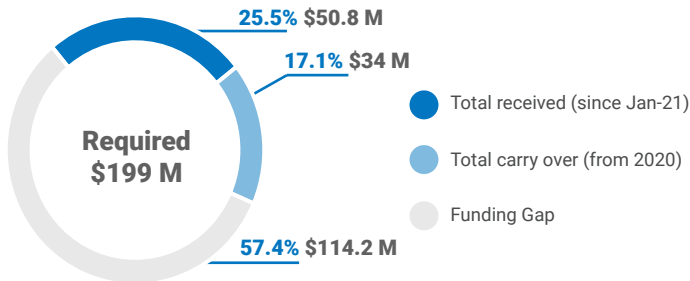




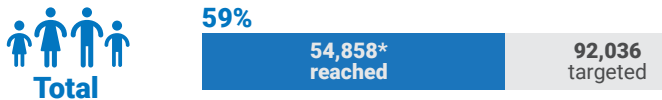
The 3rd quarter dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Livelihoods Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Stimulate local economic growth and market systems to foster income-generating opportunities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

2021 Sector funding status

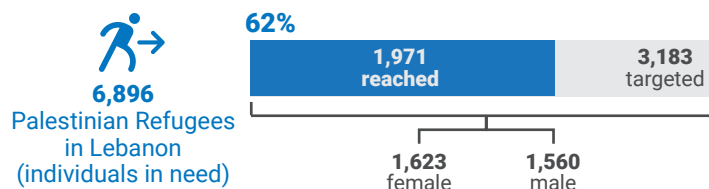
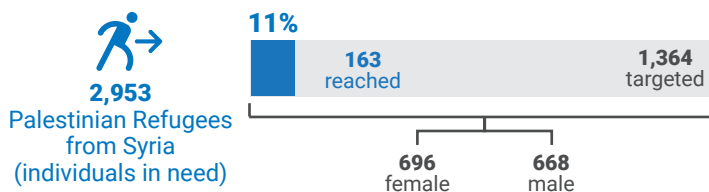
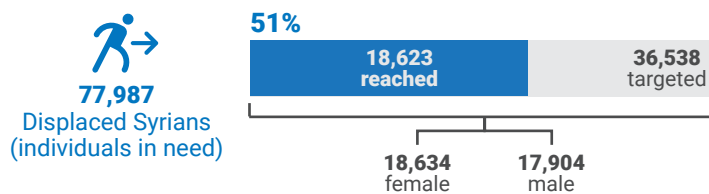
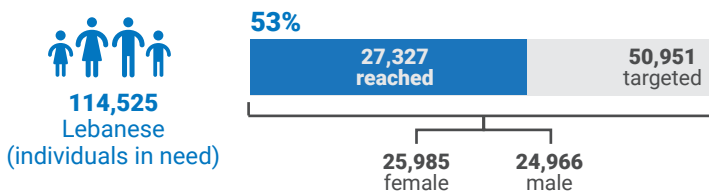
As of 30 September



2021 Population reached



2021 Population figures by cohort



*Out of 54,858 individuals reached, 6,774 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). By Q3 the Sector was able to disaggregate the numbers provided by partners. As such, the number differs from Q2 (from 10,183 in Q2 to 6,774 in Q3).

Progress against targets

Key achievements



Outcomes

Outcomes	LCRP 2016 Baseline	Jan - Sep 2021 Current	2021 Target			
			SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL
OUTCOME 1: Total number of jobs created/maintained	494	12,109	2,235			
OUTCOME 2: # of job seekers placed into jobs	N/A	1,078	500	1400	30	70
# of targeted vulnerable persons engaged in home-based income generation	N/A	1,308	500	1400	30	70
OUTCOME 3: Ranking of doing business**	Rank 126	143	120			

* Target overachieved. To be revised by the Sector for the 2022 strategy.

