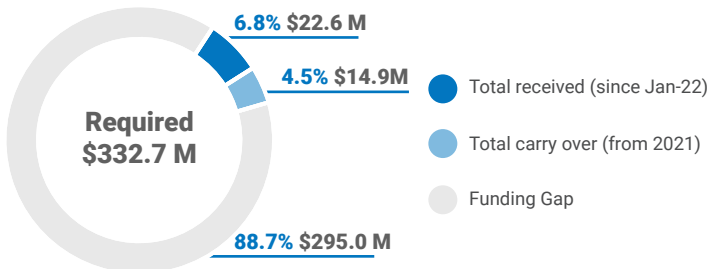




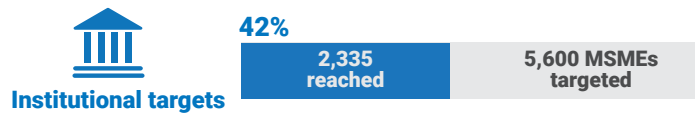
The 1st quarter dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Livihoods Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Stimulate local economic growth and market systems to foster income-generating opportunities and decent and safe employment; OUTCOME 2) Improve workforce employability; OUTCOME 3) Strengthen policy development and enabling environment for job creation.

2022 Sector funding status

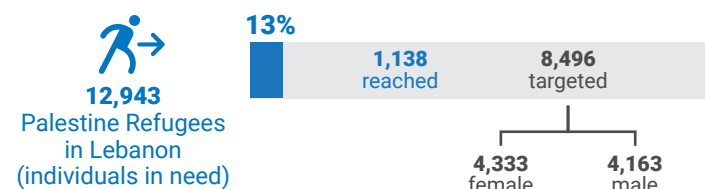
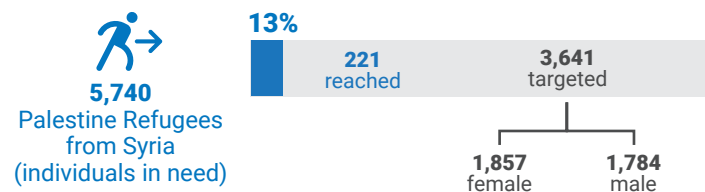
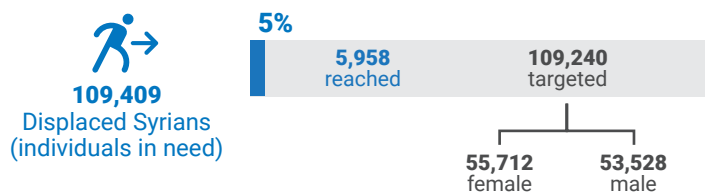
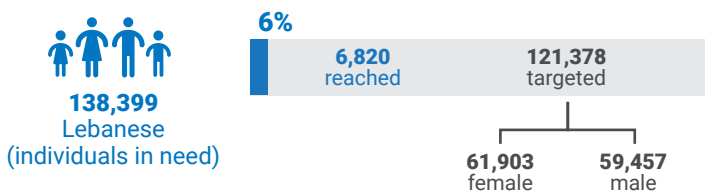
As of 31 March



