

Rapid municipal assessment

Impacts of the 2026 conflict on displacement-affected municipalities in Lebanon

May 2026



UN-HABITAT

Credits and acknowledgements

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Rubble and destroyed vehicles in Tyre Municipality, April 2026. © UN-Habitat Lebanon/Hassan Srouf, 2026

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List of abbreviations and acronyms

DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
GIS	Geographic information system
HLP	Housing, land and property
IACL	Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon
IDP	Internally displaced person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UoM	Union of municipality
WaSH	Water, sanitation and hygiene



Residential buildings reduced to rubble following the 2026 conflict, Tyre Municipality, April 2026. © UN-Habitat Lebanon/Hassan Srour, 2026

Key findings

1 High population pressures



76%

of municipalities reported that the population increase was significant since the beginning of escalations in March 2026

465,000+

IDPs in surveyed municipalities post-ceasefire (as of 12 May 2026)
35% of the baseline population (as of December 2024)

3 Municipalities' main activities as part of the response



95% involved in identifying and registering IDPs

84% sharing data with government and humanitarian actors

>50% actively managing collective shelters and coordinating assistance

5 Housing challenges



55%

of municipalities reported shelter-related challenges

TOP THREE ISSUES

- Overcrowding inside and outside collective shelters (58%)
- Rising rent levels (58%)
- Limited availability of adequate housing (29%)

COLLECTIVE IDP-HOSTING SITES IN THE MUNICIPALITIES

- 82%** of municipalities rely on schools as collective shelters
- 58%** reported that collective shelters are not municipally owned
- 16%** reported hosting IDPs in open public spaces

8 Limited external support



79% of municipalities received no support

8% reported receiving meaningful assistance

2 Widespread disruption of municipal operations



89%

of municipalities reported operational disruption — 37% experiencing moderate disruption, 34% severe disruption, and 18% barely functioning

TOP THREE DRIVERS

- Overwhelming service demand linked to displacement (82%)
- Budget constraints and limited financial resources (68%)
- Equipment shortages (47%)

4 Basic services under critical strain



95%

of municipalities reported major pressure on basic services

MOST AFFECTED SECTORS

- Solid waste management (76%)
- Wastewater (66%) and water supply (63%)
- Energy and streetlighting systems (34%)

6 Infrastructure damage



24% of municipalities reported damaged or destroyed assets (buildings and infrastructure)

67% of affected assets (buildings and infrastructure) are municipally managed

7 Municipal finances under severe stress



79%

of municipalities reported increased expenditure

MAIN COST DRIVERS

- Waste management (77%)
- Water services, fuel, and staff overtime (~45%)

9 Social stability situation



74% reported no increase in tensions

24% reported slight increases

TOP THREE DRIVERS OF TENSIONS

- Overcrowding (56%)
- Pressure on public spaces (56%)
- Perceived inequities in aid distribution (44%)

10 Priority needs focused on restoring core service systems

Top priorities (reported by around **50%** of municipalities):



- Solid waste management
- Infrastructure repair

- Water and sanitation systems
- Direct financial support

- Solar energy solutions

Context

Lebanon has faced a prolonged period of instability since October 2023, when regional tensions triggered a major escalation of hostilities. What initially remained geographically contained along the country's southern border gradually extended to multiple parts of the country, including the southern suburbs of Beirut, the Bekaa, and other areas. Although a ceasefire reached in late November 2024 reduced the intensity of hostilities, the situation remained fragile, with recurring violations, numerous casualties,¹ and lasting impacts related to displacement,² infrastructure,³ and local systems.

In the months that followed, many displaced individuals returned to their communities.⁴ However, these returns occurred in a context marked by limited reconstruction, partial restoration of services, and persistent socioeconomic hardship. Both returnees and host communities continued to face constrained living conditions, amid persistent socioeconomic and service-related challenges.

These pressures further exacerbate deeper, long-standing structural challenges that have progressively weakened Lebanon's local governance system over the decades. Municipalities have long operated with limited fiscal autonomy, constrained revenue streams, and gaps in technical and administrative capacity (UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2018). Since the onset of the Syrian refugee crisis in 2011, local authorities have been required to absorb sustained population increases – placing long-term pressure on infrastructure, housing, public services, and local labour markets, often without commensurate expansion of resources or investment (Government of Lebanon and United Nations, 2024; UN-Habitat Lebanon and ESCWA, 2021). This prolonged strain has significantly eroded the ability of municipalities to respond effectively to growing and diversified needs.

The deterioration of municipal capacity has been further compounded by Lebanon's economic and financial collapse since 2019, widely considered one of the most severe globally in recent decades. The crisis has led to a sharp reduction in public revenues, significant currency depreciation, and a steep increase in operational costs, all of which have undermined municipalities' ability to maintain essential services, retain human resources, and sustain infrastructure systems (UN-Habitat Lebanon and ESCWA, 2021). As a result, many municipalities entered the 2024 and 2026 escalations already operating under conditions of diminished service capacity, deferred maintenance, and weakened institutional resilience.

More broadly, the Lebanese context is characterized by the accumulation of multiple, overlapping crises – including economic collapse, protracted refugee presence, and repeated episodes of conflict – which have collectively placed sustained pressure on local governance structures. Within this environment, municipalities have increasingly taken on

¹ As of 4 December 2024, 4,047 people had been killed and 16,638 wounded (OHCHR, 2025).

² As of 25 November 2024, around 900,000 IDPs were recorded inside and outside of collective shelters (IOM, 2024), though the actual number of IDPs was estimated to be up to 1.2 million at the peak of escalation. Collective shelters are temporary shared facilities used to host IDPs during emergencies, typically established in repurposed public buildings, most commonly public schools.

³ Including the partial or complete destruction or damage of around 64,000 buildings (corresponding to around 230,000 residential and non-residential units), according to a remote damage assessment based on post-ceasefire (December 2024/January 2025) satellite imagery analysis (UN-Habitat et al., 2025).

⁴ Around 64,000 people remained displaced, as of October 2025 (IOM, 2025).

responsibilities that exceed their available resources and capacities, often serving as the primary interface between affected populations, national institutions, and humanitarian and development actors.

This pressure on municipalities is particularly evident in contexts of active conflict. A UNDP rapid impact assessment of the 2024 escalation highlights the extent of infrastructure damage, service disruptions, and constrained recovery capacity in municipalities directly affected by damages (UNDP, 2025).

Against this backdrop, a renewed escalation in early March 2026 – linked to broader regional dynamics – triggered a new wave of mass displacement across Lebanon. Airstrikes and insecurity affected several governorates, including the South, Nabatiyeh, Bekaa, Baalbek–Hermel, and Mount Lebanon. Within days, displacement levels rose sharply, with the total number of self-registered IDPs reaching around 1,049,000 individuals,⁵ including over 141,730 being hosted in 690 collective shelters, as of 16 April 2026 (OCHA, 2026).

Despite the announcement of a ceasefire on 16 April 2026, conditions remain highly volatile. While around 185,200 IDPs are estimated to have returned to their communities as of 12 May 2026, the vast majority (around 877,400 people) remain displaced, including over 127,100 in 628 collective shelters (IOM, 2026b). Continued insecurity, unresolved damage to housing and infrastructure, and newly imposed restrictions in border areas have constrained return movements. Entire communities remain displaced due to the establishment of security zones near the border⁶ and the extent of destruction in their areas of origin, while others face significant barriers to return due to the lack of habitable housing and functioning services. As a result, displacement is expected to persist at significant levels in the short to medium term.

Within this context, municipalities have assumed a critical front-line role in responding to the crisis. As the closest level of government to affected populations, they are central to managing displacement dynamics, coordinating humanitarian assistance, supporting shelter solutions, and maintaining essential services under rapidly changing conditions. Their role extends from data collection and coordination to the management of collective shelters and the expansion of service delivery in high-pressure environments.

However, this expanded role has not been matched by corresponding increases in financial, technical or institutional support. Rapid population influxes have intensified pressure on already strained systems – particularly water, sanitation, electricity, solid waste management, and public spaces – often pushing them beyond their operational limits. At the same time, municipalities continue to face structural constraints in staffing, equipment, financing, and access to data and planning tools necessary for effective response.

⁵ According to IOM, as of 13 April 2026, the total number of IDPs was higher, at around 1,202,450 (IOM, 2026a).

⁶ The situation in the south of the country has been reshaped by new security arrangements imposed by Israeli forces, including the deployment of a new “yellow line” and creation of a buffer zone running 5–10 km deep from the border into Lebanese territory (Reuters, 2026). Residents of around 55 villages and towns located inside this zone are not allowed to return despite the ceasefire and this is expected to continue in the foreseeable future (Al Jazeera News, 2026), while communities in more than 80 adjacent localities have also been alerted by Israeli forces to remain away until further notice due to ongoing insecurity.

In areas directly affected by hostilities (not the focus of this assessment), additional challenges – including damaged infrastructure, debris accumulation, affected transport networks, and restricted mobility – have further complicated municipal operations.

Overall, the current crisis reflects the convergence of acute displacement pressures with long-standing structural weaknesses. Municipalities stand at the centre of the response, yet their capacity to sustain service delivery, support affected populations, and maintain social stability is increasingly under strain. This underscores the importance of generating municipality-level evidence to inform targeted interventions that address both immediate needs and longer-term recovery and resilience.



War-damaged buildings and debris in Tyre, Municipality, April 2026. © UN-Habitat Lebanon/Hassan Srour, 2026

Purpose

This report presents the findings of a rapid municipal assessment conducted by the UN-Habitat Lebanon Country Programme, which aims to provide an understanding of how the escalation of hostilities in March 2026 and the resulting internal displacement have affected municipalities hosting internally displaced populations across Lebanon.

Specifically, the assessment seeks to:

- Assess the impacts of displacement on municipal operations, including service delivery, institutional capacity, and available human and financial resources.
- Identify the key challenges faced by municipalities and their most urgent priority needs in the context of large-scale internal displacement.
- Provide an overview of the role of municipalities in the displacement response, while identifying gaps between support received and needs.

Overall, the assessment is intended to inform humanitarian and development actors and support evidence-based planning, resource allocation, and municipal-level interventions.

Scope

The assessment focuses on municipalities highly affected by internal displacement across Lebanon, selected based on displacement concentration and geographic distribution (See “Geographic Coverage” subsection below).

The analysis is structured around six interrelated thematic areas:

1. Population change and displacement dynamics in the municipalities
2. Municipal operations and functionality
3. Municipalities’ role in the response
4. Municipal resources, finances, and external support
5. Main challenges faced by the municipalities related to basic service delivery and urban pressures
6. Municipalities’ priority needs

Methodology

Data collection methods

The assessment adopted a rapid and adaptive approach, combining structured primary data collection with engagement with municipalities to capture evolving displacement dynamics.

A concise survey questionnaire was developed and digitized to ensure standardized data collection across targeted municipalities. The online survey questionnaire was initially piloted in three municipalities and subsequently refined to improve clarity and relevance before receiving formal clearance from the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities.

Data collection was carried out through the self-administered online survey, completed by designated municipal focal points, between 16 and 29 April 2026. The primary respondents consisted of mayors, deputy mayors, municipal council members, and other

municipal staff members, ensuring that responses reflected institutional perspectives and operational realities at the local level. More specifically, 45 per cent of the respondents were mayors, 21 per cent municipal council members, 13 per cent deputy mayors, 11 per cent other municipal staff members, and 10 per cent other focal persons.

