



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MONTH

**48** CSPs completed

**1147** benefited from livelihoods activities

## HIGHLIGHTS:

Partners continued to implement livelihood activities at a fast pace in December, once again reaching over 1,000 beneficiaries. Beneficiaries of income-generating activities remained at a high level (over 400), in line with the positive results already achieved in November. However, this was not enough to significantly progress towards the 90,000 target-level for the year. This was in contrast with vocational training activities, which reached two-third of the yearly target, a positive result for a chronically under-funded sector.

On the social cohesion side, partners did not establish new conflict mitigation or participatory mechanisms, nor trained new change agents. Yet the overall results for this year for these confidence-building activities remains positive, with over 2,000 change agents reached and 84 mechanisms established.

The main progress on the social cohesion side related to the implementation of community and municipal support projects, with another 48 projects completed this month, bringing the total for the year to nearly 300 (50% of the overall target). Projects completed this month benefited 51 host communities and represented an investment of nearly USD 1 million.



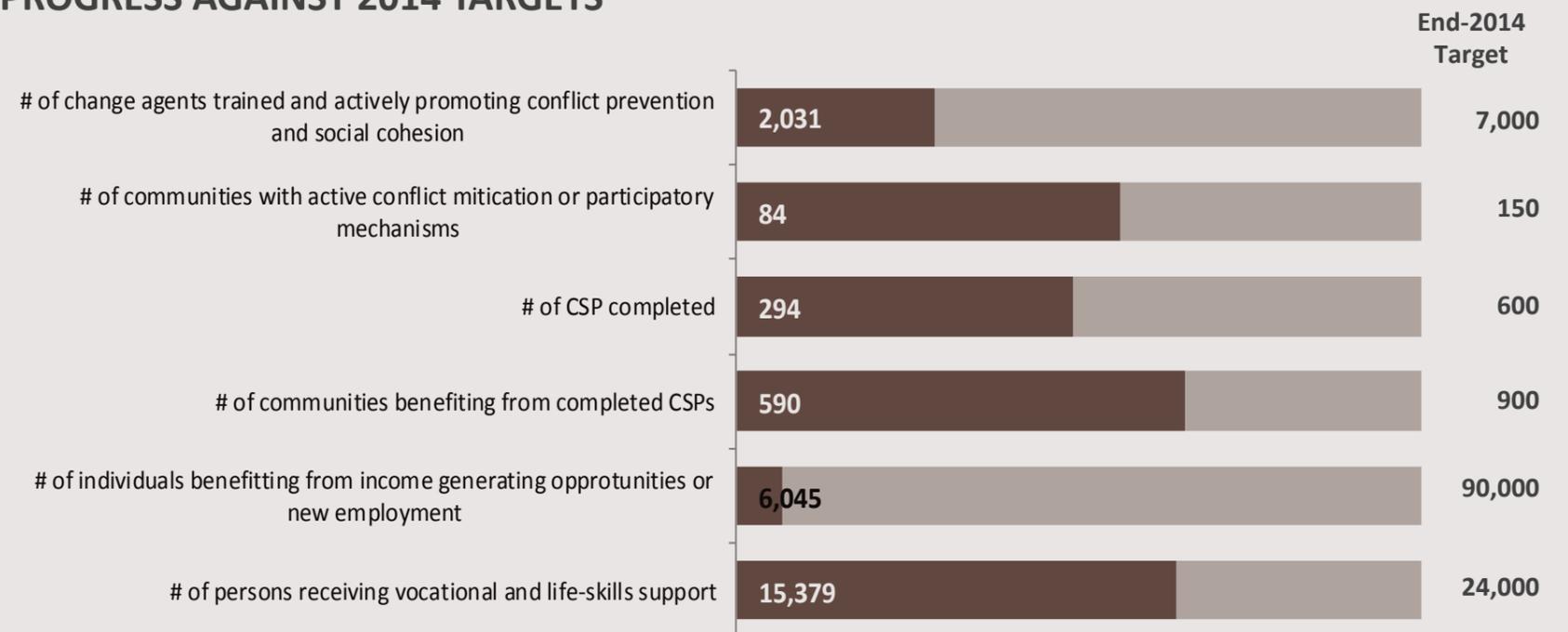
## NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The Ministry of Economy and Trade launched the 'Lebanon SME Strategy: Roadmap to 2020' which aims to foster the creation of vibrant and globally competitive SMEs that contribute to employment opportunities and high value-added economy. This will provide an excellent basis for the Livelihoods sector work in 2015, given its strong focus on supporting MSMEs.

On the other hand, the ILO released a study on labour market conditions in Lebanon, outlining major challenges in the Lebanese labor market. These include high unemployment rates and poor working conditions. Regulation of, and investment in, the Lebanese labor market is seriously lacking. The outcome is an increasingly low-skilled labor force with minimal social protection stuck in a 'downward spiral' towards increasingly dire working conditions. While the absence of decent work is not new to Lebanon, the addition of hundreds of thousands of largely low-skilled Syrian workers is exacerbating an already fragile situation.

On the social cohesion side, Search for Common Ground released a report on Youth and Peace building, pointing out that stereotypes and prejudices limit the interaction of youth from different communities. The study also confirms the importance of adopting a gender perspective when working with youth: young males are more likely to be concerned about the crisis while young females are more focused on their daily life.

## PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS



Source: figures reported above reflect the information reported to Sector Coordinators by Partners participating in Working Groups

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