



UNITED NATIONS  
LEBANON



# 2019 UN LEBANON ANNUAL REPORT



August 2020

Cover photo: © A farmer in their field, East Zahleh. UNDP Lebanon, 2019

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ACRONYMS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>KEY DEVELOPMENTS</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Political</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Economic</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Peace and Security</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Humanitarian</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>RESULTS OF DELIVERING AS ONE</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Priority 1: All people in Lebanon have peace and security</b> .....	<b>19</b>
1.1 Strengthening territorial integrity & security .....	20
1.2 Equipping Lebanese authorities for better internal security, law, and order .....	21
1.3 Promoting peace, and preventing, mitigating, and managing conflict at municipal & local level .....	22
<b>Priority 2: Lebanon enjoys domestic stability and practices effective governance</b> .....	<b>24</b>
2.1 Improved performance of institutions and promoting participation & accountability .....	25
2.2 State has institutionalized mechanisms for enhanced protection of human rights, rule of law, and access to justice .....	26
2.3 Improving the legal status of women and girls, eliminating gender-based violence, and promoting gender equality .....	30
<b>Priority 3: Lebanon reduces poverty and promotes sustainable development while   addressing immediate needs in a human rights/gender sensitive manner</b> .....	<b>32</b>
3.1 Strengthening the productive sectors to promote inclusive growth and local development, especially in the most disadvantaged areas.....	33
3.2. Improving equitable access to and delivery of quality social services, social protection .....	36
3.3 Strengthening environmental governance .....	43

<b>RESULTS OF COMMUNICATING AS ONE</b> .....	<b>46</b>
<b>RESULTS OF OPERATING AS ONE</b> .....	<b>48</b>
<b>Procurement</b> .....	<b>49</b>
<b>Information Communications Technology (ICT)</b> .....	<b>49</b>
<b>Facilities</b> .....	<b>49</b>
<b>Human Resources (HR)</b> .....	<b>50</b>
<b>Logistics</b> .....	<b>50</b>
<b>Finance</b> .....	<b>51</b>
<b>FINANCIAL OVERVIEW</b> .....	<b>52</b>
<b>Overall International Support to Lebanon</b> .....	<b>53</b>
<b>Funding under the United Nations Strategic Framework</b> .....	<b>53</b>

**[Annex: UNSF progress against results](#)** *hyperlink*

# ACRONYMS

<b>ABLN</b>	Adapted BLN
<b>ALI</b>	Association of Lebanese Industrialists
<b>ALP</b>	Accelerated Learning Program
<b>BdL</b>	Banque du Liban
<b>BLN</b>	Basic Literacy and Numeracy
<b>Basic</b>	
<b>BOS</b>	Business Operations Strategy
<b>BT</b>	Baccalaureate Technique
<b>CAS</b>	Central Administration of Statistics
<b>CPT</b>	Committee for the Prevention of Torture
<b>CB-ECE</b>	Community Based Early Childhood Education
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<b>CEDRE</b>	Conférence économique pour le développement, par les réformes et avec les entreprises
<b>CGTL</b>	General Confederation of Lebanese Workers
<b>CIPS</b>	Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply
<b>CMR</b>	Clinical Management of Rape
<b>CoM</b>	Council of Ministers
<b>CPI</b>	Consumer Price Index
<b>CPM</b>	Centre for Professional Mediation
<b>CRC</b>	Committee on the Rights of the Child
<b>CRI</b>	Core Relief Item
<b>CSO</b>	Civil society organizations
<b>DTP3</b>	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis
<b>EMIS</b>	Education Management Information System
<b>ESC</b>	Employment Service Center
<b>ESCWA</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
<b>EWARS</b>	Early Warning, Alert and Response System
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GAP</b>	Good Agricultural Practices

<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence
<b>GDP</b>	Gross domestic product
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GS</b>	General Security
<b>GSO</b>	General Security Office
<b>GoL</b>	Government of Lebanon
<b>HACT</b>	Finance and Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
<b>IBM</b>	Integrated Border Management
<b>ICCPR</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>INGO</b>	International Non-Governmental Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>ISF</b>	Internal Security Forces
<b>ISG</b>	International Support Group
<b>LAF</b>	Lebanese Armed Forces
<b>LFHLCS</b>	Labour Force and Household Living Conditions Survey
<b>LTA</b>	Long-term agreement
<b>MCH</b>	Maternal and child health care
<b>MEHE</b>	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
<b>MoIM</b>	Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
<b>MoPH</b>	Ministry of Public Health
<b>MoSA</b>	Ministry of Social Affairs
<b>MSME</b>	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise
<b>MSS</b>	Mechanisms for Social Stability
<b>MW</b>	Megawatts
<b>NAM</b>	Needs Assessment Mission
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NCLW</b>	National Commission for Lebanese Women
<b>NCVT</b>	National Centre for Vocational Training

<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contribution
<b>NHRC</b>	National Human Rights Commission
<b>NFE</b>	Non-formal education
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>NMRF</b>	National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up
<b>NPTP</b>	National Poverty Targeting Programme
<b>NSSF</b>	National Social Security Fund
<b>NYP</b>	National Youth Policy
<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>ODS</b>	Ozone Depleting Substances
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>PEP</b>	Post-exposure prophylaxis
<b>PHC</b>	Primary Healthcare Center
<b>PMO</b>	Prime Minister's Office
<b>PRC</b>	Palestine refugee camps
<b>PRL</b>	Palestine refugees from Lebanon
<b>PRS</b>	Palestine refugees from Syria
<b>PSS</b>	Psycho-social support
<b>PVE</b>	Preventing Violent Extremism
<b>PWD</b>	People with Disabilities
<b>QUDWA</b>	The Social Behavioral Change & Communication Plan
<b>SAR</b>	Syrian Arab Republic
<b>SARI</b>	Severe acute respiratory infections
<b>SDC</b>	Social Development Center
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SEA</b>	Sexual Exploitation & Abuse
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedure
<b>SSNP</b>	Social Safety Net Programme
<b>STL</b>	Special Tribunal for Lebanon
<b>TIP</b>	Trafficking in persons
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of reference
<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>TS</b>	Technique Supérieur
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>U.S.</b>	United States

<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNIC</b>	United Nations Information Centre
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children's Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNIFIL</b>	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>UNRCO</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
<b>UNRWA</b>	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
<b>UNSCOL</b>	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>UNSF</b>	UN Strategic Framework
<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>USD</b>	United States dollar
<b>USJ</b>	University of Saint Joseph
<b>VASyR</b>	Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees
<b>VAT</b>	Value-added tax
<b>WAN</b>	Wide Area Network
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
<b>WBG</b>	World Bank Group
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Program
<b>WGEID</b>	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WSP</b>	Water Safety Planning
<b>YBLN</b>	Youth literacy and numeracy

# FOREWORD



2019 marked a turning point for Lebanon, witnessing the start of a financial and economic crisis, and the resignation of a 10-month-old Cabinet in October following unprecedented, civil, and frustration-fueled protests around the country calling for economic and social reforms.

The 2019 UN Lebanon Annual Report showcases a joint effort by the United Nations (UN), the Government of Lebanon, and local and international partners to provide a better quality of life. The UN has contributed to strengthening domestic security and law and order; assisted in enhancing the capacities of institutions; and worked towards improving the legal status of women and girls and promoting gender equality. Also, the UN focused on developmental and structural challenges pre-dating the Syria crisis while mitigating the impact of it by providing humanitarian and stabilization support to the most vulnerable in the water, health, education, and protection sectors, among others.

The UN would not have been able to achieve these results without the engagement and collaboration of the Lebanese Government and its local and international partners.

2020 will be an even more challenging year for Lebanon considering the global health pandemic, coupled with the financial, economic, humanitarian, and political crises Lebanon is facing. The UN remains committed to provide its comprehensive support to the country so that Lebanon can recover and resume progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development while ensuring no one is left behind.

Building on the 2019 achievements, I expect a stronger partnership in 2020 to deliver better together, especially during such tough times for Lebanon. Going forward, this means we must pursue new ways of working together with our partners to ensure a greater impact and transformational change in the lives of the people in Lebanon.

**Claudio Cordone**

*United Nations Resident Coordinator  
for Lebanon ad interim*



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The 2019 UN Annual Report provides an overview of the efforts and achievements of the UN in Lebanon during 2019. UN efforts were guided by the UN Strategic Framework (UNSF), which covers the 2017-21 period and outlines three core priorities: 1) peace and security; 2) domestic stability and effective governance; and 3) reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development.

In 2019, with these core priorities and \$1.04 billion USD in resources, the UN and its partners were able to partly meet the basic needs of vulnerable Lebanese and refugees, and to support and strengthen the capacity of the Government of Lebanon (GoL) towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since the onset of the UNSF in 2017, the UN has monitored that Lebanon's borders are safer, with zero detection of Lebanon-Syria border incidents, and more municipalities are able to address social tensions and resolve disputes. Under the second core priority, 10,600 irregularities were observed according to international standards during the Parliamentary elections; the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) were set up; the historic National Action Plan (NAP) to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security was developed and endorsed; and almost 50% of refugee newborn babies had their birth registered with Lebanese authorities. Under the third core priority, the Manufacturing and Agriculture shares were reported as 7.2% and 3% of the gross domestic product (GDP), respectively.

In the following page you will find some results of UN efforts in 2019.

---





Fisherman from Jiyeh Port the latter which benefited from the rehabilitation of a fish market and facilities, and the former from a training program for fishermen cooperative, Jiyeh. UNDP Lebanon, 2019.


# PRIORITY 1

## PEACE AND SECURITY

 FUNDS RECEIVED: \$6.3 MILLION USD

 The expansion and sustainment of international assistance towards the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and Internal Security Forces' (ISF) Capability Development Plan and Strategic Plan, respectively, supported


 Assisted the development of the Human Rights Code of Conduct for the LAF, ensuring human rights principles are integrated in security forces


 Improved the capacity of Lebanese prison authorities to respond to violent extremism: five detention facilities improved to manage violent extremist prisoners, and ten capacity building programs provided to prison staff, social workers, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on preventing violent extremism


# PRIORITY 2

## DOMESTIC STABILITY AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

 FUNDS RECEIVED: \$14.4 MILLION USD

 Generated quality and timely data with the Central Administration of Statistics' (CAS) Labour Force and Household Living Conditions Survey (LFH LCS), which was conducted with UN support. This survey is the first of its kind to produce estimates at a district (caza) level.


 More than 35,000 young people were empowered through improving their skills and knowledge on health, family planning, relationships, career paths, gender equality, and leadership.


 More than 85,000 people benefited from legal aid so they could obtain legal residency and civil documentation; protection from refoulement and detention; address exploitation and abuse (including evictions, trafficking of human beings, human rights violation, and harassment); access to family and labor law; and access to nationality and documentation for stateless people.


# PRIORITY 3


## REDUCING POVERTY AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT


 FUNDS RECEIVED: \$1.02 BILLION USD


 Production capacity of 1,900 small-scale farmers improved through grants for land reclamation and attending farm business schools.


 6,000 vulnerable people benefited from short-term income-generating activities that fortified agricultural and forest infrastructure.


 170 cooperatives (80% of which were women-led), five women associations, and 240 Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) assisted to export products, scale up production, enhance access to financial institutions, and strengthen quality and hygiene standards.


 40,956 people, including 29,333 young people, were trained in basic numeracy and literacy, and participated in technical, vocational and marketable skills training courses.


 PHCs provided free vaccinations for all children who are under five years old residing in Lebanon.


 300,000 people gained better access to water, and more than 300,000 people gained access to sanitation through delivered water and wastewater services via the regional Water Establishments.


 Enrollment of 425,516 children supported for the 2018-2019 scholastic year, including 219,455 vulnerable Lebanese children and 206,061 refugee children


 More than 40,000 children and women who are at-risk or are violence, abuse and exploitation survivors, including Lebanese, displaced Syrians, and Palestine refugees., assisted with professional services and support


 The pension system was assessed, and an actuarial variation for private sector workers was conducted, in consultation with the Government of Lebanon and key stakeholders. The assessment would replace the present end-of-service indemnity.

 12,900 vulnerable Lebanese households were provided with food assistance through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP).

 55,440 displaced Syrians households and 27,119 Palestine refugees from Syria provided with multi-purpose cash each month to cover their survival needs

 0.586mW capacity of on-grid and off-grid solar panels were installed in locations around the country.

 520 hectares of land were reforested and afforested.

 Solid waste management was expanded or improved in 44 municipalities, including sorting waste at the source, reducing waste collection cost, and improving waste collection practices.

The UN continued its efforts on working **operationally** better together, with more than 20 UN entities present in the country, to deliver its programs more efficiently, avoid duplication of work, and to obtain the best value for the money. These efforts have resulted in using common premises in sub-regional offices, establishing a roster for drivers for all UN agencies, and piloting a carpooling project.

In terms of **communication**, the United Nations in Lebanon was able to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its largest and longest communication campaign, #TakeAStep, which is a national call to action, encouraging individuals in Lebanon to make a positive change in their communities. The campaign reached a recorded total of 13.6 million impressions and 2.8 million online engagements.

# KEY DEVELOPMENTS



## POLITICAL

2019 was a tumultuous year in Lebanon, seeing both the establishment and resignation of the Government; heightened tensions with Israel; and, towards the end of the year, a rapidly deepening economic and financial and social crisis, and the emergence of popular protests demanding political, economic and social reforms.

After a nine-month Government formation process, on January 31, Prime Minister Saad Hariri announced on a national unity Government comprising 30 Ministers, including four women, with one as Minister of Interior. On February 15, under a "Let's get to work!" motto, his Cabinet won Parliament's vote of confidence to embark on an ambitious reform agenda to address the country's increasingly pressing economic, fiscal, and social challenges. The prolonged negotiations over Government formation stalled Lebanon's implementation of its reform committed at the Conférence économique pour le développement, par les réformes et avec les entreprises (CEDRE) in April 2018. In April, the Cabinet approved a 10-year electricity policy that combined a short-term solution for the provision of electricity with a longer-term plan for continuous electricity supply by 2020 (passed into law by Parliament on April 17). There was no or very limited implementation of this law and other critical reforms requiring executive and legislative action.

