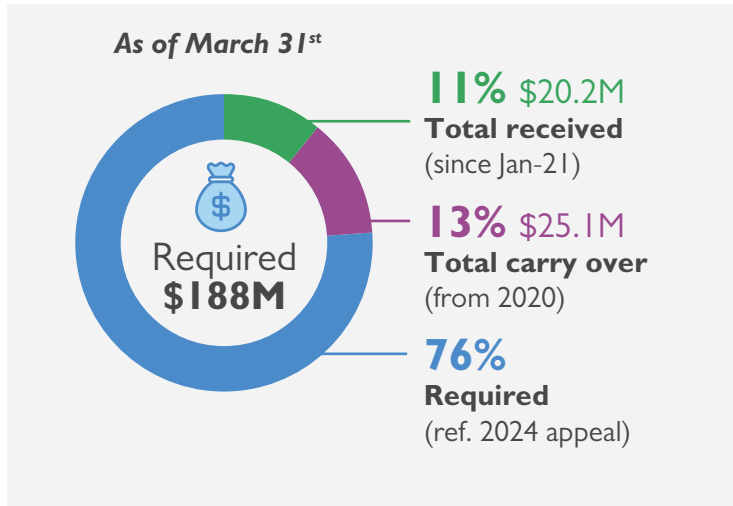




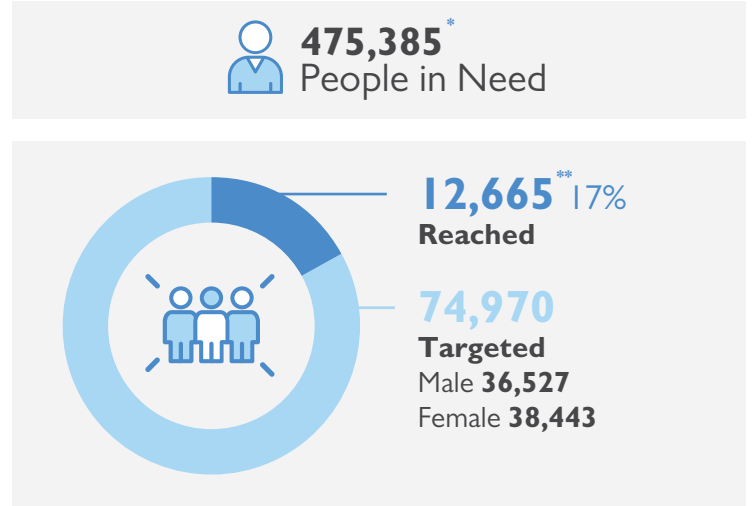
The first quarter of 2024 Livelihoods sector dashboard summarizes the progress made by Livelihoods sector partners involved in the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP), identifies key challenges and priorities, and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Livelihoods Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1): Stimulate local economic development to create income generating opportunities and employment; OUTCOME 2): Improve workforce employability; OUTCOME 3): Support the business and labor market eco-systems through strengthening policy development

The Lebanon Response Plan is pending endorsement by the LRP Steering Committee. This dashboard is based on information reported by Livelihoods sector partners operating under the sector strategy.

