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**Towards Sustainable Solutions for Improved Living Conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon**

**A Joint UNDP / UN-HABiTAT Programme**

**ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT**

**REPORTING PERIOD: January – december 2014**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Programme Title & Project Number |  | Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results |
| * Programme Title: **Towards Sustainable Solutions for Improved Living Conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon**
* Programme Number: **0007183**
* MPTF Office Project Reference Number: **00081985**
 | *Country/Region:* **Lebanon** |
| *Priority area/ strategic results:* **Palestinian Gatherings (including Adjacent Areas of Palestinian Refugee Camps) in Lebanon** |
| Participating Organization(s) |  | Implementing Partners |
| * UNDP
* UN-Habitat
 | * The Lebanese – Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC)
 |
| Programme Cost (US$) |  | Programme Duration |
| JP Contribution[[1]](#footnote-1) from SDC (pass-through) : USD 1,259,230 |  |  | Overall Duration: **44 months (36 months extended for 8 months)** |  |
|  |  |  | Start Date: **01/03/2012** |  |
| Government Contribution*(if applicable)* |  |  | Original End Date: **31/10/2014** |  |
| Other Contributions (donors)From NORCAP: USD 100,000 (salary & benefits) |  |  | Current End date*:* **31/08/2015** |  |
| TOTAL:USD 1,359,230 |  |  |  |  |
| Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. |  | Report Submitted By |
| Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach* Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*Mid-Term Evaluation Report *– Attached as Annex 1*✓ Yes No Date: *15.01.2015* | * Name: Nancy Hilal
* Title: Project Manager
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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

# AA Adjacent Area

BUS Basic Urban Services

CSI Common Space Initiative

# CDR Council of Development and Reconstruction

ERF Emergency Relief Funds

# JP Joint Programmme

(I)NGO (International) Non-Governmental Organization

# LPDC Lebanese – Palestinian Dialogue Committee

MOM Minutes of Meeting

MOU Memorandum of Understanding

MPTF Multi-Partner Trust Fund

OCHA United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

# PARD [Popular Aid for Relief and Development](http://www.pard-lb.org/)

# PC Popular Committee

PCP Participatory Community Plan

PRL Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon

PRS Palestinian Refugees from Syria

RRP Regional Response Plan

SAA Standard Administrative Arrangement

SUDS Sustainable Urban Development Strategy

TOR Terms of References

# UNDP United Nations Development Programmme

# UN-Habitat United Nations Human Settlements Programme

# UNRWA United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

# WG Working Group

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Annual Progress Report of the Joint Programme “Towards Sustainable Solutions for Improved Living Conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon” covers the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014. The report is in fulfillment of the reporting requirements set out in the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) concluded with the Donors. In line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Participating UN Organizations, the Annual Progress Report is consolidated based on information, data and financial statements submitted by Participating UN Organizations. It is neither an evaluation of the Joint Programme nor an assessment of the performance of the Participating UN Organizations. The report provides the project Steering Committee with a comprehensive overview of achievements and challenges associated with the Joint Programme, enabling it to make strategic decisions and take corrective measures, where applicable.

Aiming at improving living conditions of Palestinian refugees living in the gatherings, the JP succeeded in developing a national strategy for response in the gatherings, together with all organizations active in these areas. This strategy, which included priority interventions for 2015, was based on collected and analyzed data that was published and shared with all participants. The report “Profiling deprivation: An Analysis of the Rapid Needs Assessment in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities in Lebanon” was published by the JP and launched in the Grand Sarail in August 2014. In parallel, the JP has succeeded in establishing a planning and coordination platform for NGOs active in the gatherings through the “Gatherings Working Group”, chaired by UNDP. At the local level, the project aimed at addressing not only the state of basic urban services in the Gatherings, but also the governance of these services in relation to the local stakeholders, including local authorities and public service agencies. Efforts to encourage communication and coordination among various Lebanese and Palestinian actors were ensured by the JP to set the ground for more sustainable solution to improving living conditions in the Gatherings.

Following the implementation of the previously mentioned strategic interventions, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) signed an agreement in December 2014 to make an additional contribution to the Joint Programme. The new contribution of USD 512,000 will be used to cover remaining urgent needs in the gatherings in the sectors of water, sewage and electricity and will be spent by August 2015.

This report is presented through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which serves as the Administrative Agent of the Joint Programme. The MPTF Office receives, administers and manages contributions from Donors, and disburses these funds to the Participating UN Organizations in accordance with the decisions of the Steering Committee. The Administrative Agent receives and consolidates financial annual reports and submits to the Steering Committee. The 2014 Annual Financial Report for the Joint Programme is available at the Joint Programme website at the MPTF Office Gateway (<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/JLB00>).

# Purpose

The main objective of the Joint Programme is to improve access to Basic Urban Services (BUS)[[2]](#footnote-2) in Palestinian Gatherings (including Adjacent Areas of Palestinian Refugee Camps) in Lebanon (see indicative map in Annex 2). Palestinian gatherings in Lebanon are generally excluded from the basic urban services provided by the public service agencies and municipalities in the surrounding areas and those provided by UNRWA as per its mandate in the camps. As an alternative mechanism, dwellers resort to a number of informal self-help initiatives to access and maintain BUS. Methods that are feasible to the dwellers are generally elementary, inadequate and unsustainable; and they occur without minimum consideration to environmental or engineering standards. Although these services and infrastructure networks are connected in an ad-hoc manner to the surrounding, no communication or coordination mechanisms exist between the key local actors in the gatherings and those in the concerned municipalities; which has contributed to a state of rising tensions between the neighboring communities.

Since 2013, the situation in the gatherings has worsened with the arrival of some 30,000 Palestinian as well as Syrian refugees displaced from Syria, raising the population in the gatherings to more than 140,000. These refugees settled in inadequate shelters that were connected in an ad-hoc manner to the available networks, exerting additional pressure on the already poor and insufficient basic urban services. In addition to contributing to the rising tensions, environmental and health risks have increased, mostly affecting women and children, in the gatherings as well as in their surroundings.

**Joint Programme Outcome:** Living conditions of the communities living in Palestinian gatherings (including Adjacent Areas of Palestinian Refugee Camps) improved, through enhanced access to basic urban services.