To support participation and ensure clarity, introductory calls were conducted with representatives of municipalities and unions of municipalities (UoMs) to explain the objectives, methodology and expectations of the assessment, and for them to identify responsible focal persons. The survey was then disseminated directly to these focal persons.

Given the operational constraints faced by municipalities and the rapidly changing context, systematic follow-ups were undertaken by phone calls to improve response rates and to address incomplete or inconsistent responses.

At the same time, the assessment maintained flexibility to adapt to contextual shifts, particularly following the 16 April 2026 ceasefire. This included some quick revisions to the questionnaire – and additional phone follow-ups with municipal focal persons to ensure adjustments to already submitted responses – to capture emerging issues linked to return movements, continued displacement, and changing service pressures.

Geographic coverage

The assessment covers municipalities across Lebanon that have been significantly affected by internal displacement following the escalation of hostilities in March 2026. The selection of municipalities was guided by displacement concentration data, both within and outside collective shelters, and aimed to capture areas hosting the majority of IDPs, ensuring relevance to the evolving humanitarian context. Data on IDPs inside collective shelters was based on the Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon (IACL) dataset, while data on IDPs outside collective shelters was drawn from the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) dataset at the cadastral level.

The selection remained iterative. Initially, 52 municipalities were identified based on available displacement figures. This list was subsequently revised and expanded to a total of 59 municipalities to reflect changing displacement patterns, including movements observed following the ceasefire, as well as additional inputs from municipal and UoM focal points.

The selected municipalities spanned 16 districts across different governorates, including the governorates of Beirut, Mount Lebanon, South, North, Akkar, Bekaa, and Baalbek–Hermel. While IDP concentration was a key selection criterion, to ensure geographic diversity, on average, approximately four municipalities per district were included in the selection, with the exact number varying depending on the scale and concentration of displacement in each area. This approach ensured that the assessment captured a geographically diverse yet targeted sample of municipalities facing the highest levels of pressure.

At the time of selection, the 59 municipalities included in the selected list accounted for a significant share of IDPs, both within and outside collective shelters, highlighting their central role in the response and the intensity of pressures on local systems and services.

At the time of selection (pre-ceasefire), these municipalities hosted 68 per cent of all IDPs across Lebanon – 824,136 displaced people inside and outside collective shelters combined – against a national total of 1.2 million displaced persons. The percentage of IDPs in these municipalities represented 51 per cent compared to their pre-existing populations (IACL, 2024;⁷ IACL, 2026a; IOM, 2026a).

While the assessment aims to provide broad geographic coverage of highly affected areas, it does not represent all municipalities in Lebanon. A small number of selected municipalities declined participation or were not reachable during the data collection period. As such, findings should be understood as representative of major displacement-affected areas rather than exhaustive of all local contexts.

Coverage of responding municipalities

The analysis in this report draws on data from the 38 municipalities that responded to the questionnaire out of the 59 that were targeted (see Annex). The responding municipalities have a combined baseline population of approximately 1.32 million, as of December 2024 (IACL, 2024). Before the ceasefire, as of 14 April 2026, the surveyed municipalities accounted for 52 per cent of all IDPs nationwide, both inside and outside of collective shelters, totaling 634,017 out of an estimated 1.2 million displaced persons across the country (IOM, 2026a; IACL, 2026a). After the ceasefire, as of 12 May 2026, they continued to host 53 per cent of Lebanon's total IDP caseload – 465,217 displaced people inside and outside collective shelters combined – against a national total of 877,394 displaced persons (IACL, 2026b; IOM, 2026b).

Limitations and gaps

While the assessment provides timely insights into the impact of internal displacement on IDP-hosting municipalities, several limitations should be considered when interpreting the findings.

First, the assessment was conducted in a rapidly evolving context characterized by continuous population movements. Displacement dynamics changed frequently during the data collection period, particularly following the ceasefire and subsequent violations. As a result, the findings represent a snapshot in time and may not fully capture the fluidity of displacement patterns or the most recent developments on the ground.

Second, extensive follow-up was required to obtain complete and validated responses. Municipalities were operating under significant operational pressure, including increased service demands and limited staffing capacity, which affected both response rates and the completeness of submissions.

Third, a number of selected municipalities (21 in total) did not participate in the assessment. Of these, 2 municipalities declined to participate, mainly by expressing assessment fatigue, while the remaining 19 responded to phone calls but did not submit their responses before the set closing date of the survey. Consequently, certain local contexts or impact levels may be underrepresented in the findings.

⁷ This data is based on extrapolation of existing and available data used to generate the 2026 Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) population package.

Fourth, the data collected is largely perception-based, relying on self-reported information from municipal representatives. While this provides valuable insights into local realities and priorities, it may also introduce subjective bias, as responses reflect the perspectives and knowledge of individual respondents at the time of data collection rather than independently verified quantitative measurements.

Finally, relying on a rapid assessment primarily based on structured survey responses, the analysis is limited in the depth of qualitative insights captured. While the approach allows for broad coverage and standardized data collection in a relatively quick period of time, which is important for informing the ongoing response in a timely manner, it does not fully explore the underlying drivers, contextual nuances, and lived experiences behind the reported challenges and needs. In addition, the assessment did not aim to capture spatially disaggregated or mapped data for highlighting area-based differences, spatial inequalities, and uneven patterns of needs across locations. Future assessments could complement the findings in this report through qualitative methods – such as key informant interviews or focus group discussions – as well as spatial analysis approaches, to further refine, validate and deepen the understanding of municipal-level impacts and response dynamics.



Emergency operations and rubble removal in Tyre Municipality, April 2026. © UN-Habitat Lebanon/Mourtada Mouhanna, 2026

Population change and displacement dynamics

Almost all of the 38 surveyed municipalities (94 per cent) reported a population increase since the escalation began in March 2026. The overwhelming majority (76 per cent) described this change as significant, indicating a major displacement influx into surveyed areas (Figure 1).

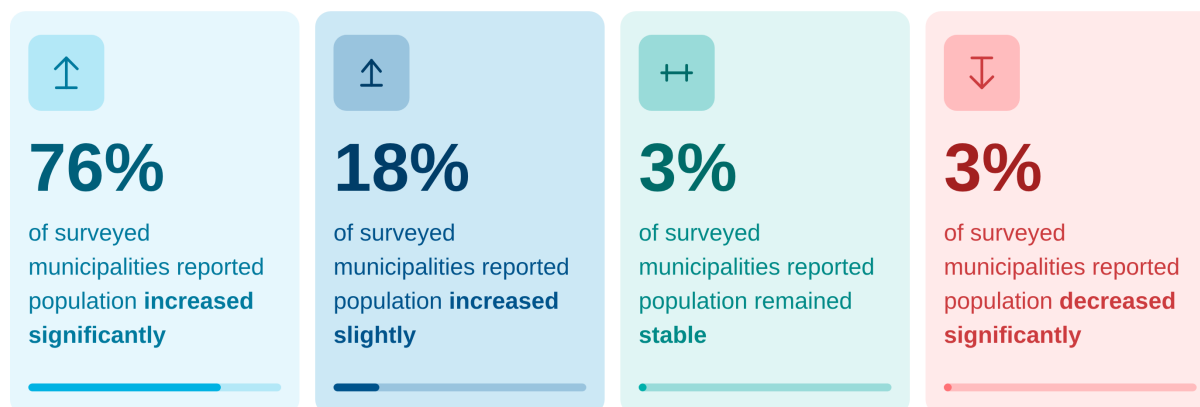


Figure 1. The change in the population of the surveyed municipalities since the onset of the March 2026 escalation of hostilities

Prior to the ceasefire, as of 14 April 2026, the surveyed municipalities hosted 634,017 IDPs, both inside and outside collective shelters, at the time of the survey (IOM, 2026a; IACL, 2026a), equivalent to 48 per cent of their combined baseline (as of December 2024) population of around 1.32 million (IACL, 2024). Following the ceasefire, as of 12 May 2026, 381,733 IDPs were outside collective shelters in the surveyed municipalities (IOM, 2026b), with an additional 83,484 inside collective shelters (IACL, 2026b). This brings the total post-ceasefire IDP population to 465,217, or 35 per cent of the December 2024 baseline – a reduction of roughly 160,000 individuals before ceasefire, reflecting early returns in the aftermath of the ceasefire. Despite this decline, displacement remains significant.

Impact of hostilities on municipal functionality

Disruption of overall municipal operations

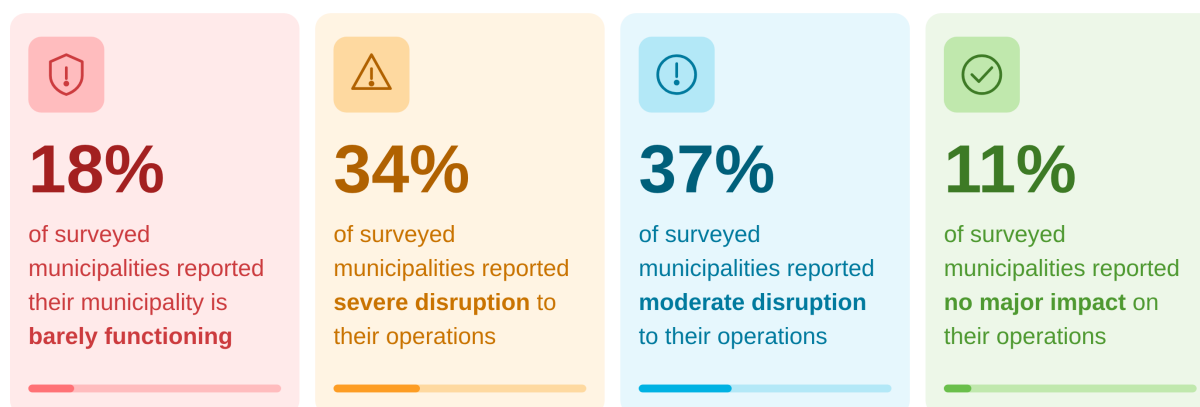


Figure 2. Level of disruption of municipal operations due to the hostilities since the March 2026 escalation

The vast majority of surveyed municipalities (89 per cent) reported some degree of operational disruption since the escalation of hostilities in March 2026 (Figure 2). This includes 37 per cent that described moderate disruption and 34 per cent severe disruption, while a further 18 per cent indicated that their municipality is barely functioning. These findings underline the widespread extent of disruption affecting municipal operations, precisely when municipalities are being called upon to respond to increased needs due to the displacement.



Emergency operations in Tyre Municipality, April 2026. © UN-Habitat Lebanon/Wissam El-Ahmad, 2026

Figure 3 presents the key drivers of operational disruption as reported by the 34 municipalities that indicated an impact on their operations. Respondents were asked to select their top three reasons.

