# SHRINKING SPACE, CONSTRAINTS, & FRAGMENTATION

LEBANON CSOS CIVIC & OPERATIONAL SPACE DURING THE LOCKDOWN OF JANUARY-MARCH 2021

This infographic provides an overview of civic space and CSOs operational space in Lebanon during the Covid 19 related lockdown and state of emergency between January and March 2021. It shows that, although local civil society organisations and initiatives are the main responders on the ground, they have faced many limitations and restrictions, which have affected their impact. Data shows that interventions have overlooked some regions and specific groups. It also skeds light on the main restrictions faced by CSOs, as well as main recommendations suggested by respondents in order to circumvent challenges, such as enhanced coordination among CSOs. Ultimately, survey data invites us to question the role of CSOs in the country limited to implementation, without addressing more structural factors, such as the role of the state as a duty-bearer, or the aid economy at large and international donors as key players in shaping national operational spaces.

# MAIN ACTORS IN THE RESPONSE



## MOST MENTIONED AREAS OF INTERVENTION & IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES BY RESPONDENTS



### LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND?

739/o of our CSO respondents consider that some groups, including the most vulnerable in society, have been overlooked in the response during lockdown.



#### VULNERABLE GROUPS OVERLOOKED IN THE RESPONSE



# **OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS**

### & SHRINKING SPACE DURING LOCKDOWN



Banks restrictions Restricted/denied affecting provision access to the of aid and assistance organisation's offices





access to specific areas



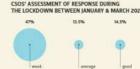
Restricted/denied Physical obstacles access to suppliers (debris, road access (food, raw material...)



# PARTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF THE RESPONSE

### & RECOMMENDATIONS

Although a majority of respondents evaluated the response after the Beirut blast and during lock-down as weak and facting solidarity and coordi-nation among CSOs, suggested recommendations predominantly focused on CSO's own role, over-looking the responsibilities of duty-bearers and prominent actors in the sector, such as donors.



CSOS' MAIN STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATION: ENHANCING THEIR OWN CAPACITY AND PREPAREDNESS





