

SITUATION ANALYSIS

After very modest results reported in January, livelihoods interventions increased in February. With regards to rapid income generation activities, 358 persons benefitted from this activity this month, with a total of 2,902 workmen days created. These rapid income generating activities are an opportunity not only to provide livelihoods support to vulnerable persons, but also to engage them in productive work such as infrastructure rehabilitation, which benefited two new villages.

Partners have also supported 568 people through employments services, internship and on-the-job training and vocational training, a major increase from January where only 116 people were reached. In the meantime, the Government is continuing its inter-ministerial consultation process on livelihoods. A national livelihoods workshop is tentatively scheduled for mid-April, and aims at refining the strategy of the sector.

Two new studies released this month will be an important source of information for this workshop, highlighting in particular the lack of income for displaced Syrians. A study published by ACTED on the labor market of Beirut and Mount Lebanon found significant disparities between genders, and between Lebanese and Syrian communities in terms of access to livelihoods. In both communities, female participation in the workforce was much lower than for males, and Syrian males and females reported higher unemployment and an average salary four times lower than their Lebanese counterparts, and below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket in Lebanon. Lebanese workers had access to a comparatively wider range of sectors of employment, with employment options for Syrian workers limited primarily to low-skilled sectors, which do not require high literacy or numeracy skills.

This complements the final findings of the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees, which showed that across Lebanon, three quarters of all employment occupied by Syrians registered as refugees was temporary. In this respect, food assistance constitutes the most important livelihood source for Syrians registered as refugees: 40% of all households rely on the food voucher as first livelihood source, compared to 24% found in 2013.

