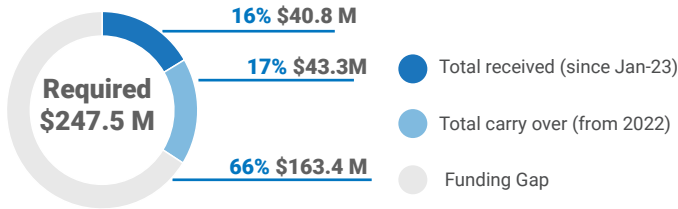




The 3rd quarter dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Livelihoods Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Stimulate local economic growth and market systems to foster income-generating opportunities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

### 2023 Sector funding status

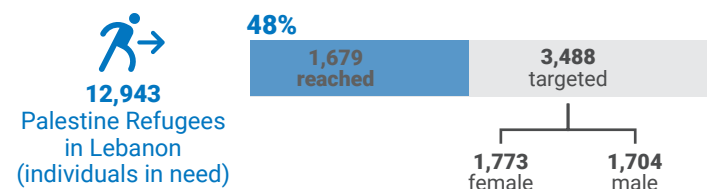
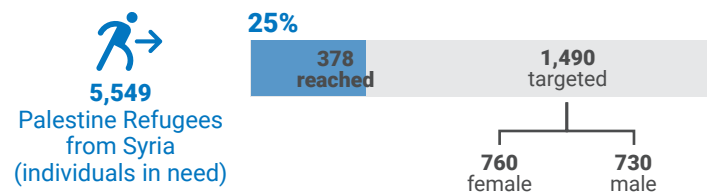
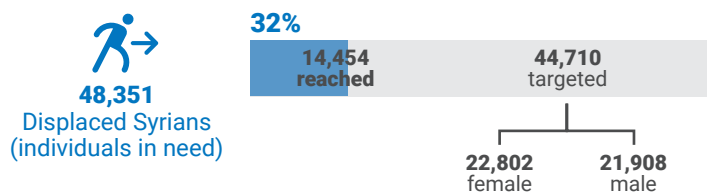
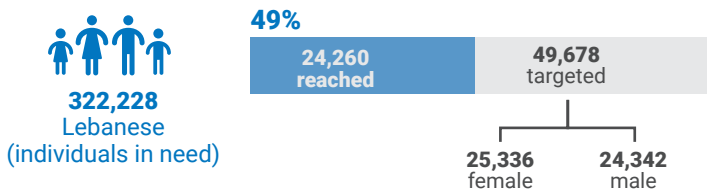
As of 30 September



