



LIVELIHOODS



The Trust Fund has strategically funded a wide range of actions that fall under the broad definition of livelihoods, and which encompass:

1. support measures for employability, vocational and entrepreneurial skills training programmes,
2. cash assistance for refugees, IDPs and vulnerable host community members, as well as
3. support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

To date, the Trust Fund has promoted numerous different livelihood strategies, including training, job creation, cash for work (CfW), cash transfers and MSME support, through **35 lead implementing partners**. More than **60 Trust Fund projects include a livelihoods component** linked to basic and higher education, WASH, protection or social cohesion in Lebanon, Jordan, Türkiye, Iraq and, to a lesser extent, Egypt, Western Balkans, or Armenia. Partners, such as the French Agency for Development (AFD), the Austrian Red Cross (AutRC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Euromed Feminist Initiative (EFI), FAO, GIZ, UN Women, ILO, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Denmark, Oxfam,

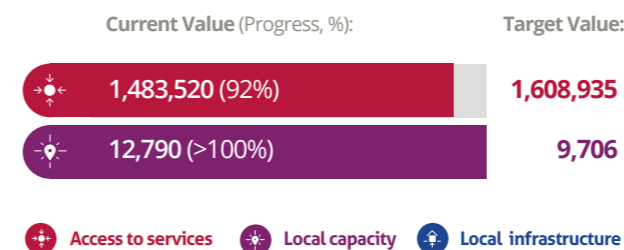
Save the Children, TOBB, UNHCR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNRWA, VNG International and the World Food Programme (WFP) have been implementing actions that promote access to livelihood opportunities. While most projects include employability-oriented training in various sectors, others

emphasize cash for work components (e.g., AFD, DRC, GIZ, UN WOMEN), cash transfers (ILO-UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP), direct access to job opportunities (EFI, FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UN WOMEN, etc.) or MSME training and funding (AutRC, EFI, ILO, Oxfam, UNDP, MoFA).

At individual level, **all projects aim at improving the economic situation of refugees, IDPs, and vulnerable host communities. Some also include institutional strengthening goals** (FAO, Oxfam, UNDP, etc.), **while fewer actions aim at legislative and policy changes** (Oxfam, UNICEF/ILO, UN WOMEN) to facilitate access