**Source: World Bank

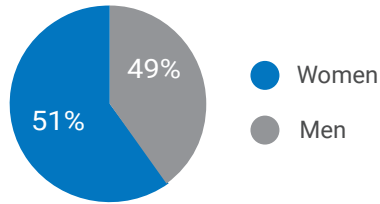


Analysis

Breakdown by age and gender

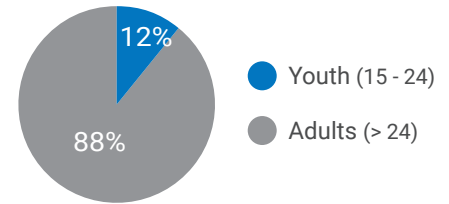
54,858

Number of individuals reached by Sector partners by gender (Jan - Sep 2021)



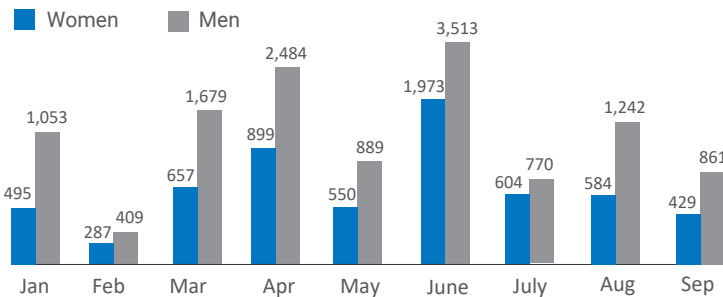
4,188

Entrepreneurs benefitted from business management training by age (Jan - Sep 2021)



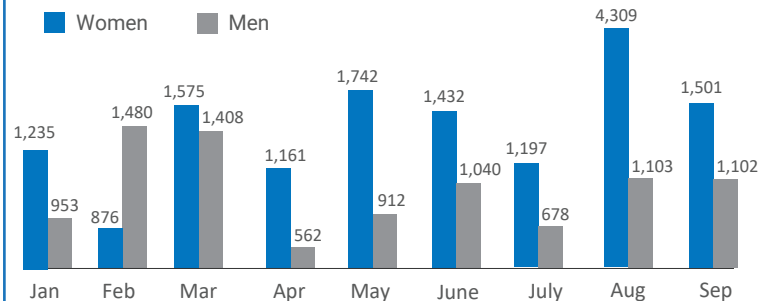
19,378

Individuals employed through public infrastructure, environmental assets and productive assets by gender per month (2021)



24,266

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



1. Key achievements of the sector at the output level

The financial and economic crises continue to disrupt the country's businesses, leading to job losses and an overall worsening of the economy. Despite the current challenges, Livihoods Sector partners have continued providing livelihoods assistance to vulnerable groups in Lebanon. The support to Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives has been especially prioritized under the Sector in Q3 as they play an important role for employment retention and re-employment of vulnerable Lebanese and Syrians, as well as for the provision of basic services.

In Q3 under Output 1.1, Livihoods Sector partners provided cash and in-kind grants to 2,684 Lebanese MSMEs and cooperatives against a target of 3000, with the aim of helping them to sustain their operations and protect their workers. In addition, 47 Lebanese MSMEs (out of 1,050 targeted) have been established and continue to be functional six months after receiving the support from Sector partners. Wage subsidies and emergency cash grants to informal or self-employed workers, financial support to improve manufacturing, optimize storage and transportation processes, as well as digitization efforts are some examples of employment support measures provided by the sector partners. In addition to cash grants, partners offered business support packages that included business development, training, and mentoring services with the aim to improve cost-effectiveness and help the businesses to better cope with the crises. By end of Q3, 4,188 entrepreneurs and employees benefitted from business management training, and among those receiving the support 13% are youth¹. Due to the fuel crisis, increased prices on public transportation and roadblocks,

remote modalities continue to be utilized to facilitate training sessions, coaching, and awareness raising sessions.