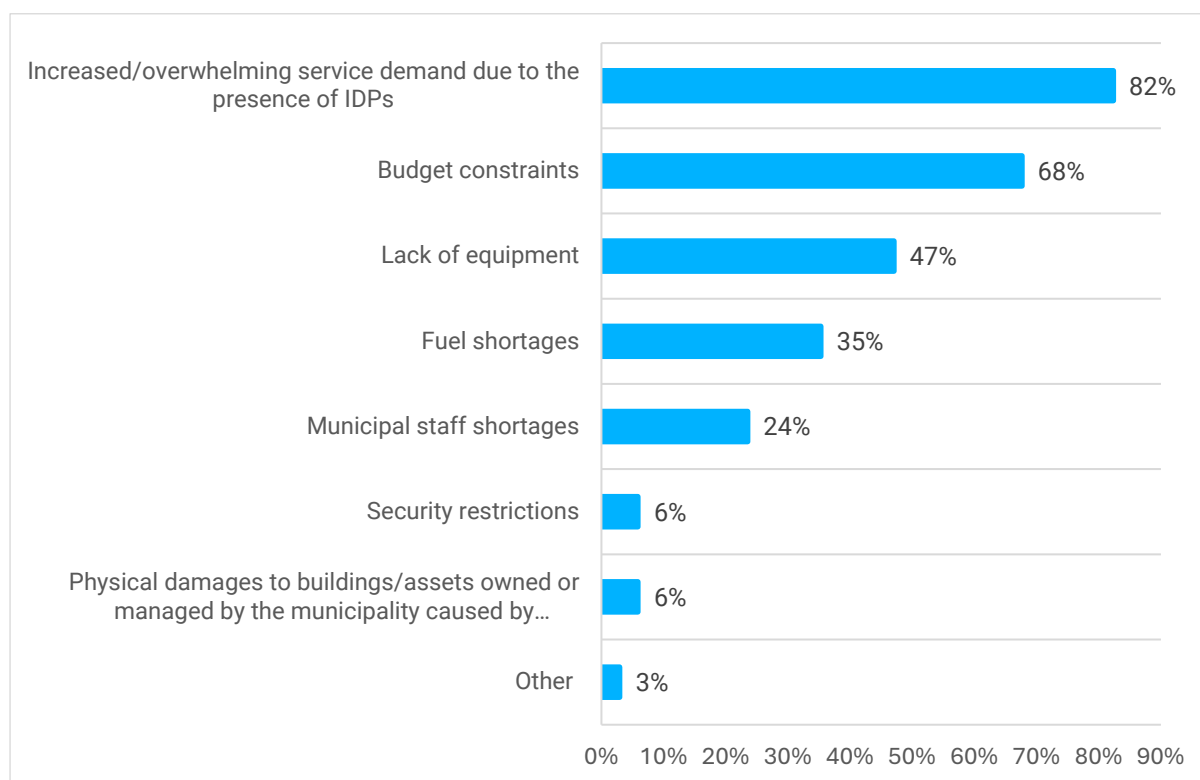


Figure 3. Main reasons for disruption of overall municipal operations (top 3)

Damage to buildings and municipal assets

While the majority of surveyed municipalities (76 per cent) reported no physical damage to buildings or infrastructure since the escalation began in early March 2026, nine municipalities (24 per cent) confirmed damage or destruction to assets (buildings and infrastructure) within their boundaries. Among these affected municipalities, non-residential buildings, water networks, and electricity infrastructure were the most commonly reported damaged or destroyed assets, each cited by 56 per cent of the affected municipalities (Figure 1). Also, within the affected municipalities, an estimated 1,407 residential and non-residential buildings were reported to have been damaged or destroyed, though this figure is heavily influenced by the situation in Tyre (Sour) Municipality, which alone accounts for approximately 1,100 of the recorded cases.

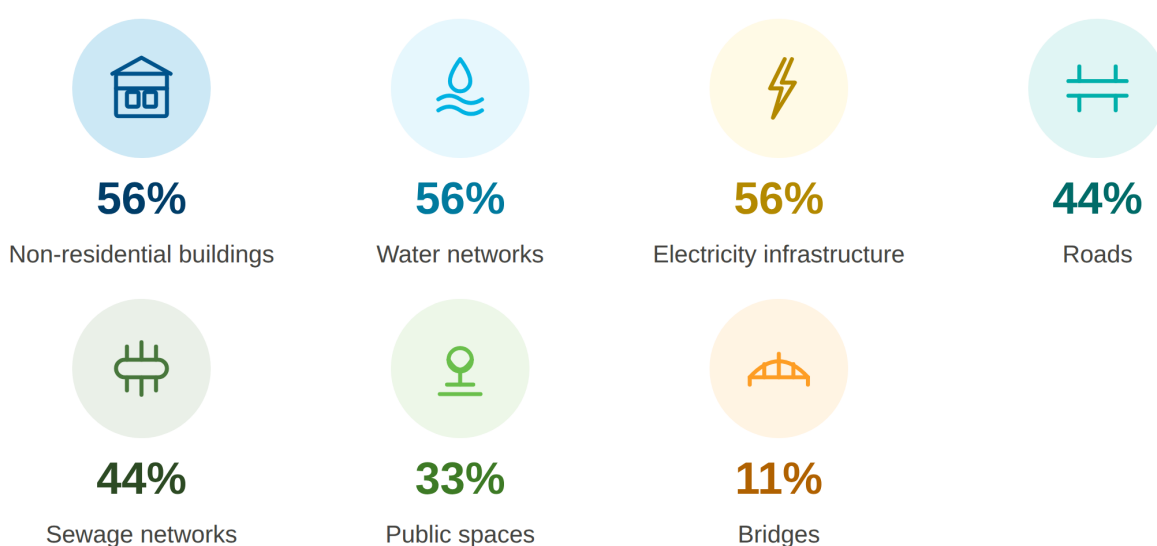


Figure 4. Types of assets (buildings and infrastructure) that have been damaged/destroyed within the municipal boundaries

Critically, 67 per cent of the damaged or destroyed assets (buildings and infrastructure) are owned or managed by the municipalities themselves, compounding the operational challenges already faced by local authorities.



The scale of destruction in Tyre Municipality, April 2026. © UN-Habitat Lebanon/Mourtada Mouhanna, 2026

Municipal capacity and response

Institutional capacity

Staffing levels vary considerably across the 38 surveyed municipalities, reflecting the wide diversity in municipal size and administrative capacity. Several municipalities operate with as few as 2 staff members, while Beirut – the largest municipality in the sample – reports around 1,200 staff. Other notably larger municipalities include Bourj Hammoud and Jdaideh–Baouchriyeh–Sad, each reporting 200 staff, while the majority of municipalities fall within a range of 5 to 50 employees.⁸

The staffing profile reveals a workforce oriented primarily towards security and administrative functions, with limited technical, social and planning expertise (Figure 5). At a time when municipalities are managing large numbers of displaced populations, coordinating service delivery, and absorbing building and infrastructure damage, the limited presence of specialized profiles – such as social workers, architects, engineers, urban planners, and project managers – represents a significant gap in technical and human resource capacity at the local level.

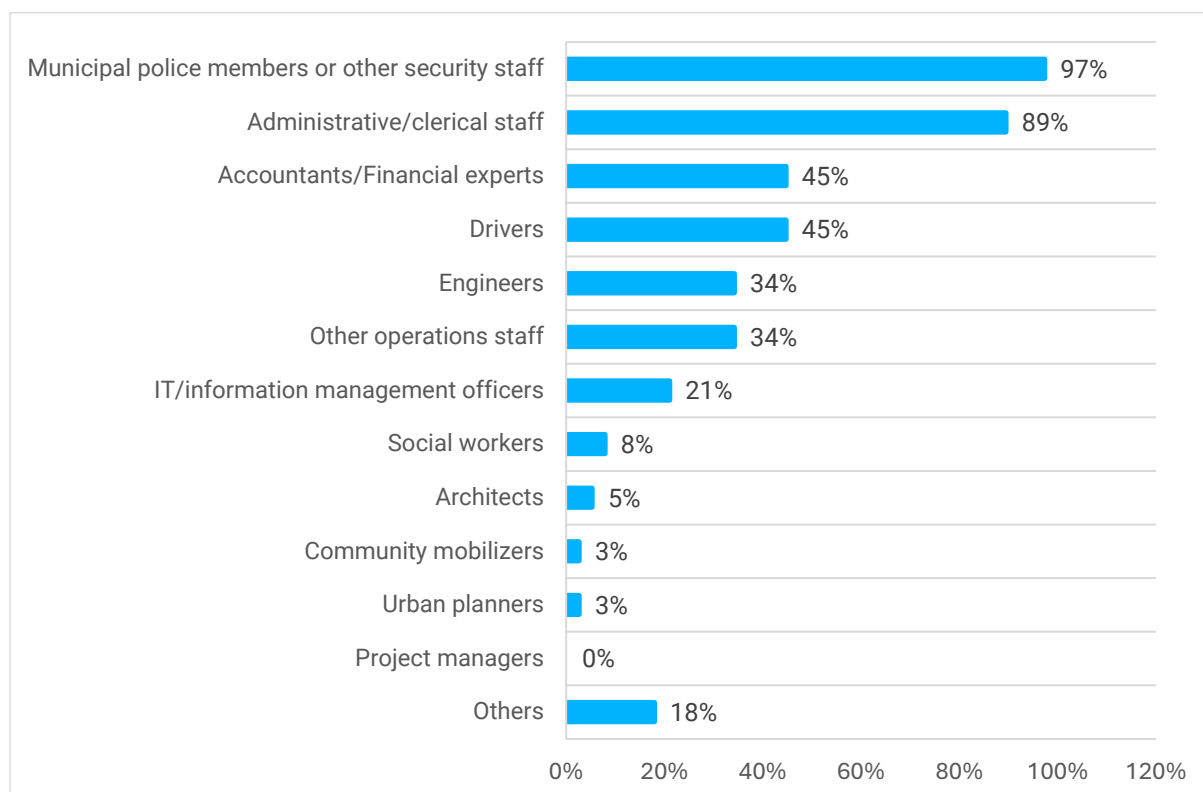


Figure 5. Municipal staff profiles (top 5)

Municipal response to displacement

Municipalities are playing a central role in the displacement response, with identification and registration of IDPs and data sharing with humanitarian and government partners

⁸ Some of these numbers might have been affected by staff relocations due to the conflict (e.g. in Tyre). The assessment did not further explore these issues.

reported by nearly all surveyed municipalities (95 per cent and 84 per cent, respectively), underscoring the central role of local authorities as a first-line coordination and information hub. Other coordination-related and operational tasks – including coordination on aid distribution and protection assistance, management of collective shelters, accommodation support, and expansion of basic service provision – are each reported by roughly half of surveyed municipalities (Figure 6).