The Joint Programme contributes to the achievement of national priorities and international commitments. Through the UNDAF, the action is aligned with the programmatic area of priority related to socio-economic development and regional disparities, which states as an outcome that “by 2014, the socio-economic status of vulnerable groups and their access to sustainable livelihood opportunities and quality basic social services are improved within a coherent policy framework of reduction of regional disparities”. It also serves the purpose of the Regional Response and Resilience Plan (3RP) following the Syrian crisis, through improving WASH conditions in Palestinian Gatherings hosting PRS. The project also contributes to reducing urban tensions and building bridges between the neighboring Lebanese and Palestinian communities through addressing the governance of access to basic urban services.

The Programme aims at enhancing access to basic urban services (BUS) in the Palestinian gatherings, including camps’ Adjacent Areas, through four main strategic objectives:

* At the national level, develop a framework that would improve access to basic urban services in the gatherings through support to the relevant national institutions and actors;
* At the local level, promote joint planning and coordination between municipalities and communities living in the gatherings;
* In the gatherings, improve the state of services through implementing BUS projects and building the capacities of local actors;
* In the municipalities, promote their engagement and build their capacities in planning to respond to common challenges and needs.

# Results

1. **Narrative reporting on results:**
* **Outcomes:**

**Joint Programme Outcome:** Living conditions of the communities living in Palestinian Gatherings (including Adjacent Areas of Palestinian Refugee Camps) improved, through enhanced access to basic urban services.

In order to realize the project outcome of improving living conditions of Palestinian refugees in the gatherings in Lebanon, interlinked activities have been implemented both at national and local levels, as detailed hereafter.

At the national level, the Lebanese – Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) represents the JP partner, which through its role as a consultative inter-ministerial committee supports national initiatives undertaken to improve living conditions for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. In this context, LPDC has been hosting, since September 2013, ***the National Observatory for Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon*** established by UNDP and UN-Habitat as a knowledge generation and planning tool. In 2014, LPDC presented its strategy to expand the National Observatory and use it to carry out a survey of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon. Such initiative would serve to establish well informed policy discussions at the national level, based on accurate data and indicators rather than assumptions and misconceptions.

For the purpose of improving living conditions for Palestinian refugees including those in the gatherings and Adjacent Areas in Lebanon; the JP has been implementing a comprehensive strategy at the national level. It first included developing an **informative database** on living conditions in the gatherings, especially in the light of the Syrian crisis and the hosting of more than 30,000 new refugees in these areas. Secondly, it aimed at using this data for facilitating a national discussion with active organizations that would enhance response in the host Palestinian communities in Lebanon. For this reason, the JP published the report “Profiling Deprivation: An Analysis of the Rapid Needs Assessment in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities in Lebanon” in August 2014. The launching event, hosted by the Lebanese – Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC), included a panel discussion on “Current Response and Operational Roles in the Gatherings”. Based on the outcomes of the launching, the JP organized in September 2014 a “roundtable discussion” workshop that brought together representatives of NGOs active in the gatherings and UN agencies. As a result, a **responsive strategy with action plans** for priority interventions in the host Palestinian gatherings was developed for 2015 in the sectors of a) advocacy and coordination, b) basic urban services / WASH, c) shelter, d) livelihood, e) education, and f) health. In the context of response to the implications of the Syrian crisis in Lebanon, these priorities were shared with the various sectors coordinators from UNHCR, UNRWA and UNDP to assist them in their review of interventions planned for Palestinian Gatherings in the framework of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and Lebanon’s 3RP in 2015.

Another significant output of the JP in 2014 was establishing a planning and coordination platform for organizations active in the gatherings, while generating and providing data to guide interventions in these areas. In this context, the JP has reactivated the **Gatherings Working Group**, currently chaired by UNDP, to enhance planning and coordination of basic urban services (BUS) and shelter activities in Palestinian gatherings.

**22 BUS Projects in 17 areas:**

* 8 sewage projects in Saida, North, and Beqaa.
* 6 water project in Tyre, Saida, Beirut and Beqaa
* 5 electricity projects in Saida, Tyre and North
* 2 road and Storm water projects in Tyre and North
* 1 Solid Waste project in Beqaa.

At the more local level, the JP succeeded in implementing BUS projects in 17 gatherings and surrounding localities targeting more than **40,000 beneficiaries**. These mainly responded to the remaining urgent needs in the gatherings that hosted PRS as well as in the surrounding communities that included Lebanese, Palestinians and refugees from Syria. The JP aimed at engaging municipalities in order to guarantee consensus and promote their role in enhancing access to BUS to all dwellers living within their domains. A number of municipalities have been engaged in mapping the needs and planning for interventions that would benefit communities living within their domain including Palestinian Gatherings. The JP succeeded in creating **communication channels** between the municipalities and local actor in the gatherings. Similarly, it ensured coordination with the relevant public service agencies such as *Electricité du Liban* and the Water Authorities to plan interventions that responded to local communities’ needs in the two sectors of electricity and water. In all its projects, the JP followed a participatory and inclusive approach that engaged and benefited both the host and the new refugee communities, thereby contributing to decreasing tensions that were arising post-crisis in the areas of implementation.

* **Outputs:**

**Output 1:** A national framework addressing the living conditions and access to basic urban services in the Palestinian informal gatherings (including Adjacent Areas) developed and implemented.

The main goal of output 1 is to enhance living conditions and access to Basic Urban Services in Palestinian gatherings (including Adjacent Areas) through creating a national framework that enables and guides an upgraded and sustainable service delivery. In order to facilitate this goal, clear and accurate information and data on living conditions and access to services in the gatherings shall be compiled and shared with participating national key stakeholders. In this context, the establishment of a national observatory shall enable developing indicators, analyzing and monitoring living conditions in the gatherings and guiding policy discussions. Targets as per the Annual Work Plan are:

* Produce and maintain database on Palestinian gatherings in Lebanon;
* Support LPDC in developing a strategy / policy to enhance the living conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon.

**1.3 Needs in the forty-two Palestinian Gatherings assessed and published**

In August 2014, the JP launched the report “Profiling Deprivation: An Analysis of the Rapid Needs Assessment in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities in Lebanon” [[3]](#footnote-3). The report aimed at presenting and analyzing the results of the Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) carried out by UNDP and UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the local NGO PARD, in the forty-two gatherings. The RNA was carried out mid 2013, in response to the new reality in the Gatherings following the arrival of tens of thousands of Palestinian and Syrian refugees from Syria, and updated in mid 2014. The report was launched in the Grand Sarail in Beirut, hosted by the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC). The launching also hosted a panel discussion on “Current Response and Operational Roles in Gatherings” that featured representatives from UNRWA, UNDP and the academic and research community (for the detailed agenda of the event and the panel refer to Annex 3). The event brought together donors, UN agencies, international and national NGOs active in the gatherings, as well as the academia.

