

**Action Document for the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis to be used for the decisions of the Operational Board**

**1. IDENTIFICATION**

<b>Title/Number</b>	EUTF support to Economic Development and Social Stability in Lebanon		
<b>Total cost</b>	Total estimated cost: EUR 45,000,000 Total amount drawn from the Trust Fund: EUR 45,000,000		
<b>Duration</b>	36 months		
<b>Country</b>	The Lebanese Republic		
<b>Locations</b>	North Lebanon, Beirut, Mount Lebanon, South Lebanon, Bekaa		
<b>Implementing Partner (s)</b>	i) European Union Member State Agency ii) Consortia of NGOs		
<b>Main Stakeholder (s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA);</li> <li>- Ministry of Economy and Trade (MoET);</li> <li>- Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM);</li> <li>- Ministry of Labour (MoL);</li> <li>- Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE);</li> <li>- Unions of Municipalities and Municipalities;</li> <li>- Chambers of Commerce and Industry.</li> </ul>		
<b>Aid method / Method of implementation</b>	<b>Indirect management</b> – Contribution Agreement (EUR 5.5 M) <b>Direct management</b> – Grants – Direct award (EUR 39.5 M)		
<b>SDGs</b>	<b>SDG 8</b> “ <i>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</i> ”.		
<b>DAC-code</b>	16020	Sector	Employment policy and administrative management
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The <b>Overall Objective (OO)</b> of the action is to revive the economic growth potential and reduce social tensions in communities hosting Syrian refugees, whilst responding to the resilience needs of vulnerable refugees and host communities in Lebanon.</p> <p>The <b>Specific Objectives (SO)</b> are:</p> <p><b>SO1.</b> Local development priorities are supported;</p> <p><b>SO2.</b> Vulnerable individuals have enhanced capacities to pursue decent livelihoods pathways;</p> <p><b>SO3.</b> Social stability is enhanced through inter-communal engagement in local development processes;</p> <p><b>SO4.</b> Decision makers use evidence-based analysis to develop</p>		

	labour market policies.
<b>Main Activities</b>	<p>1.1: Market assessments are updated, consolidated or developed to provide key information on the labour market context in specific localities, including technical and soft skills gaps;</p> <p>1.2: Local development strategies and value chains are supported, through a partnership with local authorities, local business clusters and other relevant stakeholders;</p> <p>1.3: Selected Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and social enterprises (SEs), and related support services, have strengthened capacity to provide decent, inclusive and sustainable income generation opportunities;</p> <p>1.4: Legal and institutional framework for social entrepreneurship is supported;</p> <p>2.1: Vocational and skills training providers have increased capacity to deliver high quality competency-based and marketable skills training in sub-sectors relevant to the needs of the labour market;</p> <p>2.2: Vulnerable individuals having access employability and income stabilising activities;</p> <p>2.3: Job seekers and employers are sensitised on employment legislation and decent working conditions;</p> <p>3.1: Youth community leaders and youth committee members identifying needs-based community initiatives (quick impact projects), together with local stakeholders;</p> <p>3.2: Refugee and host community women, youth and children interacting through tailored sports, cultural and conflict resolution activities;</p> <p>3.3: Members of vulnerable households accessing education and protection services, with referral through established mechanisms;</p> <p>4.1: EUTF implementing partners and EUD/EUTF utilise evidence-based analysis to contribute to the development of labour market policies;</p> <p>4.2: Lebanese decision makers are provided with up-to-date policy analysis concerning socio-economic development;</p> <p>4.3: A labour market observatory is developed and institutionalised to support referrals, information sharing, job matching and networking between different labour market actors.</p>

## 2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

### 2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The **Overall Objective (OO)** of the action is to:

Revive the economic growth potential and reduce social tensions in communities hosting Syrian refugees, whilst responding to the resilience needs of vulnerable refugees and host communities in Lebanon.

The **Specific Objectives (SO)** of the action are:

- 1) Local development priorities are supported;
- 2) Vulnerable individuals have enhanced capacities to pursue decent livelihoods pathways;
- 3) Social stability is enhanced through inter-communal engagement in local development processes;
- 4) Decision makers use evidence-based analysis to develop labour market policies.

In line with the Overall Objective of the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, (EUTF Syria), the Action will contribute to the Resilience and Local Development Result Statement of the Results Framework, namely:

*Syrian and host communities with better livelihoods and food access, through better employability prospects and improved financial and productive capacities.*

The Action Document foresees five complementary projects, each with a specific technical or geographic focus, with inbuilt mechanisms for cross-fertilisation. The projects will be implemented by international and local partners with significant experience in the livelihoods and social stability sectors in Lebanon, who have conceptualised their projects through a participatory and consultative process, drawing from the lessons from previous interventions. Partners have context-specific knowledge, a common understanding and sufficient buy-in from key Government counterparts to ensure that, by applying an area-based approach, they can contribute to a revival of the economic growth potential, and reduce social tensions, in various communities hosting Syrian refugees, whilst also responding to the resilience needs of vulnerable refugees and host communities.

Projects will respond to local development challenges and opportunities by providing access to employment opportunities for vulnerable host communities and refugees, in permitted sectors, whilst emphasising a greater level of positive interactions between different communities. Evidence-based policy advocacy will be generated by EUTF programme partners that highlight the needs of the Lebanese economy, in consultation with a full spectrum of political actors in addition to relevant Ministries, private sector interest groups and other relevant stakeholders. A communications strategy will be developed to ensure that the elements of the programme are configured in terms of their positive contribution to the Lebanese economy, tensions reduction and also preparedness for refugee return, as and when the appropriate conditions arise.

In pursuit of the above objectives, the programme will target approximately 175,000 beneficiaries in Lebanon, addressing basic financial needs, engaging unemployed and disillusioned youth through work, skills development and community engagement, in preparation of a possible future return to Syria, and mitigating tensions between host and refugee communities.

The proposed action is based on the resilience needs of Syrian refugees and host communities as identified in Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2019-2020 (<http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/>) and the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020. It builds on several concept notes submitted by different networks and partnerships of agencies and civil society organisations to the EUTF in the area of livelihoods and social stability during 2019.

## 2.2. Context

### 2.2.1. Country context

#### Political and Economic Context

Lebanon remains politically and economically fragile. It is vulnerable to internal and external pressures and shocks. Political and confessional divisions as well as regional developments have limited Lebanon's ability to build consensus on political issues and develop effective policies.

Lebanon has a long tradition of hosting refugees. In a country with a current population of approximately six million people, about one in five is a Syrian refugee. Perceptions about Syrian refugees by the Lebanese population have been strongly influenced by the country's history, particularly related to the role of Palestinian militias in the Lebanese civil war. Consequently, the establishment of formal refugee camps has not been permitted. The majority of Syrian refugees have relocated to neighbourhoods where vulnerable host communities predominantly live<sup>1</sup>. In the early years of the crisis, refugees were seen more as victims forced to flee from war. However, after eight years of protracted crisis, concerns have been voiced about the potentially destabilizing effect of the refugee presence. Consequently, the 2018 – 19 period has witnessed to increasing political polarization and more explicit calls for refugee return<sup>2</sup>.

Lebanon's economy has been subject to external and internal shocks. Growth, which reached an 8 per cent high in the post-civil war reconstruction period, has slowed down sharply since 2011; it was estimated to be about 1 per cent in 2018. The negative economic outlook has been compounded by a number of challenges, including deterioration in foreign direct investments, increase of public deficit (which exceeds 150 per cent of GDP) and interest rates, and negative repercussions on public debt service and investment. This has resulted in a cumulative reduction of net external assets; a source of concern given the current model of the Lebanese economy, which counts on cash flows from abroad. The negative economic outlook has driven other socio-economic challenges, such as 'brain drain', unemployment, disparities in income and wealth distribution and increasing social tensions.

From 2018, the Government began to prepare reforms aimed at reviving the economy. At the *Economic Conference for Development through Reforms with the Private Sector (CEDRE)* in April 2018, the Government set out a series of goals included in the *Vision for Stabilization, Growth and Employment*. Despite efforts to reduce public debt, on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019, President Aoun, Prime Minister Hariri and Speaker of Parliament Berri declared a "state of economic emergency".

At the time of identifying the present action, the Lebanese context with respect to vertical and horizontal accountability mechanisms has entered into a period of turmoil. Popular uprisings have led to calls for drastic changes in Lebanese political landscape and for more accountable public authorities. Long-standing socio-economic pressures have combined with a fierce public outcry against corruption, with strikes breaking out across the country in an unprecedented manner, during October – November 2019. The seriousness of the protests initially forced the Government to announce a list of 25 reform measures to address corruption and the socio-economic crisis, and subsequently resulted in the resignation of the Prime Minister.

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<sup>1</sup> The no-camp policy adopted by the GoL since the beginning of the crisis resulted in the scattering of refugees over the country. More than half of the refugees have settled in the long-neglected regions of Akkar and Bekaa.

<sup>2</sup> Syrian refugees in Lebanon; Eight Years On, CARE (2018)

## **Socio-economic impact of crisis on population**

Despite Lebanon being a middle-income country, the civil war of 1975-1990, compounded by the country's conflict with Israel and the Syria crisis; and combined with the weak governance, a weak fiscal system and limitations to the rule of law, has stunted development and has contributed to the creation of a class of Lebanese living in poverty. Recent estimates report that the national unemployment rate is around 25 per cent, with 37 per cent for youth under 35 years of age, and 18 per cent for women<sup>3</sup>. The informal sector accounts for around 50 per cent of employment. 65 per cent of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) are classified as poor<sup>4</sup>.

