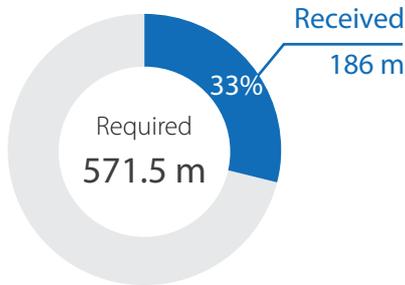




Basic Assistance End Year 2017 Dashboard

The end year dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Basic Assistance Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Ensure that Severely economically vulnerable populations have improved access to essential goods and services of their choice in a safe, dignified, and empowered manner while decreasing socio-economic vulnerability; OUTCOME 2) Ensure that populations affected by seasonal hazards & unexpected displacements are able to maintain safe access to goods & services; OUTCOME 3) Strengthen social safety net (NPTP) structures to serve most socio-economically vulnerable households by building on existing mechanisms and to improve social stability.

2017 Funding Status as of 31 December 2017

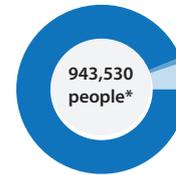


Targeted Population groups

2.2 m (People in Need)



Population reached by cohort



Syrian	94%
Lebanese	1%
Palestine Refugees	5%

Programmes are funded by a combination of flexible/unearmarked funds and funds specifically earmarked to the sector

* people reached through winter programmes

Progress against targets



Key Achievements

reached / target

# of households receiving multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers (every month)*	88,503 / 240,276
Total USD amount distributed as regular multi-sector/purpose cash (Syr, Leb, Pal)	\$ 118 m / \$ 316 m
# of Syrian households receiving multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers (every month)	56,820 / 195,776
# of Lebanese households receiving multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers (every month)	1,269 / 35,500
# of Palestinian households receiving multi-sector/ purpose cash transfers (every month)	9,672 / 9,000
# of households receiving seasonal cash grants or vouchers	188,706 / 302,756
Total amount of seasonal cash distributed in USD	\$ 114.5 m / \$ 156 m**
Total USD amount injected into economy in forms of cash assistance (seasonal + regular)	\$ 232.4 m / \$ 472 m
0%	100%

* includes UNICEF education specific cash grants

** \$ 156 m is the target for all 2017 i.e. includes planned activities in Nov-Dec 2017



Outcomes

reached / target

OUTCOME 1: % of severely economically vulnerable households received multi-sector cash transfers	46 % / 100 %
% of Syrian displaced households receiving cash assistance also receiving food assistance	98 % / 100 %
OUTCOME 2: % of seasonally vulnerable population assisted (winter 2016/2017)	60 % / 100 %
OUTCOME 3: % of socio-economically vulnerable Leb households assisted through the NPTP under LCRP	4 % / 100 %
0%	100%



Age/Gender Breakdown of Cash Beneficiaries



Analysis

Syrian Households Receiving Multi-Purpose Cash (MCAP) IN 2017



56,820

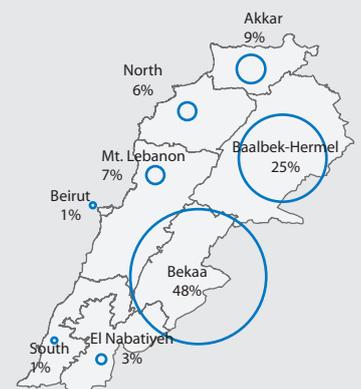
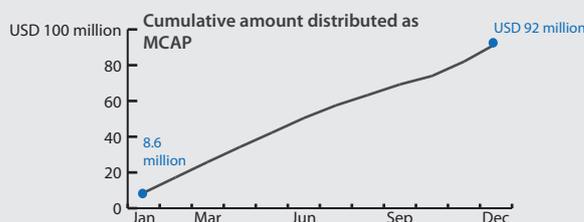
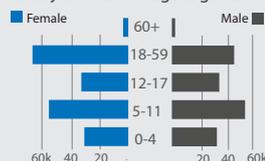
Families received MCAP in December 2017



6.4

Average family size

Family members - age & gender



Households receiving MCAP by Governorate



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

240,276 households (HHs) were identified as severely vulnerable, i.e. living below the extreme poverty line of \$2.9/person/day, to be targeted with multi-purpose cash throughout 2017, of which:

- o 195,776 are Syrians
- o 9,000 are Palestinians; and
- o 35,500 are Lebanese.

