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WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SECURE,
STABLE AND PROSPEROUS LEBANON



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2018 HIGHLIGHTS



One million of the most vulnerable received direct assistance in the form of cash transfers .



Over 210,000 patients received chronic disease medication and 140,000 received medication for acute diseases.



Almost 63,000 people benefited from sexual gender-based violence prevention and response services in safe spaces.



Solar street lights were installed in 21 villages and solar home-kits were distributed in 35 of the most vulnerable Lebanese host communities.



Creativity and innovation were strengthened in 56 enterprises and 18 cooperatives through business management training, equipment, financial services and technology transfer.



Over 1,500 farmers received support and training to prevent transboundary diseases of plants and animals and to improve agriculture and water conservation practices.



Around 430,000 children were enrolled in basic education and 22,000 public school teachers and education personnel were offered training.



Over 400,000 people benefited from improved access to safe water through investment in water infrastructure and water system management.



Over 26,000 persons were employed short term in Lebanese host communities, resulting in improved roads, water networks, sidewalks, market places and irrigation channels.



The share of Syrian-refugee households living in poverty decreased from 76 per cent in 2017 to 69 per cent in 2018 through cash-based assistance.



Integrated waste management in the north of Lebanon reduced the cost of municipal solid waste collection by 50 per cent.



The Government increased capacity to protect marine and coastal ecosystems by improving data collection and training to strengthen monitoring of the fishing fleet and develop an ecosystem approach to sardine fisheries.



The police shifted from State-security focused work to more people-oriented policing, including rolling out standard operating procedures and training municipal police to address the security needs of vulnerable groups.



The Lebanese Government received support to secure 90 million euros in financial commitments to develop infrastructure for new sustainable industrial zones across Lebanon.



Cleaner production practices and technologies were adopted by 11 enterprises, including the installation of wastewater treatment systems and filter systems.



Four Lebanese industries phased out the use of ozone depleting chemicals, totalling 155 metric tons.



Climate resilience of vulnerable Lebanese forest ecosystems was strengthened by planting seedlings and forest restoration in over 500 hectares of land.



Data access and evidence-based decision making was promoted through a survey on labour force and household living conditions and a capacity assessment of the Central Administration of Statistics.



FOREWORD



2018 was an important year for Lebanon. For the first time in nearly a decade, the Lebanese people went to the polls to elect a new parliament - a key step towards a stronger democracy and State institutions. The election results and formation of the new Government were a small win for women, with six women parliamentarians elected and four women ministers appointed to the new cabinet.

Lebanon also remained high on the international support agenda. In 2018, three large-scale international conferences held in Rome, Paris and Brussels mobilized important international assistance to support security and economic development in Lebanon, and fulfil humanitarian and stabilization needs caused by the protracted Syrian crisis.

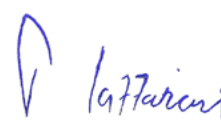
The present report marks a collective effort by the United Nations, the Lebanese Government, partners and, most importantly, the people and communities in Lebanon who we work with and, more importantly, we work for. In an effort to strengthen domestic security and law and order, the United Nations continued to work with the Lebanese authorities to improve border management and control, strengthen the capacity of municipal police, and clear large areas containing explosive remnants of war, including grenades, mortars and bombs. The United Nations also assisted municipalities in mitigating tension, managing conflict and alleviating resource pressure through the implementation of municipal or local service projects.

Another focus area in 2018 was providing support to the Government in conducting the first parliamentary elections in nine years, with particular attention given to advocating

for increased women's participation and representation. Lastly, in addition to the continued support provided to the Government in mitigating the impact of the Syrian crisis - both through direct assistance to refugees and through stabilization support to Lebanese host communities - the United Nations assisted the Government in addressing development challenges predating the crisis by promoting productivity and economic opportunities in the industrial sectors, as well as increasing access to sustainable energy, scaling up energy efficiencies and promoting sustainable management of forests and marine ecosystems.

In 2019, we will continue to build on ongoing initiatives while supporting Lebanon in accelerating its progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A key first step will be the development of a national vision articulating what the Lebanese people hope to achieve by 2030, to guide policies and national action plans for the socioeconomic development of the country, while leaving no one behind.

I thank you for your engagement and partnership with the United Nations system, and I look forward to delivering together for Lebanon in 2019.



Phillipe Lazzarini

*United Nations
Resident Coordinator for Lebanon*



Mr. Phillipe Lazzarini, United Nations Resident Coordinator, during a visit to the south of Lebanon to meet partners and beneficiaries and review completed projects in Lebanese host communities. © UNDP - Rana Sweidan

I. KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS



A. POLITICAL SITUATION

On 6 May 2018, Lebanon held its first parliamentary elections since 2009. The Lebanese people took to the polls in what the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres, described as a vital step in strengthening the State institutions of Lebanon and consolidating its democratic tradition. The polls were held under a revised electoral law that replaced the majoritarian system with proportional representation and introduced other important changes, including the preferential vote, a pre-printed ballot and voting for nationals abroad.

Overall, international observers reported a peaceful election process, with voters enjoying freedom of speech, assembly and movement. The elections results were largely accepted by the population. However, observers also highlighted several deficiencies, including isolated incidents of violence, a distorted playing field (owing to high campaign spending ceilings and media costs), allegations of vote-buying, and a low voter turnout of 49.68 per cent. Nonetheless, the elections saw a significant increase in women candidates running for office (up from 12 in 2009 to 113 in 2018, of whom 86 were on lists); women comprised 14.4 per cent of the total number of candidates (597).¹ Nevertheless, only six women secured seats in the 128-member parliament, compared with four in 2009. Consequently, women constitute only 4.7 per cent of the total members of parliament.

On 24 May 2018, Mr. Saad Hariri was appointed Prime Minister-designate of Lebanon, tasked with forming a national unity Government. However, by the end of 2018, the political leadership had yet to agree on a new cabinet, signalling a slowdown in institutional revitalization. The delay in government formation negatively affected executive decision-making at a time when the country was facing serious security, economic and humanitarian challenges. It also jeopardized the positive momentum generated during a series of high-level international conferences, held in spring 2018 in Rome, Paris and Brussels, to support the Lebanese security sector, economy and refugee response, respectively. However, at the end of January 2019, Lebanese political factions finally agreed on the formation of a new government, breaking a nine-month political deadlock.

The new parliament adopted several important bills in 2018, including laws related to CEDRE (Conférence économique pour le développement, par les réformes et avec les entreprises), forced disappearances, and protecting whistle-blowers. It also made progress towards the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty. The normalization of relations with the Syrian Arab Republic and the policy of disassociation from regional conflicts remained contentious issues among Lebanese citizens.

1 S/2018/703, para. 51.

B. ECONOMIC SITUATION

In 2018, concerns grew regarding the Lebanese economy. Marked by the impact of the Syrian crisis and the challenging economic conditions of the past years, the difficult environment continued to affect the sectors that traditionally had been drivers of the economy – tourism, construction, real estate and trade – and left the productive sectors (agriculture and industry) struggling for survival. Gross domestic product (GDP) grew at a slow pace in 2018, estimated at 1 per cent.² The country's growth outlook beyond 2018 is expected to continue to be sluggish and the medium-term economic prospects remain bleak. Difficult economic conditions in the medium term are also likely to adversely impact vulnerability and poverty rates. Unemployment remained high, especially among women and young people. Job creation fell short of the annual cohort joining the labour market, thereby feeding continued large-scale out-migration of graduates and skilled labour. Meanwhile, inflation was on an upward trend, from almost zero in 2016 to 4.5 per cent in 2017, and to 6 per cent in 2018.³

Furthermore, in 2018, poor growth was accompanied by large and increasing fiscal deficits, estimated at around 10 per cent as public finances seriously deteriorated.⁴ High and rising fiscal deficits over the years, coupled with poor growth resulted in a debt-to-GDP of 152 per cent by the end of 2018,⁵ the third highest in the world.

Poor infrastructure has also limited the potential growth of the real economy. Lack of investment in infrastructure, particularly in years of high growth, has caused weak economic performance. In view of the fiscal and debt situation, the Government has a meagre budget for capital spending.

To reverse the situation and boost investment, employment and growth, the Government presented the ambitious Capital Investment Plan (CIP),⁶ with phases I and II of CIP requiring \$17.23 billion. The Government also introduced a fiscal, sectoral and structural reform programmes at the CEDRE conference in April 2018. The international community fully supported their combined implementation, and pledged \$11.06 billion at the conference in concessional loans and grants for phase I.⁷

The international community has provided considerable support to Lebanon since the start of the Syrian crisis. Since 2011, over \$7 billion in humanitarian assistance

2 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lebanon/publication/economic-outlook-october-2018>.

3 <http://cas.gov.lb/images/PDFs/CPI/2018/Annual%20Average%20Inflation.pdf> (in Arabic).

4 https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/cedre_statement-en_final_ang_cle8179fb.pdf.

5 <http://finance.gov.lb/en-us/Finance/PublicDebt/PDTS/Documents/General%20Debt%20Overview%20Updated%20as%2031%20December%202018.pdf>.

6 <http://www.pcm.gov.lb/Admin/DynamicFile.aspx?PHName=Document&PageID=11231&published=1>.

7 https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/cedre_statement-en_final_ang_cle8179fb.pdf.



Demining in Lebanon became more effective and large areas were cleared of explosive remnants of war, like grenades, mortars and bombs. © UNDP

has been offered to support Lebanon in coping with the impact of the crisis and in helping the most vulnerable populations while increasingly benefiting the local economy, in addition to \$232 million injected into the economy every year through cash assistance.⁸

C. PEACE AND SECURITY

On the security side, following successful operations by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) that defeated militants in the northern and eastern border areas, cross-border fire incidents significantly decreased in 2018. The improvement in the security situation along the border has resulted in a gradual return to normalcy, allowing the local population to resume economic and agricultural activities in the area. However, people smuggling into Lebanon has increased since June 2018.

An important milestone for the security apparatus was the Rome II Conference held on 15 March 2018, at which LAF and the Internal Security Forces (ISF) presented their five-year strategic plans and reiterated their commitment to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1701 (2006) and 2373 (2017). Lebanon

subsequently received commitments of international support along those lines.

However, key provisions of Security Council Resolution 1701 remain unimplemented and a permanent ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon remains elusive. Tensions briefly flared in the first part of 2018 when Israel resumed engineering work south of the Blue Line near Lebanese 'reservation areas'. In December 2018, tensions increased again when the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) confirmed the existence of four tunnels close to the Blue Line, of which two crossed the Blue Line in violation of Security Council resolution 1701. Israeli overflights also continued in violation of the resolution. Nonetheless, the United Nations-facilitated tripartite mechanism continued to ensure coordination and liaison between the Lebanese and Israeli armed forces and preserved calm and stability along the Blue Line.

The ongoing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic continued to affect Lebanon. Spill-over fire, including missile debris falling inside Lebanon, and the alleged use of Lebanese airspace by Israel to conduct military operations in the Syrian Arab Republic continued in 2018.