The Government estimates that the country hosts 1.5 million Syrians, registered with the UNHCR or not, along with Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Lebanese returnees, as well as a pre-existing population of more than 277,985 PRL.

The influx of refugees from Syria has put pressure on the cost of rent, infrastructure and delivery of public services. The *Vision for Stabilisation and Development* states that: 'The World Bank estimates that as a result of the Syria crisis some 200,000 Lebanese have been pushed into poverty (adding to the 1 million before the crisis) and that some 250,000-300,000 have become unemployed'.

As a result of the cumulative effect of depleted savings and increased difficulty to access income, the average monthly expenditure of refugees has decreased with the share of households living below the poverty line (US\$ 3.84 per day) reaching 73 per cent in 2019 (68 per cent in 2018) and 55 per cent (51 per cent in 2018) live below the survival minimum expenditure basket (US\$ 2.90 USD per day). Syrian households are increasingly adopting negative coping strategies that deplete assets, affect households' livelihoods, and very often are irreversible, as well as leading to a violations of their human rights (child marriage and labour, sexual exploitation, etc.). Syrian refugee households are increasingly incurring debt with 93% borrowing money and an average debt of US\$ 1,115 in 2019.

The Syrian labour force, often underemployed when able to access jobs<sup>5</sup>, is concentrated in the construction sector (21.2 per cent), agriculture (16.9 per cent), services (23.1 per cent), retail/shops (4.2 per cent) and cleaning (6 per cent). The lowest unemployment rate for Syrian refugees is in Beirut (16.5 per cent), whilst the highest is in Bekaa (61 per cent), followed by Baalbek El Hermel (49 per cent)<sup>6</sup>. Men struggle to find opportunities to earn a regular income. Adding to their care-taking roles and to fulfilling household chores, many Syrian women have had to work to financially provide for their families. Women have been able to get more jobs in the informal sector, such as petty trading, seasonal agricultural work and cleaning. Child labour among Syrian refugees in Lebanon is also critical. And because of the prevalent gender norms, more boys are working than girls, including in services such as electrics, motor and barbershops, restaurants, supermarkets as well as in construction and agriculture. In contrast, girls mostly work in the domestic and agricultural sectors. Both girls and boys are vulnerable to mistreatment, harassment and violence.

## **Social tension and security**

Social tensions have increased in areas of Lebanon where large numbers of Syrian refugees coincide with pre-crisis service delivery challenges. Perception surveys carried out under the Tensions Monitoring system report a decline in the level of contact between refugees and host communities, as

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<sup>3</sup> Arab Weekly Digest, Interview with Minister of Labour, Beirut (2017).

<sup>4</sup> AUB/UNRWA socio economic survey (2015).

<sup>5</sup> Syrians are permitted to work in three sectors; agriculture, construction and environment/cleaning.

<sup>6</sup> VaSyr Executive Brief 2018 <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/67983>

well as an increase in intercommunal incidents during 2018 – 19, most prevalent in Bekaa and the North Governorates. Moreover, they confirm that tensions are compounded by perceptions that aid is helping refugees whilst the vulnerable Lebanese population are left to fend for themselves. Finally, they confirm that Lebanese families commonly refer to Lebanon's economic and job situation as a source of stress and attributed it to recent Syrian arrivals. However, they also confirm that actual competition for work is limited and only seems to threaten self-employed Lebanese who are also the most vulnerable to downturns in the economy; jobs for Syrians and Lebanese have traditionally been segregated and this largely remains the case in most parts of Lebanon<sup>7</sup>.

As the crisis became more protracted, international donors scaled up assistance, with a focus on responding to the needs of host communities and host country institutions, as well as refugees. This included projects supporting capacity development of public service delivery institutions, accompanied by investment in local infrastructure. There has also been a significant investment in social service delivery, including health, education, protection and social assistance. Regarding the latter, the international community even increased its support to a hitherto absent social assistance programme targeting the most vulnerable Lebanese, both through direct financial contributions to the benefits package, but also in the form of technical assistance to support the development of the system.

Despite Lebanon's generous hosting of Syrian refugees since the beginning of the crisis, as well as the large-scale international response, the concerns articulated above have resulted in negative rhetoric regarding refugees' protracted stay. This has fed into a rise of inter-communal tensions, which were initially prompted by the unresolved, protracted crisis. Since 2018, Lebanese authorities have adopted a number of new policy measures, including small-scale, facilitated group returns to Syria. Other measures have been introduced, including controls on movement, evictions, raids, police searches and, after a decision by the Higher Defence Council (HDC) in June 2019, demolitions of Informal Tented Settlements (ITS) in certain localities, as well as measures that have resulted in the deportation of Syrians deemed to have entered Lebanon irregularly<sup>8</sup>.

Aiming to reduce tensions and reach results in dialogue with the Government of Lebanon on the question of Syrian refugee presence and return, parts of the international community have begun to focus advocacy on more concrete deliverables, whilst acknowledging that controlling borders and stopping illegal movements is Lebanon's sovereign right and legitimate concern. Advocacy efforts have highlighted that existing Lebanese laws can provide acceptable safeguards / due process for deportations and prevent *refoulement*. This may create further entry points to ensure more readily available, reliable data, as well as timely, comprehensive and transparent protection analysis, and ultimately, the development of a framework to guarantee safety and dignity of returns, in compliance with international humanitarian law.

### ***2.2.2. Sector context: policies and challenges***

#### **Economic Development Policy**

Lebanon lacks a coherent strategic policy framework for economic development and mandates are distributed across several institutions, including key ministries (eg. Social Affairs, Economy and Trade, Labour, Industry, Agriculture, Education and Higher Education, Interior and Municipalities),

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<sup>7</sup> Social Stability Sector, September 2019.

<sup>8</sup> As confirmed by General Security, 2731 Syrians who are believed to have entered the country irregularly have been deported since May 2011. Due to continued limited access, UNHCR have only been able to intervene on behalf of around 150 individuals, in some instances successfully, albeit with many individuals remaining in detention or deported without due process. UNHCR has confirmed that the implementation of deportations orders resulted in cases of violation of *non-refoulement*.

quasi-state entities (eg. Council for Development and Reconstruction), subnational authorities (Municipalities, Unions of Municipalities, Social Development Centres) and private sector interest groups. Similarly, the private sector is fragmented and vulnerable in a context of persistent crisis and uncertain geo-political context. MSMEs, the cornerstone of the Lebanese economy and the main potential source of job creation, are suffering from the effects of the economic crisis as well as an inadequate enabling environment and weak infrastructure.

Despite the political vacuum during the post-election government formation process after May 2018, initial steps have been taken to address an economic reform agenda, as anticipated at *CEDRE* and expressed in the *Vision for Stabilization, Growth and Employment*, in the form of a range of new laws<sup>9</sup>. In July 2019, Parliament endorsed a 2019 budget that included 61 legal amendments to increase revenue, 22 to reduce expenditure, and 16 measures to facilitate administrative procedures, intended to decrease the fiscal deficit to 7.6 per cent, thus fulfilling the *CEDRE* target in terms of reducing the fiscal deficit.

The Capital Investment Program (CIP), a component of the *Vision*, aims at generating 35% private investment into public infrastructure projects, with a critical part to be externally-funded. The Government “intends to streamline procedures for clearance, approval and implementation of externally-funded projects”<sup>10</sup>. Despite various challenges related to project approval, the international community has continued to commit new loans in support of the CIP<sup>11</sup>. It is anticipated that infrastructure projects foreseen under CIP will generate opportunities for labour-intensive employment.

### **Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP)**

The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP, 2019 update) is an important government strategy that allows for the channelling of external assistance towards Lebanon’s economic and social development priorities, whilst responding to the resilience needs of vulnerable refugees and host communities. The LCRP livelihoods strategy has seen a shift towards longer-term recovery and stabilization, through improved access to income and employment, including: reinforcement of SMEs as promoters of job creation<sup>12</sup>; development/sustaining of value chains<sup>13</sup>; infrastructure upgrading<sup>14</sup>; decent work

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<sup>9</sup> The Access to Information Law, which calls for the establishment of an anti-corruption commission, and the Public-Private Partnership law, were passed by Parliament in January and September 2017 respectively. The “Law on anti-corruption in oil and gas contracts” was ratified by Parliament in September 2018, and Law No. 82 on Judiciary mediation and Law No. 81 on Electronic Transactions and Protection of Personal Data were issued and published in the Official Gazette No.45 in October 2018. The Law on Secured Transactions was developed but has not yet been approved.<sup>9</sup> In terms of sectoral reforms, the “Law on Integrated Solid Waste Management” was passed in the Parliamentary Session of 24 September 2018.

<sup>10</sup> “Supporting the future of Syria and the region” Brussels II conference 24-25 April 2018, *Lebanon partnership paper*. Conference document, Article 33.

<sup>11</sup> For example, the World Bank’s Greater Beirut Public Transport (US\$70.5 million) and Roads and Employment projects (US\$200 million) have been fast-tracked for implementation, while the World Bank Board approved in June 2018 the Land Administration System Modernization (USD 43 million) and the Additional Financing for the Greater Beirut Water Supply Project (USD 90 million). The former is pending Council of Ministers approval before parliamentary ratification. A European Investment Bank loan financing the El Ghadir waste water plant was ratified in September 2018 by Parliament.

<sup>12</sup> Support to 3,670 Lebanese nano, micro, small and medium enterprises, start-ups and cooperatives, contributing to the creation/maintenance of 5,777 jobs in 2019.

<sup>13</sup> Strengthening and upgrading 16 local and 4 national value chains, contributing to the creation/maintenance of 1,437 jobs each year until 2020.