The report aims at profiling the forty-two Palestinian gatherings in Lebanon, summarizing the main needs and providing a set of recommendations to better respond to the increasing needs in these areas, especially following the accommodations of new refugees. It concludes with two sets of recommendations. The first comprises projects needed in the short-term to address basic needs; while the second includes more policy-oriented interventions that need to be applied in the longer term. It also highlights the need for establishing a coordination platform to enhance response to the host communities and new refugees in Palestinian gatherings in Lebanon. The main objective was to use this document as a draft for enhancing response to the host and the new refugee communities among organizations active in the gatherings. It is worth mentioning that results of the Rapid Needs Assessment have been already used to guide the expansion of the JP into a broader programme that addressed Palestinian gatherings as host communities in general, focusing on their urgent needs. The main findings of the report could be categorized along the following sectors:

* **Population:** The forty-two gatherings covered by the RNA were inhabited originally by about 110 thousand dwellers prior to the break of the Syrian crisis. With the wave of refugees’ arrival from Syria to Lebanon, these gathering were the destination of another 30 thousand inhabitants, of which those of Palestinian origins (PRS) reached around 26 thousand of the total 53 thousand PRS in Lebanon.
* **Demographics:** Prior to the Syrian crisis, Palestinian refugees from Lebanon (PRL) were concentrated in Saida, which alone held about 41% of the population, reflecting the large number of gatherings in this region. North Lebanon ranked second with about a third, followed by Tyre with 13%. Beirut and Beqaa regions on the other hand held the lowest shares with 7% and 6% respectively. Following the Syrian crisis, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) headed to the gatherings of Saida region (38.5%), mainly around Ain el Helwe Camp, followed by Tyre (21.5%), Beqaa (19%), the North (17%) and Beirut (4%).
* **Municipalities:** The gatherings are located within the administrative boundaries of a total of 25 municipalities, with the areas of Saida and Tyre constituting alone about two-thirds of total gatherings. While almost all gatherings do not benefit from upgrading projects undertaken by municipalities, about a third enjoys a harmonious relationship with mayors.
* **BUS and Shelter:** The RNA revealed increased pressure on the already inadequate networks and services in addition to deteriorating hygiene conditions. The results of the RNA also allow identifying the immediate shelter needs and their approximate geographical distribution. Given the legal and institutional context, all Palestinian refugees living in gatherings suffer from severe forms of tenure insecurity which needs to be addressed through lobbying and national dialogue.
* **Education:** About two-thirds of the gatherings indicated not having any school within their borders, yet most children are enrolled in UNRWA schools. Less than one-third of gatherings have an UNRWA school, of which two gatherings only enjoy both UNRWA and private schools. This has an impact on the provision of intermediate and secondary education in the gatherings. Two shifts were recently introduced in some UNRWA schools in order to absorb the new number of PRS students.
* **Health:** The availability of health centres inside gatherings is limited, according to the results of the RNA. The vast majority of residents, however, still utilise UNRWA health facilities, even if not in the direct proximity of the gathering. Distance from health care services was reported by some gatherings to be a central issue, namely by those not located close to camps.
* **Livelihood**: The RNA also confirmed the precarious economic situation of most Palestinian refugees; they remain excluded from economic life in general, in spite of the recent limited changes in labor regulations. The influx of new refugees from Syria to Lebanon’s gatherings added a new challenge at the employment level; competition on jobs is a major issue.

**1.2 A national responsive strategy developed for interventions in the host Palestinian gatherings**

Building on the findings of the UNDP / UN-Habitat report “Profiling Deprivation: An Analysis of the Rapid Needs Assessment in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities in Lebanon”, the JP organized roundtable discussions for organizations active in Palestinian Gatherings in the Commodore Hotel in Beirut on September 23, 2014. The roundtable discussions brought together 60 participants representing 3 UN agencies, 10 INGOs and 5 local NGOs active in Palestinian Gatherings and LPDC.

Six sectoral roundtables took place simultaneously to discuss priority needs in Palestinian Gatherings for the year 2015, and provided recommendations for the following sectors: Advocacy and Coordination, WASH and basic urban services, Shelter, Education, Health, Livelihood and Protection. Building on the outcomes of these discussions, coordination efforts for the Shelter/ BUS sectors was decided to be continued through the Gatherings Working Group chaired by UNDP. Following the reactivation meetings of the Gatherings Working Group in May and July 2014, these roundtable discussions constituted a first of its kind collective exercise and a first step towards developing a coordinated informed response in Palestinian Gatherings, both at the national and sectoral levels. The outcomes of this exercise were shared with UNDP, UNRWA, UNHCR and sector coordinators in their review of interventions planned for Palestinian Gatherings in the framework of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and Lebanon’s 3RP. A brief out the workshop outcomes are presented in Annex 4.

**1.3 A planning and coordination platform established for Palestinian gatherings**

Based on the results of the Rapid Needs Assessment and the geographic database structure developed at the “National Observatory for Palestinian Gatherings”, the project has been working in 2014 to establish a coordination platform for all organizations active in the gatherings. This initiative was coordinated with LPDC, UNRWA, UNICEF and UNHCR, who stressed the crucial need for such a platform especially in the context of response to the Syrian crisis. For this purpose, the project coordinated with all active organizations to reactivate the Gatherings Working Group. The Gatherings WG was a national platform that included main international NGOs and organizations that worked to serve refugees living in the Palestinian Gatherings. The activities of the group were however ceased in mid-2013 due to the urgency of providing relief to the flow of large numbers of refugees from Syria. The Gatherings WG, currently chaired by UNDP, was re-launched as a planning and coordination platform in the two sectors of BUS and shelter in the Grand Sarail, hosted by LPDC, on 20 May 2014. Two other meetings of the WG followed in July and September of the year. In order to prepare for reactivating the Group, the JP developed a 4Ws sheet that was circulated in the second quarter of 2014 to international and local NGOs active in the various sectors in Palestinian gatherings; results were consolidated shared with participants ﴾refer to the multiple excel sheets in Annex 5).

**Output 2:** Collaborative mechanisms between Palestinian and Lebanese for improved service delivery strengthened and/or established in selected areas.

