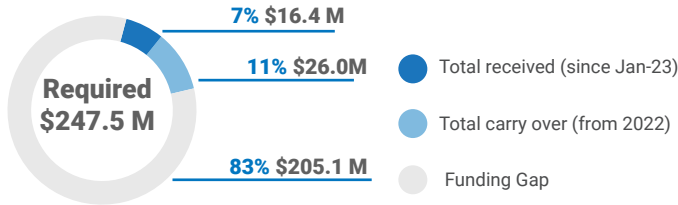




The 1st quarter dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Livihoods Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Stimulate local economic growth and market systems to foster income-generating opportunities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

2023 Sector funding status

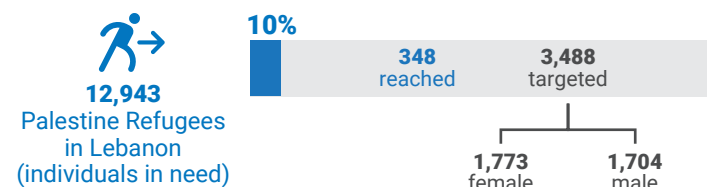
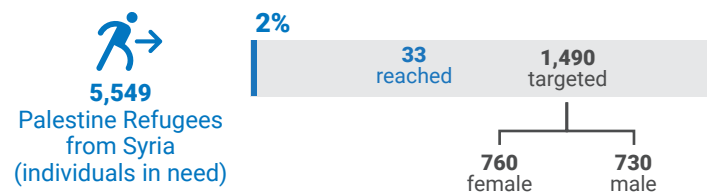
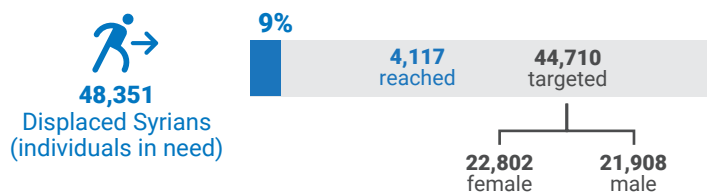
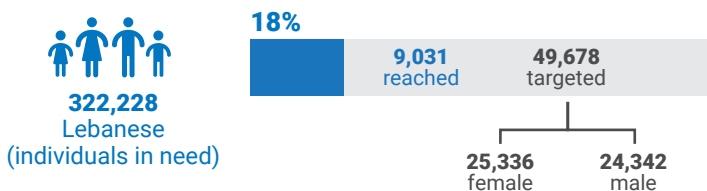
As of 31 March