Faced with a deteriorating economy and one of the highest debt-to-GDP ratios globally, the Cabinet took considerable time to formulate the 2019 State Budget, which was ratified by Parliament on July 19, nearly seven months after the constitutional deadline. Anticipated austerity measures provoked peaceful protests from public and private sector employees, including retired military and security personnel, during the budget approval process.

Indicative of larger political and sectarian matters challenging the country, on June 30, a violent altercation between rival political blocs in Mount Lebanon caused the death of two people; and heightened sectarian and political tensions, the fall out ceasing the Cabinet's work until August 9, when President Aoun oversaw a reconciliation meeting with the affected parties.

In October, popular frustration mounted, first directed at the Government's inability to effectively respond to the unprecedented wildfires that swept the country, which soon boiled over into protests when the Government announced plans for a tax on Internet-based free phone services as part of austerity measures under discussion for the 2020 State Budget. On October 17, nationwide protests erupted as a cross-section of Lebanese society demanded Government change, just reforms, good governance, accountability for corruption, better management of the economy, the end of sectarian patronage, gender equality, and early parliamentary elections.

In response to the protests, Prime Minister Hariri revised the proposed budget, promised no new taxes and additional support for the most vulnerable. However, trust in the Government's ability to implement reforms and deliver much needed services was broken, and under the slogan, "All of them means all of them," the protest movement continued to press for the removal of the political establishment. As pressure continued to mount, the Cabinet approved the 2020 budget and committed to a package of long-stalled reforms. On October 29, Prime Minister Hariri announced his resignation.

As a result of the protests, schools and many businesses closed, and the municipal by-elections, originally scheduled for October 27, were postponed until further notice. Banks closed for two weeks in October amidst growing concerns by the population over their deposits and economic well-being. An attempt by Parliament to convene and discuss several draft laws and amendments, including those on anti-corruption, the establishment of a special court for financial crimes, and a controversial "general amnesty law," was thwarted by protestors who blocked the entrances to the Parliament. Numerous members of Parliament showed solidarity with the protestors and boycotted the session, which was ultimately postponed due to a lack of quorum. While the protests were overall peaceful, the use of roadblocks heightened tensions, which resulted in escalations with the ISF and the intervention of the LAF. Throughout the protests, women played a leading role in deescalating tensions and preserving the non-violent character of the movement.

Meanwhile, political negotiations over sectarian allocations, and the size and nature of the Government, significantly delayed the holding of binding parliamentary consultations to designate the next Prime Minister, while many protestors continued to reject such a politicized approach. As a solution remained elusive, there were increasing signs of politicization of the protests, resulting in a marked increase in street violence and clashes between demonstrators, often requiring increased deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces. Lebanese officials as well as the international community emphasized the importance of protecting the right to peaceful protest while maintaining law and order.

On December 19, President Aoun conducted the binding consultations, which led to the designation of Hassan Diab, a former education minister, as the country's new Prime Minister. On January 21, 2020, Prime Minister Diab announced the formation of a new Government, which comprises 20 members, including six women, one who is Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense.

## ECONOMIC

The Lebanese economy faced increasingly challenging conditions in 2019. In addition to the persistent and major economic and social impact of the Syria crisis, the structural imbalances in the economy worsened, which badly affected the operating environment. Main concerns in 2019 were the tightening of liquidity and an



emerging dollar shortage, felt by both consumers and importers. As of the second quarter, imports of basic goods, such as fuel and wheat, were threatened by low access to foreign currency. Banks set restrictions on and started limiting foreign currency withdrawals. The Central Bank (BdL) suspended the much-demanded subsidized residential real estate loan programme as financial resources dried up.

In this challenging environment, growth faltered further across the economy. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined sharply by 6.9% in 2019 (compared to a decrease of 1.9% in 2018). The construction and real estate sectors, important drivers of the economy, crashed as a consequence of decrease in demand and decrease in investments. Agriculture, industry and tourism were in survival mode, and as the year went by, witnessed an increasing number of company closures. Rather than creation of new jobs, there was an increase in layoffs and a deterioration in working conditions. Unemployment, 11.4% in 2018, continued to increase, especially among women and young adults, particularly new graduates.

In the third quarter of 2019, the US dollar was no longer accessible through banks at the official rate of LBP 1,515 per US dollar. Consequently and from October on, the unofficial exchange rate soared on the exchange market

to reach LBP 2,200 per US dollar in December 2019, losing 31% of its value. However, the official exchange remained LBP 1,515 per US dollar through the year end.

Consumer prices rose by 3.2% year-on-year through November, mainly as a result of measures taken by BdL. The unofficial exchange rate, which increased in the last quarter of 2019, led to a start of inflationary pressure in December and which continued in 2020, as the monthly inflation increased by 6.96% in December 2019 compared to 3.1% in December 2018.

The cash-basis fiscal deficit narrowed from \$6.2 billion USD in 2018 to \$5.8 billion USD in 2019, an annual decrease of 6.6%. This development was the result of the 5% decrease in expenditures (transfers to Electricite du Liban fell by 14.3%) outweighing the 4.2% decrease in revenues (VAT revenues were down by 15%, telecom revenues by 11.5%). The primary balance, which excludes debt service, showed a small deficit in 2019, 1.7% of total expenditures (\$288 million USD). Government personnel, debt service and transfers to Electricite du Liban represent the main general expenditure categories. Gross public debt increased by less than one percent in 2019, to reach \$92 billion USD by end-2019. The debt-to-GDP ratio increased from 155% in December 2018 to 172% end-2019.

The current account deficit in 2019 was \$1.15 billion USD lower than the \$14.5 billion USD deficit in 2018, due a large decrease in imports (by \$740 million USD) caused by the shortage in foreign currency. Exports increased by \$780 million USD, to reach \$3.7 billion USD, an annual increase of 26 percent. Consequently, the trade deficit of \$15.5 billion USD was 9 percent less than in 2018. The balance of payments deficit further deteriorated to US\$ 5.85 billion at end-2019 compared to USD 4.8 billion deficit recorded in 2018.

The fiscal and current account deficits have been typically financed by capital and financial inflows. As these slowed due to the emerging crisis conditions, the BdL found itself in a critical position to attract foreign currency. The BdL foreign currency position reached \$29.6 billion USD at the end of 2019, a decrease of \$2.9 billion USD compared to end-2018.

## PEACE AND SECURITY

2019 was marked by episodes of high tension between Lebanon and Israel. On August 25, two unmanned aerial vehicles crashed in the southern suburb of Beirut. This underscored the risk emanating from Israeli overflights, in violation of UNSCR 1701 (2006). Tensions increased again on September 1, when Hezbollah fired missiles from a location in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) area of operation towards an area south of the Blue line. Israel responded with firing mortars into southern Lebanon. These incidents demonstrated the risk to stability posed by the presence of weapons outside the Government's control, and the need for progress in addressing some of the outstanding provisions of UNSCR 1701 (2006), particularly moving towards an eventual permanent ceasefire.

While the maritime boundary remains unresolved between Lebanon and Israel, 2019 saw the United States continuing its efforts to establish a framework for negotiations towards the resolution of the maritime dispute between Lebanon and Israel. However, an agreement on the framework between the parties remains outstanding.

In the year since the 2018 Rome II conference, Lebanon's implementation of its commitments has been slow, despite several subsequent bilateral announcements of financial contributions. A three-year freeze on public sector recruitment and spending limits imposed on the defense sector delayed implementation by the LAF and the ISF of their respective five-year strategic plans presented at the Rome II conference. It also impeded efforts towards increasing women's participation in the armed forces.

With a view to extending its territorial control along the border, the LAF, tasked by the High Defense Council, launched operations in April 2019 to close illegal crossing points and curb illicit smuggling in order to increase Government revenues. About eight to twelve illegal crossing points reportedly remain, which decreased from approximately 140 points reported prior to the 2017 LAF operations along the north-eastern border.

An important milestone in 2019 was the endorsement by the Council of Ministers on October 17 of the Integrated Border Management Strategy, a key common framework for security agencies, aiming at establishing an efficient and effective system of integrated border management, promoting security inside Lebanon, and facilitating the free and secure movement of people and commercial goods. The strategy is an important step towards the implementation of UNSCR 1701, to support the Government of Lebanon in securing its borders.

The deployment of the four LAF land border regiments and the construction of watchtowers along Lebanon's border with the Syrian Arab Republic (SAR) reached completion this year, with donors and the LAF now focusing on mobility and sustainability aspects. As a result of increased security along the border with SAR, there were no reports of cross-border fire in 2019.

The security situation in the Palestine refugee camps (PRC) across Lebanon was overall stable, with a notable exception in August when a violent incident in Ein El Hilweh camp led to an escalation involving the use of heavy weapons which resulted in the killing of an Islamic leader. From July 15-30, Palestine refugees staged daily protests over a decision by the Minister for Labor to enforce existing laws to curtail illegal foreign labor. The Council of Ministers of Lebanon established a ministerial committee, headed by the Prime Minister, to address the matter, but work was not completed.

## HUMANITARIAN

Lebanon remains at the forefront of one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time, now in its ninth year, and continues to host the highest number of displaced people per capita in the world. According to the Government of Lebanon (GoL), the nation hosts 1.5 million displaced Syrians, including 918,874 registered as refugees with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), along with 27,700 Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) and as well as about 175,000 Palestine refugees from Lebanon (PRL)<sup>1</sup> living in 12 camps and 156 gatherings.<sup>2</sup> In addition, there are 1.5 million Lebanese people whose vulnerabilities were exacerbated by the crisis, with the World Bank estimating it could reach up to 50% of the Lebanese



Rehabilitation of over 14 km of agricultural roads benefitting 700 farmers & their families in East Zahleh. UNDP Lebanon, 2019.

1. Population and Housing census in Palestinian Camps and Gatherings in Lebanon 2017  
2. Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (2020 update)

population as the economic situation worsens. Amid the worsening economic crisis, poverty levels among all population groups are on the rise, aggravated by a series of emergencies, from natural disasters to evictions, and thus crippled their ability to cope with the crisis. The protracted nature of the crisis has also increased social tensions, noting that competition for jobs and access to services remain among the primary drivers of tension at the local level. With reduced income and inflation, those who are already below poverty line have less access to basic commodities and services, which would force them into negative coping strategies.

The situation for displaced Syrians remained precarious in 2019. According to the Vulnerable Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon 2019 (VASyR), only 22% of displaced Syrians aged 15 and above have a legal residency, which decreased from 27% in 2018. Shelter conditions have not improved with 57% of displaced Syrian households living in unsuitable shelter conditions. Fifty-five percent of displaced Syrians live under the extreme poverty line (\$2.9 USD/capita/day) and 93% of households have debt (with average of \$1,033 USD). The strict measures introduced by Government of Lebanon in relation to border management, work permits, and concrete structures in informal settlements since April 2019, also diminished the protective space for the displaced Syrians in Lebanon. These stricter measures, coupled with many refugees from

Syria, including PRS, not in possession of a legal residency and an increasing number of residency holders unable to pay costs associated with maintaining their legal residency documents, has led to increased anxiety and severe vulnerability to various forms of violence and exploitation.

There is rising frustration over the protracted stay of people displaced from Syria, and the limited number of returns to Syria. This can be found in public narratives where hospitality fatigue is increasingly relayed within the media and society. Polarized narratives on Syrian displacement are entangled with the longstanding and evolving economic, social, and environmental problems in the country. In 2019, reportedly 24,117 people returned to Syria (22,728 were known to UNHCR), which is an increase of 44% compared to 2018. In parallel, while well over 80% of refugees express their intention to return, a more limited number are opting to return in 2020, mainly because the situation in Lebanon is relatively better despite the increasingly unstable economic situation. In 2019, 2,240 PRS individuals were recorded by United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as having left Lebanon and returned to Syria (compared to 1,400 in 2018).

The situation in camps for Palestine refugees is also becoming untenable as people have further decreased livelihood opportunities and now fully depend on

emergency relief and basic services beyond the regular programs delivered by UNRWA. The socio-economic situation of Palestine refugees was serious prior to the worsening economic situation, with two-thirds of PRL living under the poverty line, while extreme poverty levels among PRS are significantly higher and 93% of PRS households rely on UNRWA assistance as their main source of livelihood.<sup>3</sup> The formal employment opportunities for Palestine refugees are limited due to restrictions within 39 professional syndicates and work

permit requirements, with strengthened enforcement in July 2019, further restricting refugees access to livelihood. Their precarious status vis-à-vis the Lebanese labor law has left many Palestine refugees vulnerable to exploitation, especially PRS as they fall under the legal framework of “foreigners” in Lebanon, and do not benefit from any of the labor law facilitations that apply to Syrians or PRL. In addition, many PRS are without or unable to maintain their residency documents necessary to apply for work permits and move freely.



Old Saida neighbourhood, Saida. UN Habitat/Julie Brun, 2017.

3. UNRWA PRS post-distribution monitoring April 2019.

# RESULTS OF DELIVERING AS ONE



## PRIORITY 1: ALL PEOPLE IN LEBANON HAVE PEACE AND SECURITY

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



FUNDS RECEIVED \$6.3 MILLION USD

### UN ENTITIES



### DONORS





Heli Patril, South Lebanon.  
UNIFIL/Pasqual Gorriz, 2019.

## 1.1 STRENGTHENING TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY & SECURITY

Funds received: \$0.18 million USD

In 2019, the UN continued to work with the GoL and partners to strengthen territorial integrity and security in accordance with human rights principles. This has included border security and refurbishment of border points (territorial, coastal, and aerial), as well as capacity building for the LAF and mobilization of international support.

The deployment by the LAF, including in areas where the LAF had never been present in the past, drastically improved the situation at the border. Approximately 85% of the border territory with Syria became under the control of the LAF in 2019, with most illegal crossing points closed, resulting in a significantly improved security situation along the border. The adoption of the Strategy on Integrated Border Management (IBM) catalyzed further support from the UN and donors to border management efforts.