As for Output 1.2, Sector partners reported 84 interventions within value chains in Q3 overachieving the target of 20. This is the result of implementing smaller components of complete value chain interventions such as supporting livestock farmers within the dairy value chain. Despite this achievement, work is still needed to guide partners towards more complementarity to ensure that complete value chains are being supported.

The provision of short-term employment through Cash-for-Work provides opportunities for vulnerable households with much needed cash assistance, while also seeking to build better relationships between displaced Syrians and Lebanese individuals through work that improves public services and infrastructure. These interventions are delivered under Output 1.3, and by Q3, 19,378 Syrians and Lebanese out of 15,000 targeted (34% women) have been engaged in income-generating activities, involving full-time and part-time employment. Due to the multiple crises' impact on businesses, Sector partners are subsidizing wages through their Cash-for-Work activities to support job retention, and have currently reached 1,219 displaced Syrians and Lebanese (47% women) in 114 MSMEs.

To improve the labour market opportunities for vulnerable individuals, Livihoods Sector partners are building the jobseekers' capacities to facilitate their access to jobs under Outputs 2.1 and 2.2. In Q3, 12,098 women and men out of 10,000 targeted (60% female)

¹ Youth: 15 to 24. Non-youth: 25 and above.



benefited from market-based skills training, while 4,972 job-seeking individuals out of 7,000 targeted received career guidance, coaching or individual follow-up assistance to support them in their search for jobs. Efforts focus on developing skills for sectors with potential growth and demand for labour, and on creating opportunities for business development. Out of the women and men trained, 1,936 individuals out of 2,000 targeted were supported to start their own businesses. On-the-job training under output 2.2 (i.e., apprenticeships and internships) are on-going, with 7,196 women and men engaged in respective activities out of 2,000 targeted.

By Q3, the Sector organized and facilitated 35 training sessions on ActivityInfo, which has led to an increase in Sector partners reporting achievements from 32 in 2020 to 55 partners currently

reporting. This increase has led to an apparent overachievement of sector targets, which will be taken into consideration when setting the 2022 sector targets, and is the explanation for the apparent non-correlation between the low funding available to date and the high rate or reached populations. Moreover, partners have been able to include additional beneficiaries in their programmes due to the savings accumulated as a result of the exchange rate fluctuations.

In Q3, the Livelihoods Sector in collaboration with the Food Security Sector finalized and shared a new interactive dashboard ([Link](#)) which provides a regional overview of partners and the support that they provide to MSMEs and cooperatives under the two sectors. So far, 469 interventions have been reported on the dashboard by around 22 partners from both LH and FSS.

2. Key challenges of the sector

The pressure on partners to implement cash and income-generating programs (EIIP, CfW, wage subsidies and emergency cash grants to businesses) is intensifying with the increasing vulnerabilities of both the host and refugee communities who view these activities as a source of income. This comes as a direct result of the devaluation of the Lebanese pound, increasing unemployment rates, depleting foreign exchange reserves and the high cost of imported food and fuel².

Within this context, it is challenging to strengthen MSMEs as they struggle to finance their minimum recovery and sustainability needs due to the limited liquidity of the financial sector, tight regulatory and monetary controls, and limited capacity of local financial institutions to meet capital and reserve requirements³. In addition, the savings of business owners are diminishing, and more businesses are forced to close and / or lay off staff (temporarily or permanently). Partners are seeking to find new measures to mitigate this challenge. For example, some partners have been supporting MSMEs to cover part of the costs of their loans (beneficiaries are not able to pay back loans).

Meanwhile, the lack of harmonization and coordination of modalities and transfer values for assistance in USD and Lebanese Pounds is also a key challenge. Some sector partners have already shifted the transfer value or currency of assistance which may exacerbate a sense of unfairness between those who receive assistance and those who do not, as well as between the beneficiaries of different organizations. This is of particular concern as

tensions monitoring reveals that the primary reasons for inter-communal tensions are unemployment and competition over jobs⁴. Increasing pressure is being put on partners by communities during livelihoods activities (especially cash-for-work) to include more individuals in activities, increase the daily wage or to shift currency into USD, sometimes leading to insecurity and heightened tensions.

