



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.

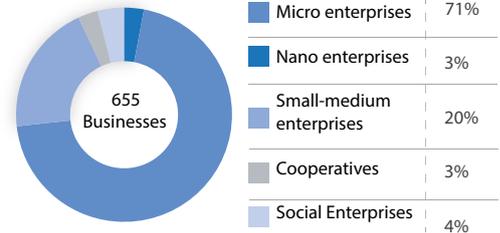
Funding Status as at 31 Dec 2019



Targeted population



Businesses reached by type



Progress against targets

Outputs

	reached / target
# entrepreneurs & employees who benefitted from business management training	1,878 / 3,670
# of MSMEs/ Cooperatives supported through cash & in-kind grants	631 / 3,670
# of new Lebanese MSMEs established	33 / 1,296
# of value chains valorized and/or being upgraded	36 / 20
# of targeted vulnerable persons enrolled in public work projects	17,433 / 7,530
\$ value invested in LH labour intensive public work projects	\$15.5m / NA
# of individuals benefitting from market-based skills training	17,370 / 10,000
# of people benefitting from internships, on-the-job training or apprenticeship programmes	4,817 / 2,000
# of individuals supported to access employment through career guidance, coaching, or individual follow-up services	8,649 / 7,000
# of targeted job seekers supported to start their own business	344 / 2,000
# of decent work regulations amended and/or proposed approved by the Government	1 / 3
# awareness-raising/advocacy material on labour regulations and decent work developed	9 / 4

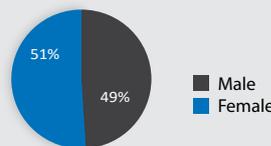
Outcomes

LCRP 2016 Baseline	Jan-Jun 2019 Current				2019 Target	
	SYR	LEB	PRS	PRL		
OUTCOME 1: # total number of jobs created / maintained*	494				4,283	5,777
OUTCOME 2: # of job seekers placed into jobs*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,522	2,000
# targeted vulnerable persons engaged in home-based income generation *	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	284	2,000
OUTCOME 3: Increase in ranking of Doing Business**	Rank 126				Rank 135	N/A

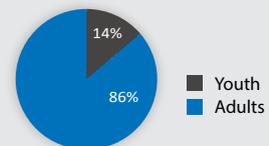
*Source: Activity info
**Source: World Bank

Breakdown by Age and Gender

Men vs. Women supported who access employment

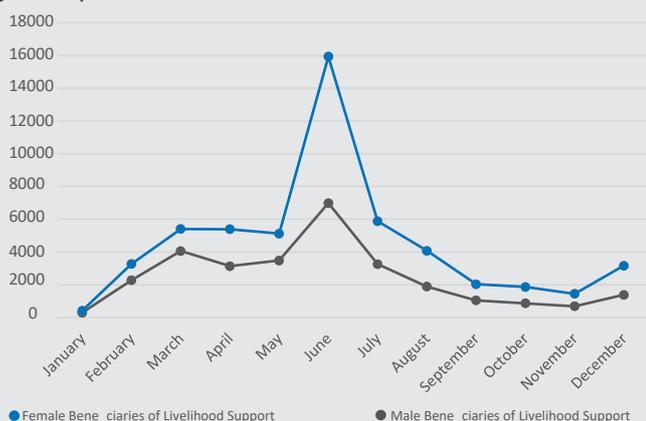


Entrepreneurs who benefitted from business management training

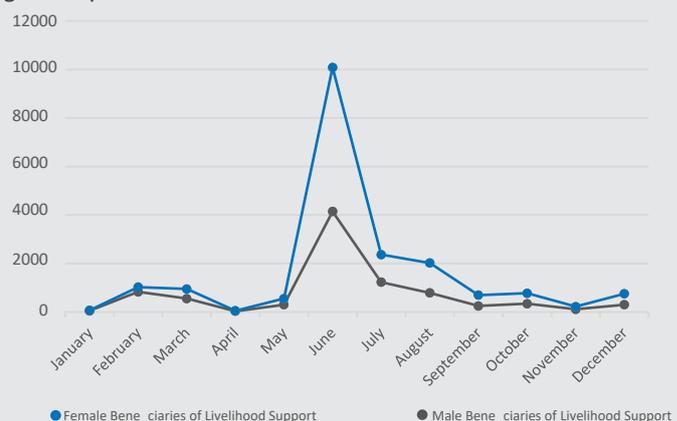


Analysis

Number of beneficiaries of livelihoods interventions by gender per month (2019)



Number of beneficiaries of market based skills training by gender per month (2019)



¹ The narrative report is based on quantitative results extracted from Activity Info and on qualitative results collected through partners and direct observations
Prepared by the Inter-Agency Information Management Unit | For more information contact Inter-Agency Coordinators Elina Silen elina.silen@undp.org, Carol Sparks sparks@unhcr.org



