



Report on Naba'a's Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in South Lebanon:

Protecting Children and Displaced Families and Supporting Affected Communities

TELE

+961-7-732601

Fax

+961-7-738839

P.O.BOX

SAIDA - 607

WEBSITE

www.nabaa-lb.org

E-MAIL

nabaa@nabaa-lb.org

Executive Summary



Since the escalation of the humanitarian crisis in southern Lebanon, the response has not merely been about delivering aid, it has become a critical test of the humanitarian system's ability to uphold fundamental rights in a context marked by volatility, access constraints, and increasing insecurity.

The figures presented in this report cannot be understood in isolation. Rising displacement, the targeting of civilian infrastructure, and mounting pressure on host communities reflect a multidimensional crisis that extends beyond humanitarian need into the erosion of protection systems and human dignity.

What is unfolding is not only a crisis of needs, but a crisis of access, equity, and accountability.

Why Naba'a?



Naba'a: A Humanitarian Access Partner in Complex Environments

Strategic Positioning



In complex humanitarian settings, effective response is not determined solely by resources, but by access, trust, and adaptability.

Naba'a's added value lies in:

- Its ability to reach marginalized and hard-to-access communities, including Palestinian camps and underserved areas
- Long-standing community trust built over years of engagement
- The capacity to operate during escalation while maintaining continuity of services
- A context-driven, flexible response model

Naba'a is not simply an implementing partner, it is a critical enabler of humanitarian access where others cannot reach.

Localization as Leadership, Not Implementation



Naba'a's experience demonstrates that localization is not about shifting roles, but about redefining leadership in humanitarian response.

Local organizations:

- Do not merely implement, they enable access
- Do not only deliver, they build trust
- Do not just manage activities, they protect social cohesion

In southern Lebanon, the effectiveness of the response has been intrinsically linked to this local leadership.

Supporting local actors is therefore not optional, it is a precondition for equitable and sustainable humanitarian action.



Context Analysis: A Deepening Crisis



+Million

2,521 Martyrs
7,804 Injuries

141,733 Displaced People
690 Collective Shelters

Internally displaced

Significant Human Casualties

Pressure on shelters

Field evidence indicates a crisis that is intensifying due to:

- Recurrent and prolonged displacement
- Damage to critical infrastructure, limiting mobility and supply chains
- Increased pressure on host communities
- Declining institutional response capacity

These dynamics do not only increase needs, they actively contribute to the erosion of protection systems, particularly for children and women.

The real risk lies not only in the scale of the crisis, but in its trajectory toward prolonged vulnerability and systemic fragility.



Child Rights Under Threat: From Legal Commitment to Lived Violations



Within this context, children are among the most severely affected, facing daily violations of their fundamental rights as outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



The Impact of the Crisis on Children and Protection Risks

Displacement, disruption of education, and the absence of safe environments are not simply service gaps, they represent direct infringements on children's rights to protection, development, and well-being.

Children are increasingly exposed to:

- Interrupted or prolonged absence from education
- Psychological distress and trauma
- Child labor and economic exploitation
- Increased risk of violence, including gender-based violence
- Social exclusion and long-term developmental harm

These are not isolated outcomes of crisis, they are indicators of a system under strain, where child protection mechanisms are weakening.



The Importance of Integrating Child Protection into the Humanitarian Response

The consequences are long-term. A generation deprived of safety, education, and stability faces irreversible risks that extend beyond the immediate crisis.

Protecting children in such contexts cannot be treated as a sectoral intervention, it must serve as a guiding framework across all humanitarian action, ensuring that the best interests of the child are central to every response.

Response Approach: Beyond Service Delivery



Naba'a's response has gone beyond basic assistance, adopting an integrated model that combines:

Protection services, Education in emergencies, Psychosocial support, Direct humanitarian assistance, Livelihood support



Woman receiving psychosocial support

This approach recognizes that assistance without protection is incomplete, and that sustainable impact requires addressing interconnected vulnerabilities.

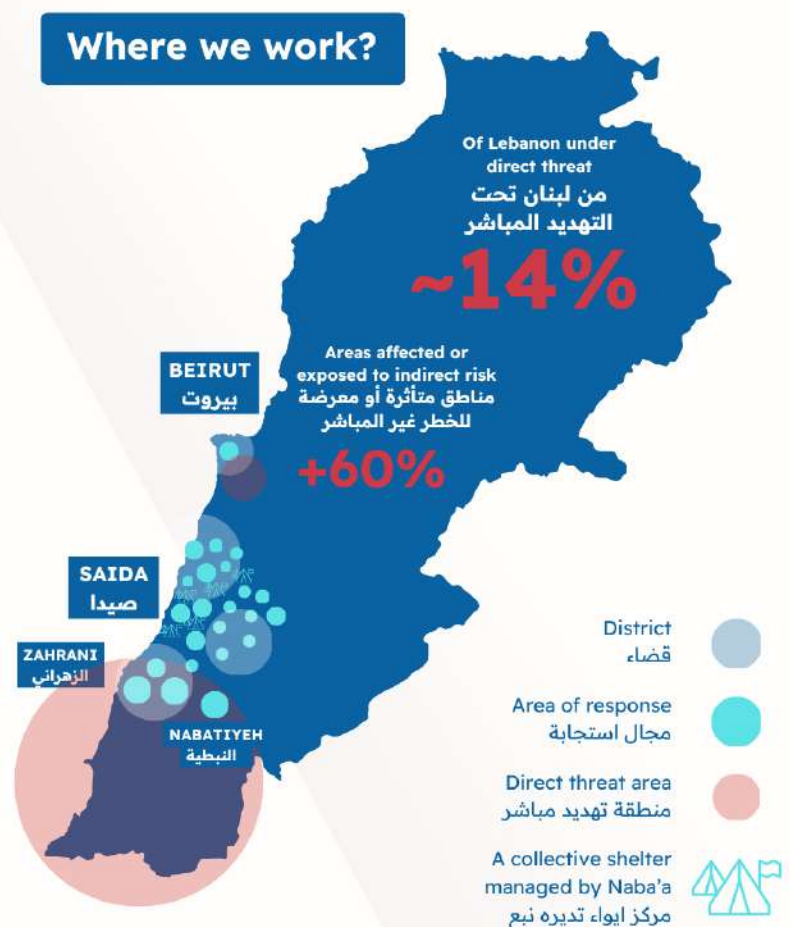
Operational Capacity: How the Response Was Delivered