Output 2 aims at promoting dialogue and communication between Palestinian refugee communities and the Lebanese local authorities in areas that include gatherings, Adjacent Areas as well as refugee camps. For this purpose, a mapping of existing collaboration frameworks would allow for the strengthening or the establishing of such frameworks to implement joint initiatives that would enhance access to Basic Urban Services. UNDP and UN-Habitat shall provide necessary technical support, including coaching and assessments, throughout the process. Annual targets as per the Annual Work plan are**:**

* Support local actors to agree on and implement joint BUS projects and strengthen coordination mechanisms for improved access to services;
* Organize at least two thematic consultations with key local and national actors (e.g. municipalities; PCs; LPDC; NGOs) on key areas of concerns and document lessons learnt.

**2.1 Enhanced coordination among local actors led to improved access to services to some 14,500 Lebanese and Palestinian dwellers**

Since January 2014, the JP has been organizing consultative meetings between local authorities and local actors in the gatherings in all areas of implementation. The main purpose of these meetings was to identify needs in basic urban services that would improve the living conditions of both Lebanese and Palestinian dwellers and agree upon coordination mechanism for sustaining these interventions. In Saida and the Beqaa, representatives from the local authorities and the Palestinian communities living in the gatherings and their surroundings have reached consensus over three interventions that would benefit both Lebanese and Palestinian dwellers.

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In Saida, the Amle open storm water channel has become a place for sewage disposal; passing by several houses and causing bad smells and serious environmental and health risks to some 1,000 inhabitants, both Lebanese and Palestinian. In collaboration with the Municipality of Saida, the JP built a concrete culvert that would absorb the sewage stream in an underground covered passage. Works were completed in August 2014.

In the Beqaa, the most urgent needs in Baalbeck were due to lack of proper sewage networks in the gathering of Goro as well as the surrounding Lebanese communities. The project aimed at complementing the upgrading of the sewage networks in Goro gathering, a former French military barracks inhabited by some 130 families, and renewing the sewage networks in two surrounding neighborhoods known as Wadi El Sayl and El Ammir inhabited by some 750 dwellers. Works are still on-going and were designed to benefit a population of 1,500 persons.

Also in the Beqaa in Taanayel, the municipality provides sewage waste collection in the town as well as the gathering of Taanayel. Due to the increased influx of refugees from Syria into the area, the generated solid waste has increased, posing additional challenges to the municipality. In an attempt to support and maintain this service, the JP is supporting the municipality through the provision of a JCB with a sweeper for solid waste collection. The procedures for purchasing the equipments were finalized in 2014 to be provided to the municipality in the first quarter of 2015. This intervention will benefit more than 12,000 Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian refugees living in Taalabaya.

The Amle channel in Sida before and after works

**2.2 Joint Lebanese – Palestinian Committee in Beddawi supported to implement WASH campaign**

In order to strengthen coordination mechanisms between Lebanese and Palestinian communities in Beddawi, the project has carried out a number of meetings with the local actors to gain knowledge about their main needs and priorities in the area. Meetings were held with the Popular Committee (PC) in Beddawi Camp and AAs, the Municipality of Beddawi, UNRWA office in the camp and the local Lebanese and Palestinian NGOs. The municipality and the PC recommended building on the Joint Committee formed by UNDP in the context of the MDGF project, which brought Lebanese and Palestinian actors together to carry out joint activities. Following a number of meetings, local actors have agreed on implementing a WASH awareness raising activity that would respond to the increased accommodation of Palestinian and Syrian refuges from Syria in Beddawi. This activity was jointly implemented by Lebanese and Palestinian NGOs active in Beddawi, through a grant provided to the Municipality. The grant was signed in November 2013; the following activities were completed by February 2014:

Children’s festival: The children’s festival took place on February 2014 in the Beddawi Camp. Participants were 500 children between 6 and 12 years old (Lebanese, Palestinians and Syrians) from Beddawi, Beddawi Camp and Adjacent Areas, and their surroundings. Several educational and recreational activities targeting children were organized to address messages on personal hygiene and waste and food recycling.

Cleaning campaigns: Two cleaning campaigns were organized in Beddawi and Beddawi Camp in February 2014. Around 350 youth volunteered to clean public areas frequented by children in Beddawi and Beddawi Camp (streets, gardens, etc.).

Workshops on personal and household hygiene: Three workshops on personal and household hygiene were organized in February 2014 in Beddawi Camp, Wadi Nahle and Beddawi for 300 Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian women. Concrete examples were given in each workshop and manuals on personal and household hygiene, including lice and rabies, were distributed to all participants.

Photography competition: 25 Palestinian and Lebanese children were taken on a tour in Beddawi and its surrounding municipalities to take photographs of clean and beautiful sceneries and of polluted areas with the aim to demonstrate the importance of preserving a clean environment. Photographs were later developed and displayed in the closing ceremony of the event in March 2014.

**2.3 National and local actors brought together to plan for better and more coordinated interventions in Palestinian gatherings**

In March 2014, and following their Rapid Needs Assessment carried out in Palestinian gatherings, UNDP and UN-Habitat organized two workshops at the American University of Beirut (AUB) that hosted representatives of popular and local committees and local NGOs in the Gatherings as well as representatives from the concerned 25 municipalities hosting these gatherings. Participants discussed the main challenges and urgent needs in these areas, especially following the increased pressure on the urban environment exerted by the accommodation of new refugees from Syria. The workshops concluded with a set of recommendations for required interventions and ways of coordination among local actors. The outcomes of these workshops (summarized in Annex 6) were used for suggesting short term and long term interventions to improve living conditions in Palestinian gatherings in the recently published report “Profiling Deprivation: An Analysis of Rapid Needs Assessment in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities”. The outcomes and the recommendations were also used to guide dialogue between representatives of the popular / local committees in the gatherings and members of the local authorities on short term as well as long term service interventions:

* On the short term, active engagement of local actors in the gatherings and municipalities has resulted in the identification of needed interventions and projects, as detailed in the RNA recommendations.
* On the longer term, local actors suggested a number of more sustainable solutions to access water or dispose sewage in Palestinian Gatherings, using alternative energy and environmentally oriented solutions.

**Output 3:** Access and management of basic urban services in the Gatherings and Adjacent Areas improved.

Output 3 constitutes the hardware component of the project and aims at improving access to Basic Urban Services in the gatherings and particularly Adjacent Areas through upgrading projects, the implementation of service delivery interventions and the rehabilitation of infrastructure networks. In order to identify potential projects, the JP shall conduct field work in collaboration and consultation with the local community representatives to identify/validate needs and priorities and guide the selection of the physical rehabilitation projects. Special attention shall be given to including women and youth in these meetings. In order to guarantee the sustainability of results, selected community representatives will be trained to operate, manage and maintain implemented services and networks. Annual targets as per the Annual Work Plan are:

* Implement infrastructure projects and basic urban services interventions that are identified by the communities as priority;
* Strengthen the capacities of local communities to better manage and maintain basic urban services.