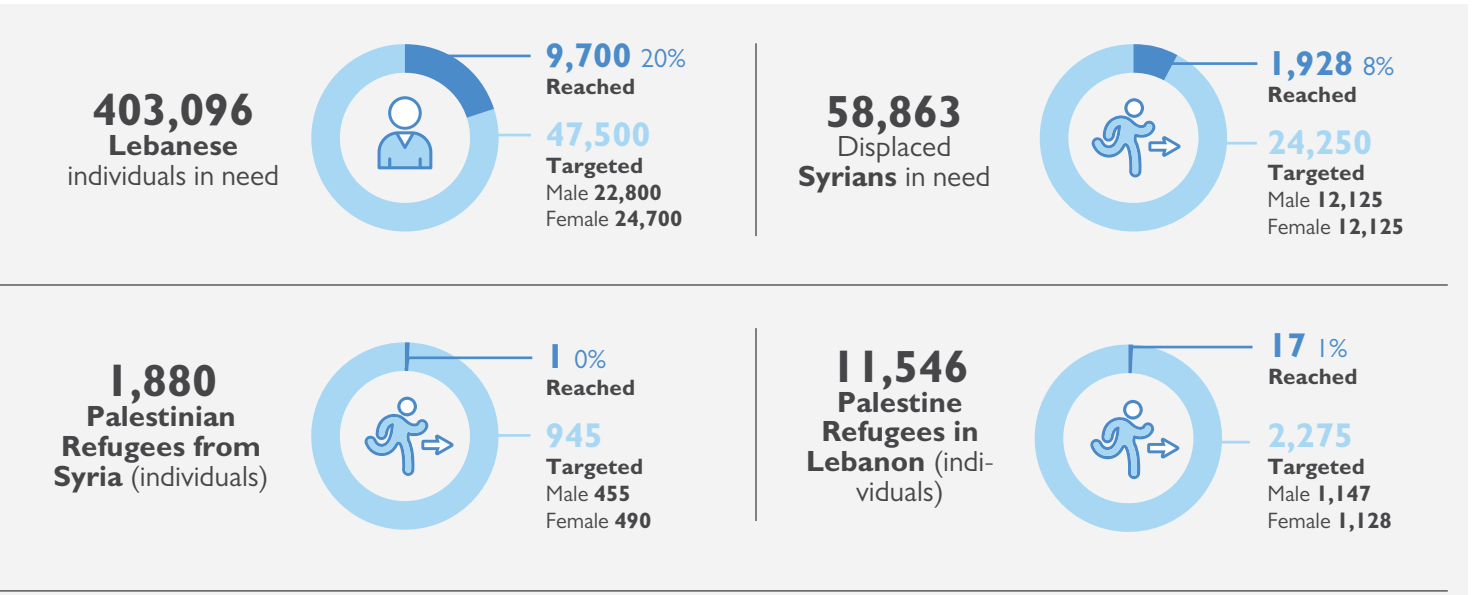
2024 Sector Funding Status



2024 Population Reached



2024 Population Figures by Cohort



*Population In need and targeted should be similar to the figures from the LRP 2024 annual update

** Includes beneficiaries not disaggregated by nationality (Outcome 2, Activities 3.1.A, 3.1.7.2, 3.1.7.3)

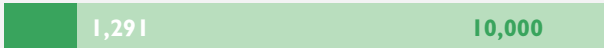


Progress Against Targets

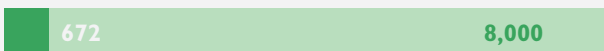
MSMEs strengthened to enable decent job retention/creation, boost productivity and competitiveness



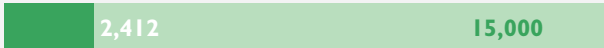
number of trained beneficiaries (30% women)



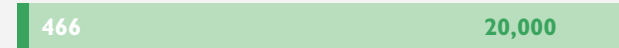
number of individuals benefiting from work based learning opportunities (at least 30% women)



of vulnerable individuals participating in CfW activities



of stakeholders (employers and employees) with increased knowledge of decent work conditions



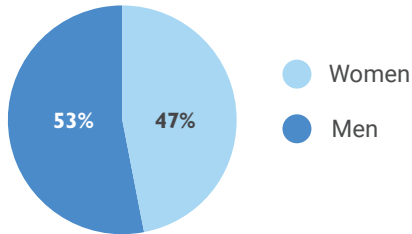
Outcomes

	LCRP 2016 Baseline	Jan - Mar 2024 Reached	2024 Target
OUTCOME 1:			
Total number of jobs created/maintained	494	457	6000
OUTCOME 2:			
# of job seekers placed into jobs	N/A	179	6000
# of targeted vulnerable persons engaged in home-based income generation	N/A	73	1200

