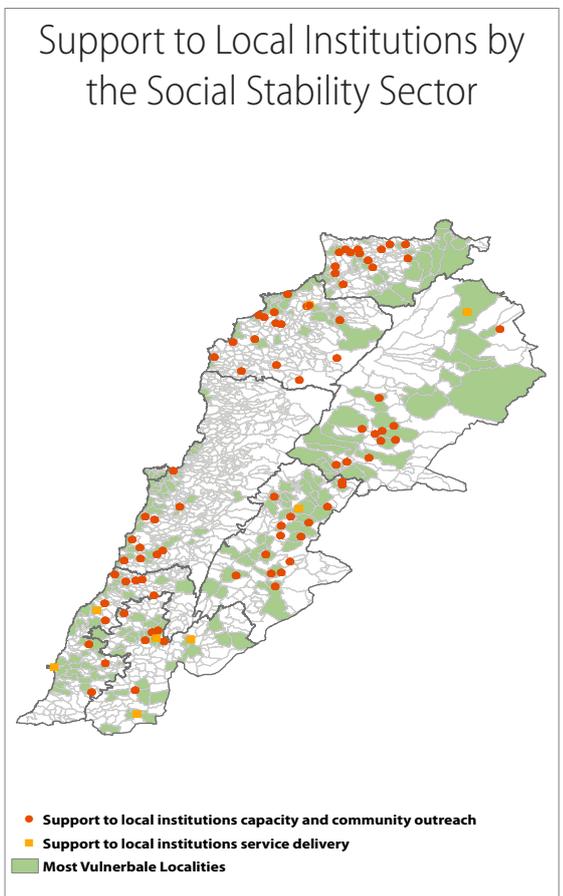# SOCIAL STABILITY sector

SITUATION ANALYSIS

The month of March saw good progress in the work of the sector, especially at the local level. Activities aiming specifically at capacitating communities to mitigate tensions have been particularly successful, with seven new community mechanisms set up to defuse tension at the local level, engaging 354 new changes agents (49% female). Work with youth is also continuously increasing, with 32 new 'peacebuilding initiatives' launched by partners, including for the first time the establishment of 9 'violence free schools' (schools developing a code of conduct to create a school environment conducive to peace) in the Bekaa. Youth initiatives have engaged 1,583 more youth this quarter, and impressive rise compared to previous months where only 555 were engaged altogether.

As for the support to local institutions and in particular municipalities, the work of the sector is already starting to shift from 'soft' support (capacity building, support to participatory processes) to more tangible support. Indeed, while two new participatory processes were launched at municipal level (in Mount Lebanon) and five new municipalities are receiving staffing support through Municipal Support Assistants, 39 new community and municipal support projects were completed in March, in areas such as support to solid waste or water supply services, or rehabilitation of roads or municipal support infrastructure. This represents an investment of over USD 1 million in host communities, a four time increase compared to previous months where only 12 such projects were completed.

There was very little progress reported in terms of work with national institutions, as partners are still developing their activities, particularly with regards to working with security forces.
CARE published a new report on social stability, focused on the Chouf and the T5 region. The report's findings are in line with previous assessment, highlighting that negative perceptions, differences in values and prejudices exacerbate tensions related to pressure on basic services (particularly water, electricity, sanitation and solid waste) and competition for economic opportunities. The study also confirms the lack of interaction between communities. The recommendations of the study are also well in line with the overall LCRP objective is calling for support to local institutions, livelihoods opportunities, and increased accountability from response partners.

FUNDING
Required/Received

157.3 m (required)

Received
19%
30 m	117.3 m
■ received	gap

PEOPLE
In Need/Target

251 Communities in Need

251 Communities Targeted

PARTNERS
10 partners in Lebanon

Count of partners per area of operation

■ > 6
■ 5-6
■ 3-4
■ 2

PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS
1st Quarter progress

Progress
■ Jan - Mar

Indicator	Jan-Mar	Target
# of communities with functioning conflict mitigation mechanisms	22	50
#youth peacebuilding initiatives established	90	304
# youth participating in initiatives (30% women)	2138	20,260
# municipalities, unions, SDCs benefitting from capacity building programmes	165	300
# municipal & community support projects implemented to address tensions	51	554
USD invested in municipal and community support projects	1,355,539	53,377,000
Security Officials trained on social stability	42	935
Conflict analysis report produced	4	32