### Increasing capacity to control and manage border security

The GoL's capacity was supported to control and manage border security and minimize security threats as result of UN assistance. This support included provision of equipment, vehicles, and tools to the LAF, General Security

(GS), and ISF to at least five locations in Lebanon, as well as refurbishment and infrastructure support to the border and health and emergency unit at the Masnaa area and the Port of Beirut.

Furthermore, following the Rome II conference in 2018 where the LAF and ISF presented the Capability Development Plan and Strategic Plan, respectively, the UN co-chaired with the LAF a meeting of the Executive Military Committee. The meeting, which was attended by 26 countries, aimed to revive the international momentum for the strengthening of the LAF and ISF in line with their plans. The UN also co-chaired with the LAF four Coordination Meetings with key partners on two integral parts of the Capability Development Plan: 1) the deployment of LAF Model Regiment, which foresees the deployment of additional troops south of the Litani River, and 2) LAF Navy capacity building to take over autonomous operations in Lebanese territorial waters. Such coordination meetings contributed to international partners implementing their commitments for the refurbishment of the Model Regiment's headquarters and provision of its equipment, as well as continuing their assistance to the enhancement of naval assets, i.e., upgrade of the coastal radar stations and maintenance of existing naval units.

The criminal justice measures and the investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of terrorism cases, including foreign terrorist fighters' cases were strengthened with



UNIFIL Maritime Task Force and Lebanese Army Navy Exercise, Beirut.  
UNIFIL/Pasqual Gorriz, 2019.

## 1.2 EQUIPPING LEBANESE AUTHORITIES FOR BETTER INTERNAL SECURITY, LAW, AND ORDER

Funds received: \$0.47million USD

In partnership with the Government of Lebanon, the Lebanese authorities were better equipped to maintain internal security, law, and order in accordance with human rights principles. To this end, the UN has provided general security and law enforcement agencies, at both the national and local levels, with trainings, and supported the development of relevant curriculums that rendered them more attentive to the environment, gender equality, and protection.

### Systems and capacities in place to govern municipal police roles

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM), the capacities of the local municipal police were strengthened, and coordination increased between municipal police and the ISF as a result of UNDP support. The UN formally launched municipal police reform in the first half of 2019 by initiating ten additional pilots to an already existing nine pilots to support municipalities in the implementation of this reform. Similarly, the UN developed a gender-based violence (GBV) curriculum and is preparing a child protection training curriculum (and trainer's guide) for the municipal police. The United Nations also developed a Training of Trainers (ToTs) for Child Protection and for Municipal Solid Waste management for different members of the municipalities, including mayors and police.

### Strengthening general security and law enforcement agencies (GS, ISF, LAF)

The systems and capacities to strengthen general security and law enforcement agencies were enhanced by the UN through material and technical support. More specifically:

- 75 General Security Offices (GSO) staff were trained on international standards on the protection of human rights at international borders, including sessions on gender-sensitive border management.
- More than 130 ISF and state security officers were trained, including on GBV, traffic safety, crime scene investigation, meditation and negotiations, protection and self-defense for women.
- Around 395 GS and 40 LAF officers also became better acquainted with refugee law key principles, international protection, document examination, fraud detection, border management, and international human right principles.
- 135 border guards from Masnaa were trained on first aid to allow speedier and better responses to emergencies along the border.
- 27 General Security Offices (GSO) centers received support from the UN for the electronic issuance of the Syrian residency permits. Such assistance resulted in

support from the UN. This resulted in strengthened coordination and cooperation among security agencies in terrorism cases, and an increase in the use of open-source investigation techniques to gather, analyze, and submit information in an admissible form before the court.

A key element of border security includes a reduction and eventual elimination of illicit trafficking. Relevant partners in the sector, such as the Ministry of Culture, Civil Aviation, International Council of Museums, Lebanese Armed Forces and others, increased their knowledge on protecting objects of cultural heritage through UN trainings and support. For example, a study and analysis of the current state of national cultural heritage law and other relevant laws and decrees was undertaken; a workshop was held on the benefits of ratifying the cultural property convention; and a social media campaign about Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Objects was launched and pertinent posters were installed in the Beirut Rafik Hariri Airport. Female armed forces members with knowledge on the protection of cultural property in armed conflict was also strengthened, not only enhancing their capabilities, but also contributing to their career development. Customs officers' capabilities increased in other trafficking areas, such as manifestos and bill of lading, searching containers, document examination, and fraud detection.



Fire prevention training conducted at Bourj Hammoud civil defense center for the local communities, NGOs, and schools, Bourj Hammoud. UN Habitat/ Alex Gurunian, 2019.

General Security Offices to upscale and decentralize their processing capacity, and increase the security of the documentation provided, to the benefit of all those requiring the services of the GSO, including Lebanese citizens.

Another key element of strengthening security and law enforcement agencies is to ensure they function in line with human rights principles. The human rights code of conduct for LAF was developed with the UN and launched on January 29, 2019. The code of conduct reflects fundamental standards and principles relevant to law enforcement and human rights; and highlights the need for special protection of groups who are especially vulnerable to human rights abuse, such as women, children, the elderly, refugees, and human trafficking victims. As a result, and in order to ensure proper implementation, the LAF created new Legal Advisors positions in all the institution departments in charge of monitoring the dissemination of the code of conduct and its proper implementation. Based on the LAF experience, the UN is currently supporting the ISF and GSO to revise their code of conducts.

### 1.3 PROMOTING PEACE, AND PREVENTING, MITIGATING, AND MANAGING CONFLICT AT MUNICIPAL & LOCAL LEVEL

Funds received: \$5.66 million USD

The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), in collaboration with the UN, has been the lead Government entity in addressing the issues related to social stability and promoting peace at municipal and local level.

In 2019, 96 localities benefited from a conflict prevention mechanism, also referred to as Mechanisms for Social Stability (MSS). These mechanisms act as an important forum for different groups within the community to meet each other, to have constructive contact with each other, and jointly develop activities that address the causes of tensions.

#### Mitigating tensions and alleviating resource pressure at local level

A key element for municipalities to mitigate tensions and alleviate resource pressure is the ability to detect and respond to conflict risks. As such, 53 location's capacities were enhanced through the development of prevention mechanisms, community consultations and projects, centers as safe spaces, and mediation networks, as a result of UN support. Such efforts play a role in the reduction of social tensions among the Lebanese population, and also between the Lebanese population, and displaced Syrians and Palestine refugees.

The UN has also led, in partnership with local partners, on a number of initiatives at the community level to promote social stability, with many of those initiatives focused on young people and women, including:

- Youth-related community initiatives addressing negative social norms related to gender equality.
- Neighborhood Improvement Plans in Palestinian neighborhoods, including community consultations with youth groups.
- Community-based, small to medium-scale projects where Lebanese and displaced Syrians jointly design

and implement activities in order to respond to protection problems, including child and youth protection problems; tensions between Lebanese and Syrians; marginalization of specific groups; substance abuse; out-of-school children at risk; and isolation of children with disabilities.

- Local women's mediation networks and courses/trainings for women on conflict analysis, prevention and management, negotiations and mediation, reaching over 80 women.
- Enrollment in a mediation accreditation program at the University of Saint Joseph to provide leadership and support to the mediation platforms, and to train additional community members and networks that would be formed in the future.
- Youth-based, quick impact projects on recycling, drug awareness, non-violent communication, intercultural dialogue, tolerance, conflict transformation, and peacebuilding.

#### Lebanese prison authorities have developed and strengthened the capacity to prevent and respond to violent extremism

The capacity of Lebanese prison authorities was further built through technical support and rehabilitation and reintegration programs. As a result, five rehabilitation and reintegration programs were implemented by prison management; five detention facilities were improved to manage violent extremist prisoners; and ten capacity building programs were provided to prison staff, social workers, and NGOs working on preventing violent extremism.

Some efforts by the UN in 2019 were not implemented due to the political and economic crises in the country, hindering the achievement of some of the UN's objectives for 2019. Other efforts related to social stability were delayed based on Do-No-Harm principles due to local-level politics, intercommunal conflicts, and grievances.

#### HUMAN STORY: WOMEN'S ROLES IN MANAGING AND PREVENTING CONFLICTS



UN Habitat, UN Women, UNICEF, 2019.

"I found that mediation helps us to restore the social values and principles we once had, and it urges us now to reclaim and restore dialogue, tolerance, and understanding in our communities," said Hiyam Faraj, an assistant radio producer, NGO worker, and local community mediator from Abbassiyeh, who exemplifies women's abilities to prevent conflict and sustain peace.

"I applied my mediation skills in my work at an organization that deals with domestic violence and I learned to look for the causes of violence and their context instead of looking for the solutions, which are often temporary." She adds, "I explained and transferred the concepts of effective dialogue, non-violent communication, and most importantly, self-respect and respect for others. I am convinced that I have done something spectacular and protected many women from violence."

The UN in Lebanon in collaboration with the Centre for Professional Mediation (CPM) at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), has established four women's mediation networks in Tyre and Abbassiyeh in South Lebanon, and in Ain El Helweh and Shatila Palestinian camps.

The UN prioritizes women empowerment to play larger roles in managing and preventing conflicts with local partners, where more than 80 women receive trainings on mediation and coaching in the field while they are encouraged to develop local conflict prevention initiatives in their communities.

## CORE PRIORITY 2: LEBANON ENJOYS DOMESTIC STABILITY AND PRACTICES EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

FUNDS RECEIVED \$14.4 MILLION USD

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### UN ENTITIES



### DONORS



International Support Group meeting, Paris. UNSCOL, 2019.

### 2.1 IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OF INSTITUTIONS AND PROMOTING PARTICIPATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Funds received: \$7.39 million USD

The UN supported the Government of Lebanon in 2019 to improve institutional performance towards greater participation and increased accountability. With an eye on stability, justice reform, and increased civil society consultation in decision making, the UN promoted national dialogue in the country, something that became especially salient in the aftermath of the October 17 protests.

#### Advocacy efforts towards political progress and evidence-based dialogue

International unity was maintained, and a coordinated international position was leveraged to promote political stability, an expedited government formation, and adoption and implementation of a reform agenda, including to address the country's deteriorating economic and financial situation through UN support. To this end, the UN convened seven International

Support Group (ISG) meetings between March 2019 and December 2019, five of which resulted in a common statement demonstrating continued international consensus and commitment to Lebanon.

#### Democratic, inclusive, and transparent election processes

As 2019 was an off-elections year, the UN in Lebanon focused its support on its electoral assistance in preparation for the parliamentary and municipal elections for 2022.

The deployment of an electoral Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) occurred in 2019 with support from the UN, following a request by the GoL for continued UN electoral assistance.

Regarding advocacy, through its strategic position among different partners in the country, the United Nations in Lebanon implemented a total of 22 initiatives principally addressing the political participation of youth, women, and People with Disabilities (PWD). The initiatives engaged primarily with female public figures as well as the MoIM and other stakeholders engaged in the Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan.

## Improving data analysis, draft policy, legislation, and effective reforms

The UN supports the GoL in its objective towards accessible data, quality policy, legislation for evidence-based decision making, and greater accountability. The Government of Lebanon's capacities were supported by the UN chiefly through the drafting of relevant laws and policies on human rights and gender equality, conducting trainings in Parliament, and producing reliable and timely data. Through the UN's support, the following results were achieved:

- Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) conducted Lebanon's first LFHCLS, which was finalized in 2019 with the UN's technical support and the European Union's financial support. This survey is the first of its kind to produce estimates at national, subnational and district governance levels, reaching an unprecedented sample size of more than 39,000 households and producing the largely needed data.
- A capacity assessment of CAS, and the related action plan and road map, was developed and finalized through the assistance of the UN to support the institution's capacity for the production of quality data for better policies for sustainable development.
- Ten neighborhood profiles were developed by the UN which assess disadvantaged neighborhoods based on multisector, multicohort, and spatial data that is analyzed via an area-based approach.
- Thirty policy briefs for Preventing Violent Extremism from gender and urban inclusion perspectives in partnership with Lebanese University and Beirut Arab University.
- A similarly cross-sectoral collaboration among different public institutions (MoSA, MEHE, MoPH, Higher Council for Childhood and MoJ) followed the same approach as UN's work on a national Child Marriage Action Plan.
- Advocacy efforts to revise the Domestic Violence law 293; to lobby for discussing the sexual harassment draft law; and to advocate for reconsidering a law to increase the legal age to marry.
- The Social Behavioral Change & Communication Plan (QUDWA), which aims at preventing child marriage, child labor, and violence against girls, boys, and women in Lebanon, was developed with the support of the UN.

### Youth groups engaging as active citizens in decision-making processes

Given the relatively large, young population in Lebanon, their skills set and knowledge were built to empower them to take responsible decisions about their health, family formation, relationships, career paths, and becoming more active in their respective communities through UN support. In 2019, 35,724 young people were empowered through outreach and training. Furthermore, the National Youth Policy (NYP) action plan was finalized in 2019 with



International Youth Day celebrations in South Lebanon of a series of activities, including volleyball and water balloon fights for 100 young people. UNFPA Lebanon/Nabaa, 2019.

support from the UN to guide the work of all participants towards contextualizing, prioritizing, and realizing the recommendations enlisted in the NYP.

The UN reached out to the local authorities beyond Beirut and Mount Lebanon and partnered with community-based youth-led entities in cities, including Tyre, Sidon, Nabatieh, and Tripoli. Training ranged from mobile app development to entrepreneurship, gender-based violence, conflict-resolution, gender equality, campaigning, non-violent communication, the SDGs, solid waste management, and advocacy and leadership.

## 2.2 STATE HAS INSTITUTIONALIZED MECHANISMS FOR ENHANCED PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, RULE OF LAW, AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Funds received: \$1.01 million USD

The UN worked on the protection of human rights in a multi-faceted manner; it worked on the strengthening of government institutions, facilitating access of vulnerable people to legal aid, improving prison conditions and bringing alternatives to the forefront, bolstering reporting and follow-up on Lebanon's international human rights obligations, and raising awareness on human rights issues.



