

Lebanon Support's 2016 Activity Report

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1 | About Lebanon Support

Lebanon Support is an independent non-governmental, non-religious, non-partisan, and non-profit making information and research centre for and about civil society. Established in 2006, Lebanon Support was registered as a National Non-Governmental Organisation in November 2008 (registered under the number 168/2009 AD).

Lebanon Support aims at enhancing civil society capacity, efficiency and effectiveness through the creation of public spaces for reflection, collaboration, and debate in Lebanon.

Lebanon Support adopts a multidisciplinary approach and evidence- and fact-based methodologies in civil society work in Lebanon, so as to support and develop a civic voice, and work towards better accountability and societal change.

Within this framework Lebanon Support focuses on information and knowledge production, sharing and management, as it is within Lebanon Support's beliefs, that knowledge is at the heart of developing adequate strategies and interventions to reduce existing vulnerabilities and marginalisation in the country.

Lebanon Support promotes and supports knowledge sharing between organisations in Lebanon, through the exchange of experiences, ideas and information across sectors and among civil society actors in Lebanon.

2 | Brief history

Lebanon Support was created in August 2006, in the aftermath of the Israeli July 2006 war on Lebanon. Through its portal, Lebanon Support started acting as an online space facilitating aid related information sharing and management, as well as fostering cooperation and partnerships between the different bodies involved in relief and recovery activities in Lebanon.

By the start of 2007, Lebanon Support had already managed to build a network with the active involvement and membership of more than 400 organisations.

By July 2007, Lebanon Support was the only information focal point for the Nahr el-Bared crisis. Lebanon Support expanded its network and reached some 750 organisations by the end of 2007.

In 2008, and in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), Lebanon Support launched a nationwide mapping of non-governmental organisations operating in Lebanon. Two print versions of the "Civil Society Directory" where the fruit of this collaboration in 2008 and 2010, covering more than 1,000 organisations.

In 2011, the civil society portal was moved to a separate online portal: Daleel Madani, with more than 1,300 organisations on its directory and a steadily growing audience of more than 1,000,000 per month.¹

In 2013, Lebanon Support launched its second programme, the Civil Society Knowledge Centre, a multidisciplinary research platform. Composed of thematic projects combining qualitative and quantitative approaches, the CSKC constitutes a seminal and innovative knowledge base and publishing platform for original research and analysis on civil society and public action issues. In 2016, the CSKC gathered over 86,000 visits.

1/ Based on the data recorded up until the end of 2016.

The Civil Society Incubator, launched officially in 2016, builds on the informal support and coaching Lebanon Support had been providing over the years through its first two programmes, Daleel Madani and the Civil Society Knowledge Centre.

Today, Lebanon Support has proven to be one of the leading organisations in Lebanon in the sector of knowledge production and has produced several quality research and studies covering a variety of themes and disciplines pertaining to civil society work in Lebanon.

3 | Services and expertise provided by Lebanon Support

Lebanon Support offers a wide range of services to humanitarian and development organisations, donors, private sector, and government:

Research and analysis: Based on a deep knowledge of the Lebanese field and its social fabric, Lebanon Support offers evidence-based multidisciplinary research, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Information management services: Lebanon Support is specialised in information management services, providing interactive data mappings and visualisations among others.

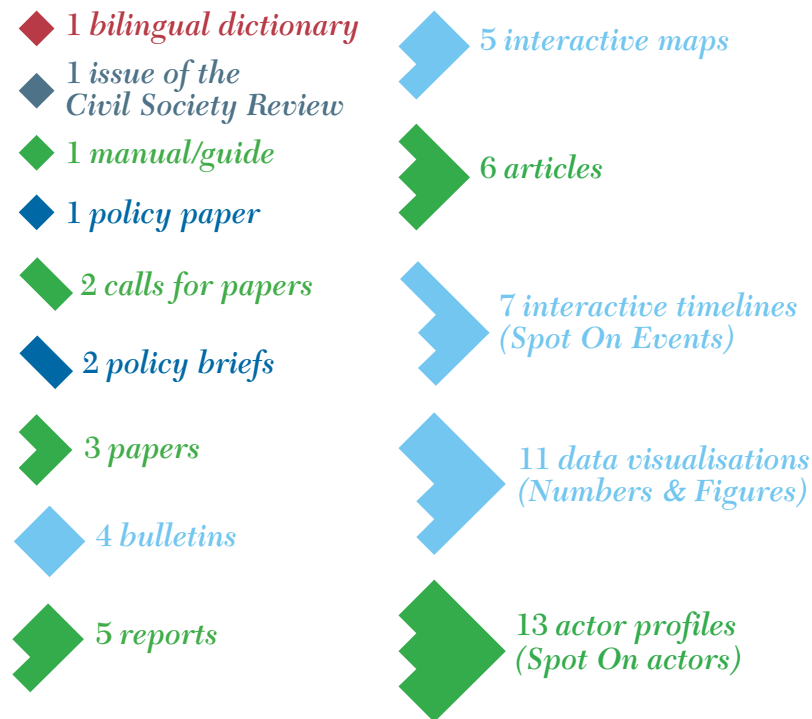
Our team is composed of multidisciplinary academics, professionals, and practitioners.

