



## SOCIAL STABILITY

**Lead agencies:** Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), UNDP & UNHCR

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### COMMUNITIES IN NEED



242

# OF PARTNERS



27

### COMMUNITIES TARGETED



242

GENDER MARKER

1

### REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



157.3 million

Humanitarian \$16.5 m

Stabilization \$140.8 m



## SECTOR OUTCOME

### OUTCOME:

Strengthen communities and institutions ability to mitigate tensions and prevent conflict, and inform the overall response on the evolution of tensions.

### INDICATORS

level of tension between communities targeted by partners

# violent/conflict incidents in targeted communities

# of communities with functioning conflict mitigation mechanisms

# local institutions engaged in participatory processes (30% women participation)

% of LCRP partners who mainstream conflict-sensitivity in their work and are informed on conflict/tension trends



\$157.3 m



### PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS

- 1: Establish community conflict mitigation mechanisms involving and training key change agents, including capacitating women community representatives
- 2: Engage of youth-at-risk in peacebuilding and civic education initiatives
- 3: Support local institutions to mitigate tensions through host community-led participatory processes, capacity-building, and implementation of priority municipal/local service delivery projects
- 4: Mainstream conflict-sensitivity in the response by providing conflict analysis and capacity building on conflict-sensitive programming



### FUNDING STATUS

Funding already received for 2015:

\$ 18 m

Estimated sector needs for 2016:

\$ 160 m

## 1. Situation Analysis and context

Sectarian divides in Lebanon pre-date the demographic, security and economic shocks from the Syria crisis. Four years into the crisis, these divides may have been reinforced by the spill over effects of the conflict. In addition, as the displacement prolongs, positive attitudes towards persons displaced from Syria are slowly eroding and tensions are increasingly apparent at the community level. The main sources of tension between host communities and persons displaced from Syria relate to the increased pressure on access to basic services, natural resources and competition for livelihood opportunities.

While both host communities and persons displaced from Syria are found to be generally conflict-averse, and instances of violence remain limited, recent assessments show a high level of tensions between them.<sup>1</sup> There are emerging concerns over the possibility of further polarization and the potential for violence, particularly amongst young males.

Local institutions and particularly municipalities are at the forefront of the crisis to deal with the presence of persons displaced from Syria, provide basic services and maintain social well-being. Yet most are small and lack capacity, resources, staff, and support from central level institutions to cope effectively with a sudden increase of population, tension, and demand for services on their territory.<sup>2</sup> While access to services was already weak prior to the crisis, particularly in Akkar and North Bekaa, the crisis and the presence of displaced Syrians has mostly had an impact on the access to water supply, waste water management solid waste management, electricity and health,<sup>3</sup> which is fuelling local tensions.

Although social well-being was identified as a key inter-sectoral priority of the response, the allocated funding has remained low. The sector has been efficient in supporting the immediate needs of host communities by implementing over 246 Community Support Projects in the first nine months of 2014, but other activities specifically aimed at mitigating tensions were limited. Conflict mitigation mechanisms were only set up in 16 communities and 833 individual 'change agents'<sup>4</sup> were trained.<sup>5</sup> The social stability sector is increasingly building the capacity of municipalities to identify the priority needs of host communities and take charge of the local services delivery projects. 49 municipalities received support in participatory planning processes.

The prejudice between communities limits the ability of partners to bring members from different communities in shared spaces and engage them in joint activities, while efforts to build conflict mitigation mechanisms cannot deliver results through short-term projects alone. Finally, the work of the sector and its targeting have also been limited by the lack of available data and assessment on the vulnerability of host communities and on the capacity of local institutions.