Despite significant constraints, the response was sustained through:

- Strong local networks and community-based structures
- Continuous coordination with local authorities and community actors
- Flexible and adaptive access strategies
- Rapid programmatic adjustments in response to changing conditions

Field teams operated under high-risk conditions while maintaining service quality and continuity, demonstrating not only operational capacity, but deep contextual understanding.



Impact: From Outputs to Human Reality



Saeed, 12
years old

“Behind every figure is a human story”

Children regaining a sense of safety, families maintaining resilience under displacement, and individuals accessing support in moments of crisis all reflect the human dimension of the response.

Yet these gains remain fragile in the face of continued instability.

Among the testimonies received in this context:

“I miss you so much, my friends. I hope next Eid I will see you and we will play together like every year.” - Saeed, 12 years old

“I am making a bracelet as a gift for my friend; she is very dear to my heart.” - Nour, 13 years old

“I met new friends, we are playing, and I forgot the sound of rockets and war.” - Mariam, 14 years old

“I was very happy today; it is my favorite day in the activities. We are drawing and coloring.” - Sarah, 15 years old

“I want to go back to school and play with my friend.” - Fadi, 10 years old



Nour, 13
years old

Impact: From Outputs to Human Reality



“When our area was threatened, we slept in the shelter the first night, but in the morning people started pushing each other and left the area in fear.” – Fatima, 58 years old

“We were displaced from Burj El-Shemali and came to Saida. We suffered on the way. May God return us safely to our homes. We don't want anything more, you have done enough for us.” – Suzanne, 64 years old

“You cannot stay in Burj El-Shemali; the suffering is very hard. You cannot even take your child to the doctor. The road took us 6 hours because of congestion. We are 5 people, and there is no hot water here.” – Jamal, 52 years old

“The first time I met you, we are proud of you. You are not falling short. This is something that makes us proud, that you do not forget families. God willing, we will return and host you in Majdal Zoun. My arm was broken three times in this war; I never wished for this to happen to me.” – Mariam, 70 years old

“Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, with health and well-being. May God keep all mothers for their children.” – Nadia, 43 years old



Funding Gap: From Financial Constraint to Protection Failure



The funding gap is no longer a logistical challenge, it is a direct threat to rights.

Insufficient funding results in:

- Reduced protection services
- Limited psychosocial support
- Gaps in responding to gender-based violence
- Exclusion of the most vulnerable populations

In practical terms:

today's funding gap translates into tomorrow's protection failure.



Increasing risks:
Violence,
exploitation,
lack of
protection



Urgent needs:
Food,
shelter, care



390,000+
Children
affected by
displacement



**More than 1
million
Displaced
people**

Operational Challenges: What the Numbers Do Not Show



The response continues to face:

- Restricted access due to damaged infrastructure
- Security constraints affecting field operations
- Increasing pressure on human and financial resources
- Gaps in coordination across actors

Despite these challenges, operations have continued, reflecting resilience, but under significant strain.

From Response to Accountability

Humanitarian action must go beyond service delivery to include:

- Documentation of rights violations
- Amplification of affected populations' voices
- Engagement in policy influence

However, limited investment in advocacy undermines this critical dimension, weakening the broader rights-based response.



Operational Capacity: How the Response Was Delivered



1

Funding:

- Provide immediate, flexible, and multi-year funding
- Increase direct investment in local organizations

2

Protection:

- Prioritize child protection and mental health services
- Ensure protection is non-negotiable and cross-cutting

3

Access:

- Guarantee safe and unimpeded humanitarian access
- Protect humanitarian workers

4

Localization:

- Recognize local actors as leaders of response
- Enable community participation in decision-making



Conclusion



This crisis is not only humanitarian, it is a test of global commitment to human rights.

The experience on the ground demonstrates that:

- Local response works
- Communities remain resilient
- Integrated interventions produce real impact

Yet without sustained support, these efforts risk reversal.

Protecting children today is not only a humanitarian obligation, it is an investment in the stability and future of entire communities.

2 Months

of the Emergency
Humanitarian
Response

+22,350

**Children
reached**

+73,740

Beneficiaries