4 | Highlights from 2016

2016 has been a very successful year for Lebanon Support, with new original research and analysis published within our research and information platform, the Civil Society Knowledge Centre; the organisation of, and participation to knowledge sharing events involving civil society organisations, professionals, academics, and activists in Lebanon and abroad; and the official launch of a new Programme: the Civil Society Incubator.

Our year in a snap

PUBLICATIONS & KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



KNOWLEDGE SHARING EVENTS



5 | Our programmes



Online portal for civil society actors in Lebanon

Accessible on: daleel-madani.org



Online research & information platform on public action and civil society issues

Accessible on: civilsociety-centre.org



Tailored support and mentoring for civil society actors in Lebanon

5.1 | Daleel Madani

Launched in 2006 and redesigned in 2011, daleel-madani.org is a civil society portal and public domain developed, operated and managed by Lebanon Support. It is an online collaborative platform for civil society actors.

As an online portal for civil society actors in Lebanon, Daleel Madani serves as a practical online tool that allows for more transparency and accountability. It provides civil society in Lebanon with the means and ability to share, publish, and disseminate information and knowledge hence providing a space for increased collaboration, and enhanced collective action and change in Lebanon.

Between its launch in 2011 and 2016, Daleel Madani has gathered over 1,300 organisations profiles on its directory, of which over 520 have active accounts on the portal.

Budget

Lebanon Support receives yearly membership fees from international organisations and private sector institutions registered on Daleel Madani. This serves to fund the portal's infrastructure and development cost, in an attempt by Lebanon Support to make Daleel Madani a more sustainable programme, independent of external funding.

5.2| Civil Society Knowledge Centre

Lebanon Support launched the Civil Society Knowledge Centre in 2013. The CSKC the first and most developed online platform for knowledge production and management in Lebanon. It constitutes a seminal and innovative knowledge base and publishing platform for original research and analysis on civil society work and issues.

The CSKC aims to enhance participatory and localised research, and covers issues pertaining to civil society and public action.

The CSKC makes not only original research and analysis (papers, reports, etc.) available, but also interactive mappings, info-graphic visuals, and aggregated thematic libraries, among others.

5.2.1| Thematic Projects within the CSKC

A. The Gender Equity Network, in partnership with Diakonia

The [Gender Equity Network](#) (GEN) is an online collaborative platform that brings together civil society organisations, researchers, practitioners and experts working to enhance local and national capacities' access to, and development of, knowledge and evidence-based research, information and literature on Gender issues and concerns. The GEN was launched in August 2014 and aims at producing original, in-depth research in addition to enhance knowledge sharing and collaboration efforts.

Lebanon Support collaborates with gender actors within Lebanon to produce new qualitative and quantitative literature. The Gender Equity Network aims at advocating towards a more holistic approach to addressing gender equity and rights in Lebanon. In turn, this will render civil society work more effective in achieving political, societal, and legal change in Lebanon.

The Gender Equity Network includes data and evidence-based

research and analysis, resources, interactive mappings, info-graphics, and an aggregated online library on gender topics and issues in Lebanon. It aims to provide a set of tools, qualitative and quantitative, to be used and mobilised by gender actors in their strategic and project programming, as well as their activities, and lobbying efforts. Ultimately, by creating both an online and offline space for debate and reflection, this thematic project aims at fostering a more concerted and collaborative gender sector in Lebanon.

