



Analysis Report 2024

Child Protection in Lebanon: Escalating Risks Amidst
Crisis and Systemic Gaps

Child Protection Sector | 2024
Case Management Task Force | PSS Committee

May 2025

Table of contents

3	Data Source and Methodology
4	Data Presentation
5	Regional Distribution of cases
5	Focus on Syrian Refugee Children
6	Gender Dimension and Age Group Analysis
6	Common Protection Issues
7	Children in the Justice System
7	Alternative Care
8	Focused Psychosocial Support (PSS)
9	Community-Based Psychosocial Support (CBPSS)
10	Capacity Building
10	Impact and Urgency
11	Conclusion
11	Recommendations and Call to Action
12	Lessons Learned During Emergency
14	List of Child Protection Partners Reporting CM in 2024
15	List of Donors Funding the Child Protection Partners
16	References



Data Source and Methodology

All data presented in this report is based on reporting submitted by Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) partners throughout 2024 via the ActivityInfo platform, under the Child Protection portal. Data collection aligns with the CPWG logical framework and its established indicators. It also includes observations from the field by child protection actors. The data was verified and cleaned by the CPWG coordination team, in collaboration with the Case Management Task Force and PSS Committee focal points, to ensure accuracy and consistency.

For further insights and detailed breakdowns, the source data is available on the [Lebanon Response Plan – Child Protection Working Group Dashboard](#).

Data Presentation

In 2024, Lebanon faced a severe child protection crisis, exacerbated by economic collapse, displacement, and regional conflict.

Over **11,318** child protection case management cases were reported (**39%** are girls), with a significant number involving Syrian refugee children, who are particularly vulnerable due to displacement and lack of legal protection.

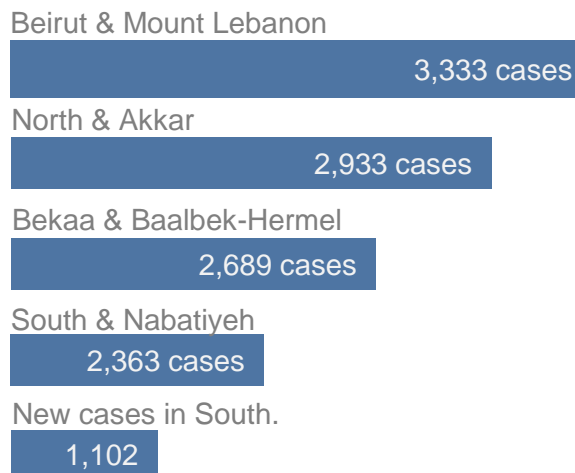
Alarmingly, over **55%** of cases under case management were classified as high-risk, posing immediate threats to children's well-being, of which **9.7%** of cases were referred to the judicial system. This increase in child protection needs was coupled with reduced capacity among State institutions and NGO service providers to cater to the needs of the affected children in a timely and adequate manner. For example, the Palace of Justice in Nabatiyeh was closed for several months, and many justice professionals including judges were themselves displaced, thus causing delays in the administration of justice procedures. In addition, NGO centers were affected and some rendered non-operational.

The situation was further aggravated by high levels of household stress, a significant decline in the psychosocial wellbeing of children and their caregivers leading to increased domestic violence, physical abuse, and children in conflict with the law. According to the latest Child Protection Sector dashboard, **16,274** children and **12,939** caregivers received Focused Psychosocial Support (FPSS) services. Despite reaching over **83,415** individuals with child protection programming, many still require assistance; and for many who were able to receive support, adequate levels of follow-up were not always available.

In 2024, Over **11,318** child-protection case management cases were reported (**39%** are girls)

Regional Distribution of cases

In 2024, the highest number of cases referred to case management was reported in Beirut and Mount Lebanon (**3,333**), followed by the North and Akkar (**2,933**), Bekaa and Baalbek-Hermel (**2,689**), and the South and Nabatiyeh (**2,363**). The recent conflict escalation further exacerbated the situation, contributing to **1,102** new cases, predominantly in the South.