## 2. Overview of 2015 Response

In Lebanon, where displaced Syrian refugees and Palestine refugees from Syria are living within host communities throughout the country, there is a need for a social stability sector with dedicated capacity to prevent tensions from resulting in violence. The sector contributes significantly to stabilization by building the capacity of communities and institutions to mitigate tensions and prevent conflict, in line with the government Stabilization Roadmap,<sup>6</sup> and by informing the overall response with analysis and tools for conflict-sensitive programming. The strategy will strengthened its efforts towards a comprehensive set of interventions at local and national level which emphasize institution building to tackle both the expression of conflict and causes of community tensions. Displaced Syrians will benefit from the overall sector's efforts to reduce tensions without promoting their integration. The sector will also address tensions and risks of conflicts between host communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Harb and Saad (2014), Social Cohesion and CLI assessment – Save the Children Report, p.33; Search for Common Ground, Dialogue and Local Response Mechanisms to Conflict between Host Communities and Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, 2014, p.32.

<sup>2</sup> Mercy Corps, Policy Brief, Engaging Municipalities in the Response to the Syria Refugee Crisis in Lebanon, March 2014, p.10-14

<sup>3</sup> REACH-OCHA- Informing targeted host community programming in Lebanon, August 2014. Access to services is particularly limited for women-headed households and for the increasing number of displaced Syrians living in sub-standard shelters, and in Palestinian camps and gatherings, which are increasingly overcrowded and rely on service provision by UNRWA as opposed to government institutions.

<sup>4</sup> Change agents are individuals with influence in their community who are willing to take an active role to enhance social stability by mediating tensions, addressing misperceptions and mitigating conflict, and receive trainings to do so.

<sup>5</sup> These change agents were primarily youth -561. 142 women (17 per cent of total) were trained as change agents.

<sup>6</sup> Social stability is an important element of Track 1 (p.8-9) and 2 (p.14) of the stabilization roadmap, which also emphasizes the need to support municipalities to reduce communal tensions and enhance social stability (p.10)

The sector strategy is based on a four-pronged approach:

Firstly, the sector will continue to build the capacity of local communities to deal peacefully with tensions by setting up local peace building mechanisms and initiatives at the community level, particularly targeting youth-at-risk.<sup>7</sup> Local civil society has a key role to play in this respect and will increasingly take charge of implementing and linking such projects together.

Secondly, the sector will strengthen the role key national institutions play to mitigate tensions. Programs with the Ministries of Social Affairs (MOSA) and Interior and Municipalities will be prioritized. MOSA is already engaged in the work of the sector and has endorsed the participatory planning approach “*Maps of Risks and Resources*” in 100 municipalities. The sector will engage with law enforcement and security institutions to promote social well-being when responding and dealing with crisis and tensions. Media and national civil society organizations will be supported in conducting initiatives to mitigate tensions.

Thirdly, the sector will focus more on supporting local institutions<sup>8</sup> to play a lead role in promoting social well-being. This builds on findings that a strong local government performance significantly reduces the risk of community violence.<sup>9</sup> Sector partners have extensive experience working with municipalities since before the crisis. They will promote inclusive participatory processes for local institutions to reach out to host communities to identify priority needs and sources of tension.<sup>10</sup> Local institutions’ operational capacity will be strengthened in areas such as strategic planning, identification and mobilization of funding sources, project management, coordination, and managing links with the national level. Municipalities will be supported financially to implement priority service delivery projects that directly address sources of tension. This will enable local institutions to assume a lead role in responding to tensions and priority community needs. The support provided by the sector to municipal/local service delivery will specifically aim at filling gaps not covered by other sectors’ support to basic services, such as WASH, education or health. Based on this extensive work with local institutions, the social stability sector will lead on the coordination of activities with municipalities and fill this important gap.

Lastly, the sector will increase the overall impact of the response on social well-being by facilitating other sectors’ vital contribution in conflict-sensitive programming and targeting of areas of tension. The sector will play an early warning role in conflict and tension analysis, strengthen the coordination of the sector at the regional level and increasingly involve local NGOs and provide training to partners on conflict sensitivity. Dialogue will be initiated with UNSCOL and UNIFIL to ensure complementarity and coherence.