Discussion with National Human Rights Commission on one of their essential "quasi-judicial" functions: handling complaints. OHCHR, 2019.

## Prison conditions improved, rehabilitation of prisoners carried out, and alternatives to detention provided

Prisons can only serve their disciplinary function if they guarantee dignified living conditions, and if they evolve beyond the narrow concept of detention towards social rehabilitation. Therefore, more than 12,000 people received comprehensive assistance, rehabilitation support, and improved situations in detention facilities in 2019 through UN assistance in partnership with the Government of Lebanon and organizations. Initiatives have included the following:

- Drafted the first national report on rehabilitation of children with offenses related to terrorism, in partnership with MoIM, MoJ, and the Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) unit at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- Physical refurbishment and rehabilitation projects spanning five detention facilities.
- Improved the health of inmates focusing on medical screening in Roumieh prison and mental health support, including addressing juveniles through life skills training.
- Provision of legal services, medical and psychological support, food assistance as well as Core Relief Items

(CRIs), with prioritization of legal aid and other essential services for vulnerable individuals, namely children, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) individuals, and PWD.

- Supported the adoption of two new laws by Parliament regarding alternatives to detention: mediation (Law 82/2018) and community services (Law 138/2019), in partnership with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

## National mechanism for reporting and follow-up on Lebanon's international human rights obligations

Lebanon ratified six of the nine core international human rights treaties and two optional protocols, and, like other countries in the world, is required to report regularly to the UN human rights treaty bodies on the status of its implementation of its international human rights obligations. In 2019, Lebanon, with support from the UN, submitted its report for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), bringing it almost up to date with its reporting obligation. Lebanon has yet to submit its initial report under the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, which was overdue since December 8, 2006, for which the UN has advocated.

In 2019, the capacities of the relevant human rights entities in the country, including the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF), were strengthened. Such strengthening was done through UN support in preparations of Lebanon's national report for the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2020, including a discussion forum/ workshop to build on the technical capacities of the NMRF members in drafting the UPR report. As the national report is encouraged to be consulted with other stakeholders, the UN, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and the Committee for Human Rights of the Parliament of Lebanon, convened a consultation session with civil society organizations on Lebanon's UPR report.

Following the historical establishment of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (Committee), their capacities were built by the UN, including the handling of complaints of alleged human rights violations through supporting the development of their internal by-laws, calling on regional and global expertise, and providing trainings. For example, the United Nations organized a two-day retreat for the Commission and Committee to reflect on their crucial role in promoting and monitoring the effective implementation of international human rights standards.

As a key element of human rights, 200 stakeholders from different backgrounds of awareness were raised through the dissemination of findings of the situation analysis

on sexual rights, developing a draft mechanism for monitoring compliance/violation.

### Advocacy and awareness on human rights issues

Because collaboration with state and non-state participants alike tends to be more sustainable when there is genuine buy-in on the issues at stake, the UN worked on raising awareness efforts over the course of 2019 pertaining to human rights issues, with particular focus on gender issues. As a result, it carried out a total of 116 protection interventions, including advocacy visits, briefings with key stakeholders, who included state, embassies, donors, and academia.

As Lebanon witnessed unprecedented nationwide protests in 2019, the UN in Lebanon closely monitored the situation, particularly the rights to freedom of assembly and expression, and adherence to international standards on the use of force, in consultation with local civil society individuals, bar associations, national security forces, and the Lebanese Red Cross, among others. The UN in Lebanon communicated regularly with Lebanese defense and security forces leaders and senior civilian authorities to underline the State's obligations with respect to the right of peaceful assembly and protection of protesters. The UN urged the Government of Lebanon to enhance human rights protections, institutionalize the rule of law and strengthen access to justice, in line with the demands of the protesters.



UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon Ján Kubiš-LAF Lebanon Eastern Border. UNSCOL, 2019.

The United Nations in Lebanon partnered with local NGOs and partners to further raise awareness on issues related to human rights, such as international human rights standards on freedom of opinion, expression and the press, cultural property protection, trafficking in persons (TiP), and civil and political rights. Some examples of these collaborations include:

- Worked with 14 local NGOs to support the implementation of the UPR recommendations for Lebanon, addressing key thematic issues of torture, trafficking, women and child rights, inclusion of people with disabilities, refugees and migration, socio-economic and cultural rights, youth participation, and gender inequality.
- Convened a roundtable discussion with the Maharat Foundation on renewing adherence to international standards of the right to freedom of opinion, expression and the press, and bringing together parliamentarians, academics, media professionals and representatives of civil society organizations. The roundtable resulted in the document, "Beirut Affirmation," which provides a set of recommendations for a road map to promote and protect the right to freedom of opinion, expression, and the press in Lebanon.
- Advocated for the establishment of the National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared in Lebanon, and engaging with national authorities and civil society partners, in accordance with Law 105 for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared, which was passed by the Lebanese Parliament in November 2018.
- Organized a panel discussion on Law 105, bringing together parliamentarians and representatives of non-governmental organizations, the Government of Lebanon, the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), academia, and families of missing and forcibly disappeared people, to examine the provisions of the Law and requirements for the effective functioning of the National Commission in line with international norms and standards.
- Liaised with state agencies, NGOs, and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) in campaigns on Cultural Property Protection and Trafficking in Persons (TiP), focusing on creating an enabling environment to prevent human trafficking, and rescue and restore human dignity through the amendment of the human trafficking law. Such advocacy efforts have resulted in the Government of Lebanon's ownership in the counter-trafficking response, leading to: A regional dialogue that was hosted under the patronage of HE, the former Lebanese Prime Minister in Beirut on July 16 and 17 2019; new proposal to address the protection, prevention and partnership aspects of the counter-trafficking response developed and submitted by the Minister of Justice to the Council of Ministers; and a policy by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) related to the establishment of funds to assist victims of trafficking through UN support.

- Carried out a series of awareness sessions on the importance and challenges to exercise sexual rights, and targeting a wide range of stakeholders, including media, bar associations, line ministries, academics, among many, to build upon the situation analysis concerning the exercise of reproductive rights, and sexual and reproductive health rights. These consultation meetings also led to proposing a monitoring mechanism to report and capture violations for accessing related services.

As far as gender issues are concerned, the UN carried out campaigns about domestic violence, sexual harassment, child marriage, and the adoption of the National Action Plan (NAP) 1325 on Women Peace and Security and trafficking in people; but seeking to address structural issues, it also organized two public sessions on the draft Unified Personal Status Law, since the latter serves as a better safeguard for gender equality. For example, through the 16 Days Campaign Against Gender Based Violence (November 25 through December 10), the UN, in collaboration with the National Commission for Lebanese Women, raised public awareness on relevant laws under review in the parliamentary committees, including those on domestic violence, sexual harassment, child marriage, and trafficking in people, by reaching 355,000 impressions.

Similarly, the UN also provided a number of protection briefings about the challenges experienced by Palestine refugees in Lebanon to international delegations, NGOs and INGOs, academia, and other stakeholders.

### Legal assistance and relevant documentation provided to persons of concern

Accessing legal assistance in Lebanon by obtaining or securing rights allow people to be better informed and more empowered to exercise their basic human rights and the ability to enjoy a dignified life within the Lebanese society. 20,046 people increased their awareness on legal topics through UN assistance in partnership with organizations and the State. Palestine refugees were able to gain justice in labor cases for free and fair treatment as a result of UN support, succeeding in changing the jurisprudence cases for cases that are often very challenging. 85,102 people benefited from direct legal aid to refugees in key areas, such as obtaining legal residency and civil documentation; protection from refoulement and detention; addressing exploitation and abuse, including evictions, trafficking in human beings, human rights violation, and harassment; family and labor law; and access to nationality and documentation for stateless people through UN assistance.

### Protecting vulnerable groups (including migrant workers and children) from abuse, exploitation and violence, and ensuring their access to justice

While empowerment of vulnerable groups is necessary for their protection, it is as necessary to carry it out through a strengthened Government's protective capacity. In this



vein, Government institutions' knowledge on the topic were enhanced through 55 trainings and technical support sessions in 2019 on topics ranging from trafficking to case management to gender-based violence.

The national counter-trafficking working group consisting of representatives from the Ministries of Justice, Labor, Social Affairs, ISF, and GS, developed a national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to identify, refer, and assist victims of trafficking as a result of UN support.

Also, officers from the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the General Security Office (GSO) increased their knowledge on the needs and status of people of concern with UN assistance. In addition to the substantive knowledge delivered, this initiative provided an opportunity for the direct interaction between the UN and the different officers to address existing misconceptions, and strengthen the rights-based approach.

### 2.3 IMPROVING THE LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS, ELIMINATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, AND PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

Funds received: \$5.98 million USD

Constantly working towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, in 2019, the UN worked with the Government of Lebanon to support the country to achieve that objective. In 2019, the country's first National Action Plan (NAP) 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security was launched and endorsed by the Government of Lebanon, with UN providing support to the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) and the Council of Ministers (CoM). Lebanon's NAP 1325 is a costed, time-bound document that includes five strategic priorities to increase women's presence in the security and defense sectors, political and economic participation, and in conflict prevention and peace-building efforts.

#### Improving the legal status of women, promoting gender equality, and addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

The capacity of the national systems has been strengthened to improve the legal status of women, promote gender equality, and address GBV, through joint UN and Government of Lebanon interventions. As a result, in 2019, more than 1,000 institutional participants, including governmental institutions/structures and civil society organizations (CSOs), demonstrated increased knowledge of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).

In 2019, the Government of Lebanon reported on the progress related to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and progress towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years after its

adoption in 1995 as a result of UN support. The national Violence Against Women Strategy was also developed and launched through UN support.

The results of the UN's interventions were multi-faceted; they have ranged from establishing a Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) complaint mechanism for its partners, to building up women cooperatives in order to economically empower them, to enhancing four women's mediation networks in conducting conflict analysis to address community conflict and disputes, to supporting community structures for GBV prevention in Palestine refugee camps.

Training is a cornerstone of the UN's support; about 450 caseworkers and supervisors, as well as Government staff, such as the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), and local partners increased their knowledge through a peer-to-peer coaching program. This led to improvement of national standards of case management and in the harmonization of referral mechanisms. Furthermore, protection considerations during investigations were enhanced through the training of more than 55 officers from the ISF and the GSO (22% of whom were female officers) working with people of concern, who are survivors of sex trafficking, to the UN.

Some efforts under these UN's priorities were not implemented due to the turmoil experienced in Lebanon since the October 17 protests. Initiatives pertaining to detention conditions were either delayed or postponed due to the very high congestion and very low capacity in human resources in prisons; while initiatives pertaining to legal protection of women and vulnerable groups were hampered by the fact that the legal and administrative framework on civil registration was not entirely in line with international standards on the right-to-birth registration as outlined in the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Lastly, the absence of data and statistics on a number of sectors was a challenge that was observed across all efforts.



Tally is observing a plant cell slide in the context of the short-term course she attended on the basics of agriculture. FAO Lebanon/Fouad Choufany.

### HUMAN STORY: ABJAD CENTER IN BEB TEBBANEH CHANGING LIVES



UN Habitat, UN Women, UNICEF, 2019.

Huda is a mother and an active community member coming from Homs, Syria. She fled her country, along with her family, in August 2012.

In the ABJAD center, a restored movie theater on Syria street in Tripoli, Huda got the opportunity to participate in a series of psycho-social support through ART sessions with people she would not usually interact with. "I made new friends. Every time I feel stressed out now, I go to meet them and have some good times together. I even learned how to deal with my own stress. This helped a lot in improving my communication with my family. This changed my life."

She was one of a group of 12 ladies, coming from different backgrounds and nationalities. It was not easy for her to accept this at the beginning; however, the workshops were very attractive and relevant from the very first session,

making her excited to continue participating in all the sessions and workshops. According to Huda, these workshops made her experience new techniques of stress and tension release, and made her feel like a little girl again. The most beautiful part of this was that she was learning about herself, as well as the participants; and they were interacting with each other as humans, regardless of all the differences between them.

The ABJAD center, set up by the UN with partners, is utilized for the protection, income generation, and livelihood opportunities of vulnerable women and youth from Lebanese and Syrian refugee communities. It also offers training sessions and public awareness campaigns on women's rights and provides essential support to survivors of gender-based violence at the Women's Referral Center.

## CORE PRIORITY 3: LEBANON REDUCES POVERTY AND PROMOTES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WHILE ADDRESSING IMMEDIATE NEEDS IN A HUMAN RIGHTS/GENDER SENSITIVE MANNER

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



FUNDS RECEIVED **\$1.02 BILLION USD**

### UN ENTITIES



### DONORS



Al Akhdar Manufacturing and Trading in Marwaniiyeh, South Lebanon. UNIDO/ Mitri Soujaa, 2019.

infrastructure, and attend farm business schools to understand marketing and business plans. Farmers also increased their knowledge on the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), including efficient water use and water management, as well as integrated pest management practices for the reduction of pesticides and fertilizers residues along the Litani River. The farmers' ability to sustain activities despite water shortages and the scarcity of fertile soil and agricultural inputs was enhanced through climate-smart trainings on agricultural production in difficult climatic conditions.

### Fostering job creation through labor-intensive investment

More than 9,917 people benefited from livelihoods opportunities created in different sectors, including infrastructure (water, wastewater, solid waste), construction, agriculture (seed planting), and culture tourism. More specifically, 6,000 vulnerable people had access to short-term income generation opportunities offered by the UN. Such opportunities included the rehabilitation of a farmers market; the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation and storm water drainage canals; the rehabilitation of a community center; planting seedlings; and maintaining ecotourism and forest trails. These livelihood opportunities, taking place in the South, Nabatiyeh, Baalbeck-Hermel, Bekaa, Akkar, North and Mount Lebanon, also improved access to community assets and can potentially improve agricultural productivity and environmental awareness for the long-term.