<sup>14</sup> Small to medium-scale infrastructure upgrades in municipalities and villages (road rehabilitation, cleaning services), the agriculture sector (irrigation canals, agricultural roads, rainwater harvesting), and environmental work in the 251 cadastres identified as vulnerable, with the aim of creating 7,530 short-term employment opportunities, 50 per cent of whom should benefit displaced Syrians.

conditions; graduation/transition approach; coordination with protection sector/activities; enhanced donor dialogue; common mapping of assessments and the differentiation of interventions to respond to the needs of different segments of the vulnerable population.

Despite the attention given to economic opportunities and jobs, livelihoods has been one of the most underfunded sectors of the LCRP with only about 23 per cent of its appeal funded in 2016, 33 per cent in 2017 and 31 per cent in 2018 if carry-over from previous years are considered. Excluding carry-over funds from 2017, the livelihoods appeal of 2018 was only funded at 16 per cent.<sup>15</sup> By mid-year 2019, the livelihoods sector has already received 21 per cent of funding (USD 44.4 million out of which USD 17.4 million new funding and USD 26.9 million carry-over). Thus, as of 2019, funding for livelihoods is increasing slightly.<sup>16</sup> This included non-humanitarian projects which began to emerge from commitments made by the international community during 2016 – 18, with a stark increase in the number of interventions focusing on municipal labour-intensive public works<sup>17</sup>, as well as investments to support the National Framework Strategy on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and significant investments by the EUTF and Germany towards the social transfer component of the the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP).

Also a key part of the LCRP, the social stability sector focuses on national and local institutions' ability to alleviate resource pressure, foster dialogue and address sources of tensions and conflicts.

The link between economic participation and social stability is clearly referenced in the LCRP:

*“New livelihoods opportunities are needed to prevent the escalation of economic grievances, which are a powerful driver of conflict and instability. This is particularly true for young people given the link between underemployment, the sense of despair they report and propensity to violence.”*

### **Ministry of Labour Plan on "Action against Illegal Foreign Employment on the Lebanese Territory"**

In June 2019, the Ministry of Labour (MoL) released a policy document entitled *Action against Illegal Foreign Employment on the Lebanese Territory*. Several aspects could be considered a re-assertion of existing legislation. In addition, the Plan included a number of new elements, namely: consideration of alternatives for the organisation of seasonal and temporary workers through Work Permits; joint operations room between MoL, Internal Security Forces, Public Security and State Security to accompany and support MoL Inspectors; joint committee with ministries that have inspection department to exchange information about irregularities related to foreign workers; request to MoSA to provide information on UNHCR beneficiaries in order to withhold work permits from them; request to other national and subnational authorities to support the work of the MoL Inspection Department; request for funding provisions from the General Budget to reinforce MoL Inspection Department.

The MoL initiative resulted in 834 fines, 197 warnings and 30 shop closures between 10<sup>th</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Several individuals were arrested during shop closures because of lack of residency.

While the MoL Plan may be viewed as a legitimate effort to decrease informal and illegal labour,

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<sup>15</sup> Information provided by the Lebanon UN Inter-Agency Coordination Team.

<sup>16</sup> Lebanon UN Inter-Agency Coordination team (2019): LCRP 2019 Mid-Year Funding Update, 30 June 2019

<sup>17</sup> USD 1.84 million were invested in municipal infrastructure rehabilitation in 2016, which increased to USD 2.27 million in 2017. 2018 and 2019 witnessed a stark increase with USD 8.36 million invested in municipal infrastructure rehabilitation. By mid-year 2019 USD 9.4 million has been invested in labour-intensive public works projects in this year alone. Municipal infrastructure works in 2017 and 2018 included canals, sewage systems, water catchments, social infrastructure such as public parks and playgrounds, public buildings, retaining walls, roads and land reclamation and terracing.

concerns have been expressed by a range of actors about the economic feasibility of the plan. These concerns center around the viability of the sudden adoption of a work permit regime in an economy where approximately half of all employment is in the informal sector<sup>18</sup> as well as the fact that more holistic policies are needed, including a revision of the labour law, to address informal employment without harming the overall economy.

Concerns have also been expressed by a range of actors about the need to clarify both the new elements of the plan, as well as the process for their implementation, whilst stressing the importance of its application in a non-discriminatory manner. There are concerns about ambiguity of the new articles, particularly the risk that it could be used by national and subnational authorities to curtail refugee movement and, in the worst-case-scenario, introduce arbitrary arrests, detention or deportations. There are also concern about the potential loss of refugee livelihoods and assets, which may result in higher rate of poverty and an increase in negative coping mechanisms (eg. child labour and exploitative work conditions), leaving more refugee adults unemployed.

Based on a series of interactions between MoL, private sector interest groups and aid partners, there are indications that: the Government's commitments towards LCRP livelihoods sector remain in place; the focus is more on job competition in the service sectors and seasonal workers are not the focus of the current work permit inspections regime; it is working on a proposal for a flexible work permit system<sup>19</sup>; Syrians for whom a work permit will be required will not need documentation on legal stay, and should a functional / flexible work permit system be introduced, MoL may consider expanding the sectors within which non-Lebanese can work.

### **Other important legislation or policy frameworks**

The National Strategic Framework for TVET<sup>20</sup> in Lebanon (2018-2022) provides a coherent framework for developing, improving and coordinating TVET across Lebanon. Three main strategic areas are: (i) expanded access; (ii) enhanced quality and relevance of TVET provision; and (iii) improved TVET governance.

The Public Private Partnership (PPP) Law in Lebanon (2017) introduced a new legal regime for PPP projects in Lebanon, replacing the traditional procurement processes, which suffered from weak transparency, competitiveness, and accountability standards.

In the spring of 2019, discussions initiated by MoSA and ILO focused on setting new guidelines for Cash for Work (CfW) and employment intensive programmes that would mainly impact refugee populations. The guidelines, which to date are in draft form, include several features that may improve working conditions for non-Lebanese labourers.

Social entrepreneurship is an approach which seek to develop and implement solutions to social, cultural, or environmental issues by investing in start-up companies and entrepreneurs. While there is

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<sup>18</sup> ILO (2015): Towards Decent Work in Lebanon: Issues and Challenges in Light of the Syrian Refugee Crisis (Government of Lebanon, MoET, Lebanon Economic Vision).

<sup>19</sup> In July – August 2019, MoL put forward a proposal for a flexible work permit system (6 month without a single employer) with a 50% reduction of permit costs in the budget; this was rejected by Parliament who instead proposed to increase fees for all nationalities. According to ILO, MoL will attempt to resubmit its original proposal with the new budget.

<sup>20</sup> The Directorate General of Vocational and Technical Education (DGVTE) in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) is responsible for TVET at the national level. Other public TVET providers include the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs, the National Centre for Vocational Training and the National Office for Employment. In total, the DGVTE administers approximately 158 public and 398 private vocational and technical schools, with approximately 83,168 students registered in the academic year 2016-2017. The majority of students, almost 59%, were enrolled in public TVET schools.

currently no formal regulatory framework for social entrepreneurship in Lebanon, the 2015 – 18 period witnessed the emergence of numerous social start-ups across a range of sectors (with several receiving seed funding under earlier EU projects). Social enterprises (SEs) have the potential to create thousands of jobs for underprivileged people, catered to some of Lebanon’s most pressing social and environmental issues, and provided a livelihood to hundreds of families. During 2019, existing EUTF partners, under the aegis of the emerging Lebanese Social Enterprise Association (LSE), entered into constructive dialogue aimed at securing GoL support for a Social Entrepreneurship regulatory framework. These efforts were endorsed by the Prime Minister Office during a national consultative workshop in July 2019. This is expected to lead to the development of the framework, including governance structure and qualification process, as well as future budget requirements.

### **International support to Lebanon**

The London, Brussels and Paris Conferences of 2016 – 2019 had the intention of transforming the Syria crisis into a development opportunity by stimulating the Lebanese economy. Through various agreements, including the EU-Lebanon Partnership Priorities and Compact, the international community committed to supporting job creation through the provision of municipal infrastructure, value chain development and enhanced access to external markets. In turn, the Government of Lebanon committed to structural reforms aimed at instigating growth, raising the level of investments and modernising the economy, whilst at the same time improving the regulatory conditions affecting Syrian refugees (e.g. waiver of residency fees, simplification of civic documentary requirement). The Government has affirmed that Lebanon is not a country of asylum or a final destination for refugees.

### **EU policy priorities**

Since 2015, EUTF priorities for Lebanon have been informed by the Joint Humanitarian Development Framework (JHDF), which aims to shape a more comprehensive EU response to the crisis by enabling complementarity and strengthening the operational links between the humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and conflict prevention. In this way, EU support aims to coherently address the causes of vulnerability, fragility and conflict while simultaneously meeting humanitarian needs and strengthening the resilience of individuals and Lebanese institutions at the central and local levels, also addressing development priorities of the country. The JHDF is informed by a number of other strategic EU documents (EU-Lebanon Partnership Priorities and Compact, Single Support Framework for Lebanon 2017-2020, ECHO Humanitarian Implementation Plan 2018/2019) and the latest update (2018 – 19) has been used to help inform some of the priorities included in this Action Document.

The JHDF 2018 – 19 includes seven chapters, four of which are directly relevant for this Action Document: Economic Development and Livelihoods; Basic and Social Assistance; Local Governance, Municipal Service Delivery and Infrastructure and; Protection. The stated objective for Economic Development and Livelihoods is that EU assistance should:

*Contribute to sustainable livelihoods for refugees and vulnerable host communities by supporting programmes and coordination structures that address the demand and supply side of labour, whilst engaging in policy dialogue related to decent work, the elimination the Worst Forms of Child Labour and macroeconomic reforms.*

The main identified priorities for EUTF support identified in the JHDF are: career guidance and counselling – TVET / skills training – SME development – job internships/ placement axis; social entrepreneurship; labour intensive programmes; productive inclusion (graduation), bridging social assistance and livelihoods/resilience; and preparedness for return.