2023 Population reached

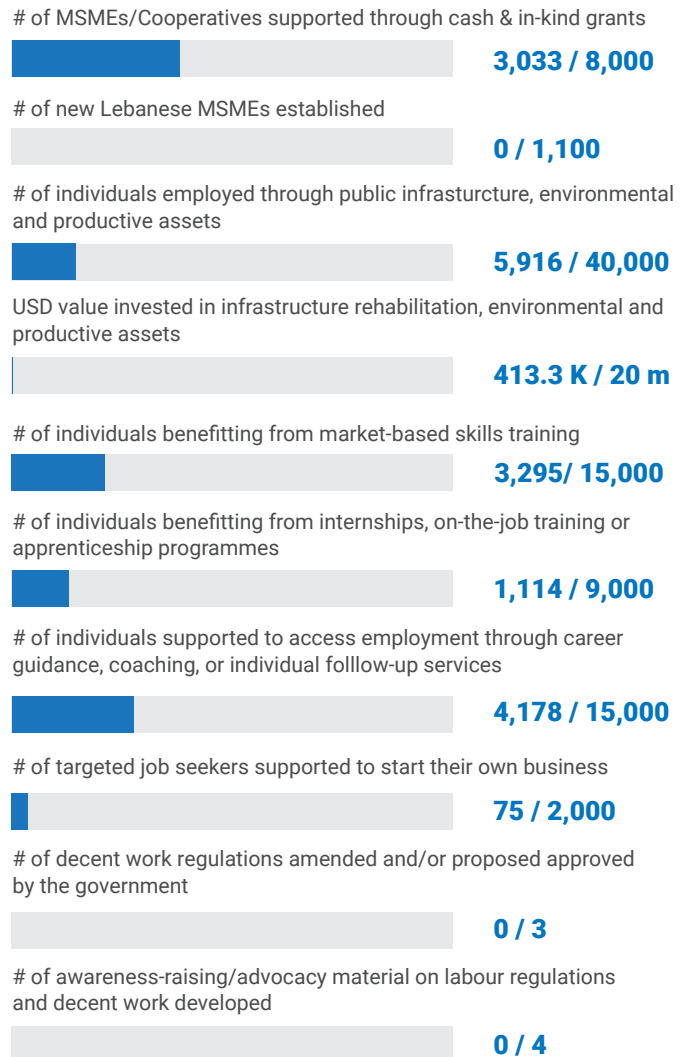


2023 Population figures by cohort



Progress against targets

Key achievements



Outcomes

Outcomes	LCRP 2016 Baseline	Jan - Mar 2023 Reached	2022 Target			
			SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL
OUTCOME 1:						
Total number of jobs created/maintained	494	338		10,400		
OUTCOME 2:						
# of job seekers placed into jobs	N/A	10	900	1000	30	70
# of targeted vulnerable persons engaged in home-based income generation	N/A	46	900	1000	30	70

*A total of 4,125 beneficiaries are not segregated by cohort (2,291 from sector Activity 1.1.1.1, Output 2.2, Outcome 2, and 1,834 UNICEF beneficiaries).

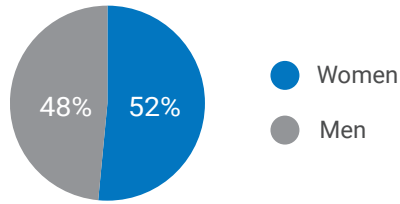


Analysis

Breakdown by age and gender

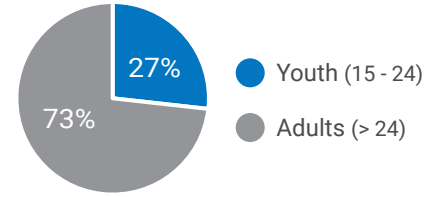
17,654

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



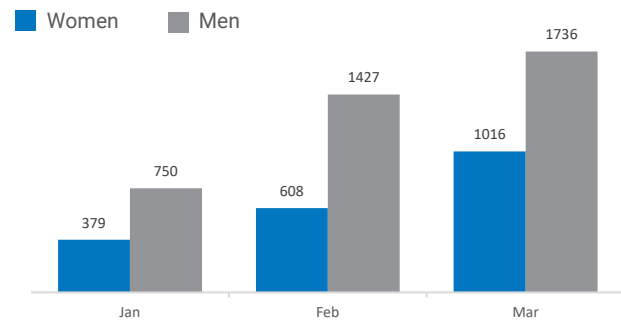
2,160

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



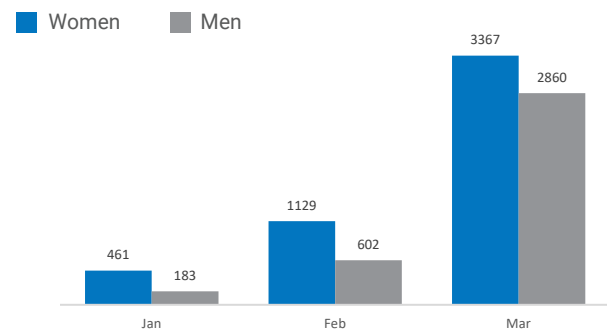
5,916

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



8,602

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:

In the first quarter of 2023, families across Lebanon continued to face diminishing purchasing power, affecting vulnerable peoples' ability to meet basic needs. The Lebanese Pound continued to fluctuate, reaching average levels of LBP 134,900 to the dollar in the month of March. Lebanon's annual inflation rate jumped to 264 percent in March of 2023 from 190 percent in the previous month. This was the highest inflation since comparable records began in 2008. The Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) increased by 36 percent from January to February 2023, reaching almost LBP 18,000,000 per family per month. This is the largest monthly increase noted since June of 2020. Over the last year, the price of water delivered by private water tankers increased by 330 percent, while the price of bottled water, still used by most as a main source for drinking, increased by 250 percent. An increased number of people from all population groups reported not having access to enough water, with the heaviest impact on the most unprivileged families.