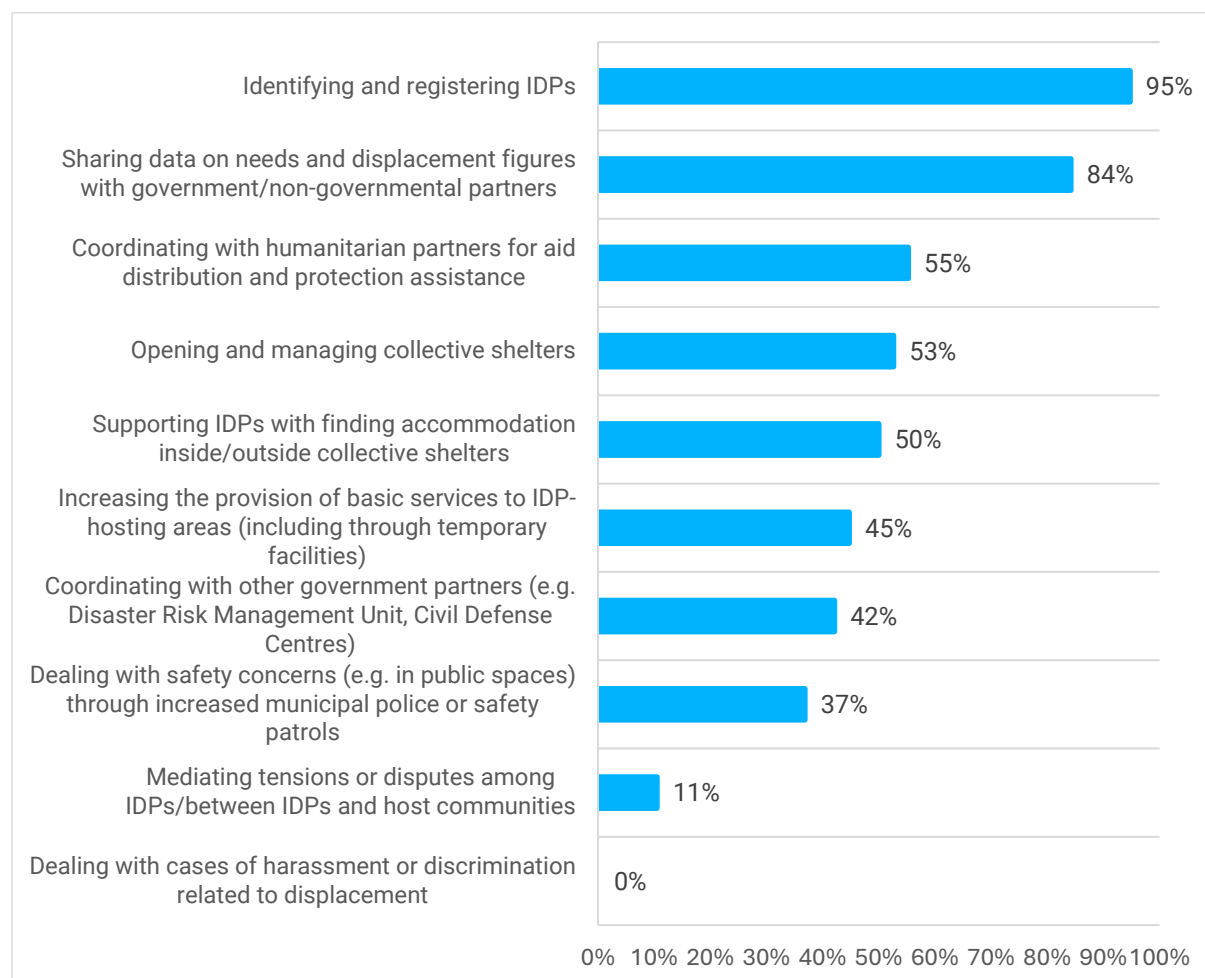


Figure 6. The main tasks the municipality is currently undertaking related to the displacement response (top 5)

Collective shelter and hosting arrangements

Rental housing and private hosting arrangements (e.g. with families or friends) have continued serving as primary accommodation options for displaced people. Others have relied on private collective shelters, informal sites, public spaces or other improvised shelter arrangements.⁹

⁹ As of 12 May 2026, besides the 15 per cent of IDPs housed in collective shelters (127,101 persons), around 61 per cent have been in rental housing (456,175 persons), while around 31 per cent of IDPs (232,657 persons) have been living in host settings (20 per cent co-living with non-internally displaced host families, while 11 per cent residing separately without a host). In addition, another 5 per cent have relocated to their secondary residences. Meanwhile, 3 per cent are categorized under “at risk shelter conditions”, which includes unfinished buildings, tents, parks, on the streets, or self-settled sites (IOM, 2026b).

Of the main collective-hosting facilities being used by surveyed municipalities to accommodate IDPs, schools are by far the predominant hosting facility, reported by 82 per cent of municipalities, followed at a considerable distance by community centres (24 per cent) and municipal buildings (21 per cent), among others (Figure 7). A notable 16 per cent of municipalities reported the use of open public spaces – including streets, parks and squares – to host displaced people, pointing to acute shelter gaps in certain areas where no formal facility was available.

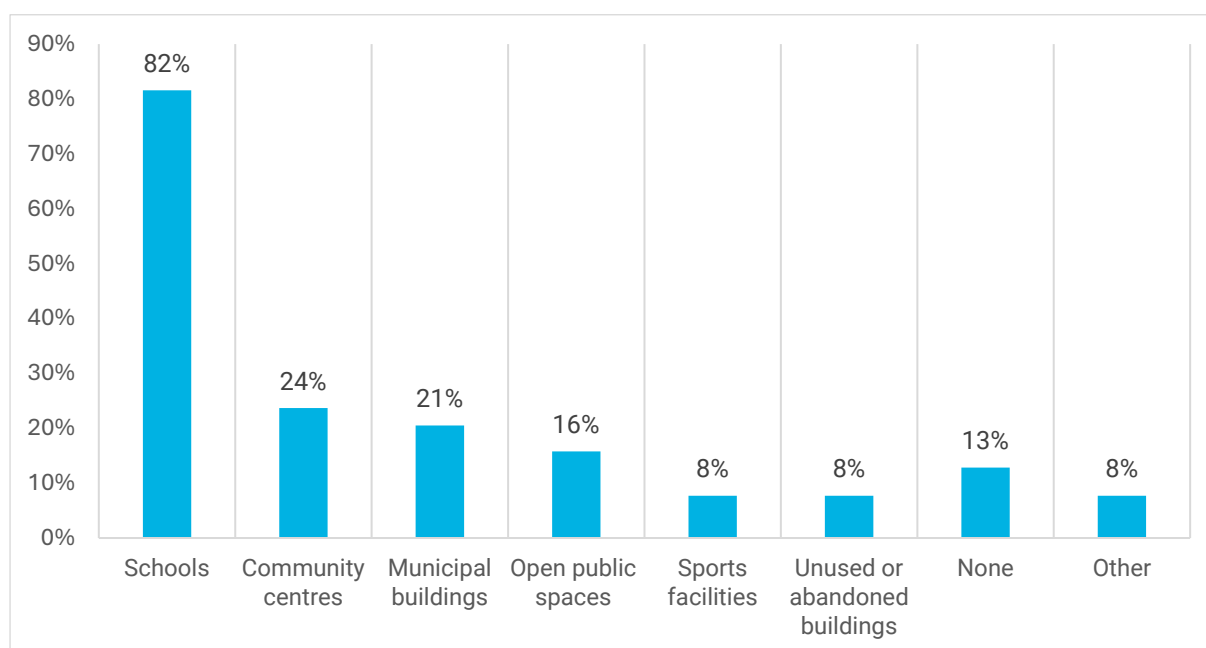


Figure 7. Main collective-hosting facilities within the municipal boundaries being used to accommodate IDPs at the time of data collection

When asked about the ownership of these collective-hosting facilities, 58 per cent of municipalities reported that none of the facilities accommodating IDPs at the time of data collection are municipally owned, suggesting that the bulk of the shelter caseload is being absorbed by facilities – primarily schools – that fall under the authority of other entities, such as the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, among others. Despite limited ownership, municipalities are nonetheless assuming significant management responsibilities. For example, schools, while largely not municipally owned, are managed by municipalities in 69 per cent of cases, suggesting that local authorities have taken on a de facto operational role that extends beyond their owned facilities (Figure 8).

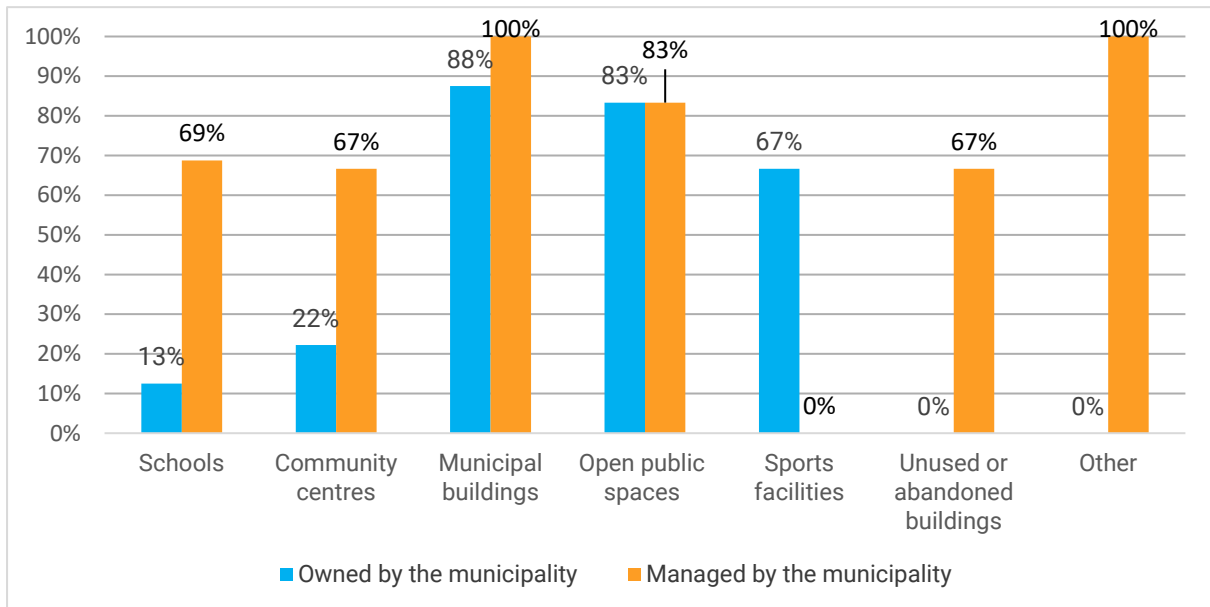


Figure 8. Ownership and management by the municipalities of the collective-hosting facilities accommodating IDPs at the time of data collection

Note: This question was only asked to municipalities that reported having any type of collective-hosting facilities accommodating IDPs within their municipal boundaries at the time of data collection.