LIVELIHOODS PRIORITY SECTOR OUTPUTS



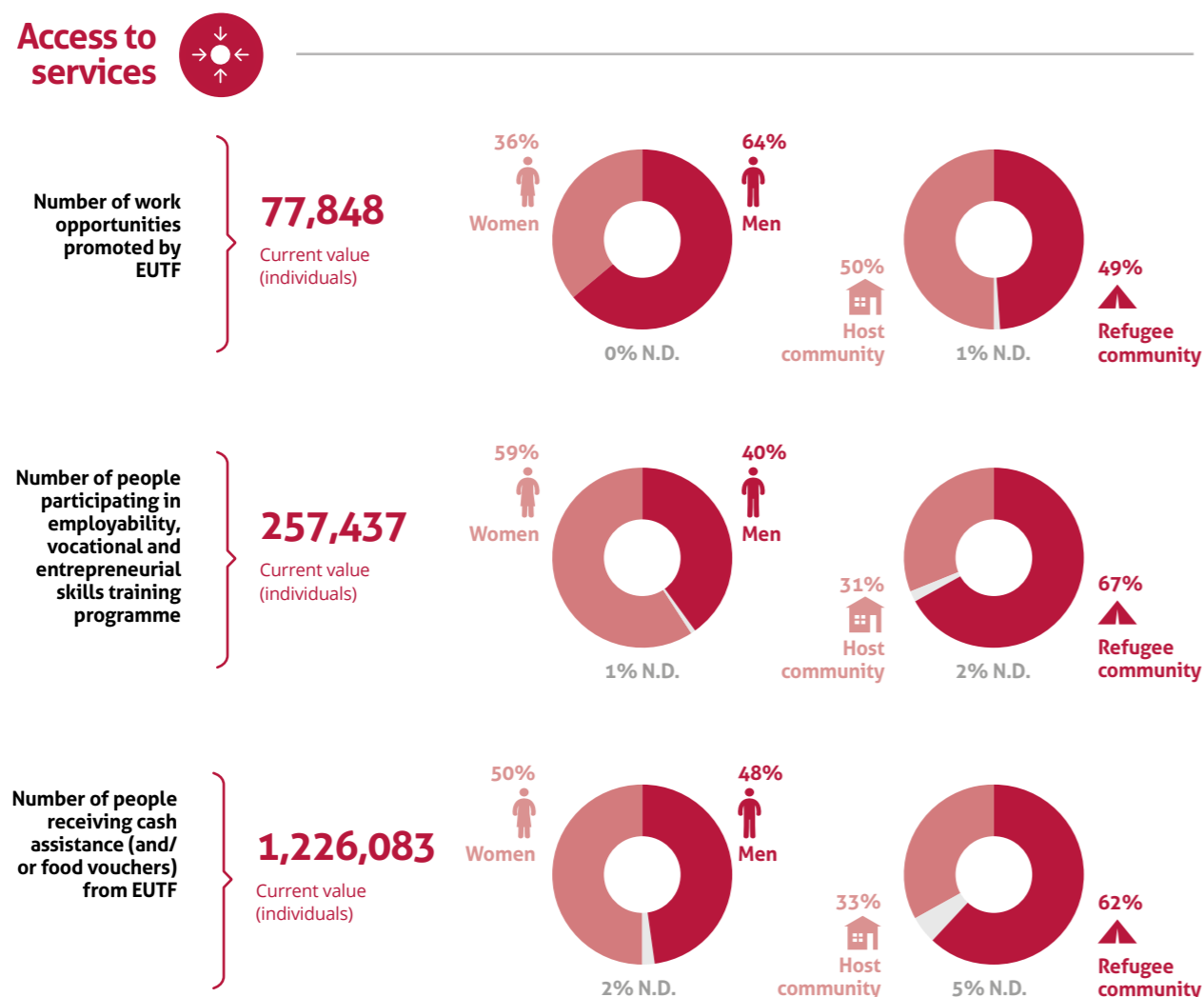
to labour markets and related social security benefits. Currently, 15 livelihood actions and/or components are still being implemented, while four have closed its operational phase since March 2024.¹¹

During this reporting period, overall progress has continued to improve. **Planned aggregated output delivery is fully achieved for employability training, and MSME support.** The number of cash assistance beneficiaries

show a high degree of accomplishment, at 89%. Women and refugees (Figure 10) have accessed employability training programmes to a larger extent than men and host communities, respectively. Cash assistance has been distributed evenly between women and men, while slightly more refugees have been reached than host communities. At **project level**, with the validating of data, there is still scope that the achievements in employability in Jordan (T04.235) and cash assistance in Lebanon for Palestinian refugees (T04.153), will improve, as the support to MSME in Türkiye (T04.187) and Lebanon (T04.149). This is also the case in Iraq (T04.218), whereby final measurement is pending.

employment schemes, self-employment support, temporary and seasonal employment, jobs created through new business start-ups and access to other income generating activities. It also encompasses students employed after having received higher and vocational education with Trust Fund support. At **project level**, some projects still have potential to increase their contribution to the generation of work opportunities (T04.215, T04.149 and T04.92, in Jordan), measure its actual impact (T04.218 in Iraq) or generate additional job placements after graduation from cash assistance programmes (T04.235 in Jordan).