Another challenge is that the agreed transfer value of Lebanese Pounds for cash-for-work assistance is no longer sufficient to meet basic needs (below the SMEB). Partners therefore, advocate for need to adjust the national minimum wages. To mitigate this challenge, partners are increasingly using mixed modalities (e.g., combining cash-for-work with in-kind food assistance).

Internet and communication shortages are leading to delays, dropouts as well as inactive participation from beneficiaries who do not have appropriate conditions in their locations, such as overcrowded residences. These activities are also hindered by the supplying gaps of fuel and electricity needed to maintain operations. These limitations are particularly challenging for partners utilizing remote modalities. The increasing fuel price continues to drive high transportation costs, affecting activities that require field presence, creating challenges for partners to plan and budget for transportation costs. Therefore, for 2022 planning, the Sector has discussed the need to support beneficiaries with transportation cost either through organizing common transportation or topping up the assistance.

3. Key priorities for the following quarter

The worsening socio-economic conditions characterized by the sharp currency depreciation, record-level price increases and cuts in subsidized goods are having a compounded impact on households' income and livelihoods. The lack of household income affects overall community resilience, as households are unable to purchase the necessary food and basic items, subsequently impacting the local markets. Therefore, supporting economic recovery and market systems are even more vital in the current context. Advocacy with donors is required to increase partners' funding to continue and expand income-generating activities and cash grants to MSMEs, cooperatives and small-scale farmers, with a particular focus on women, elderly and youth, as the crises has a

disproportionate impact on these groups. Key priorities identified by the Sector for the following quarter are summarized below.

Immediate Response Priorities

Scale-up interventions to contain the impact of the recent economic deterioration on livelihoods, including:

- Support a mechanism to set transfer values for CfW activities and work-based learning;
- Expand income-generating activities, such as cash-for-work schemes linked to rehabilitation works and labour-force support, especially in areas related to infrastructure and market access;

² World Bank (2021) Lebanon Economic Monitor: Lebanon Sinking (To the top 3) <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/05/01/lebanon-sinking-into-one-of-the-most-severe-global-crises-episodes>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ark/UNDP 11 Tensions Monitoring Updates https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o_dia_kd0eNCbSMXSdvr_atwDJRkylw/view



- Scale-up mainstreaming of female and people with disabilities in labour-intensive activities to enhance their access to livelihoods opportunities;
- Grants and loans to both rural and urban MSMEs, as well as to entrepreneurs and manufacturing businesses.

The Sector will update the Livelihoods Interactive dashboard ([Link](#)) in close collaboration with the partners, to map the provision and

