

HIGHLIGHTS

- New plan appeals for US\$2.8 billion to assist 2.8 million vulnerable people in Lebanon.
- 2016 achievements help ease hardships of the most vulnerable communities.
- Challenges in 2017 could include funding constraints and data shortages.
- Lebanon received USD 1.3 billion for the response in 2016.
- Demining project benefits more than 5,000 Syrians and Lebanese.

FIGURES

(As of 31 December 2016)

# of estimated refugees	1,500,000
# of registered refugees	1,011,366
52.1 %  47.9 %  53 % 	
# of returnees	35,000
# of Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS)	30,675
# of Palestine Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)	277,985
# of vulnerable Lebanese	1,500,000
Total Lebanese population	4,400,000

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The cover page of the LCRP 2017-2020

This month in Lebanon

In this issue, we provide an overview of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) which was launched in January 2017, with a focus on the achievements of 2016 and the challenges and objectives ahead for 2017. We also highlight the issue of mines in Lebanon, with a look at how the work of one demining organization has changed the life of a Syrian family in the Bekaa.

Launch of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020

Partners plan to assist 2.8 million vulnerable people in 2017

The [Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 \(LCRP\)](#) was officially launched on 19 January by Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri, UN Special Coordinator Sigrid Kaag and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Philippe Lazzarini.

The LCRP, which brings together 104 partners, appeals for US\$2.8 billion to assist 2.8 million vulnerable people living in Lebanon. It aims to provide protection and immediate assistance to 1 million Syrian refugees, vulnerable Lebanese and Palestine refugees; deliver basic services to 2.2 million people; and invest in Lebanon's infrastructure, economy and public services.

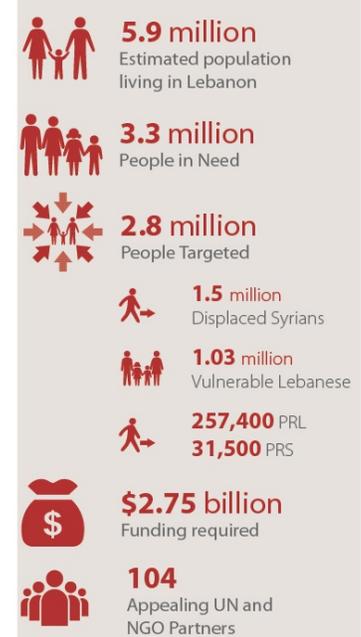
Since the start of the crisis, the efforts of the humanitarian community, supported by significant funding from donors, have brought wide-ranging assistance in Lebanon and prevented a strong deterioration of living conditions for the poorest groups. However, the vulnerability of the poorest communities is deepening and growing needs continue to outstrip resources. Poverty is on the rise as refugees face protracted displacement and become increasingly dependent on assistance. Unemployment is high, particularly in the country's poorest localities, and more than 200,000 Syrian and 50,000 Lebanese children are still out of school.

As the Syria crisis enters its seventh year, partners are working through the LCRP to be more innovative, enable smarter solutions and deliver a more efficient response. Cash programming is one example of new approaches, with the Common Card that was introduced in late 2016 to let families define their own priorities. Now more than ever, the LCRP needs renewed funding and longer-term commitment from the international community, in line with its collective commitment at the [2016 World Humanitarian Summit](#) to shared responsibility and multi-year funding. Strong continued support to the LCRP is essential in order to help hundreds of thousands of vulnerable families, support Lebanon's stability and help the country recover from the impact of the crisis.

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2017 PLANNING FIGURES



Key results under the

2016 LCRP

97
Municipalities



Supported to upgrade basic **waste management, water networks and road infrastructure** as well as improved **service delivery**

1.7 million

primary healthcare **consultations** were provided by health partners along with



79,000

hospital admissions supported



201km



of public **water supply distribution network installed or upgraded** with over **1.3 million** people accessing **improved** water and sanitation services

\$156 million



was channelled to support **public institutions** to improve capacity to **respond** to the crisis and **deliver** better services



9,865

children at-risk and/or child survivors of violence received individual **case management services**

5,345

children received **specialised support services**



150,947
197,010

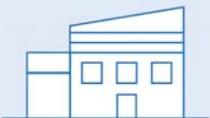
Non-Lebanese children **enrolled in basic education** for the 2015-16 school year
Lebanese children

1,255 non-Lebanese were **supported to enrol** in formal **secondary education**



479

government and civil society **social workers and case managers trained** on The National Standard Operating Procedures for case management of **children at-risk and/or child survivors of violence**



419,000

individuals with **shelter needs** were assisted

\$440 million



injected into the local economy through multi-purpose and winter cash as well as food e-cards and vouchers.

in **490** WFP-contracted shops

Reaching **879,766** with food assistance through various modalities to enable them to cover basic food needs

189,000

vulnerable Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestine households received multi-purpose and winter cash.