Even as the situation in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon generally remained stable throughout the year, a significant outbreak of violence took place inside the Mieh camp in October 2018. The clashes, which involved the use of heavy weapons, left at least three people dead and over 20 injured; and caused extensive damage to property, the temporary displacement of the camp's residents and the temporary suspension of operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).⁹

Following counter-terrorism operations in 2017 and the departure of militants from the country, the number of cross-border incidents significantly decreased in 2018. No shelling or cross-border fire were reported in 2018, indicating that the security situation had improved significantly along the eastern border. This led to a gradual return to normalcy and allowed the local population to resume economic activities and tend to their fields.

D. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Eight years into the Syrian conflict, Lebanon remains at the forefront of one of the worst humanitarian crises since the Second World War. As at December 2018, the Lebanese Government estimated that the country was hosting 1.5 million Syrians who had fled the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic (including 950,334 registered as refugees with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), along with 28,000 Palestinian refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic and a pre-existing population of 180,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.¹⁰

8 <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/lebanon-crisis-response-plan-2017-2020-2019-update>.

9 <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2018/Oct-26/467565-mieh-mieh-back-in-deadlock-after-renewed-clashes-left-3-dead-6-injured.ashx>.

10 <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/lebanon-crisis-response-plan-2017-2020-2019-update>.



Lebanon remains at the forefront of one of the worst humanitarian crises since the Second World War. The country hosts 1.5 million Syrians who have fled the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. © WFP - Edward Johnson

The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon 2018¹¹ shows that the crisis response has had a measurable impact on the ground, although overall vulnerability remains high: 69 per cent of Syrian refugees now live under the poverty line compared with 76 per cent in 2017. The percentage of households under the survival minimum expenditure basket of \$2.9 per person per day also significantly decreased, from 58 per cent in 2017 to 51 per cent in 2018. This improvement can be partly attributed to the international aid received in the past year and the multipurpose cash assistance provided to 15,000 additional households in 2018, as well as other types of assistance. The percentage of severely and moderately food-insecure refugees declined from 38 per cent in 2017 to 33 per cent in 2018. Birth registrations have gone up from 17 per cent to 21 per cent, which may be explained by the new policies put in place by the Government to facilitate the birth registration process for Syrian refugees. School enrolment for children aged between 6 and 14 has remained stable since 2017, with 69 per cent enrolled in school in 2018 partly as a result of consistent donor support and targeted outreach campaigns. Moreover, of the 54 per cent of Syrian refugees who needed primary health care in 2018, 87 per cent received it.

However, extensive humanitarian needs persist. The estimated 1.5 million displaced Syrians (more than half

of whom are women and children) add to the 1.5 million Lebanese whose vulnerabilities have been exacerbated by the crisis. Eight years into the conflict, poverty levels are high and the long-term resilience of the country's vulnerable communities is eroding as they run out of savings and struggle to access income. At present, an estimated 28.5 per cent of Lebanese live below the poverty line, of which 470,000 are children. Over 68 per cent of displaced Syrians are living below the poverty line, along with 65 per cent of Palestinian refugees from Lebanon and 89 per cent of Palestinian refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic, who are among the most vulnerable groups in the region.¹²

A small number of Syrian refugees returned home in 2018, some with assistance from the Lebanese General Security in coordination with the Syrian Government. In total, 14,700 refugees returned to the Syrian Arab Republic in 2018, including 9,700 organized returns and 5,000 individual returns.¹³ The United Nations is not involved in organizing the return of Syrian refugees from Lebanon, but respects the choices of individual refugees. Currently, the United Nations is communicating with relevant authorities inside the Syrian Arab Republic, regionally and globally to address the obstacles hampering the return of the majority of refugees.

11 <https://www.unhcr.org/lb/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2018/12/VASyR-2018.pdf>.

12 <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/lebanon-crisis-response-plan-2017-2020-2019-update>.

13 <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/68209>.

II. PROGRESS REVIEW AGAINST PLANNED OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS



A. PRIORITY 1: PEACE AND SECURITY

To support peace and security objectives, the United Nations intends to help mitigate external threats to Lebanon, strengthen domestic security and law and order, and defuse local inter-communal tensions.

Priority areas of engagement in 2018 included the following:

1.1 STRENGTHENING TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SECURITY

Mobilizing international support for the security of Lebanon: Under the auspices of the International Support Group, the United Nations and the Government of Italy co-chaired a ministerial-level meeting in Rome on 15 March 2018 (the Rome II conference) to endorse the respective strategic plans of, and bolster international support for, the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces. In a joint statement, the 41 meeting participants endorsed the Lebanese Government's vision of the Lebanese Armed Forces as the sole defender of the Lebanese State and protector of its borders. Participants also pledged financial and material assistance in line with the updated capability development plan of the Lebanese Armed Forces and the strategic plan of the Internal Security Forces.

Developing effective border management: Throughout 2018, the United Nations continued to work with Lebanese authorities to improve border management and control. This included support for the Integrated Border Management Strategy¹⁴ and its action plan, so as to establish an efficient and effective system of integrated border management, promote security inside Lebanon, and facilitate the free and secure movement of people and commercial goods. The United Nations supported this process as a member of the responsible coordination body – the Border Control Committee – and through advocacy with political leaders to endorse and implement the strategy to enhance cooperation among security services in line with international operating standards.

Moreover, through the provision of equipment and training, the United Nations supported the LAF Land Border Regiments to strengthen their ability to effectively monitor, observe and protect the mountainous frontier at the eastern and northern borders with the Syrian Arab Republic.

14 The strategy is an important step towards the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 to support the Lebanese Government in securing its borders. At the time of writing, the Integrated Border Management Strategy had not been endorsed by the Council of Ministers.

Those efforts were complemented with training support to Lebanese authorities on security documents and fraud detection. The training focused on strengthening technical expertise in intercepting, examining, identifying and analysing fraudulent documents, and increasing capacity to effectively address irregular migration, cross border criminality and human trafficking.

Other efforts in 2018 focused on the following:

- Supporting law enforcement organizations operating at Rafik Hariri International Airport in Beirut in the early identification of high risk/suspicious passengers, in close cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization. Material assistance was also provided to increase security, including a handheld explosive and narcotics detection device;
- Strengthening health security at two points of entry: Beirut Airport and Tripoli Port. For example, a medical team was trained to manage patients exposed to hazardous material (chemical and bacteriological); and the airport was provided with personal protective equipment, such as special latex gloves, face masks, water and chemical proof suits, special boots, to decrease and manage health and safety hazards;
- Combating illicit trafficking of goods by providing training for customs officials at the airport on profiling and selection of high-risk cargo in preparation for the establishment of port control units at ports undertaking profiling, selection and inspection of high-risk containers.

Helping Lebanon counter terrorism: Throughout the year, the United Nations continued to assist Lebanon in strengthening its criminal justice response to terrorism. The United Nations provided international expertise, contributed to developing an action plan to assist the country in addressing urgent counterterrorism priorities and provided support to its implementation. Focal points were appointed at each of the four security agencies and in the ministries of justice, defence and interior. The United Nations provided training to around 100 officials from the judiciary and security entities to help the Lebanese authorities effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases, and to strengthen regional and international cooperation on criminal matters. As a result, the Lebanese authorities reported that more investigations in terrorism cases were being conducted in full respect of human rights, and were relying more on factual evidence rather than confessions.

The United Nations also supported Lebanon in strengthening regional and international cooperation in terrorism cases, including in managing mutual legal assistance requests, extraditions, and informal contacts to accelerate official requests or proactive interventions in terrorism cases. A multi-agency task force was established for this purpose by the United Nations at the regional level, comprising focal points from Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.



In 2018, the United Nations worked closely with police and other security organizations, and contributed to developing methods and systems for effective law enforcement. Standard Operating Procedures were developed and training provided to the municipal police to shift from State-security focused work to more people-oriented policing. © UNDP - Rana Sweidan

1.2. MAINTAINING INTERNAL SECURITY AND LAW AND ORDER IN ACCORDANCE WITH HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES

Strengthening the rule of law: In 2018, the United Nations continued to work closely with police and other security organizations, and contributed to developing methods and systems for effective law enforcement. For example, the United Nations assisted in developing standard operating procedures for the missions, role and responsibilities of the Municipal Police, which were approved by the Shura Council in February 2018 and issued to all municipalities in the country.

This new framework was further strengthened by a compulsory protection training course for municipal police, developed with the United Nations and introduced by the Government to sensitize and train municipal police agents to better understand and handle interactions with vulnerable groups, such as refugees, children and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Furthermore, with the support of the United Nations, the Internal Security Forces launched their hotline (1745) that helps survivors of sexual and gender-based violence to seek assistance and report to the authorities, thus leading to better law enforcement.

Other training provided in 2018 focused on the following:

- Developing the competencies of municipal police agents in active listening, and helping them to interact better with individuals and manage conflict situations;
- Ensuring that law enforcement officials, such as police officers and judges, are better equipped to deal, manage and refer cases of domestic violence;
- Increasing awareness within security institutions of refugee law and international protection;
- Strengthening the capacity and expertise of security forces in the South in crowd riot control, VIP armed escort, observation control searches, check-point management and person/vehicle searches, self-defence for female personnel, basic climbing and mountain warfare.

In addition, the United Nations provided material and equipment (such as computers, printers, cabling, networks and furniture) to support security institutions in managing the refugee population, including residency renewal processes.

Other training activities and material support to security agencies were also provided to increase accountability and mainstream a human rights-based approach. For example, the ISF leadership received detailed knowledge



Overall, United Nations-supported demining along the Blue Line progressed in 2018, and Lebanon is now ranked among the top countries in terms of mines cleared per area, specifically because of the high clearance rate along the Blue Line. © UNDP

of measures to improve internal police oversight and accountability of police institutions through a United Nations-supported workshop, which comprised participants from Chile, France and Tunisia. The workshop enabled the ISF leadership to identify processes, mechanisms and tools to achieve the goal and sub-goals of the new 2018–2022 ISF strategy on accountability.

Clearing Lebanon of mines and unexploded weapons:

The United Nations helped Lebanon to clear large areas containing explosive remnants of war, including grenades, mortars and bombs. The Lebanon Mine Action Centre was supported through technical and advisory assistance in the areas of information management, mine-risk education, community engagement, and mine action standards development.

With the support of the United Nations, the Government of Lebanon adopted the National Mine Action Standards¹⁵ in 2018, in line with international recommendations, which helped improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of demining work. For example, the revised standards reduced the required clearance depth from 20 cm

to 15 cm, which accelerated clearance thereby substantially reducing costs. Overall, United Nations-supported demining along the Blue Line progressed in 2018, and Lebanon is now ranked among the top countries in terms of mines cleared per area specifically because of the high clearance rate along the Blue Line. Lebanon is now 74.7 per cent cleared of cluster bomb units and 63.69 per cent cleared of mine fields. In terms of area, of the 162,056,277 square meters of affected land, a total of 112,202,435 square meters have been cleared.

