

LIVELIHOODS SECTOR

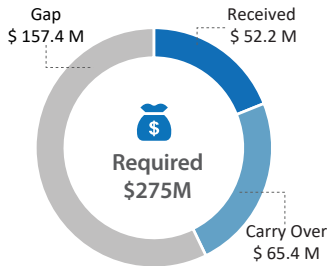
End of year Dashboard 2020



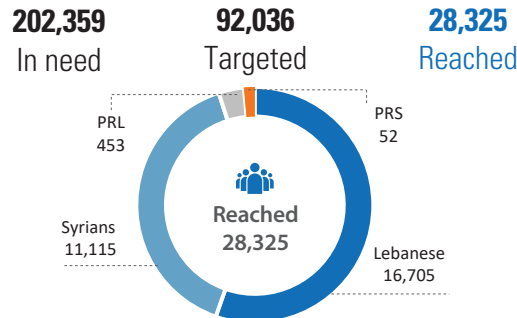
Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

This dashboard summarizes progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Livelihoods sector in Lebanon aims to achieve the following results: **OUTCOME 1:** Stimulate local economic development and market systems to create income generating opportunities and employment; **OUTCOME 2:** Improve workforce employability, **OUTCOME 3:** Strengthen policy development and enabling environment for job creation.

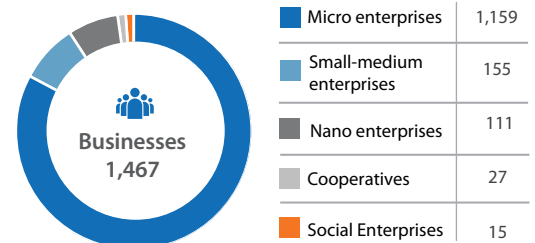
Funding Status as at 31 December 2020



Targeted Population as at 31 December 2020



Businesses Reached by Type as at 31 December 2020



Progress against targets



Outputs

	Reached/Target
# entrepreneurs & employees who benefitted from business management training	1,731 / N/A
# of MSMEs supported through business management trainings, financial/non-financial services or technology transfer	1,467 / 3,000
# of new Lebanese MSMEs established	33 / 1,050
# of value chains valorized and/or being upgraded	13/ 20
# of targeted vulnerable persons engaged in public work projects / environmental assets	16,299 / 67,500
USD value invested in LH labour intensive public work projects / environmental assets	\$ 3.63m / \$168.75m
# of individuals benefitting from market-based skills training	3,871 / 10,000
# of people benefitting from internships, on-the-job training or apprenticeship programmes	1,862 / 2,000
# of individuals supported to access employment through career guidance, coaching, or individual follow-up services	1,697 / 7,000
# of targeted job seekers supported to start their own business	1,943/ 2,000
# of decent work regulations amended and/or proposed approved by the Government	0 / 3
# awareness-raising/advocacy material on labour regulations and decent work developed	5 / 4
	0% 100%



Outcomes

	LCRP 2016 Baseline	Jan-Dec 2020 Current	2020 Target			
			SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL
OUTCOME 1: total number of jobs created / maintained*	494	750	2,235			
OUTCOME 2: # of job seekers placed into jobs*	N/A	585	500	1400	30	70
# of targeted vulnerable persons engaged in home-based income generation *	N/A	317	500	1400	30	70
OUTCOME 3: ranking of doing business**	Rank 126	143	120			

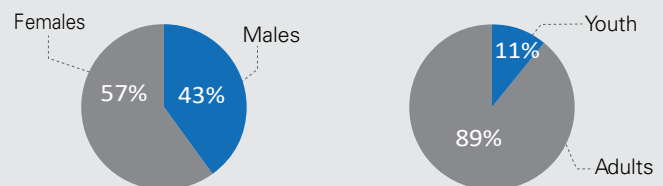
*Source: Activity info **Source: World Bank