Analysis Breakdown by Gender

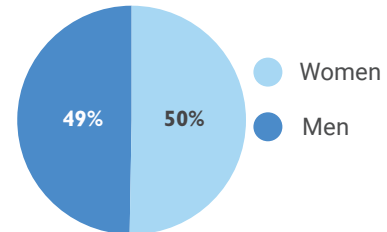
11,952

Number of individuals reached by Sector partners by gender (Jan - Mar 2024)



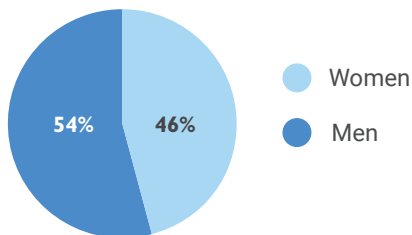
4,375

Vulnerable men and women in all their diversity and abilities have strengthened and appropriate technical skills to match the needs of the job market (Market- and work-based learning and Cash for work) by gender (Jan - Mar 2024)



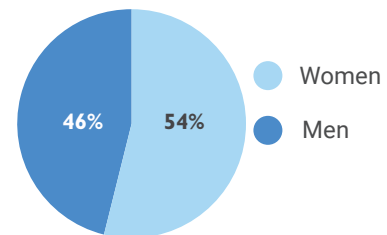
6,757

Number of business owners supported (financial access, cash/in-kind grants, incubation services) by gender per month (Jan - Mar 2024)



252

Number of Vulnerable men and women in all their diversity and abilities have strengthened and appropriate technical skills to match the needs of the job market (Beneficiaries who are able to find a job or start their own business (home-based or non-home-based business) after completion of activities) by gender per month (Jan - Mar 2024)



I. Analysis of Achievements of the Sector at the Output Level

Output 1.1: MSMEs strengthened to enable decent job retention/creation, boost productivity and competitiveness. (6,757 vs. target 10,000)

In the first quarter, the effort to support businesses reached 67 per cent of the target with a total value of USD 3,770,450, indicating a significant shift among sector partners toward prioritizing this activity for achieving sustainable economic recovery and growth. This also means that a mid-year review is necessary to reflect on the target number under this activity in consultation with the sector partners. The services provided were primarily focused on access to financial resources, which accounted for 69 per cent of the total services, with 46 per cent of women business owners benefitting from it. Incubation services followed, constituting 25 per cent of the services, with 23 per cent of women business owners availing them. Geographically, support services were distributed across different regions in Lebanon, with the Beqaa region having the highest portion of supported businesses at 46 per cent, followed by Beirut/Mount Lebanon at 23 per cent. The North and the South regions had comparatively lower rates at 15 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively.

Partners noted an increase in loan requests from MSMEs, which hasn't been matched with increased funding. This gap is particularly critical as many MSMEs require larger loan amounts to invest in green and renewable energy initiatives. Advocacy efforts are needed to encourage donors to prioritize such activities and enhance support accordingly.

Regarding business management training, 432 participants benefited from sessions covering various topics such as financial literacy and savings, with 74 per cent of them being women. An encountered challenge was the diverse educational backgrounds of participants, ranging from illiterate to highly educated individuals. To address this, measures such as pre-training knowledge assessments were implemented to tailor the training accordingly. Interactive learning techniques like games and group work were also utilized to enhance the effectiveness of financial literacy programs. Another challenge was the inability of business owners to commit to training sessions due as they cannot close their business to join them, leading to one-on-one training sessions in the workplace to ensure their participation and benefit from the program. This adaptability in delivery methods demonstrates a proactive approach to overcoming barriers to participation.

The inclusion of persons with disabilities in the sector's activities remains limited, with only 11 individuals benefiting from the output's various activities. To address this issue, stronger collaboration with the Protection sector is needed to improve the identification of potential beneficiaries through referral systems. Additionally, support is required to assist Livelihoods partners in identifying necessary operational changes to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities.