Protection monitoring demonstrates that average refugee household income remains well below the SMEB, with greater aid dependency reported. Reduced spending on food, rent, medicine, and healthcare is reported by most households and gaps in meeting survival needs drive harmful coping mechanisms. Concerningly, protection monitoring demonstrates growing debt and eviction threats with the highest recorded so far in the first quarter of this year. These challenges are driven by inability to meet basic needs, which in turn lead to several harmful coping strategies and protec-

tion risks. Meanwhile in March, fuel prices transitioned to USD further impacting the ability of people to afford transportation costs especially those with specific transportation needs such as persons with disabilities. Inter-communal relations are the most negative that they have been since 2017, as reported through the regular UNDP-ARK perception survey. As of March 2023, 46 percent of respondents cite that the relations between Syrians and Lebanese are 'negative' or 'very negative', compared to 37 percent in August 2022. The primary driver for inter-communal tension is competition over lower-skilled jobs, cited by 60 percent as the key tension driver, an increase from 50 percent in August 2022. The second most cited tension driver is competition for services, particularly electricity and solid waste management, cited by 31 percent as a source of tension. Women and girls continue to report their exposure to Gender Based Violence (GBV) at homes and in public spaces. Girls also report feeling unsafe and at risk of GBV on their way to school, but the incidents remain underreported. Female headed households, LGBTIQ+ persons and other vulnerable groups are at heightened risk of exploitation often living in sub-standard shelter conditions. Financial constraints and limited livelihood opportunities have also resulted in reduced access to menstrual hygiene products for women and girls



1. 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:

In the first quarter of 2023, the Livelihoods Sector partners extended their support to 3,033 businesses, out of which 60 percent were Micro businesses and small businesses. Among these businesses, female entrepreneurs owned 43 percent while 57 percent were owned by male entrepreneurs. It is worth mentioning that women participation in business is hindered by limited access to financial assets and markets and that women often rely on male family members for access to financial services. This implies that partners should focus their services to businesses, especially those led by women, on the provision of financial support. This is in line with the achievements of the first quarter where the majority of the support provided came in the form of financial services (95 percent). In terms of geographical distribution, the services were divided almost equally across the regions (32 percent in the Bekaa, 30 percent in each of the South and BML) apart from the North, which recorded the lowest percentage of businesses supported standing at 8 percent. As in previous years, partners linked their business support services with trainings on business management. In Q1, a total of 2,160 individuals (38 of which are persons with disabilities-PWD) benefited from business management trainings. Most of the beneficiaries from this service were females at 57 percent (75 percent adults and 25 percent youth) versus 43 percent males (71 percent adults and 29 percent youth). In addition to linking tangible support to businesses with business management training, partners reported that another success factor was introducing business plans with identified milestones. These plans and milestones were used as benchmark for further assistance to be provided to the businesses. Trade and productive sectors were identified as the two most efficient sectors to be supported given their ability to proceed in using USD or to index the operations to the exchange rates. Agricultural sector can also be further explored in the coming period. One of the challenges reported by partners is the utilization of the cash grants by grantees who might not put the grant to its intended use. For this vigorous monitoring and follow-up is needed. Another challenge was the possible duplication of services as some business owners might refrain from disclosing information on previous support received.

As such, the sector will continue to promote the Support to Businesses and Cooperatives dashboard, which is a joint venture with the Food Security and Agriculture Sector to map support and services provided to these entities under both sectors. This will not only reduce duplications but will also facilitate complementarity. The underachievement in establishing new businesses can be attributed to different factors. On one hand, it could be the partners' preference to work with and strengthen established businesses; another could be under-reporting, an issue that the sector is following up closely.

Output 1.2- Competitive integrated value chains strengthened and upgraded:

Partners carried out 49 interventions (target 90) with the objective of supporting value chains components, with a focus on agriculture. The focus of these interventions was supporting the production processes such as securing labour for planting, pruning, and harvesting. Lack of long-term funding continues to be a significant obstacle challenging the implementation of a full value chain intervention.