In addition, the JHDF argues for a greater level of synergies/coordination with support provided under RDPP, with a particular focus on key livelihoods - protection gaps.

Furthermore, EU should continue to support the development and implementation of the National TVET Strategic Framework, by applying a competence-based modular approach, and ensuring further alignment of EUTF skills development projects with the approach.

Tensions reduction is a transversal theme across the JHDF.

### **2.3. Lessons learnt**

#### **External support since 2012**

Since 2012, the EU has up-scaled its cooperation with Lebanon, in order to respond to the needs of vulnerable host communities and refugees. The EU adopted an approach whereby medium- to long-term needs in local communities have been addressed in parallel to the humanitarian needs of refugees. This was done in order to help alleviate the pressure felt by local communities as well as to reduce the risk of confrontation and conflict.

Owing to the current economic crisis, it is critical that the Government of Lebanon and international donors continue to invest in inclusive and harmonized local economic development and service delivery planning and implementation, as well as supporting businesses and upgrading value chains in order to create jobs. Through these approaches to improve access to sustainable livelihood opportunities and increased participation in local development, the resilience and social stability of affected communities will be enhanced – enabling households to decrease reliance on external assistance and build their capacity to become economically self-sufficient.

A particular area of focus for EU support has within the TVET system. Despite rapid expansion in the provision of training courses and students' enrolment, the system did not meet the aspirations of youth or the needs of local and regional labour markets. The ENI-supported *ProVTE* project piloted several competence-based training modules in construction (eg. painting) in selected public VET institutions in different part of Lebanon, in cooperation with the EUTF-funded *QUDRA* project. To assure the matching of the trainees' competences with the needs of the employers, a reputable company for quality control in construction and building inspection took over the role of trainees' assessment on completion of the training, issuing a certification of competences acquired to enhance the value of the certificate. In the frame of the cooperation, *ProVTE* developed the curriculum for the CBT modules, trained the teachers, piloted the training, coordinated the assessment of teachers, supervised the on-the-job training and organized the assessment of trainees. *QUDRA* supervised the enrolment of the trainees, monitored the implementation of training courses, provided the financial resources for teachers, equipment and consumables and miscellaneous costs, and organised promotion and visibility events, such as a graduation event for the successful candidates. This model for cooperation has been considered for application within several projects foreseen in this Action Document, with an expansion into sectors.

New livelihoods and economic development programming must remain cognisant of the immediate needs of refugees and their hosting communities. This includes a concerted focus on strengthening the post-return employability of refugees, identifying potential opportunities and placements where attained skills can be deployed, supporting the incubation and acceleration of existing and scalable micro, small and medium enterprises and facilitating access to the necessary inputs to support their sustainability. Moreover, given wider limitations in the overall regulatory framework for refugees, there is a need for enhanced engagement with the Government, as per the joint commitments agreed in the Partnership Priorities/Compact and reiterated at the London and Brussels Conferences. There is also a need to enter into more scientific, evidence-based policy dialogue concerning economic development and the labour market. These elements are considered as part of the programmatic response by all partners under this Action Document, through the establishment of an Economic Development Policy Unit (EDPU), which will coordinate across EUTF livelihoods and social stability projects and other key stakeholders, in order to generate policy analysis on a number of key themes

related to Lebanon's economic development priorities and the economic / labour market regulatory framework.

There are growing calls to integrate conflict prevention approaches in livelihood and social stability activities, as the strains on host communities' increase and the incidences and risk of violence, and lack of integration, escalate. Furthermore, analysis of the media landscape points to lessons on how to communicate external support to Lebanon, including: being mindful about past precedents that could underpin tensions; recognising Lebanese resilience, burden sharing, reciprocity and the temporary nature of Syrian displacement; emphasising solidarity with the refugee situation; reflect local concerns and build upon local successes when disseminating achievements; and supporting trusted and credible local partners. EUTF support should therefore aim to address differences and promote tolerance not only amongst refugees, but also between the host community and the refugees, as well as amongst host communities, as a mean to decrease the potential for resentment and violence.

All responses to the crisis, including previous responses through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and earlier EUTF interventions, have shown that the situation on the ground develops fast and often beyond projections made. For that reason, a large degree of flexibility will be required for any intervention addressing medium to long term needs in order to allow for an effective response to the evolving needs of the beneficiary populations.

### **EUTF livelihoods evaluation**

In 2018, EUTF commissioned a portfolio evaluation with the overall objective to assess and draw the lessons learned from the current generation of EUTF livelihoods support, as well as identifying other innovative non-EUTF initiatives. One of the main purposes of the exercise was to support the identification of future interventions contributing to increased economic opportunities and enhanced social and economic inclusion of Syrian Refugees, IDPs and vulnerable host communities. The evaluation covered a sample of 13 active EUTF-funded livelihoods projects operating on regional/multi-country or national level.

The livelihoods evaluation concluded that, while addressing national/regional strategies and policies and EU actions plans, EUTF livelihoods projects featured a challenging hybrid approach that combined humanitarian assistance with a development approach focusing on medium/long term employment and local development. It emphasised two main types of activities prevalent in EUTF livelihoods programming:

- 1) Activities directly addressing employment: skills training, counselling, job placement and job creation, short-term cash-for-work initiatives implemented within infrastructural activities, advocacy for labour inclusion of vulnerable groups.
- 2) Social cohesion activities: conflict mitigation mechanisms through joint social and mediation activities between Syrian refugees and their host communities, coupled with micro employment initiatives.

The evaluation concluded that EUTF livelihoods projects could be categorised under a first and second generation of support. First generation projects were seen to insufficiently address sustainability at institutional, social and policy levels. In contrast, second generation projects were characterized as having a community-based or sectoral approach including a focus on capacity development and investment, based on close cooperation with national line ministries in charge of interior / municipalities, social affairs, planning or agriculture. By providing for support to implement existing laws and regulations, these projects were seen to positively address the policy level.

The table below includes some of the key recommendations from the EUTF livelihoods evaluation, in addition to a column documenting how these have been taken into consideration within the projects foreseen by this Action Document.

Recommendations	Considered in proposed actions
<b>Relevance</b>	
Employment/employability activities and outputs are tailored to capacities and aspirations of beneficiaries.	Projects will analyse the capacities / aspirations of beneficiaries, by leveraging a socioeconomic profiling tool and Household Economy Analysis (HEA), aimed at profiling poor income groups and understanding how households secure needed food and income; their assets, opportunities, and constraints they face; and the options available to them in times of protracted crisis or a shock like a rise in food prices.
Activities should be based on corporate sector demands / comparative advantages in targeted areas.	Private sector engagement will be a key feature of all livelihoods projects, through support provided to local businesses and social enterprises that respond to local economic development priorities and the targeting of key market players in networking events and advocacy activities.
Chambers of commerce, companies and other local stakeholders included in elaboration of training/employment programmes.	An underlying objective of EUTF projects that will work through the TVET system will be a deeper involvement of the private sector in vocational trainings and certification. This approach will feature in, and be coordinated between, at least 3 projects.
Activities should focus on multiplier effects and institutional sustainability; implementation within available structures, processes, policies for the region.	By applying an area-based approach, 4 projects will support the implementation of existing, or generate new, local development strategies, in collaboration with a range of local partners, including Unions of Municipalities already involved in ongoing EUTF programmes.
A “graduation approach” should be explored that may initiate a trajectory to sustainable livelihoods within a specified period.	Two projects will include an adjusted graduation approach, designed to help vulnerable households' resilience, move off assistance, and engage in livelihoods, through sequenced activities including consumption support, access to financial services, technical skills and linkages to jobs. Lebanese beneficiaries of the National Poverty Targeting Programme will be in focus, while Syrian refugees will be supported with referrals between basic assistance, protection and livelihoods programming.
Gig economy methods that relate refugees and host community members possessing skills to clients through IT platforms.	The possibility for digital skills training and online employment opportunities may be explored with a focus on a different segment of the population.
Advocate for, and support technically, clustering of formal and informal micro-LLH initiatives, to ensure their sustainability through increased opportunities and shared risks and improve work conditions.	In one project in particular, a social franchising or mixed clustering approach will be assessed for hundreds of SMEs and social enterprise that have been supported under previous EUTF and ENU projects. This will build on lesson learned from SMEs clusters in Bekaa and the results of an assessment on social enterprise clustering. EU and UNIDO cluster approaches will be studied. Advocacy towards the private sector will focus on awareness about decent work conditions, including specific action plans.
As a “coping assistance strategy”, consider increased inclusion of cash-for-work activities for long-term unemployed persons (especially for Syrian refugees) that also equip beneficiaries with skills, “work spirit” and counselling/placement, designed to facilitate their longer-term integration in the formal economy.	The most vulnerable identified individuals will benefit from immediate income generation to support their basic needs via Cash for Work, in line with GoL guidelines. A range of technical and soft skills training measures will be included.
Having nationals and refugees working side by side is a strong vector of social cohesion.	Social stability will be a key feature of all projects, through youth participation in needs-based community initiatives, refugee and host community women, youth

	and children interaction through tailored sports, cultural and conflict resolution activities and, where appropriate joint engagement in skills training, on-the-job training, SMEs and social enterprise employment and cash for work programmes.
<b>Design</b>	
Duration of LLH projects with employment activities should not be less than 24 months (for skills training and job placement activities) and 36 months (for more complex employment activities).	All foreseen projects will include a 36 month implementation period.
<b>Sustainability</b>	
Put emphasis on institutional sustainability...by partnering between projects and local stakeholders, in combination with capacity development for stakeholders, to generate multiplier effects.  Capacity development of local public or private stakeholders should be emphasised, which would be in line with the need to emphasize the development context and to foster institutional sustainability.	As above, projects will build local capacities and support the implementation of local development strategies, in collaboration with a range of local partners, including Unions of Municipalities, TVET schools, social enterprises and private sector actors and interest groups. Established local implementing partner feature prominently in all project consortia; 7 local organisations are expected to be included.
Longer term monitoring of beneficiaries should be established at project and EUTF level, to provide for more accurately assessing sustainability and impact of projects, after completion.	Longer term monitoring of beneficiaries will be a feature of all projects. In addition, since 4 out of 5 projects are successors to earlier EUTF or ENI projects, the beneficiaries (individuals and businesses) of those projects will be integrated further into project activities and monitoring.