### Enhancing capacity of MSME sector and cooperatives

In coordination with the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, and other local partners, approximately 170 cooperatives, of which 140 were women cooperatives, five women associations and almost 240 MSMEs in different value chains developments were enhanced through UN support. Assistance to cooperatives included technical support to export products such as vine leaves, olive oil, and rose water as well as setting up a new export route for Lebanese products. Support also included scaling production techniques and safety, improved business and entrepreneurship skills, and enhanced access to financial institutions and national markets, as well as strengthening quality and hygiene standards for food and agro-food products. Specifically, the institutional capacities of women enterprises/cooperatives in Southern Lebanon and in Akkar were enhanced, empowering the cooperative members to transition from being home-based manufacturers to cooperative entrepreneurs, managers and leaders, increasing their agricultural productivity and control over their economic resources. MSMEs' capacities increased in the beekeeping and dairy sector with technology transfer, innovation, and new production techniques provided by the UN.

### 3.1 STRENGTHENING THE PRODUCTIVE SECTORS TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE MOST DISADVANTAGED AREAS

Funds received: \$47.64 million USD

In 2019, food security was enhanced, access to local and international markets facilitated, and new income opportunities and employment for Lebanese and refugees generated and supported, thus promoting inclusive growth and contributing to long term sustainable development in the Lebanese economy. The UN focused on supporting farmers, MSMEs, workers (including women, men, and youth) and public and private institutions in the agriculture, industrial, and other important sectors.

### Enhancing farming and food security

More than 1,900 small-scale farmers in the Akkar, Aley, Bekaa, Chouf, Jezzine, and Rachaya areas enhanced their production capacities through UN support. Undertaken in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, farmers were able to access grants for land reclamation through the Green Plan, an investment platform for agriculture

## HUMAN STORY: A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE



UNICEF, UN Habitat, UN Women, 2019.

Bilal, now specialized in asphalt cutting, works on a main water transmission pipeline that runs from Qobbeh, passes through his hometown of Jabal Mohsen, and goes on to feed the Tabbaneh water network in the city of Tripoli. It was the first job of his life, allowing him to be socially interactive and providing him with an income to help support himself and his family, especially being born with a physical disability and dropping out-of-school at an early age.

Through UN support, Bilal and 45 others like him were able to learn the necessary skills to upgrade their surroundings and improve the lives of thousands of the most vulnerable in their neighborhoods while helping themselves generate income, access an opportunity to develop a career, and hope for a better future.

To Bilal, the opportunity has been a life-changing experience.

“I now have the needed skills to work, a great experience to build on, and a social life to develop. I even might be able to consider getting married.”

In 2019, the UN provided trainings and skills development to about 41,000 people, including more than 29,000 young people like Bilal, with more than 6,000 of the most vulnerable people in Lebanon benefiting from short-term income generation opportunities.

Moreover, to promote entrepreneurship in productive sectors and support new business formation and employment, 900 individuals were trained on family sensitization on self-employment and entrepreneurship. More than 200 business plans were reviewed, 34 Lebanese-Syrian joint-business ventures were coached, and 190 MSMEs owned by Palestine refugees received business training as a result of training and coaching provided by the UN. A total of 34 Lebanese-Syrian joint-business ventures also benefited from seed-funding. In addition, the capacities of the Women’s Program Association and its related eight community-based organizations were also strengthened, enabling them to perform as a social enterprise in the refugee camps in Lebanon.

At the municipal level, 15 municipalities’ capacities were strengthened by the UN to increase the rural women’s role in decision-making by linking them to regional economic networks, coordinating meetings with municipal boards, and establishing seasonal festivals new products.

### Improving Workforce employability

Approximately 40,956, individuals, including 29,333 young people, increased their skills and capacities as a result of UN support. Such training included access to basic numeracy and literacy, technical, vocational and marketable skills

training courses, access to employment through career guidance and coaching, and access to apprenticeships and on the job training.

On technical and vocational training, 3,600 people in the agriculture and industrial sectors benefited from relevant trainings. Among those, 100 teachers in the agricultural technical schools were trained on different agricultural topics from the new elaborated Baccalauréat technique curriculum. In coordination with the Ministry of Industry, UN facilitated the provision of training in innovation, new technologies, and marketing to 1,250 individuals in the agro-food sector throughout Lebanon as well as in the carpentry and the construction sectors in the North. A Beirut Creative Hub was also established in partnership with Antwork, focusing on innovation and on pioneering new solutions for product development. The hub hosted workshops and seminars and attendees were supported with online growth, digital and communication trainings.

Specifically, for youth, the UN provided support on innovation, social entrepreneurship, professional readiness and integration in the labor market. For example:

- 5,351 (57% female and 43% male) young people all over Lebanon were trained on Digital Skills, Social Entrepreneurship, Design Thinking, and Tech Woodwork, which linked them to the job market through employment support services.

- 513 young Palestine refugee job seekers were matched with employers for a paid on-the-job training and short-term employment opportunities.
- 9,674 young people were supported with mentorship, career guidance, job matching, on-the-job training, and apprenticeship following various vocational and agricultural trainings.
- 1,055 out-of-school young people were also supported with access to MoA and MEHE Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) vocational training programs.

The UN also specifically targeted women through training and awareness sessions. In the northern region, Mount Lebanon and Beirut, more than 900 women and girls increased their skills and abilities, including in ICT and Care Economy, through technical vocational and management training, to enhance their employability and gain access to markets. Both the women and respective private companies increased their awareness on GBV and protection needs in the workspace as well as women, men and private companies on women’s human rights in protection, equality, and safety in workspaces. In addition, 240 women were able to start their own microbusiness based on in-kind grants, technical and management training, and coaching and mentoring support for six months.

### Strengthening national and local institutions to respond to productive sector development needs

The capacities of national and local institutions were improved, including the agricultural centers and extension services, the agricultural TVET schools, the department in charge of agricultural education, and the General Directorate of Cooperatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, with a series of trainings and studies by the UN.

At the national level, the UN worked closely with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), the Ministry of Labor, and the Ministry of Industry. In 2019, MEHE, with the support of the UN, was able to: establish an Education Management Information System (EMIS); review curricula of five streams of Baccalauréat Technique (BT) and one Technique Supérieur (TS) stream; initiate a self-evaluation within the TVET schools; and implement TVET vocational courses across 20 schools. In addition, Ministry of Labor’s National Centre for Vocational Training (NCVT) in Dekwaneh was provided with support to address gaps in the labor market and increase the employability of the most vulnerable populations.

In 2019, the UN also continued its support to the Ministry of Industry in the development of Sustainable Industrial Zones. In addition to the four master plans already



Al Akhdar Manufacturing and Trading in Marwaniyyeh, South Lebanon. UNIDO/ Mitri Soujaa, 2019.

## HUMAN STORY: GREEN JOBS FOR YOUTHS



Fouad Choufany (FAO). FAO, ILO, UNICEF, 2019.

“I started my vocational training two years ago in the Agricultural Technical School. Now, I am responsible for the quality of the whole potato production process,” proudly explained Ahmad Tarshishi, a Lebanese student at one of the Technical Agricultural Schools.

Just like Ahmad, Mohammad Nasrallah, a Technical Agriculture School graduate has the chance to learn agricultural techniques and to specialize in beekeeping. “I encourage each person who has a passion for agriculture to enroll in an Agricultural Technical School”, he said.

Attending the school offers them the opportunity of acquiring the necessary technical skills to access career opportunities in agriculture and agribusiness in Lebanon, or in Syria upon displaced Syrians’ return, and thus contributing to the economy.

Ahmad and Mohammad are two out of more than 16,500 young Lebanese and displaced Syrians in Lebanon who benefited from the UN in Lebanon’s support in 2019 to enhance their employability, entrepreneurship and innovative skills, professional readiness, and integration in the labor market.

developed, an additional master plan for a sustainable industrial zone in Bawerta was finalized. Also, in partnership with the Ministry of Industry, the UN developed an agro-food road map that identified the interventions needed to overcome the main challenges of the agro-food sector in Lebanon as well as sub-sectors that have high growth potential in the future.

At the local level, 25 Social Development Centers and local institutions around Lebanon were rehabilitated. A Vocational Training Centre regarding concrete was established at the Zgharta Official Technical Institute in the north of Lebanon to respond to market needs. The Centre provided trainings to 250 people, 75% of which were young people, interested in learning new skills in a safe and innovative environment.

Furthermore, the “Women Specialized Center” under the Ministry of Social Affairs, increased its capacities, acting as referral center for gender-based violence (GBV) cases and psycho-social support (PSS) services for women and girls. As a result, various services were extended to 530 women and girls in 2019, including PSS support, self-defense, first aid training, and job market-oriented sessions. In addition, there were several opportunities at the local community level, such as five interactive theatre sessions and six open days to enhance local community awareness on GBV and protection issues.

Some of the challenges faced by agencies are the deterioration of the economic situation, the restrictions imposed by Litani River Authority, security and political situation, sudden increase in prices, incapacity of suppliers to provide required equipment, unfavorable weather conditions, resistance to behavioral change, restrictive traditional and inherited knowledge and skills, marginalization of girls and women in host and refugee communities and tensions between refugees and host communities.

### 3.2. IMPROVING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO AND DELIVERY OF QUALITY SOCIAL SERVICES, SOCIAL PROTECTION

USD 958.55m funds received

Different populations benefited from improved equitable access to and delivery of quality and social services and protection, including Primary Health Care Centers (PHCs) and health systems; water and sanitation services; learning opportunities and education system; prevention and response services against trafficking or SGBV and the social protection system; shelter assistance; and direct assistance for the most vulnerable as a result of UN support. A large number of these basic services are supported through the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan.



Lebanese children Sundus and Sarab, wash their hands in an outdoor sink with safe water, in Mrah El Sraj in Dennyeh North Lebanon. UNHCR/Dalia Khamissy, 2018.

- Ten PHCs in subsidizing primary healthcare consultations and lab investigations.
- 27 PHCs in providing a comprehensive healthcare package where the general curative care, preventive care, and maternal and child healthcare (MCH) services are supported by specialist services that contribute to the quality of the health services.
- Eight PHCs with midwives to ensure provision of reproductive health services and outreach / awareness raising activities.
- Two healthcare facilities with mental healthcare assistance where refugees receive mental healthcare consultations and medication free of charge.
- 320 PHCs and SDCs in providing productive health products, of which 37 health centers provided additional services, such as mental health; and 43 Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) facilities received post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) drug kits, which enabled them to provide preventive healthcare services to survivors when needed.

As a result, 788,349 primary healthcare consultations were subsidized; 203,848 people, among them about 174,000 Lebanese, received chronic disease medication, and 97,500 people received contraceptives. About 85,000 refugees were provided with access to secondary and tertiary hospital care, and the national vaccination coverage was maintained at a high level, including 93% for diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3).

### Providing a comprehensive PHC package and strengthening the health national institutions

Primary health care centers (PHCs) are an important pillar of the Lebanese healthcare system, as it provides a range of PHC services, including vaccinations, prenatal care, family planning services (including provision of commodities), and screening for chronic disorders, around the country at reduced rates, to improve access to effective and quality healthcare, particularly among the most vulnerable.

Recognizing the importance of primary health care centers, the UN has supported this part of the healthcare system by assisting:

- 900 Primary Health Care Centers (PHCs) and dispensaries through trainings on medications and vaccines management, providing free vaccination for all children under five years old who are residing in Lebanon, and providing sexual reproductive health products.
- 420 PHCs, dispensaries, and Social Development Centers (SDCs) in providing medications for chronic, non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension, dispensed for a nominal fee.
- 237 PHCs within the national network of the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in providing medications for acute diseases, dispensed either free of charge or for a nominal fee.

In order to modernize the healthcare system, and facilitate the management of healthcare patient records, automated patient records have been introduced to the national network of PHCs at the MoPH and its network, including those which serve Palestine refugees.

Beyond supporting the network of PHCs, national institutions capacities were strengthened by the UN to deliver quality health services. This has resulted in over 1,200 healthcare or relevant staff being trained on mental health and psychosocial support, antimicrobial resistance, medication management, e-health, family medicine, reproductive health, tuberculosis, and other relevant topics. Capacities were strengthened particularly in terms of surveillance of infectious diseases and outbreaks, becoming particularly relevant in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic hit Lebanon. Subsequently, 943 medical centers implemented the Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS), which included being equipped with information technology and issuing SOPs. As a result, eight hospitals are now surveillance sites for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).

### Increasing the quality, quantity, and reliability of water and sanitation services

The UN recognizes access to water and sanitation services as a fundamental human right, mitigating public health and environmental hazards and contributing to social stability and livelihood opportunities.

One of the main partners of the UN in the water sector is the Ministry of Energy and Water and the four Water Establishments, whose capacities were increased through trainings on Water Safety Planning (WSP). In this context, support was provided to these institutions in order to develop WSP in four pilot areas to identify and mitigate the main source of pollution of drinking water. Operation and management capacities of the North Lebanon Water Establishment were also increased through the distribution of free water meters to new subscribers to the new network, also enhancing water saving and rationing in the region.

In terms of delivery, the Water Establishments' capacities to deliver water and wastewater services to the most vulnerable populations were improved through the implementation of emergency rehabilitation of infrastructure, benefiting more than 300,000 people, who gained improved access to water, and more than 300,000 people, who gained improved access to sanitation. Also, increased access to water was implemented through infrastructure development in 12 municipalities, where 145,169 people benefited from construction of new boreholes, extension of several water supply, wastewater, and storm water networks. For example, in Baalbek, the sanitation conditions of the surrounding neighborhood of a historical site was rehabilitated, and one neighborhood in Tripoli and another in Akkar witnessed water supply for the first time in years.

The continuity of temporary services was ensured for more than 200,000 out of 300,000 displaced Syrians living in informal settlements through the UN's and partners' provision of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services. This includes the provision of water storage tanks and water points, delivery of trucked water, installation of latrines, implementation and desludging of wastewater system, and establishing non-permanent onsite wastewater treatment units. To mitigate public health hazards in these informal settlements, over 76,000 people benefited from behavioral change opportunities, addressing the needs of women, girls, and boys, with particular attention to the inclusion of people with special needs.

