



LIVELIHOODS Q3 2020 Dashboard



This dashboard summarizes progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Livelihoods sector in Lebanon aims to achieve the following results: OUTCOME 1: Stimulate local economic development and market systems to create income generating opportunities and employment; OUTCOME 2: Improve workforce employability, OUTCOME 3: Strengthen policy development and enabling environment for job creation.

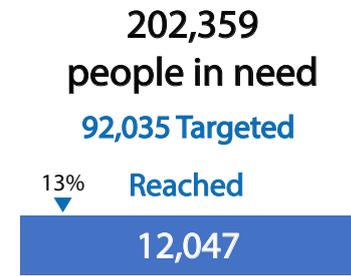
Funding Status

as at 30 September 2020



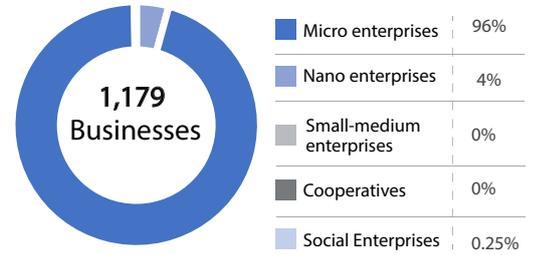
Targeted population

as at 30 September 2020



Businesses reached by type

as at 30 September 2020

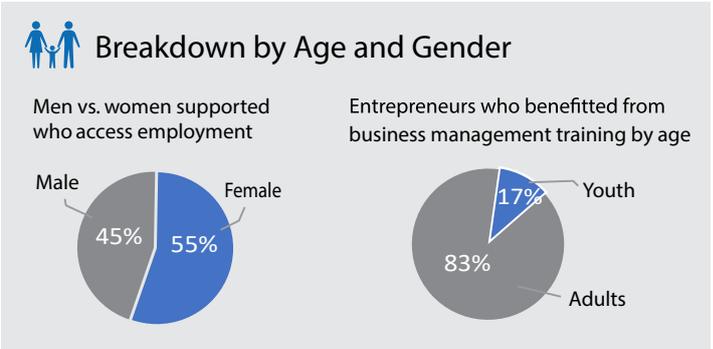


Progress against targets

Outputs	Reached / Target
# entrepreneurs & employees who benefitted from business management training	1,318 / 3,670
# of MSMEs/ Cooperatives supported through cash & in-kind grants	1,178 / 3,670
# of new Lebanese MSMEs established	17 / 1,296
# of value chains valorized and/or being upgraded	4 / 20
# of targeted vulnerable persons enrolled in public work projects	1,937 / 7,530
\$ value invested in LH labour-intensive public work projects	\$ 1.25m / N/A
# of individuals benefitting from market-based skills training	2,718 / 10,000
# of people benefitting from internships, on-the-job training or apprenticeship programmes	993 / 2,000
# of individuals supported to access employment through career guidance, coaching, or individual follow-up services	1,541 / 7,000
# of targeted job seekers supported to start their own business	1,059 / 2,000
# of decent work regulations amended and/or proposed approved by the Government	0 / 3
# awareness-raising/advocacy material on labour regulations and decent work developed	0 / 4
0%	100%

Outcomes	LCRP 2016 Baseline	Jan-Sept 2020 Current	2020 Target		
OUTCOME 1:	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL	
# total number of jobs created / maintained*	494	176			5,777
OUTCOME 2:					
# of job seekers placed into jobs*	N/A	1,666			2,000
# targeted vulnerable persons engaged in home-based income generation *	N/A	1,161			2,000
OUTCOME 3:					
Increase in ranking of Doing Business**	Rank 126	N/A			N/A

*Source: Activity info
**Source: World Bank

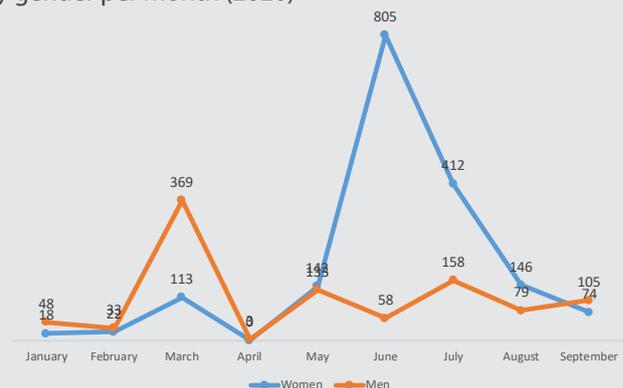


Analysis

Number of beneficiaries of livelihoods by gender per month (2020)