1.3. SUPPORTING TO LOCAL PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION INITIATIVES

Managing social tensions and security incidents:

Throughout 2018, the United Nations continued to develop mechanisms to promote peace and prevent, mitigate and manage conflict in Lebanon at the municipal and local levels. For example, collaboration with the Lebanese authorities at the central and local levels helped track security incidents and monitor and analyse tensions between host communities and Syrian refugees. The United Nations supported the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities in reaching out to more municipalities to participate in the exercise. A series of trainings were arranged and equipment was provided to that end, including radios, vehicles, and first aid kits.

¹⁵ National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) is a regulatory framework, which guides the implementation and management of mine action in a particular country. For example, National Mine Action Standards define the steps to be followed in releasing land cleared from mines to people.



For United Nations Day, the United Nations in Lebanon held a public event that focused on United Nations activities in Lebanon and on the SDGs. The event hosted key stakeholders and the public. © UNDP

As a result of those activities, partners could collect data from over 90 per cent of municipalities on a six-monthly basis. Data from security cells became a key source of information on the impact of the Syrian crisis at the local level, thus assisting the authorities, the United Nations and development partners to better identify and address tension hot spots.

Improving social stability and conflict management:

The United Nations continued its support to municipalities to mitigate tension, manage conflict and alleviate resource pressure through the implementation of municipal or local service projects based on participatory processes and training. Since 2015, 118 community dialogue forums on social stability and conflict prevention and resolution have been established by the United Nations. In 2018, new forums were developed in 38 municipalities, regularly bringing together community members and refugees from different social groups to discuss and manage emerging conflicts. Research has demonstrated that these mechanisms were effective in decreasing certain types of tension by improving perceptions of fairness of international assistance.¹⁶

The United Nations has also produced and used neighbourhood profiles to identify the multi-sectoral characteristics and challenges of vulnerable urban communities, especially in neighbourhoods with tension risks and where host and non-host residents live side-by-side. In 2018, municipality-endorsed profiles were finalized for three vulnerable urban neighbourhoods in Tripoli (Tabbaneh, El-Qobbeh and Jabal Mohsen). With United Nations support, the profiles were used to upgrade those neighbourhoods by investing in improving streets, markets, water management, and providing social services to vulnerable people.

In addition, over 110 other initiatives were supported across Lebanon to strengthen social stability, manage conflict and reduce tensions and risks – often involving participants from both host-communities and refugee groups. For example, 11 community stabilization initiatives were implemented in partnership with local organizations, through facilitated meetings with community stakeholders and the establishment of informal oversight committees composed of Lebanese, Syrians and municipality representatives, including women and young people. The committees discussed needs and proposed projects that encouraged people to interact, thus easing tensions, decreasing risk of conflict escalation, and enhancing stability. The committees also received training on conflict resolution, peace-building, project development and monitoring, and communication. Through a

¹⁶ Ark and UNDP, Regular Perceptions Survey on Social Tensions in Lebanon: Wave III, (January 2018). Link to all data and reports available from <http://tiny.cc/nvh9vy>.

selection process, community projects were implemented in collaboration with local organizations, and supervised by the committees.

Preventing violent extremism in places of detention:

The United Nations supported Lebanon in addressing and preventing violent extremism in places of detention. More than 50 prison staff and social workers, as first-line practitioners, were trained on the management of violent extremist offenders and on initiating disengagement interventions. Courses on data management were also provided to 20 detention staff from the Internal Security Forces and General Security.

Seven additional activities were implemented for around 450 persons charged with offences related to violent extremism, including terrorism. The activities focused on disengagement from violence and prevention of recidivism. Beneficiaries were provided with psycho-social support, vocational training and income generating activities.

Improvements to detention facilities, including the military court detention centre, the Roumieh section for juveniles and men, and Barbar el Khazen for women, contributed to better treatment of prisoners and thus reduced risks of further radicalization in prisons.

B. PRIORITY 2: DOMESTIC STABILITY AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

With regard to domestic stability and effective governance, the United Nations intends to support mechanisms that promote accountability and inclusive participation, including through elections and civil society engagement.

Priority areas of engagement in 2018 included the following:

2.1. INCREASING THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF INSTITUTIONS AND PROMOTE PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Supporting democratic elections: On 6 May 2018, Lebanon held its first parliamentary elections since 2009. In the lead up to the elections, United Nations support focused on the following:

- Strengthening the capacity of election officials through training provided to over 17,000 polling officials and 500 results-management officials and tabulation officers, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities;

- Improving supervision and monitoring of the 2018 parliamentary elections by supporting the establishment of the Supervisory Commission for Elections (SCE), including support to its facilities and human resources. Moreover, the United Nations assisted SCE in accrediting over 1,500 international and national observers and 4,128 media representatives, and supported the Commission in drafting the final media monitoring report;
- Strengthening the efficiency of the Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR) process through a thematic awareness toolkit on electoral dispute resolution and complaints and challenges related to elections. Awareness videos were also produced by the United Nations to further enhance voter knowledge of the EDR process;
- Supporting a national awareness media campaign in collaboration with the electoral management body to educate voters on election-related topics. The United Nations also led a national awareness campaign entitled "Get out the vote", encouraging young people and first-time voters to vote and participate in the democratic process;
- Advocating greater focus on women's participation and representation. The United Nations collaborated with the Office of the Minister of State for Women's Affairs and the European Union to prepare, launch, and implement a campaign on "Fostering the role of political parties to promote women's representation in the upcoming parliamentary elections 2018" aimed at increasing women's participation in the electoral processes at all levels: as candidates, voters and elections/ polling officials. In addition, the United Nations supported the dissemination of information on registering as a candidate, eligibility criteria and useful information on the electoral process. Overall, the concerted efforts of the United Nations, the Government, donors and civil society organizations contributed to a record 113 women registering for the 2018 parliamentary elections, of whom 86 were included in the final electoral lists.

Assisting the Government's reform agenda: In 2018, the Prime Minister endorsed and announced the national anti-corruption strategy and a detailed implementation plan, produced with support from the United Nations. Throughout the year, efforts were focused on fine-tuning the strategy and the plan and ensuring national ownership through a broad consultative process led by the Ministerial Anti-Corruption Committee headed by the Prime Minister, and the supporting technical committee headed by the Minister of State for Administrative Reform.

In the field of legislation, the United Nations helped prepare legislation for administrative, fiscal judicial and human rights reforms. Advisory teams in ministries and key institutions were supported in drafting, amending and submitting legislation, including adopting a 30 per cent women's quota in municipalities, amending articles 505 and 518 of the Penal Code regarding rape and child marriage, enacting the small and medium enterprises definition law, the bankruptcy draft law and the competition law, secured transaction and e-transactions, and judicial mediation.



Through United Nations activities, over 50,000 young people were engaged in pro-social, meaningful and community-enhancing activities, many of which the young people themselves defined and controlled. This helped in building vital skills, responsibilities and confidence. © UNICEF

Another United Nations-supported breakthrough was the passing of a new law against forced disappearance. The law established a commission to investigate forced disappearances, with the power to access and collect information, carry out exhumations and identify burial sites, and hand over to relatives the remains of their loved ones. It also enshrines the 'right to know' for all families without discrimination. The United Nations provided advisory support in developing the law, with the involvement of members of parliament and civil society organizations.

Helping Lebanon produce data and statistics for development:

The United Nations partnered with the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) to conduct a survey on labour force and household living conditions, to provide socioeconomic indicators and statistical data on the employment and living conditions of residents in the 26 districts in Lebanon, including Syrian refugees. The results of the survey are of critical importance to the design and implementation of labour market policies and programmes. Reliable survey results are also vital for providing baseline data to monitor actions included under the stabilization framework for Lebanon.

A comprehensive capacity assessment of CAS was carried out to identify needs and priorities to enhance the national statistical system, in order to better respond to data needs and the current 2030 Agenda.

CAS and other government institutions were supported by the United Nations in data collection and analysis with a view to informing policymaking and enacting legislation. A salient development was the decision by the United Nations and CAS to merge the following two major surveys:

- **The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS):** An international household survey initiative through which the United Nations assists countries in collecting and analysing data to fill data gaps for monitoring the situation of children and women;
- **The Pan Arab Survey for Family Health (PAPFAM):** A baseline study that assesses the health conditions of households, providing data and social indicators on reproductive health (such as maternal care, reproductive morbidity, fertility and family planning), child health, disability, and the health and welfare of the elderly, both nationally and regionally.

By merging these surveys, costs and workloads will be reduced for national stakeholders and the United Nations, and more effective and efficient support will be provided to data production, coordination and management in Lebanon. Preparations for the merged survey were initiated in 2018 by CAS with United Nations support.

Promoting youth participation: Promoting youth participation continued to be a focus area throughout 2018. Activities were implemented in cooperation with civil society

and Government entities to promote active engagement and strengthen the capacity of young people. Examples of United Nations support include the following:

- Training over 50,000 young people in leadership and decision-making, conflict resolution, communication, peer education, social media, inter cultural/religious dialogue and self-awareness;
- Supporting 250 youth initiatives, including summer and weekend camps on human rights; projects to engage young people in achieving the SDGs; initiatives for inter-cultural dialogue; activities to develop and refurbish sports grounds and public spaces; public debates on youth rights and early marriage; social media campaigns, art exhibitions, interactive theatre; and flash-mobs;
- Establishing a network of 160 youth organizations to promote media and information literacy and empower young people in their daily lives;
- Developing a Palestinian youth strategy¹⁷ highlighting critical needs and key opportunities to guide measures to further empower Palestinian youth;
- Supporting 25 key education partners (both governmental and non-governmental) to engage young people in preventing violent extremism through education.

2.2. ENHANCING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, RULE OF LAW AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE IN LEBANON

Establishing human rights structures: The United Nations advocated the establishment of a national human rights institution in Lebanon. In November 2016, the Lebanese parliament passed law No. 62 on establishing a national human rights institution (NHRI), which provides an effective independent oversight mechanism to promote and protect human rights and to prevent torture and ill-treatment of persons in vulnerable situations. The NHRI commissioners were officially appointed in July 2018. However, the institution was not yet operational by the end of 2018 owing to challenges in allocating necessary financial resources for its operations.

In addition, the United Nations provided technical support to the development of NHRI and NPM bylaws based on best practices from the region. Commissioners also received specialized training courses by the United Nations on international best practices and on various NHRI models in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Following advocacy efforts and technical support by the United Nations, another important result was achieved in June 2018 when a National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NRMF) was officially established by a prime ministerial decree. Twenty-seven human rights focal points were assigned from various ministries to coordinate submissions by Lebanon to the Universal Periodic Review and international treaty bodies. This national mechanism is

mandated to coordinate and prepare reports, engage with international human rights mechanisms, and track national follow-up and implementation of Lebanon's obligations to international human rights mechanisms.

The United Nations provided a capacity-building programme for NRMF members on treaty bodies' reporting requirements. With the NRMF established and operational, Lebanon's timely submissions to treaty bodies has greatly improved. For instance, NRMF produced three reports and submitted to treaty bodies in 2018 one report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and two follow-up reports for the Convention Against Torture and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

The United Nations assisted security institutions in Lebanon, including the Lebanese Armed Forces, the Internal Security Forces and General Security, in mainstreaming human rights in their law enforcement mandates and developed codes of conduct for the three entities. On 29 January 2019, the Lebanese Armed Forces Commander in Chief launched the code of conduct for Army officers in law enforcement at a national ceremony held in Beirut. The code of conduct enshrines the fundamental principles relevant to law enforcement and human rights to protect and promote freedoms and rights, and highlights the importance and necessity of protecting women, children, older persons, refugees and victims of human trafficking in all law enforcement-related tasks assigned to the Lebanese Armed Forces. To ensure accountability, the Lebanese Armed Forces recruited legal advisers to all departments, with the responsibility of monitoring and supporting the implementation of the code of conduct.