Livelihoods disaggregated results



The performance of the KPI 'Number of work opportunities promoted' has improved in this reporting period, with the Trust Fund having supported **77,848 work opportunities** (36% of women, 64% men, 49% from refugee communities and 50% host communities), exceeding planned aggregated targets, compared with 60,442 the previous reporting period. Targets have been slightly reduced by 2% due to specific project revisions. This indicator includes people accessing cash for work programmes, rapid

LIVELIHOODS OUTCOMES IN LEBANON

The project *"strengthening safety nets in Lebanon to support the most vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees"* (T04.153), implemented by WFP has three key strategic objectives: provide cash-based transfers (CBT) to vulnerable Syrian refugee and Lebanese households so that they are able to meet their needs; improve capacity of relevant government

→ 11. These 15 actions are still ongoing in Lebanon (ACTED: T04.272; UNICEF: T04.143, T04.257; Save the Children: T04.302, ILO/UNICEF: T04.292; WFP: T04.153); Jordan (EBRD: T04.92, KfW: T04.112, GIZ: T04.208, ILO: T04.235, GJU: T04.215); Türkiye (EIB: T04.155, FAO: T04.187); Jordan and Iraq (T04.185) and Jordan (UN Women: T04.249), while four have closed their operational phase since March 2024 in Iraq (SPARK: T04.218); Jordan and Lebanon (FAO: 149); Jordan (EFI: T04.290) and Lebanon and Iraq (UNDP/UN Habitat: T04.132).



agencies to implement the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) at the central and local levels, develop shock-responsive social assistance system, and provide additional cash transfers to Palestinian households so that they meet their needs too.

The most recent **ROM (08/23)** highlights that the action's outcomes have been progressing according to plan except for the capacity building component. Regarding **individual changes**, Lebanese and Syrian beneficiaries emphasized cash transfers had been critical for their survival, although it had been insufficient to meet all their basic needs. Therefore, there is no prospect for them to sustainably improve living conditions and food security. More than 364,000 Lebanese (82% of the target) and more than 260,000 Syrians (77%

of the target) had been reached with cash transfers. Regarding Palestinian refugees, according to the ROM, 81% of the planned targets had been achieved through UNRWA. Data needs to be validated during the upcoming reporting period, since the last QIN informs that this cash for food component had been completed. In general, it is reported that beneficiaries express **"gratitude for the support"** and find the cash transfers **"valuable"** to pay for rent and electricity bills. Particularly, Syrians rely on these transfers for food (51%), rent (11%), electricity (7%) and health care (6%), reducing debt and to prevent child labour. WFP and UNHCR are now assessing to include households as recipients for more than one year to increase their resilience. There is still some potential to follow up on the vulnerability criteria used by UNHCR to

select beneficiaries and to monitor how UNRWA is implementing its component. The ROM report also suggested the need to assess differences among Lebanese and Syrian households in the assessment of the cash transfer values. While the modality of the cash transfers is positively assessed by the beneficiaries, the adequacy of the transfer values has been a major issue, partially overcome by using dual currency, USD, and the Lebanese pound.

The project is assisting the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) through the establishment of a steering and technical committees, training of 700 field staff on various data collection tools, monitoring, gender, and protection issues, among others. **Changes at organisational and institutional level** will depend on the time available to continue with the technical assistance to MoSA. One additional challenge the project is facing is the absence of institutionalisation of social protection into the Ministry, which is beyond the capacity of WFP's action. It is expected to make some improvements of the capacity strengthening once the Social Protection Strategy is enacted. The ROM assessment also highlights the need of integrating the Emergency Social Safety Net Programme (ESSN) and NPTP into one social protection programme, something that requires more collaboration and synergies with the World Bank. Regarding the UNHCR multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), UNHCR meets WFP regularly on a

bilateral basis, while WFP meets MoSA and other donors in the framework of NPTP. Although WFP assesses this governance of the NTPT as **"well-functioning"**, MoSA sees it as fragmented. These differing opinions on the NTPT governance and the lack of links between NPTP and MPCA, shows, according to the ROM report, that the overall governance structure of the action is unclear, and lacks a strategic vision. The underlying challenge, added by the report, is the lack of a solid social protection governance structure in Lebanon. A unified registry, a grievance mechanism and strengthened SDCs are quoted as next key steps needed.