Impact of the 2016 LCRP

Supporting the most vulnerable communities in Lebanon

Despite stark challenges, the organizations working within the ten sectors of the LCRP (including the newly-created Energy Sector) have had a clear impact in 2016 in support of the three strategic objectives of the LCRP. Here is a look at some key impacts towards each strategic objective.

Humanitarian assistance and protection for the most vulnerable

The Basic Assistance sector made a strong impact towards the first strategic objective of assisting and protecting the most vulnerable: the sector supported vulnerable families with US\$ 208.4 million, an unprecedented amount since the beginning of the response. This includes



Syrian child in an informal settlement in Miniara, Akkar being screened for dental health problems. Source: ANERA the

The response under the 2016 LCRP has had a tangible impact across the three LCRP Strategic Objectives.

multipurpose cash assistance for 66,000 households – a considerable scale-up compared to the 25,000 households supported in 2015 – and winter cash and in-kind support for more than 250,000 households. In addition, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and the Lebanon Cash Consortium launched a Common Card that provides a common system for cash assistance for 185,000 Syrian refugee households. The card simplifies assistance for vulnerable families and maximizes efficiency in the response, helping to amplify the impact of cash assistance.

Another key impact was achieved in the area of food security: the sector reached 95 per cent of its target in 2016, providing almost 881,000 people with food assistance. Partners created 400 jobs in the agricultural sector for Syrians and vulnerable Lebanese. Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), women cooperatives and community kitchens were also supported through trainings, technical expertise and equipment, benefiting local communities in a durable way by boosting jobs, income and local economic flows.

On the shelter front, the sector assisted more than 70,000 Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese families facing substandard shelters and socio-economic vulnerability. Projects included shelter upgrade as well as support in obtaining written occupancy agreements with landlords.

Access to basic services

A number of sectors have had a measurable impact towards strategic objective 2 on expanding access to public services. The education sector achieved a significant increase in school enrolment numbers with 150,947 non-Lebanese children and 197,010 Lebanese children enrolled in school for the 2015-16 school year, and even higher enrolment numbers for 2016-2017 – with 190,000 non-Lebanese and 203,700 Lebanese children. The sector is also having a durable impact on the quality of education in Lebanon by training teachers across the country and supporting key technical positions at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Partners provided 1 million individuals with access to safe water and made wide-ranging improvements to wastewater management, solid waste management and electricity for vulnerable individuals and families.

Another key sector that has had a strong positive impact on the provision of basic services is the health sector: hospitalization support for displaced Syrians, with 72,705 cases, saw a 24 per cent increase from 2015. The sector also supported the Ministry of Public Health in expanding access to quality health services by contributing vaccines and medication, providing 151 staff and organizing refresher trainings for ministry staff on the screening and management of acute malnutrition, vaccination, tuberculosis, reproductive health as well as mental health.

Partners provided more than 1 million individuals with access to safe water and made wide-ranging improvements to wastewater management, solid waste management and electricity for vulnerable individuals and families: for instance, partners provided storage tanks to families and supported the operation and maintenance of household-level and site water supply facilities and services. Projects implemented by the Water and Energy sector also led to the rehabilitation of 20 km of storm water channels and 10km of wastewater network, benefited 105 municipalities and communities and directly employed almost 2,000 individuals.

On the protection side, organizations built staff capacity through trainings, workshops and peer-to-peer coaching programs on protection, gender-based violence and child protection. In 2016, over 175 local organizations and MoSA Social Development Centres were supported and more than 3,000 sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) actors, including MoSA social workers, nurses,



Girls enjoying their free snack at a public school in Beirut. Source: Edith Abboud/IOCC

midwives and law enforcement officers, were trained on the new SGBV standard operational procedures. Over 4,500 frontline workers from other sectors were trained to safely and confidentially identify and refer survivors.

Reinforcing Lebanon's stability

On strategic objective 3, the Livelihoods and Social Stability sectors both put a strong focus on supporting and strengthening Lebanon's stability. In Livelihoods, the main area of progress was recorded in workforce employability, with 19,355 individuals participating in accelerated skills trainings, 4,677 benefiting from career guidance and employment services and 3,275 involved in internship schemes – a remarkable fourfold increase compared to 2015. The focus on small businesses also significantly increased compared to 2015, with 633 businesses and cooperatives receiving US\$ 1.4 million grants or benefiting from technology transfer to increase their productivity.