More than 155,00 people in the Palestine camps around Lebanon benefited from improved access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic use, through UN material and technical support. Such material support included replacing steel water household collectors with PPR pipes, continuing water testing to ensure safe water is provided to the refugees, improving the water quality from the wells by installing casings and new pipes, and ensuring quality control over the water supply networks by closing private wells and making connections to the water supply networks that is subject to routine chlorination and testing. Water quality improvements through installations of filtration systems to ensure safe water was also provided to students.



UNDP Lebanon, 2019.

**Giving children and young people the necessary support for learning opportunities and strengthening the education system.**

The United Nations focused in 2019 on strengthening the education sector in Lebanon by supporting formal and non-formal education streams.

Nine years post-conflict, the Syrian crisis continues to significantly impact Lebanon, with a large number of school-aged refugee children now residing within its borders. Year after year, the MEHE has undertaken commendable work, supported by the international community (NGOs, UN, and donors), to ensure a large number of these children benefit from formal education through public schools.

During the 2018-19 school year (ending June 2019), the MEHE, UN, and partners supported the enrollment in grades KG to G9 of over 425,516 children, comprising 219,455 vulnerable Lebanese children, 206,061 refugee children, and 4,903 non-Lebanese young people, in formal secondary education. An additional 4,563 students were enrolled into the MEHE TVET public schools, comprising 2,380 vulnerable Lebanese and 2,183 young, refugee people. There has been an increase in enrollment over the years partly due to the waiver of school fees for child enrollment in public schools, the enhanced efforts of sector/NGO partners to conduct outreach to children, as well as the increase in the number of second shift schools (from 88 schools



UNDP Lebanon, 2019.

in 2013 to 346 schools in 2019). Outreach through efforts on formal and non-formal education awareness was extended to around 35,000 out-of-school refugee children under the Back to School Campaign 2019-20, and were referred to enroll in public schools and other types of education. Moreover, 1,070 children were reached through Basic Literacy and Numeracy programs, and 260 young, refugee people were supported with university scholarships. This is in addition to other GoL's, UN's, and partners' interventions, such as the provision of school supplies and cash grants for transportation, and fuel for heating. Also, attention has been given to the "double-use" of school buildings, with significant investment into rehabilitation and/or repair. Expansion and rehabilitation of 15 schools are ongoing across Lebanon, of which 13 were completed in 2019.

Education partners, including the UN, have also contributed to the regularization of alternate pathways to education in Lebanon for children who are out-of-school by supporting MEHE with the development of the "National Strategy for Alternative Education Pathways: Meeting the diverse learning needs for the vulnerable and marginalized children and youth in Lebanon," and with the rollout of several non-formal education (NFE) programs to bridge the access to formal education.

Aside from enrollment into public schools, over 35,000 children, aged 3-18 years old (51% of them being girls), were enrolled in regulated, non-formal education programs through the joint efforts of UN and NGO partners in 2019, thereby gaining the opportunity to reconnect to

the education system and possibly reintegrate into formal education. An additional 9,403 out-of-school adolescents and young people (59% female, and 73% non-Lebanese) were enrolled in the regulated non-formal youth literacy and numeracy (YBLN) program through the joint efforts of UN and NGO partners in 2019, thereby gaining the opportunity to graduate to skills training programs and possibly referred to employment support services. These non-formal programs included the Community Based Early Childhood Education (CB-ECE), Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN Basic), Accelerated Learning Program (ALP), and Youth literacy and Numeracy (YBLN).

In parallel, the UN launched in 2019 the Adapted BLN (ABLN) to reach the most vulnerable children with multiple deprivations who may be unable to regularly attend the "regulated NFE" pathways. It provides the needed flexibility to cater for the needs of children, including seasonal work, early marriage, and disabilities. Access to non-formal education by the most vulnerable populations has been supported, including for People With Disabilities (PWD). Three percent of CB-ECE, 3% of BLN, and 5% of ABLN program targets are allocated to supporting children with mild to moderate disabilities and learning difficulties.

Due to the active engagement of MEHE, the UN, in partnership with the implementing NGOs, engaged in outreach, community and parental engagement strategies to address demand-side barriers to education and increase learning opportunities at the community level.

Short-term, accelerated vocational courses were delivered through the Ministry of Labor's National Center for Vocational Training with the aim of addressing gaps in the labor market. Interventions also focus on increasing access to technical training opportunities for both vulnerable Lebanese youth and displaced Syrians, in addition to supporting the capacity of the formal Technical and Vocational Education and Training system in collaboration with technical education and training partners. Vocational support was provided for Palestine refugee young people through four Employment Service Centers (ESCs) assisted by the UN. Through the ESCs, young people were given the opportunity of a paid two-month on-the-job-training, with hundreds of young people participating in digital skills and social entrepreneurship training courses provided at two Innovation Labs.

Improving the quality of education, around 9,500 teachers and educator' skills increased through trainings on differentiated instruction and formative assessment, inclusive education, healthy eating, child protection, teaching with technology and literacy across content, to enhance the quality of education in public schools and in Non-Formal Education (NFE) spaces. Throughout these trainings, the concept of gender equity and gender-based violence risk mitigation was infused, and a whole module on gender was developed.

To further improve the quality and inclusive education for all children in Lebanon, 600 public schools and



Little Faisal has big dreams. When asked what he wants to do when he's older, he pointed to the sky and said, "I want to pilot airplanes." With multipurpose cash, Faisal's family can afford food, rent, and his education, so that one day he will be ready for flight school. WFP Lebanon/Mazen Hodeib.

the broader institutional sustainability of the interventions supported by relevant partners, including reviewing the funding modalities of the education sector by donors, and on the development of a sector-wide, longer-term education strategy, within the broader framework of SDG4 to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."

### Quality prevention and response services

More than 40,000 children and women at-risk, or survivors of violence, abuse and exploitation, including Lebanese and non-Lebanese, such as displaced Syrians and Palestine Refugees, were reached through professional services and support. The support included case management, focused non-specialized psycho-social support, caregivers support programs, and safe spaces for women and girls at-risk of gender-based violence, while building long-term capacity of service providers. 2019 was a significant year as new models of integrated interventions (BLN, cash transfers, and child protection services) targeted working children and street-connected children to address multiple vulnerabilities these children are facing.

### Child Protection

The capacities of state participants, including MOSA, MEHE, MOPH at the central level, municipalities at the local level, and CSOs on child protection, were supported by the UN and partners to further harmonize provision of services and improved capacities of social welfare, justice, health, and education professionals. With increased capacities, state participants and CSOs were able to prevent, mitigate, and respond to child protection concerns for all populations residing in Lebanon. Thus, a number of tools, curricula, and guidelines were finalized during the year and trainings were conducted. More than 1,200 case workers, front liners, Government staff, and outreach volunteers increased their knowledge on different topics, including those on Best Interest Determination, positive parenting, child protection case management, national judicial services, and legal pathways for children at risk, as well as supporting children with disabilities.

Significant progress was made in 2019 in advancing social and behavioral change, moving towards a stronger social normative agenda, based on research and evidence for addressing violence against children, child marriage, child labor and violence in homes. The emerging national Social and Behavioral Change Plan called "QUDWA" is a strategy that provides more sustainable ways of shifting social norms and underlying drivers that perpetuate these practices through cross-programmatic interventions.

New tools and approaches for sustained community engagement and addressing the issues from a social normative perspective have been developed. The UN's work was built on the evidence collected on the impact of armed violence on children, particularly child recruitment.

MEHE's Inclusive Schools received the MEHE's Child Protection Policy; and 30 public schools mainstreamed children with special needs as a result of MEHE with the UN's and partners' support on child-centered education reform, thereby providing evidence for MEHE's Inclusive Education reform. Also, ongoing support to the system of in-service teachers' training continued with improvements in instructional methodology, enhanced the technical capacity of the public teaching corps. 420 children with moderate to severe disabilities whose inclusion in regular programs is not possible due to low capacity of the education system were able to access a specialized education package, and protection and rehabilitation services through five disability NGOs in Lebanon in 2018 and 2019. The specialized package included speech therapy, physiotherapy, psychologist sessions, as well as assessments as needed.

The UN continued to contribute to the development of evidence-informed policies and programs that promote children's rights. This was done primarily through the publication of Lebanon's first Out-of-School Children study, which provided evidence on school exclusion and devised policy options for MEHE. The UN launched two studies on education for stateless children and driving factors behind school violence against children.

In 2019, an ongoing Mid-Term Review of RACE II was supported, and the UN started a dialogue with MEHE on



WFP Lebanon/Mazen Hodeib.

### Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) continued to be one of the major protection concerns faced by refugee women, girls, men and boys. The increased levels of stress, further restrictions on refugees, as well as the socioeconomic condition in the country, were in turn serving as a contributing factor to increase the risks of domestic and intimate partner violence. Women participants emphasized increased pressure and stress in the family due to increased domestic and home care, including providing food and caring for family members. In several cases, women mentioned that they saw their husbands becoming more "angrier" than before, and they mostly became the targets of those frustrations through verbal or physical assaults.<sup>4</sup>

Three main elements are necessary to address SGBV: infrastructure, case management support, and outreach and awareness raising. To ensure immediate, non-conditional emergency shelter infrastructure and other vital services to survivors, mainly women and girls, 33,500 women, girls, men and boys benefited from

SGBV prevention and response services in safe places through UN support. In addition, survivors accessed case management services in order to address protection issues, prevent further harm, and gain harm coping mechanisms and support for their social reintegration.

In terms of raising awareness on SGBV, the UN reached and informed:

- 71,075 women, 17,938 men and 75,362 adolescent girls across Lebanon with information on gender-based violence, including early marriage.
- 25 municipalities with community events and awareness raising activities related to combating child marriage.
- 21 journalists on gender justice and SGBV, which enhanced their capacities in ethical media investigation and reporting on SGBV cases.
- The knowledge of relevant GBV partners, who included local institutions, particularly Government entities as well as other key participants, increased through UN support:
- 601 peer educators on GBV, and on GBV within their communities.
- More than 406 women and adolescent girls on self-protection and first aid; on financial management allowing them to better manage their finances; and on self-small production projects, which funded 25 small projects resulting in improvement of their economic status.
- More than 50 community leaders on the legal framework for early marriage.

At a national level, several plans and strategies have been revised or developed with the support of the UN, including the action plan of the national strategy to combat violence against women and girls; the national women strategy, the contextualization, and roll out of the essential service package for girl survivors of violence; the national strategy for CMR; and the National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security.

### Strengthening the social protection system

The social protection system in Lebanon is characterized by low coverage, inadequate benefits, and fragmented programs and initiatives. Thus, an integrated social protection framework is critical to strengthen inclusion and social stability. In 2019, in order to improve the system, the Social Safety Net Assessment covering the analysis of three social assistance programs within MoSA (Disability, NPTP and Institutional Care) was finalized with support by the UN, contributing to the evidence-based

4. Inter-Agency Humanitarian Impact Assessment of Lebanon's Ongoing Social Unrest and Possible Economic Crisis on Women and Girls, November 2019.



St. Nicolas Greek Orthodox Cathedral.  
UN Habitat Lebanon

voucher households. The UN provided on-the-job training opportunities for MoSA and SDC staff with regards to conducting data collection, monitoring, card distributions, and trainings to participants, as all activities related to the NPTP e-card food voucher were implemented jointly by MoSA, SDC staff, and the UN.

### Shelter assistance provided to the most vulnerable persons of concern

The UN focused on vulnerable host communities and refugee families living in hazardous shelter situations and prioritized those who were the most susceptible to health and protection risks, and who were the least able to change their living situation due to the effect of their critical socio-economic vulnerability. In informal settlements, more than 181,000 refugees had their shelters maintained at livable conditions and were weatherproofed by providing them with shelter materials or cash for weatherproofing. Outside of informal settlements, 12 deprived and less-serviced urban and rural areas across the country with the most vulnerable families, including a small percentage of Lebanese vulnerable families, were upgraded; they had inadequate connection to a municipal infrastructure and service, and lack of privacy. Around 8,000 individuals (23% of which were Lebanese) living in substandard shelters had their homes upgraded to the minimum standards.

Beyond housing, in 2019, 39 historic buildings in Old Saida and Tripoli were rehabilitated internally and externally in accordance with the norms and standards of the preservation and rehabilitation of cultural heritage buildings set by the Director General of Antiquities.

### Direct assistance to most vulnerable people of concern

The United Nations provided cash assistance and basic support to the most vulnerable, through a wide array of programs from the NPTP, e-vouchers for food, cash for food, multipurpose cash assistance, sectoral conditional or unconditional cash, and humanitarian social assistance schemes.

The UN has supported Ministry of Social Affairs in enhancing the processes around the NPTP, the national poverty-targeted social assistance program, in regard to beneficiary selection, monitoring, communications, and outreach for future scale up of this program. In 2019, 12,900 vulnerable Lebanese households received NPTP food assistance through UN support, which was an increase of almost 44% from 2018.

Apart from the NPTP, the same level of assistance provided in previous years was maintained in 2019, providing on average around 640,000 people with food and/or multipurpose cash assistance on a monthly basis throughout the year. Through multipurpose cash assistance, about 55,440 displaced Syrian households received LBP 260,000 each month, and 27,119 Palestine refugees from Syria received LBP 150,399 each month to cover their survival needs. Considering 825,000

refugees have expenditure levels below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket, according to Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) 2019, this support only covered about 44% of the overall eligible families for multipurpose cash assistance.

Families living below the poverty line were targeted for seasonal cash assistance. More than 287,000 families benefited from the assistance in the form of unconditional and conditional (fuel cards) cash assistance, which included vulnerable Lebanese, displaced Syrians, and Palestine refugees from Syria. In addition, 798,000 Lebanese, displaced Syrians, and Palestine refugees from Syria have received cash-based food assistance throughout the year, providing a lifeline for the vulnerable population. By the end of 2019, 3,578 children received social assistance in the form of monthly unconditional cash transfers for child wellbeing. In December 2019, 74,212 children received winter cash, and around 22,346 displaced Syrians children received winter clothing kits, as well as 4,807 Lebanese and 2,662 Palestine children.