The Gender Equity Network is currently composed of:

- a. [Research & Analysis](#): A series of analytical research papers on Gender topics in Lebanon;
- b. The [Data Centre](#) including:
 - The “[Gender Actors map](#)” that profiles, and compiles comprehensive information about actors working on gender issues in Lebanon;
 - The “[Mapping of Incidents of Violence Against Women in Lebanon](#)”, that maps incidents and reports of violence against women in Lebanon, in collaboration with [KAFA - Enough violence and exploitation](#);
- c. The [Gender Equity Library](#): An openly accessible library with resources relevant to gender issues;
- d. The [Gender Equity bulletin](#): Newsletter featuring gender related news and resources;
- e. The [Bilingual Gender Dictionary](#): The “Gender Dictionary: traveling concepts and local usages in Lebanon - قاموس الجندر: مفاهيم متنقلة - واستعمالاتها المحلية في لبنان” is a practical tool for gender and sexuality concepts and terms, written from a feminist perspective and available in a user and reader friendly format;
- f. [Event Summaries and Audios](#): An archive of past roundtables, discussions and events organised within this project.

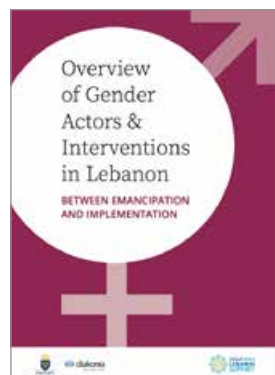
Members of the Gender Equity Network



حركة مناهضة
العنصرية

Anti-Racism
Movement

Selected Publications within the Gender Equity Network in 2016



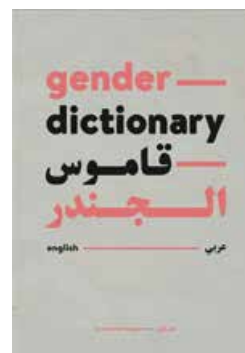
Overview of Gender Actors & Interventions in Lebanon

Date of publication: January 2016

This report aims to present a general overview of the current local gender actors and their interventions in Lebanon. It also aims to shed light on the complex relationship between women's organisations in Lebanon and their donors, in which it is vital to ask to what extent funding tends to shape project design at a local

level? Moreover, the report seeks to answer if funding of short-term and service-oriented projects edulcorates the political change that these organisations could bring.

Based on a survey conducted by Lebanon Support in 2015, the report gives an overview of the main gender actors, their areas of focus, as well as their approaches and modes of intervention. Two main research findings can be drawn based on the survey and fieldwork: first, gender actors are concerned about unbalanced relationships with their funders, and second, actors believe and criticise the negative consequences of short term projects on their work, sustainability and collaboration. The report presents two thematic cases from the field (labour rights & women in Lebanon, and sexual and reproductive health and rights) showing a gap between the actual needs identified by gender actors themselves and the projects implemented by the same actors. The conclusion of the report consists of recommendations for action directed to local actors, the state and donors.



Gender Dictionary: traveling concepts and local usages in Lebanon - قاموس الجندر: مفاهيم متنقلة - واستعمالاتها المحلية في لبنان

Date of publication: February 2016

The Gender Dictionary, published by Lebanon Support, is a practical bilingual tool, based on multidisciplinary research and consultations with local gender actors (academics, experts, activists, practitioners).

This bilingual dictionary examines the definitions, history and localised usages of gender terms and concepts. It is constituted of 25 entries, organised in alphabetical order with their equivalent and definitions in both Arabic and English. Each entry or definition proposes a general presentation of the term, a synthetic overview of its inherent debates with a focus on its local usages and understandings.

The bilingual Gender Dictionary is available on the CSKC as both a [resource](#) (pdf format) and an [interactive tool](#).

B. The Conflict Analysis Project, in partnership with UNDP, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO WOTRO)

The [Conflict Analysis Project](#) (CAP) aims at understanding contemporary conflict dynamics in Lebanon in order to ultimately better comprehend the root causes of conflict. Launched in 2014, the Conflict Analysis Project seeks to produce data and evidence-based research and analysis available and accessible to all. As such, the project's aim is to ultimately inform policy-makers and civil society actors, as to help tailor interventions and policy towards addressing the root causes of various types of conflict.