The United Nations also engaged with newly elected parliamentarians on international human rights mechanisms. As a result, those parliamentarians have increased awareness of their legislative role and responsibilities in aligning national laws to international human rights standards.

A human rights curriculum for the judiciary academy was also produced with United Nations assistance, to guide trainings and help graduated judges mainstream human rights in their court rulings.

Improving conditions in prisons: In 2018, the UN contributed to improved prison conditions, rehabilitation of prisoners, and the provision of alternatives to detention in Lebanon. Four prisons or detention facilities were renovated, refurbished and equipped, and staff were trained to ensure a decent environment and better treatment of prisoners. With regard to enhancing basic needs, especially for interindividual not receiving family visits, over 7,500 health kits were distributed in 2018 to around 5,000 persons in prisons and detention centres.

In addition, special rehabilitation programmes reached 450 prisoners and included psycho-social support, vocational training and income generating activities. Rehabilitation support was also provided to 300 boys/young adults, 31 girls and 10 women.

17 Youth Strategy for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon 2019-2025, developed by the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee.



Drama was used by United Nations partners to promote health and improve the environment. For example, Lebanese children in the village of Khreibet el-Jindi, Akkar, listened to stories about the importance of clean water in their daily lives and of looking after the environment and reducing littering.
© UNICEF - Stephen Gerard Kelly

To further reduce the vulnerability of refugees and stateless individuals, protect their basic rights, and prevent refoulement,¹⁸ the United Nations and its partners had a regular presence at the General Security retention centre in Beirut and in the 22 prisons to provide technical support, monitor the situation of detainees, and provide legal aid and complementary services (such as medical, psychological and material support) to the most vulnerable.

Providing legal assistance: Throughout the year, over 80,000 refugees¹⁹ of different nationalities received legal counselling and trial support, in addition to assistance and representation on issues such as legal residency, civil registration, family law, and housing, land and property. This support provided refugees with crucial legal advice on how to navigate residency procedures, obtain civil documentation, ensure security of tenure, and deal with violence. Refugees were also represented before administrative bodies or religious authorities on various matters, including family law and civil documentation. About

360 stateless individuals, most of them of Lebanese origin, received legal aid to confirm or obtain a nationality. Furthermore, almost 30,000 refugees were targeted with awareness sessions on legal topics, including residency and civil documentation, to empower them as individuals with regard to legal issues.

Protecting the rights of children: Supporting children to protect their rights and decrease their vulnerability remained a key focus area for the United Nations in 2018. For example, the United Nations provided technical and financial support to major stakeholders, including the Ministry of Justice, the Beirut Bar Association, and the Union for the Protection of Juveniles in Lebanon (UPEL),²⁰ to support children involved in judicial proceedings, including preliminary investigations, court hearings, and following up on their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Child-friendly justice was promoted through capacity-building of justice professionals, such as judges, lawyers, judicial social workers, and law enforcement personnel. Child-friendly hearing rooms were established in the Palaces of Justice to facilitate the separation of children from adults during judicial proceedings, and to decrease vulnerability, increase safety and strengthen confidentiality.

18 Refoulement is the forcible return of refugees or asylum seekers to a country where they are liable to be subjected to persecution based on race, religion, nationality, or membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Non-refoulement is a fundamental principle of international law.

19 Including 70,000 Syrian refugees (this number does not include those who received legal awareness training) and 8,842 Palestinian refugees.

20 UPEL is an organization mandated by the Ministry of Justice to provide support to children involved in judicial proceedings.



The United Nations continued to work closely with national actors to improve the legal status of women. © UNICEF

Moreover, the United Nations provided training workshops on ending the worst forms of child labour²¹ to 150 stakeholders, including farmers and agricultural unions, General Security, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of employers. The training workshops were held in Chtoura (Beqaa), Akkar (North Lebanon), and Nabatiyah (South Lebanon).

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

Promoting action against child marriage and gender-based violence: The United Nations assisted the Ministry of Social Affairs in finalizing a seven-year strategic plan on child protection and gender-based violence. The strategy focuses on the Ministry's role in prevention and providing response services to women and children through social development centres. Furthermore, a strategy to prevent/respond to violence against women was developed with United Nations support and in partnership with the State Ministry of

Women's Affairs. This strategy addresses different layers, recommendations and actions to address violence against women. It complements the Ministry of Social Affairs' strategic plan, and addresses challenges at the service delivery level, adjustments in legislation and inter-ministerial actions required to prevent and respond to violence against women.

The United Nations also worked with the Ministry of Social Affairs to establish a legal framework to operationalize a special fund to support survivors of domestic violence under law 293/2014. The United Nations provided support in developing the bylaws and constitution of the special fund, with a view to establishing and rolling it out in 2019.²² The United Nations also supported the following initiatives:

- **Increasing access to gender data and analysis:** The United Nations supported government bodies in strengthening access to data and data analysis on women's empowerment, gender equality and gender-based violence in Lebanon, through various initiatives;
- **A national baseline and situational review** of SDG 5 was completed with a focus on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The report, prepared in cooperation with the Lebanese University, will be used to monitor progress towards achieving gender equality under the 2030 Agenda;
- **A situation analysis of sexual/reproductive health and rights** to promote the right to information and services;
- **A gender justice report** was produced highlighting strengths and weaknesses of the legal framework related to sexual and gender-based violence in Lebanon. The report includes a detailed analysis of laws, policies and practices and recommendations on required measures. The report was prepared in cooperation with, and launched under the patronage of, the Minister of State for Women Affairs.

Strengthening the capacity of partners to promote gender equality: The United Nations continued to work closely with national actors to improve the legal status of women, promote gender equality, and address sexual and gender-based violence, including through the following:

- Providing training on project management, financial management, evidence-based programming, and advocacy to civil society organizations working on gender equality and women's rights;
- Supporting social development centres in providing services to women and girls, including support against gender-based violence, awareness sessions on rights, and empowerment activities;
- Raising awareness of ministries, State entities and professional associations for lawyers on gender-related discrimination in legislation;

21 In compliance with the Ministry of Labour Decree 8987 and a General Security memo.

22 Under article 21 of law 293 on the protection of women and family members from domestic violence.

- Training journalists on issues related to gender equality at work, with a special focus on fair recruitment and decent work for domestic workers;
- Training municipal police, the Internal Security Forces and General Security on issues related to gender-based violence and sex trafficking to ensure sensitive and adequate management of such cases.

Lastly, the United Nations cooperated with the National Commission for Lebanese Women to produce a national action plan and monitoring framework of women, peace and security (awaiting validation by the new Cabinet). The plan will help Lebanon implement Security Council resolution 1325 by identifying priorities and resources, determining responsibilities, and committing the Government to action aimed at strengthening women's involvement in peace and security issues to achieve long lasting stability.

Putting rights and equality on the agenda: In addition to the regular rights-focused advocacy by senior United Nations representatives in Lebanon,²³ United Nations organizations were involved in and supported several advocacy campaigns, in collaboration with Lebanese partners, to raise awareness and promote action to address key development issues. These activities reached hundreds of thousands of people through the media, social media and communication in public spaces. Examples include the following:

- A campaign against child marriage conducted in collaboration with the National Commission for Lebanese Women and civil society organizations, such as the Lebanese Democratic Women's Gathering (RDFL) and KAFA;
- Nationwide activities to advocate against gender-based violence and promote gender equality, in close cooperation with Lebanese partners;
- 'My nationality, a right for me and my family' is a campaign in conducted in collaboration with the Collective for Research and Training on Development on the right of Lebanese women to grant their nationality to their children and husbands;
- 'Because I am a Man' is a campaign with communication activities on positive masculinity and challenging social norms related to gender.

C. PRIORITY 3: CRISIS RESPONSE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To support socioeconomic stabilization and sustainable development efforts, the United Nations is pursuing a 'dual-track' approach that focuses both on mitigating the impact

23 The United Nations made 420 protection interventions in 2018, including advocacy visits and briefings with key stakeholders such as government bodies, embassies, donors and academia (averaging 1-2 interventions per working day) to ensure enhanced protection of refugees.



The United Nations worked with local partners in Lebanon to promote positive masculinity and to challenge social norms related to gender.
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of the Syrian conflict and addressing pre-existing development constraints.

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

Enhancing farming and food security: In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Social Affairs, the United Nations supported Lebanese small-scale and family farming producers to promote sustainable agricultural and livestock production, mainly through the provision of training and of quality agricultural inputs. Over 1,700 farmers benefited from material support and training on improved agricultural and water conservation practices. In addition, farmers increased their knowledge of food processing and preservation, began producing a broader range of vegetables, and improved access to local markets, thus resulting in better food security.

Furthermore, farmers associations, agricultural cooperatives and women's associations became more knowledgeable and better equipped, and thereby better placed to improve agricultural livelihoods. For instance, five mixed cooperatives (one of which was a women's association)

producing local specialities have become more professional, productive and better positioned to meet international accreditation standards for their products. Assistance included support in formally registering establishments, training on marketing products at exhibitions, and varied technical support on the design and implementation of quality management systems, pricing strategies and market assessments.

Investing in jobs and local development: Through United Nations support for investment in labour-intensive projects, such as infrastructure development in the agriculture and industry sector, temporary jobs were created for the most disadvantaged in 2018. Over 26,000 people were employed short term through investments in public infrastructure and environmental assets in numerous Lebanese host communities, a significant increase compared to 8,000 people in 2017. Benefiting both Lebanese and Syrians, those job opportunities were mainly in constructing and rehabilitating 66 agricultural and other public productive sector projects, such as roads, water networks, sidewalks, market places and irrigation channels. In the agricultural sector, support to small-scale vulnerable farmers in making new land through land reclamation also created new livelihood opportunities and employment in the construction of water reservoirs, land rehabilitation and seasonal agricultural work. For example, over 2,000 farmers were supported through casual labour, and 145 farmers benefited from seasonal labour. The workers engaged through these jobs enhanced their skills and, as an indirect effect, the productivity of land increased.

Moreover, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Maps of Risks and Resources (MRR) were updated to better identify needs in the 251 most vulnerable communities. The mapping enabled better community planning for local development and investments. A total of 1,193 members of six cooperatives, which had not received prior support, gained access to training in technical skills, marketing and supply of equipment, thereby increasing their production and income generation.

