

# LIVELIHOODS



## CONTEXT:

The 'EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis' (EUTF) -herein 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, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable host community members, as well as  
.....
3. **Support** to Micro, Small and Medium **Enterprises** (MSMEs).

## LIVELIHOODS

To date, **EUTF has promoted different livelihoods strategies**, including training, job creation, cash for work (CfW), cash transfers and MSME support, through more than **60 actions and 35 lead implementing partners**. **All these actions include livelihoods as part of their main strategy or link a livelihoods component** to higher education, WASH, protection or social cohesion in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and, to a lesser extent, Egypt, Western Balkans, or Armenia. Partners, such as ACTED, the French Agency for Development (AFD), the Austrian Red Cross, Danish Refugee Council, Euromed Feminist Initiative (EFI), FAO, GIZ, ILO, the ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Denmark, Oxfam, Save the Children, SPARK, TOBB, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNRWA, UN Women, VNG International and the World Food Programme (WFP) are contributing to access more livelihoods opportunities.



While most projects include employability related 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) or MSME training and funding (Austrian Red Cross, EFI, ILO, Oxfam, UNDP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark). At individual level,

**all projects aim at improving the economic situation of refugees, IDPs, and vulnerable host communities. Some also include institutional strengthening goals** (e.g., FAO, ILO/UNICEF, Oxfam, UNDP), **while fewer actions aim at legislative and policy changes** (e.g., Oxfam, ILO, UN WOMEN) to facilitate access to labour markets and related social security benefits.

Currently, **14 projects that promote livelihood strategies** or include livelihood components are still being implemented in:

**LEBANON:**

**UNICEF:** T04.143 and T04.257, **WFP:** T04.153; **ACTED:** T04.272; and **UNICEF/ILO:** T04.292

**JORDAN:**

**EBRD:** T04.92; **KFW:** T04.112; **GIZ:** T04.208; **GJU:** T04.215; **ILO/UNICEF:** T04.235; **UN Women:** T04.249

**TÜRKIYE:**

**KFW:** T04.112; **EIB:** T04.155; **FAO:** T04.187

The following key performance indicators (KPIs) are part of the EUTF Results Framework ([https://ec.europa.eu/trustfund-syria-region/monitoring-evaluation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/trustfund-syria-region/monitoring-evaluation_en)). In terms of **KPIs**, aggregated targets have been achieved or exceeded for work opportunities promotion (KPI 8), employability training (KPI 9) and MSME supported (KPI 10), while achievement in the case of cash assistance has reached 91%.

At **project level** the following ongoing projects have potential to increase delivery of results: T04.153 (WFP), on cash assistance (62%); T04.92 (EBRD), on work opportunities promoted (55%); T04.215 (GJU), on youth employment after higher and vocational educational (to be measured at the end of the project) or teacher training (28%); and T04.235 (ILO/UNICEF) on employability training (25%) and job placements (30%).





In all Figures the difference between total figures and the sum of disaggregated ones is due to a residual amount that hasn't been broken down by sex or community of origin at the source. This applies to all indicators where disaggregation is not fully available.



CUT OFF DATE: **JUNE 2024** / 41 CONTRIBUTORS / 5 COUNTRIES

**08.**

Number of work opportunities promoted by EUTF



**79,910**  
Aggregated current value  
**70,248**  
Target

IMPROVED EMPLOYABILITY PROSPECTS FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES

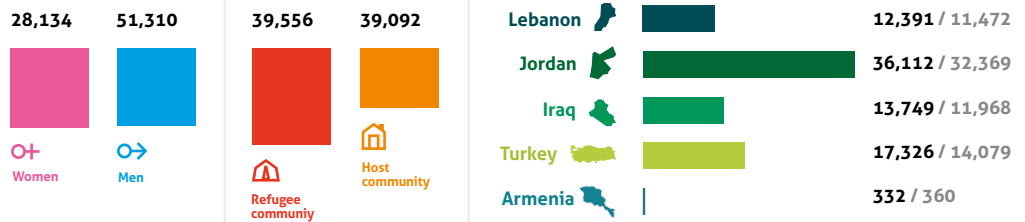


Figure 1.



CUT OFF DATE: **JUNE 2024** / 45 CONTRIBUTORS / 6 COUNTRIES

**09.**

Number of Syrian refugees and host communities participating in employability, vocational and entrepreneurial skills training programme.



**258,080**  
Aggregated current value  
**229,883**  
Target

IMPROVED EMPLOYABILITY PROSPECTS FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES

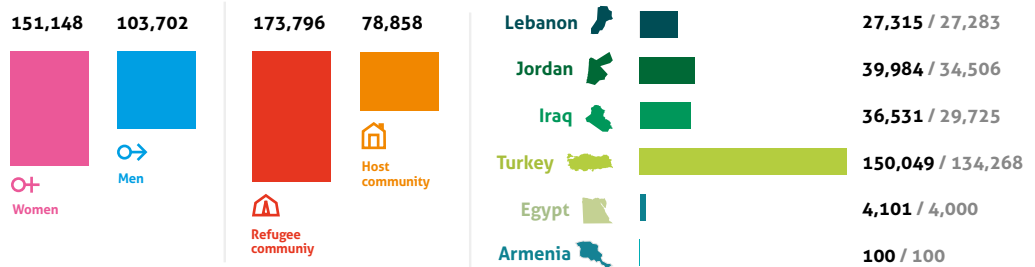


Figure 2.