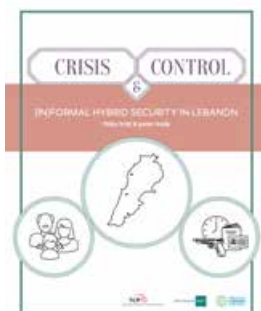
Lebanon Support maintains that conflict is a multifaceted phenomenon and goes beyond mere incidents of violence. In fact, based on a socio-political definition of the term, our endeavour goes beyond mere legal and security based characterisations of “conflicts” often associated with belligerency and violence on the one hand, or a too macro-oriented “social conflict theory” on the other. It rather sheds light on dynamics underlying a broad spectrum of contention including labour struggles, peaceful demonstrations, social movements, strikes, passing by conflicts opposing minorities (ethnic, religious or sexual among others) as well as local, national or regional actors' policies including the use of armed force be it internal or in breach of the Lebanese sovereignty.

The Conflict Analysis Project includes an interactive geo-located mapping of conflicts, data visualisations, timelines, actors profiles, investigative articles, research papers, reports, and policy briefs, covering multifold aspects of conflictuality in Lebanon.

The **Conflict Analysis Project** is currently composed of:

- a. [Research & Analysis](#): A series of analytical research papers on contemporary conflict dynamics in Lebanon;
- b. [Investigative Articles](#): A series of shorter articles focusing on specific topics regarding conflict in Lebanon;
- c. [Geo-located Mapping of Conflicts in Lebanon](#): An ongoing mapping of incidents, mobilisations and conflicts occurring within Lebanon. Each mapped incident is categorised and classified based on a typology devised by Lebanon Support;
- d. [Conflict Analysis Library](#): An openly accessible library with resources relevant to conflict;
- e. [Spots on Events](#): Conflict timelines paired with contextual background information on specific long-lasting conflicts within Lebanon. Each Spot on Event takes incidents from Lebanon Support's conflict map and links them on a timeline;
- f. [Spots on Actors](#): In depth profile of a state or non-state actor involved in conflict;
- g. [Numbers and Figures](#): Infographics, graphs, and visualisations of data related to conflict in Lebanon;
- h. [Conflict Analysis bulletin](#): Newsletters offering accessible information and research about conflicts;
- i. [Events Summaries & Audio](#): An archive of past roundtables, discussions and events organised within this project.

Selected Publications within the Conflict Analysis Project in 2016



Crisis & Control, (In)Formal Hybrid Security in Lebanon

Date of publication: July 2016

This report aims at analysing how formal and informal security providers implement their respective social order agendas through a security “assemblage”. It also aims to inform the debate on refugee protection and security provision in urban settings, in the context of

Lebanon’s hybrid security system. The accounts collected illustrate how state security institutions tacitly accept – or even rely on – informal security actors, managing at times to achieve their political and strategic goals through decentralised and/or illegal forms of control. In this vein, local municipalities imposed curfews and street patrols, which, far from being an institutional measure, follow a flexible and unpredictable pattern.

Three localities have been selected for the purpose of this research - namely Aley in Mount Lebanon, Ebrine in North Lebanon, and Shebaa in South Lebanon. The choice of these localities was driven by their different political and social history, their demographic homogeneity or diversity and their relationship with surrounding regions.

This report was developed within the framework of the Lebanon Support project – “Urban refugee protection in Lebanon’s hybrid security system: a research and action agenda” – in partnership with International Alert and with the support of WOTRO-NWO.



Security That Protects: Informing Policy on Local Security Provision in Lebanese Communities Hosting Syrian Refugees

Date of publication: July 2016

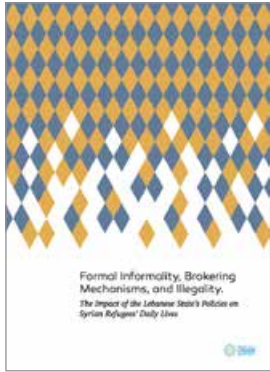
The purpose of this policy brief, by International Alert, is to inform policy formulation on local level security provision and refugee protection and to propose modalities for upgrading the systems of the Lebanese security institutions in a way that strengthens protection of the Lebanese com-

munities and the Syrian refugees they host. Based on field research conducted between February and May 2016 in three locations across Lebanon, this brief analyses the challenges to protect local communities and refugees in a hybrid system, in which formal and informal security actors coexist and implement a mix of security measures. It also argues that the current securitisation approach, which relies on negative deterrence, enhances perceptions of insecurity among the Lebanese and infringes on the rights and dignity of the refugees.

This policy brief was developed within the framework of the Lebanon Support project – “Urban refugee protection in Lebanon’s hybrid security system: a research and action agenda” – in partnership with International Alert and with the support of WOTRO-NWO.