### 2023 Population reached

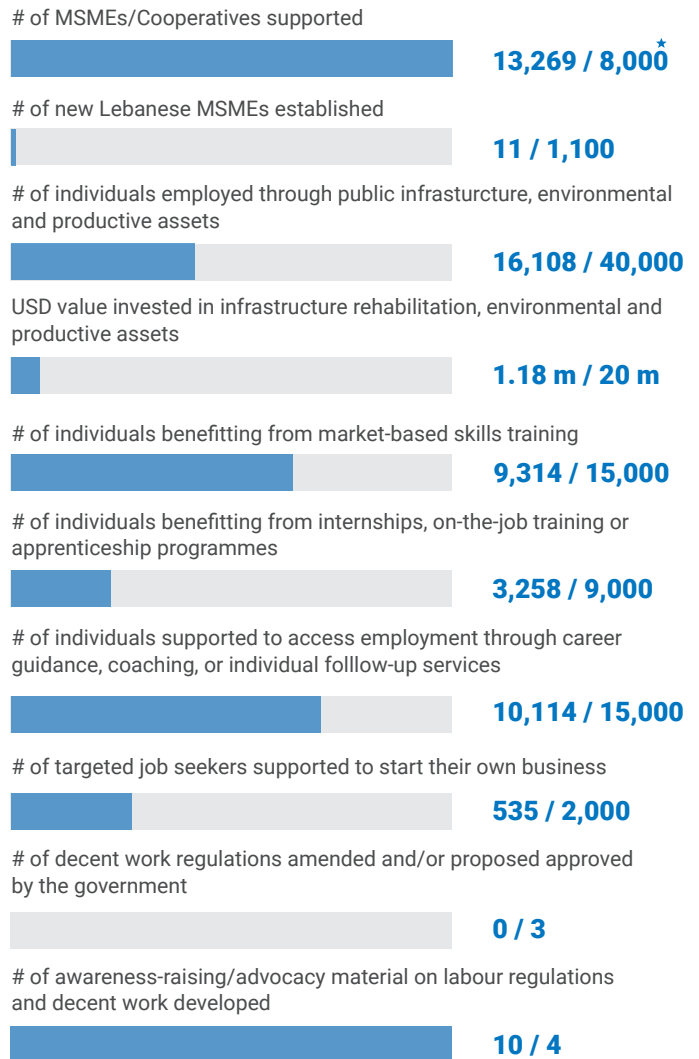


### 2023 Population figures by cohort



### Progress against targets

#### Key achievements



#### Outcomes

Outcomes	LCRP 2016 Baseline	Jan - Jun 2023 Reached	2023 Target			
			SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL
OUTCOME 1:						
Total number of jobs created/maintained	494	13,269		10,400		
OUTCOME 2:						
# of job seekers placed into jobs	N/A	2096	900	1000	30	70
# of targeted vulnerable persons engaged in home-based income generation	N/A	204	900	1000	30	70

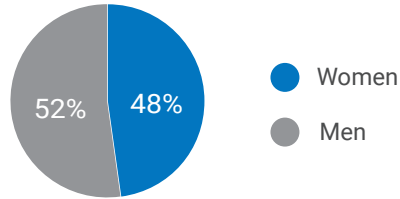


### Analysis

## Breakdown by age and gender

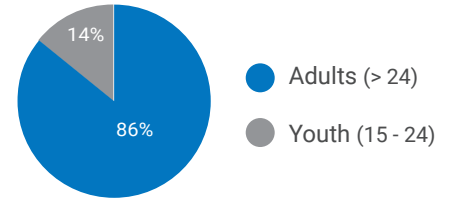
**55,686\***

Number of individuals reached by Sector partners by gender (Jan - Sep 2023)



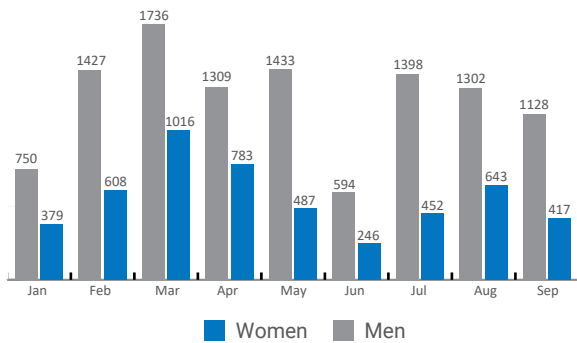
**13,099**

Entrepreneurs benefitted from business management training by age (Jan - Sep 2023)



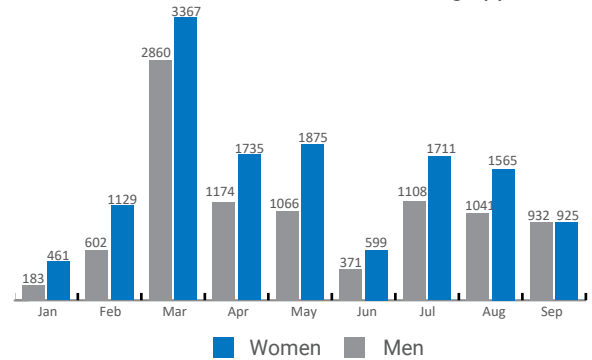
**16,108**

Individuals employed through public infrastructure, environmental assets and productive assets by gender per month (2023)



