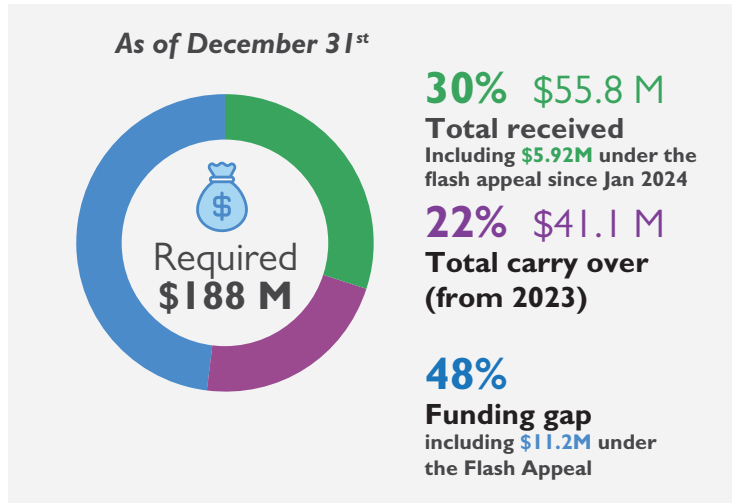




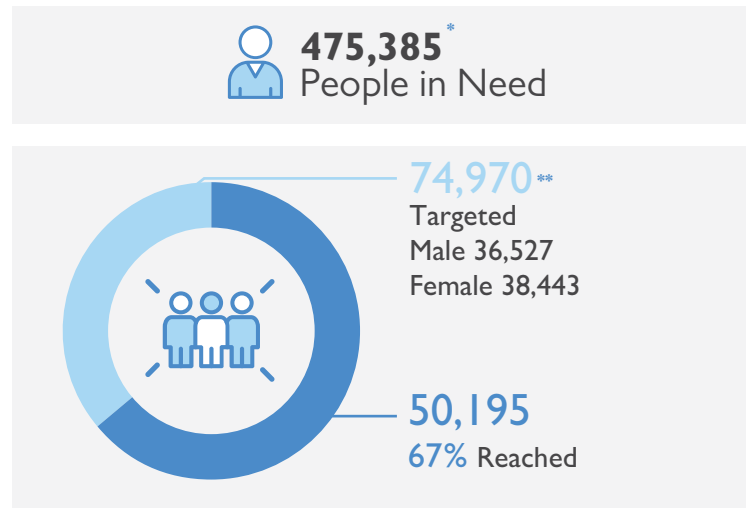
The End of Year for 2024 Livelihoods sector dashboard summarizes the progress made by Livelihoods sector partners involved in the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP), identifies key challenges and priorities, and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Livelihoods Sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 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

This dashboard is based on information reported by Livelihoods sector partners operating under the sector strategy.