Output 2.1: Vulnerable men and women in all their diversity and abilities have strengthened and appropriate technical skills to match the needs of the job market. (4,375 vs. target 33,000)

Three activities fall under the sector's second output all of which aim to strengthen and increase both soft and technical skills of individuals to prepare them for the labour market. Under the market-based skills training, which is mostly theoretical, 1,291 beneficiaries were reached among which 60 per cent were women. The cohort analysis

shows that 54 per cent of the beneficiaries are Lebanese and 46 per cent are displaced Syrians showing a gap in outreach for Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS). Further analysis shows that women participation among Syrian refugees is higher than that of Lebanese, within their nationality group (76% and 46% respectively). Furthermore, and in line with the sector's guidance, The Bekaa and Beirut-Mount Lebanon regions held the highest rates of activities with 46 and 45 per cent respectively.

Work-based learning, the second activity under output 2.1 reached 672 beneficiaries of whom 70 per cent were women. Lebanese beneficiaries constituted 83 per cent of the beneficiaries (68% women) followed by displaced Syrians (78% women).

Only 40 per cent of a total 2,412 beneficiaries under the Cash for Work activity were women. Though a considerable participation rate, it reiterates the limitations which existed in previous years and impacted women's participation such as considering that women are physically unfit or that they should not partake in such work.

Partners shared several hurdles which impacted implementation of employability activities, among these were drop-out rates hence partners resorted to offering financial incentives, such as paying transportation fees and providing incentives for work-based learning especially at hosting business with high probability of recruiting the trainee.

Protection from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA) sessions were provided to 742 participants of all activities (17% of total). Though this is a shy percentage of the total beneficiaries, it is a promising step towards standardizing the provision of this topic across the sector's activities.

Output 2.2: Career guidance, awareness raising sessions, job matching and support for starting own business in the same area of training. (820 vs. target 12,000)

This output comprises three services designed to support the transition into the labour market, encompassing guidance on job search, job placement, and entrepreneurship. Typically offered as a follow-up to capacity-building activities, these services collectively supported 541 individuals. Notably, 81 per cent of beneficiaries were women, indicating both an accomplishment and a potential shift in mindset likely driven by economic necessity.

Reflecting broader trends within the sector, Lebanese individuals constituted the highest participation rates, comprising 72 per cent of employment services beneficiaries and 100 per cent of entrepreneurship service recipients. Among the 27 beneficiaries of entrepreneurship services, all were Lebanese, with 67 per cent being women.

Overall, this output facilitated the launch of 100 businesses and helped 179 individuals secure employment. Interestingly, women represented 55 per cent of beneficiaries overall, with a stronger presence in entrepreneurship than in job placement. This pattern suggests a preference among women for self-employment, whether through home-based or traditional ventures, affording them customized time management to accommodate other responsibilities. Additionally, it implies a tendency among women to avoid traditional employment, potentially to mitigate risks of exploitation, particularly in informal settings.



Output 3.1: Promoting decent work conditions among the different stakeholders (employers and employees). (713 vs. 20,000 target)

Introduced in the 2024 LRP sector strategy aims to raise the awareness of both employers and employees regarding decent work conditions. Despite the expectation that partners would incorporate this session into their activities across all outcomes and outputs, only 466 beneficiaries were reported to have received it, indicating that the topic has not been fully integrated into projects. Likewise, there was a shortfall in the attendance of employers and employees at workshops addressing the issue of child labour. Several challenges could contribute to these underperformances, including restricted internal capacity to conduct such workshops and inadequate financial resources and budget allocations to enlist external professional service providers.

Output 3.2: Strengthened knowledge management and evidence-based planning to bolster the support for the response. (0 vs. 10 target)

During the first quarter, partners did not report any surveys or assessments, which was expected due to the time required for assessment finalization. However, the sector received notifications from various partners regarding ongoing and upcoming assessments scheduled for the following months.