In 2019, around 631 businesses, i.e. Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), cooperatives and social enterprises, received cash and in-kind grants and technology transfers (out of a target of 3,670). The economic slowdown and financial situation made it difficult to create new job opportunities, thus meeting the targets. To respond to this situation, livelihoods partners have focused on supporting businesses with potential to survive the crisis to ensure their sustainability. To improve the employability and self-resilience of displaced individuals and host community members, particularly women, 30,836 individuals participated in soft skills and technical trainings¹ exceeding the targets for 2019. Female participation in technical trainings was around 9,517 compared to male which was around 7,853. Much emphasis is given to promote women's roles and resilience in their communities. As the economic crisis is deepening, the livelihoods sector had to re-prioritize trainings in order to ensure that trainings are responsive to market-demands. Nevertheless, through the efforts of the Ministry of Economy and Trade, the livelihoods sector has managed to update the National Business Development Service Map for partners to use to avoid duplication of services.

Despite the increasing economic challenges in 2019, livelihoods partners were able to impact the lives of around 57,753 women and men and succeeded in providing short term employment opportunities to 17,433 beneficiaries through public works project, benefitting indirectly more than 70,000 beneficiaries. Furthermore, around 15,481,000 USD was invested in labor-intensive efforts that have not only provided 12,000 temporary job opportunity for the most vulnerable but also addressed the priorities of local municipalities and brought tangible results to the local host communities. Yet, the unpredictability of the 2019 socio-economic situation has caused higher level of stress and increasing tensions between host communities and displaced communities, particularly over the competition for low-wage jobs and the higher cost of living².

In 2019, 36 value chains were valorized or upgraded in order to generate wealth and create jobs. Agro-industry value-chains is generally considered to be amongst the promising economic sectors for the country, which the livelihoods sector continuously aims at boosting. To this end, in 2019, in close collaboration with the foods security sector, the livelihoods sector developed a national online mapping system of value-chains interventions which will ultimately strengthen coordination and information sharing among cross-sectorial partners operating at national and field level.



Key Contributions towards LCRP Impact

Under the Lebanon Crisis Plan, the livelihoods sector aims at strengthening productive sectors in expanding economic and livelihoods opportunity to the most vulnerable communities.

2019 has been a year which required the livelihoods sector to respond to increasing vulnerabilities while pursuing efforts to generate new employment opportunities, both short and medium term. Livelihoods have throughout the year created/maintained, 4,203 jobs out of a target of 5,777. These jobs have been created or maintained through the support to MSMEs, who have been able to hire and/or maintain employees. In addition, livelihoods partners have reported that around 2,174, out of a target of 2,899, Lebanese MSMEs and cooperative have improved performance and expand market access after six months of support. MSMEs are still perceived as key economic engine for economic growth and job creation in Lebanon and the livelihoods partners continues their effort to support their capacities to respond to market demands and generate income for local economies in poor areas.

To improve workforce employability of vulnerable women and men, livelihoods partners provides career guidance and work-based learning, and technical skills trainings to match the demand of the labour market. In 2019, around 1,522 vulnerable men and women have been placed into jobs and around 284 women and men have used the skills gained to initiate home-based income generation, out of which 50 percent are women.

In 2019, Lebanon ranked 143 out of 190 economies on the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index whereas in 2017 Lebanon ranked 126. This development indicates the need of focusing on regulations that support the development of SME-friendly employment, legal, regulatory and taxation frameworks to enhance business activity and stimulate economic growth. In 2019, there were no improvement in business regulations.

¹ Includes individuals benefiting from market-based skills trainings, internships, on-the-job trainings, apprenticeships programmes, and coaching and career guidance.

² Tension Monitoring System, ARC Perception Survey Wave VII findings January 2020

The economic downturn has exacerbated pre-existing fragility, increasing poverty and social tensions between different communities and deepening the Lebanon's socio-economic disparities. The crisis is causing businesses to close and people to lose their jobs and working conditions to deteriorate, adding to the challenges of the livelihoods sector. The unpredictability of the situation increases the concerns around growing vulnerabilities, which is why the livelihoods sector will regularly monitor business closure and working conditions.

The crisis also led to disruption in services due to roadblocks, the financial restrictions and devaluation of the Lebanese pound prevented partners from accessing finance and provide cash-services to beneficiaries. Particularly beneficiary's mobility and access to soft-skill and technical trainings, and labour intensive work were limited. Livelihoods partners experienced delays or suspension of their operations and were therefore not able to meet their targets. Livelihoods partners had to request no cost extensions by the donors and adapt new administrative measures to cope.

