

SITUATION ANALYSIS

The last two months of 2015 confirmed the trend observed since September of a notable increase in the number of livelihoods activities. 17 partners now have ongoing livelihoods programs, the highest number to date this year. However, there are wide variation by region, with only 2 partners reporting results in the South of Lebanon for example, while areas like Bekaa and North Lebanon have 10 active partners each.

The progress of the sector are visible both for programs related to providing direct support to vulnerable individuals and for programs related to local economic development. The latter notably saw new interventions taking place in the area of value chain development, with ILO training 20 companies, local NGOs and cooperatives on export logistics to the EU market to strengthen the capacities of local exporters to be more compliant and manage cost-effective exports and enable them to make up for some of the losses related to the Syrian crisis.

UNIDO also supported a total of 169 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and cooperatives on technology transfer related to olive oil processing, notably on production processes, technologies to be used, harvesting and post-harvesting of olives, definition of Virgin Olive Oil, positive attributes and defects.

Support to vulnerable individuals mostly revolved around rapid-income generating activities (1,800 new beneficiaries) and employability support (530 people trained, 113 in internship schemes, in addition to 380 benefitting from career guidance and employment services). After a peak in number of beneficiaries in the September-October, the last two months saw a slight decrease but remain over the average number since the beginning of the year.

At the policy level, ILO organized two awareness raising workshops on child labour with the Ministry of Labor in Akkar, as a first step to address this increasing concern. The first workshop gathered Lebanese employers (farmers/cooperatives) and other key stakeholders such as mayor, municipality members, and local organizations, while the second one was with Syrian workers and shawish. The workshops focused on government policies and ILO conventions, definition of child labour and worst forms of child labour, impact of child labour on children and farmers, and measures and preventive actions that could be applied to reduce risks of child labour in the agriculture sector. The sector will build on this efforts by building the capacity and awareness of partners on international standards and on how to prevent the worst forms of child labour, notably by increasing linkages with child protection partners at the beginning of 2016.

