



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MONTH

5 community support projects were completed in August

HIGHLIGHTS:

720 individuals benefitted from livelihoods activities in the month of August. Although this mostly concerns vocational trainings (417 beneficiaries in total), there were significantly more beneficiaries of income-generating activities in August than in previous months (303 in August against 45 in July).

On the social cohesion side, five new CSPs were completed, including two CSPs selected by participants to Search for Common Ground local conflict mitigation mechanisms in Sour and Miye wa Miye.

Two CSPs, the rehabilitation of a water well in Itanieh and the installation of a sewage network in Upper Qasmieh, were also completed in two Palestinian gatherings in the South. Thirty-five change agents were trained to mitigate tensions and address misperception in August, including 21 local leaders, civil society representatives and civil servants through UNDP local conflict mitigation mechanism in Hazmieh.



Community support project include the provision of mechanical trucks to municipalities hosting large numbers of refugees. These trucks are used to improve the situation of neighbourhoods, benefitting both refugees and hosting communities.

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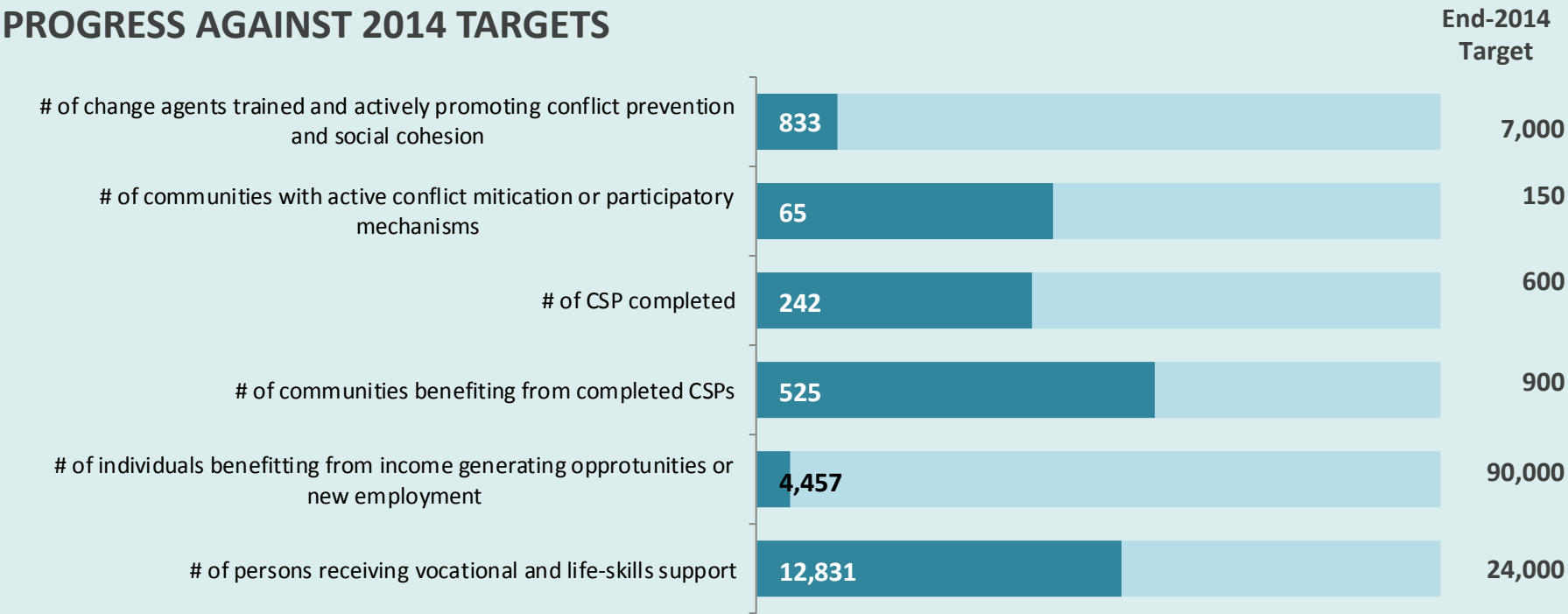
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Armed clashes in Aarsal in early August have had an important impact on social cohesion, particularly in the Bekaa. The armed incidents and heightened security situation have further raised tensions and defiance between communities. In addition to a rise in evictions, incidents and restrictive measures imposed on refugees, local NGOs and partners are reporting increasing defiance from local institutions and communities against the international response and assistance.

The sector will aim to address this challenge by implementing quick social cohesion initiatives promoting positive messages and by listing and mapping the support provided to municipalities and host communities as part of the international response. Thirty-six new projects are already under implementation to address the priority needs of host communities, and the response has supported 20 new municipalities in engaging in participatory processes to identify priority needs and sources of tensions.

The limited funding of social cohesion and livelihoods activities remains a structural problem for the sector to effectively address the deteriorating situation. As part of the planning for the 2015-16 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, the sector is therefore considering focusing its approach on strengthening the capacity of municipalities to respond to increase demand and pressure, and on a Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P) approach in order to ensure sustainability of economic gains and employment created.

PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS



Source: figures reported above reflect the information reported to Sector Coordinators by Partners participating in Working Groups