## 2.4. Complementary actions

Through the Partnership Priorities/Compact, EU committed to further support the revitalization of the Lebanese economy, leverage the potential of the private sector and advocate for legislative and regulatory improvements to foster a favourable business environment.

Following up on these commitments, ENI support includes a focus on increasing the competitiveness of some targeted sectors in some specific areas, notably through a support programme that targets the furniture sector in Tripoli and some specific agricultural value chains ("Private Sector Development programme", EUR 15 million). It is also being utilized to support through a technical assistance the development of a national strategic framework for technical vocational education and training (TVET), with a particular focus on moving towards modular, practice-based curricula, in close collaboration with MEHE DG VTE. ENI funds also support a number of local development programmes, including "Local Development Programme long the Litani River Basin" and "Local Development Programme for Deprived Areas in North Lebanon". Furthermore, ENI support includes programmes aimed at supporting Lebanon's Vision for Stabilization, Growth and Employment and promoting innovation / entrepreneurship in Lebanon's clean energy transition.

In 2018, with EU financial and ILO technical support, CAS revived the Living Conditions Survey that assesses a range of variables for all communities living in Lebanon (with the exception of camps and Informal Tented Settlements housing Palestinian and Syrian refugees). HBS data will be captured on a quarterly basis using a representative sample in all districts of Lebanon.

The first generation of EUTF support in Lebanon included projects with a full cycle of support that linked job counselling to internships, job placements and skills development (including technical and life skills), as well as SME development (including business development services). These included the now-complete QUDRA and LEADERS projects.

Besides 'traditional' interventions, new projects were introduced which sought to address the dual

objectives of social stability and livelihoods. These included the FURSA and BADAEL projects, which have both a focused on upgrading financial tools and opportunities for Social Enterprises. In addition, YOUTH RESOLVE focuses on social stability through youth participation in local development processes. The current phase of these projects will come to a close in early 2020.

More recent EUTF interventions focus on strengthening the capacities of subnational authorities to engage in planning, service delivery and local economic development. These include the Regional Social Cohesion Project (RSCP, implemented by AICS), Maintaining Strength and Resilience for Local Governments (MASAR, implemented by VNG International) and Municipal Empowerment and Resilience (MERP, implemented by UNDP and UN Habitat) projects. In addition, three Rome-based UN agencies have recently started a project focusing on agricultural livelihoods in Lebanon and Jordan. Short-term temporary employment opportunities are a limited feature of all the above projects.

Finally, EUTF support is directed at the livelihoods-protection axis, namely under the second phase of the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP).

A new ENI programme aimed at promoting the local economy in North East Bekaa will be complementary to EUTF programme foreseen in this Action Document.

All these projects have the support of the Government of Lebanon, under the stewardships of relevant Ministries (Social Affairs, Economy and Trade, Interior and Municipalities, Agriculture, etc.).

## **2.5. Donor co-ordination**

The EU is contributing to overall donor co-ordination under the auspices of the United Nations in the framework of the 3RP that integrates humanitarian, development and macro-fiscal interventions to increase coherence between humanitarian and development and national and regional priorities.

The European Commission also hosts regular meetings of the Core donor group on Syria, which unite the key institutional and bilateral donors to the Syrian crisis in the field of resilience and recovery funding. EUTF management ensures coordination with MS contributing to the fund.

At a country level, the EU Delegation is represented in the bilateral donor coordination group, and leads coordination with EU Member States across a range of sectors. It is also active in LCRP coordination platforms, such as the Livelihoods and Social Stability Sectors.

## **3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

### **3.1. Objectives/Expected Results**

The **Overall Objective (OO)** of the programme is to revive the economic growth potential and reduce social tensions in communities hosting Syrian refugees, whilst responding to the resilience needs of vulnerable refugees and host communities in Lebanon.

The **Specific Objectives (SO)** are:

- 1) Local development priorities are supported;
- 2) Vulnerable individuals have enhanced capacities to pursue decent livelihoods pathways;
- 3) Social stability is enhanced through inter-communal engagement in local development processes;
- 4) Decision makers use evidence-based analysis to develop labour market policies.

### 3.2. Activities

It should be noted that some of the activities under component 1 (Indirect Management) and component 2 (Direct Management) are similar; the different modality of funding for the two components has been chosen because of the higher technical complexity and central support role envisaged for an EU member state agency specialised in the modernisation of public Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems.

Components that will hinge on the capacity of partners to engage in bottom up processes, including community engagement and outreach, should be implemented in collaboration with NGOs (international/local), to assure proper communication and ownership of the projects by final beneficiaries and to promote mechanisms of social stability. Where NGOs will be engaged in TVET delivery, it will be done with direct support from the selected EU member state agency.

The main activities proposed for direct and indirect management are included below with respect to their contribution to Specific Objectives.

*SO1: Local development priorities are supported.*

1.1: Market assessments are updated, consolidated or developed to provide key information on the labour market context in specific localities, including technical and soft skills gaps.

1.2: Local development strategies and value chains are supported, through a partnership with local authorities, local business clusters and other relevant stakeholders.

1.3: Selected MSMEs and social enterprises (SEs), and related support services, have strengthened capacity to provide decent, inclusive and sustainable income generation opportunities.

1.4: Legal and institutional framework for social entrepreneurship is supported<sup>21</sup>.

*SO2: Vulnerable individuals have enhanced capacities to pursue decent livelihoods pathways.*

2.1: Vocational and skills training providers have increased capacity to deliver high quality competency-based and marketable skills training in sub-sectors relevant to the needs of the labour market.

2.2: Vulnerable individuals having access employability and income stabilising activities.

2.3: Job seekers and employers are sensitised on employment legislation and decent working conditions.

*SO3: Social stability is enhanced through inter-communal engagement in local development processes..*

3.1: Youth community leaders and youth committee members identifying needs-based community initiatives (quick impact projects), together with local stakeholders.

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<sup>21</sup> The process to develop an enabling environment social entrepreneurship will be supported through this action document, specifically through efforts to formalise the legal framework but also through a tailored incubation programme aimed at scaling up SEs that have previously received seed funding under earlier projects, and plugged into identified value chains.

3.2: Refugee and host community women, youth and children interacting through tailored sports, cultural and conflict resolution activities.

3.3: Members of vulnerable households accessing education and protection services, with referral through established mechanisms.

*SO4: Decision makers use evidence-based analysis to develop labour market policies.*

4.1: EUTF implementing partners and EUD/EUTF utilise evidence-based analysis to contribute to the development of labour market policies.

4.2: Lebanese decision makers are provided with up-to-date policy analysis concerning socio-economic development.

4.3: A labour market observatory is developed and institutionalised to support referrals, information sharing, job matching and networking between different labour market actors.

An additional budget line will be made available to support the above objectives through communications activities, notably on social stability.

An Indirect Management modality will be applied for activities carried out under SO2, specifically related to competency-based vocational training. The Implementing Partner for this component will also provide support to several projects foreseen under the Direct Management modality, insofar as they will address vocational training through the same competency-based framework.

A Direct Management modality will be applied for four further, coordinated projects that address SO1, SO2 and SO3.

All projects will contribute to SO4 through their participation in the Economic Development Policy Unit (see below).

The programme will allow for five mechanisms that will guarantee cross-fertilisation between, and beyond, EUTF projects, thereby ensuring a wider impact with key stakeholders influencing economic development and labour market policies in Lebanon:

- 1) The Economic Development Policy Unit, to be hosted within one of the five foreseen projects, will allow EU partners to coordinate and consolidate policy analysis, gather and conduct relevant research, and generate recommendations, on economic development and labour market policies in Lebanon.
- 2) The Labour Monitoring Observatory created under the AICS-supported *Al-Mashgal* project will be further developed, with the ambition of supporting referrals, information sharing, job matching and networking between different labour market actors. The EUTF project within which it will be hosted will aim for greater institutionalisation by creating greater linkages with relevant national entities (eg. National Employment Offices and MoL), that have already endorsed the platform.
- 3) As a complement to the ongoing ENI-funded ProVTE project, the new EUTF TVET project will be hosted at MEHE. Dialogue has already taken place between the foreseen implementing partner and INGO-led projects; the EU member state agency will play a support role to projects/partners providing TVET through public vocational schools, in order to ensure all EUTF interventions are aligned with the competency-based, modular system being introduced, in line with the National TVET Strategy.
- 4) One project includes a local partner who is a key provider of financial services and advice, with an outreach of more than 90,000 active clients in Lebanon. It is foreseen that this partner will leverage its position and extensive knowledge, to promote opportunities for referrals across all EUTF-funded projects. In addition, information sessions on financial inclusion will be delivered to key field staff across all EUTF-funded consortia.