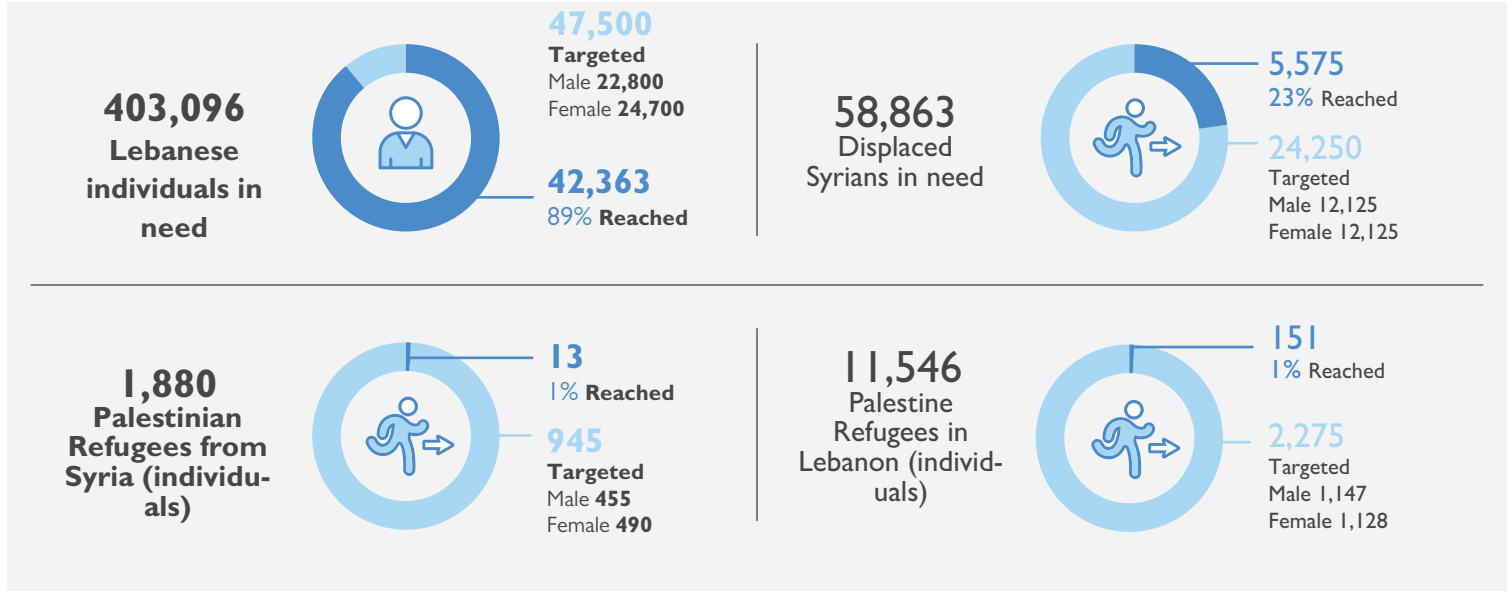
2024 Sector Funding Status



2024 Population Reached



2024 Population Figures by



*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

30,533 / 10,000

number of trained beneficiaries (30% women)

5,037 / 10,000

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

2,295 / 8,000

of vulnerable individuals participating in CfW activities

14,069 / 5,000

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

1,131 / 20,000

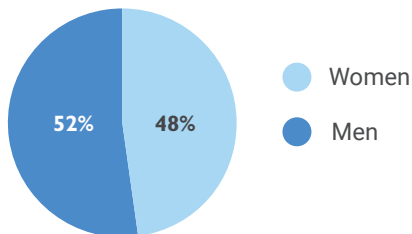
Outcomes

Outcomes	LCRP 2016 Baseline	Jan - Dec 2024 Reached	2024 Target
OUTCOME 1: Total number of jobs created/maintained	494	665	6000
OUTCOME 2: # of job seekers placed into jobs	N/A	322	6000
# of targeted vulnerable persons engaged in home-based income generation	N/A	331	1200

Analysis Breakdown by

48,733

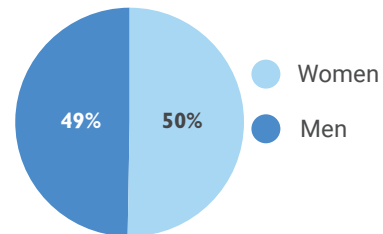
Number of individuals reached by Sector partners by gender (Jan - Dec 2024)



16,340

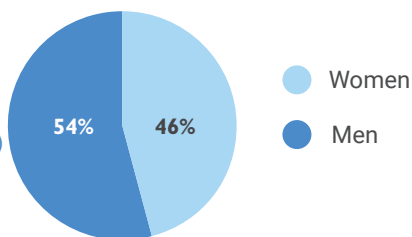
Vulnerable men and women in all their diversity and abilities have strengthened and appropriate technical skills to match the needs of the job market (Market- and work-based learning and Cash for work)

by gender (Jan - Dec 2024)



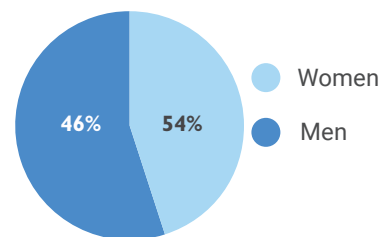
22,202

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



322

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 - Dec 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. (reached 30,533 vs. target 10,000)

Since 2019, Lebanon has faced a series of crises that severely impacted its economy. The financial and economic collapse compounded by the latest escalation of hostilities, has further exacerbated the challenges faced by nano, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

During 2024, the Livelihoods sector partners supported around **30,533** businesses through different programming modalities, including access to financial resources (50.1%), business management training (27%), incubation services (11.6%), in-kind and in-cash grants (10.3%), and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse – PSEA (1%). The business management training took place in different regions as follows: 19.5 per cent in Beirut and Mount-Lebanon, 37 per cent in the North, 8 per cent in the South, and 36 per cent in Bekaa-Hermel. A percentage of 48.2 per cent of businesses supported are owned by females of which 52 per cent received access to financial services, and 30 per cent of them received different types of capacity building, including management training. The support to MSME was expanded further in comparison to the year 2023 where livelihood partners were able to reach over 18,000 businesses with different modalities. The reason for increase in level of achievement is mainly due to a shift in targeting, to include more Lebanese population where the level of prioritization remains on medium to longer term support and strengthening local businesses.