88,503 severely vulnerable HHs received regular monthly multi-purpose cash (MPC) assistance (\$175 grants), to improve their access to basic goods and services essential for their survival, of which:

- o 56,820 are Syrians;
- o 9,672 are Palestinians;
- o 1,269 are Lebanese; and

20,742 vulnerable displaced Syrian households received additional education-specific cash grants (around 60% of them also received the regular monthly \$175 MPC grant).

188,706 vulnerable (Lebanese, Syrian and Palestine) households, living below the poverty line of \$3.86/person/day, were supported with winter cash assistance in order to cope with seasonal shocks and hazards and to increase their ability to secure heating, shelter weatherproofing, food and other needs:

- o 176,000 are Syrians;
- o 9,618 are Palestinians; and
- o 3,088 are Lebanese;

\$232,397,607 was the overall amount of cash-based interventions injected by Basic Assistance partners in the local economy to support the access of vulnerable families to markets throughout the country on a regular and seasonal basis, of which:



Facts and Figures

114 \$/capita/month	Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)
87 \$/capita/month	Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB)
76%	Syrian refugee households living on less than MEB (VaSYR 2017)
58%	Syrian refugee households living on less than SMEB (VaSYR 2017)
6.4	Average size of families receiving cash (RAIS)
4.3	Average size of families registered with UNHCR

- o \$114,413,297 in the form of winter cash assistance during January, February, March, November and December 2017.
- o \$117,984,310 in the form of multi-purpose cash assistance in support of those 88,503 severely vulnerable families.



KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACT(S)

Immediate humanitarian assistance has been provided to more than 88,000 (Syrian, Palestinian, Lebanese) of the most vulnerable households targeted under the Basic Assistance sector in the form of cash-based interventions.

These households were reached with regular monthly multi-purpose cash assistance (MPC) grants (total worth of \$117.9 million), which improve their access to basic goods and services essential to their survival.

In addition, 20,742 vulnerable displaced Syrian households received additional education-specific cash grants to support them in sending their children to schools.

The support provided by the sector helped to ensure that the percentage of Syrians living below the poverty line (\$3.86/person/day) deteriorated only slightly to 76% in 2017 (from 71% in 2016), compared to the significant worsening of living situations witnessed in previous years, where the percentage of households living in poverty went from 49% in 2014 to 69% in 2015.

In 2017, 58% of displaced Syrians were deemed severely socio-economically vulnerable, living below the \$435/month threshold which is the minimum needed for a household of five to survive, up from 53% in 2016. Some 46% of these severely vulnerable households received regular multi-purpose cash assistance.

To respond to the increasing vulnerabilities, the sector been scaling up assistance in a harmonized fashion. This has been achieved through improving the joint targeting approached adopted for both cash and food assistance and its respective application.

A redistribution of the assisted caseload was done in the fourth quarter of the year to ensure that the most vulnerable with the lowest scores are prioritized for assistance. At the same time, the caseload of households assisted with food under the food security sector was redistributed to target all of those identified as severely vulnerable.

This allowed the poorest households targeted with cash assistance, identified as the most vulnerable of the population, to receive food assistance as well. Almost 98% of the households receiving cash are also receiving food assistance, up from 83% in 2016 which increases the impact of assistance provided and responds to increasing household's needs in a better impactful manner.

Households reported, during distribution monitoring, that they were able to secure basic needs thanks to monetized monthly grants to purchase additional food, pay rent and parts of their outstanding debts and to cover health expenses.

In addition, over 90% of Palestine refugees from Syria, as well as 28% of the Lebanese population, are also considered poor (below \$3.86/person/day) based on existing poverty estimates. Almost all poor Palestine refugees from Syria are receiving regular yearlong cash assistance. Nevertheless, assistance to vulnerable Lebanese under the sector has been limited in 2017, similar to previous years.¹

During winter, and specifically during the months of January, February, March, November and December, sector partners intensified their distribution of assistance to ensure the highest possible coverage of the poor.

The seasonal upscale of assistance (both in cash and in kind) mitigated the additional winter expenses to families, such as for heat, shelter weatherproofing and clothing. More than 188,000 vulnerable households were supported with winter cash assistance and core relief items.

