



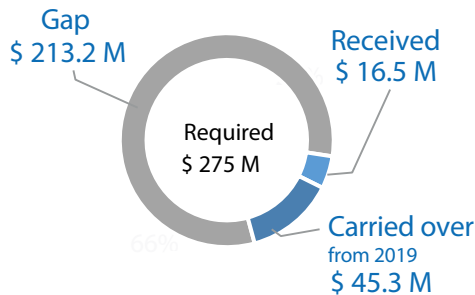
LIVELIHOODS 2020 Mid Year Dashboard



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

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 of 30 June 2020



Targeted population

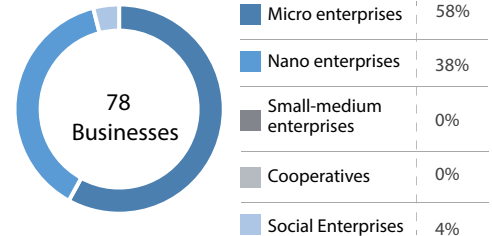
202,359 people in need

92,035 Targeted

Reached

10,306

Businesses reached by type



Progress against targets



Outputs

reached / target

# entrepreneurs & employees who benefitted from business management training	107 / 3,670
# of MSMEs/ Cooperatives supported through cash & in-kind grants	75 / 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	383 / 7,530
\$ value invested in LH labour intensive public work projects	\$10.8m / NA
# of individuals benefitting from market-based skills training	4,608 / 10,000
# of people benefitting from internships, on-the-job training or apprenticeship programmes	839 / 2,000
# of individuals supported to access employment through career guidance, coaching, or individual follow-up services	2436 / 7,000
# of targeted job seekers supported to start their own business	29 / 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-Jun 2020
Current

2019
Target

SYR LEB PRS PRL

OUTCOME 1:

total number of jobs created / maintained*

494

110

5,777

OUTCOME 2:

of job seekers placed into jobs*

N/A

N/A

2,000

targeted vulnerable persons engaged in home-based income generation *

N/A

53

2,000

OUTCOME 3: Increase in ranking of Doing Business**

Rank 126

N/A

N/A

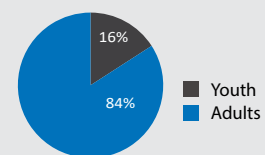
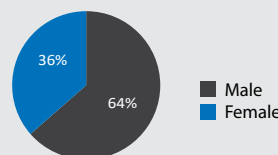
*Source: Activity info
**Source: World Bank



Breakdown by Age and Gender

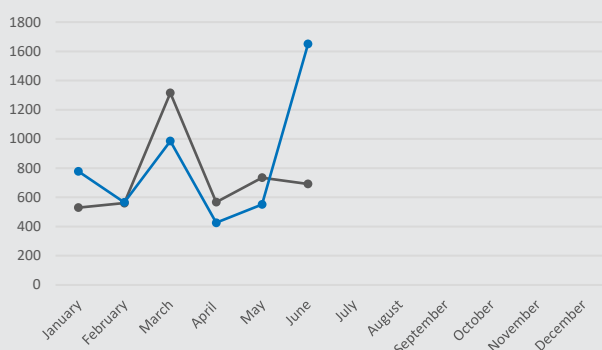
Men vs. Women supported who access employment

Entrepreneurs who benefitted from business management training

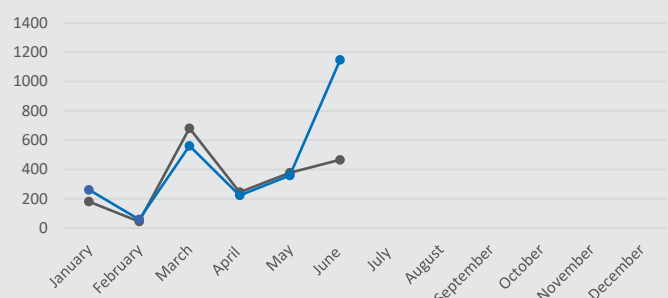


Analysis

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



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





2020 has been a challenging year so far for the Livelihoods sector, which had to adapt to the consequences of longstanding development challenges and multiples crises in Lebanon. Specifically, the lockdown imposed by the COVID-19 related measures had consequences on the achievement of expected results as it forced livelihoods sector partners to suspend most of their activities, delaying implementation and targeting of livelihoods interventions. More specifically, activities suspended under output 1 included a) micro-credit grants to individuals and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and b) conditional cash activities, including labor intensive and environmental support activities. Activities suspended under output 2 included face-to-face soft-skills, individual business coaching and mentoring activities.