Emergency support in Tyre Municipality, April 2026. © UN-Habitat Lebanon/Wissam El-Ahmad, 2026

Challenges and service pressures

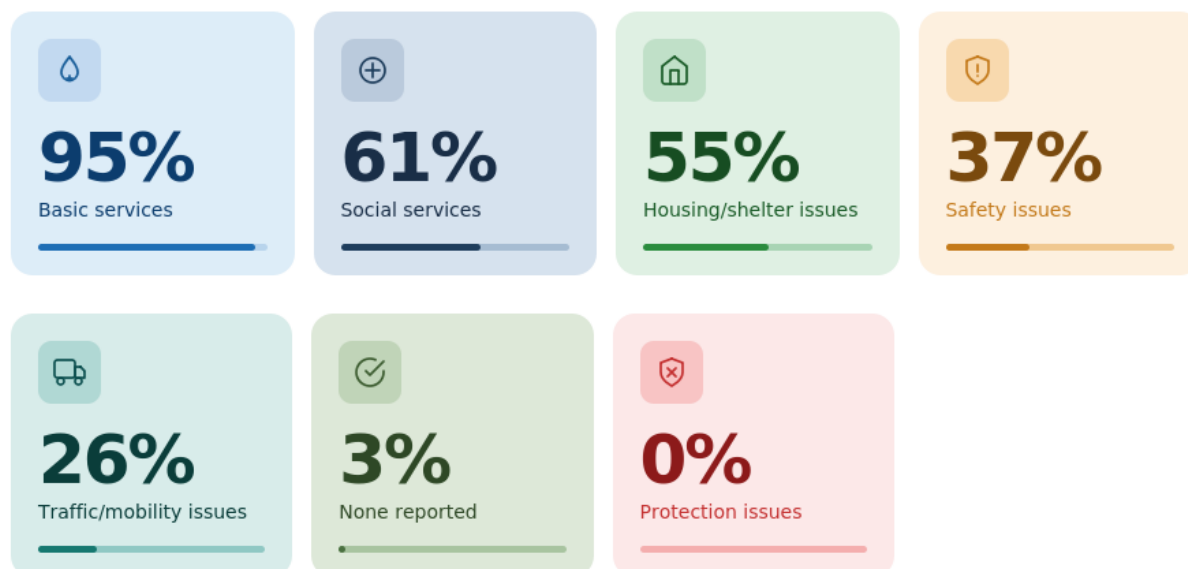


Figure 9. Main areas of challenges in the municipality in terms of IDP presence

Surveyed municipalities identified pressure on **basic services** as the most significant challenge associated with the presence of IDPs following the March 2026 escalation of hostilities, when asked about their top three challenges (Figure 9). Nearly all surveyed municipalities (95 per cent) reported strains on water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH), electricity, solid waste management, and related infrastructure, highlighting the severe burden placed on already limited municipal service systems. Figure 10 shows the basic services that are under the greatest pressure. Moreover, the findings indicate a widespread perception among municipalities that solid waste accumulation has increased following the arrival of IDPs. More than three quarters of surveyed municipalities (76 per cent) reported that waste accumulation increased significantly, while the remaining 24 per cent observed a moderate increase. No municipalities indicated that waste levels had remained unchanged or decreased.

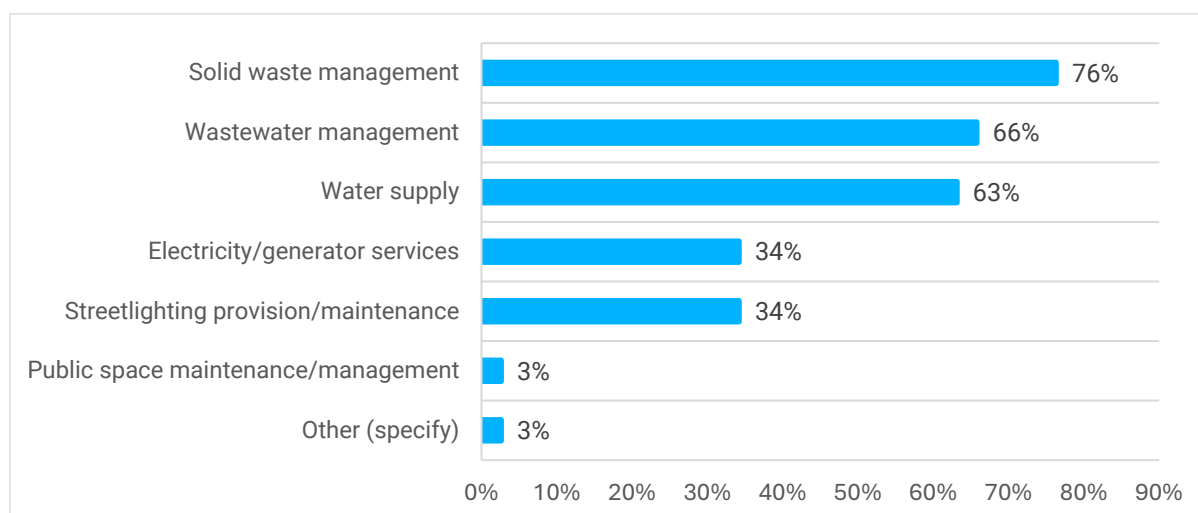


Figure 10. Basic services that are under the greatest pressure in the municipality (top 3)

Challenges related to **social services** ranked second, with 61 per cent of surveyed municipalities reporting increased pressure on health, education, and other social services (Figure 9). **Housing and shelter** issues were also widely reported, cited by 55 per cent of surveyed municipalities (Figure 9), with overcrowding inside and outside collective shelters, as well as rising rents considered among the most frequently reported issues (Figure 11).

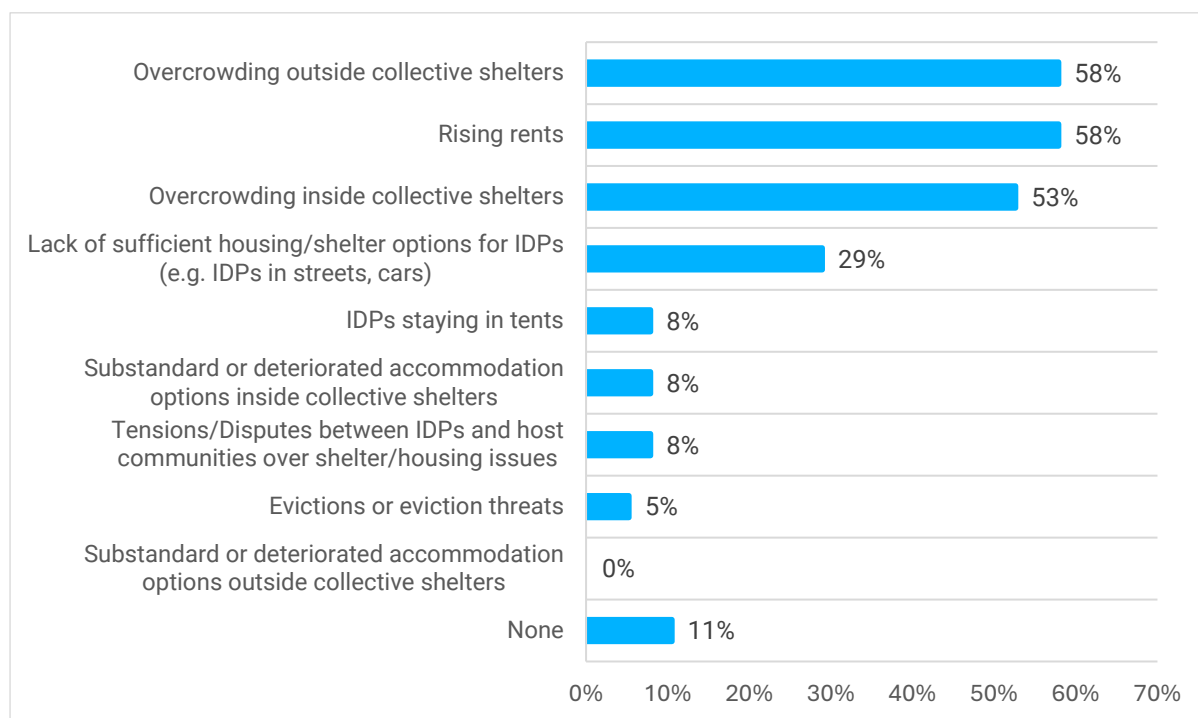


Figure 11. Housing/shelter issues in the municipality related to IDP presence since the escalation of hostilities (top 3)

Security-related concerns appeared less prominent but were still notable; around 37 per cent of surveyed municipalities identified **safety issues** as a key challenge (Figure 9).

Also, 26 per cent reported **traffic and mobility constraints**, likely linked to increased population density and movement pressures within urban areas (Figure 9).

Moreover, Figure 12 shows the main issues related to open (e.g. streets, squares, gardens, parks) and closed (e.g. community centres, museums, libraries) **public spaces** in the municipality in relation to increased pressures due to the escalation of hostilities.

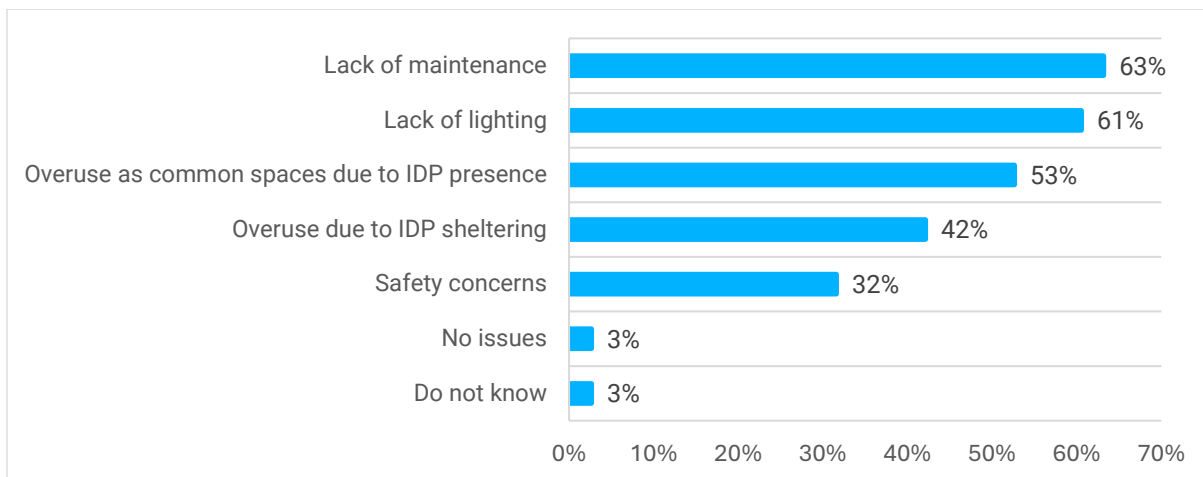


Figure 12. Main issues related to public spaces in the municipality related to IDP presence since the escalation of hostilities (top 3)

Notably, none of the surveyed municipalities identified protection concerns, such as violence, exploitation or discrimination, among their top three challenges. Only one municipality reported facing no major challenges.



Social cohesion and community relations

The majority of surveyed municipalities (74 per cent) reported no increase in tensions between host communities and IDPs since the March 2026 escalation. However, 24 per cent reported a slight increase in tensions, a proportion that warrants monitoring as displacement becomes more protracted and capacities are further stretched.

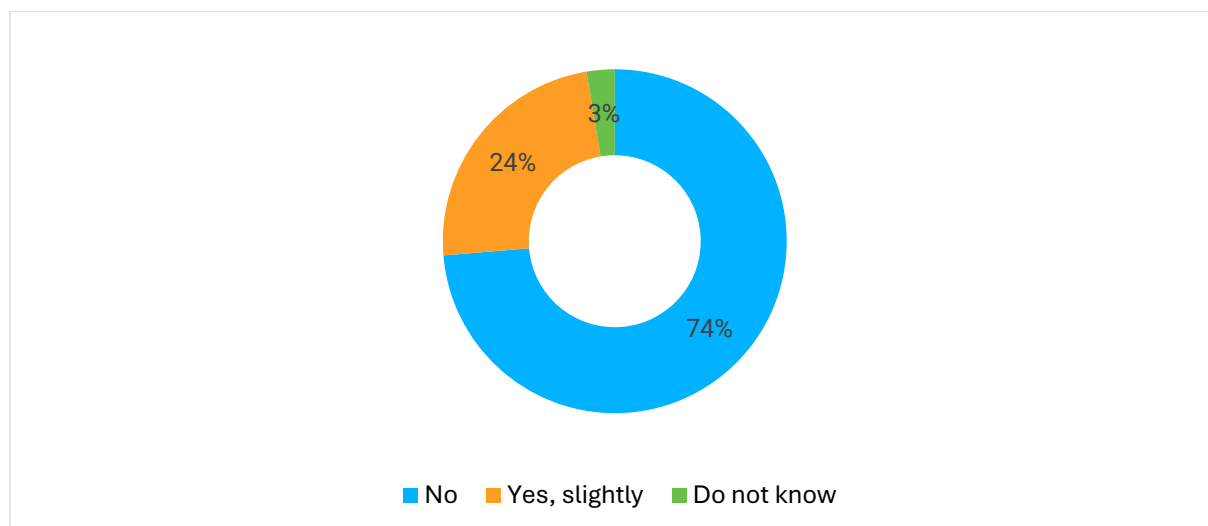


Figure 13. Reported increase in tensions between host communities and IDPs since the escalation of hostilities

Among the nine municipalities that reported rising tensions, overcrowding and pressure on public spaces were the most frequently cited drivers, followed by perceived inequity in aid distribution, among others (Figure 14).

