INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

Eight years into the Syria conflict, Lebanon remains at the forefront of one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time. The Government of Lebanon (GoL) estimates that the country hosts 1.5 million[1] of the 6.7 million[2] Syrians who have fled the conflict since 2011 (including 919,578 registered with UNHCR as of end of September 2019[3]). The Syrian refugee population in Lebanon remains the largest concentration of refugees per capita in the world.

The 2019 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) is the seventh annual survey assessing the situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon to identify changes and trends in vulnerability. The context is continually evolving, and the VASyR is the only assessment in Lebanon covering all sectors on a yearly basis.

PURPOSE

The VASyR is an essential tool for planning, decisions and needs-based programme design. Results of the VASyR are used by ten sectors under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) to understand the evolving situation in Lebanon year after year, to set targets for the coming year and to advocate for funding from donors. The VASyR has also been used to build targeting models, for instance to predict socio-economic vulnerability. Results of the VASyR are used to show geographical variance in vulnerabilities at governorate and district levels, which can feed into the situation analysis. Annual repetition of the assessment also provides a picture on trends.

Key objectives of the VASyR:

1. To provide a multisectoral overview/ update of the vulnerability situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon through an annual household survey. This assessment offers an understanding of the economic situation, food security, shelter living conditions, coping strategies, access to services, the situation specifically for women and children, and more. The information feeds into the situational analysis of the LCRP, as well as informs the planning processes of local government agencies, donor countries and NGOs.

2. To enhance targeting for the provision of assistance. The VASyR is used to build or revise targeting models like the targeting formula to predict socio-economic vulnerability, which in turn is used for targeting for cash and food assistance. The VASyR collects data necessary to inform other targeting approaches, for instance on protection risks or shelter vulnerability, and to identify most vulnerable areas.

3. To contribute to the LCRP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework. For instance, results from the VASyR are used to measure whether sector objectives (outcomes) have been achieved. The VASyR is also used in the formulas to calculate LCRP impact indicators (e.g. protection risks).

ASSESSMENT ORGANIZATION AND SCOPE

UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP are the VASyR technical leading agencies, forming the VASyR Technical Core Group. This group is supported by the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit, and is responsible for the implementation of the assessment, providing technical insights and ensuring quality control. The inter-agency unit coordinates the VASyR process, ensuring linkages between the VASyR and the LCRP, as well as communication and feedback from the different sectors.
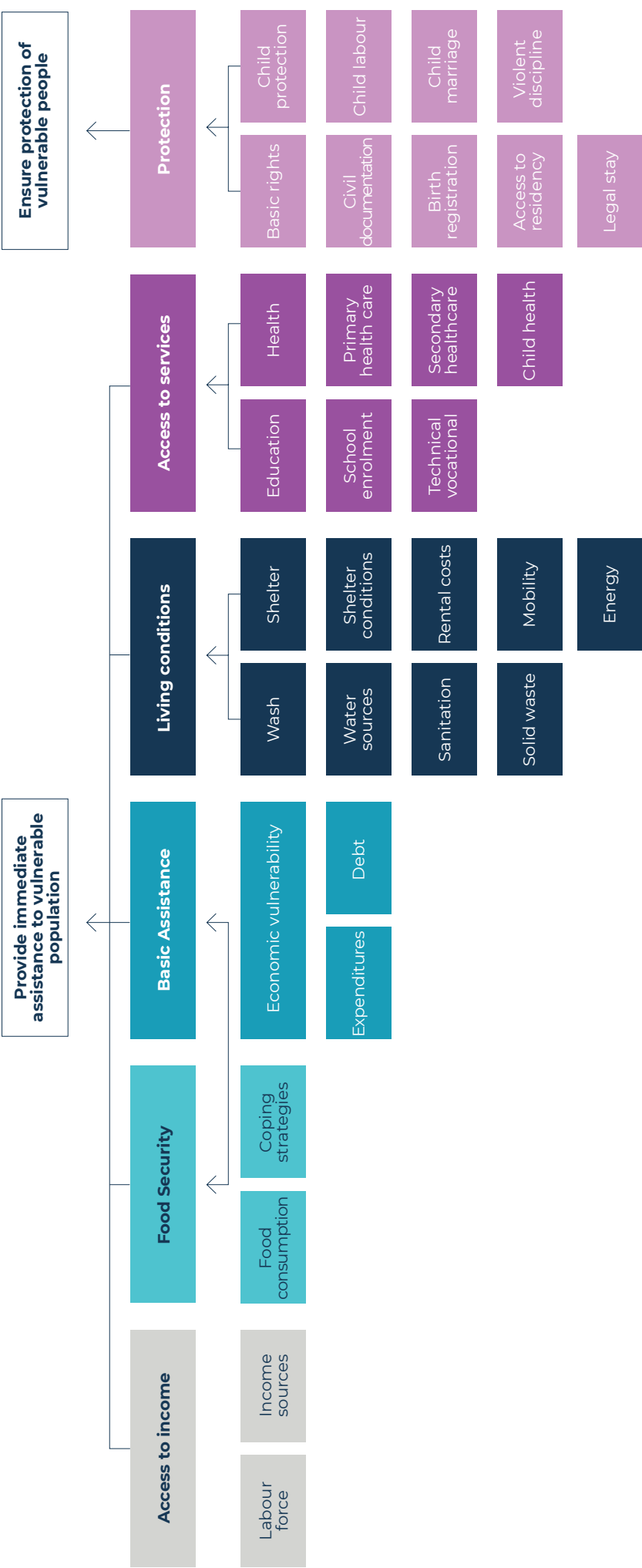
Development of the analysis plan and questionnaire began in January 2019 through rounds of feedback with the Core Group and sector experts. Data was collected from April through early May, preliminary data analysis occurred from June through August, and full analysis and report writing took place from September through November.

The following figure reflects the scope and contents of the VASyR:

[1] LCRP 2017-2020 (2019 update).
[2] **http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2018**
[3] UNHCR registration data as of 30 September 2019.

Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable population

Ensure protection of vulnerable people

Access to income
- Labour force
- Income sources

Food Security
- Food consumption
- Coping strategies

Basic Assistance
- Economic vulnerability
  - Expenditures
  - Debt

Living conditions
- Shelter
  - Shelter conditions
  - Rental costs
  - Mobility
  - Energy
- Wash
  - Water sources
  - Sanitation
  - Solid waste

Access to services
- Health
  - Primary health care
  - Secondary healthcare
  - Child health
- Education
  - School enrolment
  - Technical vocational

Protection
- Basic rights
  - Child protection
  - Civil documentation
  - Birth registration
  - Access to residency
  - Legal stay
- Child labour
- Child marriage
- Violent discipline

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The analysis for this report was coordinated by three UN agencies. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the lead for on demographics, protection, shelter, health and assistance, while the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) is the lead for WASH, youth, education, child protection, child health, child nutrition, and infant and young child feeding, and children with disabilities. Both agencies commissioned InfoPro[4] to generate the data tabulation based on an analysis plan. UNHCR and UNICEF used the data tabulation to conduct an in depth analysis and write the chapters internally. The World Food Programme (WFP) is the lead agency for economic vulnerability, livelihoods, food consumption, coping strategies and food security and conducted the data analysis internally. Coordinators from the three agencies oversaw the relevant chapters in the VASyR.

The input of the different sectors was channeled through existing working groups throughout the survey process, including through a series of workshops and consultations. For additional details on the implementation of the survey, see the Methodology chapter.

[4] **http://www.infopro.com.lb**