# LEBANON SNAPSHOT

In 2018, the Government of Lebanon, donor community and operational actors made important policy and funding commitments at the Brussels II Conference. If implemented, the actions stand to substantially improve the lives of refugees from Syria in Lebanon and contribute to system strengthening that would benefit Lebanese communities.

One year on, despite a steady level of funding for the response, vulnerable people's basic needs remain insufficiently met in Lebanon. While some limited progress has been made to improve protection, education, livelihoods, health and coordination, more needs to be done.

At the Brussels III Conference and beyond, participants should work together to review the commitments they made last year and take concrete steps to improve the protection space and access to services for people affected by the ongoing crisis.

## PROGRESS AGAINST BRUSSELS COMMITMENTS IN 2018-19

## Protection and Rule of Law

**Civil documentation:** progress made on improving birth and marriage registration

**21%**
of Syrian refugee births have been registered with the Foreign registry (up from 17%)

**Legal stay:** the 2018 waiver on residency renewal fees for certain categories of refugees has not resulted in a major increase in number of refugees accessing legal status

**73%**
of Syrian refugees do not have access to legal stay

**Resettlement** dropped from 25000 cases in 2016 to 8500 cases in 2018

**1/3**
of municipalities implement some type of curfew on refugees

**Information-sharing by GoL** remains limited which, hampers NGOs' operational ability to support refugees

**26.67%**
of refugees reported being verbally harassed

## Brussels II Commitments

✓ Continue efforts to increase resettlement opportunities and to create complementary pathways (47)

✓ Importance of having accurate data and statistics on the refugees present on its territory (44)

✓ Main durable solution for Syrian refugees in Lebanon is their safe, dignified and non-coercive return to their country of origin, in accordance with international law and the principle of non-refoulement (41)

✓ Increasing the number of persons with civil documentation, most notably birth and marriage registration (43)

✓ Importance of supporting and upholding the rule of law so as to preserve a dignified stay for the refugees (46)

✓ Ensuring that all eligible refugees can renew their residency free of charge (42)

## Recommendations for 2019

- **Expand the residency fee waiver** to apply to all refugees regardless of entry date, registration profile or border crossed, inclusive protection based on the principle of non-discrimination.
- **Expand the policy on birth registration** to include children born after 8 February 2018.
- **Resume UNHCR registration** based on the 2015 guidelines.
- Develop **policy reforms on issuance of death certificates** to resolve challenges pertaining to HLP, and other protection challenges that could arise from non-documented deaths.
- Encourage GoL to **hold local authorities accountable for respecting the rule of law** while showcasing positive impact of the respect of refugees' rights on social stability.

## On Durable Solutions

- Honor prior commitments including **resettlement pledges** and the **Global Compact on Refugees**, expand **alternative pathways** for refugees who will be unable to return to Syria and ensure that **funding is not prematurely diverted from the crisis response in hosting countries** in order to incentivise return.

- Continue to **monitor and advocate for the voluntariness of returns** including through tackling protection and rule of law challenges in Lebanon that limit people's ability to make free and informed decisions, while encouraging improved **information-sharing with operational actors on return movements.**

## Basic Needs and Access to Services

**Policy restrictions persist on** creating any form of **permanent structure** to host refugees, which leads these individuals to require additional WASH and shelter assistance to maintain the unsound structures they inhabit

Refugees all over Lebanon face different challenges in accessing services. For example, for refugees living in Informal tented settlements (ITSs), the major **obstacles to access health services, schools and UNHCR offices** are long distances, a lack of affordable means of transportation and man-made barriers such as checkpoints

**52%**
**of the LCRP appeal was funded in 2018**

**51%**
**of refugee households are below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket**

**88%**
**of Syrian refugee households have debts**

**While the response has mitigated a deepening of the economic vulnerability of Syrian refugees over the last year, including through cash-based assistance, this is due to short-term measures that have not significantly improved vulnerable people's resilience.**

**Refugees and vulnerable Lebanese experience limited opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and rely heavily on negative coping mechanisms (including child labor and child marriage) and assistance.**

## Shelter

- 34 % of Syrian refugee households in 2018 lived in non-residential or non-permanent structures (vs. 26 % in 2017)