2022 Population reached

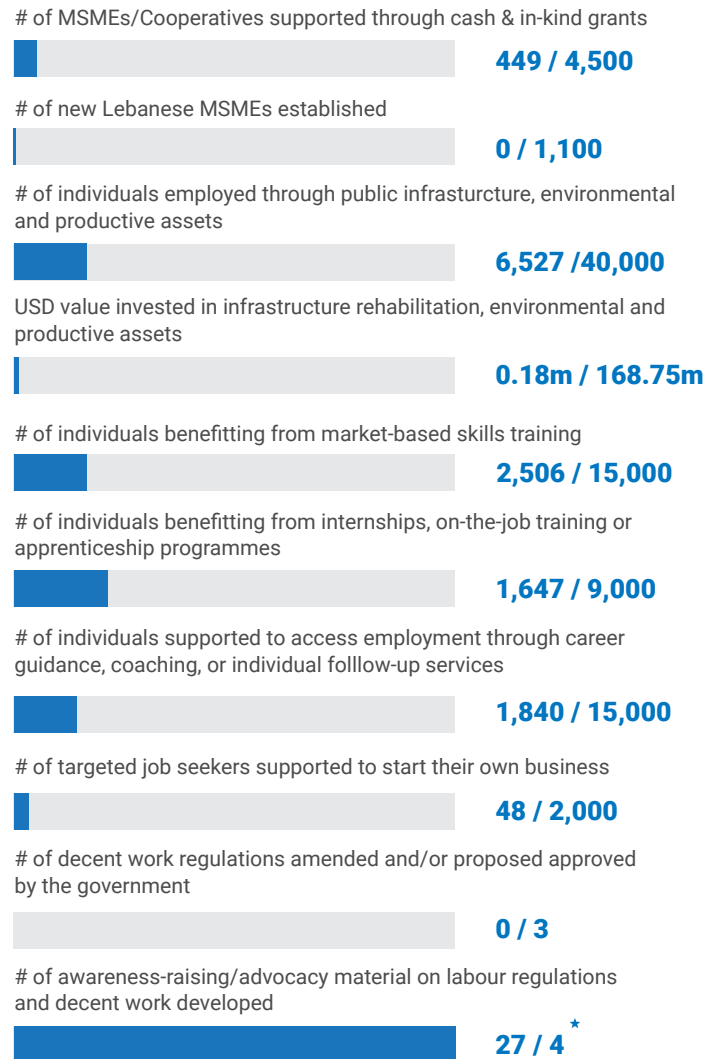


2022 Population figures by cohort



Progress against targets

Key achievements



Outcomes

Outcomes	LCRP 2016 Baseline	Jan - Mar 2022 Reached	2022 Target			
			SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL
OUTCOME 1: Total number of jobs created/maintained	494	395	16,000			
OUTCOME 2: # of job seekers placed into jobs	N/A	145	900	1000	30	70
# of targeted vulnerable persons engaged in home-based income generation	N/A	59	900	1000	30	70
OUTCOME 3: Ranking of doing business**	Rank 126	N/A	N/A			

*Out of 16,232 individuals reached, 2,095 individuals were not disaggregated by cohort. This relates to Outcome indicator 2 and Output indicator 2 (individuals supported to start their own businesses and individuals accessing jobs after completion of employability programmes).

* Target overachieved. Target value to be revised for the 2023 strategy.

**Source: World Bank

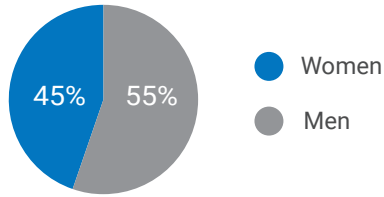


Analysis

Breakdown by age and gender

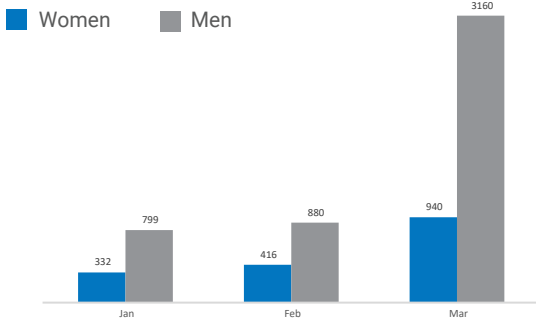
16,232

Number of individuals reached by Sector partners by gender (Jan - Mar 2022)



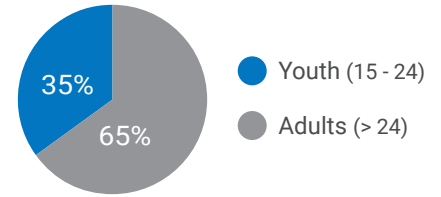
6,527

Individuals employed through public infrastructure, environmental assets and productive assets by gender per month (2022)



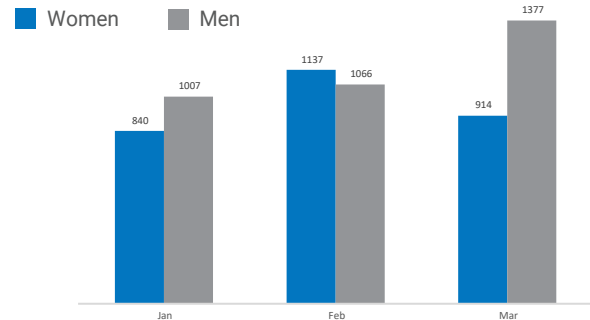
2,377

Entrepreneurs benefitted from business management training by age (Jan - Mar 2022)



6,341

Number of beneficiaries receiving technical and soft skills training (market-based skills trainings, career guidance, awareness sessions and work-based learning opportunities)



The effects of the political, economic and public health crises facing Lebanon continue to exacerbate the vulnerability of refugee and host populations supported under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP). People are falling deeper into poverty due to currency depreciation, rising prices and loss of income, making the purchase of staple food and other basic goods unaffordable. According to the WFP Household Deprivation Score (HDS - which measures non-monetary poverty) used to determine the number of families requiring assistance, there is a continuing deterioration of the food security status among the Lebanese population: 53 percent of the Lebanese, PRL and other nationalities were found to be vulnerable and in need of assistance by the fourth quarter of 2021, equivalent to around 2.1 million people.

