

IDEAS BAA Attachment 1: USAID/Lebanon's Activity Fact Sheets



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LEBANON ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (LED)

Employment generation constitutes a major development challenge for Lebanon. The labor market is characterized by low activity and employment rates, limited participation of women, a large informal sector, a high influx of foreign workers, and a large number of skilled Lebanese people seeking and obtaining employment abroad.

Micro-small-and-medium-enterprises (MSMEs) are the logical place to look for economic dynamism and employment generation, as they make up 95% of the private sector in Lebanon, and 50% of the workforce. This is evidence of MSMEs relatively low productivity.

OVERVIEW

USAID's \$14 million LED activity (2017 – 2020) increases employment opportunities for Lebanese citizens. Through LED's activities and impact, USAID aims to advance socioeconomic development, empower youth and women, and spur economic growth and stability.

LED interventions include:

- Direct engagement with private enterprises, private sector organizations, associations and other stakeholders, to identify and solve business related problems that are constraining enterprise and sector level sales (domestic and export), investment, and employment growth.
- Assistance of individual or groups of enterprises to identify market/s or buyer/s and understand customer requirements; to diagnose the key constraints that stand in the way of boosting sales; and to find solutions to these problems using tailored solutions. LED solutions may address sector or subsector constraints, including but not limited to deficiencies in the quality and

quantity of the workforce, and/or improved market access and promotion to catalyze demand and to boost sales and exports.

LED works throughout Lebanon, with a central project office in Beirut and regional presence covering Beirut/Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, North Lebanon, and South Lebanon. The regional offices are operated by local partner organizations, Berytech Foundation and the Business Incubation Association in Tripoli (BIAT). LED's business promotion partners employ business advisors who are primarily responsible for identifying private sector client firms; diagnosing key constraints to growth and defining, with the client firms, the solution/s needed to overcome these challenges; and monitoring the delivery of technical assistance as detailed in client enterprise growth plans, or memorandums of understandings.

ACHIEVEMENTS (*expected*)

- 250 enterprises to be supported during the initial three-year base period.
- 3,625 new full-time-equivalent jobs expected to be created.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT



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COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (CSP) IN LEBANON

Despite advances in rebuilding Lebanon's physical, social, and economic infrastructure, many of its citizens experience inadequate access to public services and limited economic opportunities. The Syrian conflict, which has significantly reduced cross-border trade and brought 1.5 million refugees to Lebanon, places additional strain on communities. Many of the communities where Syrian refugees have settled have limited capabilities and financial resources, and have been struggling to meet the needs of residents. Host community fatigue and tensions over resources and livelihoods are mounting.

OVERVIEW

USAID's \$80 million CSP (2018 – 2025) is designed to provide a broad range of support to underserved and vulnerable communities to improve the delivery of essential services and enhance economic opportunities, primarily in Lebanon's North, South, and Beqaa regions.

- CSP partners with municipalities, civil society, and the private sector to mitigate sources of tension through a mix of short- and medium-term assistance interventions that improve economic opportunities and address gaps in service delivery.
- Rapid stabilization interventions may include the repair and rehabilitation of light infrastructure or the procurement of equipment like water tanks, generators, and electrical transformers.
- Longer-term interventions are geared towards improving quality of life and livelihoods to achieve sustainable community development. These may include solid waste management, solar energy solutions, agricultural equipment, or support to livelihoods.
- CSP complements infrastructure and equipment assistance interventions with targeted and specialized technical expertise and capacity building assistance to enhance the sustainability of those interventions among beneficiary communities.

ACHIEVEMENTS *(expected)*

- 220 community interventions with participation from local stakeholders benefiting more than 622,000 people

- Beneficiary communities better able to maintain provided assistance and raise local sources of revenue to meet priority community needs
- 200 job seekers placed in full-time employment
- 6,000 m3 of wastewater being treated per day before being discharged into the environment

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BUILDING ALLIANCE FOR LOCAL ADVANCEMENT, DEVELOPMENT, AND INVESTMENT (BALADI)

Due to financial and human resources constraints, municipalities throughout Lebanon face serious challenges in providing public services and improving the lives of Lebanese citizens. These challenges have gradually worsened with additional significant social and economic burdens being placed on Lebanese communities and municipalities as a result of the influx of more than a million Syrian refugees into Lebanon.

OVERVIEW

USAID's \$40.3 million BALADI project (2012 – 2021) assists municipalities with implementing community development activities, especially those that are most responsive to Lebanese host community needs. The BALADI project's objective is to improve the capability of municipalities to work inclusively with citizens and accomplish needed local development activities and public service delivery. More than 81 municipal-led local development and public service interventions are being supported under the BALADI Project. The supported interventions engage more than 130 municipalities (around 11% of total number of municipalities in Lebanon) in 23 districts and meet the needs of communities in several sectors including: back-up electricity generation through solar power, irrigation, access to potable water, income generation through rural tourism, agro-processing, entrepreneurship, and skills training, equipment for public schools, and community social and sports centers. These assistance interventions benefit more than 345,000

persons. The BALADI is implemented by two local non-governmental organizations: Caritas Lebanon and Rene Moawad Foundation located in 10 offices across the country.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 24 assistance interventions for in establishing sustainable community solutions for back-up electricity benefiting more than 36,000 persons.
- Six street light assistance interventions to enhance the safety of 51,890 persons.
- Six assistance interventions improving irrigation water availability and water use efficiency for 3676 persons.
- 39 assistance interventions in rural tourism and agribusiness benefitting 198,756 persons.
- Five assistance interventions that improve educational and vocational training services for 2682 persons.
- More than five assistance interventions for the village of Aarsal, including 10 electricity transmission stations to meet the transmission needs of all the village, a solar fan to pump needed water, expanding the village's vocational public school, helping fruit tree farmers reestablish their orchards, and equipping a fruit drying, packaging, and cold storage center. The assistance in Aarsal is helping more than 33,622 persons.
- Provision of technical training to more than 3800 persons.
- Increasing the sales of 3036 village enterprises (through the above supported interventions) and creating 300 new jobs to date.
- Leveraging more than \$9.2 million in community cost share in the USAID-supported BALADI Project interventions.