- Three in ten refugee households were residing in shelters where conditions did not meet humanitarian standards, and another 5.5% living in shelters in dangerous conditions (i.e. in danger of collapse)

- One third of refugee families continued to live in overcrowded shelters

## WASH

- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) indicators have generally improved compared to 2017, and in some cases, shown gradual improvements over the last four years

- 46% of ITS households still relied on water tanks or trucked water

- Access to improved sanitation facilities decreased in 70% of ITS households

- Reliance on bottled water continued to increase from 34% in 2017 to 43% in 2018

## Health

- Access to healthcare remained relatively stable in 2018, with 87% of Syrian refugee households reporting that they received the required care

- Of the 54 percent of refugees who needed primary health care, 87 percent were able to receive it at Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs)

- Cost (which includes cost of the service, cost of treatment/medication and/or transportation costs) was the biggest barrier to accessing PHC

## Education

- In 2018, around half (46%) of refugee children (aged 3 to 18) were still out of any learning (including non-formal education), mainly adolescents and youth

- 42% of compulsory school age Syrian refugee children (6-14) are out of formal schooling

- Almost 65,500 children (aged 3 to 18) who were unable to qualify for formal schooling had access to certified non-formal education programmes in 2018

## Basic Assistance

- Limited access to economic resources remained one of the main challenges for Syrian refugee households, making it difficult for them to meet their basic needs without external assistance

- In Lebanon, vulnerable Syrian refugees continued to receive cash and in-kind assistance

- Cash and food assistance and informal debt continued to be the key sources of income for households, indicating the challenges Syrian refugees have faced in covering expenses through employment
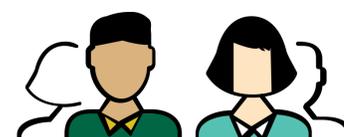
## Livelihoods

- The total labour force participation rate for Syrian refugees in 2018 was 43% ; 73% of men and 16% of women

- Only one in four employed Syrian refugees reported having regular work

# Brussels II Commitments

✓ Provide sustained, predictable multi-year funding to strengthen Lebanon's stability and development. (26)

✓ Continuing to support vulnerable Lebanese communities, facing similar difficulties to access limited resources and public services and deserving decent lives. (45)

✓ Support the health sector to maintain its resilience and insure access to a quality, affordable and predictable health care (48)

✓ Every child having access to a quality education (36)

✓ Implementation of structural reforms to instigate growth, raise the level of investments and modernise the economy

✓ Uninterrupted water, sanitation and hygiene interventions in "informal tented settlements" where the situation is particularly alarming (48)

✓ Facilitate INGO activity through the issuance of work permits, entry visa, residency permits, and INGO registration in accordance with Lebanese law (24)

## Recommendations for 2019

- Increase **multi-year funding** grants in 2019 in order to ensure a sustained response to the needs.
- Strengthen **community-level resilience** and infrastructure support to address the ongoing impact of the conflict.
- Improve operational actors' **funding visibility** through ensuring greater transparency and timely distribution of available funds.
- Prioritise shifts to the coordination architecture that will **reduce siloed interventions across sectors** and strengthened area-based planning and more prominent role for development actors in the response architecture.
- Advocate for and support a **holistic, gender sensitive healthcare model** which is affordable, accessible and equitable, using harmonized and aligned health service packages (including mental health).
- Ensure the implementation of a clear **monitoring framework for education** in Lebanon while focusing on information sharing between all relevant stakeholders.
- Provide **multi-year funding support and promote the space for jobs-creation in sectors** that have the potential to deliver sustainable income-generating opportunities at a local level for Lebanese and refugee communities (including industry, tourism, agriculture, construction, home-based and SME support).

## Host Community Support

- Lebanon continues to host the highest per capita refugee population in the world.

- 87% of Syrian refugees are hosted by 67% of the poorest Lebanese in the 251 most vulnerable cadasters.

- In 56 cadastres the population has doubled in size and in 84 cadastres, the population has increased between 50 and 100%.

**Sustaining a conflict sensitive response is essential to ensuring the severe needs of both host and refugee communities are met and likely tensions caused by depleting resources and competition over assistance and livelihoods are mitigated.**