Regarding **national policy and regulatory changes**, although a stronger legal framework and national budget allocations would be ideal for the institutionalisation of the programme, this is beyond the project's control. NPTP lacks legal basis within MoSA, and it is not institutionalised within the Ministry's structures and policies yet. Nevertheless, the ROM report sees some potential to build from the technical assistance results. There are some expectations with the adoption of the Social Protection Strategy and the enactment of a social protection law to better integrate programmes, such as the NPTP. However, the Lebanese government does not have financial resources, apart from the Trust Fund and other donors supporting the NPTP, or a World Bank's loan funding the ESSN. Despite this, the government

has allocated US\$ 10 million to *“widen the scope of safety nets for Lebanese citizens”*, something that NPTP and ESSN have contributed to. Another difficulty is that the government has not expressed any intention to fund cash support to non-Lebanese residing in the country. At national level, the lack of a strategic approach *“to achieve greater complementarity with other partners, a better governance structure and appropriate policy dialogue with the government”* still needs to be addressed.

LIVELIHOODS OUTCOMES IN TÜRKIYE

The project *“employment creation through improved access to finance for Syrians under Temporary Protection and Host Communities DAHIL, Greater Gaziantep Initiative (DAHIL, T04.270)”*, implemented by SPARK, aims at contributing to employment creation among Syrian refugees and vulnerable Turkish community members, in four provinces Adana, Gaziantep, Hatay and Sanliurfa. According to the last ROM report (06/23), the *“high quality of the outputs has improved the effectiveness due to the collaboration with the appropriate, dedicated and supportive partners”*, despite the impact of the earthquake and the need to readjust the project. The

ROM assessment highlighted some achievements at **individual level**, such as 733 beneficiaries receiving support through business skill training, seed fund and capacity building. Improved financial awareness has been reported in the case of 379 beneficiaries (94% of the target). The original targets on jobs have been downgraded due to the earthquake impact. The ROM suggests that *“the impact prospects on developing entrepreneurship of the Syrians which would eventually lead to promoting job opportunities are likely to be achieved mainly because of the distinctive access to the Syrians at the local level, (...) and less likely to develop a direct link to producing job opportunities by having direct access to finance”*. Individual beneficiaries have been able to access finance -around 50% of the original target, later reduced- since there was no structured mechanism to facilitate financial support. However, the later established emergency fund for the recovery of businesses would have contributed to the establishment of 19 new MSME (of 30, later reduced to 15). Success stories in the sectors of honey production, coffee shops, groceries and air conditioning services have been evidenced.

The capacity building component has produced remarkable results, according to the ROM report, prior to the earthquake. In terms of local



organisational and institutional changes, the establishment of Syrian desks promoting more than 360 Syrian MSME to register at that time has exceeded expectations defined in a target of 30 MSMEs. The four chambers have been strengthened with project support: Adana, Gaziantep, Hatay and Sanliurfa. After the earthquake, the Hatay Chamber had been negatively impacted in terms of infrastructure and personnel, which led to two Regional Recovery and Development Centres (RRDCs) being included in the project. The RRDCs are established under the roof of the Adana and Gaziantep Chambers of Commerce to support MSME in the region, and the Chambers. A grant scheme has also helped MSME to re-establish their businesses. In the final report, it is highlighted that SPARK *“managed to gather all parties of the business ecosystem in the target provinces and establish synergies*

and cooperation among them”. The report adds that *“communication (has been created) between all parties in their whole supply chain system and catalyse the partnership of Syrian under Temporary Protection (SuTP) and host community owned MSMEs”*. There were no specific actions conceived by the project to **change national policy or the regulatory framework** in its original or ulterior design.