**22,686**

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



### Multi-sectoral situation update:

The economic situation in Lebanon remains dire in the third quarter of 2023, resulting in significant challenges for individuals and families. In August 2023, the annual inflation rate recorded a 229.8 per cent increase compared to August 2022, the 38th consecutive month of hyperinflation since the beginning of the crisis. The cost of living, as measured by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which includes expenses for food, essential goods, and services, reached LBP 30,472,087 in July 2023, a slight increase from June and up by 142 per cent compared to the SMEB cost in January 2023. The average price of bottled water in Lebanon up to September 2023 has witnessed a remarkable 16 per cent increase in USD value and a 2598 per cent increase in Lebanese pound (LBP) value compared to the prices in January 2021. Similarly, water trucking costs have soared dramatically, with a significant 297 per cent increase in USD value and 1665 per cent increase in LBP value over the same period. These soaring prices highlight the acute economic challenges faced by the population. In August 2023 alone, there was a significant price spike, with bottled water prices rising by 54 per cent in USD value and 57 per cent in Lebanese pound value, and water trucking prices increasing by 26 per cent in USD value and 29 per cent in Lebanese pound value. These steep price increases pose substantial challenges to access clean water in Lebanon.

At the beginning of Q3, a temporary decrease in raids undertaken by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) targeting displaced Syrians in informal settlements was witnessed compared to Q2. However, a shrinking protection space was observed in August and September with an increase in raids in Bekaa, movement restrictions and an uptick in border pushbacks. On 12 September, Ministry of Interior

and Municipalities (MOIM) addressed another circular to all Governors in Lebanon, to be further disseminated to municipalities and Mokhtars, regarding the presence of displaced Syrians. The circular included instructions to, inter-alia, conduct a data survey of displaced Syrians, report suspicious movements and gatherings of displaced Syrians and to request from all organizations, especially foreign ones, to coordinate their activities with the ministries, municipalities, and military and security agencies. Restrictions of movements including through curfews and searches at check points as well as confiscation of items such as internet routers, solar panels, and motorbikes were reported significantly impacting the feeling of safety and security and psychological wellbeing of displaced Syrians. The fear of deportation because of lacking legal residency was particularly reported by men, resulting in their limitations of movement and an increase of engagement of women and children in labour activities, accumulation of debts and other harmful coping mechanisms. In Q3, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) partners continued to observe rising trends in women and girls being exploited and exposed to sexual harassment and assault when working in farms and as domestic workers or in the streets. A spike in anti-gender rhetoric was observed resulting in a shrinking space to advocate for women's rights, diversity, and gender-based violence prevention and response programs.

As of July, inter-communal relations in Lebanon eased slightly after having experienced a peak in negative sentiments in the first and second quarter of 2023. Some 34 per cent of respondents now report negative inter-communal relations as compared to 46 per cent in March 2023 as per the UNDP-ARK Perception Survey. The

\*A total of 1,816 beneficiaries reported are not segregated by Gender & \*a total of 13,099 beneficiaries are not segregated by cohort - Activity 1.1.1A



main tension drivers continue to be economic such as competition for lower-skilled jobs and services such as electricity, healthcare, and waste management. Relations between Lebanese on the other hand have slightly deteriorated with 34 per cent rating intra-Lebanese relations as negative, compared to 21 per cent in March 2023. For the first time ever, economic competition was quoted as the main tension driver among Lebanese (58%), followed by political and sectarian conflict (51%).

ingly, gender-based violence is on the rise across all areas of Lebanon. Reports indicate an increase in sexual violence and harassment, particularly in workplaces such as farms, agricultural sites, and domestic housework employment. Additionally, child marriage, a continuous violation of child rights, has seen a

concerning shift in the age of forced marriages, with girls as young as 12-13 being subjected to early marriages. Gender disparities persist in the labour market, with women and girls being underrepresented in cash-for-work opportunities and facing limited employment opportunities overall. Inter-communal relations in Lebanon have reached their lowest point since 2017. The UNDP-ARK perception survey from March 2023 reveals that 46 per cent of respondents reported negative inter-communal relations, compared to 34 per cent in April 2022 and 21 per cent in July 2018. The main drivers of tension include competition for lower-skilled jobs and access to vital services such as electricity, healthcare, and waste management.