5) The Referral Information Management System (RIMS), a common platform supported by a foreseen project partner, is now being utilised by 30 international and national partners; this will be used to improve referral pathways within and beyond EUTF-funded projects, to support vulnerable individuals to access a combination of relevant services in a timely and accountable manner.

### 3.3. Risks and assumptions

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Low level of involvement/commitment of host government, agencies and host communities.	L	There is a high level of interest from certain key national and subnational authorities, especially on projects concerning the revival of the Lebanese economy. That said, there are also certain segments of the Lebanese political and administrative landscape that say that they would now prefer to pass up external assistance, which should be redirected towards Syria and refugee return. While the foreseen EUTF actions are supported by the most relevant mandated Ministries and at the same time fall directly within the strategic government priorities (including LCRP), mitigating measures will need to be included outside the scope of specific projects that change the narrative/dialogue with these groups (see below).
Key opinion-makers adopt increasing anti-Syrian rhetoric which may lead to an upswing in anti-Syrian sentiment.	H	This risk is already being witnessed to a large extent. A change in the narrative of international partners (including EUTF partners) that moves to focus of conversations towards a greater recognition of Lebanese concerns, resilience, burden sharing, reciprocity and the temporary nature of Syrian displacement, as well as emphasising solidarity with the refugee situation, is expected to create greater traction in terms of entry points for evidence-based policy dialogue.
Wider obstacles preventing movement and access to the labour market / income generation opportunities result in a further declining situation for Syrian refugees	M	Obstacles related to movement and access to work by Syrian refugees will be prioritised and mitigated through parallel EU programmes and policy advocacy aimed at addressing root causes preventing access to work, including concerns related to protection and legal stay, in line with international agreements. Furthermore, evidence-based policy advocacy will be generated by EUTF partners that highlights the needs of the Lebanese economy, in consultation with a full spectrum of political actors in addition to relevant Ministries, private sector interest groups and other relevant stakeholders. Communications activities may be supported to ensure that messages are communicated in a clear and appropriate way.
Businesses supported under EUTF projects are requested to secure work permits for Syrian	L	EUTF projects will prioritise work opportunities in permitted sectors for Syrian refugees. Based on the current modus operandi applied by MoL, work

refugees.		permits are not being requested for temporary/seasonal work in these sectors. EU will utilise evidence-based policy analysis to contribute to wider discussions on labour market regulations, including working with a wide range of partners to consider viable alternatives to the current system of work permits, that could be applicable for temporary work, where relevant/possible.
Increased social tensions due to deterioration of political situation result in conflicts affecting both host and refugee populations.	L	The emphasis on local development / social stability is in itself a mitigating strategy aimed at reducing social tensions through projects that address access to livelihoods, participatory planning, local development and specific activities aimed at reducing social tensions. Projects will seek to operationally align with the LCRP tensions monitoring system, to ensure that mitigation measures are taken in response to tension spikes in specific localities, and also to ensure monitoring of the impact of EUTF interventions; also providing examples of positive social interactions between refugees and host communities.
Socio-economic and protection situation of refugees deteriorates.	M	EU Delegation will continue to advocate for Lebanon to adhere to obligations for refugee protection, as per international law. Continuous dialogue will take place with GoL during programme implementation, to ensure that a clear framework is established to safeguard refugee protection and livelihoods.
Operational space for INGOs in the host countries is shrinking.	L	Challenges related to potential reduction in the INGO operational space will be mitigated through ongoing advocacy efforts, including through participation of the EU Delegation in the Access Task Force (ATF).
<p><b>Assumptions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stable security conditions and political stability;</li> <li>• Governmental authorities are supportive of the project and committed to policy dialogue on necessary long-term reforms;</li> <li>• Willingness of host communities to engage in the project;</li> <li>• Access to local labour market and support from employment agencies and local businesses.</li> <li>• Partnerships with local dedicated counterparts;</li> <li>• Intense participatory dialogue with all stakeholders and commitment to the objectives of this support shall enable a common advocacy strategy;</li> <li>• Humanitarian and development actors intervening in target Municipalities coordinate for a better dialogue toward Municipalities to assure the maximum possible protection space for refugees.</li> </ul>		

### 3.4. Cross-cutting issues

**Sustainability** underpins the projects foreseen in this Action Document, which will build on existing interventions and relationships that partners have established at both central and local levels, as well as engaging local implementers as formal partners in each project. The project activities are firmly embedded within existing structures and strategies at both the central and local level.

The five new EUTF projects will address challenges in the policy framework for economic development by working in a collaborating way with key ministries, subnational authorities and private sector actors to ensure a bottom-up approach to area-based development. The work of the Economic Development Policy Unit will be crucial in this regard, since it will generate evidence-based policy analysis and data to support revival of local and national economy.

The 'programme' will also be a fitting complement to the Vision for Stabilization, Growth and Employment which has a more top down approach to economic development through the investments included in the capital investment plan. The projects will also directly address the priorities of the EU-Lebanon Compact, as well as the LCRP livelihoods and social stability sector priorities, namely:

- reinforcing SMEs as promoter of job creation
- sustaining value chains
- focusing on decent work conditions
- applying a graduation/transition approach
- coordination with different sectors including protection
- responding to different needs / segments of vulnerable population
- enhancing donor dialogue
- ensuring a common mapping of assessments

Subnational interventions will derive from work on local development plans and priorities. Several of the new projects will be aligned to the National Strategic Framework for TVET, whilst one project will directly contribute to the creation of a new Social Entrepreneurship regulatory framework. The PPP Law will be considered in direct implementation and capacity building activities, as will the new MoSA Guidelines for Cash for Work.

**Gender equality** and empowerment of women will be addressed through activities that include both men and women and include a gendered approach to local public service delivery and local economic development. All capacity development and training/learning activities will seek to include by women and men. Monitoring systems should be put in place that collects gender disaggregated data on all aspects of the interventions. All strategic investments will be required to demonstrate a direct impact in regards how they benefit women and youth.

**Social stability** is a core focus of this Action Document. The projects will tackle the drivers of tension between refugees and the host communities. Foreseen projects will respond to local development challenges and opportunities by providing access to employment opportunities for both refugees and host community citizens, in permitted sectors, whilst emphasising a greater level of positive interactions between different communities. A communication strategy will be developed to ensure that the elements of the programme are configured in terms of their positive contribution to the Lebanese economy, tensions reduction and also preparedness for refugee return, as and when the appropriate conditions arise.

**Environmental sustainability** will be considered in all projects with an infrastructure component, and also in considering new entry points for economic development in Lebanon. Interventions will follow the requirements of the Lebanese environmental regulatory framework.

**Transparency and accountability** will be addressed through all activities targeting subnational authorities, but specifically those targeting elected local councils.

In line with the New European Consensus on Development, all the projects funded under this Action Document will integrate a **Rights-Based Approach (RBA)** in each step of the project cycle, from identification and formulation, through to monitoring and evaluation. This will ensure that the foreseen EUTF actions respect the key provisions of EU treaties with respect to the indivisibility of human rights, respect for human dignity and equality. RBA will be used to ensure that no one is left behind

and, in-so-doing, address the primary objective of EU development policy: reduction and, in the long term, eradication of poverty.

### **3.5. Stakeholders**

The main beneficiaries of the project are local host and refugee communities that will benefit from livelihoods and social stability interventions and, in case of Syrian refugees, also of increased protection space. An estimated 175,000 individuals will benefit from the programme, with approximately half from vulnerable host communities and half Syrian refugees.

The primary stakeholders of this action are:

*Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA):* GoL lead for the LCRP and co-lead for the livelihoods, social stability and protection chapters. MoSA will play a key role in ensuring the success of the programme, particularly given its central coordination role with other Ministries, but also the fact that the action aligns closely to LCRP objectives in two concerned sectors. MoSA has a small team who are dedicated to following up on these sectors.

*Ministry of Economy and Trade (MoET):* GoL lead responsible for the administration of Lebanese economic affairs and co-lead for the LCRP livelihoods chapter. Given its role in regulating the overall economic enabling environment, as well as supervision of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, MoET will play an important function in relation to the programme, particularly as the recipient of policy recommendations.

*Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM):* As the tutelage ministry for Municipalities and Unions of Municipalities and co-lead for the LCRP social stability chapter, MoIM will play an important role in creating the conditions for subnational authorities to engage in local development processes.

*Ministry of Labour (MoL):* As the responsible ministry for labour and employment issues, MoL will be implicated in the programme through policy dialogue related to work permits.

*Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE):* The Directorate General of Vocational and Technical Education (DGVTE) in MEHE is responsible for TVET at the national level. It will be implicated in the programme through support to the delivery of competency-based training in vocational schools.

*Unions of Municipalities and Municipalities:* Will play a key role as a facilitator of local development processes, together with other local stakeholders.

*Chambers of Commerce and Industry:* Expected to support coordination with private sector partners, including on the prioritisation of local development priorities and identification of MSMEs and SEs to support specific value chains.

*Civil society organisations:* Applying a localisation agenda, the programme will engage with civil society partners, both in local development and social stability interventions, in addition to policy dialogue. A wealth of expertise exists to support the latter, including foreseen partners from academia.

*EU Delegation and EU Member States:* Expected to play a key role in policy dialogue with Government counterparts, drawing from recommendations produced through the programme.

### **3.6. Contribution to SDGs**

This intervention is relevant for the 2030 Agenda. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), while also contributing to SDG1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), SDG5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and SDG11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), among others.

### **3.7. Intervention Logic**

The intervention logic is that the combined efforts of EUTF livelihoods and social stability projects foreseen in this Action Document (the "programme") will complement other actions seeking to

contribute to social stability and sustainable economic development in Lebanon, by reviving the economic growth potential, and reducing social tensions, in communities hosting Syrian refugees.

