

# Country Brief on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Lebanon

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Results Group 4

## CONTEXT



Lebanon is currently facing the impact of multiple crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beirut Port explosions, and a financial and economic crisis, unprec-

edented in magnitude, with devastating socio-economic effects. The multi-pronged crisis has rapidly transpired into an acute human tragedy, with poverty rates in Lebanon expected to engulf half the population as of 2021.

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**IASC** Inter-Agency Standing Committee

## THE NEXUS APPROACH

The UN Country Team in Lebanon implements the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus through the UN Strategic Framework (UNSF) 2017-2022, which ensures coherence between humanitarian, development and peace and security priorities. Operational plans that address specific emergen-

cies and are linked to the UNSF, such as the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCR), humanitarian appeals and the Reform, Reconstruction and Recovery Framework (3RF) harmonize humanitarian assistance, immediate recovery support and longer-term reconstruction and reforms. More specifically, through the 3RF, the UN, the

World Bank (WB) and the European Union work closely with civil society, local actors, the private sector and the Government to promote a unique way of working that is designed as a collaborative, participatory and inclusive planning and implementation process.

# OPERATIONALIZING THE NEXUS

## KEY STEPS



### 1. Leadership and capacity

The RC/HC leads on the HDP nexus with the support of all UN agencies, funds and programmes in country.



### 2. Joint analysis and sharing of analyses

The UN Strategic Framework was developed based on a Common Country Analysis (CCA) that brings together analyses from different UN pillars, including peace and security and development. The UNCT, and UN humanitarian partners, set up the Lebanon Assessment, Survey and Evaluation Registry (LASER), an online repository of planned, ongoing and completed assessments, surveys and evaluations. For the new CCA, to be conducted at the end of 2021, the UNCT plans to bring together analyses from the different pillars, including but not limited to political, conflict, security, and humanitarian analyses.



### 3. 'Collective outcomes' OR HDP priority areas

The revised UN Strategic Framework will include common outcomes among the humanitarian, peace and security and development UN actors. The outcomes will focus on the following elements: Social, Political/Peace & Security/Governance, Economic and Environment.



### 4. Joined-up planning and programming

The HDP nexus is applied at a strategic level with the UN Strategic Framework to then allow operational response plans (humanitarian and non-humanitarian) to implement in a coordinated fashion. An example is the Beirut Port explosions response implemented through a three-phase, joined-up process, including humanitarian needs assessment and response, recovery, reform and reconstruction. Likewise, the 3RF was a result of a collaboration between the different actors on a Beirut Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) conducted right after the Beirut Port explosion.



### 5. Financing

The 3RF includes a financing strategy that builds on the immediate and humanitarian post-explosion response; led by the EU, WB and the UN. Given the current, very high rates of inflation and food inflation in Lebanon, the humanitarian and development communities, through the RC/HC with donors and the World Bank, are currently examining the choice of disbursement currency (US\$ vs. LBP) to ensure coherence of programming and maximize aid value and coverage in a context of dire needs, while minimizing the risk of fueling community tension.

# LESSONS LEARNT

## GOOD PRACTICES



**Ensuring close working relations and day-to-day collaboration** between the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL), OCHA and the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) at strategic and technical levels.



**Involvement of UN and non-UN humanitarian and peace and security actors in the UNSDCF planning processes.**



**Involvement of civil society organizations in the conceptualization of programming and in the monitoring and oversight.**