By March 2022, the cost of the revised food 'Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket' has risen ten times since October 2019 (a 1062 percent increase), while the non-food item basket rose by more than 14 times in the same period (a 1,315% increase). Further price hikes are expected following the Russian invasion of Ukraine given Lebanon's reliance on important wheat and other cereals

from both countries. A governmental wheat subsidy remains in place for now, but the situation has sparked fears that bread may become unaffordable for many if the subsidy is discontinued, with a knock-on effect on social tensions which continue to be driven by socio-economic factors.

Protection monitoring demonstrates that economic vulnerability is contributing to a worsening rate of legal residency among refugees, which in turn inhibits freedom of movement and access to justice. Among vulnerable Lebanese households, a WFP and World Bank survey found that more than 60% of households were resorting to crisis coping strategies, including reducing expenditure on health and education, withdrawing children from school and selling productive assets. The operational context for LCRP partners remains constrained including for emergency response, with ongoing supply chain gaps, access challenges for partners in the field and the ongoing impact of COVID-19. While access to fuel supplies has eased somewhat in early 2022, state electricity provision remained low, averaging less than 5 hours of electricity supply per day around the country.



1. Analysis and achievements of the sector at the output level

Output 1.1: With a focus on supporting Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives to allow them to maintain their businesses in the current context, sector partners supported a total of 2,335 MSMEs in the first quarter of 2022 with access to financial services, and in-kind and cash grants (out of a target of 4,500). Additionally, business management training was provided to 2,377 individuals out of 6,000 targeted (35% youth and 65% adults, 69% females and 31% males). The topics included entrepreneurship skills, financial management, and creative thinking among others. The reported values of loans and grants for Q1 were USD 3,155,142 and USD 785,853 respectively.

Output 1.2: To strengthen and update integrated value chains, some 26 value chain interventions were reported in Q1 with a total of 585 jobs created and/or maintained (34% females and 66% males) against a target of 1,755. The need to support local production and increase its ability to substitute imports necessitates the support to value chains, especially in the agricultural sector. Sector partners have started some initiatives but more guidance from the governmental counterparts, specifically the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economy and Trade, as well as the Sector on priority value chains is still needed in Q2.

Output 1.3: In Q1, 6,527 individuals participated in labour intensive programs (40% infrastructure improvement, 58% environmental assets, and 2% productive assets). Of these, 26% were females and 74% were males (37% Lebanese, 61% displaced Syrians, 2% PRL and 0.4% PRS). However, the numbers show that the percentage of women participating in environmental assets rehabilitation is higher than those in infrastructure improvement (38% vs. 8%) which confirms that the nature of the work continues to affect the decision of women to engage in the activities. For this, the sector is continuing the effort to ensure gender mainstreaming across all the sector's activities, especially the labour-intensive component.

Output 2.1: Some 2,506 individuals out of a target of 15,000 individuals received market-based skills training, with equal participation between males and females. In terms of nationalities, 58% were Lebanese followed by 35% displaced Syrians and 6% PRL. It is important to mention that the reported numbers show that 4% of the beneficiaries are caregivers of children engaged in labour. Including this specific group of beneficiaries was a cross-sectoral recommendation, in 2021, from the Livelihoods sector and the Child protection sector on the basis that engaging parents in employability activities will eliminate the need of engaging their children in labour.

Output 2.2: In Q1, employment and job counselling services were provided to 1,840 beneficiaries against a target of 8,345 (of whom 52% were females, 48% were males and 6% were caregivers of children engaged in labour). Furthermore, sensitization on decent work, minimum standards and labour laws was provided to 348 beneficiaries (68% females and 32% males; 79% Lebanese, 16% displaced Syrians and 5% PRL). Finally, 48 job seekers of a target 2,000 were supported to start their own business (71% females and 29% males).

Output 3.1: Sector partners reported conducting 4 advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns on labour regulations in addition to developing 23 advocacy and awareness-raising materials on the same topic during Q1. These aim to improve the knowledge and implementation of decent work conditions, minimum labour standards and regulations as well as to advocate the formalisation of businesses.

Output 3.2: In Q1, partners reported the signature of 3 agreements to strengthen institutions that support the existing government agencies or economic/business development entities with the aim to create a conducive environment for the sustainable economic growth of local companies. Additionally, 5 workshops were delivered to these entities.