Focus on Syrian Refugee Children

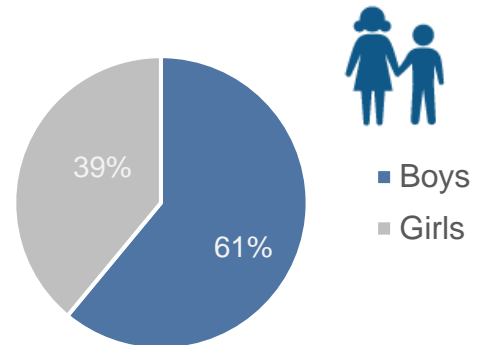
Nearly **70%** of reported cases involved Syrian refugee children, underscoring their heightened vulnerability due to displacement, poverty, and lack of legal protection. Child protection actors reported that Syrian refugee children, the largest vulnerable group, face disproportionate challenges and limited access to services, education, and psychosocial support due to mobility restrictions, stigma, legal residency and documentation. Lebanese children accounted for over **21%** of the cases, indicating that the crisis affects all communities amid Lebanon’s socioeconomic collapse.

The displacement of Lebanese children, compounded by prolonged crises, has severely undermined traditional family and community coping mechanisms—exposing children to heightened protection risks, including exploitation, neglect, child labor and psychosocial distress.

Nearly **70%** of reported cases involved Syrian refugee children, underscoring their heightened vulnerability due to displacement, poverty, and lack of legal protection.

Gender Dimension and Age Group Analysis

The data reveals a gender dimension: **61%** of cases involved boys, often linked to child labor or legal conflicts. Girls, representing **39%**, are likely underreported due to cultural stigma and silence surrounding sexual and gender-based violence. More than **half** of the affected children were adolescents **aged 12 to 17**—a critical age where exposure to violence, exploitation, and neglect can have long-term consequences for mental health and development.



Many children experienced multiple forms of harm, including neglect, domestic violence, and physical abuse.

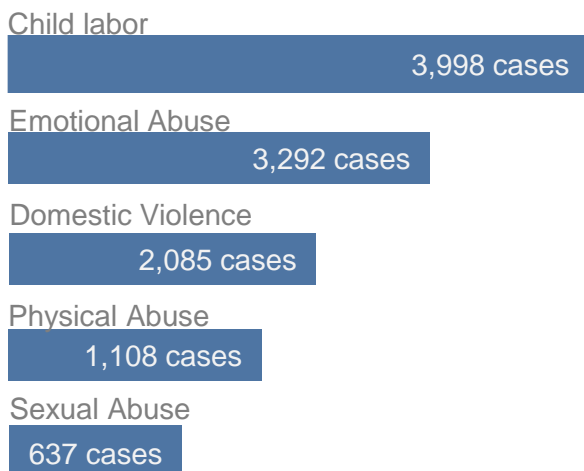
Common Protection Issues

Child labor and emotional abuse were the most reported protection issues under case management, affecting **3,998** and **3,292** children respectively. For **child labor**, the cases were distributed as follows: Akkar (600 cases), Baalbek El Hermel (416 cases), Beirut (148 cases), Bekaa (508 cases), Mount Lebanon (991 cases), Nabatiyeh (182 cases), North (641 cases), South (512 cases). Many children experienced multiple forms of harm, including neglect, domestic violence, and physical abuse.

The data shows **2,085** cases of domestic violence, **1,108** cases of physical abuse, and **637** cases of sexual abuse, reflecting a complex web of child protection challenges in Lebanon, where violence increasingly occurs within the home.

Cross-border movements, whether to or from Syria, posed additional risks to children, such as separation from their families, exposures to EORE, and limited access to services due to lack of civil documentation.

Common Protection Issues



Children in the Justice System

The high number of domestic and physical abuse cases points to growing household stress driven by economic collapse, overcrowding, and psychological strain. Additionally, the **922** cases of children in contact with the law highlight rising number of children in the justice system, often linked to poverty, school dropout, and lack of safe recreational spaces. Also, justice partners have reported intensifying violence, particularly for cases of violence against children at home.