With only 6% funding received in 2020, livelihoods partners have not been able to boost the demand side of the job market or offer short-term employment opportunities for the most vulnerable. This is also making it increasingly challenging to generate employment opportunities. Activities contributing to the provision of technical and financial support to MSME and cooperatives to enable growth and decent job creation were difficult to implement as planned, with only 17 new Lebanese MSMEs established and functional after 6 months (out of a target of 1,296), and 75 MSMEs/cooperatives supported through cash and in-kind grants (out of a target of 3,670). The provision of short-term employment opportunities in vulnerable areas has also been limped by the national lockdown, with 383 women and men employed on a short-term basis through public work (out of a target of 7,530). During the confinement period, donor flexibility was granted in order for partners to continue cash transfer to vulnerable refugees and Lebanese employed in active public work activities. This was an exceptional arrangement but essential given the urgent need to secure income to vulnerable women and men.

Activities contributing to career guidance, job matching, and apprentice/internship schemes offered to job seekers could not be implemented as planned in the first half of 2020, with 29 job seekers supported to set-up a business (out of a target of 2,000). Access to technical and vocational learning opportunities continued with the training successfully shifted to web-based operations and online modalities, including businesses trainings and consultancies on advertisement via social media, online customer service and e-commerce. To match the provision of skills with labour market needs, around 2,883 vulnerable individuals have improved skills in various technical areas, following soft skills trainings to 2,436 individuals and technical trainings to 5,447 individuals.



Challenges



Livelihood partners are finding it difficult to adapt their programmes due to the devaluation of the local currency, price increases on raw materials and essential equipment and mobility constraints. New lockdown measures would cause further implementation delays and reduced beneficiary targets. Thus, flexible funding will be required to continue conditional cash transfers to refugees and vulnerable Lebanese engaged in labour-intensive and home-income generating activities, and essential financial services and access to market support to MSMEs and entrepreneurs. In areas where livelihoods sector partners can resume their programmes, workers and MSMEs will be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), especially women-owned enterprises in the most vulnerable areas that lack access to safety tools and equipment due to financial constraints.

Despite the flexibility of partners to provide web-based operations and online businesses trainings and consultancies on advertisement via social media, online customer service and e-commerce, businesses lack the expertise or technological capacity needed to provide quality online services. While lack of electricity, fuel and internet is impacting the web operations, other livelihoods sector partners have reported limited resources to adapt new modalities and are facing financial difficulties to carry over remote activities that require communication cost and data bundle.

Electricity cuts, lack of liquidity and a volatile exchange rate are also 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, particularly for the informal sector. The volatile exchange rate has also resulted in direct closure of businesses until further notice. Al Majmoua, an active livelihoods sector partner and Lebanon's largest non-profit microfinance institution, reported a 37% reduction in active microfinance clients, from 90,000 by the end of September 2019 to 57,000 by the end of May 2020.

With increasing prices of basic food and commodities, many vulnerable individuals struggle to afford goods in addition to paying rent putting them at higher risk of eviction. This is forcing vulnerable individuals to accept jobs with inadequate working conditions exposing them not only to the risk of infection, but also to stigmatization and discrimination because of the perceived inability to comply with lockdown and physical distancing measures. These challenges should be addressed by the Lebanese government to enforce regulations that improves working conditions, safeguard informal work, and counters child labour.

The economic slowdown and disruption in trade and value chains is adding pressures to meet local needs, especially in terms of food availability and availability of COVID-19 related protective equipment. While some partners have already re-programmed their interventions to support MSMEs in PPE and agriculture production, more needs to be done to examine the gaps in supply chains, local capacities, and to promote decent works standards.