Breakdown by Age and Gender

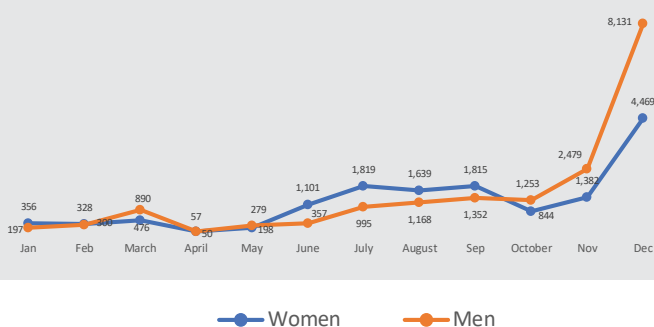
1,697 men vs. woman supported to access employment

1,731 entrepreneurs who benefitted from business management training by age

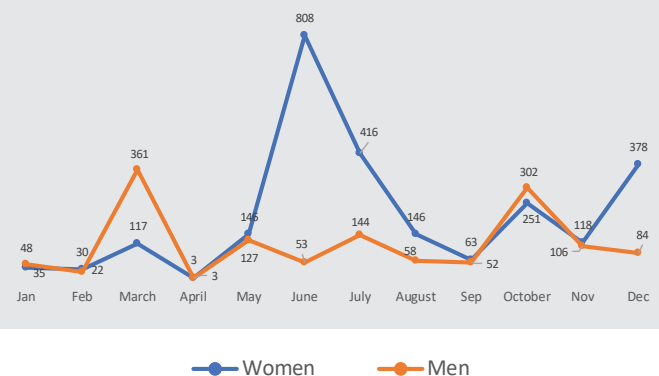


Analysis

Number of beneficiaries trained on career guidance, awareness raising sessions, job matching, and work-based learning opportunities by gender per month (2020)



Number of beneficiaries of market-based skills trainings by gender per month (2020)



1 The narrative report is based on quantitative results extracted from Activity Info and on qualitative results collected through partners and direct observations

Under Outcome 2, around 585 vulnerable women and men accessed work (out of a target of 2000), through soft skills and technical trainings, as well as work-based learning activities, achieving this while having to adapt to the challenges related to mobility constraints and lack of access to consistent and quality electricity and internet infrastructure. Moreover, around 317 women and men (out of a target of 2000) implemented the skills and start-up kits obtained through trainings to engage in home income generating activities. The home income generating activities either complement and/or substitutes households' expenses.

Under Outcome 3, the sector has advocated to ensure that interventions are designed and implemented to provide decent and acceptable employment opportunities to women, youth and people with specific needs and to support national guidelines on decent work. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Labour jointly with the International Labour Organization (ILO) endorsed national guidelines on implementing sound employment intensive projects (EIP) in Lebanon, with key guiding principles, including decent work. The Guidelines serve as the main national reference for implementing EIPs and integrating employment creation with infrastructure development to stimulate local economic development and resilience. In 2020, Lebanon ranked 143 out of 190 economies on the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index, which is a deterioration in the ranking of Lebanon since 2017 where Lebanon ranked 126⁹. This development indicates the need to focus on regulations that support the development of SME-friendly employment, legal, regulatory and taxation frameworks to enhance business activity and stimulate economic growth. In 2020, there were no improvement in business regulations.

As the economic and financial context continues to deteriorate, with increasing unemployment, the Livelihoods sector will continue to advocate for decent and meaningful living wages to protect the purchasing power of the beneficiaries. With increasing prices of basic commodities, many vulnerable individuals struggle to afford basic necessities in addition to paying rent. This is forcing vulnerable individuals to accept jobs with inadequate working conditions, mainly in the informal sector, increasingly exposing them to occupational health and safety risks without appropriate protection. Job losses, a lack of decent living wages and rising vulnerabilities could trigger a sharp rise in child labour.



KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2021

The economic and financial crises as well as the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, will most likely continue to impact the sector throughout 2021 and cause challenges for MSMEs, cooperatives, entrepreneurs and small-scale farmers. The sector will therefore continue to prioritize investment in businesses across the key economic sectors¹⁰. Considering the high share of micro and small enterprises that operate in survival mode (i.e., ranging from salary reductions to loss of employment as employers and business owners are forced into reducing their costs at best or closing their businesses in many instances), support to businesses will require improving access to both financial and non-financial support such as grants, access to subsidized and inclusive loans coupled with business development and financial management training. Financial management training will be particularly relevant to support the efficiency of businesses' operations to increase product quality, reduce production cost and enhance competitiveness. Moreover, the sector will increase the focus on promoting youth self-employment through business management and technical training to empower and equip them with the skills to participate in the labour market.

In 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdown measures had consequences on the achievement of expected results, as livelihoods partners had to alter/suspend most activities or shift to remote implementation, which delayed the implementation and targeting of livelihoods interventions. Further lockdown measures in 2021 is a risk that may cause suspension of livelihoods activities. To mitigate this risk, sector partners are encouraged to 1) plan for alternative modalities, such as web-based operations and online businesses trainings and consultancies; 2) budget for personal protective equipment procurement; and 3) adopt flexibility measures that allows for a contingency plan in terms of continuing conditional cash transfers in the case of a lockdown. Income generating activities i.e., cash for work activities in labour intensive sectors, were not considered a life-saving activity, which is a challenge with a protracted lockdown. In 2021, the sector will advocate to ensure that labour intensive activities are considered as critical, as cash for work is an important lifeline in ensuring income.

In 2021, partners will continue to build on efforts made in 2020 to support businesses in key economic sectors, those being in the agriculture and agro-food, manufacturing and construction, and production of PPEs. In relation to the support to cooperatives, another key priority for the sector is to focus on inter-sectoral collaboration on key value chains. In 2021, the Livelihoods sector and the Food Security and Agriculture sector will continue the joint thematic working groups that were established on a bi-monthly basis to 1) ensure linkages with the General Directorate of Cooperatives and data sharing with this Directorate; 2) strengthen coordination among actors supporting agricultural and agro-food cooperatives to ensure complementary interventions and avoid duplication; and 3) hold technical discussions on improving productivity and capacity of cooperatives to be more business-oriented. Supporting the continuity of key value chains is vital to reduce the potential disruption in the imports and exports of essential raw material and items. The sector will be tracing partners' value chain interventions by re-introducing the interactive value chain dashboard to support coordination and avoid duplication at field and national level.

A particular focus will be put on youth, women and people with disabilities across all activities of the sector, taking into consideration their particular vulnerability and their higher unemployment rates. In 2020, the sector successfully ensured that youth and women were the primary groups benefitting from skills training. In 2021, further emphasis and efforts will be made to increase awareness on the need to include people with special needs in livelihoods activities and to increase their access to income and employment, notably through support to business start-ups, development schemes, and work-based learning programmes. Continued focus will also be made on including youth and women as well as ensuring equal pay for women. The sector will, in 2021, continue to encourage partners to integrate work learning activities in vocational education and training to ensure that skills development trainings are better linked with market demands. This integration should be done early in the project process by, for example, ensuring agreements with already supported businesses, entrepreneurs, or cooperatives to offer on-the-job training, apprenticeships or internship placements to refugees and vulnerable Lebanese.

The sector remains committed to ensuring that it creates decent work opportunities in 2021¹¹. This includes working closely with the Protection, Food Security & Agriculture sectors as well as the Child Protection task force to better support partners in their advocacy and work against child labour. The latter is particularly relevant in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak, as one of the challenges faced by women is having to deprioritize work because of increased household duties because of the lockdown measures of COVID-19¹². The sector will therefore continue to call for adequate protection in respect of working conditions for all workers and urge the Lebanese government to enforce regulations that improve working conditions and decent and equal pay, safeguard informal work, and counter child labour. 2021 priorities for the sector also include working closely with the Social Stability Sector to prioritize and strengthen conflict sensitivity mainstreaming and do-no-harm, as unemployment and competition over jobs remain the primary reason for intercommunal tensions¹³.