Alternative Care

The 2024 Alternative Care Dashboard reveals critical insights into child protection trends, emphasizing the growing importance of adopting a family-centered approach in case management. On the service delivery front, the steady rise in cases supporting parents—from **88** in 2021 to **199** in 2024—and the surge in kinship care involvement reflect a strategic shift toward early intervention, reintegration, and community-based models over institutional placements.

The 2024 data on children at risk of separation that were supported through case management in Lebanon, particularly those affected by neglect and separation, shows a significant and concerning increase in both new and ongoing cases, with a total of 1,580 cases reported (**1,073** old and **507** new), compared to **1,039** in 2023 and just **236** in 2022.

This sharp increase reflects not only growing vulnerability but also potentially improved detection and reporting. Syrian children make up the overwhelming majority (**73%**) of these cases, highlighting the disproportionate impact of displacement and instability on refugee populations, followed by Lebanese (**17.6%**) and Palestinian (**2.8%**) children.

Alternative Care

Of the new cases of children at high risk of separation and those already separated in 2024 who were supported through case management services, **113** involved children separated from their families with a judicial file and **62** without, pointing to diverse entry points into the child protection system and a potential gap in formal oversight. The approval of only **32** host families for the year illustrates a stark mismatch between needs and available alternative care options, and more specifically, family and community-based options. While **146** cases were closed with positive outcomes, suggesting some programmatic success, the overall data underscores mounting pressure on the child protection system and an urgent need to scale up interventions that support unnecessary separation of children from their families and community-based, and family-oriented responses.

Of the new cases of children at high risk of separation and those already separated in 2024 who were supported through case management services in 2024, 113 involved children separated from their families with a judicial file and 62 without, pointing to diverse entry points into the child protection system and a potential gap in formal oversight.

Focused Psychosocial Support (FPSS)

Lebanon continues to experience overlapping crises that significantly impact the wellbeing of children and caregivers. The protracted economic collapse, political instability, and the aftermath of the Beirut port explosion have created a high-stress environment, further compounded by widespread poverty and limited access to services (*World Bank, 2023*). The ongoing Syrian refugee crisis has also led to overcrowded communities and stretched resources, increasing tensions and risks of domestic violence and neglect (*UNHCR, 2024*).

Moreover, the spillover effects of regional conflicts, particularly the Gaza war in 2023–2024, have heightened insecurity and fear among both Lebanese and refugee populations (*OCHA, 2024*). Children and caregivers are increasingly exposed to emotional abuse, chronic stress, and disrupted support systems, making focused psychosocial support interventions vital. Caregivers, who often bear the burden of economic and emotional stress, are at risk of mental health deterioration, which directly affects their capacity to nurture and protect their children (*UNICEF, 2024*).

Focused Psychosocial Support (FPSS)

Addressing their wellbeing through structured and focused activities is essential for enhancing resilience and fostering recovery.

Focused PSS interventions targeted children and caregivers experiencing high levels of distress, often due to living in high-risk environments and exposure to trauma, emotional abuse, neglect, or chronic stress.

12,939 caregivers were engaged in wellbeing activities as their mental health directly influences children's recovery.

Community-Based Psychosocial Support (CBPSS)

In times of war and protracted crisis, Community-Based Psychosocial Support (CBPSS) becomes essential for fostering a sense of safety, normalcy, and belonging among children. The ongoing instability in Lebanon and the region exposes children to continuous stress, fear, and disrupted routines, increasing their vulnerability (UNICEF, 2024).

CBPSS offers a protective environment where children can build resilience through peer support and structured activities. It also helps identify those in need of more specialized care, serving as an entry point for further protection services. Amid escalating tensions and displacement, these community-level interventions are critical for maintaining children's emotional and social well-being (OCHA, 2024). Community-Based Psychosocial Support (CBPSS) is a cornerstone of child protection in Lebanon where **97,323** children were reached through structured group activities, life skills sessions, and recreational programming within their communities. **26,020** caregivers were supported through positive parenting program.