**3.1 Access to Basic Urban Services enhanced for some 27,000 refugees in the gatherings and AAs**

Based on a the results of the Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) undertaken by UNDP and UN-Habitat in Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon, the project has conducted in the last quarter of 2013 a participatory mapping of most pressing needs and priorities in order to identify a list of urgent infrastructure projects in each Gathering. The exercise consisted of conducting field visits and two consultative meetings with the local / popular committee and another local group (women, youth, CBO) in each gathering. In addition, NGOs working in the Gatherings as well as UNRWA officers were consulted to assess the needs and the feasibility of the projects. The list of final projects in each Gathering was selected in participation of local committees in these areas. In addition, the project addressed the impact of basic urban services in the Gatherings on their surroundings and assured the efficiency and continuity of implemented infrastructure networks. For this purpose, the project team conducted meetings with the concerned municipalities in order to identify the extension of projects to the surrounding areas. These areas are also suffering the increased pressure on infrastructure networks caused by the influx of Palestinian as well as Syrian refugees displaced from Syria. Coordination was also ensured with the relevant public service agencies; for example all electricity projects were based on studies that were developed by the *Electricité du Liban* (EDL) offices in Saida and Tyre in 2013 and updated in 2014.

Based on the RNA results, projects implemented in 2014 addressed the most vulnerable host gatherings, addressing the urgent needs of both original refugees (PRL) as well as new refugees (mostly PRS). As such, most projects implemented were in the sectors of sewage and water followed by the other sectors. Projects varied in scale, according to the needs, from small interventions such as installing water pumps to larger scale such as implementing water or sewage networks. Engineering studies and BOQs were developed for the projects by contracted engineers in the regions, who also supervised the works to secure implementation according to the JP specifications and standards. The JP contracted to the most extent possible local contractors and companies to implement works, which saved financial resources, economized on time, enhanced coordination on site and minimized conflicts, and created job opportunities within the local communities.

In 2014, the JP has completed the implementation of urgent basic urban service projects in 14 gatherings and their surroundings; benefitting some 27,400 dwellers. Beneficiaries included Palestinian refugees from Lebanon (18,000 PRL); Palestinian refugees from Syria (7,000 PRS); Syrian refugees (1,300 SRS) and Lebanese dwellers (1,100). Below is a brief of the projects per region and gathering:

**Beirut (5,750 beneficiaries)**

* Gaza Buildings: Rehabilitation of water well and system and installation of new pump (co-funded with Japan)
* Said Ghawash: Rehabilitation of well and installation of water pump

**Tyre (7,500 beneficiaries)**

* Chabriha: Rehabilitation of water well and main lines and installation of water pump and electricity regulator; Rehabilitation and paving of 900m² main road
* Maachouk: Rehabilitation of 450m electricity network
* Qasmieh: Renewal of 130m water network

Works in Tawari Adjacent Area to Ain Helwe Camp in Saida

**Saida (11,300 beneficiaries)**

* Baraksat: Installation of 115m sewage network
* Bustan el Quds: Installation of 120m sewage network; rehabilitation of 450m electricity network
* Bustan Abu Jamil: Rehabilitation of 200m electricity network; construction of electricity room
* Fadlo Wakim: Rehabilitation of 250m electricity network
* Tawari: Installation of a 360m sewage network; installation of 285m main water line
* Sekke: Installation of 240 m sewage network; installation of WASH connections for a group of three shelters

**North Lebanon (2,500 beneficiaries)**

* Beddawi Camp surrounding: upgrading of 350m sewage network, installation of 160m storm water network; provision of transformer and electricity room

**Beqaa (350 beneficiaries)**

* Goro: Installation of 600m sewage network (co-funded with Germany)

Works in the surrounding of Beddawi Camp in North Lebanon

* Taalabaya: Upgrading of 150m water network

**3.2 Capacities of local communities strengthened to better manage and access basic urban services**

The JP follows a participatory bottom-up approach that aims at empowering and building the capacities of local actors to better plan for and manage basic urban services within their areas. The JP considers the local committees established in the gatherings and Adjacent Areas as local partners, since they represent the local WASH actors who operate and maintain services, and capitalize on their knowledge. Local committees have been actively engaged in all the stages of the project, carrying out the following tasks:

* Actively participate in needs appraisal and identification of urgent projects for implementation;
* Suggest solutions for optimal project design;
* Follow-up on implementation of works and refer to project team or project engineer for any comments or suggestions;
* Support in community outreach throughout the different stages of the project;
* Represent the side which the project is handed over to by means of signed handing-over document for each project.

It should be mentioned that in some cases depending on the context, the handing over committee would include representatives from the municipalities or from UNRWA. The engagement of local committees throughout the cycle of the project through meetings, workshops and site visits, has resulted in a number of committees taking the initiative to develop project proposals for discussion with the JP team.

In this context, the JP in partnership with the UNDP / UN-Habitat project “Addressing Urban Hotspots in Lebanon” has carried out training sessions in the Adjacent Areas of Ain Helwe Camp. The eight Ain Helwe AAs house more than 14,000 PRL and most recently 5,500 refugees from Syria, living in highly condensed and deprived areas. During the first quarter of 2014, the two projects joined efforts to establish a reference committee consisting of representatives of the Popular Committee in Ain Helwe Camp and the local committees in the eight Adjacent Areas, to be in charge of planning for key interventions for enhancing the living environments in their areas. This group, in addition to two women and youth groups established in Ain Helwe AAs, was provided with training session that covered the following topics:

* Rules of joint planning and work
* Concepts of self building and society development
* Concepts of the recognition and acceptance of others
* Individual needs versus needs of the community
* Development (human an social) and empowerment
* Concept of gradient in the identification of needs
* Communication in building human relationships and joint work
* Negotiations and dealing with differences and resolve disputes through nonviolence
* Participatory work, team building and decision making
* Planning and programming

This activity was carried out in collaboration with the local NGO PARD, which provides services in gatherings in South Lebanon and Beirut.

**Output 4:** Selected municipalities are better equipped to engage in the improvement of living conditions in the gatherings and Adjacent Areas.