Improving job skills and employability: In partnership with the Lebanese Government, the United Nations contributed to strengthening job skills to increase opportunities for income generation and improve standards of living for the most vulnerable. Examples include the following:



Lebanese small-scale and family farming producers were supported to promote sustainable agricultural and livestock production, mainly through the provision of training and of quality agricultural inputs. Over 1,700 farmers benefited from material support and training on improved agricultural and water conservation practices. © UNDP

- Over 19,700 young people accessed United Nations-supported technical vocational and education training (TVET) schools and centres to strengthen their innovative skills and professional readiness;
- Around 6,900 people participated in trainings to enhance their skills in product positioning, financial analysis, communication and administration;
- More than 6,180 people benefited from internships, apprenticeships and on-the-job training in productive sectors;

National Strategic Framework on Technical and Vocational Education and Training

The United Nations, in collaboration with the Government, key non-governmental organizations and the private sector, supported the development of the National Strategic Framework on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). The framework provides a holistic plan for the reform of the TVET educational system, content and delivery to equip young people with the right skills to meet labour market needs.

Complementing the policy level, 14 TVET schools and centres benefited from development, upgrading and rehabilitation. To better respond to labour market needs, new courses were designed in the fields of business innovation and entrepreneurship. Moreover, the curriculum was modernized, and schools became better equipped through new machinery and teaching materials. Finally, new training centres were established to provide specialized vocational training in combination with psychological and social support programmes to support social stability in the most vulnerable communities.

- Over 2,000 people accessed additional services, such as career guidance and coaching;
- More than 800 young people, including 520 girls, strengthened their skills in agriculture, by enrolling in agricultural schools or participating in medium- and short-term courses.

Strengthening local businesses and cooperatives: To help promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), support to micro, small and medium enterprises and cooperatives focused on increasing productivity and enhancing economic opportunities in the industrial sectors. Several enterprises in Lebanon benefited from business management training, equipment, financial services and technology transfer, thereby developing their creativity and innovation. This support was provided in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and benefited 56 enterprises in the carpentry, dairy, textile, cutlery, olive wood and soap sectors. For instance, innovation and training on product development contributed to the design of prototypes in the soap and cutlery sectors. Products were gradually industrialized and marketed through exhibitions and fairs, such as Beirut Design Week, Beirut Art Fair and Beirut Cooking Festival.

The United Nations also aimed to strengthen the role of women and promote women's economic empowerment in the industrial sectors. Three associations in the fabric sector, with a high concentration of women in the workforce, were provided with training on product development and innovation, on developing managerial skills, and on increasing market access.

Supporting Lebanese institutions to strengthen the productive sectors: Lebanese national and local institutions improved their response to productive sector needs, thus supporting ISID and promoting long-term stability and economic growth in Lebanon. In close collaboration with the Government, support for the establishment of sustainable industrial zones in Lebanon continued. With United Nations contributions, financial commitments were secured for key infrastructure projects, such as roads and electricity, four master plans for new sustainable industrial zones were finalized, and a national industrial zones strategy was drafted to guide the Ministry of Industry's efforts. This was coupled with significant training and advisory support on sustainable industrial zones management for the Government.

Moreover, several ministries and national offices increased their capacity in policy drafting and in implementing measures to ensure the sustainability of productive sectors. The Central Administration of Statistics became better positioned to inform policymaking through stronger data collection and analysis systems of the labour market through the Labour Force and Households Living Conditions Survey, among others. Moreover, national institutions involved in food security were trained on hazardous child labour in agriculture to develop innovative solutions for rural children and young people.

At the local level, institutional support to social development centres (SDCs) of the Ministry of Social Affairs contributed to better service delivery, including training and

employment services to host communities. For example, six new SDC units were established and provided services, such as vocational training, to 772 women (hand-crafts) and food processing training to 693 women and girls. Other local development initiatives included technical support for improved planning in municipalities.

Furthermore, the United Nations contributed to strengthening the delivery of the Green Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture and its eight regional offices, leading to more productive agricultural land and increased income generating opportunities for Lebanese farmers and casual/seasonal Syrian workers.

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

The results reported in the present section represent a subset of the results reported in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (results accounted for by the United Nations but not other implementing partners). In 2018, public services were strengthened by investing approximately \$224 million, a 29 per cent increase compared with 2017.



Over 200,000 children received vaccinations against serious but preventable diseases, such as polio and measles. © UNICEF

This helped provide education, health and social services to hundreds of thousands poor Lebanese and refugees who rely on public institutions for basic services.

Enhancing the quality of the health-care system: In partnership with the Ministry of Public Health, national institutions in the Lebanese health-care system have been strengthened. Based on evidence generation and analysis, health sector policies were developed with United Nations support on infant and young child feeding and on children with disabilities. Support in implementing electronic information systems in all 27 health centres in Palestinian camps continued, aimed at improving efficiency of care, reducing medical errors, and enabling timelier and needs-based decision-making.

A robust health-care system depends on highly skilled employees. Consequently, over 3,000 health-care staff were trained to deliver higher quality health-care services for all. Doctors, physicians, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and field workers employed at primary and secondary health-care institutions across Lebanon became more knowledgeable on issues such as AIDS and HIV, family planning, immunization, young child feeding, and disease prevention. Furthermore, 170 public and private hospitals became more child friendly, and increased their competence on maternal health and diseases such as measles.

Support to staff development was complemented by equipment procurement to provide health care to people in need. Around 750 health-care centres and dispensaries were provided with medication and medical and laboratory equipment to strengthen service delivery in poorly developed areas, including Palestinian camps. Moreover, the timeliness and quality of monitoring and the prevention of disease outbreaks improved through continued United Nations support to the national early warning alert and response system, resulting in better reporting and surveillance in 500 health centres and hospitals.

Supporting equal access to health-care services: In addition to improving the quality of the health-care system, access to primary, secondary and tertiary health care was provided to the most vulnerable Lebanese and non-Lebanese. For instance, over 1,090,000 consultations for primary health care were subsidized by the United Nations.

Furthermore, around 100,000 people received financial support to cover hospital admissions for life-threatening conditions and deliveries, an increase of almost 20 per cent compared with 2017.

Access was complemented by the provision of essential medications and vaccines, thus contributing to saving lives. Over 210,000 patients (Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians) received chronic disease medication, an increase of 30,000 people compared with 2017. Moreover, 140,000 patients received medication for acute diseases, including reproductive health commodities such as con-

traceptives, antiviral drugs and antibiotics, up by 10,000 people from 2017. Lastly, coordinated efforts between the Government and the United Nations increased vaccination coverage. More than 435,000 children under 15 were identified as not fully vaccinated and were referred to public health-care centres where over 200,000 children received vaccination against serious but preventable diseases, such as polio and measles.

Strengthening access to water and sanitation: In partnership with the Government, over 400,700 people benefited from improved access to safe water for drinking and domestic use through investments in water infrastructure and better water system management. To enhance management, water establishments strengthened capacity for sustainable service delivery through subscription campaigns and the installation of water meters in households, resulting in improved cost recovery. Finally, closer coordination and cooperation between the Government, municipalities and local populations contributed to increased efficiency in service delivery.

In addition, around 216,000 people living in informal settlements and collective shelters across Lebanon were supported with temporary access to drinking water through improved water storage systems and water trucking, down from 300,000 people reached in 2017.



Through investments in water infrastructure and better water system management, over 400,700 people in Lebanon benefited from improved access to safe water for drinking and domestic use.

© UNDP

In total, over 320,000 people gained access to improved and safer sanitation. This was possible because of investments in septic tanks, cleaning of blocked drains and sewage networks, construction of wastewater lines and the establishment of storm water channels to mitigate flooding. Moreover, around 195,000 people residing in informal settlements gained improved access to safe sanitation through desludging and the construction of latrines, up from 175,000 people in 2017. Lastly, around 120,000 people increased their knowledge on water, sanitation and hygiene related matters, aiming to influence collective behaviour and practices.

Ensuring access to education for all: The United Nations and education sector partners under the leadership of the Ministry of Education continued efforts on Reaching all Children with Education in Lebanon (RACE II). Systematic efforts were made to reach children and families in the most vulnerable cadastres of Lebanon, including through the Back-To-School campaign and by offering financial support to cover the cost of education and make schooling more attractive. For example, 48,500 disadvantaged Syrian and Lebanese children aged between 5 and 15 benefited from cash transfers for the school year 2017/2018, complemented by household visits and referrals to relevant services. Furthermore, around 20,000 refugee children also received a top-up amount to make education attractive for the most disadvantaged families.

As a result, about 210,000 non-Lebanese and 220,000 Lebanese enrolled in basic education in public schools in the school-year 2018/2019. Moreover, a total of 36,960 Palestinian children enrolled for free in 65 United Nations-run schools, and benefited from school transportation, uniforms and stationary. Almost 4,000 young refugees and over 1,000 Lebanese young people accessed formal secondary education through subsidized school fees. Support was provided for children unable to enrol in formal education, ensuring that 38,500 children aged between 3 and 18 benefited from accredited non-formal learning, such as community based early childhood education, basic literacy and numeracy skills, and accelerated learning programmes.

To increase access for Lebanese and non-Lebanese vulnerable young people to learning opportunities, the United Nations supported enrolment in higher education and non-formal education programmes. Around 770 students received scholarships enabling them to pursue academic careers at Lebanese universities. Over 14,100 young people and adolescents benefited from TVET and other non-formal education courses. Assistance included partial or fully subsidized school fees and other education-related costs, such as transportation. Moreover, the quality of training improved, new courses on business and entrepreneurship were introduced, and complementary services were established to assist young people entering the job market.

In addition to enrolling children in school, efforts to keep them in school are just as important. Every day at school, around 24,000 Lebanese and non-Lebanese children received healthy snacks to prevent short-term hunger, improve dietary diversity, and create a positive

school environment. Community-based programmes offered retention support to children, educated parents, and built relationships between schools and local communities to help children catch up and prevent them from dropping out. For example, around 21,000 children benefited from homework support, foreign language training and remedial classes to improve their learning. Moreover, systems to identify and address students with learning difficulties were strengthened, through student support teams and more effective student assessments, thus helping the most disadvantaged children remain in school.

Strengthening quality of education: At the national level, collaboration with the Ministry of Education and other government stakeholders included technical support for the development of a Higher Education Strategy in Lebanon and a National Qualifications Framework to strengthen the recruitment of teaching personnel. Furthermore, a School Information Management System is now in place and operational in 1,288 public schools, contributing to improved monitoring and planning for results. Lastly, a national policy on non-formal education was developed and endorsed by the Ministry of Education, enabling vulnerable young people to benefit from certified classes in Arabic literacy and numeracy, life skills and English, among others.

Training of around 22,000 public school teachers and education personnel across all governorates enhanced the quality of teaching. Subject areas included teaching with technology, health and nutrition, and teaching for children with different needs. Personnel also built competencies and skills on educating children in emergencies. Over 200 teachers and school principals were trained to improve the learning conditions of children and adolescents exposed to war and conflict, by integrating coping and recovery techniques in daily teaching. Moreover, more than 120 school principals honed their emergency management skills, including the safe evacuation of children. The competence and capacity of non-formal education partners was also increased, resulting in more inclusive education and better services for children with special needs.