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:

In quarter one, 5,916 individuals (66 percent males and 34 percent females; 60 percent Lebanese, 40 percent Syrians) participated in labour intensive programmes (target: 40,000). The activities covered the three types of assets identified by the sector: environmental (such as collection of solid waste, 55 percent of beneficiaries) and infrastructure (such as rehabilitation of storm water canals, 45 percent of beneficiaries). Women participation was highest in projects supporting environmental assets where they constituted 38 percent of the beneficiaries under this category. The percentage of female participants in the infrastructure assets was 29 percent. In terms of the participation of persons with disabilities, the sector introduced new indicators to ensure that the number of participants from this beneficiary group is captured. To this end a total number of 159 PWDs was reported to have participated in labour intensive activities (30 percent in public infrastructure assets and 70 percent in environmental assets). Although the sector is achieving the target of 30 percent females under this activity, women's access is still lower than for men, however the sector is prioritising strategies to address this gap. For example, to ensure participation of PWDs and women in the activities, a best practice was to provide them with a short on-the-job training prior to the labour-intensive activity to eliminate perceptions that 'they cannot do the job'. The daily wage provided the beneficiaries with income essential to allow them to meet their basic needs, even if temporarily. Although most partners dollarized the daily wages, the harmonization of the transfer currency and value is still a priority to defuse any possible tensions that might arise between the beneficiaries of the different partners. For this, the sector will continue holding regional level cash-for-work task forces and will actively participate and seek the guidance of the national Cash working group. Furthermore, partners highlighted the need for more flexibility in setting the value of the wage to be more responsive to the changing market rates to have a meaningful assistance.

Output 2.1-Vulnerable men and women have strengthened and appropriate technical skills to match the needs of the job market:

In quarter one, market-based skills training (vocational training) benefited 3,295 individuals (target: 15,000), comprising 58 percent females and 42 percent males. Of these beneficiaries, 55 percent were Lebanese, 38 percent were displaced Syrians and 6 percent were Palestine Refugees from Lebanon (PRL). The fluctuating exchange rates, which resulted in increasing cost of fuel affecting transportation cost, represented a challenge to the partners who were not able to meet these changes in the value of fees they provide to the beneficiaries. This negatively affected the participation of the beneficiaries. Another challenge highlighted by the partners was that market assessments are usually rapid, limited, and non-comprehensive. This meant that the topics of the trainings were not always matching with the wider market needs. This necessitates engaging with the private and the public sectors such as the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in the different regions. At the national level, the sector, supported by the core group members will plan for round tables with relevant stakeholders to identify best practices.

Output 2.2-Career guidance, awareness raising sessions, job matching, and work-based learning opportunities offered to



female and male job seekers:

Partners delivered work-based learning to enhance theoretical and practical learning for beneficiaries. In quarter one of 2023, 1,114 beneficiaries (67 percent Lebanese, 20 percent Syrians, 11 percent PRL) were reached (target: 9,000). 66 percent of the beneficiaries were female vs. 34 percent male. Furthermore, 6 percent of the beneficiaries were caregivers of children engaged in labour. Aside of the work-based learning partners also provided 4,178 beneficiaries (17 percent females, 11 percent males *) with career guidance, employment services, and 942 beneficiaries (57 percent females and 43 percent males) with sensitization on labour laws, decent work, and minimum standards (target: 15,000). This service aims to equip the beneficiaries with the needed knowledge and skills to identify their career paths and find employment opportunities (job hunting).

Output 3.1-GoL supported to approve decrees/regulations/awareness-raising material on decent work conditions

As specified in the sector's annual workplan it is expected that partners will start reporting on this output in the second quarter of the year given the nature of the activities which require time to yield results. Yet, it remains uncertain if achievements will be made given the continuous gridlock in the public sector. Despite the delays expected in terms of engaging with government counterparts, the sector partners will continue to work on drafting, proposing, and supporting relevant ministries with regulations and awareness-raising material (such as ILO's upcoming Houkouki Fi Al3amal platform that enhances awareness and knowledge of rights and responsibilities at the workplace).

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

Partners reported conducting four surveys/assessments in the first quarter of 2023 (target 4). These covered Livelihoods and multi-sectoral needs assessments including macro-economic components and are all available on the Assessment Registry. The main objective of these is to guide partners project planning and implementation. Having achieved the target and with the pledged follow up with the partners, the sector will review the target for this activity under this output. Also, in quarter one the sector initiated a task force on Social and Solidarity Enterprises. The task force builds on existing efforts of several partners who have conducted research and provided recommendations to enhance the SSE eco-system. Among the several outcomes of this task force will be working with parliamentary committee and other relevant government bodies to propose/draft laws, policies, and budgets relevant to SSE/SE (long term objective).