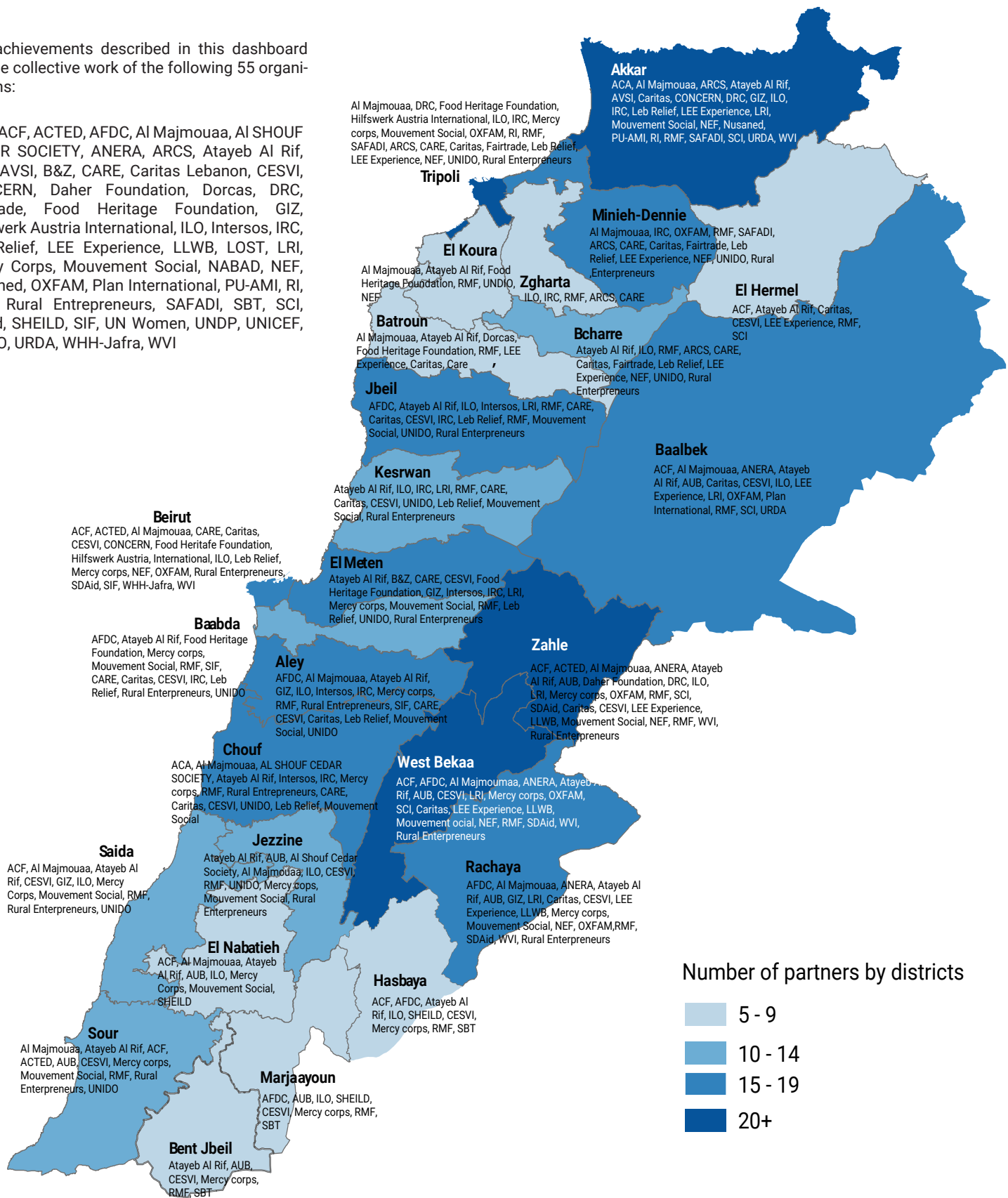
type of livelihoods activities that are being implemented across the country and to give partners the opportunity to identify gap areas. This tool, in combination with the interactive MSMEs and Cooperatives dashboard, supports partners to better target their livelihoods interventions, identify potential areas of collaboration with other sector partners to avoid duplication, and exchange knowledge of ongoing practices.



Partners by district

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 55 organizations:

ACA, ACF, ACTED, AFDC, Al Majmouaa, Al SHOUF CEDAR SOCIETY, ANERA, ARCS, Atayeb Al Rif, AUB, AVSI, B&Z, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CESVI, CONCERN, Daher Foundation, Dorcas, DRC, Fairtrade, Food Heritage Foundation, GIZ, Hilfswerk Austria International, ILO, Intersos, IRC, Leb Relief, LEE Experience, LLWB, LOST, LRI, Mercy Corps, Mouvement Social, NABAD, NEF, Nusaned, OXFAM, Plan International, PU-AMI, RI, RMF, Rural Entrepreneurs, SAFADI, SBT, SCI, SDAid, SHEILD, SIF, UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, URDA, WHH-Jafra, WVI



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