Output 2.1: Vulnerable men and women in all their diversity were strengthened with appropriate technical skills to match the needs of the job market (reached 16,340 vs. target 33,000)

Despite the escalation of hostilities, which started in October 2023 and intensified in September 2024, Livelihoods partners continued their efforts to empower vulnerable men and women with diverse abilities, by equipping them with the technical skills needed to succeed in the job market. Through various targeted training programs and initiatives, these individuals gained valuable expertise in different fields. During 2024, a total of **16,340** individuals (50% of the target) benefited from one of three different approaches to skill development that ensured they not only acquire relevant knowledge but also enhance their employability. A percentage of 46 per cent of beneficiaries is females. Out of the total 16,340 beneficiaries, 9,056 beneficiaries participated in Cash for Work programs (55%). Out of the total number of beneficiaries, 5,037 received market-based skills training (31%), of which 60 per cent are females. Work-based learning opportunities reached 2,247 people, of which 67 per cent are women. Women may have a preference to these activities for a variety of reasons, including the long-term advantages of learning and possessing skills that enable longer-term employment or self-employment, with the latter providing more suitable and

individualized working conditions (time and place). Displaced Syrians made up to 31 per cent of the total beneficiaries under this output. The people reached within this output were much like the previous year achievement (15,000 individuals reached in 2023) however partners have projected to reach higher number of businesses ventures with soft skills and providing cash for work (CfW) opportunities in the year 2024 but uncertainty and escalation of hostilities in the second half of the year did not allow to expand this outreach further.

Output 2.2: Career guidance, awareness raising sessions, job matching and support for starting own business in the same area of training (reached 1,763 vs. target 12,000)

Based on partners' reports, 1,763 people received career guidance (15% of the set target). Out of the total number of beneficiaries, a majority of 1,425 were females (81%). Almost one third of beneficiaries were displaced Syrians. The high attendance of women might be due to several factors: 1. partners might be prioritizing women while selecting beneficiaries; 2. women might be more interested in these services as they need more tailored advice on overcoming specific career obstacles; 3. Women might be more available to attend those courses as their level of employment is lower (while for men attendance might mean they have to skip work). Mentorship, which often accompany career counselling also represents a key element that help business owners to navigate challenges. Funding shortfall was attributed mainly by reporting partners for this low level of coverage under this output.

Output 3.1: Promoting decent work conditions among the different stakeholders - employers and employees (reached 1,472 vs. 20,000 target)

Under this output, **1,472** beneficiaries (7% of the target) participated in workshop promoting decent work conditions among different stakeholders. The relatively low number of participants could be explained by low reporting rates, a lack of budget, or due to the escalation of hostilities and the prioritization of income generating activities vs attendance to workshops.

Mainstreaming activities:

Mainstreaming priorities were given to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Gender protection and to integrating GBV considerations into assessments, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Conflict sensitivity was also prioritized whether in assessments or Cash-for-Work activities.



2. KEY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SECTOR TO LRP OUTCOME

The livelihood strategy was purposively inter-linked and aligned with all the strategic objectives set for Lebanon Response Plan in the year 2024. The cash injection through cash for work activities among targeted segments enabled them to complement their immediate livelihood needs in a dignified manner. This modality alone is contributing to strategic objectives 1 & 2 of the LRP where it contributes positively to fulfilling immediate humanitarian needs. The sector targeting strategy emphasized on the protection principles, to prioritize most vulnerable segments among the targeted population groups. The outreach of sector modalities helped enable short term income generating opportunities for 9,056 individuals where they create impact for the stated strategic objectives. Likewise, the labour-intensive programs of livelihood sector partners contributed to the strategic objective 3 where the focus of interventions was the rehabilitation of public services and infrastructure (public, environmental, and municipal services), such as solid waste management campaigns, reforestation efforts, and retaining wall rehabilitation. Financial constraints were restricting municipalities in maintaining service structures within these domains, thus the support provided was not only admired but requested with high priority.

Strategic Objective Four, aimed at reinforcing Lebanon's economic, social, and environmental stability, saw a substantial contribution through services provided to small businesses (MSMEs). A total of 30,533 small scale businesses were supported, which in turn stimulates local economic growth and fostering income-generating opportunities. Additionally, business development and skill enhancement programs are prioritized within the response to build the necessary foundations for sustainable growth, fostering entrepreneurship, supporting emerging industries, contributing to economic diversification, and reducing reliance on short-term recovery measures. As initial recovery efforts yield results, more focus turns towards creating a conducive business environment, encouraging innovation, and attracting medium to long-term investments.