Through a combination of interventions targeting the supply and demand side of labour, the programme will furnish policy makers with evidence-based analysis and data aimed at strengthening the enabling environment for economic development and social stability in Lebanon.

By investing in Lebanese vocational training providers, as well as the capacities of local businesses, social enterprises and subnational authorities, the programme will ensure that labour market entrants are better equipped to respond to the needs of the Lebanese economy, and Syrian refugees will be imparted with transferable skills related to their possible future return to Syria.

The programme will respond to the resilience needs of vulnerable refugees and host communities, through the provision of training and support that will enhance marketable skills and create decent, inclusive and sustainable income generation opportunities, in turn enhancing the capacities of households to meet their basic needs and pursue decent livelihoods pathways.

Furthermore, through specific interventions, youth will be empowered to engage in decision-making processes, and influence investment and development priorities, at community, municipality and national levels.

#### **4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

##### **4.1. Financing agreement, if relevant**

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the Government of the partner countries.

##### **4.2. Indicative operational implementation period**

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3.2 will be carried out is 36 months. A possible extension of the implementation period may be decided by the Manager, and immediately communicated to the Operational Board.

##### **4.3. Implementation components and modules**

###### **4.3.1. Component 1 – Indirect Management with an entrusted entity**

This component specifically concerns Specific Objective 2, but it will also contribute to the other Specific Objectives.

A Contribution Agreement is foreseen with a European Member State Agency, in order to respond to immediate needs for interventions in the complicate context and to proceed in a short timeframe. The Implementing Partner will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Capacity for implementing EU support related to strengthening the TVET system in Lebanon;
- Capacity to provide integrated support to other EUTF programmes working in the area of TVET;
- Possibility to scale up existing operations and/or introducing new activities within their portfolio;
- Capacity to intervene in delicate contexts, including protracted displacement crises.

Based on the above criteria, and following the positive assessment of a fully-elaborated Concept Note, GIZ is considered as the preferred option for the Indirect Management component. In the event that

satisfactory agreement cannot be reached with GIZ, EUTF may consider a United Nations Implementing Agency as an alternative.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management ‘Service contract’.

Subject: Vulnerable individuals have enhanced capacities to pursue decent livelihoods pathways through improved access to TVET learning support;	Indicative type Services	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure Q1 2020
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**4.3.2. Component 2 - Grant (Direct Management)**

This component concerns all Specific Objectives.

In order to be able to respond to immediate needs for interventions in the context of the Syrian crisis in favour of livelihoods and social stability interventions for Syrian refugees and their host communities the direct award of grants is foreseen. The Fund has been established under Article 187 of the Financial Regulation as 'emergency' trust fund, and is therefore covered with flexible procedures applicable to crisis situations.

A limited grant allocation is foreseen to support communications activities. Implementing partner(s) will be identified through a process of negotiation in Lebanon. Partners are expected to include local non-profit operators, CSOs, specialist communications organisations and/or academic institutions.

a) Eligibility conditions

Lead applicants needs to be a legal entity, be non-profit making and non-governmental organisation. Specialized European or International or Local non-profit operators and CSOs are envisaged partners.

b) Essential selection and award criteria

Essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant. The essential award criteria are, relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the Action Document; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action. Presence and previous experience in managing with tangible achievements EUTF funded grants focusing on livelihoods and social stability will be part of the evaluation criteria, in addition to context-specific knowledge and experience in the Lebanese livelihoods and social stability sectors, immediate intervention capacity, ability to work in multi-actor approaches and inclusive partnerships aimed at recognizing the value of different stakeholders' contributions and synergies.

Following the assessment of over 10 Concept Notes, four grant contracts are foreseen to be implemented by NGO consortia. Consortia are foreseen to be composed of a mix of international and local partners, matching the above criteria. Project concepts have been developed through a participatory and consultative process, drawing from the lessons of previous interventions. Three of the four projects build on prior EUTF and ENI projects (ie. LEADERS, FURSA/BADAEL and YOUTH RESOLVE); consortia have been streamlined and new local and international partners with strong experience in the sectors of concern, have been introduced.

Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible, the grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to:

- LINKED - *Linking Vulnerable Populations and Inclusive Market Networks to Advance Sustainable Economic Development in Lebanon* – Danish Refugee Council (DK)
- INMA’A - *Sustainable Social Protection and Livelihood Solutions for Severely Vulnerable Households in Lebanon* – Save the Children (SE)
- SEE Change - *Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Change* – Oxfam (IT)
- Youth Resolve - *Resilience, Social Cohesion, Opportunities for Livelihoods and Reduced Violence in Lebanon* – World Vision (DE)

c) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for the grants is 80% of the total eligible costs of the action. If full financing is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. If full funding is essential, the applicant must provide adequate justification and accepted by Manager, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

d) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreements is 3rd trimester of 2020.

#### 4.4. Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
<b>Indirect Management</b>	
VET4all - <i>Recognised job-related competences for Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities in response to the Syrian crisis</i> – GIZ	<b>5,500,000 €</b>
<b>Direct Management</b>	
LINKED - Danish Refugee Council (DK)	<b>39,500,000 €</b>
INMA’A - Save the Children (SE)	
SEE Change - Oxfam (IT)	
Youth Resolve - World Vision (DE)	
<i>Communications Activities</i> – Partner(s) to be identified	
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,000,000 €</b>

*Transversal costs shall be included in the projects' budgets and included in each contract.*

All actions are expected to be designed with flexibility in mind, in order to respond to contextual changes that may necessitate adaptations in project design.

The objective of working with a range of specialised partners through Direct and Indirect Management is to guarantee the essential and direct linkage and opportunity between supply and demand side interventions that can support local economic development, as well as maintaining a strong focus on social stability.

#### 4.5. Performance monitoring and reporting

Monitoring shall be ensured primarily through EU Delegations in-country and in particular with the assistance of specific Trust Fund field and liaison officers posted within the EU Delegations. In addition, the EU Trust Fund has an independent Monitoring and Evaluation exercise to accompany all Fund programmes and ensure that targets are met and lessons learnt can be incorporated into other EUTF actions.

The purpose of the EUTF Syria Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is to assess, across various levels, the degree to which the Overall Objective of the Trust Fund has been achieved. Partners implementing this Action will comply with the ad hoc Monitoring and Evaluation Framework developed for the EUTF Syria as well as with the reporting requirements and tools being developed by the EU Trust Fund.

The implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the Action and elaborate regular progress reports and final reports.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

The monitoring and evaluation exercises noted above will represent milestones in the implementation of the activities. These regular assessments will constitute a basis for a possible decision of suspension or revision of activities, should the conditions on the ground not allow for their proper implementation.

#### **4.6. Evaluation and audit**

Overall, evaluation of the EUTF is mandated by the Constitutive Agreement of the Fund (article 13): “The Trust Fund and the Actions financed by it will be subject to the evaluation rules applicable to EU external programmes, in order to ensure the respect of the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.” Detailed provisions for the Evaluation of EUTF-funded Actions are defined by the strategy for portfolio evaluations.

To support the fulfilment of the mandate of the EUTF reinforcing the EUTF capacity to bring a change in the cooperation area, the projects will carry out a number of evaluations.

Projects should carry out a final evaluation, and one external audit per year. A mid-term evaluation may also be considered. Whenever possible, evaluations will be jointly carried out by partners.

If necessary, ad hoc audits or expenditure verification assignments could be contracted by the European Commission for one or several contracts or agreements.

Audits and expenditure verification assignments will be carried out in conformity with the risk analysis in the frame of the yearly Audit Plan exercise conducted by the European Commission. The amount dedicated in the budget for external *Evaluation and Audit* purposes is EUR. Evaluation and audit assignments will be implemented through service contracts, making use of one of the Commission’s dedicated framework contracts or alternatively through the competitive negotiated procedure or the single tender procedure.

#### **4.7. Communication and visibility**

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU. Beneficiaries, host communities and administrations in Syria's neighbouring countries, the European public, EU Members States and other stakeholders of the Trust Fund need to be informed about the EU's efforts as the leading donor in the Syria crisis response. Insufficient visibility of the EU’s actions weakens the EU’s political traction in the region and its standing in Europe. Unsatisfactory recognition of knowledge of EU assistance also has a potential to negatively affect the EU's political efforts to resolve the Syria crisis and its future role in a post-peace agreement transition.

Communication and visibility is an important part of all EUTF Syria programmes and must be factored in to underline the programme's importance at all stages of the planning and implementation. Each implementer is required to draw up a comprehensive visibility, communication and outreach plan for their respective target country/community and submit a copy for approval to the EUTF Syria

Communication and Outreach Lead. The related costs will be covered by the project budgets. An additional grant allocation may be made available to support communications activities focused on social stability. The measures shall be implemented by the implementing consortium/ia, and/or contractors, and/or grant beneficiaries. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, procurement and grant contracts.

The global objective of the EUTF Syria communication and visibility campaigns, and hence of the implementing partner, is to improve recognition, public awareness and visibility of the comprehensive and joint EU efforts to effectively address the consequences of the Syrian and Iraqi crises. This should be done by highlighting the Action's real-life impact and results among defined target audiences in the affected region but also vis-à-vis the general public, donors and stakeholders in the EU Member States.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action together with specific requirements for the EUTF Syria serve as a reference for the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the relevant contractual obligations. According to the EUTF Syria's Visibility and Communications strategy all communication and outreach campaigns must be evidence-based, people-oriented and easily understandable. Regional outreach and communication must be conflict sensitive, strategic, do no harm and mindful of the differentiation in messaging for beneficiaries and stakeholders in each country of operation of the Action. The campaigns must place the beneficiaries at the centre and thus ensure adequate ownership. Messaging should have a human face, be empathic, honest, transparent, direct, unambiguous, neutral and conducive to a highly sensitive human and political environment, in addition to being gender-sensitive and gender-balanced.

