



Livelihoods and social cohesion projects continue to ramp up across the region despite funding and policy challenges

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Activities in the livelihoods have scaled up in Lebanon in March. For Rapid Income Generating Activities (such as cash-for-work) and activities related to Workforce employability (such as vocational training), partners have reported more progress in the sole month of March than in January and February combined. Some 1,771 people have now benefitted from income generating activities, which however is broadly in line with progress achieved last year (6,000 people over the year, or 1,500 per quarter), while the sector aims at achieving a much higher target this year.

In Turkey, support continues to be provided to social gathering activities in community centres, through which over 1,600 people received language training during March. A skills mapping exercise was also conducted in Gaziantep and Sanliurfa, reaching 4,000 people and aiming to enhance integration into local labour markets.

An assessment was also conducted in Iraq to collect information on skill sets among refugees in camps in Erbil, and aiming to provide guidance on how to link refugees with sustainable livelihood opportunities.

In Egypt, over 100 people have now received employment assistance and over 570 have been provided with training for livelihood purposes this year.

The month of March saw good progress in the social stability work in Lebanon. Activities aiming specifically at capacitating communities to mitigate tensions have been particularly successful, with seven new community mechanisms set up to defuse tension at the local level, engaging 354 new change agents. Thirty-two new 'peacebuilding initiatives' launched by partners engaged 1,583 youth, including for the first time the establishment of 9 'violence free schools' (schools developing a code of conduct to create a school environment conducive to peace) in the Bekaa.

39 new community and municipal support projects were also completed in March in Lebanon, in areas such as support to solid waste or water supply services, or rehabilitation of roads or municipal support infrastructure. This represents an investment of over USD 1 million in host communities, a four time increase compared to previous months where only 12 such projects were completed.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

CARE International published a new report on social stability in Lebanon, focused on the Chouf and the T5 region. The report's findings are in line with previous assessment, highlighting that negative perceptions, differences in values and prejudices exacerbate tensions related to pressure on basic services (particularly water, electricity, sanitation and solid waste) and competition for economic opportunities. The study also confirms the lack of interaction between communities. The recommendations of the study are also well in line with the overall LCRP, calling for support to local institutions, livelihoods opportunities, and increased accountability from response partners.



Renovation of a fish market in Sarafand, Lebanon /UNDP

Sector Response Summary:



369,452 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
11,724 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
3,966,702 currently registered or awaiting registration



Livelihoods Sector Funding Status:



USD 450 million required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 52 million received in 2015



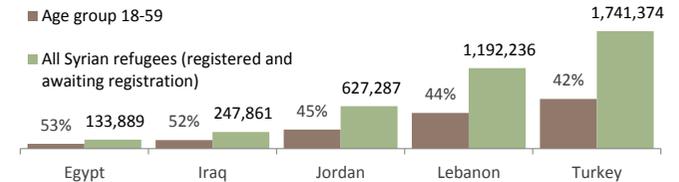
SYRIAN REFUGEES' ENGAGEMENT IN LIVELIHOODS ACTIVITY IN LEBANON

In Lebanon, there have been two developments which are impacting on the implementation of the livelihoods sector strategy, which is built around the Lebanon legal framework.

Firstly, the Ministry of Social Affairs has been facilitating an internal governmental process on livelihoods, and is currently conducting the final consultation meetings among the relevant Government stakeholders in preparation for a national livelihood workshop. Partners await the finalization of the process, to further develop their respective plans and interventions, and enhance mobilization of funding from donors. The second development is the impact of Lebanon's recent changes to entry and residence renewal regulations for Syrians as of early 2015. Under the new regulations, refugees registered with UNHCR need to sign a notarized pledge not to work in the country.

These developments come as recent assessments underline the increasing vulnerability of Syrians. The 2014 results of the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon for example shows an increasing reliance of refugees on humanitarian assistance and particularly food vouchers as their primary source of income. As this assistance is currently decreasing, the impossibility for refugees to benefit from livelihoods assistance or from legal work will put them at risk of increased exploitation.

Syrian refugees aged between 18-59 years: 1.7 million



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - MARCH 2015

■ Progress ■ Planned Response, by end-2015

6,636 individuals assisted to access wage employment opportunities



87 community support projects implemented



5,088 people trained or provided with marketable skills and services



These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Targets are based on full funding of the 3RP and an expected 4.27 million refugees by end -2015. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 31 March 2015.