Although the sector has been continuing to work for the short-term, by enhancing and creating short-term income generation opportunities, it also has been aiming to transition towards more medium-term initiatives. This transition signifies a shift from its role in the immediate economic recovery to a more central role in fostering sustained economic growth.

3. CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Among the main challenges flagged by partners there are the severe direct or indirect impacts of the escalation of hostilities on MSMEs, including the disruption of markets, supply chains, and loss of assets. The loss of labor due to displacement, or fleeing the country was also a main challenge expressed by the sector's partners. Partners also identified several challenges encountered during the implementation of their livelihood projects. Among those, they mentioned how the decrease in real terms of the value of loans and other financial assistance continued to be a barrier to attaining long-term and more significant economic outcomes. Another issue they faced was the beneficiaries' low level of digital literacy, which prompted some partners to create new courses to raise the proficiency of non-digital beneficiaries. In terms of financial value, grants disbursed under this component were around USD 14 million.

During the first half of the year, partners have reported challenges in reaching beneficiaries for their Cash-for-Work activities, primarily due to the low wages value, which many individuals considered insufficient. Another major challenge is outreach to participants for skills development training tracks. The analysis revealed that several applicants were ineligible because they lacked the needed education/professional background. To address this, new training tracks are being designed to improve skills for intermediate or junior participants. This new track aimed to make programs more accessible and relevant to a broader number of beneficiaries. Securing participants' commitment to training sessions has been another persistent challenge.

Thus, one of the lessons learned to mention is to enhance and encourage reporting of activities to be able to benefit from the gathered data in conducting analysis, and eventually, in funding and advocacy efforts.

4. Case Study

Title: The inspiring journey of the Access to Sustainable Employment (ASE) Project

Theme: Diversifying livelihoods in times of crisis

Author: Caritas Switzerland

Lebanon has been struggling with a series of continuous crises since 2019, including economic collapse, political instability, and social unrest, worsened by the 2023-2024 escalation of hostilities. These crises have severely impacted the country's youth, with high unemployment rates and limited opportunities.

The Access to Sustainable Employment (ASE) project, a collaboration between Caritas Lebanon, Caritas Denmark, and Caritas Switzerland, is one of these many projects that aimed to equip these young people with the skills and resources to navigate this turbulent situation.

Implemented between April 2022 and September 2024, the project employed a targeted youth empowerment model with three cycles, focusing on life skills training, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), financial assistance, and coaching.

The ASE project focused on a comprehensive package of support, prioritizing market-driven skills TVET training in sectors with high employment potential, such as agriculture, light construction, and digital ICT. Simultaneously, the project empowered youth to become entrepreneurs through financial literacy training, business plan development support, and access to micro-grants. Recognizing the critical needs of vulnerable youth, including a lack of employable skills and limited access to job opportunities, the project facilitated job placements/internships with MSMEs, supported youth in establishing their own small businesses, and provided financial assistance and mentorship to mitigate the impact of the economic crisis. Furthermore, the project provided crucial support to 162 MSMEs struggling due to the crisis, including individual financial assistance. A total of 612 youth was empowered through life skills training and specialized TVET, enhancing their employability and entrepreneurial

skills. This support, coupled with financial assistance, allowed these young people to invest in their futures and contribute to their communities.

The project faced significant challenges, including the rapidly evolving crisis in Lebanon, necessitating continuous adaptation and learning cycles to refine its approach. Navigating the complexities of the Lebanese labour law, particularly regarding Syrian refugee employment, required careful consideration and adaptation of project activities. Recognizing the crucial role of MSMEs, the project emphasized a comprehensive support package, including financial assistance, technical training, mentorship, and support for online presence and digital marketing, for their long-term sustainability. Continuous labour market assessments were key for ensuring that project interventions remained relevant and responsive to evolving market needs. Future programs should consider expanding the age range of potential participants and the range of targeted sectors to maximize impact, in addition to considering survival support to small struggling businesses and strengthen supply chain linkages to the market.

Severely impacted by the economic crisis, with Rita husband's salary reduced to around \$70 a month, she joined the ASE program to develop her skills in business development, digital marketing and designing marketing campaign for her basic fragrance products. Through training, she launched a social media platform, expanded her customer base, and now has her products promoted in 30 shops under her own brand, Ocean Scent. Rita now contributes 60% of the household income and has diversified into candle making, candle bouquets, and participated in different events and fairs, while also exploring chocolate making. Rita has even become a candle-making trainer, inspiring others with her journey from struggle to success and as her dream.