In Q1, the Livelihoods sector continued the work to improve the sector's ability to accept referrals. Some 1,063 referrals were made to Livelihoods sector partners, most in the North and the Bekaa (both at 28%), followed by Akkar at 17% and Mount Lebanon at 9%. Of the total referrals, 24% (253) were accepted, 21% acknowledged by the receiving partner and 42% of the referrals were not provided with feedback. The main reason for non-acceptance of referrals was that referred cases did not meet the criteria (50%), followed by organizations' maximum capacity to receive referrals being reached (25%). During Q1, the Sector has been following up with partners to ensure that they update their opportunities' information on the Inter-Sector Service Mapping. Presentations of the available opportunities were also made at different sectors' meetings at the regional levels. In the upcoming quarter, the sector will conduct a quick survey to understand the knowledge and use of the partners of the available referral tools.

During Q1, the Sector started developing the Gender Mainstreaming in Livelihoods Activities Guideline in a participatory manner. This document aims to provide practical guidance and recommendations to the sector partners to ensure women participation and gender mainstreaming across the different phases of the project lifecycle, from identification and design to community engagement, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. It will also include references to useful tools and resources such as the Harvard Analytical Framework. The Guideline is envisaged to be finalised in Q2.

In parallel, collaboration and coordination with the Protection Sector is ongoing to facilitate thematic discussions to better identify barriers and approaches to providing more inclusive livelihoods opportunities. Ultimately, the aim of this collaboration is to reduce the subjection of displaced persons to exploitation, dependency on humanitarian aid and to support their contributions to the local economy.

Also, in Q1, 32 Livelihoods sector partners participated in the Conflict Sensitivity and Do no Harm workshops at national and regional levels. These workshops provided participants with an overview of Conflict Sensitivity and Do No Harm principles for them to serve as interlocutors and mainstreamers within their respective organizations.



2. Key challenges of the sector

Throughout Q1, Livihoods sector partners highlighted several challenges. Some of these challenges have led to delays in the implementation of activities:

In terms of stimulating the local economic growth and market systems to foster income-generating opportunities and decent and safe employment, the main challenge was the lack of access to electricity that is critical to MSMEs and cooperatives to sustain their production and businesses. For this, green energy solutions are being utilized by partners, especially the on-grid as they do not incur maintenance costs that are high and unaffordable. The availability of financing options such as loans from microfinance institutions (MFIs) is another challenge. For this, partners have been advocating for the need for adapted, innovative and affordable options for financing such as subsidized interest rates or top-up cash assistance. Another challenge was the lack of harmonization in transfer values and currencies between partners. Further coordination for interventions within the same geographi-

cal areas is facilitated by the sector to avoid any negative impact resulting from different approaches.

Challenges were also faced related to beneficiaries dropping out of trainings due to their preference to find employment instead. For this, partners are covering transportation costs, and implement activities in areas of walking distance from most beneficiaries. Another issue is related to the increasing costs of training materials and the difficulty in predicting this increase from one month to another. Donor flexibility in allowing re-allocation of budget is crucial to allow partners to continue these activities.

With the governmental focus on the response to the different crises and the elections, little progress has been made in terms of strengthening policy development and enabling environment for job creation. However, a mapping done by the sector shows that several partners have planned interventions in this area, the results of which will be more visible in the upcoming quarters.

3. Key priorities for the following quarter

During Q1, the sector identified several priority areas that can help in better responding to the increasing needs and vulnerabilities, namely connecting the Sector to the government's plan for local wheat production, substituting imports, and underlining funding gaps

In terms of the Sector's role in the wheat production plan, the sector Core Group agreed to have a task team develop a policy paper on the Livihoods sector's contribution, especially in the areas of large-scale production, post-harvesting processing, and marketing. The paper will include recommendations for the sector on interventions in the immediate, medium, and long term. This will require close coordination with the Food Security and Agriculture sector, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI).

With the need for the local market to substitute imports, support to MSMEs and cooperatives is becoming more of a priority. The sector has identified that as a first step, it is imperative for donors and partners to support the government in carrying out a national

level market study to identify the local market's existing capacities for production, opportunities and gaps. The results of this study would guide the Sector's future interventions in terms of targeting and activities. It is also a priority to enhance collaboration between sector partners to ensure that activities better complement one another in a way that strengthens value chains (such as the production of wheat and other consumables). The coordination should also include other sectors, mainly the Food Security and Agriculture sector.