In addition, 2,870 Palestine refugees from Lebanon enrolled in the Social Safety Net Programme (SSNP) and received 195,518.7 LBP yearly.

The United Nations in Lebanon has started to further expand its cash assistance and support to a greater number of vulnerable Lebanese and is committed to continue the scale up as poverty, vulnerabilities, and needs increase in 2020.

## OUTCOME 3.3 STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Funds received: \$14.16 million USD

The UN in Lebanon aims to reduce pollution emissions to the air; to implement resource efficiency and cleaner production initiatives; and develop the capacity of the Government of Lebanon to implement environmental agreements and improve integrated solid waste management.

### Low emission, cleaner production, and resource efficiency actions

The UN continued its efforts on climate change mitigation and adaptation of initiatives leading to reduction in pollution emissions and energy consumption. A total of 0.586MW capacity of on-grid and off-grid solar panels have been installed in various locations around the country. For example, 166 energy efficient streetlights were installed in both Zahle and Tripoli, which also increased the safety and security in Lebanese neighborhoods.

One of the most common ways to reduce emissions is through reforestation and afforestation, with trees absorbing one of the greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide. 520 hectares of land, the size of more than 860 football fields, have been reforested and afforested in Lebanon as a result of UN efforts.

### HUMAN STORY: PLANTING TREES AND MAKING ENDS MEET



Fouad Choufany (FAO). FAO, ILO, UNICEF, 2019.

“It’s not just about the money, working in nature and planting this land makes me happy,” Mohammad Youssed Sawli, one of the Lebanese participants and a local from Taybe, South Lebanon said, adding, “Now I am sure my kids will live in a village with more green spaces. I look forward to the next project already, and I’ve started learning some new techniques in planting and agriculture myself.”

Mohammad was unemployed prior to the UN’s support. Through the income paid from attending the planting training sessions and the planting itself, he is making ends meet and providing food and other essentials for his family.

Mohammad was part of a collaboration with the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture and local partners, where the United Nations in Lebanon planted 95,000 native trees covering 172 hectares across Lebanon, bringing together women and men from Lebanon’s most vulnerable communities. Throughout 2019, the UN Lebanon’s total reforestation and afforestation efforts covered 520 hectares of land, a size of more than 860 football fields.



Inauguration of the non-organic waste sorting facility in Majdal Anjar in Bekaa. UNHCR/Houssam Hariri, 2019.

Cleaner production and resource efficiency are critical to reduce the dependence on fresh resources and to reduce waste. So, industrial processes need to be more efficient. Nine large industries in Lebanon that work in various sectors, including agro-food, cement and dairy production, were supported through cleaner production, either converting their production to use more environmentally friendly chemicals or installing pollution treatment systems.

### Developing the capacity of the Government of Lebanon to implement environmental agreements

The UN continued providing support to the Government of Lebanon to meet the requirements set in the international environmental agreements, which Lebanon signed. Of particular importance is the climate convention; the update of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) was initiated with the Ministry of Environment in consultation with others and to show Lebanon's renewed commitments on its climate targets. Support to the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Environment continued in order to improve their capacity to implement Lebanon's commitments to multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Barcelona Convention, the Minamata Convention, and the Montreal Protocol and its amendments.

Under the Barcelona convention, the UN started preparations for supporting the Ministry of Industry to monitor resource efficiency performance in a pilot industrial zone. Under the Minamata Convention, funds were allocated for Lebanon from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to be able to assess the mercury emissions/releases in Lebanon and to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Lebanon to implement agreements from the Minamata Convention.

Under the Montreal Protocol, the UN finalized the implementation of a pilot on the environmentally sound management and waste disposal of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) with the Ministry of Environment. Furthermore, financial support was provided to convert a refrigeration manufacturing industry to use ozone-friendly chemicals.

### Improving integrated solid waste management

The UN in Lebanon remained active in 2019 in providing support to different partners on solid waste management, primarily at a local and a policy level. The solid waste management road map was adopted by the Council of Ministers, building on the technical assessments undertaken with the support of the UN. A preliminary baseline assessment of e-wastes in Lebanon was also conducted, giving an initial perception about e-wastes quantities, disposal routes, and e-waste management options.

- 44 municipalities benefited from expanded or improved solid waste management as a result of UN support. Specifically, these included:
- Three municipalities in Bekaa diverting 22 tons of solid waste to safe disposal.
- Five municipalities which started sorting their waste and sending their recyclables to one of the established facilities that ensured economies of scale.
- 31 municipalities that reduced their waste collection cost and improved their waste collection practices ensuring sustainability of waste collection, despite the economic crisis.
- Relevant environmental assessments conducted in the framework of the planned rehabilitation of the "Mansoura dumpsite."
- Four Unions of municipalities in the North of Lebanon initiated sorting at the source practice at the local business level. Moreover, they optimized their waste collection process, which reduced the related cost and contributed to sustaining the service. In collaboration with Ministry of Environment, four ToTs were conducted on municipal solid waste management with mayors

and police from 31 municipalities within these unions.

Beyond technical support, environmental and social risk screening assessments and feasibility studies for physical climate change adaptation projects (rainwater harvesting, wastewater treatment plant upgrading, efficient irrigation techniques, constructed wetlands design) were completed as a result of UN support in the Bekaa area.

On the other hand, there was a lot of momentum around the management and depollution of the Litani River Basin, including but not limited to activities on solid waste management and climate change. Several agencies worked on locations within the watershed to upscale solid waste facilities, improve local environmental planning for lands, build capacity on sustainable practices and initiate the design of climate-friendly interventions in that area.

Challenges faced in the environmental sector comprise the political and security situation, lack of financial resources risking the sustainability of solid waste facilities, limited liquidity in municipalities affecting their ability to collaborate on environmental policy projects, inability to import raw materials, and low priority by the Government of Lebanon.



# RESULTS OF COMMUNICATING AS ONE



In 2019, the UN in Lebanon focused on increasing awareness on the UN, and knowledge and interaction with the SDGs. Based on the results of a perception survey conducted at the end of 2018, the UN saw the implementation of the first Integrated Communications Campaign in 2019 that increased engagement with the public and promoted action towards achieving the SDGs, specifically 1, 4, 5, 7, 14, and 16.

The campaign, entitled #TakeAStep, initiated a national call to action, which encouraged individuals in Lebanon to make a positive change in their communities and to be involved, alongside the UN, in local development for a sustainable Lebanon. One of the results this campaign was the guide called, "For the people, by the people," which outlined the people's proposals and ideas on how to make a change.

#TakeAStep was the largest and longest communication campaign by the UN in Lebanon. This collective effort proved successful, recording a total of 13.6 million impressions and 2.8 million online engagements.

Every year, UN entities work together with other local partners and stakeholders to mobilize action against gender-based violence with the campaign, "We Reject Violence, Protection is Your Right." In November 2019, a campaign in Lebanon was conducted jointly with the National Commission for Lebanese Women as part of the global campaign, "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence," which resulted in more than 450,000 interactions. This year's campaign examined the challenges that survivors of GBV face and offered them practical guidance (legal help, hotlines, and prevention/response services) while encouraging women and young people to make a difference by speaking up against gender-based violence.

Concurrently, with a view to highlight Lebanon's developmental needs, the UN joined forces to produce key messages and social media posts to promote key priorities for twenty UN international days, including World Water Day, World Youth Day, International Peace Day, UN Day, and Human Rights Day.

On October 17, Lebanon witnessed massive protests as a result of the deteriorating economic and financial situation in the country. The UN in Lebanon witnessed multiple civic actions by protesters that directly tapped into the implementation of the SDGs; hence, the UN in Lebanon promoted messages highlighting key aspects, including the leading role of women and youth at the forefront of the protests; the active participation of people with disabilities, social solidarity and human rights, and green initiatives to safeguard the environment.

Recognizing the importance of "offline," or face-to-face communication, the UN in Lebanon held regular teach-in sessions on its work and the SDGs. These awareness sessions were targeted at students from various areas and backgrounds, and for different ages, reaching over 15,000 young people.

As the UN is turning 75 years old next year, the UN in Lebanon is gearing up to launch an online dialogue on the 17 SDGs in 2020 as part of second phase of the #TakeAStep campaign. This goes in tandem with the UN75 commemoration theme, "Shaping Our Future Together," which revolves around a global conversation and action-oriented dialogues on the role of world cooperation in building the future people want.

# RESULTS OF OPERATING AS ONE



In 2018, the UN in Lebanon committed to reducing costs and increasing the quality of operational support by endorsing a Business Operations Strategy (2019-2020). Through joint collaboration and full implementation of the strategy, savings of over \$3.6 million USD is expected to be achieved while delivering programs more efficiently, avoiding duplication of work, and receiving the best value for the money.

The Business Operations Strategy (BOS) for Lebanon focuses on six main areas of work: Information and Communications Technology, Facilities, Human Resources, Procurement, Logistics, and Finance, with priorities and objectives for each area. For 2019, the UN in Lebanon constantly worked on designing the work processes on how UN agencies can work better with each other.

## PROCUREMENT

Lead: UNDP

Members: UNICEF, UN Habitat, ESCWA, UNIDO, UNOPS, FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNODC, UNRWA, WFP, WHO, UN Women, UNIFIL

Procurement is an essential part of operations of the UN, as it can influence different priorities, including Human Resources and Logistics. Procurement's area of work had



Iraqi refugees Aya Tarek and Youlia Kodicho and displaced Syrian Fatmeh Abd el Chemlen during a workshop to enhance technical capacity- Ain Remmaneh, Beirut. UN Women/Gonzalo Bell, 2019.

four main priorities for 2019: establish common long-term agreements (LTAs) for common required services; establish a common platform for sharing LTAs and other procurement information; explore additional common LTAs/arrangements; and roll out the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) training in Lebanon. For the first priority, the UN in Lebanon established an LTA for travel services, with the Internet services LTA still under process and the LTA for contracting stress counsellors was cancelled. Second, the UN built on an already-developed UN platform in order to save time and resources, to add hundreds of LTAs and to allow the search for LTAs of UN agencies in Lebanon. For the third priority, the UN in Lebanon was able to save time and resources by utilizing existing LTAs of UN agencies instead of launching new proposals, including LTAs for outsourcing Human Resources services, translation and interpretation services, fuel services, printing services, and courier services. Finally, for the fourth priority, as mentioned under Human Resources, a joint training on the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) Level 2 was held.

## INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Lead: UNICEF

Members: UNSCOL, UNDP, IOM, ESCWA, ILO, UNIFIL, UNRWA, UNESCO, UNHCR, WFP, WHO, UNHABITAT

The UN in Lebanon's objective for 2019 was to establish a common long-term agreement (LTA) for Internet and Wide Area Network (WAN) services, which would provide reliable data services to agencies, with premium support and assured price reduction. The bidding process began in 2019 and is expected to be ready by early 2020.

## FACILITIES

Lead: UNICEF

Members: UNHCR, ESCWA, UNSCOL, IOM, UNFPA, UNIFIL, World Bank Group, WFP, UNDP, UNHABITAT

For facilities, the UN in Lebanon committed to three main objectives in 2019: 1) Adequate contracts in place for proper management of UN premises; 2) identifying options for overnight parking space for official vehicles in Beirut; and 3) having One UN house in all field locations. For the first objective, the terms of reference (TOR) were drafted and agreed for a number of management processes, including cameras fire and safety system, cleaning services, generator maintenance, HVAC, pest control, plumbing and public health services, and security



UNDP Lebanon LHSP

services. For the second objective, a need for parking spaces were identified and linked with agencies willing to host. For the third objective, three common UN premises were identified and the move was completed in Qobayat (WFP, UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR), Tyr (WFP, IOM, UNICEF), and Zahlé (UNICEF, WFP). Identifying a UN common premise in Tripoli (WFP, UNDSS, IOM, UN Habitat, UNICEF) faced several challenges, including land availability and estimate capital cost of movement; however, the process is moving forward with UN agencies expected to move by early 2020.

## HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)

**Lead: WHO**

**Members: UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, ESCWA, FAO, UNSCOL, ILO, IOM, UNRWA, STL, UNV, UNHCR, UN Women, WFP**

For Human Resources, an area that is commonly difficult to push for common priorities within the UN, the UN in Lebanon set several objectives for 2019: development of a common induction booklet; specific joint trainings for UN staff on safety and security; and establishment of a talent group. A working draft of the common induction booklet has been finalized, which is expected to be available at the end February 2020. Linked with the Procurement priority,

two joint trainings were held in 2019: one on Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) Level 2, covering a total of 28 UN staff from eight different agencies; and another one on the Salary Survey Methodology. For the LTA with stress counselors, which was linked to the Procurement priority, TOR were developed and then further updated due to the prevailing developments in the country. In establishing a roster, a pilot initiative was undertaken in 2019 for drivers, as it is a basic function common to most UN agencies. The TOR were finalized, leading to posted vacancies, and implementation of prepared and agreed upon steps for screening the candidates, shortlisting, and testing.

## LOGISTICS

**Lead: WFP**

**Members: UNICEF, WFP, UNOPS, UNDP, UNIDO, ESCWA, OHCHR, ILO, UNRCO, WHO, IOM, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNIC, UNRWA, UNESCO, UN Women, OCHA, UNHCR, UNSCOL**

The UN in Lebanon has vigorously collaborated to ensure they are on the right track for sustainability, financial benefits, and a high quality of service. For Logistics, the UN committed to setting up a carpooling system, utilizing

the printing services by the UN regional commission based in Beirut (UNESCWA), and setting up a nationwide fuel contingency stock. The carpooling system is a pilot project, under the leadership of WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR, which is expected to include all agencies by end of 2021. Preparations to launch the process took place in 2019, including development a Proof Of Concept, undertaking the necessary procurement and data collection to provide a baseline analysis to then monitor the project's financial gain and success. For the printing services, the UN held an awareness session, with several agencies already having used the common printing services. Under logistics, the UN took on an additional project in line with the country contextual and emergency needs: the nationwide fuel contingency stock to be used in case of emergencies; an outline of the use and access to the fuel was developed.