Output 4 addresses the municipalities that include gatherings and Adjacent Areas within their boundaries and aims at bridging the urban divide and promoting inclusive governance and development at the local level. For this purpose, capacity building programmes shall be designed, according to local needs, to enhance municipal competence in inclusive planning approaches and local development strategies, which would include the gatherings and/or Adjacent Areas. Selected municipalities shall be further assisted to produce local plans. Annual targets as per the Annual Work Plan are:

* Promote municipal engagement and experience sharing among municipalities hosting Palestinian Gatherings;
* Support municipalities to develop and implement municipal plans.

**4.1 Municipalities supported to improve access to BUS within their domains**

This output represents a cross-cutting component of the previous outputs of the Joint Programme, focusing on building capacities by mainly be engaging and doing. The JP involved the municipalities that include Gatherings and camps’ Adjacent Areas within their domains in the different stages of the project from information sharing and discussions to planning, decision-making and implementation. Infrastructure projects implemented in the Gatherings were approved by the municipalities, who were consulted to secure proper connection to the municipal networks. Moreover, the municipalities were provided with grants to take the lead in implementing projects that targeted both Lebanese and Palestinian communities living within their domains, including those in Palestinian Gatherings and AAs. In addition, representatives from the municipalities participated in a one day workshop organized by the JP at AUB to discuss the main challenges and urgent needs in Palestinian gatherings, especially following the increased pressure on the urban environment exerted by the accommodation of new refugees from Syria (refer to output 2 for details).

On 6 and 17 September 2014, and as part of its work with Unions of Municipalities in Lebanon, UN-Habitat carried out two orientation workshops for municipalities in the Sahel Zahrani and Iklim Kharoub Chamaly unions, including five municipalities that host Palestinian gatherings within their domains. The orientation workshops aimed at highlighting the importance of the role of municipalities in addressing environmental and health risks resulting from inadequate access to basic urban services, especially following the impacts of the Syrian crisis. Through presentations, brain storming sessions, group work, and practical exercises and case studies, the following topics were tackled:

* Current situation and problems faced by municipalities at the environmental, health and social levels.
* Implemented projects and the importance of regular maintenance and follow-up by the municipalities.
* Assessment of municipalities’ capacities in terms of readiness to carry out maintenance and follow-up including financial, human resources and equipments.

By the end of the workshops, municipalities developed a matrix for coordinating the use of resources and equipments between the Unions and municipalities for maintenance of water and sanitation projects.

* **Challenges, lessons learned and best practices**

By the end of 2014, the Joint Programme has successfully implemented the activities and targets that were included in the Annual Work Plan. As a result, the JP was extended till August 2015 with an additional contribution of USD 512,000 from SDC.

At the national level, an institutional dialogue that aims at developing policies for facilitating BUS provision in Palestinian gatherings was challenged by the shift in priorities to addressing the impact of the Syrian crisis in Lebanon. In addition, the periodic meetings of the representatives from the ministries under LPDC were not taking place under the current political situation in Lebanon. A decision was taken together with LPDC to develop a national strategy for response in the gatherings with international and national NGOs active in Palestinian gatherings in the context of the Lebanon Crisis response Plan ﴾LCRP).

At the more local levels, the lack of engagement of local authorities in service provision in the gatherings represented another challenge. Besides the informal status of the gatherings, municipalities do not possess the required resources to extend services to these areas, especially under the pressure exerted by the displacement of refugees from Syria. Throughout its project cycle, he JP aimed at actively engaging municipalities, creating channels of communication with local actors in the gatherings and providing support in terms of technical and financial resources to the municipalities to take part in enhancing services for Palestinian refugees living within their domains. However, these initiatives remain bounded to the interventions of international agencies, in this case the JP, and carried out without and institutionalized framework that govern service provision by municipalities in informal areas in Lebanon.

The risky security situation in the camps’ Adjacent Areas in South and North Lebanon was addressed through the active engagement of popular committees in the camps and local committees in the Adjacent Areas. In addition, working with locally based engineers, contractors and companies mitigated delays during implementation.

The external Monitoring and Evaluation report, attached to this report, provided lessons learnt and best practices that could be summarized by the following:

* The JP continuously aimed at building knowledge through data gathering and analysis, which contributed to a better understanding of the needs and challenges in the gatherings.
* By gathering all concerned actors around the implementation of tangible activities, the JP directly involved local and national counterparts, especially municipalities, in very sensitive areas. This is considered as a first step to the recognition of gatherings as priority intervention zones that fall within the municipal jurisdiction.
* By adopting an approach based on proximity and participation at all levels, the JP team succeeded in a) accurately defining and answering the needs of new refugees and host communities, b) taking into consideration the political, security-related and social specificities of each microcosm, c) leading smoothly the required interventions, and d) building trust with and among stakeholders. The JP also collaborated with other UNDP and UN-Habitat Projects, UNRWA, and NGOs active in the gatherings, which maximized impact and avoided duplication.
* By taking into consideration the changes that occurred in the gatherings due to the arrival of PRS and modifying the project scope during implementation, the JP showed flexibility and adapted to real needs in addition to limiting financial and human resources loss.
* The JP addressed the concerns of both host communities in the gatherings and new refugees by implementing infrastructure projects which benefited both groups, a practice that proved critical for reducing conflicts and enhancing living conditions in targeted communities.
* **Qualitative assessment**

Overall, the Joint Programme has successfully contributed to strengthening planning and coordination efforts at the national level among active organizations in Palestinian gatherings. This was achieved through the generation and sharing of data, developing a response plan in the gatherings for 2015, and reactivating the Gatherings Working Group. Reliable data has contributed to correcting misconceptions at both national and local levels about services provision in these areas, such as the assumption that UNRWA is responsible for BUS provision. Serving the same purpose at a more local level, channels for communication and coordination have been established, in some cases for the first time, between local authorities and Palestinian communities, leading to improvement in access to services and relationships. In addition, activities and structures set in place in the framework of the JP supported UNDP and UN-Habitat respond to the emerging needs in the gatherings following the Syrian crisis and the influx of new refugees into these areas.

The active engagement of the key partners has contributed to the achievement of the JP results and to maximizing the effectiveness of interventions. The main contribution of each partner could be summarized by the following ongoing results:

**The Lebanese – Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC):** The partnership with LPDC has been highly significant for providing a national umbrella to the Joint Programme, which encouraged the participation of other actors as well as donors’ support.

**UNRWA:** Strong coordination has been established with UNRWA at both country and local levels, reflecting a complimentary approach among the three UN agencies for improving the lives of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. At the implementation level, coordination is ensured between UNRWA strategic interventions undertaken in the camps and those undertaken by the JP in the camps’ Adjacent Areas. This coordination culminated in a number of complimentary activities whereby UNRWA implemented sewage/water projects in the camps and the JP extended such projects to the Adjacent Areas around the camps, ensuring proper connections and management schemes.