In 2020, the sector received around \$52.2 million in new funds and had a total carry-over of \$65.4 million. The persistent funding gaps for the Livelihoods sector makes transitioning vulnerable people from cash assistance to more durable livelihoods and income-generating opportunities impossible, and the reduction of aid dependency in the short term is unlikely. Thus, the sector will throw out 2021 shared messages around key funding gaps, and advocate for multi-year funding to ensure access to sustainable and decent livelihoods opportunities.

⁹ The World Bank "Doing Business 2020" report is a publication that assesses the judicial and regulatory framework governing 10 aspects that are key to the functioning of the private sector

¹⁰ The key sectors and sub sectors that have high potential for employment and income generation are industrial sectors, including agriculture and agro-food, pharmaceutical and medical equipment, manufacturing and construction, textile and furniture, and creative and cultural industries. These sectors are prioritized by the Ministry of Economy and Trade and Ministry of Industry.

¹¹ Decent work has been defined by the International Labour Organization and endorsed by the international community as 'productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity.'

¹² Gender alert on Covid-19: Lebanon - May 15, 2020, see <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/gender-alert-covid-19-lebanon-may-15-2020-issue-no-2-enar>

¹³ ARK Perception Survey, Tensions Monitoring System, Wave 9



CASE STUDY

Marwa* is a 28-year-old Lebanese woman living in the remote and very vulnerable village of Somakiyeh, bordering Syria. Marwa visited the IRC Livelihoods Center in Deir Dalloum, Akkar, asking for apprenticeship training to develop her skills in the hope that she will be able to find employment. Implemented in Akkar, Mount Lebanon, and Tripoli funded by the Federal Republic of Germany through the German Development Bank (KfW), the IRC's apprenticeship is a 4-month program in which beneficiaries are matched to small businesses to learn technical and soft skills. At the end of the training, apprentices receive a certificate signed by the business owner attesting to the acquired skills.

Despite Marwa's village's remoteness, the IRC matched Marwa's apprenticeship to a former IRC-supported businesswoman, Rabiaa*, running a bakery shop. Business owners offering apprenticeship opportunities are checked for their business venue's adequacy (space & safety) and their willingness to impart knowledge to trainees. A training arrangement between the IRC, the business owner, and the apprentice is signed and it includes a terms of reference document detailing the tasks to be learned by the apprentice.

Before starting apprenticeships, beneficiaries are offered legal awareness sessions, delivered by the center-embedded legal officer, and market-relevant soft skills sessions on communication skills. Following the March lockdown, apprentices resumed their training after completing three precautionary measures: attend COVID-19 awareness sessions and accept personal protective equipment (PPEs) following the IRC's verification of the safety measures adopted by business owners.

Marwa's commitment and focus on tasks at hand encouraged the business owner to broaden Marwa's work scope through showing her how to knead the dough, prepare the thyme and cheese mixtures, and work the oven for varying customer preferences. Towards the end of the 4-month apprenticeship training, Rabiaa, the business owner, extended a full-time employment offer to Marwa. It wasn't easy for Marwa to break through the taboos surrounding apprenticeship in conservative localities. As a first step, before transitioning to employment, the IRC staff worked with Marwa on ensuring that her family would not object to her participating in non-home-based programming. The 4-month apprenticeship offered Marwa the needed confidence to accept the employment offer outside of her house.

Marwa tells the IRC: "When I got the [apprenticeship] certificate, I was pleased. I am now employed. I am independent. I had the chance to change my life."