Finally, the Social Stability sector had a clear impact on the lives of vulnerable families by mapping communities' priority needs the 251 most vulnerable localities in Lebanon and supporting the implementation of 225 projects worth \$17.4 million in 97 municipalities. By improving service delivery, these projects address the resident's key concerns while helping to decrease tensions around basic services. The sector is also doing important work on conflict sensitivity through both direct work with communities and trainings for partners on conflict-sensitive programming.

Key challenges to the response in 2017

LCRP sectors take stock of main gaps and key priorities for the new year

As part of the planning process for the recently-launched 2017-2020 LCRP, the ten sectors have identified the main gaps and priorities foreseen for the Lebanon response in 2017. Their analysis shows that some of the main challenges to the response in Lebanon include funding, lack of reliable data, and capacity and staffing, among other issues. Here is an overview of some of the main challenges faced by the sectors.

Funding: a key constraint

Funding constraints are a major issue across the board, with nine out of ten sectors mentioning this as a challenge. Social Stability is the most underfunded sector in Lebanon, and this funding shortage is preventing the proper scale-up of activities in the most vulnerable cadasters – including key support to municipalities as well as local dialogue and peacebuilding activities. The Livelihood sector also faces chronic



A woman at a vocational training course. Source: ANERA

underfunding, contributing to limiting its ability implement projects to boost job opportunities among vulnerable communities. Funding shortfalls are also affecting partners in Protection, Health, Shelter, Food Security, Water and Basic Assistance, according to these sectors' end-of-year analysis. In addition, the newly-created Energy sector highlights that one of its key challenges will be to provide funds for energy-related activities, which will underpin the activities of several other sectors such as health, water and education.

Improving data collection and countrywide systems

Limitations on access to accurate data and adequate information are a major issue for projects in Livelihoods (with a lack of up-to-date and reliable information on labour market analysis, skills gaps and small enterprises' capacities and needs); Education (which faces a lack of data management and tracking of children); and Water (where the lack of comprehensive water-related data makes it hard to prioritize existing funds). The Social Stability sector also notes that the lack of impact evaluations of current programmes is undermining the sector's ability to demonstrate its impact, raise further funding, facilitate learning and exchange lessons learnt. Accordingly, improving data collection is a priority for several sectors in 2017.

Throughout 2017, sectors will continue to improve access to basic services and accountability to beneficiaries: this includes referrals for child protection, access to legal services for SGBV survivors, and coverage of chronic diseases, among other areas. In 2017, the Basic Assistance sector also plans to roll out harmonized referral mechanisms for cash and food assistance, along with the testing and roll-out of harmonized monitoring tools.

Building capacity, engaging with new actors and advocating for better policies

Building technical capacity and addressing understaffing is a priority for several sectors, particularly as part of support to government institutions. In 2017, half of the sectors will also prioritize engagement with new actors and groups, from national NGOs to local communities and the private sector. In addition, several sectors will continue advocating

Challenges to the response include funding, lack of reliable data, and capacity and staffing.

for better government policies on critical issues such as water management, protection against violence and abuse, and other areas.

Several sectors highlight the challenges raised by refugee evictions as well as access constraints.

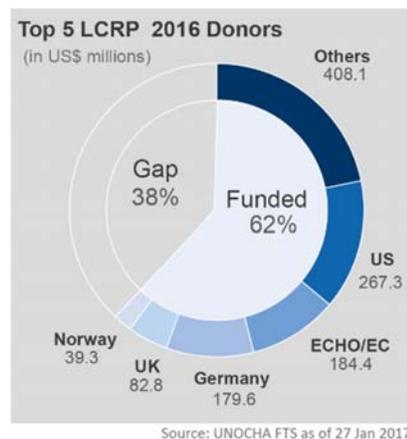
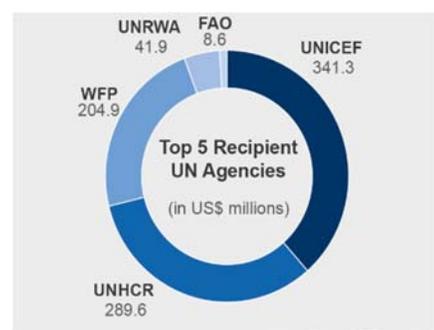
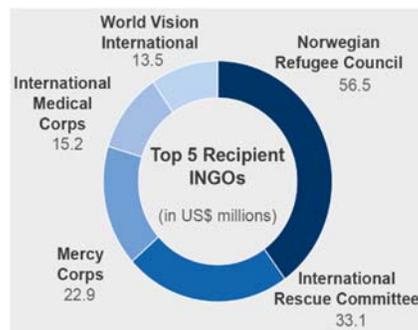
Evictions and access

Finally, several sectors highlight the challenges raised by refugee evictions – both legal and illegal – as well as difficulties faced by refugees to access services. In 2016, the forced removal of 1,386 households from informal settlements, often at short notice, required cross-sectoral emergency responses to decommission old sites and establish multiple new ones, requiring additional unplanned investments. These evictions also caused additional hardships and disruptions for the families involved, including profound stress and psychosocial trauma, particularly for children.