Series: Analysis of Conflicts in Contemporary Lebanon: the social effects of political and legal measures targeting Syrian refugees in Lebanon – a research and policy agenda

In this series, Lebanon Support analysed the social and anthropological effects of the Lebanese Government policies on Syrian refugees’ daily lives. In this regard a series of three reports, a policy brief, and an infographic were published.

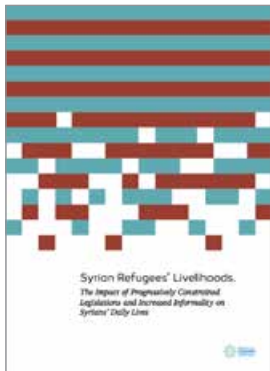


[Formal Informality, Brokering Mechanisms, and Illegality. The Impact of the Lebanese State's Policies on Syrian Refugees' Daily Lives](#)

Date of publication: September 2016

This report seeks to provide an overview of Lebanon's current policy towards Syrian refugees, and to explore the new rules and regulations issued by General Security regarding the entry, residency and departure of Syrian nationals. It also analyses the challenges per-

taining to the current policy and its impact on the daily lives of Syrian refugees, with a special focus on their emerging illegality, their struggle for decent livelihood and working conditions, and increased informality and insecurity.

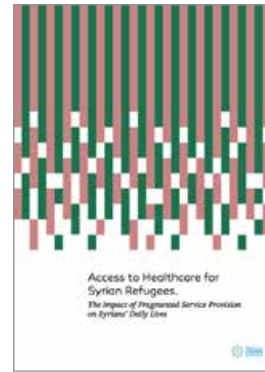


[Syrian Refugees' Livelihoods. The Impact of Progressively Constrained Legislations and Increased Informality on Syrians' Daily Lives](#)

Date of publication: October 2016

This report examines both the historical development and current situation of Syrians working in Lebanon through the analysis of policies established and implemented by the Lebanese government. While the report is not an assessment of these policies, it nevertheless reflects

on its impact on Syrians' working conditions and livelihoods. In this vein, this report notably focuses on emerging dynamics of increased informality, exploitation, and dependence.

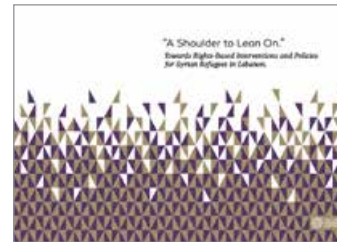


[Access to Healthcare for Syrian Refugees. The Impact of Fragmented Service Provision on Syrians' Daily Lives.](#)

Date of publication: November 2016

This report aims to explore the fragmented organisation of healthcare services in Lebanon, for Syrian refugees. This report reflects on the challenges and underlying dynamics of the current Lebanese system, which are reproduced in the healthcare provision for Syrian refugees.

In this sense, the report highlights the privatised, rather ad hoc, and irregular provision of healthcare in Lebanon, notably for Syrian refugees, which tends to take on a more curative rather than preventive approach, resulting in significant costs on patients. Consequently, a great number of vulnerable Lebanese and non-Lebanese residing in Lebanon, notably Syrian refugees, are unable to access health services.



["A Shoulder to Lean On." Towards Rights-Based Interventions and Policies for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon.](#)

Date of publication: November 2016

This policy brief analyses the socio-political implications of the last governmental policy, and suggests legislative, political,

and practical measures to improve the situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. It also aims to inform policy formulation regarding Syrian refugees from a human rights-based perspective, while discussing modalities for enhanced programming at the civil society level.

C. The Humanitarian Knowledge Base, in partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC

The [Humanitarian Knowledge Base](#) aims at documenting, analysing, and reflecting on humanitarian crises in view of consolidating these experiences, tools and practices and learn from local initiatives. The project aims to provide a platform for the planning, design, and development of effective, efficient and coordinated initiatives in crisis preparedness, management and recovery as well as to reduce and mitigate vulnerabilities.

Through this project, Lebanon Support intends to provide comprehensive analytical tools to facilitate the development of adequate emergency and crisis plans so as to reduce and mitigate vulnerabilities, notably of marginalised populations. Ultimately, beyond mere planification and mitigation objectives, the project seeks to explore tools that can help avoid the eruption of future potential crises and conflicts in Lebanon. The Humanitarian Knowledge Base includes data and evidence-based research and analysis, resources, an interactive mapping of local actors, and an aggregated online library on humanitarian work and concerns in Lebanon, and aims to develop best practices indicators for humanitarian work in the country.