In times of war and protracted crisis, CBPSS becomes essential for fostering a sense of safety, normalcy, and belonging among children

Capacity Building

Capacity building for NGOs is essential to ensure that staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to safeguard children effectively. It strengthens their ability to identify and respond to risks, manage cases ethically, and provide trauma-informed support. Moreover, it fosters compliance with national and international child protection standards, enhances coordination with other service providers, and builds trust within communities. Ultimately, investing in capacity building not only improves the quality of care and protection for children but also reinforces the resilience and accountability of the organizations themselves. In 2024, **3,100** government staff and humanitarian actors were trained on Child Protection (CP) topics.

In 2024, 3,100 government staff and humanitarian actors were trained on Child Protection (CP) topics.

Impact and Urgency

Regional data in 2024 highlights the urgency of the situation, with Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, and the South identified as key hotspots. These areas are heavily impacted by poverty, high population density, and recent escalations in violence. Alarming, **over 55%** of case management cases reported were classified as high-risk, posing an immediate threat to children's well-being.

Alarming, over 55% of case management cases reported were classified as high-risk, posing an immediate threat to children's well-being

Conclusion

These figures not only reflect a worsening child protection situation but also an overwhelmed and under-resourced system. In this context, the provision of case management services is essential. It ensures that vulnerable children receive tailored support, regular follow-up, and access to essential services. Investing in case management is crucial to strengthening child protection: intervening early, responding effectively, and preventing further harm. To address the current challenges, scaling up Focused PSS is essential. This requires investing in trained facilitators, expanding access in underserved areas like Akkar and Nabatiyeh, and integrating psychosocial support into all levels of the humanitarian response.

Recommendations and Call to Action

- Scale up case management services across all regions, with a focus on timely identification, holistic support, and safe referral mechanisms.
- Prioritize investment in Focused and Community-Based Psychosocial Support, ensuring qualified personnel, adequate coverage, and sustained funding.
- Strengthen accountability mechanisms, including referrals to the judicial system, to break the cycle of impunity.
- Target underserved and high-risk areas such as Akkar, Nabatiyeh, and South Lebanon for urgent intervention.
- Integrate child protection across all sectors of the humanitarian and development response recognizing it as lifesaving.
- Scale up child labor prevention and response programs by linking vulnerable families to cash assistance, education, and protection services.
- Strengthen enforcement of child labor laws through collaboration with municipalities and relevant ministries. (MoJ, MoL, MEHE, MOSA)
- Investing in parenting programs is essential to equip caregivers with the skills to provide safe, nurturing, and non-violent environments for their children.

These figures not only reflect a worsening child protection situation but also an overwhelmed and under-resourced system.

Lessons Learned During Emergency

- 1. Adaptability of Case Management in Crises:** Case management systems must be flexible and responsive to operate during conflict and displacement. This includes the capacity for remote service delivery when institutions are closed or staff are relocated, maintaining updated referral pathways, and adapting tools and communication methods to the context. Partners are encouraged to consult the CP Alliance’s Guidance on Case Management During Programme Closures to inform adaptive practices.
- 2. Urgent Scale-Up of Protection Services in High-Risk Areas:** Regions such as **Akkar, Nabatiyeh, and South** Lebanon face heightened vulnerability and limited access to services. A tailored scale-up of child protection interventions in these areas is critical to meet the growing needs of affected children and families.
- 3. Integration of Focused PSS into Case Management:** With rising levels of emotional distress among children and caregivers, the integration of PSS into case management is essential.

This should be tailored to crisis-specific needs, including child labour, emotional well-being, and severe distress among adolescents, ensuring a holistic response that supports mental health and protection outcomes

4. Inclusive Programming for Refugees and Host Communities: Protection risks are increasing not only for Syrian refugee children—due to legal and mobility barriers—but also for vulnerable Lebanese children. Programming must be inclusive, ensuring that both refugee and host community children are equally reached through needs-based and equitable interventions.

5. Multisectoral Response to Child Labour: Child labour continues to pose serious risks and requires a coordinated, multisectoral approach that integrates protection, education, and livelihoods support. Cross-sector collaboration is vital to address both immediate and structural causes of child labour.