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LEBANON LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSIVE FINANCE EXPANSION (LIFE)

While Lebanon is a well-regarded commercial banking center, a large portion of its population remains unbanked. Over half of Lebanon's population lacks access to formal financial services and communities without access to banking services tend to be poor and rural. Rural populations experience higher than average rates of unemployment and also host large numbers of Syrian refugees. Women, youth, and persons with disabilities are disproportionately excluded from the financial system. Without access to finance and other business services, entrepreneurs and small, mostly family run businesses in these communities struggle to grow their incomes.

OVERVIEW

USAID's \$20.3 million LIFE project (2016 – 2021) improves economic opportunities for low income individuals and microenterprises in the North, South, Bekaa and Mount Lebanon regions, by advancing the business skills of small entrepreneurs and expanding their access to financial services. LIFE is expanding finance to unbanked and previously excluded microbusinesses, leading to wider access to credit, checking and savings accounts, debit/ATM cards, credit information, and financial literacy training through our partners, including commercial banks, microfinance institutions, and stakeholder NGOs.

- The project works through the Lebanese Microfinance Association (LMFA), commercial banks, and other stakeholders to develop policies that promote a sustainable financial sector that empowers the unbanked, low-income, and underserved clientele, particularly in rural areas;

- The project is improving the ability of commercial banks and microfinance institutions (MFIs) to increase their range of products and services and expand their reach of clients and borrowers to include microenterprises and the poorest, with an emphasis on higher-risk, conflict affected areas. This requires an emphasis on youth, those currently without a bank account, the disabled, and low-income women-headed households;
- LIFE provides livelihoods and business support through customized training, technical know-how, mentoring, and basic business development skills to micro, mostly family-owned enterprises to give them the skills they need to grow their sales and income. Often, the objective is to enable these small businesses to position themselves to gain access to commercial finance for the first time, a critical ingredient for business growth. The project provides small grants that generally support technology adoption for improved productivity.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3,433 individuals (42% women) in under-served areas provided access to first time bank accounts and debit cards, through the “Pathway to Savings” Initiative, in partnership with the Central Bank and Lebanese banks.
- 700 direct and indirect loans to micro and small businesses facilitated; at least 100 new jobs per year created.
- 1,500 micro-entrepreneurs (600 of which are women) supported through training and business development services, to improve productivity and access to financial services.
- 20% (average) increase in the incomes of beneficiaries over the project’s duration, with early results even higher.
- More inclusive financial policies and regulations introduced: Together with LMFA, LIFE introduced a new financial inclusion law and new regulations that have resulted in the self-reliance of the microfinance sector.

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LEBANON WATER PROJECT (LWP)

Despite abundant natural water resources, Lebanon suffers from a significant water deficit due to a combination of population growth, rapid urban expansion, weather-related events, and an influx of Syrian refugees. Less than 50 percent of the population has access to safely managed water. Unsustainable water use practices, an outdated and vastly inadequate infrastructure, poor management of wastewater, and water treatment problems collectively reduce the availability of water resources.

OVERVIEW

LWP has been working closely with Lebanon's water establishments (WEs) to improve water infrastructure, build staff capacity, enhance customer service and raise awareness nationwide on water conservation. USAID's \$70 million LWP (2015 – 2021), increases access to clean, reliable, and sustainable sources of drinking water for Lebanese citizens. LWP focuses on improving Lebanon's capacity in the management of water resources, enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of the public water utilities, and addressing water challenges arising from the impact of the estimated 1 million Syrian refugees into Lebanon. The project provides technical and capital assistance to relevant stakeholders and counterparts in order to enhance the performance of the water sector in Lebanon.

- **Improve service delivery and resource management capacity by the five public water utilities.** LWP strengthens the managerial and operational functions of the water utilities, while making the necessary infrastructure upgrades. The project supports the Government of Lebanon's water sector strategy to further empower public utilities as legitimate water and wastewater services providers.
- **Improve civic engagement in water management and advance citizens' perception of water utilities' role in providing a necessary and valuable service.**

The project engages the civil society to effectively contribute and participate in democratic water governance. LWP also increases water users' awareness and sense of ownership, improve citizens' responsibilities vis-à-vis water service providers, and promotes citizens' roles and responsibilities with regard to protection of the environment.

- **Improve private sector involvement in water management.** LWP promotes private sector involvement in water management. The project identifies potential areas for public-private and business-to-business partnerships to promote water supply service improvements and develop and fund innovative water conservation technologies.

ACHIEVEMENTS

LWP will benefit 660,000 Lebanese citizens and 120,000 Syrian refugees through:

- Construction/upgrade of 21 out of 41 facilities for the Regional Water Establishments (RWE) that will increase water supply, reduce hours of breakdown, and improve water safety.
- Update of 36 out of 47 management systems and training of 709 staff of the RWEs
- Introduction of 10 incentive programs, grants, awareness campaigns, initiatives, and private sector partnerships that will eventually improve water governance and promote citizen responsibility.
- Reduction of non-Revenue Water (water supplied but not paid for) by 15%, increase by up to 15% of subscriber bill payments, and an average reduction of wasteful uses of water by up to 15% across all of the above-mentioned interventions.

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