



Switzerland's cooperation contributes to safe, viable and peaceful living conditions for conflict-affected and vulnerable people, reducing fragility, preventing and transforming conflicts. ©SCO

Context

Lebanon is a small middle-income country with a population of 4.1 million which has been repeatedly exposed to regional conflicts and internal tensions. The Syria crisis has put significant additional strain on the country's fragile stability as well as on the already weak infrastructure and public services. Consequently, many Lebanese as well as non-Lebanese communities live under vulnerable conditions.

Of the 4.8 million Syrian refugees registered in the region, over 1 million currently live in Lebanon - making it the country with the highest per-capita refugee population in the world. The socio-economic situation for Syrian refugees and the Lebanese population is becoming increasingly precarious, especially in communities most affected by the influx. Tensions between refugees and host communities have risen, due to increased competition for jobs and services.

Some 450,000 Palestinian refugees are registered in the country. Due to the Syria crisis, an additional 31,506 Palestine refugees from Syria currently reside in Lebanon. Palestine refugees do not enjoy full civil rights, are prevented from property ownership and prevented from carrying out as many as 20 professions. Around 53% of Palestine refugees live in 12 recognized refugee camps and 31% in 42 "gatherings" where Palestine refugees live alongside very poor Lebanese families.

Lebanon has a long history of immigration and remains a destination for migrant workers from neighbouring as well as Asian countries. Precarious labour conditions prevail for the majority of the 250,000 migrant workers who are for the most part women.

In terms of natural disasters, Lebanon is located along the seismically active Dead Sea Transform fault. The high concentration of inhabitants in cities such as Beirut and Tripoli exposes the country to significant risk in case of earthquake, flood or other natural disasters.

Total Population: 4.1 million

Refugee Population:

- Syrian refugees (registered): 1, 011,366 (UNHCR)
- Palestine refugees: 450,000 (UNRWA)
- Palestine refugees from Syria: 31,000 (UNRWA)
- Other refugees (mainly Iraq): 18.000 (UNHCR)

Swiss Cooperation Strategy Middle East 2015-2018

The overall goal of the Swiss Cooperation Strategy Middle East 2015-2018 for Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon Syria and Turkey is to contribute to safe, viable and peaceful living conditions for the conflict-affected and vulnerable people, reducing fragility as well as preventing and transforming conflicts. The Strategy is being implemented through a "whole-of-government" approach involving three federal entities represented at the Embassy of Switzerland in Lebanon: the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Lebanon, the Directorate of Political Affairs – Human Security Division (HSD) and the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM).

In order to achieve its overall goal, Switzerland focuses on three domains of intervention: Basic Needs and Services, Protection and Water. The transversal themes Gender, Good Governance and Disaster Risk Reduction are inherent parts of the Strategy to contribute both to the transformation of relationships and the promotion of inclusive mechanisms within societies.

Total planned contribution 2017: CHF 20.1 million

Switzerland's implementation modalities in Lebanon:

- ☑ Dialogue with governmental bodies (Prime Minister's Office, MFA, MoI and MEHE)
- ☑ Contribution to multilateral interventions (ICRC, UNHCR, UNDP, UNRWA, UNICEF, World Bank)
- ☑ Bilateral project partnerships with INGOs (including Terre des hommes, International Alert), local NGOs (including Amel, Legal Agenda.)
- ☑ Deployment of Swiss experts to UNHCR, UNRWA, UN-Habitat, Geneva Call
- ☑ Direct project implementation managed by Swiss staff in close coordination with the Government of Lebanon (WASH Rehabilitation in Schools, Improved Water Management in the Bekaa Valley)

Domain of intervention 1: Basic Needs and Services

Switzerland seeks to save lives, reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience through improving access of the vulnerable populations to cover the needs and services. Self-reliance and coping mechanisms are to be enhanced while preparedness, response and rehabilitation mechanisms are to be fostered for addressing natural

empower women's role in promoting political and social inclusion in the high-risk area of Tripoli.

- Carnegie - *Triggers for Return of Syria Refugees to their Homeland*: highlight the needs and demands of refugees in countries neighbouring Syria and uncover the set of conditions to be met for their successful return.

- CRTDA - *Advocacy for Women's citizenship in Lebanon*: challenge patriarchal structures and confessionalism by working to enable women to enjoy their full rights as equal citizens.

- DCAF - *Reform Assistance Programme for the Lebanese Security and Justice Sector*: assist the Ministry of Justice in improving governance of the detention system; mapping of security sector legislation.

- Dignity - *Reducing the Use of Pre-Trial Detention in Lebanon*: develop a dialogue with the Ministry of Justice on engaging in activities to reduce pre-trial detention.

- DROPS - *Junior Professionals Programme for Refugee and Host Communities in North Lebanon*: enabling unskilled youth from disadvantaged communities to live an economically independent and stable life.

- Geneva Call - *IHL Lebanon*: enhance respect for the rights of civilians, particularly the most vulnerable in the refugee camps; improvement in their protection from the effects of armed violence.

- International Alert - *Creating Space for Peace*: prevent violence by seeking to establish a dialogue mechanism to mitigate conflict between communities, families, and groups in the Bekaa region, including violence against Syrian refugees residing in the region.

- LADE - *Election Dispute Resolution (EDR) Mechanism*: conduct an in-depth examination of the EDR mechanism and conduct informative campaigns for voters, candidates, political parties, and CSOs.

- Legal Agenda - *Civil observatory for the independence and transparency of the judiciary*: monitor and document abuses and violations in the judiciary.

- Legal Agenda - *Judicial Reform, Special Courts and Strategic Litigation*: ensure impartiality, independence and transparency of the judiciary.

- OHCHR - *Improving HR for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon*: finance the position of a senior refugee rights expert within the OHCHR Regional Office.

- Masar - *Improving the social and legal situation of Palestinian Refugees*: improve the human rights situation of Palestinian refugees through advocacy.

- RESTART - *Improving human rights in detention and pre-trial detention as a means of preventing violent extremism*: promote accountability against torture and ill-treatment in Lebanese detention facilities.

- SFCG - *Social Leadership Council*: strengthen working relationships between private sector and peacebuilding actors in Lebanon around shared values related to local peacebuilding.

- UMAM - *The Role of the Lebanese Armed Forces and other Lebanese Security Agencies in Lebanese Peace-Building Efforts*: document the role played by the Lebanese security agencies in peacebuilding.

- UNDP - *Support to the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC)*: strengthen the capacity of LPDC to develop and implement a comprehensive policy on the Palestinian refugees.

Domain of intervention 3: Water

Switzerland seeks to enhance resilient, sustainable and conflict-sensitive water management. The interventions aim to increase access to safe water, sanitation and the efficient use of water for food production, to improve the basis for integrated water resources management as well as mitigating water-related disaster risks.

The Water projects supported SDC are:

- *Improved Water Management in the Bekaa Valley*: ensure equitable access to water among the different populations through the reinforcement of the Bekaa Water Establishment's capacity to sustainably manage the existing water resources.

- UNRWA – *WASH expert support*: Ensuring liaison with relevant departments, in particular Health, Education and Relief & Social Services.

- UNHCR – *Senior WASH expert support*: Providing technical expertise and support to UNHCR field-based WASH staff.

- *Water Security Blue Peace Middle East*: assess water resource usage in the Orontes River Basin and building on existing networks (academia, civil society and public institutions) in partnership with Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI) and Litani Authority.

Transversal theme: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- UNDP - *Building national disaster reduction systems and management capacities in Lebanon*: In direct cooperation with the Prime Minister's office, strengthening national disaster risk management capacities.



Further information

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