthened; and the Sector will also advocate for increased opportunities in line with the Lebanon Partnership Paper,¹⁶ as these remain limited.

Identification of sector needs and targets at the individual, institutional, and geographical level

Services and activities supported by protection partners will focus on all persons with immediate legal or physical protection needs or for whom protection risks are exacerbated due to their age, gender, disability, or other diversity background. Categorical targeting will be completed by need assessment to ensure a thorough identification of vulnerabilities for each individual and family in need. The Sector will also target communities across nationalities to enhance empowerment, participation and social stability. Targets are set based on needs identified at the onset of the LCRP and have been adjusted to reflect increased needs based on the 2020 protection monitoring results, the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon and other key surveys, as well as continuous exchanges with partners on gaps.

National and local institutions will be targeted for capacity-building, namely government institutions that manage the border and those that are responsible for civil documentation, legal residency permits, and law enforcement, such as General Security Offices, the Internal Security Forces (ISF) and the Lebanese Armed Forces. Also targeted will be the Personal Status Department, local civil society actors, the Ministry of Social Affairs, social development centres that are used for child protection services and safe spaces for survivors of violence, the ISF academy and the municipal police under the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities. Legal aid systems will be reinforced for the more vulnerable through close engagement with the MoJ, the courts, and the bar associations. Health facilities will receive capacity-building and training on clinical management of rape in collaboration with the MoPH and the Clinical Management of Rape Taskforce under the national Clinical Management of Rape strategy. Institutions will be prioritized based on capacities, needs, and the results of previous capacity-building initiatives. Partnerships will be encouraged over one-off interventions to foster a comprehensive, effective, and durable approach to capacity-building.

(13) This, for instance, will be achieved through positive parenting sessions, encouraging role models and positive alternatives, and psychosocial support activities for adolescent girls addressing child marriage.

(14) Lebanon Partnership Paper (April 2018), para. 41.

(15) Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategy: Protection Thresholds and Parameters for Refugee Return to Syria (2018, UNHCR).

(16) Lebanon Partnership Paper (April 2018), para. 47.

Assumptions and Risks

The Protection Sector will operate based on three assumptions in 2021:

- Despite the fragile political situation and deteriorated socioeconomic conditions, **the Government of Lebanon along with its local level structures/ municipalities**, will continue to provide and facilitate access to essential protection services (such as legal residency, civil documentation, and enforcement of law to better protect women, girls, and boys against CP and GBV concerns), while continuing to facilitate the work of humanitarian actors to provide quality and impartial assistance to all vulnerable individuals in Lebanon.
- The **social context will remain relatively stable and safe**, with social tensions remaining contained and with only minor incidents that can be safely mitigated through programmatic adaptations (similar to adaptations made during COVID-19 lockdowns) **and** complemented through **engagement in community-based protection initiatives** that are inclusive to all.
- **Lebanon continues to be prioritized by the donor community** and sufficient aid is allocated to protection programmes in line with the increased need to continue supporting the most vulnerable people in Lebanon, including displaced Syrian and Palestinian refugees and other population groups

The main risk is that the deterioration of the country's socioeconomic and political situation will further exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, contributing to negative coping mechanisms, including dangerous onwards movements. Another risk is that social tensions could further escalate, leading to an increase in inter/intra-communal disputes, security incidents, and increased harassment of refugees. This could also limit the mobility of vulnerable populations and service providers, including hampering their access to protection and basic services. This will be mitigated through the regular review of preparedness and contingency plans at the inter-agency level.

Considering the impact of COVID-19 on the global economy, funding may be reduced, resulting in a higher level of basic needs being unmet and leading to protection needs being increasingly deprioritized while violence within the household and at the community level continue to increase. Those with specific needs could more easily fall through the cracks. One key mitigation measure in that regard will be to continue advocacy efforts. Limitation in in-person delivery of services due to safety measures will be addressed through innovative service provision modalities.

In general, in order to mitigate these risks the Protection Sector will ensure proper targeting and prioritization through a comprehensive and integrated/multisectoral approach tailored to the needs of people with protection risks; programme adjustments; and the introduction of new approaches, including remote modalities, that are

inclusive and accessible as well as adapted to the country situation. This will be possible through continuous collaboration with other sectors – namely the Social Stability Sector for monitoring and addressing tensions; and the Basic Assistance, Food Security, Shelter, Health and Livelihood Sectors for enhancing referrals for a comprehensive and timely response. The Protection Sector will also continue to advocate for sufficient funding for the sector and its programmes.