The total amount of cash assistance distributed in 2017 under the Basic Assistance sector has exceeded \$232 million, combining both regular and seasonal assistance. Assistance provided to households is also helping local markets by stimulating demand, restoring livelihoods and improving resilience of both targeted households and their surrounding communities through improved economic interaction.

1. Due to resource limitations and, in other cases, as a result of earmarked funding.

CHALLENGES

Funding limitations in 2017 caused a fluctuation in the number of people targeted with regular assistance (mainly displaced Syrians enrolled in the multi-purpose cash programme), and limited assistance that could be provided in winter.

Sector partners maintained support to 48,000 displaced Syrian households during the first half of the year, but this decreased to less than 32,000 households during the third quarter. A dramatic drop in funding led to the closure of the Lebanon Cash Consortium (with a caseload of almost 16,000 households) at the end of May 2017, along with other cash actors closing down programmes.

Severely vulnerable displaced Syrians who considered this assistance as a critical last resort, given their high levels of debt, depletion of assets and savings, and limited access to informal labour, were left without any support for more than three months, before being re-included into other programmes later in the year.

Additional resources were mobilized during the fourth quarter, and 56,820 displaced Syrian households received cash assistance by December. The focus during this quarter was on ensuring that the most vulnerable displaced Syrians were being reached by using a refined targeting tool, a recalibrated desk formula, which ranks households based on specific demographic and socio-economic indicators.

Furthermore, there was limited predictability for seasonal assistance which led to a delay in the definition and harmonization of the assistance packages, pushing the start of assistance distributions to late November.

Organizations providing winter assistance adapted to the funding shortage by providing only \$75 for a three-month period to those not receiving other forms of cash assistance, instead of the standard package of \$147 for five months. This helped to ensure that support was provided to the largest possible number of families, despite the funding shortfall.

Households receiving regular cash assistance were not initially considered for winter assistance, in order to prioritize vulnerable households who were not previously supported with other cash programmes, to survive the harsh weather conditions.

As additional funding was secured towards mid-December, some of these households were nevertheless supported with winter assistance, prioritizing the severely vulnerable.

More efforts need to be made to ensure that the most vulnerable are supported. Currently, only 46% of displaced Syrian households which have been identified as severely vulnerable receive assistance, constituting 29% of those identified as "poor" and eligible for assistance.

Moreover, only 4% of vulnerable Lebanese households identified as extremely poor by the National Poverty Targeting Programme were supported in 2017. Gaps in assistance to vulnerable Lebanese are also related to funding. On the contrary, support for all Palestine refugees from Syria identified as poor was ensured throughout the year.

KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN - 1ST QUARTER 2018

The Basic Assistance sector strategy for 2018 is considered to be an extension of 2017, focusing on the same operational objectives: (1) scaling up direct multi-purpose cash assistance to the most vulnerable on a regular basis, (2) ensuring a blanket coverage of the poor households with seasonal winter assistance, and (3) providing technical support to the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP).

The 2018 sector strategy includes some additional areas for exploration, mainly focusing on social protection as a framework to deliver assistance while making possible linkages and alignments to existing safety nets in the country.

Based on the current planning, assistance to displaced Syrians in multi-purpose cash programmes is expected to remain stable until the end of March 2018.

Nearly 63,000 households, or 50% of those identified as severely vulnerable, have been identified to receive assistance. This will be the highest coverage of vulnerable families with regular multi-purpose cash assistance under the Basic Assistance sector since the start of the crisis. In addition, the latter will allow better understanding of the linkages to the activities of the Basic Assistance sector and how they could be applied in Lebanon to ensure more long-term impact of programming. This will in turn be fed into the Humanitarian Coordinator's Task Force established on cash-related issues.

Furthermore, the revision of the current targeting model (desk formula) is expected to start soon. The process will be taking place within the context of the 2018 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR).

Lastly, the issue of funding cuts to support for Palestine refugees by UNRWA is alarming to the Basic Assistance sector. The results of this funding shortfall will have devastating results on the livelihoods of the nearly 10,000 households supported with regular assistance.

CASE STUDY

A total of 56,820 severely vulnerable Syrian households were reached in 2017 with multi-purpose cash assistance. Yet, this number constitutes only 46% of the total severely vulnerable cases identified and prioritized by the Basic Assistance sector and 29% of the total poor households eligible for assistance.