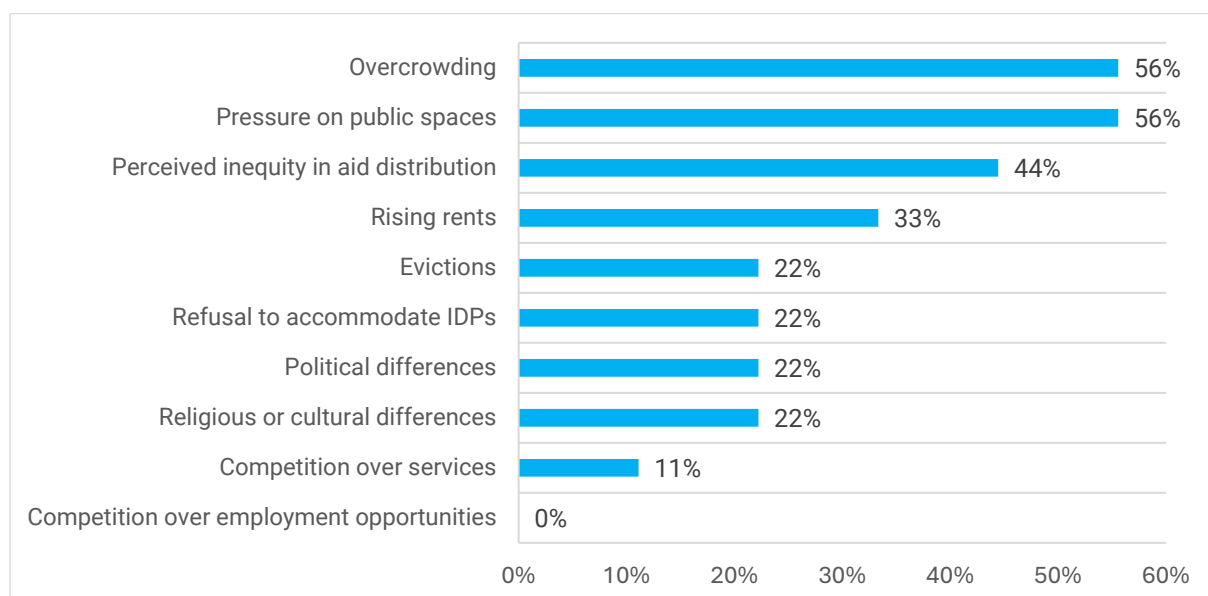


Figure 14. Main sources of tension (top 3)

Municipal finance and received external support

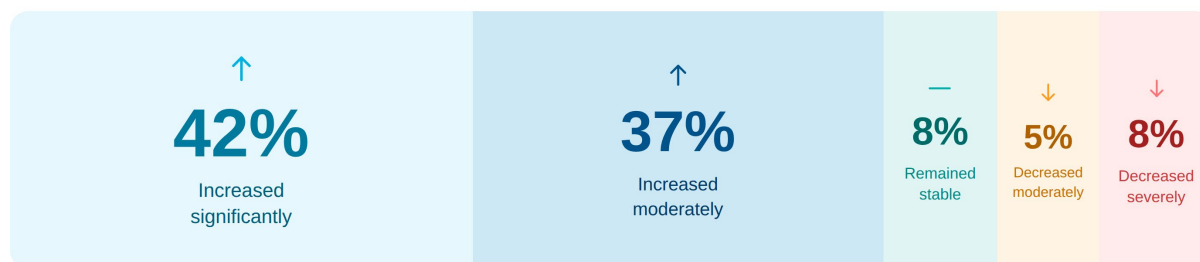


Figure 15. Municipal spending/expenditure levels since the escalation of hostilities

Municipal expenditure has increased significantly since the March 2026 escalation, with 79 per cent of surveyed municipalities reporting higher spending levels – 42 per cent describing the increase as significant and 37 per cent as moderate (Figure 15).

Among municipalities with increased spending, waste management constitutes the primary cost pressure, reported by 77 per cent. Water supply, fuel costs, and staff overtime follow at 45 per cent each – the latter indicative of local administrations operating beyond normal capacity – among others (Figure 16).

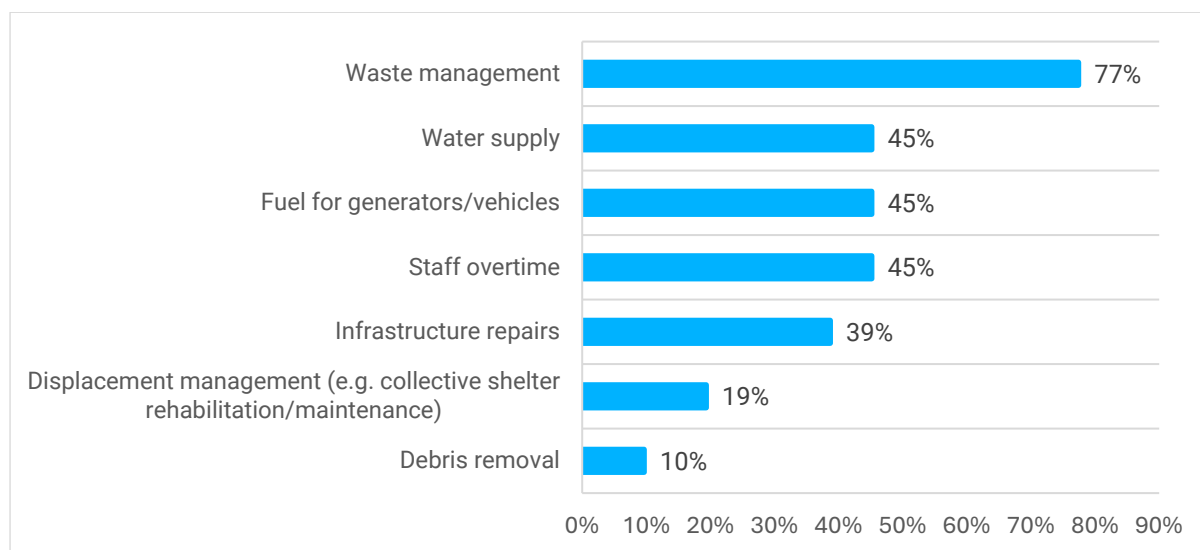


Figure 16. Areas with the highest increase in municipal spending/expenditures since the escalation of hostilities (top 3)

Despite the scale of operational and financial pressure, support to municipalities has been limited. Nearly 79 per cent of surveyed municipalities reported receiving no financial or other forms of support since the escalation of hostilities, while only 13 per cent reported receiving little support and 8 per cent some support. These findings show the critical disconnect between the scale of municipal need and the level of support received, posing serious risks to sustained service delivery and local governance capacity as the crisis continues.

Among the eight municipalities that reported having received support, technical assistance and support for displacement management were each cited by 38 per cent.

No municipality received support for building or infrastructure rehabilitation, nor for housing, land and property (HLP) or legal mechanisms.¹⁰

In terms of the provider of support among the eight municipalities that reported having received assistance, individual volunteers constituted the most frequently cited source of support (75 per cent), followed by the central government (63 per cent) and local and international non-governmental organizations and community groups (50 per cent each).



¹⁰ In addition, 50 per cent of the municipalities that mentioned having received support reported receiving "other" types of support and specified "in-kind assistance", including food items, hygiene kits, mattresses and blankets. Given that the question was about support for municipal operations, more municipalities (beyond the eight that reported having received assistance) might have also received food items, hygiene kits, and other types of in-kind assistance targeted for IDPs but might not have reported it when responding to this question.

Priority needs and recommended interventions

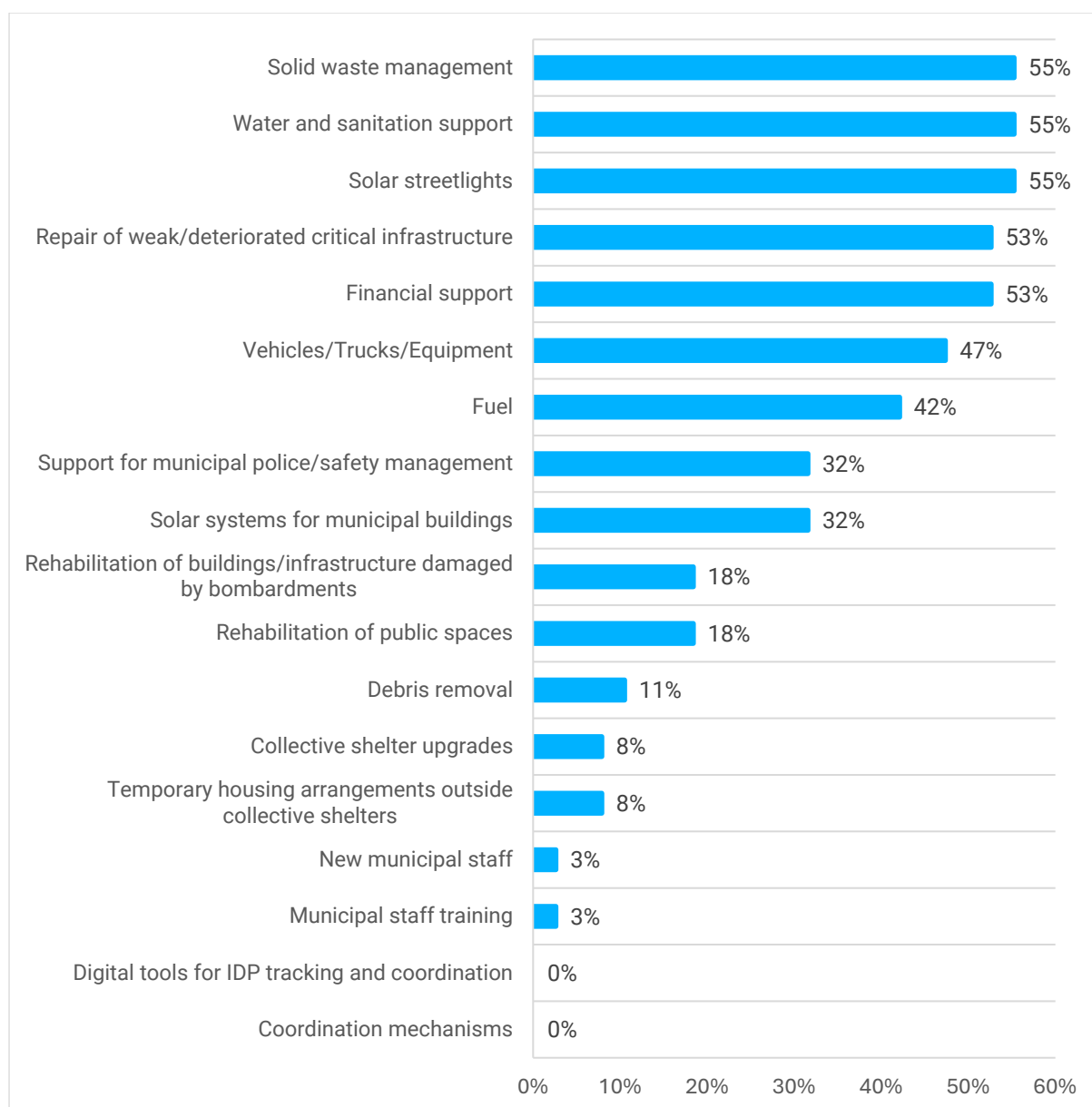


Figure 17. The main current priority needs for surveyed municipalities (top 5)

The surveyed municipalities' priority needs (as reported at the time of data collection) are largely concentrated around strengthening essential service delivery systems, rehabilitating infrastructure, and improving operational capacity in response to pressures linked to displacement and the broader crisis context (Figure 17).