## Analysis and achievements of the sector at the output level

### Output 1.1 – MSMEs strengthened to enable decent job retention/creation boost productivity and competitiveness: (target 8,000 vs. 13,269 achieved)

In 2023, Livelihoods sector partners surpassed their target for supported businesses. This overachievement began in the second quarter and continued through the third quarter of the year, focusing on the same areas of support. Notably, access to financial services emerged as the most reported activity during this period. 46 per cent of the benefiting businesses are owned by females and 54 per cent by males. These percentages show the partners' commitment to gender equality and achieving social impact. The partners' approach to facilitating access to financial services and capital is a significant contributing factor to achieving a higher level of women's participation. This is because access to capital is frequently cited as one of the primary barriers preventing women from active economic participation. By addressing this constraint, the partners are effectively dismantling a critical barrier to women's engagement in business and economic activities.

Although access to financial services, which constitutes 92 per cent of the services provided, is crucial for businesses to achieve both sustainability and growth, partners have expressed concerns that the limited funding is resulting in meagre disbursements (not exceeding 600 USD). These amounts are deemed insufficient to bring about large-scale changes within the businesses. In terms of business types, almost half the businesses<sup>1</sup> (51%) were classified as micro-businesses. The remaining reported services accounted for six per cent comprising cash or in-kind grants, typically ranging between 3,000 and 5,000 USD. Unlike the previous periods where Beirut was the district with the highest number of benefiting businesses, the current division of services by geographical coverage shows an almost equal distribution between Beirut/Mount Lebanon (34%), Bekaa/Baalbek Hermel (31%), and the South-/Nabatiyeh (26%) apart from the North/Akkar standing at only nine per cent. Business management training, which covers topics like financial management, human resources, and other essential business skills, also plays a crucial role in helping businesses achieve better outcomes. With this objective in mind, the partners provided training to 13,099 entrepreneurs, employers, and employees (51% males, 49% females; 85% adults and 13% youth).

As mentioned, the insufficient funds for facilitating access to financial resources is resulting in relatively small-scale assistance, thereby hindering the potential for business growth and recovery. Concurrently, the persistent state of political instability is exacerbating the challenges faced by businesses. The uncertain

business environment is making it challenging for businesses to plan and make long-term investments, while also creating barriers to market entry for new businesses. Entrepreneurs are discouraged from starting new ventures, as reflected in the number of new businesses established: 11 vs. the target of 1,100.

### Output 1.3 – Vulnerable men and women have access to temporary employment in productive public infrastructure and environmental assets that have a local economic impact: (target 40,000 vs. 16,108 reached)

Labour-intensive programs drew the participation of 16,108 individuals, of which two per cent are people with disabilities and five per cent are caregivers of children engaged in labour. These programs were divided into different categories, focusing on infrastructure improvement (55%), environmental assets (41%) and productive assets (4%). Out of the 16,108 participants, 31 per cent were females showing a slight increase since the end of quarter two (4 percentage points). In terms of nationality, 57 per cent were Lebanese, 43 per cent were displaced Syrians, 1 per cent represented Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL).

Interestingly, the data reveals that a higher percentage of women participation was in the rehabilitation of productive assets such as rehabilitation of agricultural lands which includes land clearing and weeding (54%) compared to infrastructure assets (i.e., sidewalks and street rehabilitation, 25%) and environmental assets improvement (i.e., reforestation, pruning, 36%). This finding indicates that the nature and physical requirement of the work significantly influences women's decision to engage in these activities. To rectify this gender-based imbalance, the sector remained dedicated to incorporating gender equality as a fundamental aspect of all its partners' programs, and advocated for several approaches that would increase women participation including gender-sensitive recruitment, pre-cash-for-work tailored training, flexible work arrangements and others<sup>2</sup>.