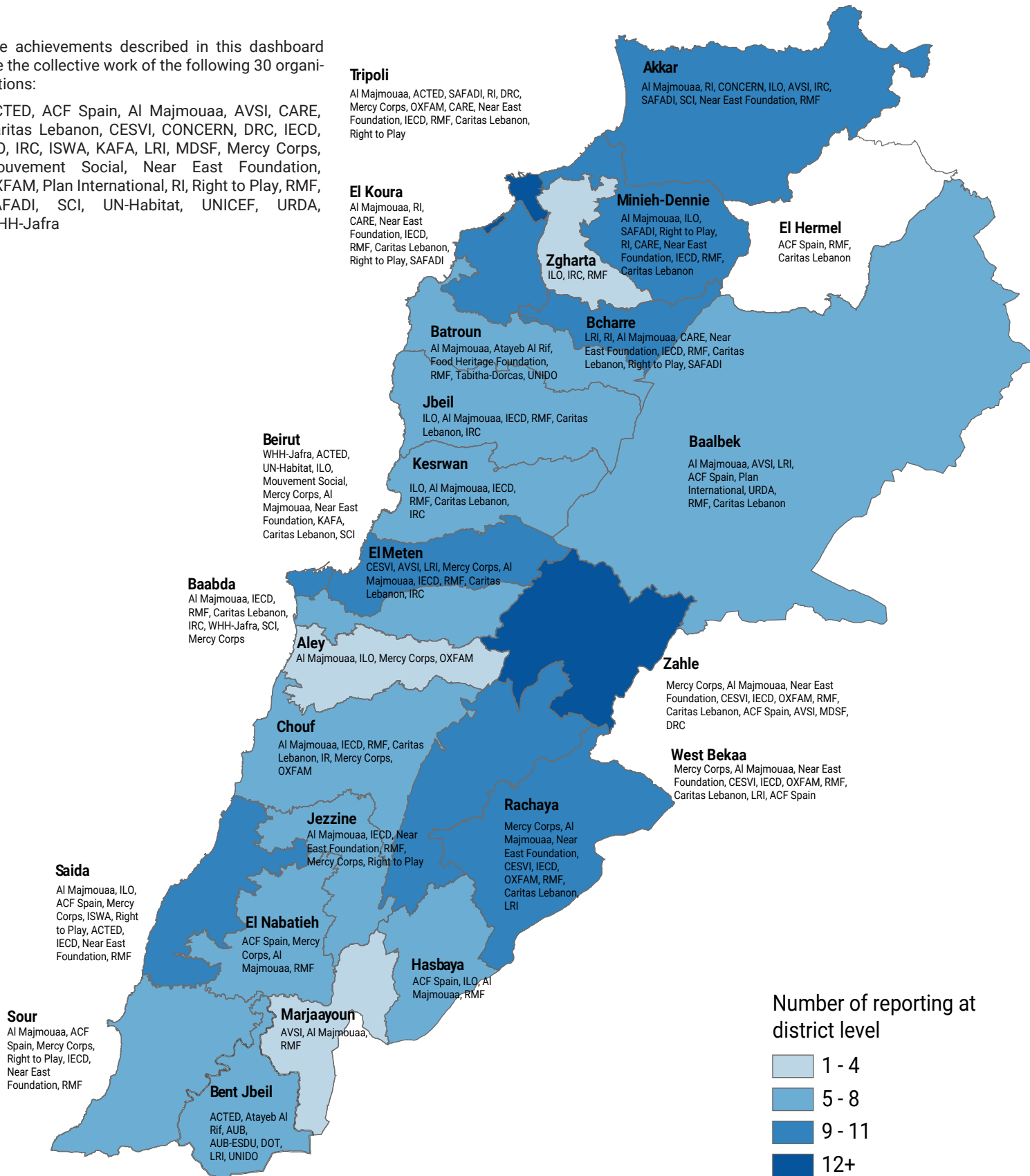
As a final priority, the sector will continue to flag funding gaps and priorities, in particular for medium to long term funding that is necessary to implement more sustainable interventions to support MSMEs and cooperatives and to support national level assessments that are needed to identify the appropriate path. In parallel, advocacy efforts should continue with the Government of Lebanon to facilitate the registration and regularization of businesses which should help in increasing their opportunities in accessing international markets.



Partners by district

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 30 organizations:

ACTED, ACF Spain, Al Majmouaa, AVSI, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CESVI, CONCERN, DRC, IECD, ILO, IRC, ISWA, KAFA, LRI, MDSF, Mercy Corps, Mouvement Social, Near East Foundation, OXFAM, Plan International, RI, Right to Play, RMF, SAFADI, SCI, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, URDA, WHH-Jafra



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