Solid waste management emerged as one of the highest-ranked priorities, identified by 55 per cent of surveyed municipalities. This aligns with above-explained findings showing significant increases in waste accumulation following the arrival of IDPs, indicating that waste management systems are under considerable strain and require immediate support. Figure 18 shows the top three needed support by municipalities in relation to solid waste management.

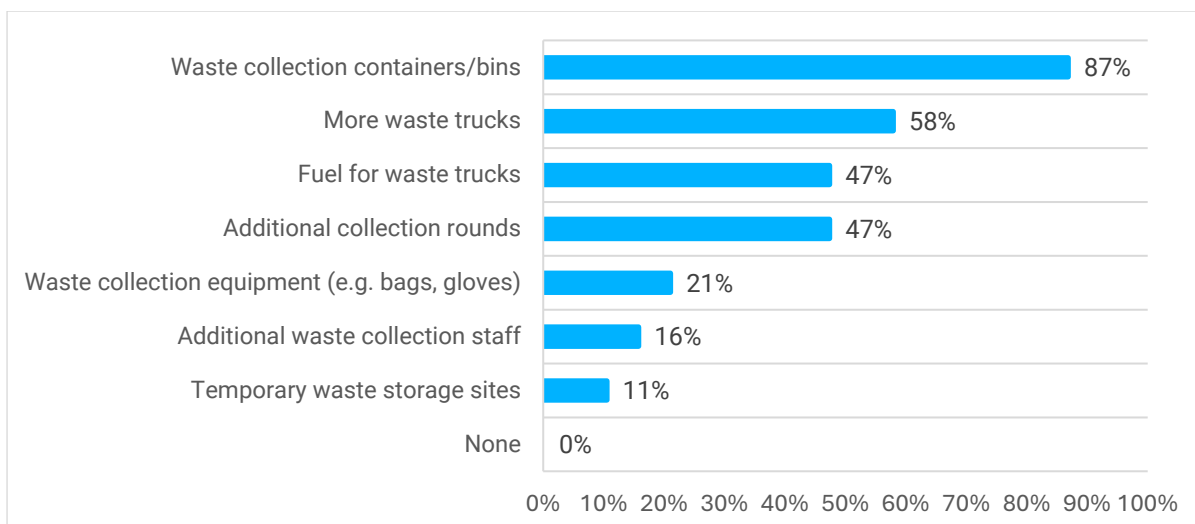


Figure 18. Main needed support by municipalities related to solid waste management (top 3)

Similarly, **water and sanitation support as well as solar streetlighting** were each cited by 55 per cent of surveyed municipalities. Closely following, the **repair of weak or deteriorated critical infrastructure and financial support** were each reported by 53 per cent, among others. Figure 19 and Figure 20 show the main needs related to water and energy services, respectively.

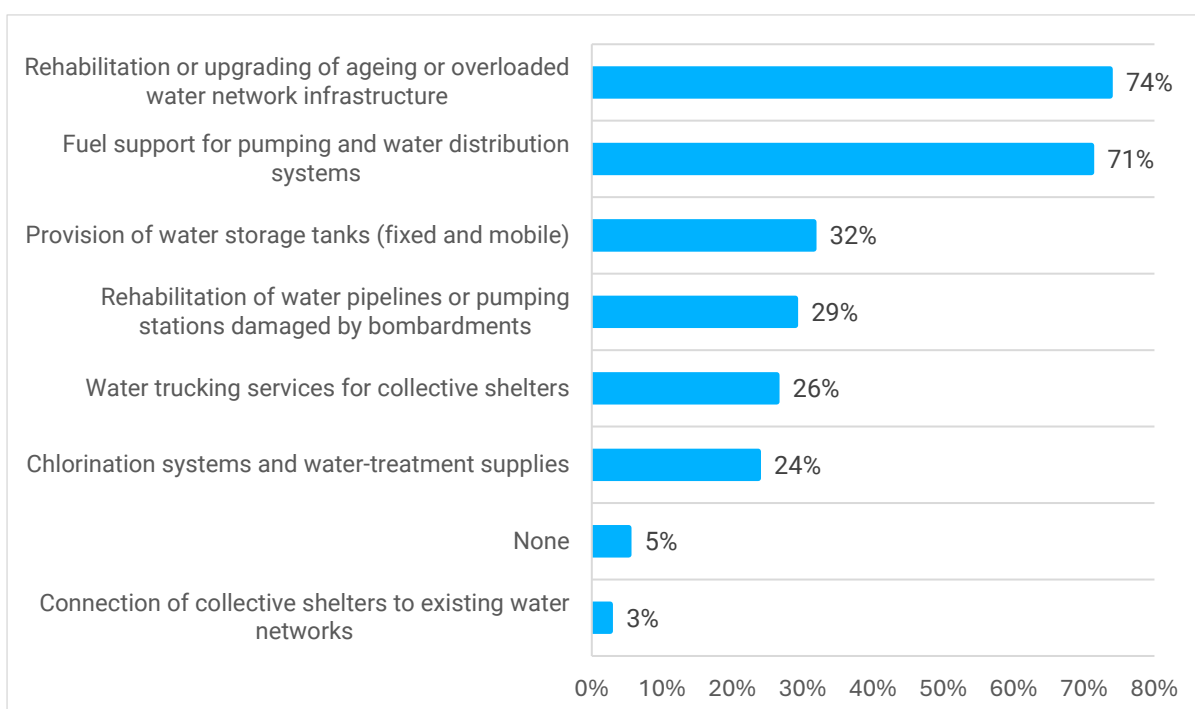


Figure 19. Main needed support by municipalities related to water services (top 3)

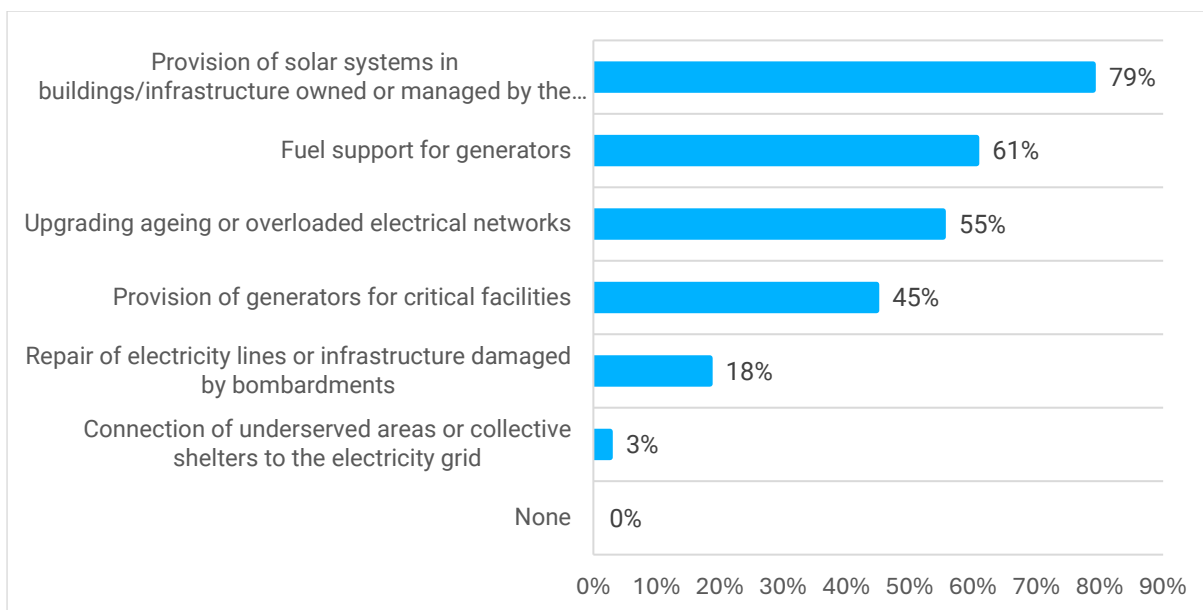


Figure 20. Main needed support by municipalities related to energy services (top 3)

With regard to **shelter and housing-related needs**, surveyed municipalities mainly emphasized the need for upgrades to collective shelters, rental assistance mechanisms, and technical support for shelter management (Figure 21).

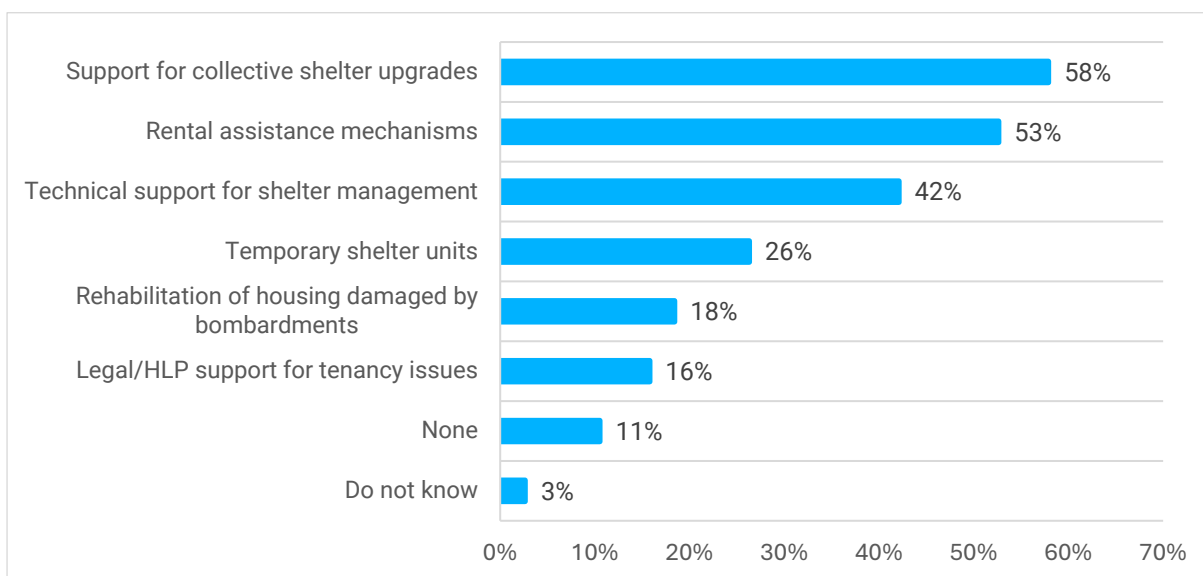


Figure 21. Main needed support by municipalities related to shelter/housing (top 3)

More detailed findings on public space rehabilitation show that surveyed municipalities are particularly prioritizing streetscapes, parks, and public squares (Figure 22).

