



United Nations – World Bank Partnership Compact for Lebanon 2018-2020

1. Preamble

Building on the United Nations – World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis and Post-Crisis Situations and recalling the Commitment to Action signed at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the UN Resident Coordinator on behalf of the UN Country Team for Lebanon, and the World Bank Regional Director of the Middle East Department are committed to strengthening the partnership between our two organizations to make our response in Lebanon more effective and sustainable with a view to reduce the levels of poverty among Lebanese and overall vulnerability among refugees in the country including Syrian and Palestine refugees.

The partnership is built on the recognition that innovative approaches are needed to respond to the impact of the protracted crisis in Syria on Lebanon. While humanitarian assistance will continue to be of the essence, we need to collectively work on reducing humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities and building a solid foundation of economic growth and sustainable development of Lebanon in support of both the Sustainable Development Goals and the immediate requirements of the affected people.

This vision is enshrined in our programmatic frameworks, the United Nations Strategic Framework 2017-2020 and the World Bank Country Partnership Framework 2017-2022, which both aim at mitigating the impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanon, addressing pre-existing structural constraints, while bolstering efforts on longer-term development challenges.

We welcome progress already underway to strengthen cooperation between the World Bank and United Nations entities. Important results have been achieved in cooperation with the Government of Lebanon, especially in the field of education of vulnerable children affected by the Syria crisis, but also in promoting innovative financing solutions, such as the Global Concessional Financing Facility, and in contributing expertise and advice to the Government on developing a longer-term vision to mitigate the impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanon.

Recognizing the progress made and synergies built, the UN and the World Bank have agreed to engage in a dedicated Compact to further institutionalize and scale up our results in Lebanon through joint up efforts to assess and analyze risks, to engage in joint programmatic activities and scale up impact through innovative funding mechanisms.

2. Guiding Principles and commitments

The United Nations and the World Bank support the following principles in our respective engagement in Lebanon:

- The core **principles underpinning the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, including its universality in scope, leaving no one behind, the interconnectedness and indivisibility of the 17 SDGs, its inclusiveness and the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- While our mandates differ, our efforts should be mutually reinforcing based on our comparative advantage, addressing **the humanitarian, developmental and economic and social challenges in Lebanon in an integrated manner**, while reinforcing the role of national and local actors.
- We will ensure **full transparency of our efforts** and work in support of national authorities and priorities.
- We will continue to **fully respect the recognized humanitarian principles** of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

3. Strategic Focus

Recalling our mutual commitment to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, we will work together and with national counterparts to develop a set of multi-year joint initiatives where our combined efforts will offer advantages to reduce the needs and poverty of refugees in Lebanon and vulnerable Lebanese.

Our efforts will focus on the following priority areas for the period 2018-2020:

Data and evidence

As a first step, building on past cooperation, such as the Economic and Social Impact Assessment of the Syria conflict on Lebanon that was jointly conducted in 2013, we will work together to engage in joint analysis, risk and needs assessments to strengthen and harmonize the data and evidence base to inform policies and programs and promote joint planning.

In 2018, we commit to prepare for a joint vulnerability assessment for the Syrian refugees and Lebanese, building on the annual UN-led Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) in Lebanon and the Household Budget Survey of the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS).

Furthermore, we will coordinate our annual work planning processes and support the development and use of shared result frameworks and joint processes for monitoring and review.

Joint programmatic engagement

We will work towards aligning our ongoing and planned short-, medium- and longer-term support under common outcomes with an initial focus on the following sectors:

Water: We will align our efforts to: (i) strengthen the access to safe drinking water for refugees and vulnerable Lebanese; (ii) improve the water quality; and (iii) strengthen sanitation and wastewater management.

Health: We will strengthen our cooperation to increase sustainable access to primary health care for refugees and vulnerable Lebanese and to improve health information systems.

Education: We will continue and strengthen our cooperation to increase access to education for refugees and Lebanese children based on current collaboration and in the context of the RACE II framework and the shift in strategy towards long-term development and more resilient systems. We will also increase our collaboration to ensure effective Technical and Vocational Education and Training with a specific focus on youth at risk.