The Humanitarian Knowledge Base is currently composed of:

- a. [Research & Analysis](#): A series of analytical research papers on humanitarian responses and actors in Lebanon;
- b. [Humanitarian Library](#): An openly accessible library with resources relevant to humanitarian aid and development;
- c. [Investigative Articles](#): A series of investigative articles focusing on specific topics regarding humanitarian action in Lebanon;
- d. [Events Summaries & audio](#): An archive of past roundtables, discussions and events organised within this project;

- e. [Calls and Announcements](#): Calls for papers on Civil Society Response and humanitarian action related topics.

Selected Publications within the Humanitarian Knowledge Base in 2016

[The role of Community Based Organisations in preparing and responding to crisis in Lebanon, a qualitative study](#)

Date of publication: January 2016

This study explores the role of community-based organisations



in preparing for and responding to crisis in Lebanon. While there has been considerable work conducted on preparedness, responsiveness and recovery to crisis in Lebanon, there has been little work so far that focuses on measuring and assessing the capacities, expertise, strengths and weaknesses of local CBOS in preparing and responding to crises. Managers and decisions makers from nine different organisations were interviewed on the overall expertise gained

in past conflicts since the civil war as well as their current level of preparedness and responsiveness to contemporary and future crisis. They were also interviewed on their perceived role of INGOs, the state and the community in facilitating or hindering the process of crisis management. The following main recommendations were generated from the analysis of the transcripts: a) A more inclusive, integrated and activated role for the CBOs in the national disaster risk strategy and the national response plan; b) capitalising and building on the experiences and capacities of CBOs by producing a local form of preparedness and responsiveness to crisis; c) reinforcing and empowering the community's own forms of local preparedness and responsive to crises.



[The Basic Guidebook for Emerging Collectives, Cooperatives and NGOs in Lebanon \(bilingual\)](#)

Date of publication: March 2016

This resource aims to provide the tools and know-how to establish an organisation or collective and operate in Lebanon. It provides the basics relevant to establishing and running an NGO or unregistered group in Lebanon.

The Guidebook presents the information in both English and Arabic.

[D. The History of Conflicts Project, in partnership with the Forum Civil Peace Service \(forumZFD\)](#)

The [History of Conflicts Project](#) aims at understanding conflictuality in Lebanon from a historical perspective, and analysing the histories, norms and contestations of conflict and political violence in Lebanon. The History of Conflicts Project makes available an interactive mapping of “Lebanon’s Legacy of Political Violence (1975-2008)”, interactive timelines of different periods that saw an escalation of violence, a database of post-1990 reconciliatory initiatives in the country, and an aggregated online library on themes pertaining to historical conflicts in Lebanon.

Lebanon Support intends to develop, within this project, more qualitative and quantitative components on the tensions, conflicts, and war genealogies in Lebanon.

The **History of Conflicts Project** is currently composed of:

- a. The [Data Centre](#) including:
 - The “[Mapping of Political Violence in Lebanon \(1975-2008\)](#)” which gathers incidents of political violence and human rights violations that occurred in Lebanon between 1975 and 2008 all in one interactive mapping;
 - The “[Mapping of initiatives addressing conflicts in Lebanon](#)”, that lists initiatives addressing war and conflicts in Lebanon since 1990, whether carried out by organisations or individuals. The database provides an overview and description of each initiative. Initiatives are classified under three overall objectives: Compensation; Disarmament and Amnesty; Truth and Reconciliation;
- b. [Resources Library](#): An openly accessible library with resources relevant to transitional justice, post-conflict situations, and historical conflict;
- c. [Spot on Events](#): Interactive timelines of different periods in Lebanon’s history that saw an escalation in violence.

5.3| Civil Society Incubator

Building on the informal support and coaching Lebanon Support has been providing over the years through its first two programmes, Daleel Madani and the Civil Society Knowledge Centre, Lebanon Support formalised these efforts in a new collaborative programme: the Civil Society Incubator, officially launched in 2016. Through its Incubator, Lebanon Support shares its expertise of over 10 years.

The Incubator is designed to foster the creation, development, and growth of local civil society and public action initiatives, organisations, or projects. Incubation at Lebanon Support is done through an array of services such as provision of office space, coaching and mentoring on technical issues, management, administrative matters, research, advocacy, networking, and web development among others.

Lebanon Support's Incubator programme does not follow a ready-made format, but is rather designed and tailored based on the needs of the partner.