### Output 2.1 - Vulnerable men and women have strengthened and appropriate technical skills to match the needs of the job market: (target 15,000 vs. 9,314 reached)

A total of 9,314 individuals, out of a targeted goal of 15,000, were recipients of market-driven skills training, 57 per cent of which were females. In terms of nationalities, the majority, constituting 58 per cent were Lebanese, followed by 38 per cent displaced Syrians. One per cent of the beneficiaries fall into the category of caregivers for children engaged in labor activities. Incorporating caregivers into these skill development programs not only addresses their own

<sup>1</sup> This disaggregation by size of business reflects on only 7,390 businesses which were reported according to their size.

<sup>2</sup> These practices are in line with the sector's recommendations in the Gender Mainstreaming Guidelines: [HERE](#)



employability but also contributes to the broader goal of eliminating child labor by ensuring that parents have viable income opportunities, reducing the economic necessity for children to work. This approach reflects a holistic and coordinated effort to enhance livelihoods while safeguarding the rights and well-being of children. The Bekaa region had the highest portion of the beneficiaries (49%) while the South region had the lowest (7%). This is resulting from the unequal division of funds and programming which is leading to geographical gaps in service provision.

### **Output 2.2 - Career guidance, awareness raising sessions, job matching, and work-based learning opportunities offered to female and male job seekers: (target 15,000 vs. 10,114)**

Work-based learning holds equal significance in enhancing skills as market-based skills training. In fact, it often plays an even more vital role in honing the practical abilities of individuals who undergo training while under the guidance of specialized mentors. In line with this objective, the partners have facilitated work-based learning opportunities for 3,258 individuals, representing a diverse group in terms of gender and nationalities, including 57 per cent Lebanese and 36 per cent displaced Syrians (64% females, 36% males).

Moreover, the provision of support related to career guidance and employment services has been extended to 10,114 beneficiaries, including 62 per cent Lebanese, 25 per cent displaced Syrians, and 10 per cent Palestine refugees in Lebanon (57% females; 43% males). These individuals have been equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate the process of securing employment successfully. This includes guidance on crafting effective CVs, interview preparation, and job search strategies. Among these beneficiaries, a balanced representation of both genders and diverse nationalities can be observed.

### **Output 3.2-Policies, strategies and plans supporting job creation, MSMEs and livelihoods developed to improve the business eco-system:**

In the third quarter of the year, the Livelihoods sector collaborated with several partners to launch and establish the Social and Solidarity Ecosystem (SSE) task force. These efforts began at the start of 2023 and were led by the sector in conjunction with the existing projects<sup>3</sup> which were already involved in supporting social enterprises nationwide. Additionally, other Livelihoods partners<sup>4</sup> joined this collaborative initiative.

One of the key actors in this endeavour is the Lebanese Social Enterprises Association (LSE), which was assigned the pivotal role of coordinating the formation, development, and capacity-building of the SSE task force. This task force is set to comprise local organizations, primarily social enterprises. The reason for entrusting the leadership to LSE is its ability to ensure the sustainability and continuity of these efforts, especially given that some of the objectives are long-term and related to policy development.

The anticipated role of the task force encompasses several critical functions:

- Refining the Existing Draft SSE Governance Model: The task force will work on fine-tuning the existing draft SSE Governance Model, aligning it with the evolving landscape of social and solidarity economy.

- Developing a Joint, Fundable Ecosystem Action & Advocacy Plan (EAAP): This plan will be designed to align with Lebanon's aid frameworks, the draft Social Entrepreneurship Law in Lebanon, and the 2023 United Nations Social and Solidarity Economy (UN SSE) Resolution. Its purpose is to facilitate the realization and enforce-

ment of future regulations, policies, and strategies pertaining to the SSE and social entrepreneurship in the country.