2. Key challenges of the Sector

As the socio-economic deterioration increases so does the pressure on the partners to implement more projects and include more beneficiaries. In fact, competition over lower skilled jobs such as those provided through the cash for work activities was cited as a main source of inter-communal tensions by 61 percent of both Lebanese and Syrian as per the UNDP/ArK Regular Perception Survey (Wave XV - March 2023) compared to 50 percent in August 2022 (Wave XIV). Another persistent challenge was the financial instability and the limited access to financial resources. This meant that businesses were becoming increasingly in need of financial

Referral trends

414 referrals to the Livelihoods sector were reported by 12 partners during quarter one (compared to 1,063 in Q1 2021). This year-on-year decrease in referrals could be attributed to the decrease in funds and available services. The highest share of referrals was in the Bekaa with 33.6 percent and the lowest in Akkar at only 1 percent. Of these, 34.5 percent did not receive feedback, 26.3 percent were acknowledged, 23.4 percent were accepted, and 15.7 percent were not accepted. Most of the latter were rejected due to not meeting the eligibility criteria for the service (96.4 percent). Like 2022, the Livelihoods sector is planning training sessions on the Inter-Agency referral platform and will continue to follow up with partners to ensure the information on the Inter-Agency service mapping is up to date.

Mainstreaming activities

In quarter one the sector conducted a full revision of the indicators to ensure that partners will be able to report on the number of PWDs who participated in the sector's activities. The analysis of such information will allow the sector to identify key best practices as well as identifying and addressing gaps. In terms of conflict sensitivity, the sector introduced the most recent Conflict Sensitivity toolboxes, which provide practical guidance on conflict sensitivity across the different phases of the projects through checklists and practical examples on best practices. Most relevant to the Livelihoods sector is Toolbox 1: Conflict Sensitive Cash Assistance in Lebanon which can be considered when implementing labour intensive programmes as well as providing financial incentives for beneficiaries of market- and work- based learning. Finally, the sector is exploring with the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) network the provision of tools to the Livelihoods partners to support them in introducing PSEA sensitization sessions to the beneficiaries of their activities. The Environmental Task Force presented the draft Environmental Marker guideline for the sector. Of the sector's activities, the labour-intensive programmes, especially those targeting the environmental assets hold the highest potential for the need of an Environmental Impact Assessment. This will be further unpacked during the next quarter. The Livelihoods sector appointed two gender and GBV focal points who will support the coordinator and sector's members to mainstream gender and GBV risk mitigation and to implement the mainstreaming priorities included in the sector's strategy and annual work plan.

resources to sustain their operations. To respond to this, partners recommend using a blended finance approach whereby beneficiaries receive assistance part as a grant and part as a repayable capital.

The low funding level is a major challenge that affects the progress towards the target (-25 percent compared to quarter one 2022). This is evident in the low number of people reached through labour intensive projects in quarter one (-10 percent compared to quarter one 2022). Yet, the sector will further investigate the reasons behind this deferment beyond the scope of the funding status.



3. Key priorities for the Following Quarter

At the operational level, the sector will work, in consultation with the relevant ministry, on the development of the “Formalization of Businesses” guideline, which aims to guide partners through the process of registering businesses. This will contribute to the sector’s output on supporting businesses to become formal to benefit from other services, such as support in access to international markets where registration is a condition. Also, as identified in the annual workplan, the sector aims to hold the first donors’ meeting where priorities, gaps, and challenges as well as recommendations will be made.

In the coming quarter the sector will also work on several inter-sectoral priorities. With the Child protection sector, a one-pager will be produced to assist Livelihoods partners in identifying care givers of children engaged in labour through their socio-economic assess

ments. For better inclusion of PWDs in the activities, the sector will initiate bilateral and collective coordination specialized organizations that provide services to PWDs to increase referrals to the sector partners. Also, to support the mainstreaming of the PSEA sessions across the outputs, the sector will continue the discussions with the PSEA network to produce material that can be used by the Livelihoods sector partners. Finally, in coordination with the Food Security and Agriculture sector the data collection for and analysis of the Support to MSMEs and Cooperatives dashboard will be conducted.