6| Civil Society Review



The Civil Society Review is the first peer-reviewed publication in Lebanon dedicated to civil society issues from the multi-disciplinary

perspectives of academics, experts, NGO workers, practitioners, and activists. The objective of the Civil Society Review is to bring civil society practitioners, experts and researchers together to develop and disseminate knowledge, as well as to innovate new tools and practices so as to strengthen Lebanon's civil society.

The Civil Society Review produces evidence-based research and analysis, and disseminates findings and recommendations to promote civic engagement, shape policies, and stimulate debate within the civil society spheres in Lebanon.

Issue 1 of the Civil Society Review “Revisiting Inequalities in Lebanon: the case of the “Syrian refugee crisis” and gender dynamics”, published in 2015, is since the end of 2016 in full open access on the Civil Society Knowledge Centre.

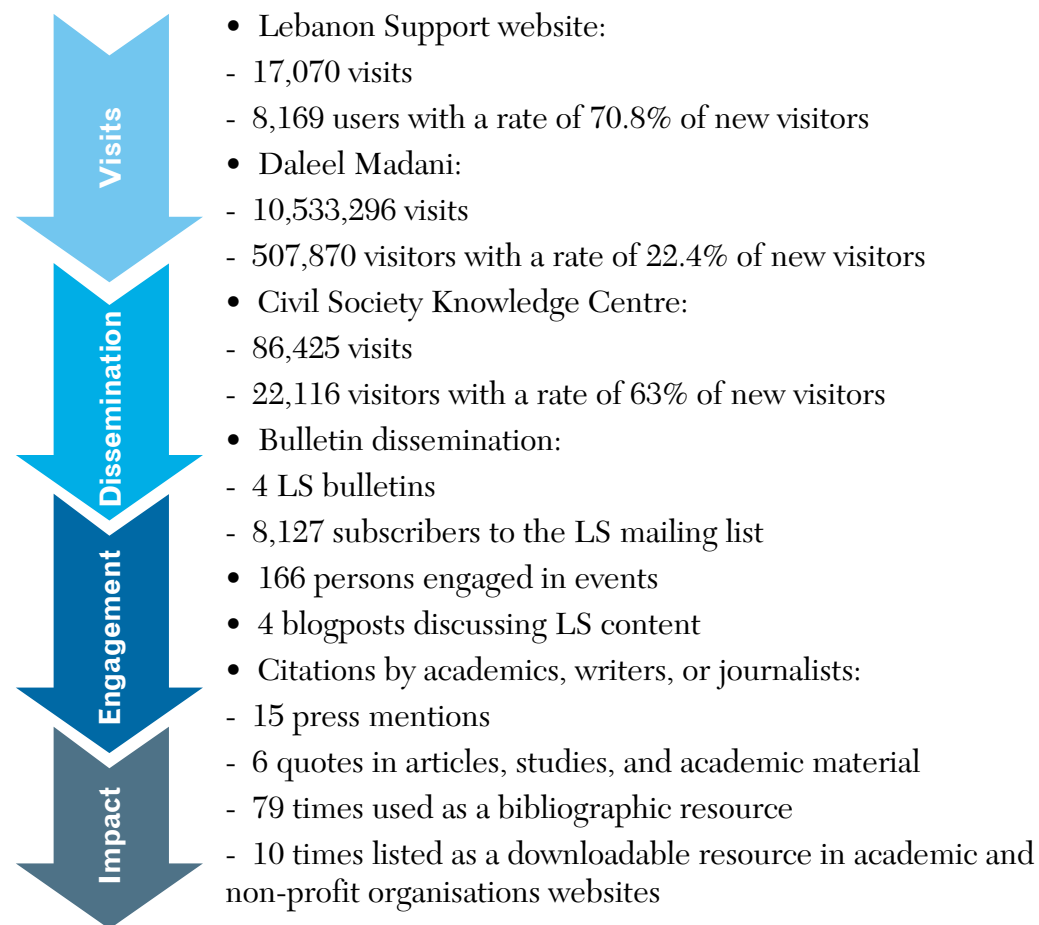
Issue 2 of the Civil Society Review, “Lebanese, refugee, and migrant women in Lebanon: From sociopolitical marginality to turn-around strategies”, was published in 2016.

The print version is available free of charge for civil society organisations at the Lebanon Support office. It can also be purchased at our office and in local bookstores.