Partnerships

In partnership with the Government of Lebanon, the Protection sector will continue to support the **strengthening of national, regional, and local community systems** to protect all individuals who are most at risk of violence, exploitation, abuse or neglect. A holistic approach for engaging different stakeholders and establishing partnerships will continue to be applied, mainly through **civil society organizations (both national and international) and UN agencies**, accompanied by stronger engagement with the government and line ministries, in particular the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, and in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. In addition, the sector will continue to engage local authorities, social development centres, informal and community-based structures and civil society. The sector will increase coordination with all other sectors, in particular on safe identification and referrals and the monitoring and analysis of the protection environment.

Mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity, gender, persons with disabilities, youth, and environment

The Protection Sector will incorporate protection mainstreaming principles across the 2021 response plan. It will foster the mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity and will ensure that specific attention is paid to gender, youth, persons with disabilities, and environment in its interventions. The Sector will also continue to provide technical support at the inter-sector level to pursue **protection mainstreaming** actions, and to other sectors to strengthen the systematic identification of protection risks and the implementation of mitigation measures within their sectoral interventions.

Conflict sensitivity

The conflict sensitivity and 'do no harm' principles are a core tenet of protection programming. Protection partners develop activities based on a thorough analysis of the protective environment, including the threats, coping capacities, and vulnerabilities of the communities in which they work. Identified pre-existing individual and community-level coping strategies are built upon, and efforts are taken to avoid undermining positive coping capacities within the community and to avoid causing unintended harm. This is one of the fundamental

principles underpinning a community-based protection approach. At the same time, opportunities will be sought to contribute positively to social stability, while complying fully with humanitarian principles. Protection programming partners will undertake, and programming will be closely informed by, appropriate tensions monitoring and conflict sensitivity analysis, in a context where tensions related to perceived bias in aid provision are increasingly a source of tensions. Coordination with the Social Stability Sector will be enhanced to ensure that regular tensions monitoring and protection risks analysis are used to develop joint guidance and tools in order to support other sectors.

Gender

Protection risks that pose barriers to equitable access for individuals to protection programming – including socially marginalized groups, in particular those discriminated against on the basis of their gender and people with disabilities – will be identified and addressed through enhanced analysis of risks within the Protection Sector. This is required to ensure that programming remains gender-responsive, does not reinforce existing stereotypes, and that it considers the different risks, perspectives, barriers, and opportunities these groups face. Existing gender norms, including entrenched masculinity models, will be more systematically assessed and consistently addressed to ensure that the Sector tackles gender dynamics that are the root causes of some of the most complex protection issues, such as child marriage. The Sector will promote the inclusion of gender mainstreaming and targeted action for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in all protection mainstreaming activities, building on the existence of the pool of certified protection mainstreaming trainers in the operation.

Efforts will be made to ensure that gender, ability, and age-specific perspectives are systematically reflected in assessment and monitoring exercise through separate consultations with all demographic groups. The Sector will continue to promote the collection and analysis of gender, age, and disability disaggregated data through all sectors.

The roll out of the 2015 IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action¹⁷ was initiated in 2017 across seven key sectors of the Lebanon response to support them in the implementation of effective risk mitigation measures in their programming. Specific action plans have been developed and the capacity strengthened for safe identification and referrals of sexual and gender-based violence survivors by partners, including governmental institutions, as well as communities. The Protection Sector will coordinate with the relevant technical sectors to enhance ownership and implementation of work plans.