## CHALLENGES



**Lack of a common understanding of the HDP nexus and how to apply it at the country level.**

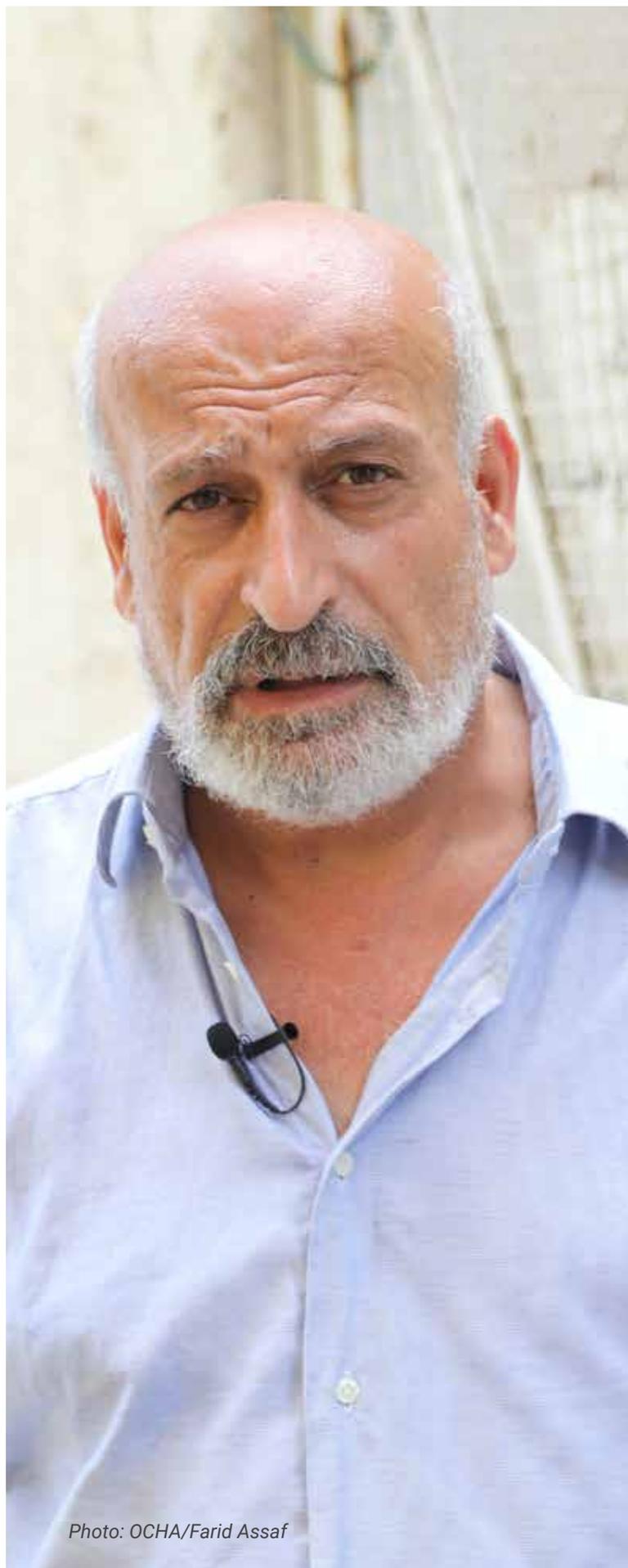


Photo: OCHA/Farid Assaf



## SPOTLIGHT ON **PEACE**

Under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), the UN and local actors conducted several workshops and consultations with partners active in country in 2020 on conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm. For 2021, the LCRP prioritizes improved skills and practices for conflict sensitivity supported by a quarterly tension monitoring analysis.



## SPOTLIGHT ON **GENDER**

The UNSF currently includes an explicit outcome on gender equality. The UN produces several analyses on the impact of the Beirut Port explosion, economic crisis and COVID-19 pandemic on women, and with a joint programme being finalized to support the country on its Women Peace and Security agenda, having recently passed the National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325.



## SPOTLIGHT ON **LOCAL ACTORS**

The UN has strengthened partnerships with civil society especially through the 3RF, adopting a participatory approach from planning, to decision-making and implementation. An oversight body, comprised of 4-6 members from NGOs, academia/think tanks/citizen initiatives or other community-based organizations and from professional and/or private sector associations, will be set up to serve as an independent mechanism to provide broad oversight on 3RF implementation and hold 3RF stakeholders (i.e., government, civil society and development partners) and implementing organizations accountable for overall 3RF progress.