Access is also expected to remain a challenge in 2017: the dispersed nature of displacement across the country tends to limit refugees’ access to services, notably for persons with specific needs including persons with disabilities, SGBV survivors etc. . In response, partners are increasing their efforts to provide mobile service provision and other solutions in order to increase access. For instance, in Aarsal – which presents specific challenges due to instability in the area – partners have put in place remote response mechanisms and innovative monitoring and evaluation tools, such as GPS trackers with automated flow meters for trucking operations.

Funding Update

In 2016, the response in Lebanon received USD 1.3 billion in funding, including USD 1.128 billion under the LCRP. (This is a preliminary figure, as LCRP partners are still finalizing their funding overviews for 2016.)



In Brief**New publication: 'Atlas du Liban: Les nouveaux défis'**

This new edition of the 'Atlas du Liban', published in late 2016 by the Institut Français du Proche-Orient, provides an in-depth analysis of Lebanon, from the latest geopolitical trends to economic challenges and growing urbanization. The report was produced by French and Lebanese researchers and is available in French and Arabic.

For more information visit: <http://www.ifporient.org/node/1843>

Innovative Responses to the Syrian Refugee Crisis

On 27 January, the American University of Beirut organized a forum on 'Innovative Responses to the Syrian Refugee Crisis' which showcased 18 of the university's 64 projects focused on the Syrian refugee crisis and response. The projects covered a range of topics including tackling the vulnerabilities of refugees and host communities, nurturing innovation, supporting higher education, and producing better policy. The forum was attended by NGOs, UN agencies, civil society, faculty, and students. The Forum was organized as part of AUB's new AUB4Refugees initiative, which was launched in September 2016 as a University-wide initiative to bring together AUB faculty and units working on addressing the impacts of the Syrian refugee crisis. The initiative aims at nurturing cooperation and building partnerships on campus and beyond to deal with the repercussions and effects of the refugee crisis.

For more information visit: <https://www.aub.edu.lb/4refugees/Pages/home.aspx>

The Said family's Story

Clearing mines in the Bekaa

Decades of internal and international conflict have left areas of Lebanon with a high concentration of remaining cluster munitions, landmines, and other unexploded ordnance. The west Bekaa is the most contaminated region in Lebanon, with large areas of agricultural and residential land rendered inaccessible and uninhabitable.

The west Bekaa village of Baaloul, where the Said family fled from Syria, currently hosts over 1,500 Syrian refugees. Like the Said family, many of these families live in informal settlements, in close proximity to

dangerous areas, and have little knowledge of the threat unexploded ordnance poses. As a result, accidents involving mines and unexploded ordnance are at their highest since the 2006 conflict. Haya Said, 45 years old, described how scared she was when the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) found a cluster bomb alongside her tent. "We didn't expect that the team would find a cluster bomb near our tents," she explained. "We use the land daily for grazing and passing."

MAG has been working around the village of Baaloul since August 2014. The organization is supported by a number of donors, including the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund. The group works in part through Community Liaison teams which explain the organization's activities, resolve any concerns before and during clearance, maintain a relationship with the municipality, and conduct "risk education" sessions to raise safety awareness. Nour, another Said family member, remarked, "if we, the grownups, don't know what the cluster bombs look like, how could the children recognize them and stay away or inform us?"

The MAG teams have cleared 350,100 square meters of land around Baaloul, destroying 255 cluster bombs and other unexploded ordnance and benefiting 5,070 Syrians and Lebanese.



A MAG expert prepares the ground prior to manual clearance of landmines and other explosive items.
Photo: MAG

Along with the Community Liaisons, MAG has deployed trained and experienced Clearance Teams in Baaloul, one of which is composed entirely of women, supported by armored machines which excavate land, sift soil, and remove vegetation in order to open access lanes. To ensure the team can work safely, the Said family had to leave the camp early in the morning and return in the afternoon. “God protect those teams,” exclaimed Najah Said, “working hard to save our lives. We stay at our neighbors’ place for about five hours a day so that the team can work. We are grateful for MAG’s work.”

As of the end of November 2016, MAG has completed clearance of all contaminated lands around Baaloul, though work is ongoing in nearby Quaroun. In total, the teams were able to clear 350,100 square meters of land, destroying 255 cluster bombs and other unexploded ordnance in the process, and benefiting 5,070 Syrians and Lebanese. Ten-year-old Abed Omar couldn’t hide his smile, “I was really afraid when MAG team found a cluster bomb close enough to our tent; today we can play safely and without fear.”

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