Support to Local Institutions by the Social Stability Sector

● Support to local institutions capacity and community outreach
■ Support to local institutions service delivery
■ Most Vulnerbale Localities

Reporting Agencies ACTED, DRC, IA, Mercy Corps, RET, SCI, SFCG, Solidar Suisse, UN Habitat, UNDP, War Child Holland

SOCIAL STABILITY
SECTOR

Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

Progress towards sector Outcomes and Outputs in Quarter 1

Overall, the social stability sector has made good progress in the first quarter in 2015 towards achieving its targets. The sector has secured 19% of its appeal, or US$ 30 million.

The sector seems on track to achieving overall target of establishing 50 conflict mitigations mechanisms this year with 15 established so far, while activities targeting youth will need to be scaled up despite a promising start to reach the ambitious targets set in the LCRP. As for activities slower to show results, only 51 community/municipal support projects have been implemented so far. This is very modest achievements compared to the overall target for the year (554) and the achievements of last year (300). This is partly explained by the time required to identify and implement such projects, particularly over winter months, but also by the need for additional funding to address priority sources of tensions in the most vulnerable municipalities. Activities to support central level institutions to build social stability take also typically longer to show results, but partners have been laying the groundwork to engage security forces, media institutions, and civil society coalitions in separate social stability initiatives.

Overall, supporting public institutions is at the core of the work of the sector, particularly regarding local institutions, a total of 165 municipalities, unions of municipalities and SDCs are being strengthened and supported by partners. This is generally done by partners who have been providing technical and staffing support to such institutions for several months or years. Although half of the yearly target has already been reached, expanding this support to additional municipalities and institutions will take additional more time. In the meantime, the sector is also taking the lead across sectors with regards to working with municipalities, and has been mapping all interventions directly involving municipalities across sectors so as to facilitate coordination and to bridge gap with other community mobilization initiatives, such as Collective Site Management and Coordination (CSMC)

Overall, the sector is already active in 146 of the 251 vulnerable cadastres. The sector is still working on setting up the appropriate monitoring framework to assess its impact at outcome level (tensions, incidents) – the upcoming publication of the REACH-UNICEF-OCHA assessment in vulnerable cadastres will help setting a baseline.

Change in context in Quarter 1

347 instances of conflict (ranging from armed fighting to street demonstrations) have been recorded in the first quarter of 2015 according to Lebanon Support conflict map, concentrated primarily around boarder areas, urban areas, particularly Tripoli, as well as Aarsal. This is equivalent to what was registered in the last quarter of 2014.

On a positive note, perception survey conducted in Bekaa and the North for USAID noted a relative improvement in inter-group relations, with a decrease of respondents reporting 'negative' Syrian/Lebanese relations in the first quarter of 2015. Yet most respondent qualify inter-group relations as neutral, in line with the fact that there is a consistent trend of very limited contact between the host and displaced communities. This in turn poses a major challenge for the work of the sector and its ability to bring both communities together in joined forum to identify and mitigate tensions. As for the pressure on resources caused by the crisis, recent assessments show the importance of seasonal variations, with tensions related to water decreasing constantly over the past months with the end of the summer/autumn drought, and competition for jobs now the top source of tensions.

Changes in the humanitarian context, particularly the decrease in humanitarian assistance and the new entry and renewal regulations have a mostly indirect impact on the sector. Indeed, partners report a growing concern among both displaced and host communities that the decrease in humanitarian assistance combined with limited freedom of movement and access to livelihoods for refugees will lead to increased negative coping mechanisms from the most vulnerable Syrians, which might in turn fuel social tensions.

The capacity of partners to address and mitigate such challenges is seemingly increasing, with more and more partners engaged in the sector and developing specific social stability programs compared to the RRP6, an indication of the confidence and reputation they have built at community level. Similarly, other sectors' plan to increasingly contribute to social stability by supporting the needs of host communities and public institutions. The social stability sector will provide analysis and technical expertise to support these initiatives.