In addition to these core objectives, participants in the task force will benefit from capacity-building and knowledge-sharing initiatives. These initiatives will take the form of expert roundtables focused on various aspects of the SSE, which will be organized by the LSE. This knowledge-sharing and capacity-building approach will further enhance the effectiveness of the task force in advancing the goals of the social and solidarity economy in Lebanon.

### **Referral trends:**

Out of the 1,693 referrals made to the Livelihoods sector in Lebanon, less than two per cent of were made by 23 partners. Notably, Mount Lebanon received the highest share of these referrals at 31 per cent, indicating a concentration of livelihood-related needs in this area. Conversely, Nabatiyeh had the lowest share of referrals, accounting for only one per cent of the total. Among the 1,693 referrals, an equal proportion, approximately 30 per cent each, were accepted, acknowledged, or left without feedback. A significant proportion of the referrals that were declined (72%) were attributed to failure in meeting the eligibility criteria. This may be linked to issues with the data quality that Livelihoods partners contribute to the referral system. This data quality concern can hinder referring agencies in their efforts to fulfil the requirements. Furthermore, it's possible that referring organizations are not consistently adhering to the established criteria, potentially with the expectation of obtaining exceptions. To enhance referrals and attain positive outcomes, the sector will consider the feasibility of implementing a more systematic, uniform, and automated criteria selection process on the Inter-Agency Service mapping platform. This approach aims to improve the identification of suitable opportunities and enhance data management. Additionally, the sector will persist in its training initiatives within the Livelihoods sector, focusing on referral pathways and tools. These undertakings are anticipated to span into the upcoming year, as they may necessitate adjustments to the current systems.

### **Mainstreaming activities**

In September 2023, the Livelihoods sector's gender focal point participated in a Training of Trainers (ToT) focused on Gender and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Humanitarian Action. This training represented an enhanced version of the existing GIHA (Gender in Humanitarian Action) training. It incorporated a GBV layer into the curriculum and introduced sector-specific examples and tip sheets to make the content more relatable and practical. Additionally, the sector's gender focal point dedicated efforts to the development and revision of the sector's gender action plan. This plan will be finalized and integrated in the sector's plan for the coming year, underscoring the sector's commitment to advancing gender equality and integration.

Furthermore, the Livelihoods sector collaborated with the Protection sector on the Integrated Protection Programming with Livelihoods initiative. A joint discussion involving Protection and Livelihoods partners took place in August Protection Working Group meeting, during which participants from both sectors shared success stories stemming from the implementation of this integrated approach. Several good practices and recommendations emerged, including the recognition of the need for multi-year funding to support integrated programming efforts, thus enabling more substantial and sustained impact on the ground. The joint efforts were translated into a paper that summarizes the joint discussion on the Integrated Protection Programming with Livelihoods a Joint Protection & Livelihood Partner Discussion. The paper is currently under revision by both sectors and will be used to inform

<sup>3</sup> SEE Change project, a consortium comprising Oxfam, COSV, and Beyond Group

<sup>4</sup> The ILO, CESVI, and AlMajmoua





the discussion on joint programming in the 2024 planning process. This collaboration underscores the importance of aligning protec-

tion and livelihoods initiatives for the benefit of affected communities.

## Key Challenges of the Sector

In recent months, there has been a notable increase in restrictive measures enforced by both national and local authorities. Reports were made regarding raids on shops owned by or employing displaced Syrians, resulting in job losses for many individuals. Additionally, local authorities have imposed further restrictions on movement, adversely affecting access to income-generating activities and the ability to participate in Livelihood sector initiatives in areas outside their places of residence. To address these challenges, a collaborative effort was undertaken with legal actors in coordination with the Protection sector. It was agreed that conducting information sessions for Livelihoods sector partners on legal services and associated requirements, such as residency procedures, along with employment laws, was essential. This initiative aimed to equip partners with the knowledge and understanding needed to act or to provide support and referrals to beneficiaries in need. The first of these information sessions took place in North Lebanon, and there are plans to replicate this initiative in other regions during the upcoming quarter.