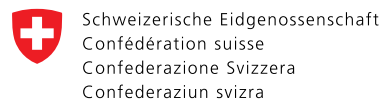
7| Our impact

Lebanon Support's research and knowledge products have been widely disseminated in 2016 and shared by several newspapers and expert sources. Given our participatory and localised approach to knowledge production, professionals, academics, and activists were involved in the development of our research and thus, more engaged in the active dissemination of the research.

Our impact can be measured based on the following metrics:



8| Our main partners for 2016



**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**

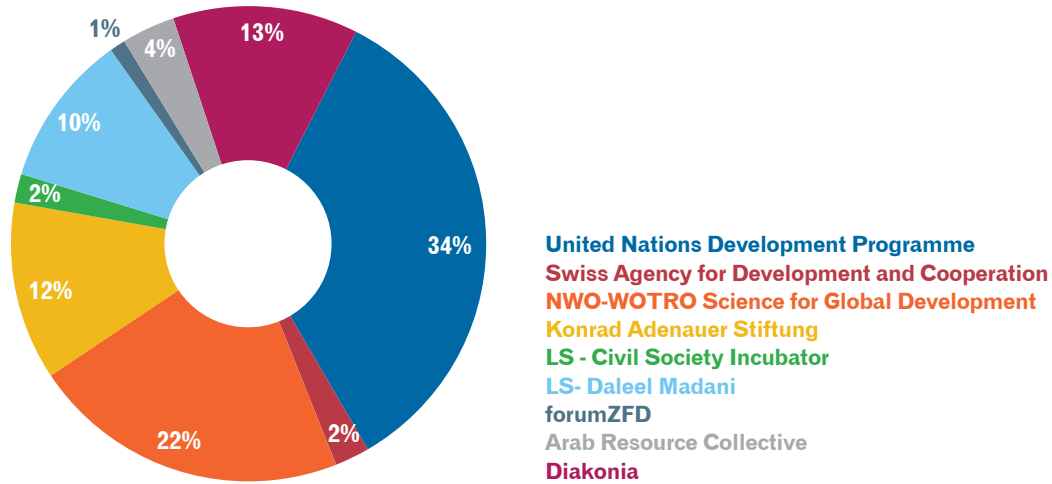


ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

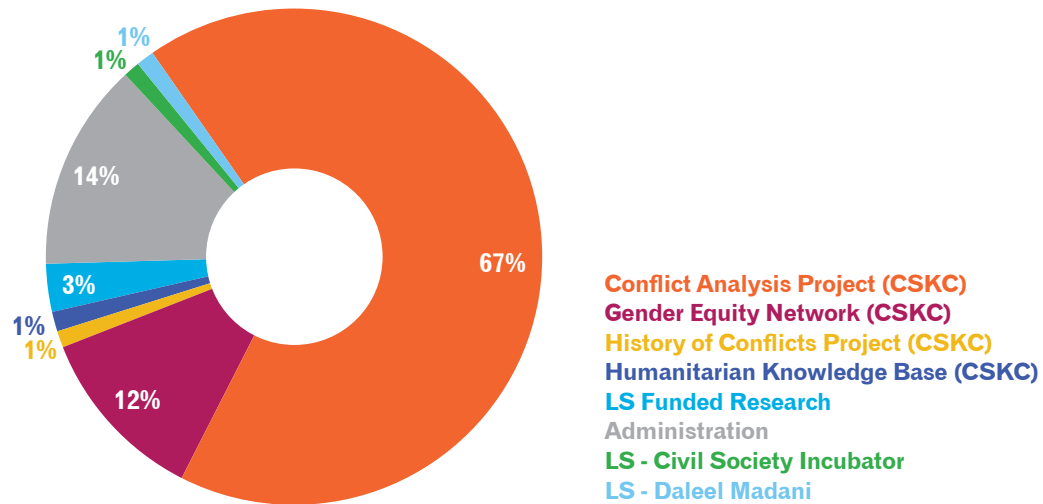


9| Budget and Sources of Funding

Lebanon Support's income sources



Lebanon Support's expenses by department



10| **Our team**

Marie-Noëlle AbiYaghi

Head Of Research

Léa Yammine

Director Of Publications

Rola Saleh

Project and Research Officer

Risha Jagarnathsingh

Project and Research Officer

Eugenia Mulè

Project Officer

Farah Awada

Financial Manager

Zahra Haidar

Accountant

Walid Abou Saifan

ICT Expert

Ali Najjar

ICT Assistant