### 3. Overall Sector Target Caseload

Category	Number	Modality of implementation/ how the institution is engaged
Municipalities	200	Capacity building and support to service delivery
Union of Municipalities	12	Capacity building and support to service delivery
SDCs	38	Capacity building and support to service delivery
Civil society actors, including Community-Based-Organizations.	550	Capacity building
National government ministries and offices.	7	Capacity building
Media institutions	20	Capacity building and advocacy

Interventions of the sector are integrally focused on working through community, local and national institutions and civil society organizations to have an effective and lasting impact. The sector will target all communities living in the

<sup>7</sup> UNFPA and al, Situation Analysis of Youth in Lebanon affected by the Syrian Crisis, April 2014, p.31

<sup>8</sup> Municipalities, Unions of Municipalities, Social Development Centers, Committees in Palestinian camps and gatherings.

<sup>9</sup> Mercy Corps, *ibid*, p.4, Search for Common Ground, Dialogue and Local Response Mechanisms to Conflict between Host Communities and Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, 2014, p.10

<sup>10</sup> The sector has developed draft guidelines on conducting participatory processes at the local level, based on best practices and lessons learnt from partners, and including a specific focus on involving women in such processes.

242 cadastres classified as most vulnerable. The sector will focus on capacity building of systems and institutions, involving officials, civil society representatives and individuals playing an influential role at the community level, rather than vulnerable individuals at large. The interventions of the sector will be based on thorough analysis of each local context to determine the best approach and entry point to each community, aiming at putting local NGOs and institutions in the lead role. The sector will keep a particular focus on involving vulnerable youth in initiatives. All interventions should aim at ensuring a strong participation of women in the different structures/committees established.

The sector will prioritize areas where tensions are high, with stretched capacity of local authorities, and limited access to basic services. Recent assessments reviewed through the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment as well as inputs from partners and data on security incidents suggest that priority areas for interventions include North and Central Bekaa, Wadi Khaled, Sahel Akkar, and increasingly suburban areas of main cities (Beirut, Tripoli, Tyr and Saida). However, this list will need to be refined as more structured data and assessment on violent incidents and conflict becomes available. In the first half of 2015 detailed assessments on the needs and capacity of municipalities and local institutions located in the most vulnerable cadastres will be carried out.

## 4. Mainstreaming of gender, youth at risk, protection, livelihoods, and work with municipalities

- 1. Protection:** Social stability partners will also need to develop strong links with protection partners, to ensure synergies between community-focused and individual-focused interventions.
- 2. Livelihoods:** There is a strong case for coherent and collaborative action of the social stability sector and the livelihoods sector to have the strongest multiplier effect.
- 3. Cross-sector working:** Increased coordination with other sectors working at the municipal level is essential. The social stability sector will make every effort to achieve a joined-up approach to capacity building of local institutions through analysis and coordination at the local level. Social stability partners can help to identify priority projects that would contribute to improving social well-being and could be implemented by other sectors. This is particularly the case for support to basic services delivery, which will need to be coordinated closely with the health, WASH, education and protection sectors.
- 4.** The sector will provide advice and support to other sectors and interventions through **conflict mapping and analysis**, and integration of relevant conflict-sensitive approach in programmes. This will notably include:
  - Working with the education and child protection partners on peace education activities targeting youth.
  - Working with the basic assistance working group on communication of its interventions and monitoring its effect on tensions.
  - Working with the WASH sector on tensions related to water scarcity.
  - Working with the protection sector on analysing and responding to tensions and incidents.
  - Working with the health sector including on conflict sensitivity in the health system.
- 5.** The activities of the sector require **gender mainstreaming** to be successful. The sector will ensure its interventions and activities include a strong participation of women (at least 30 per cent), in line with the draft guidelines on participatory process with input from the SGBV sector.
- 6.** The sector will also pay particular attention to **youth-at-risk**, which will be reached through specific activities.

## 5. Partnerships

This Sector is under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

### List of Partner Agencies

ACF	HWA	RET	UNFPA
ACTED	International Alert	Safadi Foundation	UNHABITAT
ActionAid	INTERSOS	Save the Children	UNHCR
ANERA	IOM	SFCG	UNRWA
British Council	Makhzoumi	Solidar Suisse	WCH
CLMC Lebanon	Mercy Corps	UNDP	WVI
DRC	OXFAM	UNESCO	