Despite the sector's efforts in promoting gender equality and inclusion, gender disparities persist, as evidenced by the available data. This underscores the need for continued work to address these disparities and further advance gender equality, recognizing that these are significant challenges to be overcome. With the guidance and support of the sector's gender focal point, the sector will initiate Gender and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation training for its partners. This training program is designed to equip partners with the knowledge and skills necessary to address

and mitigate gender related and GBV risks effectively.

Regarding the data collection and monitoring of achievements by sector partners and progress toward targets, the sector has maintained close inspection of partner reporting. It has ensured that partners receive the necessary support and guidance, especially those facing challenges in accurately reporting on their projects. This support includes aiding partners in identifying suitable indicators aligned with their specific activities and providing tailored one-on-one sessions on the reporting platform. This proactive approach ensures that data collection and reporting are as accurate and comprehensive as possible, enhancing the overall effectiveness of the sector's initiatives.

Although the sector managed to meet slightly more than 50 per cent of its targets by the end of the third quarter, it faced a substantial funding gap, having received only 34 per cent of the funds required. Of this amount, 48.5 per cent was allocated in 2023, while the remaining 51.5 per cent represented funds carried over from the previous year. As mentioned, certain overachievements, such as increased access to financial resources, led to a greater number of beneficiaries being reached, albeit with reduced levels of disbursements per individual. The current situation underscores the growing importance of diversifying funding sources and the need to explore support from the private sector, foundations, and local resources which can enhance financial resilience, mitigate dependency on specific sources, and contribute to the sustainability of the organization's initiatives.

## Key priorities for the Following Quarter

In the upcoming quarter and in preparation for the 2024 planning phase, the sector will undertake a thorough review of its various activities. The primary objective is to assess the relevance of these activities within the sector, particularly in cases where there may be overlaps with activities from other sectors, such as support to agricultural cooperatives, which may intersect with the Food Security and Agriculture Sector (FSAS).

To effect these changes and ensure alignment, a series of discussions will take place at both the core group and working group at national and sub-national levels. These discussions will help determine the most suitable course of action regarding the sector's activities and their interactions with other sector initiatives.

Additionally, as part of the planning process, the sector will engage in a comprehensive analysis of the data collected through various agencies' assessments, including the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VaSyR) and the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA). This data analysis is intended to provide a deeper understanding of the prevailing situation and to inform future planning and decision-making within the sector.