These households live in unacceptable living conditions, with no financial means to secure the basic minimum income required for the well-being of their families. Cash assistance provided in such cases, and despite being modest amounts, can help improving some aspects.

Post-distribution monitoring conducted by different cash actors confirm these findings. Households used the \$175 grants to cover part of their most critical needs: additional food, rent, debt repayment, and health costs). The average debt for households was found to have decreased significantly since becoming recipients of cash assistance: \$551 in 2017 compared to \$739.³

Anwar, a 23-year-old female head of household with three young children, originally from Idlib, is currently living in Ez-Zeytoun informal settlement in North Lebanon. Anwar is currently enrolled in the multi-purpose cash assistance programme of UNHCR; she says that her family cannot survive without this assistance, which helps cover part of the costs of food, rent, health care, and clothing: "When I didn't have the [cash assistance], I hated myself," she says. "Imagine not having money to eat or drink. Now I can buy food, take my children to the doctor, and buy them clothes," she notes.⁴ Anwar is one of 26,000 female-headed households assisted by the Basic Assistance sector partners. Female-headed households represent 47% of the total number of households receiving multi-purpose cash.



Anwar, 23, holds her son Ali, 2 (right) and her daughter Shahed, 3 (left). © UNHCR/Nadine Alfa

3. These figures are taken from the outcome monitoring exercise for multi-purpose cash assistance done by UNHCR on a sample of cash recipients. They are not representative of the total Syrian population mapped and assessed through the VASyR.

4. Anwar's story is available online at UNHCR Lebanon's website (28 December 2017). UNHCR supports nearly 30,000 cases throughout the country.

The Skati family, originally from Aleppo and living in Lebanon since 2012, is supported with multi-purpose cash assistance by Relief International.⁵

This family is as poor as Anwar's and their vulnerability, just as any other extremely poor household, has its own unique story. Abou Ahmad, the head of the household, lives in a makeshift home which he constructed with the help of Nadia, his wife, and the mother of their 10 children. The makeshift is surrounded by banana trees, and lies right beside a highway leading to the governorate of Mount Lebanon. During the summer, unbearable heat prevails, and during the winter, floods pour their home away.

This family has diverse needs and through the cash assistance provided, they are able to prioritize their spending in the way they see fit. "This year was the first in six years that I was able to buy my children new clothes for Eid. The first year they felt close to normal and felt that we actually celebrated. After the war, we never celebrated Eid..." says Nadia.



© Timea Fauszt; Relief International



Razouk is 59 years old, he has been in Lebanon with his family since 2012. He has 10 children. He works in the same agricultural field where he lives, he works in exchange for rent, and the landlord allows him to grow vegetables for his family. He prepared the family's makeshift shelter by his hands. Every furniture and household equipment is donation from his Lebanese neighbours. © Timea Fauszt; Relief International

Throughout 2017, funding limitations constrained the capacity of agencies to provide consistent assistance. Fluctuations and shortfalls have pushed agencies to conduct strict measures to prioritize those identified to be the poorest of the displaced population throughout the country.

Coordinated assistance is based on a bottom-up inclusion or referrals tactic. Given the fact that more than half of the displaced population in Lebanon is living in extremely vulnerable conditions, systems in place allow for ranking households according to an economic vulnerability score. Referrals for inclusion in assistance are hence facilitated through field-based mechanisms to ensure that no duplications occur and, at the same time, targeted assistance is reaching the most vulnerable in different regions in a symmetric and proportional fashion.

Multi-purpose cash assistance is helping poor households to mitigate multiple economic pressures. Yet, these interventions cannot lead to impactful results unless they are supplemented by complementary interventions from other sectors.