Number of beneficiaries of market-based skills trainings by gender per month (2020)



¹ The narrative report is based on quantitative results extracted from Activity Info and on qualitative results collected through partners and direct observations



With only 10% funding received for 2020 at the end of the third quarter (\$28.5 million out of \$275 million), it continues to be challenging for livelihoods partners to stimulate the demand side of the labour market and to offer longer-term employment opportunities for the most vulnerable populations. The ongoing multiple crises and the COVID-19 lockdown measures are delaying implementation of livelihoods interventions such as labor intensive and environmental support activities, face-to-face soft-skills trainings, individual business coaching and mentoring activities. Nonetheless, sector partners have been able to adopt online modalities and are using a blended approach i.e. face-to-face and online modalities, for activities related to technical and soft-skills training and coaching.

Strengthening MSMEs to enable growth and decent job creation is one of the areas that are significantly challenging in a context of financial and economic instability. Up until Q3, only 17 new Lebanese MSMEs were established and functional after 6 months (out of the sector's target of 1,296), while 1,178 MSMEs/cooperatives were supported through cash and in-kind grants (out of the sector's target of 3,670). Moreover, to develop competitive and efficient businesses, around 1,318 entrepreneurs and employees were trained on business management and business development services such as marketing, bookkeeping, accounting, decent working conditions, procurement support and legal support (out of the sector target of 3,670).

The provision of short-term employment increased after the national lockdown was lifted in mid-July, with 1,937 women and men employed through short-term public work (out of a target of 7,530). In addition, four value chains have been valorized and/or upgraded (out of a target of 20). Yet, due to the surge in COVID-19 cases since mid-August, local lockdown measures were reinstated in more than 100 areas across the country, hampering job creation and leading to loss of income. Progress has been made related to the provision of career guidance, job matching, and apprentice/internship schemes to job seekers as the lift of the national lockdown. Around 1,541 women and men have benefitted from internships, on-the-job training or apprenticeship programmes (out of a target of 2000), whilst 1,059 job seekers have been supported to set-up a business (out of a target of 2,000).

To ensure that vulnerable women and men have skills that match market demands soft and technical training have been continued through web-based modalities or a blended approach. Around 1,541 (out of a target of 7,000) individuals benefited from career guidance, coaching or individual follow-up services to improve their access to employment while around 2,718 individuals participated in provided market-based skills training. Following these training sessions, around 1,161 individuals (out of a target of 2,000) have engaged in home-income generating activities.



Challenges

The devaluation of the local currency, price increases of raw materials and essential equipment, mobility constraints and lockdown measures continue to lead to further implementation delays reducing the number of beneficiaries engaged in interventions. Electricity cuts, lack of liquidity and a volatile exchange rate are limiting entrepreneurs and businesses' access to financial services and products, including loans, investment services, causing disruptions to businesses and having an adverse impact on MSMEs and individual livelihoods. Given that most owners of informal enterprises have no savings or other financial options, this is resulting in direct closure of businesses (temporarily or permanently) as well as loss of jobs and incomes.

The rising unemployment rates and the need for cash to cover essential needs (incl. food, rent and medicine) are major concerns. Flexible funding is therefore required to continue conditional cash transfers to vulnerable Lebanese and refugees engaged in labour-intensive and home-income generating activities, as well as essential financial services such as subsidized loans and grants and market support to MSMEs, entrepreneurs and cooperatives. Personal Protective Equipment are provided to protect workers, trainees and MSMEs in areas where partners can resume their activities.

Partners express a strong need to ensure that living wages are decent and meaningful and protect the purchasing power of the beneficiaries. With increasing prices of basic commodities, many vulnerable individuals struggle to afford necessities in addition to paying rent. This is forcing vulnerable individuals to accept jobs with inadequate working conditions, mainly in the informal sector, increasingly exposing them to occupational health and safety risks without appropriate protection. Job losses, a lack of decent living wages and rising vulnerabilities could trigger a sharp rise in child labour and lower school enrolment rates, especially for girls. The sector calls for adequate protection in respect of working conditions for all workers and urges the Lebanese government to enforce regulations that improves working conditions and equal pay, safeguard informal work, and counters child labour.