To increase learning outcomes for children, efforts were made to develop a positive and inclusive school environment. Teachers and educators strengthened their skills in using positive discipline and effective classroom management techniques. Violence prevention and response systems were improved, school counsellors became better equipped, and closer collaboration between schools and parents was established, all contributing to making schools safe and positive spaces for learning. Thirty inclusive public schools were opened, and 237 children with special needs, such as hearing impairment, immobility and autism, benefited from specialized learning material and teaching. Therapy sessions and awareness activities were also held for parents to promote the importance of keeping their disabled children in school and reduce stigma. Lastly, 105 schools across Lebanon benefited from rehabilitation and renovation.



Every child has the right to grow up in a safe and inclusive environment. The United Nations works with partners in Lebanon to promote policies and expand access to services that protect all children. © WFP - Yasmine Kara

Improving the safety of children: With United Nations support, quality prevention and response services for children at risk and survivors of violence improved. At the national level, the Government strengthened its knowledge on legislation and tools to protect children through training and technical support. Results included increased awareness of the National Child Protection Standard Operating Procedures for child protection services and the development of Case Management Tools, contributing to more effective and high-quality responses. Moreover, the Child Protection Information Management System was rolled out, strengthening data protection and systematic action. To reduce violent discipline against children, a national campaign on Ending Violent Discipline was conducted.

At the community level, staff in governorates and social development centres were trained and increased their ability to identify and refer children and adolescents in need of psychosocial support. Social and behaviour change as part of child protection was promoted through engagement with community members and advocacy with high-level influencers. A total of 86 social development centres implemented community-based prevention activities with children and parents. Moreover, 70 community child protection outreach volunteers were recruited, improving reporting and follow-up on risks of gender-based violence, such as early marriage, violent discipline and child labour.

System improvements were complemented by support to service delivery. Over 20,200 girls and boys across Lebanon received psychosocial support services. Around 6,200 children, including those involved in the worst forms of child labour and those associated with armed groups, benefited from higher quality case management and rehabilitation/reintegration services in communities.

The agriculture sector is particularly relevant as it employs many children. Government, child protection and food security actors increased their capacity on operational safety and health, including prevention and risks related to child labour. For example, 200 staff in the Ministry of Agriculture, farmers and civil society partners improved their understanding on child protection in the agriculture sector.

Helping victims of sexual and gender-based violence: To reduce the risk and impact of sexual and gender-based violence, a range of interventions were provided in close collaboration with the Government and local partners. The assistance helped 463 actors increase their understanding of sexual and gender-based violence core concepts and safe referrals. Government staff, frontline workers, social workers and caseworkers were trained to provide higher quality services. Moreover, guidance notes on best practices regarding psychosocial support and emotional support curriculums were updated.

In terms of service delivery, almost 63,000 women, girls, men and boys at risk and survivors benefited from sexual gender-based violence prevention and response services in safe spaces. The activities included counselling, skills building, outreach campaigns, recreational activities, psychosocial support and case management.

Strengthening social protection for vulnerable Lebanese:

The World Bank and the United Nations provided technical support to the Government on social protection to support an agreed minimum standard of living. Capacity development and joint consultations resulted in a draft roadmap outlining critical measures required to establish the necessary evidence, dialogue and institutional set-up to move the country forwards towards a national framework. Furthermore, the National Poverty Targeting Programme, providing social assistance to extremely poor Lebanese, was enhanced. The United Nations and the World Bank assisted the Government with a recertification exercise to ensure assistance was reaching the most vulnerable households, and with drafting the Joint Accountability Framework to improve monitoring and reporting on cash-based transfers. Moreover, the United Nations supported the Government in appraising two proposed pension schemes, thus strengthening government understanding and ability to make informed policy decisions. Advocacy and technical support was also

provided to promote universal health coverage, including a review of key legislation submitted to parliament for approval.

Providing shelter: The United Nations provided shelter assistance to the most disadvantaged refugees and vulnerable Lebanese families.

Temporary shelters were weatherproofed and repaired for an additional 158,962 refugees, thereby making them better prepared for the winter season. Households receiving rehabilitation assistance also benefited from technical support on tenure security by formalizing rental agreements and registering agreements with municipalities. This resulted in increased protection from unlawful evictions and enhanced understanding of housing, land and property rights.

In addition, 1,890 people living in poor and less developed municipalities received upgraded substandard shelters and common building areas.

Providing direct assistance for survival: Direct assistance in the form of cash transfers was provided to around 1 million of the most vulnerable Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians. The main platform used was the Lebanon One Unified Interagency System for E-cards (LOUISE), developed in 2016 as a United Nations pro-



Many refugees were badly hit by flooding in 2018. The United Nations supplied pipes to drain freezing flood waters from family homes and helped repair damage to vital infrastructure, such as water supply pipes and latrines. Throughout the year, temporary shelters were weatherproofed and repaired for an additional 158,962 refugees. © UNHCR - Diego Ibarra Sanchez



The United Nations is determined to help end poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.
© WFP - Edward Johnson



Medium to large solar power systems were installed in various facilities, such as industrial buildings, hospitals and schools. These systems not only contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change by reducing emissions, but also provide a cleaner, cheaper and alternative power supply. © UNDP

gramme to harmonize and increase the efficiency of cash-based interventions. The e-card can be used either to withdraw cash from any ATM, or to purchase food from any of the 495 United Nations-contracted shops located throughout the country. The LOUISE platform was strengthened through better communication with beneficiaries via a joint call centre, and more effective identification of beneficiaries and partners. Cash-based assistance helped reduce the share of Syrian-refugee households living in poverty from 76 per cent in 2017 to 69 per cent 2018.

Key achievements include the following:

- Over 95,000 socioeconomically vulnerable households received multi-purpose cash assistance to support their non-food essential needs, including shelter, health and education;
- More than 420,000 Syrians and Palestinian refugees benefited from cash for food support, a per capita unrestricted cash transfer to support food needs;
- Around 550,000 Syrian refugees received food e-cards, a per capita restricted voucher redeemable for food at UN-contracted shops;
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, around 98,000 vulnerable Lebanese people were supported through e-cards within the framework of the National Poverty Targeting Programme;
- Over 45,000 Palestinian refugees benefited from cash for food and multipurpose cash support.

Moreover, United Nations support for data collection and analysis resulted in a stronger evidence base to inform cash-based programming. Monitoring and evaluation systems improved, and results and lessons learned were disseminated to improve programming and impact for the most vulnerable.

Helping vulnerable people cope with winter: The most vulnerable households in Lebanon benefited from seasonal assistance to meet their survival needs during the coldest winter months. Almost 178,000 severely vulnerable households, and over 60,000 children across the country benefited from cash assistance to cover their basic needs during winter. Moreover, 25,000 households received shelter improvement kits and 1,000 households received a one-off amount of \$120 per family. Lastly, 20,800 children under 15 living in the most disadvantaged informal settlements received winter clothing.

3.3. IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Addressing climate change: To promote access to sustainable energy, medium to large solar power systems were installed in various facilities, such as industrial building, hospitals and schools, with the potential to generate approximately 5.3 MW of re-



By planting seedlings and forest restoration, the climate resilience of vulnerable Lebanese forest ecosystems was strengthened. Over 500 hectares of land, equivalent to the size of around 800 football pitches, were planted. © FAO - Kai Wiedenhoefer

newable energy. These systems not only contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change by reducing emissions, but also provide a cleaner, cheaper and alternative power supply. In addition, solar street lights were installed in 21 villages and small solar home-kits were distributed in 35 of the most vulnerable Lebanese host-communities.

Moreover, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Lebanese industries, such as refrigerator manufacturers, were provided with support to phase-out their use of ozone depleting chemicals as part of the commitment of Lebanon to the Montreal Protocol. As a result, 155 metric tons of ozone depleting substances were phased out.

To scale up energy efficiencies, the United Nations supported a policy dialogue between the Government and the private sector that resulted in the review of national guidelines, increased knowledge and concrete measures for greening the industrial sector. For instance, 11 enterprises adopted cleaner production practices and technologies, such as the installation of wastewater treatment systems for industrial effluent and filter systems for air emissions. Around 300 industrialists from different regions enhanced their knowledge on identifying concrete resource efficiency measures for greening the industrial sector and

enhancing its competitiveness, and several Lebanese wineries also started applying a circular economy,²⁴ in which resource input and waste, emissions and energy leakages were minimized.

Lastly, a range of national stakeholders including government bodies, improved capacity to implement the commitments of Lebanon to multilateral environmental agreements, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Barcelona Convention and the Montreal Protocol. The Government strengthened its capacity to monitor and report on climate change and biodiversity, and enhanced its knowledge on environmental considerations necessary for sustainable land-use planning. For example, it carried out greenhouse gas emissions reporting to the UNFCCC secretariat (UN Climate Change)²⁵ and prepared the sixth national report on biodiversity.

24 A circular economy is an economic system aimed at minimizing waste and making the most of resources. This regenerative approach is in contrast to the traditional linear economy, which has a 'take, make, dispose' model of production.

25 The UNFCCC secretariat (UN Climate Change) was established in 1992 when countries adopted the UNFCCC. With the subsequent adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and the Paris Agreement in 2015, parties to these three agreements have progressively reaffirmed the secretariat's role as the United Nations entity tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change.

Sustainable management of forests and marine ecosystems:

The United Nations contributed to the sustainable management of forests, including by developing land management policies, increasing green forest cover and strengthening integrated management techniques. Through tree planting and forest restoration, climate resilience of vulnerable Lebanese forest ecosystems was strengthened. More than 100 hectares of land – equivalent to around 160 football pitches – were planted with tree seedlings as a contribution to the 40 million-trees programme. The United Nations also planted 135,000 native seedlings, supported the conservation of over 400 hectares – the area of about 640 football pitches – and protected existing forests through forest management activities.

United Nations-supported training and technical support to national stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, contributed to better coordination and more robust forest initiatives. Moreover, the updated National Action Programme to Combat Desertification and the development and adoption of Land Degradation Neutrality voluntary targets prioritized land degradation, drought and their links to poverty higher.

Moreover, assistance was provided to increase the Government's capacity to protect marine and coastal ecosystems through improved data collection systems on fisheries at the Ministry of Agriculture, training of key Ministry staff to strengthen systematic monitoring of the fishing fleet, and a study to develop an ecosystem approach to sardine fisheries.

Supporting waste management: In close collaboration with municipalities, local waste management plans were developed, and equipment such as garbage bins, trucks and sorting facilities were provided alongside training and awareness campaigns. Around 110,000 people benefited from awareness-raising on waste reduction and sorting, or participated in mobilization campaigns to clean neighbourhoods, riverbanks and irrigation canals. In addition, integrated waste management in three unions of municipalities in the north reduced the cost of municipal solid waste collection for the municipalities by 50 per cent. These activities fostered improved social stability, as waste was also collected from informal settlements in the area. Lastly, Palestinian camps strengthened sustainable management of waste through new equipment, better planning, and campaigns aimed at reducing waste production and sorting at source.