Persons with disabilities

As indicated in the strategy above, the Protection Sector will continue to enhance inclusivity of programmes and ensure that barriers – environmental, attitudinal, institutional, and communication – to the full access and participation of persons with disabilities are removed through capacity-building and programme adjustment. Persons with disabilities and their caregivers will be more systematically consulted and their contributions will be reflected in programme design, implementation, and monitoring. The inter-agency mapping of services¹⁸ will be regularly reviewed to ensure that specialized services for persons with specific needs are identified, strengthened, and included in referral pathways. The Sector will also actively promote the use of contextually appropriate and verifiable data collection tools in the Protection and other sectors as well as through inter-sectoral tools. This will allow for greater identification, better understanding of barriers to services and for humanitarian activities being equitable for all. Close coordination with other sectors will be fostered to promote the accessibility of all services across sectors to persons with disabilities, including through the development and dissemination of adapted guidance.¹⁹

Youth

Protection activities and programmes will be adapted following consultations to ensure that the distinctive needs, concerns, and expectations of youth, including those with disabilities, are considered, and their active participation in tailored community-based interventions is promoted. Where possible, programmes will include youth in community groups. Child protection and SGBV programmes will support high-risk adolescent girls, boys and adolescents to be engaged in activities to prevent and respond to such risks and protection concerns. As described in the above strategy, the Protection Sector will engage with other sectors, such as Education, Livelihoods, and Health, to promote the inclusion of youth in their activities, including through targeted outreach for youth who do not benefit from public health services because they are out of school.

Environment

Given the implication of environment-related issues on protection risks, including in terms of the threat of collective evictions and community tensions, the Protection Sector will increasingly coordinate with the WASH Sector and the Solid Waste Management Task Force to enhance communications and the inclusion of protection criteria in the prioritization of the sites to be supported. The Sector will also support the dissemination of environment and hygiene related messages to communities through community-based activities, as well as the inclusion of environmental considerations in programmes related to social behaviour change.

(18) See <http://ialebanon.unhcr.org/ServiceMapping/index.html>.

(19) Such as IASC (2019), Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, and DG ECHO (2019), The Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in EU-funded Humanitarian Aid Operations.

(17) See <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/working-group/iasc-guidelines-integrating-gender-based-violence-interventions-humanitarian-action>.



Two beneficiaries reading and coloring in their new booklets that Himaya distributed during the lockdown. The booklets include games and activities about COVID-19, children rights, and more.

Photo Credits: Himaya, 04/2020.

Total sector needs and targets in 2021

Population Cohorts	Total Population	Total Population in Need	Total Population Targeted	Total Population Targeted			
				#		%	
				Female	Male	Female	Male
Lebanese	3,864,296	1,500,000	336,000	174,720	161,280	52%	48%
Displaced Syrians	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	780,000	720,000	52%	48%
Palestinian Refugees from Syria	27,700	27,700	27,700	14,404	13,296	52%	48%
Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon	180,000	180,000	20,000	10,400	9,600	52%	48%
GRAND TOTAL	5,571,996	3,207,700	1,883,700	979,524	904,176	52%	0

Type of institution	Total	# Targeted
Municipalities	1,005	249
Primary health care centres	102	35
Secondary health care centres/Hospitals	153	25
Schools	n/a	n/a
Water establishments	n/a	n/a
Social development centres	233	57
Central ministries	23	6

Sector Logframe

Outcome 1: Women, men, boys and girls have their fundamental rights respected;

Indicator 1A	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of persons with legal stay	Percentage of persons who have legal residency, out of the total displaced Syrian population. This indicator will be disaggregated by age group, sex and disability	VASyR	Percentage	Yearly



Displaced Syrians

Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021
26%	22%	40%

Indicator 1B	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of children born in Lebanon whose birth is registered at the Nofous level	Percentage of children (0-5 years) born in Lebanon whose birth is registered at the level of the Nofous. This indicator will be disaggregated by sex.	VASyR	Percentage	Yearly



Displaced Syrians

Baseline	Result 2019	Result 2020	Target 2021
36%	48%	N/A	50%

Indicator 1C	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of children born in Lebanon whose birth is registered at the Foreigners' Registry level	Percentage of children (aged 0-5 years) born in Lebanon whose birth is registered at the level of the Foreigners' Registry (Personal Status Department). This indicator will be disaggregated by sex.	VASyR	Percentage	Yearly



Displaced Syrians

Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021
17%	30%	40%

Indicator 1D	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of households who have moved accommodation in the last 6 months due to eviction	Percentage of households who have moved accommodation in the last 6 months due to eviction. This indicator will be disaggregated by age group, sex and disability.	VASyR	Percentage	Yearly







Displaced Syrians





Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021
3%	15%	2.8%

Outcome 2: Women, men, boys and girls are protected by a strong and accountable system against all risks of violence, exploitation and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), violence against children, sexual abuse and exploitation (SEA)