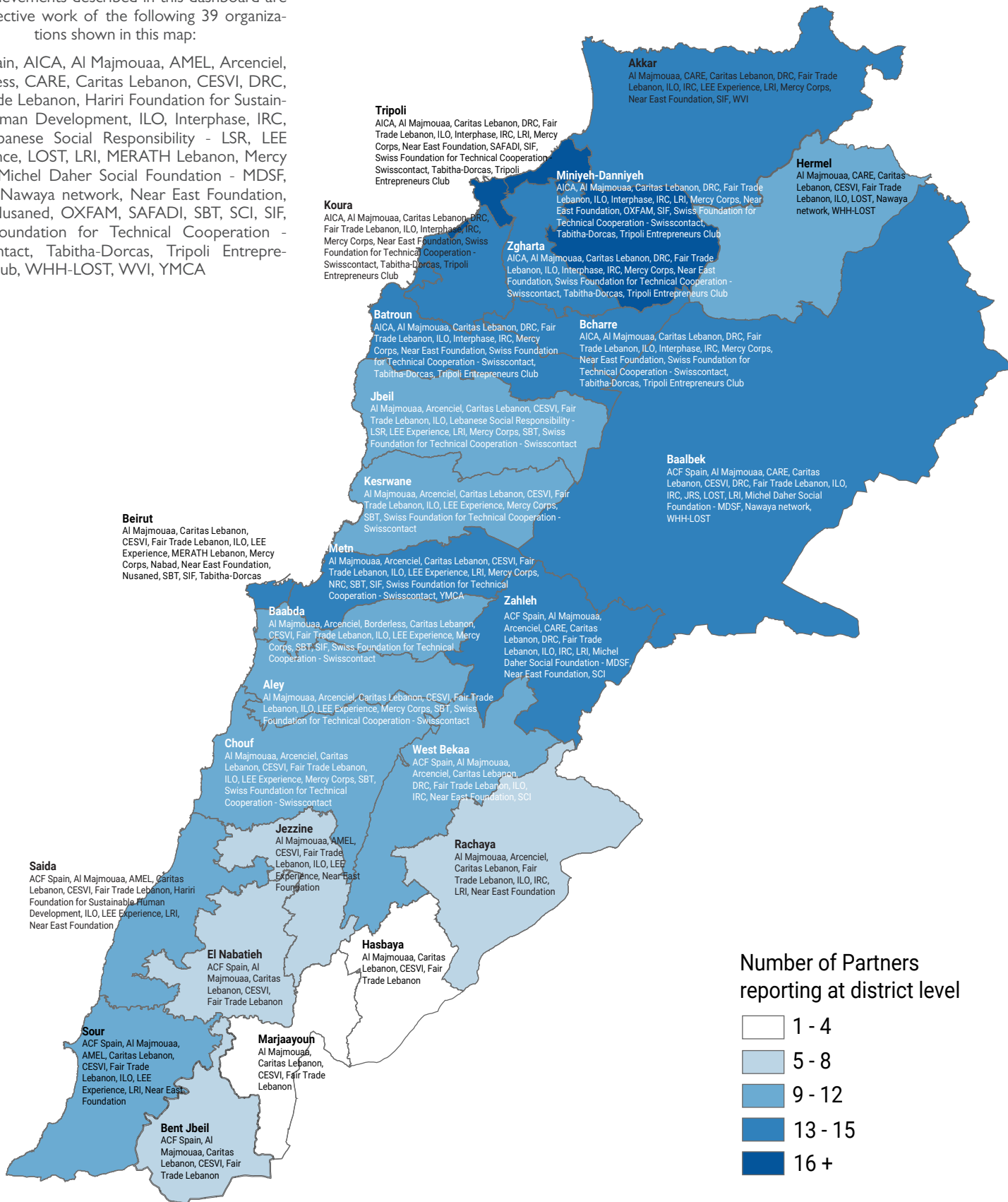
The success of the ASE project underscores the potential and promise of Lebanon's youth and their critical role in rebuilding the country's future, especially after the latest devastating war.





The achievements described in this dashboard are the collective work of the following 39 organizations shown in this map:

ACF Spain, AICA, Al Majmouaa, AMEL, Arcenciel, Borderless, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CESVI, DRC, Fair Trade Lebanon, Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development, ILO, Interphase, IRC, JRS, Lebanese Social Responsibility - LSR, LEE Experience, LOST, LRI, MERATH Lebanon, Mercy Corps, Michel Daher Social Foundation - MDSF, Nabad, Nawaya network, Near East Foundation, NRC, Nusaned, OXFAM, SAFADI, SBT, SCI, SIF, Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation - Swisscontact, Tabitha-Dorcas, Tripoli Entrepreneurs Club, WHH-LOST, WVI, YMCA



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.