Support was provided to increase the Government's capacity to promote sustainable fisheries. © UNDP

III. IMPLEMENTING THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Secretary-General's ambitious reform of the United Nations Development System will officially begin in 2019, which will bring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to the country level in an unprecedented manner. The reform is mandated by the General Assembly of the United Nations in resolution A/RES/72/279, which responds to the vision and proposals of Secretary-General to revamp the United Nations Development System to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

The reform aims to furnish the United Nations Development System with a stronger, better-defined collective identity as a trusted, reliable, cohesive, accountable and effective partner to countries in the 2030 Agenda; a system that member States can invest in and rely on because they understand and support what it does, what it can deliver, and how it functions. The reform hopes to yield a United Nations Development System that is more integrated and more focused on delivery on the ground, with clearer internal and external accountability for contributions to national needs, and with capacities, skillsets and resources better aligned to the 2030 Agenda.

In 2018, the United Nations made important progress towards a more coordinated and integrated response in Lebanon. Highlights include the following:

A. PLANNING, PROGRAMMING AND REPORTING TOGETHER

In 2018, United Nations entities continued to engage in joint work planning and reporting through the agreed coordination structure under the United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF). The United Nations Annual Report 2017 was published online in both English and Arabic.²⁶

United Nations agencies also continued to focus on developing joint programming initiatives in close collaboration with government bodies and donor countries. In 2018, two joint programming initiatives were developed and initiated with a focus on the following:

- Rule of law, security and human rights: building on the outcomes of the Rome II, CEDRE and Brussels II conferences held in early 2018, the joint initiative aims to provide immediate protection for the most vulnerable, while supporting longer-term reforms for rule of law institutions to enhance access to justice and security to all in Lebanon, especially the most disadvantaged;
- Productive sectors development: to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to promote exports and support innovation and productivity of micro, small and medium enterprises in key value chains.

26 <http://www.un.org.lb/english/unsf/annual-report>.

B. COOPERATING FOR INCREASED ACCESS TO DATA

United Nations entities enhanced their collaboration on data generation and management to avoid duplication of efforts and reduce transaction costs. A capacity assessment of the Central Administration of Statistics was undertaken to inform a joint plan of action to strengthen the national statistical system and provide coordinated support in Lebanon.

C. IMPROVING UNITED NATIONS MANAGEMENT OF RISKS

The United Nations developed a joint risk management framework, outlining the various risks posed to the United Nations presence and activities in Lebanon to further support joint monitoring and mitigation of ongoing and emerging risks.

In addition, a comprehensive contingency plan was developed with a focus on the following key risk scenarios: violence in and around Palestinian refugee camps; renewed armed conflict with Israel; and new refugee flows.

Steps were also taken to establish a United Nations anti-fraud mechanism to share information and prevent critical fraud-related risks associated to partners in Lebanon.

D. REDUCING TRANSACTIONAL COSTS IN OPERATIONS

In an effort to accelerate the harmonization of business operations, in particular reducing the duplication of functions and administrative and transaction costs across United Nations agencies in Lebanon, the United Nations Country Team developed a joint Business Operations Strategy until 2020. Estimates show that its full implementation will result in savings of over \$3.6 million in net benefits through efficiency gains in the areas of facility management, administration, logistics, procurement, human resources, and information and communication technology.

E. STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The United Nations and the World Bank intensified their cooperation in 2018 by signing a partnership compact for the period 2018-2020, aimed at ensuring that their efforts are complementary and mutually reinforcing in support of stability, prosperity and development in Lebanon, while reducing the vulnerabilities and poverty of Lebanese and refugee populations.

The compact builds on the increased and broadened collaboration between the two organizations in Lebanon

since the onset of the Syrian crisis by putting forward priorities for engagement and combined efforts.

Guided by the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations and the World Bank will work with national and international partners to advance integrated solutions to humanitarian and development challenges in Lebanon.

Over the next three years, the two organizations will develop multi-year joint initiatives in Lebanon with a focus on the following:

- Joint analysis, risk and needs assessments to strengthen and harmonize the data and evidence base to inform policies and programmes and promote joint planning;
- Joint programmatic initiatives to support priority sectors, focusing on health, education, economic opportunities, social safety nets, environment, governance and gender equality;
- Aligning funding mechanisms to leverage donor support.

Since the compact was signed in March 2018, a core group has been established comprising United Nations heads of agencies and World Bank section chiefs to oversee the implementation of the compact. The core group meets on a quarterly basis. Joint planning has also started in agreed priority areas, such as the development of a joint multi-deprivation index to measure the vulnerabilities of Lebanese citizens and Syrian refugees; the establishment of a joint approach to promote social safety nets together with the Government and key donor partners; the development of a joint programmatic framework to support the National Anti-Corruption Strategy; and gender mainstreaming throughout United Nations and World Bank programmes.



Investment in labour-intensive projects, such as infrastructure development in the agriculture and industry sectors, created temporary jobs and income opportunities for the most vulnerable. © UNDP

IV. 2030 AGENDA ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2018, the United Nations in Lebanon continued supporting the roll out of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Lebanon.

A key focus area was supporting the operationalization of the inter-ministerial National Committee for the Sustainable Development Goals, and assisting in preparing the country's first voluntary national review, which was presented to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2018. Efforts included the hiring of an external consultant to help draft the review and support civil society consultations.

The United Nations also continued its advocacy efforts to increase awareness of and engagement in the dialogue on the 2030 Agenda in Lebanon. As part of those efforts, the United Nations launched a year-long public communications campaign on locally-relevant SDGs, focusing on how each person could and should help Lebanon move towards achieving the SDGs.



The United Nations in Lebanon supports the roll out of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Lebanon. In 2018, a key focus area was supporting the operationalization of the inter-ministerial National Committee for the Sustainable Development Goals, and assisting in preparing the country's first voluntary national review. © UNDESA

V. COMMUNICATING AS ONE

United Nations communication in 2018 sought to increase awareness of United Nations activities in and support to Lebanon. For example, a social media campaign was launched to highlight key findings of the United Nations Strategic Framework in 2017. United Nations entities also worked together to draw attention to key development issues, increase engagement, and promote action towards achieving the SDGs. In this regard, the United Nations launched three major campaigns to engage the public, advocate for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and mobilize action against gender-based violence.

In February 2018, the United Nations launched a two-month social media campaign entitled “UN Listens” aimed at encouraging people to share their ideas on how to make their communities better and to assume responsibility in improving their communities. The campaign resulted in 500 letters that tackled various topics such as youth empowerment, career planning and job opportunities, good education, mental and physical health, environmental preservation, urban planning, and empathy and acceptance. Letters from Syrian refugees tackled job opportunities, education, travelling abroad and, most importantly, requests of acceptance by the Lebanese. The authors of the best 10 letters with the most creative suggestions were invited to discuss their ideas with United Nations heads of agencies and received certificates of appreciation and participation.

Another key achievement was the commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The plan stretched from March until December 2018. It aimed to promote an understanding of how the Universal Declaration empowers everyone, and to encourage further reflection on ways that persons can uphold human rights on a daily basis.

In November 2018, a campaign on ending child marriage was conducted jointly with the National Commission for Lebanese Women as part of the international campaign entitled “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence”. The Lebanese campaign was called “Bakir 3laya”. It featured on social media under the hashtag #Bakir3laya, and was given air time on national television and radio channels.

In addition to those campaigns, 12 United Nations international days relevant to Lebanon were promoted, primarily through social media where joint key messages were developed and published by all United Nations agencies in Lebanon. For United Nations Day, the United Nations in Lebanon held a public event that focused on United Nations activities in Lebanon and on the SDGs. The event hosted key stakeholders and the public. The Lebanese media and United Nations social media accounts reported the major outcomes of United Nations work in various sectors.

Key communication activities implemented in 2018 also included the regular teach-in sessions targeting school and university students. The United Nations reached at least 10,000 students from across Lebanon and introduced them to the work of the United Nations in Lebanon and the SDGs.

VI. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



A. OVERALL SUPPORT TO LEBANON

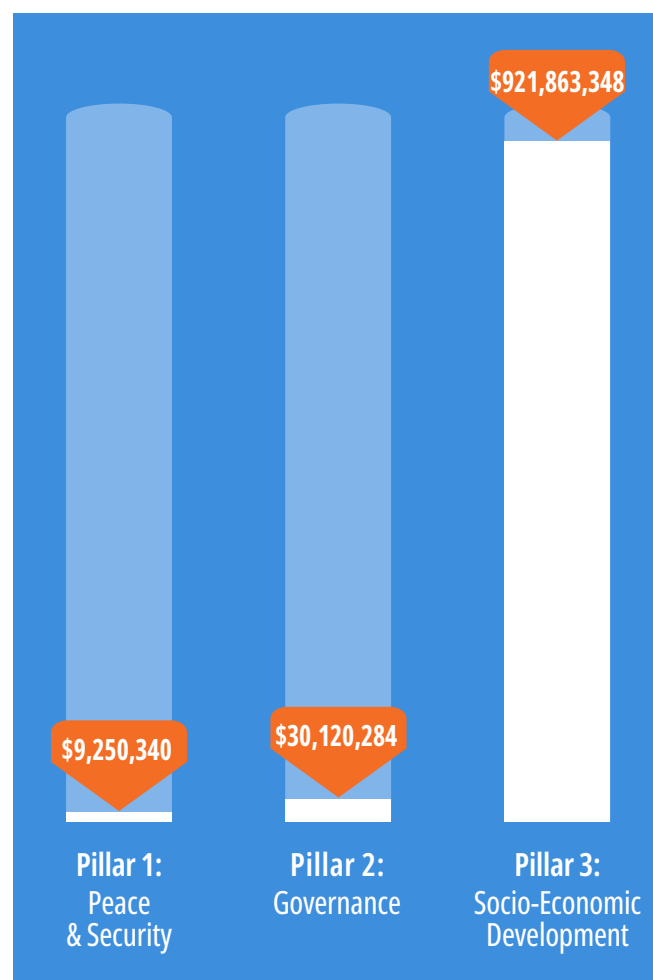
Since the start of the Syrian crisis, the international community has continued to demonstrate a high-level of support to Lebanon. For the last couple of years, donors have reported an annual average of \$1.4 billion in grant support to Lebanon, with the European Union, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America consistently among the top donors. Similarly, resources of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 reached an annual average of \$1.2 billion, standing at around 40-45 per cent of the total appeal. Overall, the reported assistance to Lebanon is primarily focused on short-term emergency response, while multi-year commitments have been decreasing since 2016.