**Municipalities:** The Joint Programme aims at engaging the municipalities in addressing urban issues occurring within its municipal domain, including those in Palestinian Gatherings and camps’ Adjacent Areas. It also aims at creating channels of communication and coordination between the municipalities and representatives of the local communities in these Gatherings.

**Popular / Local Committees:** Popular and local committees are the administrative entities that manage main issues in the Gatherings, including access to basic urban services. Possessing local knowledge about the main needs and practices in this sector, the Programme aims at actively engaging these committees in decision-making in the phases of planning as well as implementation. Working in particular contexts such as Palestinian Gatherings demands a level of local ownership and commitment. For the same reason, the JP involves other local groups, whether women, youth or professional, in the Gatherings.

**Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** The Joint Programme coordinates its activities in an active manner with international and local NGOs working in the Gatherings, through the Gatherings Working Group. The JP also aims at building partnerships with local NGOs working in the Gatherings in order to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize efficiency and responsiveness. In South Lebanon, the JP has established partnership with the Popular Aid for relief and Development (PARD), a local NGO that extensively works in the Gatherings. In the North, the JP has also worked closely with Lebanese and Palestinian NGOs active in Beddawi.

Throughout the planning and implementation of the Joint Programme, particular emphasis is being paid to mainstreaming gender issues within its various key components. For example, women are encouraged to participate in meetings the JP carries out in gatherings. Where formed, the JP makes sure to meet with women committees in the gatherings and AAs; similarly for youth. While improving access to BUS would benefit whole communities in one area / neighborhood, impact is significant on women and children who suffer the most from WASH born diseases and protection issues. Furthermore, main activities of the JP are designed and implemented taking into account conflict sensitive principles. This is crucial to mitigate tensions and rising conflicts between new refugees coming displaced from Syria and the host original communities in the gatherings, as well as between the gatherings and their surroundings. For this reason, the JP is keen to follow the following principles:

* Foster a participatory bottom-up approach in the different stages of the project including decision-making, planning and follow-up. Local actors and potential beneficiaries are actively involved to identify and prioritize urgent needs, assess damages and shortcomings of existing services, suggest solutions and potential projects for implementation, and form committees to follow-up on the execution of projects and activities. Local ownership of implemented projects and interventions guarantees their efficiency and sustainability.
* Bring local actors together, including popular / local committees and municipalities, in order to create communication channels and coordination mechanisms on common BUS issues. This enhances the management and sustainability of services that are connected between the gatherings and their surroundings, such as the water and sewage systems and solid waste management.
* Build the capacities of popular / local committees in the Gatherings in order to better operate and manage BUS. These committees are considered the local BUS actors in the gatherings as they assume the responsibility of water organization and distribution, repairs of damaged sewage and water networks and solid waste collection. This presents a cost-effective approach to enhancing BUS in Gatherings.
* Recall the responsibility of local authorities and public service agencies in provision of basic services to the vulnerable Palestinian communities that live within the municipal domains. This is done through engaging municipalities and agencies in the planning and the solutions as well as implementation of activities in the Gatherings and surrounding areas that host Palestinian refugees.
* Enhance the resilience of the local host communities to respond to the escalating needs resulting from the increase in population and the pressure on water sources and sanitation services. In parallel, create complementarity between humanitarian response and development in implemented activities.
* Ensure cost effectiveness through building on existing systems and local resources. BUS projects focus on rehabilitating and repairing existing systems and facilities before constructing new ones. Working with local contractors and small companies has proven efficient to: economize on time and costs, mitigate conflicts that could impede implementation, and generate local jobs.

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Achieved Indicator Targets** | **Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)** | **Source of Verification** |
| **Outcome:** Living conditions of communities living in informal gatherings (including Adjacent Areas of Palestinian Camps) improved through enhanced access to basic urban services**Indicators:****-** A framework that would improve access to basic urban services in the gatherings developed through support to the relevant national institutions and actors - Collaborative mechanisms between Palestinian and Lebanese established for improved service delivery - Access and management of basic urban services in selected gatherings improved.- Selected municipalities better able to respond to issues in gatherings**Baseline:**Inadequate living conditions of communities living in informal gatherings and Adjacent Areas.**Planned Target:**Improved access to basic urban services in the gatherings | * Enhanced planning and coordination of interventions in the gatherings at the national level
* Supported the implementation and coordination of 3 joint BUS projects between Lebanese and Palestinian communities
* Implemented infrastructure project in 17 gatherings and their surroundings
* Supported municipalities to engage in improving access to BUS to both Lebanese and Palestinian communities within their domains
 | LPDC recommended postponing the national dialogue on improving living conditions for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon given the political tension in Lebanon in 2014 and the emergency of hosting refugees from Syria following the Syrian crisis. It was agreed to focus instead on developing accurate data on living conditions of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. This has impacted the development of a national policy framework for addressing the living conditions and access to basic services in Palestinian gathering. The JP has instead developed a strategy for response in the gatherings with priority interventions for 2015 with organizations active in the gatherings.  | - Response plan of priority interventions in the gatherings 2015- MoMs of the reactivated Gatherings Working Group- Published report “Profiling Deprivation: An Analysis of the Rapid Needs Assessment in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities in Lebanon”- Documents and studies of joint BUS projects for municipalities and infrastructure projects in the gatherings |
| **Output 1:** A national framework addressing the living conditions and access to basic urban services in the Palestinian informal gatherings (including Adjacent Areas) developed and implemented**Indicators:**- Data on living condition and needs in Palestinian gatherings (including Adjacent Areas) produced. - # of reports published  - # of national policy / strategy papers developed and discussed with relevant central government agencies.- # of consultative sessions held with Lebanese and Palestinian stakeholders **Baseline:** Lack of enabling policies to support national and local level engagement in informal gatherings (including Adjacent Areas).**Annual Targets (as per the WP):*** Generate data on the forty-two gatherings and consolidate a report
* Organize two national meetings for dissemination purposes
* Support LPDC in developing a strategy / policy to enhance the living conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon
 | * Consolidated data and published report “Profiling Deprivation: An Analysis of the Rapid Needs Assessment in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities in Lebanon”
* Organized report launching and panel discussion on “Current Response and Operational Roles in Gatherings” hosted by LPDC
* Reactivated the Gathering Working Group as a coordination and planning platform
* 4Ws mapping of NGOs interventions in the gatherings carried out and shared with the Gatherings WG
* Organized a national workshop for organizations active in the gatherings to identify priorities for intervention in 2015
* Developed a national plan for response in the gatherings for 2015
* Shared the response plan with sector leads and UN agencies to guide interventions in the context of the LCRP and 3RPs in Palestinian gatherings
 | Decision was taken based on recommendation from LPDC to postpone the development of a national framework resulting from national policy dialogue (see previous comment). | - Published report “Profiling Deprivation: An Analysis of the Rapid Needs Assessment in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities in Lebanon”- Agenda of launching event and panel discussion- MoMs of the reactivated Gatherings Working Group- Summary results of the 4Ws mapping - Report on the outcomes of the national workshop – roundtable discussions- Response plan of priority interventions in the gatherings 2015 |
| **Output 2:** Collaborative mechanisms between Palestinian and Lebanese for improved service delivery strengthened and/or established in selected areas.**Indicators:** * # of collaborative mechanisms established.
* # of joint initiatives implemented
* # of joint sessions held gathering concerned local stakeholders
* Best practices and lessons learnt documented and disseminated at the national level.