Despite the flexibility of partners to provide online solutions (such as web-based operations, businesses training and consultancies on social media, customer service and e-commerce) there are a number of challenges which impact the quality of these solutions. Lack of electricity and fuel, technological illiteracy and lack of access to the internet continues to be the key barriers. Some partners have been able to adopt a blended approach, continuing in-person training but limiting the number of participants coupled with online training.



Due to the economic and financial crisis as well as the negative impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, key priorities for the 4th quarter include protecting the business continuity of MSMEs, cooperatives and entrepreneurs. Considering the high share of micro and small enterprises that operate in survival mode, support to MSMEs would require improving access to both financial and non-financial support, such as access to subsidized and inclusive loans coupled with business development and financial management training. Financial management training is particularly relevant in order to support the efficiency of businesses' operations to increase product quality, reduce production cost and enhance competitiveness. A particular focus will be put on women led MSMEs and enterprises. Partners have already made the shift to support businesses in key economic sectors, those being in the agriculture and agro-food, manufacturing and construction, and production of PPEs.

With the funding available, partners will seek as well to support the continuity of key value chains to reduce the potential disruption in the imports and exports of essential raw material and items while also supporting and enhancing national and regional production and market linkages between farmers, distributors, marketers and traders.

Wages have been one of the major concerns under the Livelihoods Sector as hyperinflation and black-market exchange rates are increasingly impacting the value of the transfer. Sector partners express a strong need for the government of Lebanon to regulate the national labour law to ensure access to a decent living wage. In addition, donors have expressed interest in engaging with MoSA and implementing partners on developing a methodology/system that allows for an increase in daily wages if inflation continues to increase.

To address immediate needs for income, public work projects will continue in areas where it is possible. Top-up assistance is still highly recommended to ensure workers with a meaningful value transfer. Given the already significant discrepancies between the rates of wages for women and men in the labor market and given that women and men in the labor market and that women are reporting lay-offs, and income and wage reductions, livelihoods and economic interventions should aim at prioritizing women and ensuring that women have access to digital livelihoods opportunities as local confinement periods might be prolonged throughout 2020.



Case Study

Employment Intensive Infrastructure Programme in Lebanon – COVID-19 Safety Measures

Committing to its mandate of maintaining occupational safety and health at all times, and witnessing the pressing economic need to resume work, the International Labour Organization (ILO), through its Employment Intensive Infrastructure Programme (EIIP) in Lebanon, funded by Germany through the German Development Bank (KfW), took prompt and strict measures for safe resumption of work.

"Before the COVID-19 we were living comfortably nothing was affecting us negatively. But, after the pandemic, things got worse. Work stopped and I had to stop university for a few months. And we are still trying to cope with the situation" – Joana Jawhari (Lebanese worker).

The safety and security of all team members and local communities remain the utmost priority of the program, thus EIIP COVID-19 guidelines have been developed to ensure a safe return to field.

All contractors along with Social Safeguard officers are fully trained on EIIP COVID-19 guidelines and are equipped with all the needed information. In turn, they are raising awareness in respective municipalities and local communities. All workers received trainings on COVID-19 preventive measures before starting the work; daily monitoring checklists and registration is taking place on-site.

"Now every time my parents go out they know that they should wear a mask, put on gloves and wash their hands with soap as soon as they come back". "I feel safe working here, we are all distanced from each other and the work is in open air" - Faysal Khleif Al-Khalaf (Syrian refugee).

With close coordination and collaboration with municipalities, PPEs, health units and referral mechanisms are all set in place. To ensure that safety measures are maintained on site at all times, the EIIP Social Safeguard Officers are present daily on-site, monitoring and overseeing the implementation of safety measures, coordinating with municipalities, identifying gaps and proposing corrective measures. All partners on the EIIP, are working together and exerting all efforts, to ensure that work is being conducted in a safe manner, respecting all national and international COVID-19 preventive measures.

The EIIP Lebanon projects, have resumed all its work on fields, adopting the "new normal" standards of post COVID-19 respecting the national and local rules and regulations.