## FINANCE

**Lead: UNICEF**

**Members: WFP, UNDP, ESCWA, FAO, UNSCOL, UN Women, ILO, IOM, WHO, UNRWA, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNRCO, UNFPA**

The UN prioritized four areas under Finance: developing UN Harmonized rates for calculating Cooperating Partners proposed budgets; sharing information on anti-corruption and anti-fraud; addressing VAT refund delays to the value-

added tax (VAT) authority; and integrating Finance and Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) efforts to explore the common works. In developing UN harmonized rates, the UN was able to set and agree on a final range of rates to provide flexibility for UN agencies as well as achieve harmonization. For sharing information on anti-corruption and anti-fraud, the UN was able to discuss two cases on anti-fraud. In addressing VAT refunds, the UN witnessed significant improvements on VAT refunds by the VAT authority, which required no further efforts from the UN. On finance and HACT efforts, the previously separate efforts were combined between the participating agencies. Also, the UN enhanced the capabilities of implementing partners, mainly Government partners, and national and international non-governmental organizations, through training sessions.

### Way Forward

The UN in Lebanon recognizes the importance of improving business operations of the UN in order to work more efficiently. While this is the largest effort of the UN in Lebanon to collaborate on operational priorities, further work needs to be done to ensure greater commitment and more efficient collaboration of UN agencies at all levels; and to greatly avoid UN agency-focused work, especially given the different nature and operational ways of the UN agencies. Guidance and messaging from different UN agencies' headquarters are important for the UN to continue improving business operations in Lebanon, as limitations and guidelines are not set at a national level.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



## OVERALL INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO LEBANON

Since the start of the Syrian crisis, the international community has continued to demonstrate a high-level of support to Lebanon. Since 2017, donors reported an annual average of \$1.49 billion USD in grant support to Lebanon, with the European Union, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America consistently among the top donors.

## FUNDING UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

In 2019, \$1.04 billion USD were invested to support Lebanon through the United Nations Strategic Framework; 96% of these funds were used in support of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan. In 2019, the majority of UNSF resources focused on Pillar 3: Socioeconomic development, and particularly on Outcome 3.2, improving equitable access to and delivery of quality social services, social protection, and direct assistance.

FIGURE 1. 2019 RESOURCES BY UNSF PILLAR

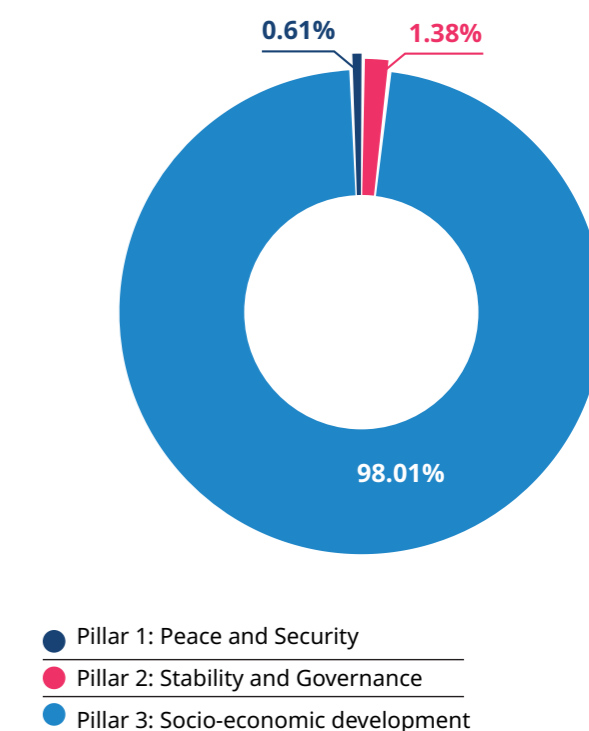
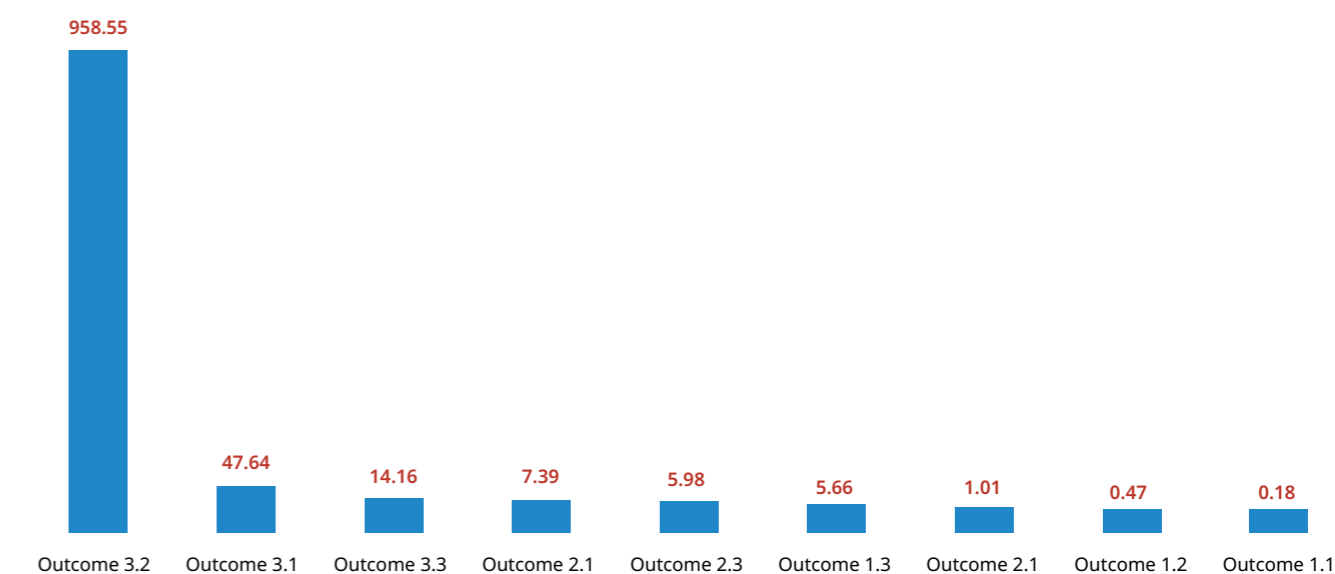


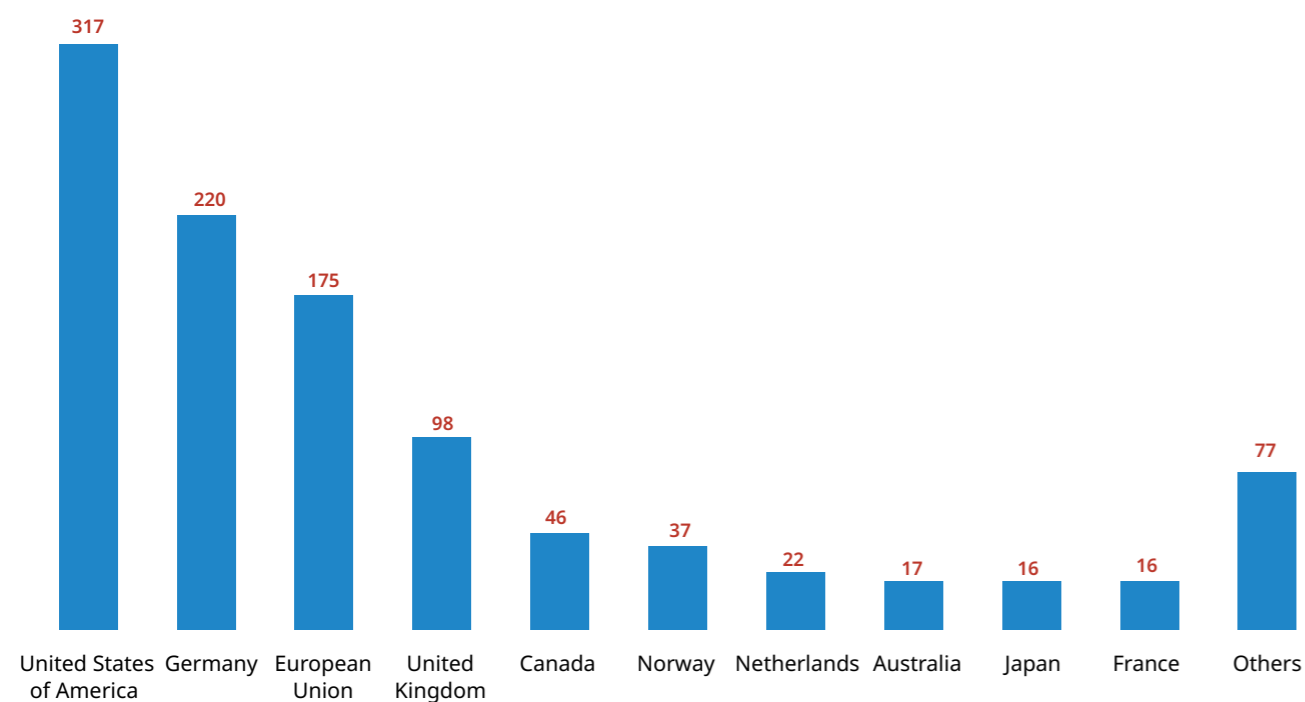
TABLE 1. 2019 RESOURCES BY UNSF PILLAR

UNSF PILLAR	2019 RESOURCES (IN USD)
PILLAR 1: PEACE AND SECURITY	6,313,867
PILLAR 2: STABILITY AND GOVERNANCE	14,389,905
PILLAR 3: SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	1,020,361,711

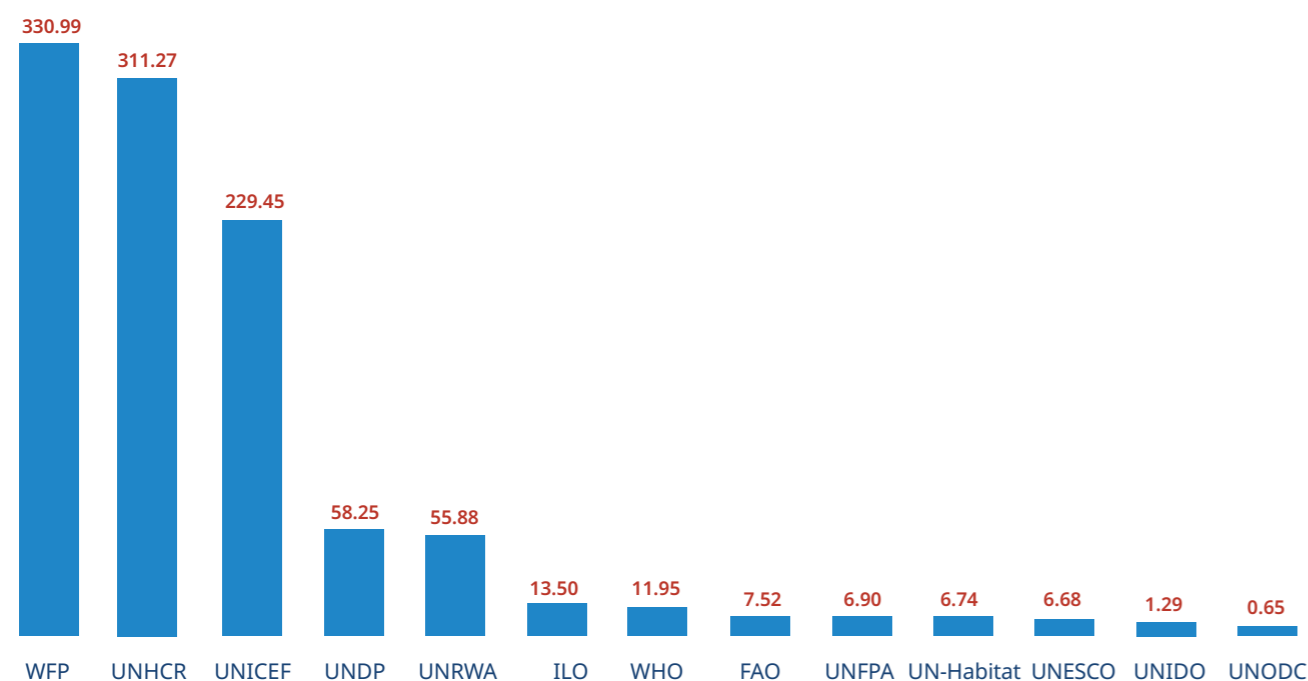
FIGURE 2. 2019 UNSF RESOURCES BY OUTCOME (IN MILLIONS OF USD)



**FIGURE 3. CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNSF BY DONOR IN 2019 (IN MILLIONS OF USD)**



**FIGURE 4. FUNDS RECEIVED BY UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES IN 2019 UNDER UNSF (IN MILLIONS OF USD)**



**TABLE 2. CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNSF BY DONOR IN 2019**

DONOR PARTNER	2019 DISBURSEMENTS (IN USD)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	317,125,586
GERMANY	219,505,214
EUROPEAN UNION	174,773,836
UNITED KINGDOM	98,246,016
CANADA	45,998,093
NORWAY	37,003,045
NETHERLANDS	22,139,478
AUSTRALIA	17,325,112
JAPAN	16,272,142
FRANCE	16,008,945
PRIVATE DONORS	9,566,242
DENMARK	8,016,013
ITALY	7,947,934
SAUDI ARABIA	7,754,979
GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON	6,835,631
QATAR	6,150,000
SWITZERLAND	4,514,540
FINLAND	4,209,329
LHF-OCHA	3,246,117
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	3,000,000
SPAIN	2,514,534
BELGIUM	2,275,313
KUWAIT	1,655,000
POLAND	1,315,000
SWEDEN	1,260,422
MONACO	464,198
LUXEMBOURG	313,808
OTHERS	5,628,957
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,041,065,483</b>





UNITED NATIONS  
LEBANON



Follow the UN in Lebanon:

 @UNLebanon

 @UN\_lebanon

 unitednationslebanon

[www.un.org.lb](http://www.un.org.lb)