**Baseline:** Absence of collaborative mechanisms for improved service delivery.**Annual Targets (as per the WP):*** Support local actors to agree upon and implement joint BUS projects and strengthen coordination mechanisms for improved access to services
* Organize at least two thematic consultations with key local and national actors on key areas of concerns and document lessons learnt.
 | * Established consensus on 3 joint BUS projects in Saida and the Beqaa

that target both Lebanese and Palestinian communities* Supported the joint Lebanese / Palestinian committee in Beddawi carry out WASH campaign
* 2 consultative workshops organized for local actors at AUB
* Lessons learnt and recommendations consolidated and documented in the published report
 |  | - Engineering studies and BOQs of joint projects- Completion reports of the projects - Grant to Beddawi municipality- Recommendations from the AUB workshops for short term and long term intervention in “Profiling Deprivation: An Analysis of the Rapid Needs Assessment in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities in Lebanon” |
| **Output 3:** Access and management of basic urban services in the gatherings improved. **Indicators:*** # of infrastructure projects completed in selected gatherings;
* # of capacity building activities
* Decreased use of ad-hoc and haphazard methods to access basic urban services by the communities.

**Baseline:** Inadequate basic urban services in Adjacent Areas. **Annual Targets (as per the WP):*** Implement three infrastructure projects in selected gatherings and Adjacent Areas
* Build the capacities of local committees within hosting Palestinian Gatherings to monitor implementation of interventions
 | * Implemented 22 BUS projects in 17 gatherings and their surroundings
* Local committees in the areas of implementation engaged in planning and monitoring of projects
* Delivered training on planning, mediation, conflict resolution for locally established groups (reference group, women group, youth group) in Ain el Helwe AAs.
 |  | - Engineering studies, BOQs and completion reports- Participatory needs appraisal - Projects’ handing over documents signed by local committees- Training for locally established groups in Ain el Helwe AAs |
| **Output 4:** Selected municipalities are better equipped to engage in the improvement of living conditions in the gatherings and Adjacent Areas.**Indicators:**- Experience sharing facilitated to bring together various municipalities - # of coordination meetings facilitated with selected municipalities - # of integrated plans developed by selected municipalities.**Baseline:** Limited municipal capacity, resources and know-how to respond to the issues faced by the Adjacent Areas.**Annual Targets (as per the WP):*** Promote experience sharing among municipalities that accommodate for Palestinian gatherings within their domains
* Document and disseminate best practices and lessons learnt
* Assist selected municipalities develop local plans
 | - Municipalities in areas of implementation engaged in planning and needs appraisal- Workshop bringing together municipalities hosting gatherings organized and outcome documented and published - 2 Orientation workshops on viable approaches on maintaining BUS provided to municipalities and Unions of Municipalities- Municipalities developed local plans for better operating BUS equipments and resources  |  | - Needs appraisal - Recommendations from the AUB workshops for short term and long term intervention in “Profiling Deprivation: An Analysis of the Rapid Needs Assessment in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities in Lebanon”- Orientation workshops - Municipal plans of resources |

**III. Other Assessments or Evaluations**

An external monitoring and evaluation mission of the JP was conducted between October and December 2014. It focused on assessing the following areas: Achievement of Project; Project Design and Management; Stakeholder Participation and Ownership; and Sustainability. The evaluation also includes identification of Lessons Learned and Recommendations. The monitoring and evaluation is attached to this report.

**IV. Programmatic Revisions**

Recently, due to the Syrian Crisis, the living conditions and social interactions in the Palestinian Gatherings have worsened with the arrival of tens of thousands of Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS). This new situation led to adapting the project activities to respond to the new rising needs during the implementation phase. Major amendments were made to the timeline, budget allocation and planned interventions under the supervision of the Steering Committee of the Project. The scope of work and the work plan have been consequently revised in 2014, reallocating the remaining budget mainly to BUS/WASH projects to take into consideration the emergency situation in the Gatherings.

As mentioned earlier, a decision was taken by the JP and LPDC, based on recommendations from the latter, to postpone policy discussions the development of a national framework to enhance service delivery in the gatherings, in response to the political situation in Lebanon especially in the light of the Syrian Crisis. A national strategy of response was developed with international and local organizations active in the gatherings in the different sectors of interventions.

**V. Resources**

Funding to this Joint Programme was secured through USD 1,000,000 contribution from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), which was extended with an additonal contribution of USD 512,000 till August 2015. The concept note of the new interventions is atached in the revised ProDoc in Annex 7.

To respond to the emerging urgent needs following the influx of new refugees from Syria into the gatherings, a second project, “Improving Living Conditions in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities” was designed by UNDP in 2013. It aimed at continuing the efforts on the institutional level and at supporting host Gatherings through the implementation of BUS projects, with focus on WASH interventions, and of shelter rehabilitation. The new project benefitted from a total contribution of USD 3,854,507 from various donors. The JP and the Project “Improving Living Conditions in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities” are managed and implemented in parallel by the same team and guied by the same Steering Committee, using the same approach and serving the same goal of mainly enhancing access to basic urban services.

1. The JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Basic urban services in this context include the sectors of water, sewerage and solid waste collection, which fall under WASH, in addition to electricity and storm water and road networks. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. To download the report, follow this link at UNDP website: http://www.lb.undp.org/content/lebanon/en/home/library/crisis\_prevention\_and\_recovery/profiling-deprivation/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)