Referral trends:

During the first quarter of 2024, the referrals to the Livelihoods sector constituted 4.5 per cent of the total referrals (143 out of 3,210). Of these referrals, 56 per cent were either accepted or acknowledged, 37 per cent did not receive feedback and seven per cent were rejected. The highest percentage of the referrals was in

the South (67%) which can be attributed to the increasing needs in that region due to the ongoing escalation of conflict. The acknowledgement and acceptance rates in the South were very close to the national rate standing at 55.3 per cent. One of the reasons for not accepting referrals as reported by the partners was the mismatch between the referred profile and the organization's eligibility criteria. Although the numbers are high compared to previous years, these still seem to be a need for more advocacy efforts to encourage partners to use the referral platform as one main practice to outreach and identify beneficiaries.

Mainstreaming activities:

In collaboration with the mainstreaming focal point, the sector developed its Annual Workplan, outlining actions necessary for the integration and mainstreaming of key priority topics. While these activities are scheduled to begin in the second quarter, the sector has reached an agreement with the Environmental Task Force to conduct two training sessions for partners on the Environmental Marker. Additionally, an introductory presentation was delivered by PSEA focal points to introduce the PSEA network and the services available to sector partners. Likewise, the sector collaborated with the Gender focal point and Gender working group to draft and refine several gender-specific documents, including the Gender Action Plan, Gender tipsheet, the Gender analysis, and the Gender In-focus document. These materials are scheduled to be finalized and disseminated during the second quarter.

Although not an emergency response sector the Livelihoods partners have shared plans of intervention in the South of Lebanon. These mainly include cash for work activities with a potential to add market-based skills training initiatives. According to partners' updates, these plans are expected to be launched in the second quarter of the year.

2. CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Sector partners have identified several challenges across various activities, with the most prevalent being the reduction in funding and the consequent inability to reallocate budgets to cover unforeseen costs, such as increased transportation rates or incentive payments for beneficiaries. This funding decrease is also impacting the quality and scope of the assistance provided. For instance, the growing demand from businesses for financial resources is not matched with available funds. Moreover, although a relatively high number of beneficiaries are reached, the support provided often lacks substantial value, hindering businesses from being able to position themselves on the market and/or investing in sustainable solutions like green and renewable energy. Addressing this issue necessitates intensified and targeted advocacy efforts directed towards donors to underscore the importance of these services and the sustainability of their outcomes.

The scarcity of employment opportunities is reducing individuals' interest in participating in employability projects, including market- and work-based learning initiatives, as they perceive limited prospects afterward and prefer to seize any job opportunity available. The sector continues to advise partners to implement a comprehensive service cycle starting with market-based training,

followed by work-based learning placements in businesses supported by the project, especially for people with no previous work experience such as youth and women, thereby increasing the likelihood of employment for trainees. This approach has proven successful in interventions by one partner.

Furthermore, partners have expressed concerns regarding outreach efforts and dropout rates, particularly in projects lacking financial incentives like transportation and refreshments that in the current economic and financial situation become essential. In response, the sector is disseminating guidance notes on outreach and beneficiary identification and plans to collaborate with the Protection sector to enhance the utilization of referral systems.

Though to a limited extent, several sector partners stated that they have reallocated funding and resources to respond to the increased hostilities in the South. The programming changes mentioned were mainly around changing the location of the activities in the cases where the projects were meant to be implemented in the currently affected areas.



3. KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

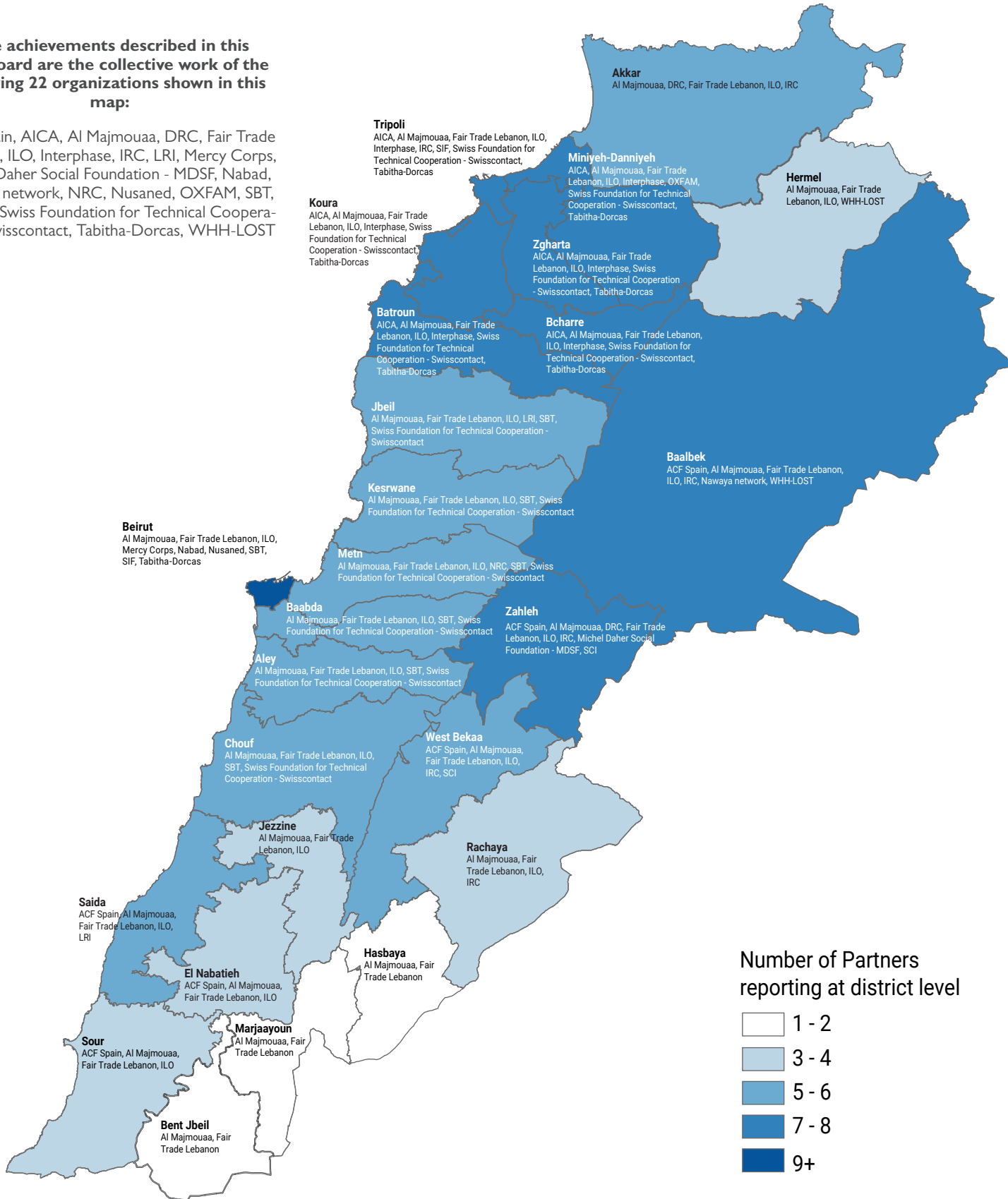
During the upcoming quarter, the sector will prioritize launching the activities of three task forces established to provide guidance on specific topics: Cash for Work, Market- and Work-Based Learning, and Support to Businesses. Additionally, the sector will collaborate with various mainstreaming focal points to initiate relevant activities

outlined in the annual workplan. Moreover, the sector will explore opportunities for specialized training sessions, particularly focusing on Gender in Humanitarian Action, and enhancing the implementation of decent work and PSEA sessions across projects by connecting partners with technical support and resources.



The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 22 organizations shown in this map:

ACF Spain, AICA, Al Majmouaa, DRC, Fair Trade Lebanon, ILO, Interphase, IRC, LRI, Mercy Corps, Michel Daher Social Foundation - MDSF, Nabad, Nawaya network, NRC, Nusaned, OXFAM, SBT, SCI, SIF, Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation - Swisscontact, Tabitha-Dorcias, WHH-LOST



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.