To address the emerging needs and challenges, the key areas of intervention for the second half of 2020 are: 1) tailored financial and technical support to key value chains in economic sectors with high potential for employment and income, this include technology transfer, skills development and provision of raw material and financial packages; 2) support to MSMEs, entrepreneurs and small-scale farmers in technology transfer and skills training required for online businesses, including provision of financial support through seed funds/grants and grace periods on loan repayment; and 3) support to MSMEs and entrepreneurs in various economic sectors on business continuity and decent job retention to assist them in finding new ways to maintain their businesses and protect their workers, especially youth and women. Planned infrastructure activities for the remainder of 2020 are unlikely to resume; however, additional resources will be allocated to alternative cash-for-work interventions under the Livelihoods sector.

Wages have been one of the major concerns under the Livelihoods sector as hyperinflation and the black-market exchange rates are increasingly impacting the value of the transfer with partners questioning whether the national minimum rate is sufficient to meet basic needs. To further support beneficiaries, livelihoods sector partners are working towards expanding vertically by topping-up support such as in-kind food assistance, transportation support, food vouchers, compensation for childcare, and/or by expanding horizontally by increasing the number of beneficiaries.

Recent findings from an assessment on the impact of the crisis on vulnerable groups in Lebanon showed that 48% of women reported being laid off, compared to 40% men, and 7% of women reported wage reductions, compared to 3% of men¹. Given the already significant discrepancies between the rates of women and men in the labor market, the fact that women are reporting lay-offs, and income and wage reductions could result in a prolonged decrease in women's engagement in the labour market. The lockdown measures and school closures under COVID-19 make it more difficult for women to apply for and maintain jobs. Therefore, it is crucial for sector partners to ensure that livelihoods and economic interventions are targeting women, and specifically ensure that women have access to digital livelihoods opportunities as the confinement period might be prolonged. The latter is of great importance, as it was reported by UN Women in 2018 that only 1 in 3 women have regular access to a mobile phone for their own personal use among the Syrian refugee communities in Lebanon².

Throughout 2020, the Livelihoods sector will prioritize the monitoring of daily wages. The first wage monitoring dashboard is expected to be finalized and presented in September 2020. The dashboard is led by UNDP in collaboration with key cash-for-work actors under the livelihoods sector. Due to the sharp increase in evictions and inability to pay rent, another priority is to strengthen the referral pathways under the sector and between the different sectors especially protection and shelter. Partner referrals systems and capacities will be mapped to better understand gaps and challenges.

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

² UN Women, "Unpacking Gendered Realities in Displacement - Lebanon," 2018



Local fishers find opportunity within the COVID-19 restrictions

“This market transformed the Coronavirus restrictions into an opportunity for us and our families,” says Mahmoud Fadel, a fisher at the Jiyeh port. While the current Covid-19 outbreak has presented many challenges for the fishers, they insist on making the best out of it.

Since childhood, Mahmoud enjoyed watching his father and grandfather on their fishing trips. Years later, after being let go from several jobs due to economic challenges, him and his brothers took on the family profession and began earning their livelihoods at sea, particularly at the port of Jiyeh, their hometown.

Since UNDP rehabilitated the whole port and constructed a fish market with support from the UK, Mahmoud and about 40 fishers are able to sell their fish directly to clients. Not only does this increase their income, but also attracts more locals and visitors from outside the town, benefitting women and men in the Chouf coast who rely on fishing as a primary source of livelihood. Recently, they built the first boat of their own production using the workshop and tools provided by UNDP as part of the comprehensive support to the cooperative which also included provision of boats and training of fishers.

“Since there is currently no imported fish in the market due to the Coronavirus, our sales have spiked up beyond our expectations,” Mahmoud says with hope.

In compliance with the government’s regulations related to limiting the spread of Covid19, the Fishermen’s Cooperative Association in the Chouf Coast is implementing strict protective measures including physical distancing between clients, wearing masks inside the market, regular sanitization, and limiting the number of fishers to two per boat. These measures, according to what clients told Mahmoud, are the main reason why customers would come back again.