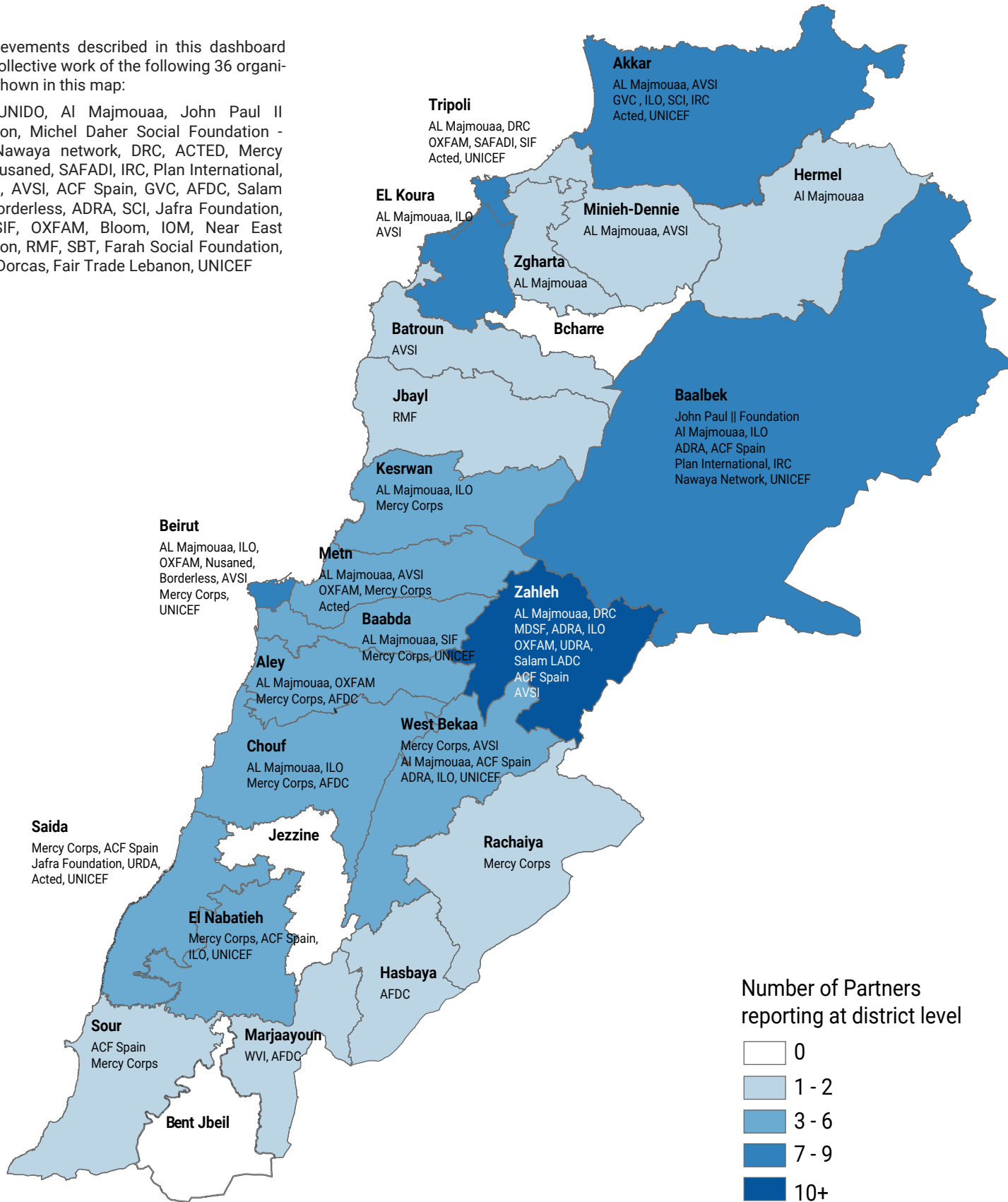
The gender and GBV focal points will attend a Training of Trainers and successively support the organisation of feedback sessions for sectors members.



Partners by district

The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 36 organizations shown in this map:

CESVI, UNIDO, Al Majmouaa, John Paul II Foundation, Michel Daher Social Foundation - MDSF, Nawayya network, DRC, ACTED, Mercy Corps, Nusaned, SAFADI, IRC, Plan International, WVI, ILO, AVSI, ACF Spain, GVC, AFDC, Salam LADC, Borderless, ADRA, SCI, Jafra Foundation, URDA, SIF, OXFAM, Bloom, IOM, Near East Foundation, RMF, SBT, Farah Social Foundation, Tabitha-Dorcas, Fair Trade Lebanon, UNICEF



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.