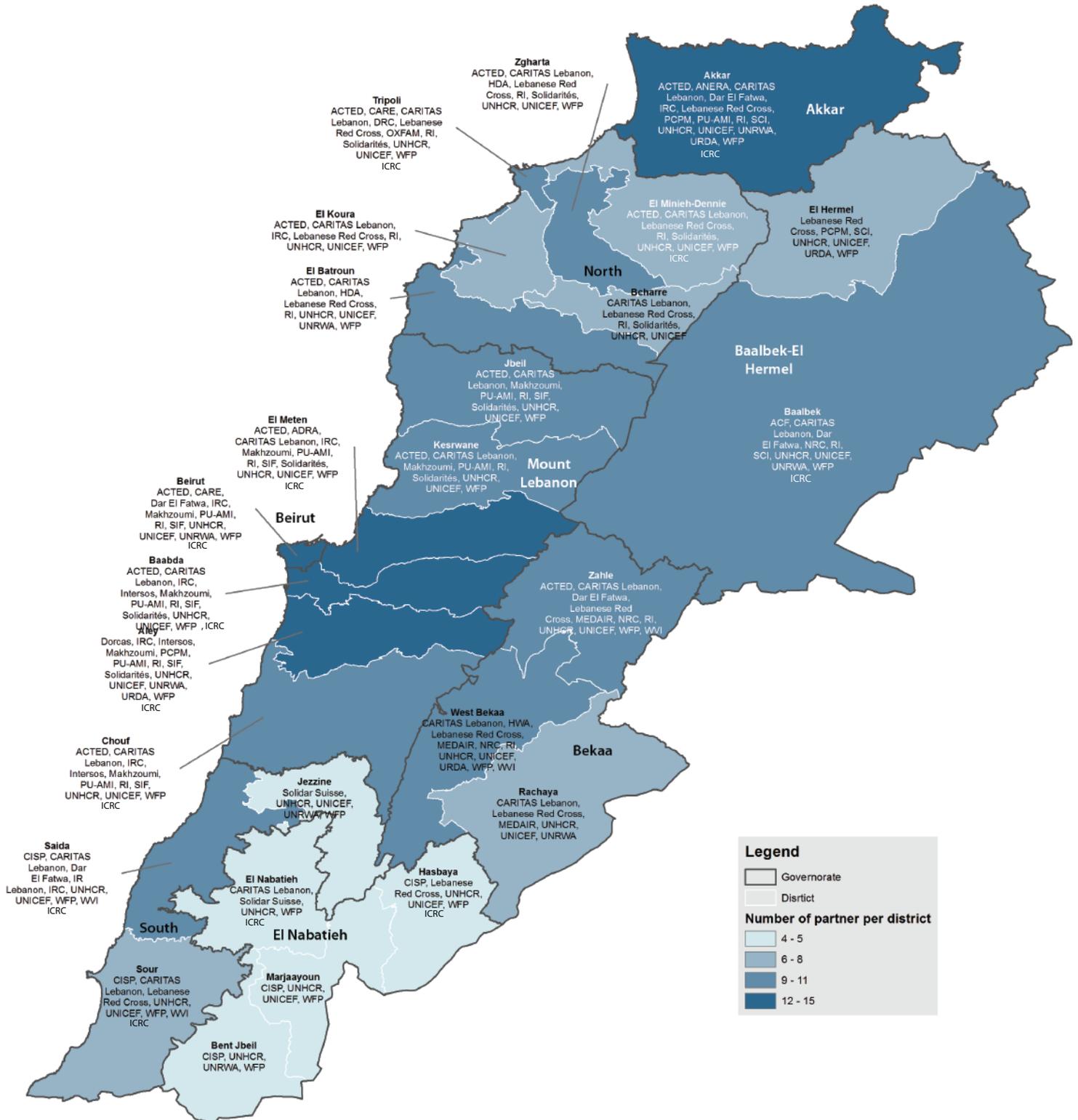
5. Relief International supported more than 1,000 cases with multi-purpose cash in 2017 in three main areas: Bekaa, North and Mount Lebanon. The Skati family was selected as one of the households to be enrolled in Relief International's cash assistance programme funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration.



Organizations per district

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 34 organizations:

MoSA, ACF, ACTED, ADRA, ANERA, CARE, CARITAS Lebanon, CISP, Dar El Fatwa, Dorcas, DRC, HDA, HWA, ICRC, Intersos, IR Lebanon, IRC, Lebanese Red Cross, Makhzoumi, MEDAIR, NRC, OXFAM, PCPM, PU-AMI, RI, SCI, SIF, Solidar Suisse, Solidarités international, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, URDA, WFP, WVI



Note: This map has been produced by UNHCR based on maps and material provided by the Government of Lebanon for UNHCR operational purposes. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.