As of 2019, the livelihoods sector remained the second least funded sector under the LCRP with only \$93m available for programming, of which \$26.9.5m was a carry-over from 2018³. With only 42% funding available in 2019 for livelihoods interventions, partners have not been able to scale-up investments required to boost the demand side of the job market or offer short-term employment opportunities for the most vulnerable. In addition, MSMEs continue to be hampered by a range of factors including access to start-up or expansion capital and inadequate labour market information or skill gaps, as well as challenging procedures for setting up a business. Another significant and recurrent barrier within the livelihoods sector is the unavailability of multi-year funding opportunities. The short-term nature of funding mechanisms does not support longer-term livelihoods efforts aimed at reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience. Neither does it adequately support long-term and structural challenges experienced by Lebanese MSMEs, cooperatives and small-scale farmers, as investments in value chains development and market linkages require sound and long-term funding.

Key Priorities and Gaps Foreseen for 2020

Displaced Syrians are becoming more economically vulnerable with the proportion of them spending less than \$US 2.90/per day increasing from 51 per cent to 55 per cent in 2019. At the same time, the Lebanese host communities are also struggling as the economic crisis is compounding existing vulnerabilities. This development also fuels the perceptions of competition in the job market which continues to be the most commonly cited cause for rising tensions between host and refugee communities, as well as between Lebanese communities. This is evident in the ARK Perception Surveys on Social Tensions throughout Lebanon Wave VII, which shows that access to jobs remain the primary source of tension for both Lebanese and Syrians (60%), followed by electricity (19%), medical (8%) and shelter (5%)⁴.

To address these challenges, the key priority of the livelihoods sector in 2020 is to foster local economic growth in the most vulnerable areas through labour intensive projects that can support short-term employment and address the needs of affected municipalities. Through the efforts of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Labour, the livelihoods sector will work towards the endorsement of the Employment Intensive Projects in Lebanon Guidelines to guide partners on how to mainstream and implement decent work conditions in labour intensive interventions. The sector will work towards creating stronger linkages with ministries and other stakeholders involved in ensuring decent work conditions, as the crisis might increase informal work and exploitation.

In addition, the sector will resume supporting MSMEs and value chains development to foster job creation by expanding and improving the productivity and quality of businesses to ensure self-sufficiency. Yet, the impact of the crisis on an already challenging economic situation increases the urgency of allocating multi-year funding and resources to support the development of strategic value chains that can foster job creation, especially in agricultural, agro-food and waste recycling value chains. In this context, strengthening collaboration as well as partnerships and mutual learning will be pursued in 2020 through the technical working group on agriculture value chains, in close collaboration with the food security sector.

Improving employability remains a priority as well, however, the livelihoods sector will focus on adapting skills training to market demands. Lebanon would benefit from a national labour market assessment as such assessment would guide partners on industries that have potential for growth and where there are skills gaps. Resources should be allocated to produce such assessment by the livelihoods sector.

The downturn is particularly affecting people with specific need such as female-led household, disabled and elderly. The livelihoods sector is coordinating closely with the protection sector to address inequalities and/or protection risks through the upcoming inter-agency referral system in order to ensure timely and relevant livelihoods support to the most vulnerable groups while ensuring the security.

³ Dashboard summarizing funding received in 2019 for the Lebanon response: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/74000>

⁴ Tension Monitoring System, ARC Perception Survey Wave VII findings January 2020



Food Van on the Road to Opportunity

Rural Delights is a hub that supports over 40 women-led cooperatives in rural areas across Lebanon in promoting women's economic leadership, challenging stereotypes, and providing economic opportunities for as many women as possible.

"So many of us benefit from this van: some women prepare the raw materials, others prepare the food, and local women and youth participate in the events taking place in their hometowns," says May Traboulsi, the Chairperson of Rural Delights.

To enhance the capacity of these cooperatives' access to the market, UNDP provided Rural Delights with a refrigerated food van, as well as a training on using social media platforms to promote their products, with support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The van, which is at the disposal of eligible cooperatives free of charge for the first year, plays a significant role in enhancing access of Women Cooperatives to new markets; by preserving the quality of the food and easing the transportation process, cooperatives are more likely and able to participate in events and exhibitions across the country. Incorporating the van, in turn, foresees a 20% increase in the cooperatives' general income – specifically at least a 20% increase per exhibition or event. Additionally, its eye-catching display attracts more visitors while reducing the cost of renting transportation vehicles, tables, chairs, and kitchen equipment.

By participating in events across the country, the cooperatives are now able to build a wider network to improve their reach and long-term revenue stream.

"We created a fresh new concept of street food that is healthy, tasty, and traditional," May proudly states.



Written by: Farah Chihadeh, UNDP
Photo Credits: Rana Sweidan, UNDP



Kingdom of the Netherlands