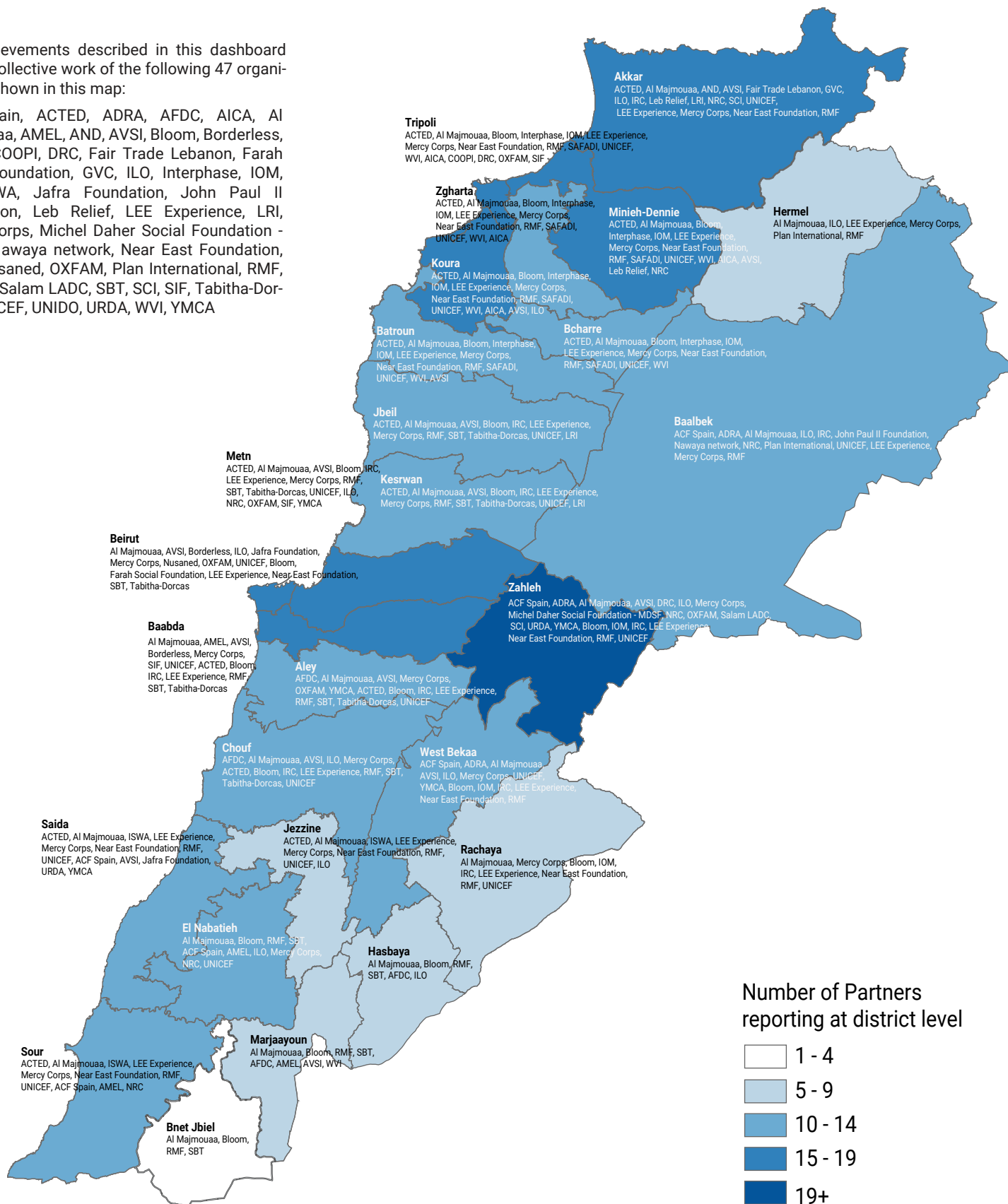
At the operational level, as previously mentioned, the sector has plans in place to organize a series of informational and training sessions focused on gender, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and protection. These sessions aim to enhance the capacity of stakeholders and partners in addressing these critical issues effectively.



## Partners by district

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 47 organizations shown in this map:

ACF Spain, ACTED, ADRA, AFDC, AICA, Al Majmouaa, AMEL, AND, AVSI, Bloom, Borderless, CESVI, COOPI, DRC, Fair Trade Lebanon, Farah Social Foundation, GVC, ILO, Interphase, IOM, IRC, ISWA, Jafra Foundation, John Paul II Foundation, Leb Relief, LEE Experience, LRI, Mercy Corps, Michel Daher Social Foundation - MDSF, Nawaya network, Near East Foundation, NRC, Nusaned, OXFAM, Plan International, RMF, SAFADI, Salam LADC, SBT, SCI, SIF, Tabitha-Dorcas, UNICEF, UNIDO, URDA, WVI, YMCA



Note: This map has been produced by UNDP based on maps and material provided by the Government of Lebanon for Inter Agency operational purposes. It does not constitute an official United Nations map. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.