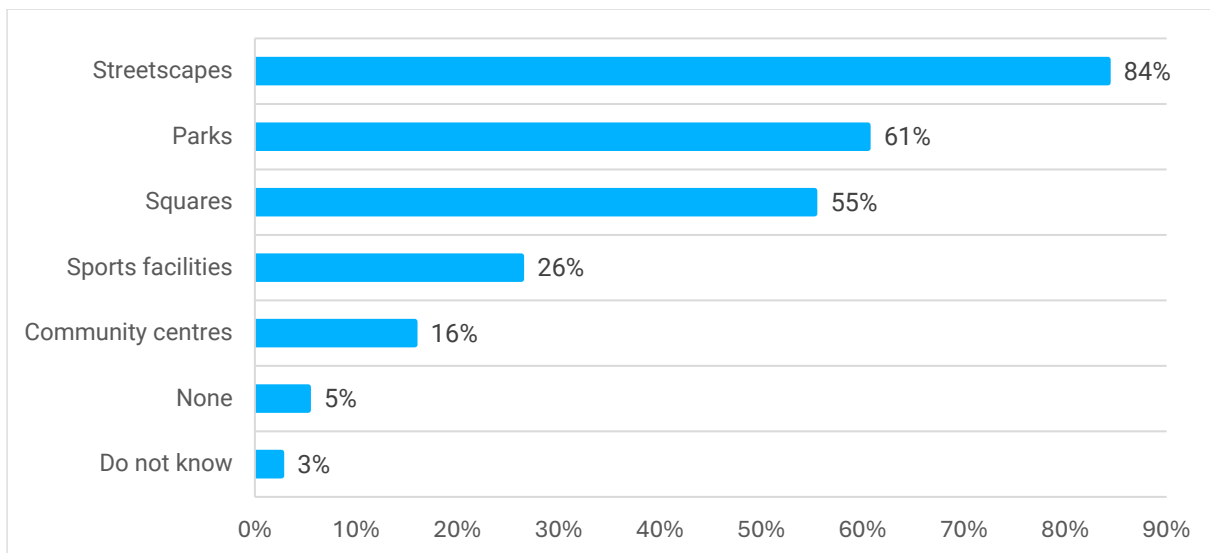
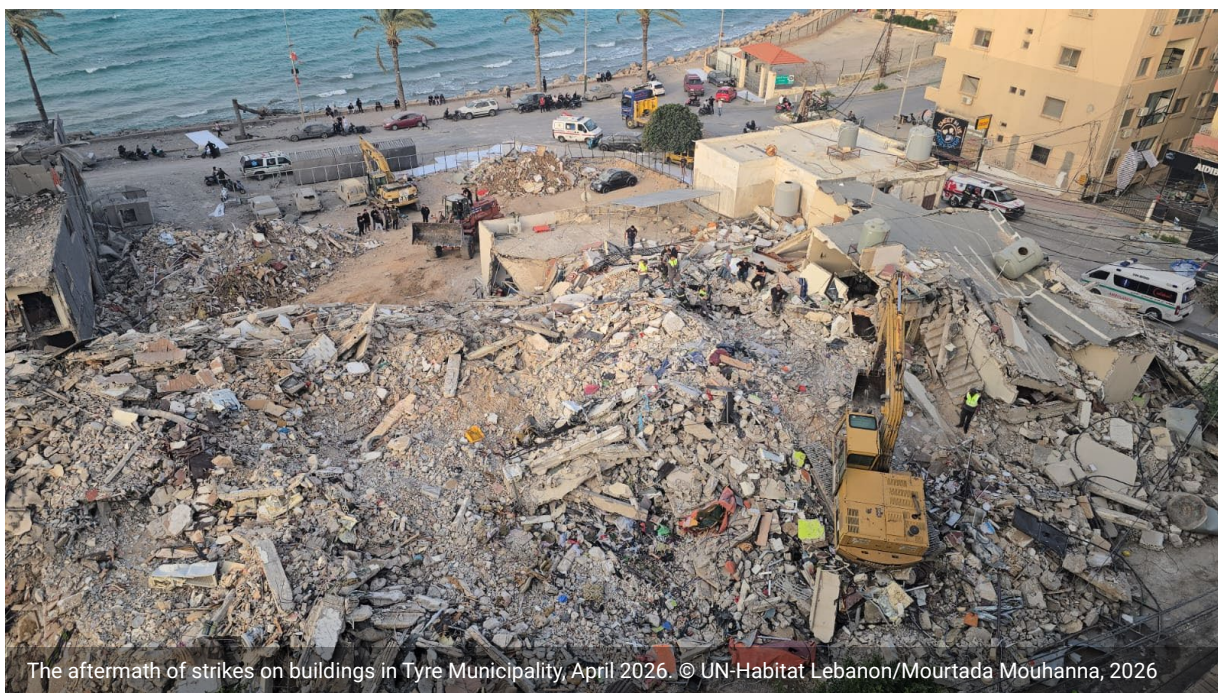


Figure 22. Public spaces that require urgent rehabilitation (top 3)



Key recommendations

1. Restore and strengthen essential service systems

- Invest in **solid waste management systems**, including equipment, vehicles, fuel and staffing.
- Support the **rehabilitation and upgrading of water and sanitation infrastructure**, particularly in high-pressure areas.
- Expand access to **sustainable energy solutions**, including solar systems for municipal infrastructure and services.

2. Improve shelter and housing solutions

- Continue upgrading and rehabilitating **collective shelters**, taking also into consideration the need to decommission some of them, including schools, especially in case of protracted displacement.
- Support **rental assistance mechanisms** and **host community-based accommodation solutions**, taking into consideration potential inter-community tensions associated with perceived inequalities in aid distribution and with increased IDP–host community interactions.
- **Explore temporary housing arrangements for displaced populations**, especially in the case of protracted displacement.¹¹
- Reduce reliance on **informal and inadequate shelter arrangements**, including use of public spaces.

3. Strengthen municipal institutional and technical capacity

- Provide **targeted technical assistance and staffing support** in key areas, such as engineering, urban planning, infrastructure management, and basic service delivery.
- Support the development and deployment of **digital, geographic information system (GIS)-based tools for data collection, service monitoring, and coordination** – areas where municipalities reported playing a key role as part of the response.
- Reinforce municipalities' capacity for evidence-based and inclusive **area-based crisis response and local recovery planning**.

4. Support infrastructure repair and recovery in damage-affected municipalities hosting IDPs

- Prioritize rehabilitation of **damaged municipal assets and critical infrastructure**.
- Support **rapid debris removal and environmentally sound management practices**.

5. Enhance coordination and alignment of support

- Strengthen coordination between **municipalities, national government, and humanitarian and development actors**.
- Align external support with **municipal priorities and locally identified needs**, while **improving monitoring and tracking of assistance at the municipal level** to enhance transparency and coordination.

6. Promote social cohesion and inclusive community responses

- Invest in **public space rehabilitation and community-level interventions**.

¹¹ Such temporary arrangements could, for example, be set up on public lands.

- Address drivers of tension, including **service access, overcrowding, tenure insecurity, and aid distribution inequalities**.
- Support municipalities in **community engagement, communication, and dispute resolution mechanisms**.

In conclusion, building on the findings of the rapid municipal assessment and the recommendations outlined above, United Nations agencies and partners in Lebanon should work in a coordinated and complementary manner to support municipalities in addressing displacement-related pressures while advancing longer-term recovery and resilience. An **integrated, area-based and evidence-driven approach** will help ensure that assistance aligns with municipal priorities, strengthens local systems, and improves outcomes for both displaced and host communities. Within such a coordinated framework, key areas of support may include:

- Strengthening **data-driven municipal planning and management of displacement-affected areas**, including spatial and territorial analysis to better understand needs and pressures across municipal areas, helping municipalities monitor evolving conditions, prioritize interventions, and coordinate local response efforts.
- Supporting **basic service provision and urban infrastructure**, particularly in solid waste management, public space rehabilitation, and other critical municipal services affected by population influx and displacement.
- Promoting **sustainable, inclusive and conflict-sensitive shelter and housing solutions**, including shelter rehabilitation, support for the protection and exercising of HLP rights, development of temporary and transitional housing options where needed, etc.
- Strengthening **municipal governance, technical capacity, and service delivery systems**, through targeted technical assistance, staffing support,¹² and the development and enhancement of operational tools, such as GIS-based data systems, monitoring platforms, etc.
- Advancing **resilient and environmentally sustainable recovery and reconstruction**, including climate-sensitive infrastructure and urban development approaches that strengthen long-term municipal resilience.
- Supporting **community engagement, social cohesion, and communication efforts**, including mechanisms for dialogue, information sharing, and dispute resolution that help municipalities address tensions, strengthen trust, and foster inclusive local responses.

By aligning emergency support with longer-term urban development objectives, a coordinated response by the United Nations and its partners can contribute to reinforcing municipal systems, improving living conditions for both displaced and host populations, and supporting more resilient, inclusive and sustainable recovery pathways in Lebanese municipalities.

¹² Including through the creation and empowerment of Regional Technical Offices (RTOs). RTOs are technical units first established by UN-Habitat in 2007 (following the July 2006 War) to empower UoMs and municipalities in emergency response, planning and development, with a specific focus on supporting reconstruction and development in Lebanon. Staffed by qualified professionals (including engineers, architects, social workers, and GIS experts), they provide technical and engineering assistance on municipal projects, support decision-making, enhance service delivery, and address governance issues at the regional level. For more information about RTOs, see: UN-Habitat (n.d.).

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Annex: List of surveyed municipalities

Governorate	District	Municipality(ies)
Beirut	Beirut	Beirut
Mount Lebanon	Aley	Bchamoun, Aley, Aynab
	Chouf	Barja, Jiyeh, Sibline, Ouardaniyeh, Chhim, Baasir–Haret Baasir, Jadra, Daraiya
	Baabda	Chiyah
	Metn	Bourj Hammoud, Jdaideh–Baouchriyeh–Sad
	Jbeil	Almat–Souane
	Kessrouane	Ghazir
South	Saida	Saida, Anqoun, Bramiyeh, Najjariyeh
	Sour	Tyre (Sour)
North	Tripoli	Beddaoui
	Miniyeh–Danniyeh	Miniyeh, Bhannine
Akkar	Akkar	Mehamrah, Bebnine, Halba
Baalbek–Hermel	Baalbek	Deir El-Ahmar, Ras Baalbek
	Hermel	Hermel
Bekaa	West Bekaa	GhazzeH
	Zahleh	Chtaura, Hazerta, Bar Elias, Majdel Anjar, Qab Elias–Ouadi El-Delm, Kfarzabad