Lessons Learned During Emergency

6. Family-Based Interventions to Address Abuse and Caregiver Stress

Socioeconomic stress exacerbates domestic and emotional abuse, underscoring the importance of family-based interventions. Parenting programs (MHPSS Level 2) and emotional support for caregivers (MHPSS Level 3) are essential. The inclusion of the IASC MHPSS Pyramid in programming materials can guide actors in delivering tiered psychosocial support. IASC Guidelines on MHPSS in Emergency Settings

7. Community-Based PSS as a Key Entry Point:

Community-based psychosocial support plays a critical role in early identification of at-risk children and in providing safe spaces for healing. It should be scaled up and sustained as a foundational element of the child protection response.

8. Justice System Coordination for Timely Protection:

Effective child protection requires strong coordination with justice actors. Delays in judicial processes compromise protection outcomes; therefore, joint efforts are needed to improve responsiveness and accountability within the justice system

9. Enhanced Data Systems for Informed Decision-Making:

Reliable, disaggregated, and real-time data is essential for effective planning and response. Strengthening data collection tools, improving reporting quality, and enabling real-time analysis are critical to guiding timely and targeted interventions.

10. Harmonized Guidance and Sector-Wide Endorsement:

Consistent use of endorsed sector guidance among all child protection actors ensures the quality and coherence of service delivery. During the emergency, the strong leadership of the PSS Committee highlighted the importance of coordinated, evidence-based approaches to protection programming.

List of Child Protection Partners Reporting Case Management in 2024

1. Akkar Network For Development
2. Al Fayhaa Association
3. AMEL
4. Arab Resource Center For Popular Arts
5. Association Of Volunteers In International Service
6. Caritas Lebanon
7. Concern Worldwide
8. Danish Refugee Council
9. Developmental Action Without Borders/ NABA`A
10. HIMAYA
11. International Rescue Committee
12. INTERSOS
13. KAFA
14. Key of Life
15. Makhzoumi Foundation
16. Medical Aid For Palestinians (MAP)
17. Plan International
18. Renee Mouawad Foundation
19. Save The Children International
20. SAWA Group
21. Tabitha- Dorcas Aid
22. Terre Des Hommes - Lausanne
23. Terre Des Hommes, Italy
24. The Lebanese Organization For Studies And Training
25. War Child Holland - WCH

List of Donors Funding the Child Protection Partners Reporting Case Management in 2024

1. Australia
2. ECHO
3. Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
4. Freedom fund Lebanon
5. German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)
6. International Rescue Committee (IRC)
7. Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
8. Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF)
9. Netherlands
10. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
11. Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA)
12. PRIVATE DONORS
13. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
14. Swiss Solidarity
15. Switzerland
16. UNHCR
17. UNICEF
18. US BPRM

References

- Child Protection portal (2024), *Lebanon Response Plan – Child Protection Working Group Dashboard*. from [LRP- CPWG Dashboard Link](#)
- Case management Task Force
- PSS committee
- Observations from child protection actors
- World Bank. (2023). *Lebanon Economic Monitor: The Delicate Balance of Stability and Collapse*. Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org>
- UNHCR. (2024). *Lebanon Operational Update*. Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/lb>
- OCHA. (2024). *Lebanon: Humanitarian Impact of the Gaza Conflict Spillover*. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
- UNICEF. (2024). *Child Protection and Mental Health in Lebanon: 2024 Situation Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon>
- UNICEF. (2024). *Child Protection and Mental Health in Lebanon: 2024 Situation Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon>

Document version

01

Date

28 May 2025

Changes made

Launch

Analysis Report 2024

Child Protection Sector | 2024
Case Management Task Force | PSS Committee

CP Working Group contacts

Rana Bizri

UNICEF CP Sub-Sector Coordinator
Rbizri@unicef.org

Cynthia Feghali

MoSA MOSA Sector Lead
Cynthiafeghaly.mosa@gmail.com

Lucy Atim

SCI CP Sub-Sector Co-Coordinator
Lucy.Atim@savethechildren.org

Taghrid Abdallah

Case Management Task Force
Taghrid.Abdallah@rescue.org

Ahmad Einein

PSS Committee
Ahmad.einein@rescue.org