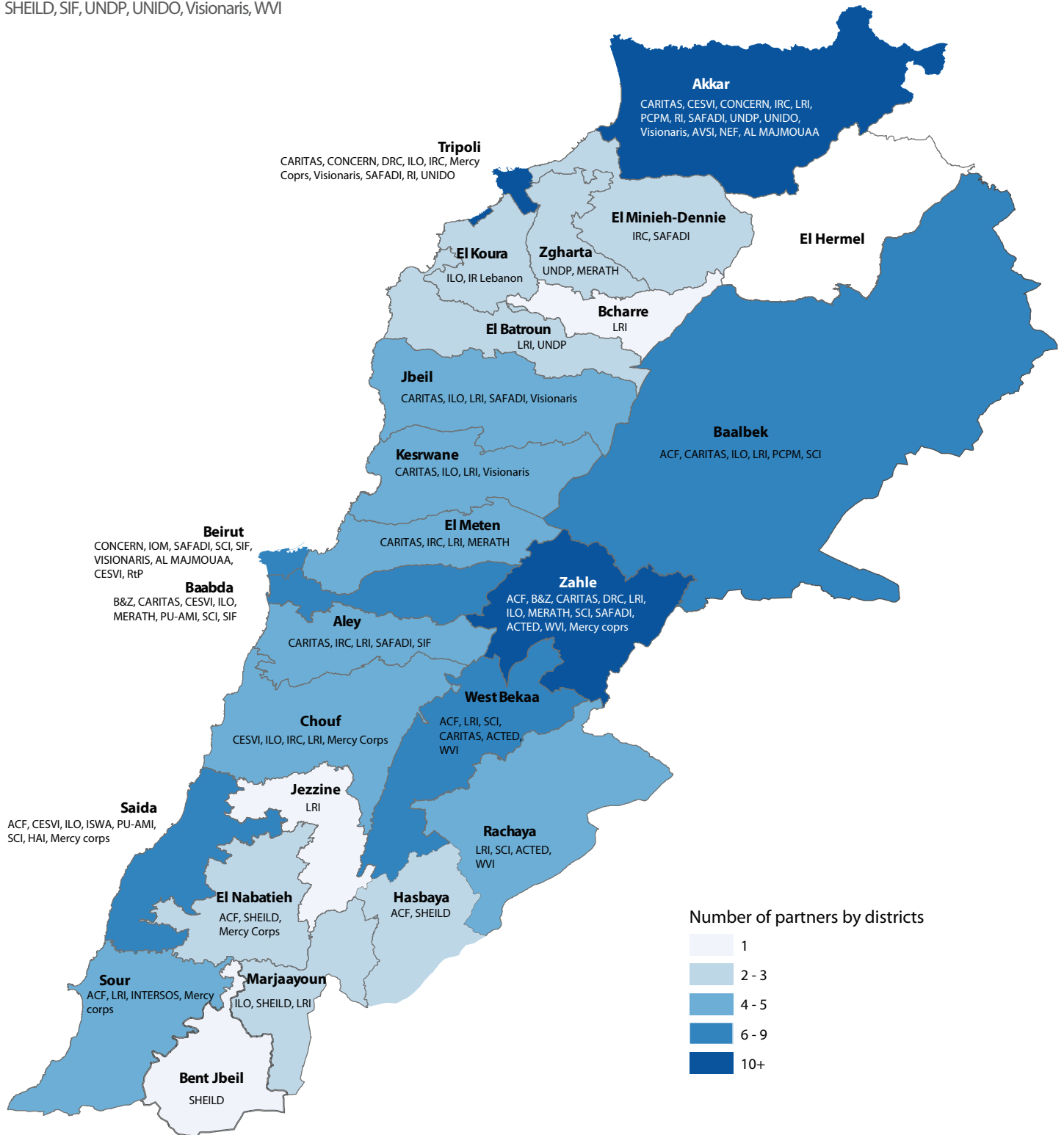




PARTNERS BY DISTRICTS

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 32 organizations:

ACF, ACTED, AVSI, Al Majmouaa, B&Z, CESVI, CONCERN, Caritas Lebanon, DRC, Hilfswerk Austria International, ILO, IOM, IR Lebanon, IRC, ISWA, Intersos, LRI, MERATH Lebanon, Mercy Corps, NEF, PCPM, PU-AMI, RI, RtP, SAFADI, SCI, SHEILD, SIF, UNDP, UNIDO, Visionaris, WWI



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