Indicator2A	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of children aged 2-14 who experienced violent disciplinary practices	"UNICEF Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey Indicator 8.3 Numerator = Number of children age 2-14 years who experienced psychological aggression or physical punishment during the last one month Denominator = Total number of children age 1-14 years"	MICS 2018 & 2021	Percentage	Every 2 years


 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021	Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021	Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021	Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021
57%	N/A	51%	65%	N/A*	45%	77%	N/A	45%	82%	N/A	45%

Indicator2B	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of women and girls aged 15-49 who state that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife	Standard MICS indicator used to assess the attitudes of women age 15-49 towards wife beating by asking the respondents whether husbands are justified to hit or beat their wives in a variety of situations, including (i) goes out without telling him, (ii) neglects the children, (iii) argues with him, (iv) refuses sex with him, and (v) burns the food. The purpose of these questions are to capture the social justification of violence (in contexts where women have a lower status in society) as a disciplinary action when a woman does not comply with certain expected gender roles. By 2018, a reduction of 12% of the baseline in targeted communities is expected. By 2020, a reduction of 20% in targeted communities is expected.	MICS 2018 & 2021	Percentage	Every 2 years

 Lebanese			 Displaced Syrians			 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			 Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021	Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021	Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021	Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021
6%	N/A	5%	10%	N/A	8%	5%	N/A	4%	11%	N/A	9%

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

Indicator3A	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of persons referred provided with services	Percentage of persons referred, provided with services under the categories of the Inter-Agency Referral Database, e.g.: Legal, Persons with Specific Needs, etc.), and whose cases were successfully closed. This indicator will be disaggregated by age group, sex and disability	"Inter-Agency Tracking System through ActivityInfo= [Referrals accepted and successfully closed, all sectors] / [Total referrals to all sectors]"	Percentage	quarterly

 Displaced Syrians		
Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021
34%	30%	40%

*UNICEF data forthcoming in 2020. However, VASyR 2019 results indicate that 2.6% of children aged 5 to 17 are engaged in child labour and 3.8% children aged 6-17 reported working in the past 7 days.

Indicator3B	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Number of persons benefitting from resettlement or other humanitarian pathways	Number of persons who have benefitted from resettlement or other humanitarian admission programmes procedures who have departed. This indicator will be disaggregated by age group, sex and disability.	Progress reports	Individuals	quarterly



Displaced Syrians

Baseline	Result 2020	Target 2021
7,771	7,442	12,000

Indicator3C	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of children aged 5-17 engaged in child labour	"UNICEF Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey Indicator 8.2 Numerator = Number of children age 5-17 years who are involved in child labour Denominator = Total number of children age 5-17 years"	MICS 2018 & 2021	Percentage	Every 2 years

Lebanese			Displaced Syrians			Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021	Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021	Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021	Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021
6%	N/A	4%	7%	N/A*	4.5%	4%	N/A	3.5%	5%	N/A	4.5%

Indicator3D	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of children (boys and girls) who reported an improvement in their psychosocial well-being as measured through the SDQ	Children (who are enrolled in PSS programmes) who report and increase in their well-being based on SDQ carried out in PSS activities.	SDQ administered in PSS programmes	Percentage	Semi-annual

Total

Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021
45%	32%	80%

Indicator3E	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of women (20-24) married before 18	Standard MICS indicator on Child Marriage targeting women aged 20-24 married before age 18. The indicator will be measured every two years. By 2018, a reduction of 12% of the baseline in targeted communities is expected. By 2020, a reduction of 20% in targeted communities is expected.	MICS 2018, 2021	Percentage	every 2 years

Lebanese			Displaced Syrians			Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)			Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)		
Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021	Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021	Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021	Baseline	Result 2019	Target 2021
6%	N/A**	5%	41%	N/A***	32.8%	25%	N/A	20%	12%	N/A	10%

**The CAS LFHLC survey 2018-2019: 0.4% of men and 7% of women aged 15-18 are married. LFHLC survey covers the population of Lebanon living only in residential dwellings and excludes persons living in non-residential units, such as construction and agriculture sites, shops, stores, factories, unfinished buildings, army barracks, refugee camps or adjacent gatherings and settlements, and so on.

***UNICEF data forthcoming in 2021. However, VASyR 2019 results indicate that 27% of Syrian females between ages 15 and 19 are married.