Furthermore, campaigns should also include components of participatory and engaging communication, where the beneficiary becomes a key actor. This will support the EUTF Syria's programmes in promoting social cohesion, inclusion, dialogue and help mitigate tensions and misperceptions between refugee and host communities.

**ANNEX 1 - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX** (max. 2 pages)

Important note: The overall objective should be one of the outcome statements in the Overarching EUTF Syria Results Framework. It should also use the associated performance indicator(s). The specific objective must be coherent with one result given in the EUTF Syria Results Framework (RF). Each Specific Objective must use the performance indicator(s) linked to the selected result from the RF. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action and can be revised as necessary. *Additional note:* The term "results" refers to the outputs, outcome(s) and impact of the Action (OECD DAC definition).

	<b>Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10) Reference overarching framework – sector objectives</b>	<b>Indicators (all indicators on individual beneficiaries will be disaggregated between community of origin and by sex)</b>	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Impact (Overall objective)</b>	Revive the economic growth potential and reduce social tensions in communities hosting Syrian refugees, whilst responding to the resilience needs of vulnerable refugees and host communities in Lebanon.	Status of local growth strategies. Percentage of people reporting social tensions.	Official documents from GoL and partners report. VASYR and Labour Force Survey. Tensions monitoring system / perception surveys. EVAL report. Final narrative and financial reports.	<i>Not applicable</i>

	<b>Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10) Reference overarching framework – sector objectives</b>	<b>Indicators (all indicators on individual beneficiaries will be disaggregated between community of origin and by sex)</b>	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Outcome(s) (Specific Objective(s))</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Local development priorities are supported;</li> <li>2) Vulnerable individuals have enhanced capacities to pursue decent livelihoods pathways;</li> <li>3) Social stability is enhanced through inter-communal engagement in local development processes;</li> <li>4) Decision makers use evidence-based analysis to develop labour market policies.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Number of targeted MSMEs and cooperatives that report increased performance</li> <li>1.2 Number of targeted MSMEs with expanded market access (new clients, contracts, market access) as a result of programme activities.</li> <li>1.2 Number of job opportunities promoted (EUTF RF 9).</li> <li>2.1. Number of MSMEs trained (EUTF RF 11)</li> <li>3.1 Number of joint projects/initiatives between refugee and host communities.</li> <li>4.1. Number of policies, regulations and strategies proposed, approved by the government.</li> <li>4.2. Status of Lebanon in the ranking of Doing Business.</li> </ol>	<p>ROM, progress and QIN reports.</p> <p>Local development plans/strategies.</p> <p>MSME and SE business plans.</p> <p>Official document from GoL and partners report.</p> <p>Tensions monitoring system.</p> <p>VASYR and Labour Force Survey.</p> <p>External evaluation reports.</p>	<p>Stable security conditions and political stability.</p> <p>Government authorities supportive of the project and committed to policy dialogue.</p> <p>Conducive enabling environment for local economic development.</p> <p>Access to local labour market and support from employment agencies and local businesses.</p>

	<b>Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10) Reference overarching framework – sector objectives</b>	<b>Indicators (all indicators on individual beneficiaries will be disaggregated between community of origin and by sex)</b>	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Other Results (Outputs and/or Short- term Outcomes)</b>	<p>1.1: Market assessments are updated, consolidated or developed to provide key information on the labour market context in specific localities, including technical and soft skills gaps.</p> <p>1.2: Local development strategies and value chains are supported, through a partnership with local authorities, local business clusters and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>1.3: Selected MSMEs and social enterprises (SEs), and related support services, have strengthened capacity to provide decent, inclusive and sustainable income generation opportunities.</p> <p>1.4: Legal and institutional framework for social entrepreneurship is supported.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Number of assessments on labour market, skills gaps, etc. consolidated and/or developed.</p> <p>1.2.1 Number of local development plans/strategies developed or supported.</p> <p>1.2.2. Number of institutions engaged in the, strengthening or upgrading of value chains.</p> <p>1.2.3 Number of value chains valorised and/or being upgraded.</p> <p>1.3.1. Number of MSMEs trained.</p> <p>1.3.2 Number of MSMEs with access to financial support.</p> <p>1.4.1 Laws adopted on social entrepreneurship.</p> <p>1.4.2 Number of social enterprises received incubation support.</p>	<p>New or consolidated labour market assessments.</p> <p>Local development plans/strategies.</p> <p>Project reports from partners based on follow up monitoring to supported MSMEs and SEs.</p> <p>Official document from GoL.</p> <p>External evaluation reports.</p>	<p>Governmental authorities are supportive of the project and committed to policy dialogue.</p> <p>Conducive enabling environment for local economic development.</p> <p>Access to local labour market and support from employment agencies and local businesses.</p>

	<b>Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10) Reference overarching framework – sector objectives</b>	<b>Indicators (all indicators on individual beneficiaries will be disaggregated between community of origin and by sex)</b>	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Other Results (Outputs and/or Short- term Outcomes)</b>	<p>2.1: Vocational and skills training providers have increased capacity to deliver high quality competency-based and marketable skills training in sub-sectors relevant to the needs of the labour market.</p> <p>2.2: Vulnerable individuals having access employability and income stabilising activities.</p> <p>2.3: Job seekers and employers are sensitised on employment legislation and decent working conditions.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Number of Syrian refugees and host communities participating in employability, vocational and entrepreneurial skills training programmes. (EUTF RF 10)</p> <p>2.2.1 Number of targeted job seekers supported to access employment through career guidance, coaching.</p> <p>2.2.2. Number of individuals receiving work based learning opportunities or individual follow-up services.</p> <p>2.2.4 Number of workdays generated.</p> <p>2.3.1 Number of individuals reached with outreach, information campaigns and awareness sessions.</p> <p>2.3.2 Number of private sectors / decent work action plans.</p>	<p>New TVET curricula.</p> <p>Partner reports.</p> <p>External evaluation reports.</p>	<p>Government authorities are supportive of the project.</p> <p>Conducive enabling environment for local economic development.</p> <p>Access to local labour market and support from employment agencies and local businesses.</p>

	<b>Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10) Reference overarching framework – sector objectives</b>	<b>Indicators (all indicators on individual beneficiaries will be disaggregated between community of origin and by sex)</b>	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Other Results (Outputs and/or Short- term Outcomes)</b>	<p>3.1: Youth community leaders and youth committee members identifying needs-based community initiatives (quick impact projects), together with local stakeholders.</p> <p>3.2: Refugee and host community women, youth and children interacting through tailored sports, cultural and conflict resolution activities.</p> <p>3.3: Members of vulnerable households accessing education and protection services, with referral through established mechanisms.</p>	<p>3.1.1 Number of municipalities benefiting from improved plan, infrastructure and services. (EUTF RF 37)</p> <p>3.1.2 Number of community support projects implemented.</p> <p>3.1.3 Number of refugees and community members involved in assessment, planning and implementation of community development projects.</p> <p>3.1.4 Number of community centres and other facilities providing social cohesion activities. (EUTF RF 41)</p> <p>3.2.1 Number of Syrian refugees and host community benefiting from peer information, outreach activities and extracurricular activities, such as sports and culture. (EUTF RF 40)</p> <p>3.3.1 Number of cases referred for specialized services. (EUTF RF 29)</p>	<p>Local needs assessments.</p> <p>Municipality and Union of Municipality plans/strategies.</p> <p>Official document from GoL and partners report.</p> <p>Tensions monitoring system.</p> <p>Referral reporting system.</p> <p>VASYR and Labour Force Survey.</p> <p>External evaluation reports.</p>	<p>Stable security conditions and political stability.</p> <p>Government authorities are supportive of the project.</p> <p>Willingness of host communities to engage in the project.</p> <p>Humanitarian and development actors intervening in target Municipalities coordinate to assure the maximum possible protection space for refugees.</p>

	<b>Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10) Reference overarching framework – sector objectives</b>	<b>Indicators (all indicators on individual beneficiaries will be disaggregated between community of origin and by sex)</b>	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Other Results (Outputs and/or Short- term Outcomes)</b>	<p>4.1: EUTF implementing partners and EUD/EUTF utilise evidence-based analysis to contribute to the development of labour market policies.</p> <p>4.2: Lebanese decision makers are provided with up-to-date policy analysis concerning socio-economic development.</p> <p>4.3: A labour market observatory is developed and institutionalised to support referrals, information sharing, job matching and networking between different labour market actors.</p>	<p>4.1.1 Number of evidence-based policy dialogue forums.</p> <p>4.1.2 Number of individuals reached with outreach, information campaigns and awareness sessions. (EUTF RF 42)</p> <p>4.2.1 Number of civil society, public and private alliances as part of EUTF intervention. (EUTF RF 44)</p> <p>4.2.2. Number of officials from subnational governments and deconcentrated service providers trained on municipal planning and public service delivery. (EUTF RF 39)</p> <p>4.3.1. Number of advocacy initiatives supported (EUTF RF 43)</p>	<p>Official Gazettes &amp; Official document from GoL.</p> <p>Partner reports and information materials.</p> <p>World Bank Doing business ranking.</p> <p>External evaluation reports.</p>	<p>Governmental authorities are supportive of the project and committed to policy dialogue.</p> <p>Civil society have sufficient space for independent policy analysis and advocacy.</p>