B. FUNDING UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

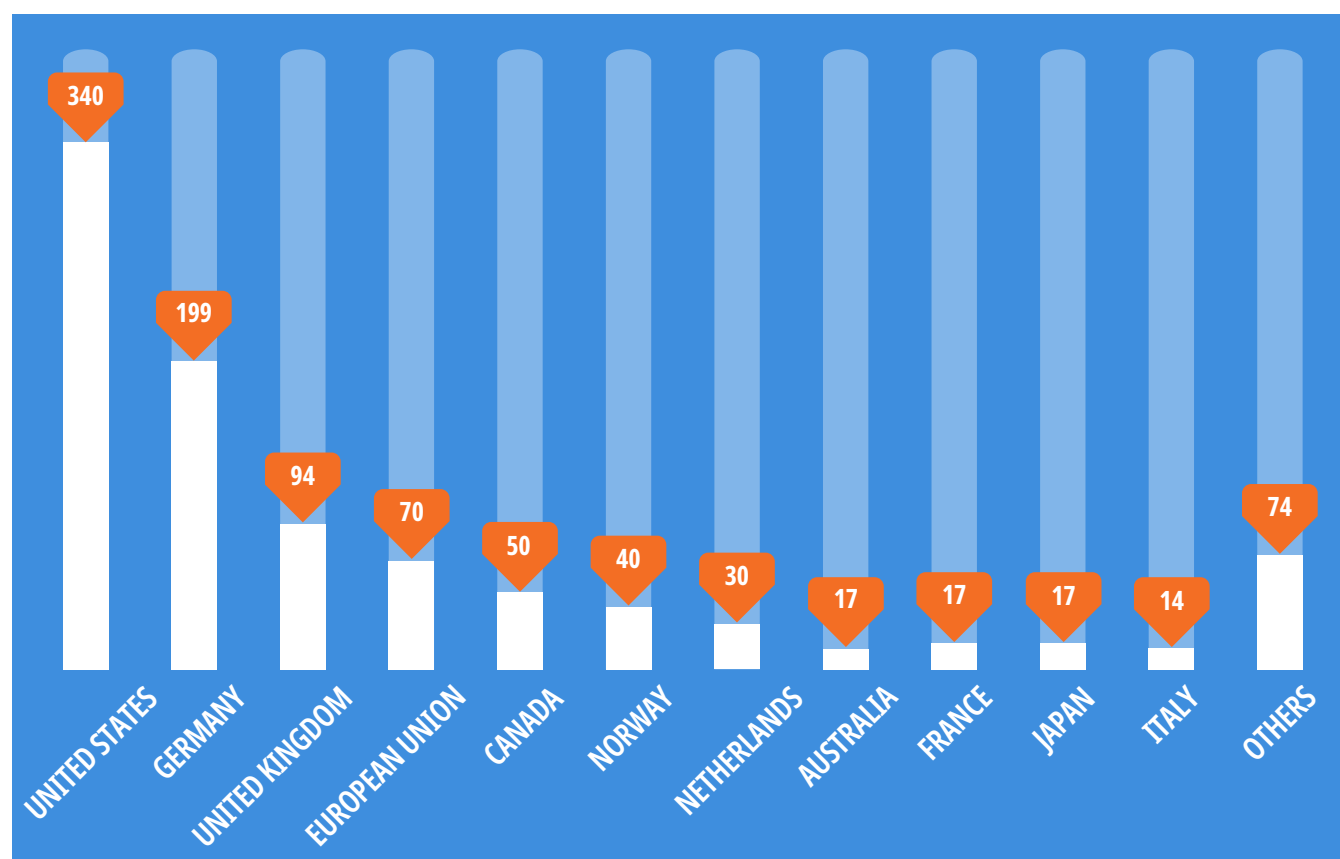
In 2018, \$724 million were invested to support Lebanon through the United Nations Strategic Framework; 93 per cent of these United Nations funds were also used in support of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan.

The majority of UNSF resources in 2018 focused on pillar 3 on socioeconomic development, particularly outcome 3.2 on improving equitable access to and delivery of quality social services, social protection and direct assistance. This has helped United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to reduce vulnerabilities by allowing greater access to health, water, education, protection, shelter, and food and cash assistance.

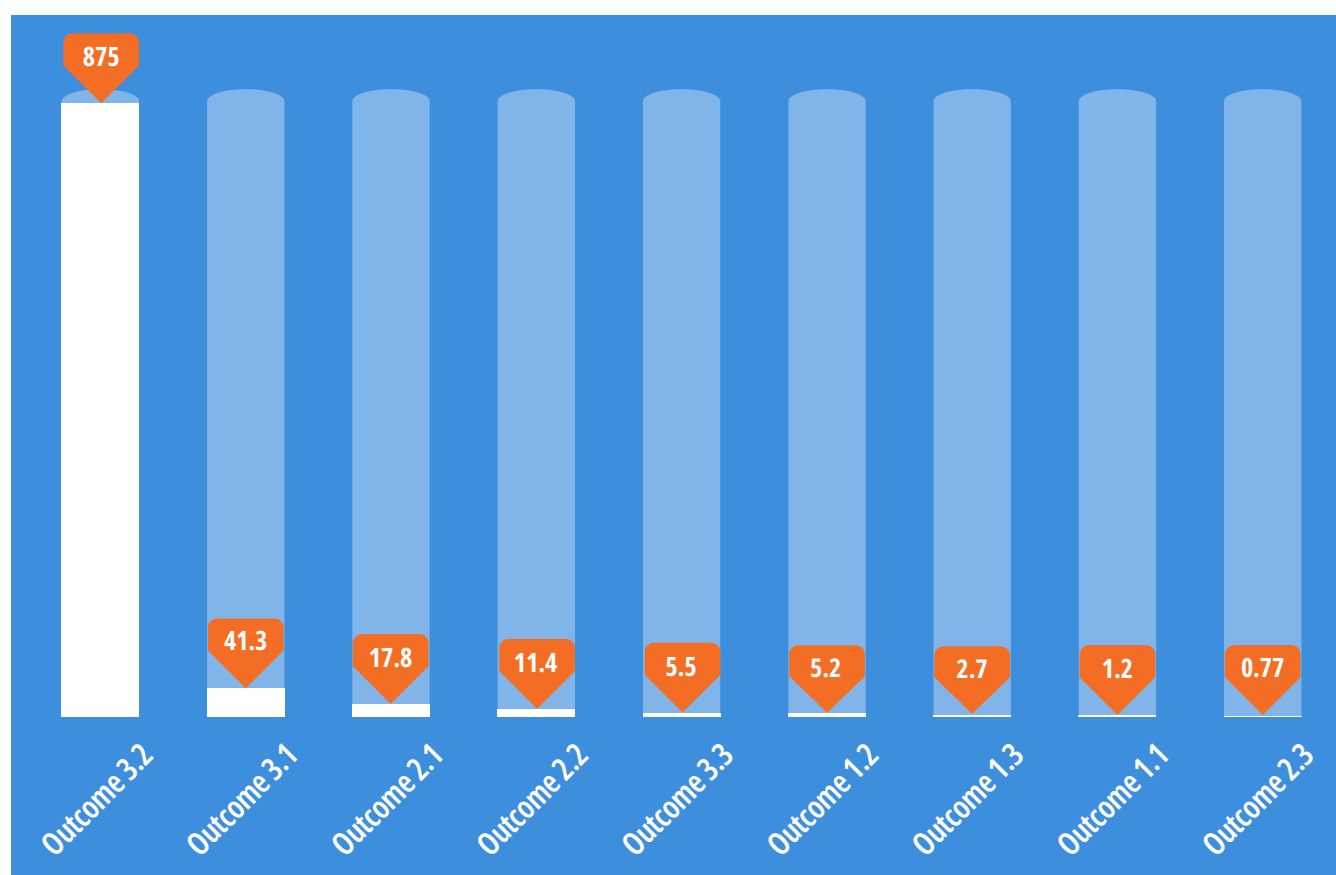
2018 resources by UNSF pillar



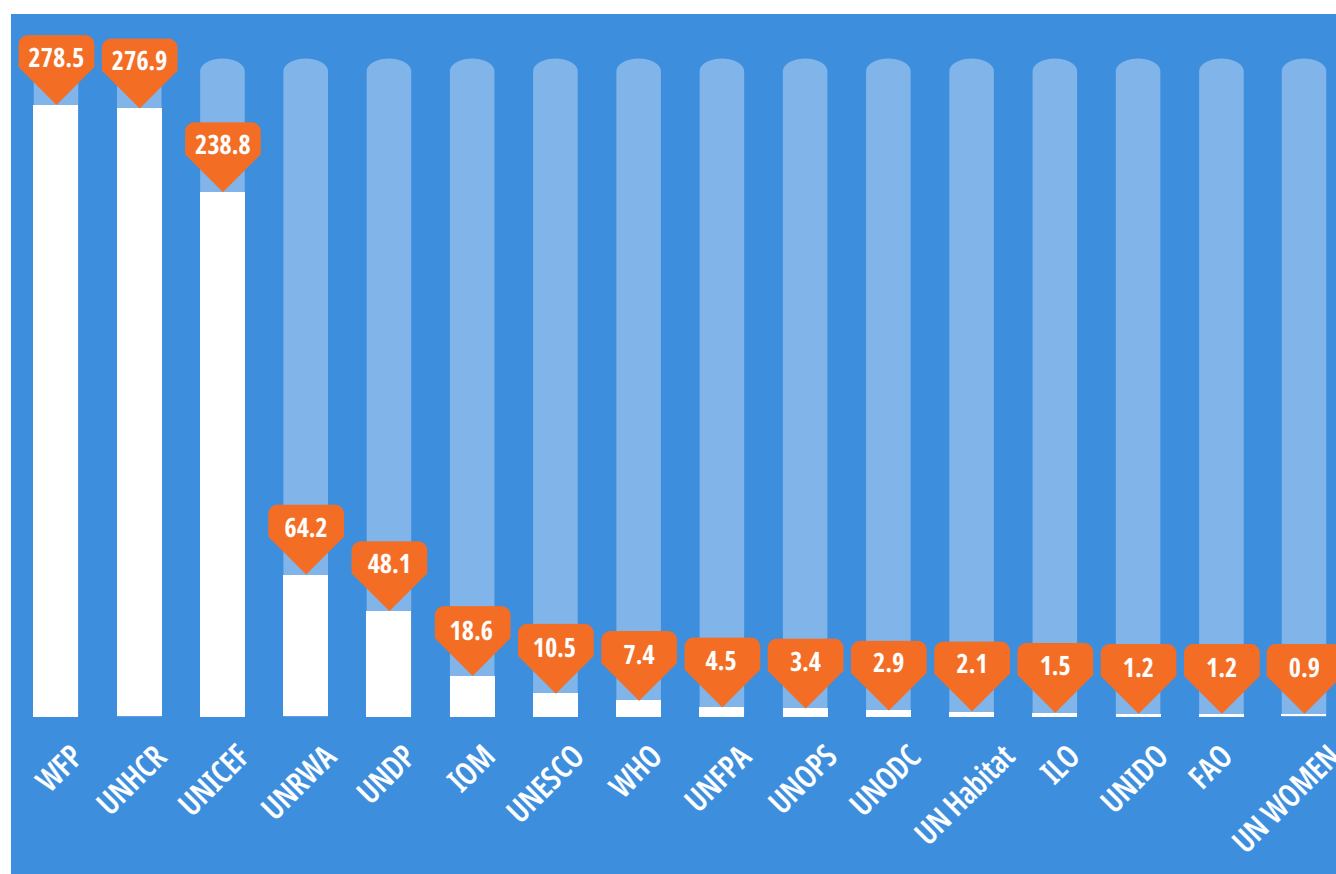
Contributions to UNSF by donor in 2018 (in millions of USD)



2018 UNSF resources by outcome area (in millions of USD)



Funds received by United Nations entities in 2018 under UNSF (in millions of USD)



Indicative figures extracted from the 2018 Aid Tracking Report for Lebanon



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