



Distribution of humanitarian aid by the Humanitarian Charities Forum. The Forum is a coalition of six organisations from various religious confessions that have come together to coordinate humanitarian activities in partnership with Cordoba Foundation of Geneva. ©SDC

Context

Lebanon, a small middle-income country with a population of 4.1 million, has been repeatedly exposed to regional conflicts and internal tensions. Different communities sought safety and protection in Lebanon, among them Armenians, Palestine and Syrian refugees. Today, Lebanon is the country with the highest number of refugees per capita worldwide, and is also home to 2-400'000 Migrant Domestic Worker.

The Syria crisis has put significant additional strain on the fragile stability and on already weak infrastructure and public services. Whereas on average the economic growth advanced moderately since the end of the civil war in 1990, the Syria crisis has shown its impact since 2011 and many vulnerable Lebanese as well as refugee communities live under precarious conditions.

Facts and Figures

Lebanese population	4.1 Mio
Registered Syrian refugees (SR)	1 Mio
Registered and unregistered (SR)	1.5 Mio
Palestine refugees from LEB (PRL)	180,000
Palestine refugees from SYR (PRS)	32,000
Other refugees (mainly from Iraq)	18,000
Unemployment rate (youth) (2016)	24% (35%)
Human Development Index (2014)	0.769
People living below poverty line: Lebanese: 28% (2015); SR: 76% (2017); PRS: 90% (2016); PRL: 65% (2016).	
Sources: LCRP, LPDC, UNHCR, UNRWA	

Swiss Cooperation Strategy Middle East 2015-2018

Overall objective

The Swiss response in Lebanon is based on the Regional Cooperation Strategy Middle East 2015-2018 (Cooperation Strategy), which also guides the responses in Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Turkey. The overall goal aims 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 imperatives to support the host as well as the refugee or other vulnerable communities and to strive for inclusion and sustainability by combining humanitarian, developmental, peace and migration policy aspects are at the core of the Cooperation Strategy. The Swiss response is thus aligned with the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan.

Approach

The implementation of the Cooperation Strategy follows a whole-of-government-approach. The different offices of the federal administration with their specific mandates mutually complement each other through comprehensive and complementary interventions. In doing so, principles of Human Rights Based Approaches, Do No Harm and Conflict Sensitive Program Management are at the core of these interventions.

Instruments

In effectively responding to specific needs, the Swiss support is being implemented through the deployment of experts, through un-earmarked or project-specific financial contributions to multilateral, international or national organization, governmental institutions, or by self-implemented projects via dedicated project teams.

Financial contributions

The Swiss contribution for the whole duration of the Cooperation Strategies amounts to CH 267 Mio. for the whole region, including CH 60 Mio. for Lebanon.

Total contribution 2017: CHF 20 million

Domains of intervention

In order to achieve its overall objective, Switzerland focuses on the three domains of intervention, namely Basic Needs and Services, Protection and Water. Mainstreamed within the Cooperation Strategy are the cross-cutting themes Gender, Disaster Risk Reduction and Good Governance.

Mandates of the federal actors in Lebanon

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Directorate of Political Affairs

- Human Security Division: promote peacebuilding, protection of civilian population, policy dialogue and human rights.

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

- Development Cooperation: promote poverty reduction and sustainable development of natural resources.
- Global Cooperation: foster water management and leverage the potential of migration for development via global political dialogue.
- Humanitarian Aid: alleviate suffering and protect vulnerable groups before, during and after crises or natural disasters.

Federal Department of Justice and Police

State Secretariat for Migration: support refugee hosting countries in their strive for protection of persons in need.

and rights holders, by conducting and supporting inclusive policy processes in partnership with relevant influential actors, and by providing protection related services.

Water Domain

The Water domain is based on three subfields and seeks to enhance resilient, sustainable and conflict sensitive water management. This is being achieved by contributing to equitable access to safe water and sanitation for conflict affected and vulnerable people, by strengthening integrated water resource management as well as by mitigating water-related disaster risks.



Lebanon Map

Further information

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Basic Needs and Services Domain

The Basic Needs and Services domain is based on three subfields and seeks to save lives through improved Access and Quality of Services for basic needs coverage, to reduce vulnerability through Economic Empowerment and to enhance resilience through effective Disaster Risk Management. This is being achieved by either directly providing services or by supporting service providers to cater to the basic needs of vulnerable people. By further strengthening the economic self-reliance to reduce dependency of aid delivery and by protecting developmental achievements through mitigating and managing risks of natural and manmade disasters.

Protection Domain

The Protection domain is based on four subfields and seeks to strengthen the Respect for International Refugee and Human Rights Frameworks, to contribute to Social Cohesion and to enhance the Protective Environment for refugees, migrants and other vulnerable communities as well as to increase the Capacities of Service Providers. This is being achieved through advocacy towards duty-bearers