Economic opportunities and job creation: We will work together to strengthen the role of the productive sectors, facilitate access for refugees to essential financial services, and increase private sector investments with a view to create economic opportunities and jobs for the most vulnerable.

Social safety nets: We will develop a multi-partner programme to strengthen Lebanon's social safety net system. The program will seek to develop a national social safety net policy, scale-up the National Poverty Targeting Program, improve access to and quality of social services, and establish building blocks of a social safety net system for Government programs. As a first task we will conduct a joint assessment of social safety nets in Lebanon with a view to promote the productive inclusion agenda of the extreme poor households and promote social stabilization. As part of strengthening social safety nets and drawing from the 2016 UN Strategic Review of Food and Nutrition Security in Lebanon, we will work together to ensure that diverse food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys are addressed.

Environmental impact of the Syria Crisis: We will jointly support measures that mitigate the environmental impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanon with a particular focus on strengthening forest and rangeland rehabilitation and management, as well as pollution management.

E-governance/Anti-corruption: we will work together to advance the anti-corruption agenda in Lebanon with a specific focus on the strengthening of e-governance systems. As part of these efforts we will explore the possibility of a Joint UN-World Bank security sector Public Expenditure Review.

In all our efforts and collaboration, we will promote **gender equality and women's economic empowerment**. Moreover, we will advocate, promote and support the Government of Lebanon to uphold its mandate for the protection of violence, abuse and exploitation of women, children, people with disability and other vulnerable groups.

The World Bank and UN will ensure that all efforts are aligned to national priorities and commitments as outlined in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, the Capital Investment Plan, the outcome documents of the forthcoming international conferences in Paris and Brussels (April 2018), as well as the national economic vision, currently under development.

Financing instruments

We recognize the critical need to harmonize funding mechanisms in an effort to further enhance opportunities for collaboration and leverage donor support. The World Bank and the UN are committed to explore options to align our two trust funds – the UN managed Lebanon Recovery Fund (LRF) and the WB managed Lebanon Syrian Crisis Trust Fund (LSCTF). In the meantime, the UN and World Bank will work together to align the programmatic pipeline for both funds and engage in joint resource mobilization and outreach to partners. A specific focus will be put on engaging with the private sector and identifying opportunities for partnerships and cooperation.

4. A culture of collaboration

In order to reinforce a culture of collaboration, the World Bank and United Nations will:

- Engage in regular information exchange at the senior and technical level to ensure full transparency and visibility on ongoing initiatives and promote aligned and coordinated engagement with external partners;
- Participate in relevant working groups to promote technical and programmatic coordination;
- Conduct joint lessons learned exercises and joint missions as appropriate.

5. Follow-up and Monitoring

The World Bank and United Nations agree to review this Compact periodically and update as necessary. A core group will be established comprised of UN Heads of Agencies and WB section chiefs involved in the implementation of joint initiatives and chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and World Bank Regional Director to oversee the implementation of the Compact based on an agreed action plan. The Core Group will meet at least twice per year to review progress made, adjust institutional arrangements, document good practices, identify opportunities and constraints, and assure continual attention to the impact of our collaboration. Both organisations will assign focal points to lead technical task forces for each priority area to take forward the agreed joint initiatives in coordination with key agencies and GoL counterparts.

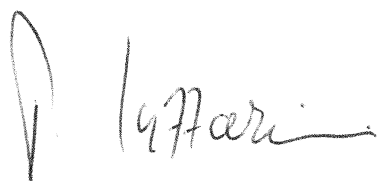
6. General

Specific arrangements for cooperation and collaboration between the parties under this Compact shall be governed by specific agreements or protocols, as the case may be, between the parties and which are consistent with each party's applicable or relevant policies and procedures.

The parties acknowledge and agree that this Compact is not legally binding. It does not constitute an agreement or commitment by either party to provide financial or any other support on or for any specific theme, activity, project, or operation.

The parties agree that nothing in this Compact shall affect the ability of the UN to carry out its humanitarian activities in a neutral, independent and impartial manner or the Bank's ability to carry out its reconstruction and development mandate under its Articles of Agreement. Further, nothing in this Compact derogates from the 1947 Agreement between the United Nations and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Signed in Beirut, 23 March 2018.



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