International
Labour
Organization



Implemented by
KfW

¹ ILO, UNDP, IRC, MC, SC, DRC and OXFAM, "Rapid Assessment on the Impact of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Groups in Lebanese Labour Market" https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_747070.pdf



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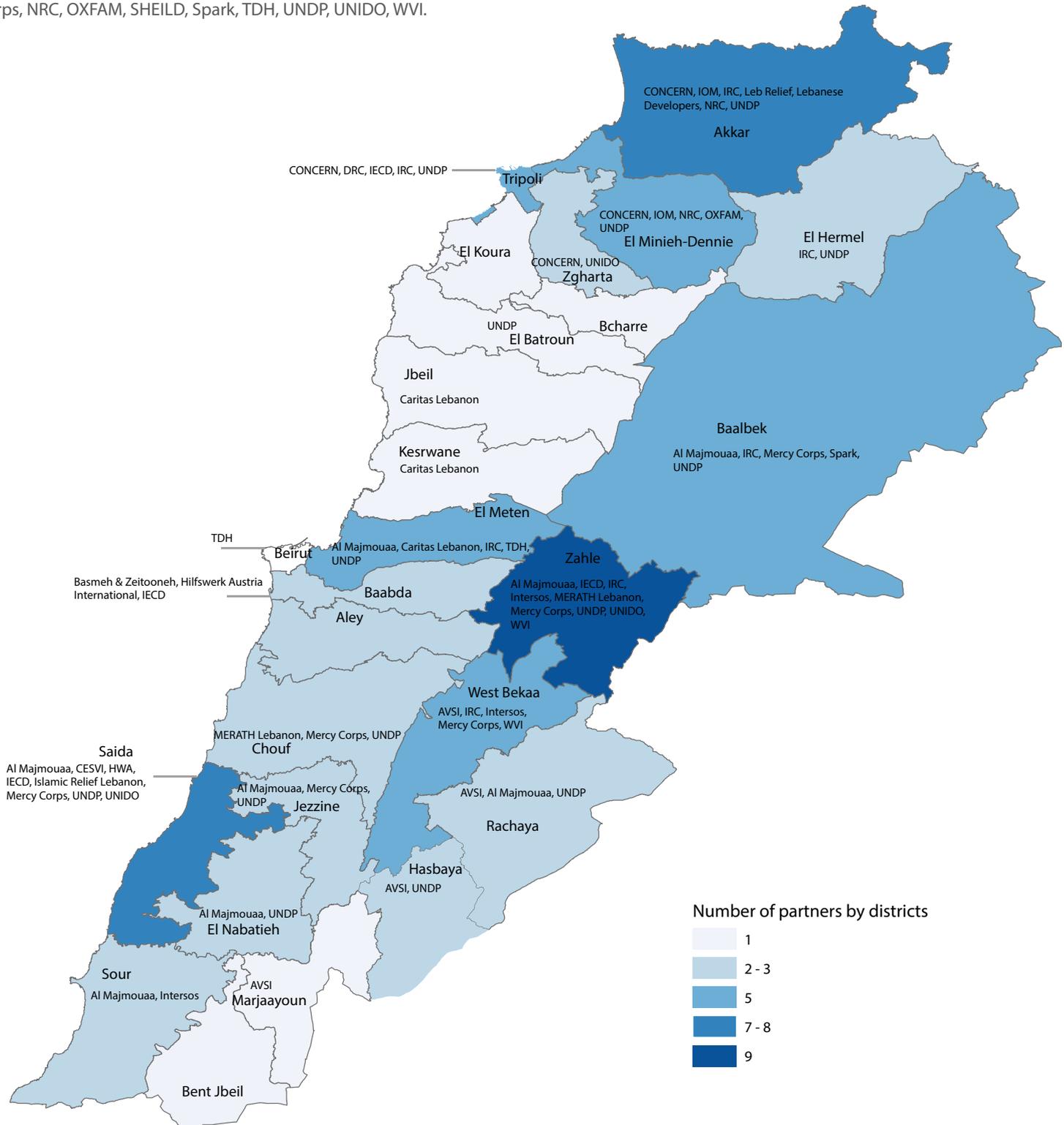
Organizations per district



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 27 organizations:

AVSI, Al Majmouaa, Basmeh & Zeitooneh, CESVI, CONCERN, Caritas Lebanon, DRC, HWA, Hilfswerk Austria International, IECD, ILO, IOM, IRC, Intersos, Islamic Relief Lebanon, Leb Relief, Lebanese Developers, MERATH Lebanon, Mercy Corps, NRC, OXFAM, SHEILD, Spark, TDH, UNDP, UNIDO, WVI.



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