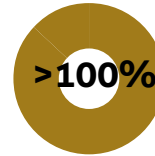


STRENGTHENED  
PRODUCTIVE  
CAPACITIES OF TARGET  
GROUPS

**10.**

Number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises supported with coaching and training.

CUT OFF DATE: **JUNE 2024** / 20 CONTRIBUTORS / 5 COUNTRIES



**12,800**  
Aggregated current value  
**9,706**  
Target



Figure 3.

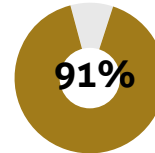


INCREASED FINANCIAL  
CAPACITY OF SYRIAN  
REFUGEES

**11.**

Number of people receiving cash assistance (and/or food vouchers) from EUTF.

CUT OFF DATE: **JUNE 2024** / 20 CONTRIBUTORS / 6 COUNTRIES



**1,253,616**  
Aggregated current value  
**1,381,002**  
Target

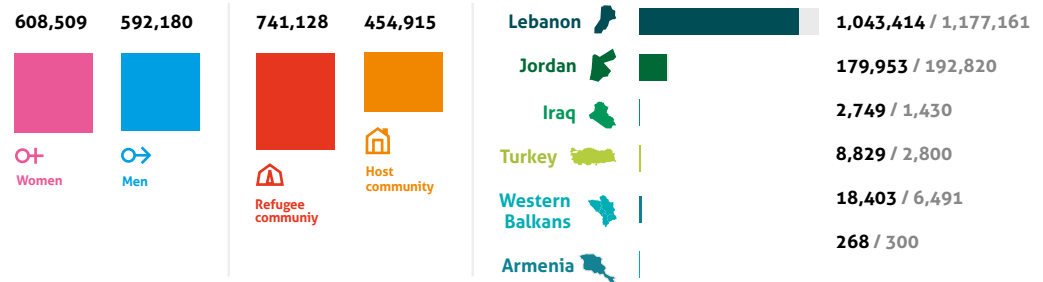


Figure 4.



## LIVELIHOOD OUTCOMES IN LEBANON

### *FAO: Enhancing resilient livelihoods and food security of host communities and Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon through the promotion of sustainable agricultural development (T04.149) – completed.*

The agricultural project promoted by FAO aimed at improving the livelihoods and food security of vulnerable agriculture-based host communities and Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan through three main pillars:

1. agriculture production support systems for vulnerable farm communities to apply good agriculture practices;
2. Institutional ability to develop and enhance capacity of host and refugee's communities;
3. Increased productive capacities of vulnerable host farmers and/ or home-based micro and group-based small scale agri-food enterprises and job opportunities in the agricultural sector created.

The most recent **ROM assessment (04/24) of the Lebanon component** underlined that due to lack of reported data on the outcome indicators -food consumption score and increased agricultural income- the expected aims have been only partially achieved. This is also related to the fact that not all outputs have been achieved to the extent expected. Looking at **individual behavioural changes**, and according to the estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the registration of the farmers in the farmer registry has reached approximately 30% of 46,000 farmers (80% was planned). More than 4,900 farmers from Akkar and North Bekaa, areas with high poverty prevalence, have received 300 USD in-kind vouchers in phase 1 and 300 USD cash vouchers in phase 2. These vouchers, of which

90% were redeemed, allowed farmers to pay for fuel, seeds, irrigation, and other agricultural needs, contributing to the dairy, poultry, fruits, and grain production. The ROM assessment also shows that 55% of the assisting labour was provided by Syrian refugees, that 48% of farmers improved production, 50%, improved quality, 38% increased income and 16% could hire seasonal workers.

Most of farmers, according to the ROM report, improved productivity, too. Additionally, more than 800 grants have been awarded, but farmers stated that it was not enough to cover all of the planned investment costs. The ROM report found that grants have facilitated the so called “reversed urban migration”, but, due to worsening pay conditions in other sectors, it also led to increased debt of individual farmers. Due to increasing tensions, the CfW component has exclusively benefited Lebanese people, while 700 Syrians had only access to forestry activities. All acknowledged short-term financial benefits and access to skills, such as pruning, irrigation and greenhouse installation. Farmers also reported improved access to water, i.e., after irrigation canals have been refurbished as part of the CfW component.

Due to the establishment of the farmers registry, **changes in organisational and institutional decisions** are evident. The registry has demonstrated that its targeting module has been effective to identify beneficiaries to implement the MoA's Wheat Subsidy Programme. The ROM assessment highlights that the second round of in-kind voucher beneficiaries was drawn from the farmer registry. The Ministry of Labour has made registration mandatory “when seeking permits for migrant labour as well as some other licenses, and to participate in initiatives”. This might contribute to the institutionalisation of the registry and to the promotion of its long-term use, despite the financial challenges. Some development partners are also discussing how to use the targeting module to identify beneficiaries for their projects. The ROM report details further positive effect of the project in respect of the refurbished agricultural extension centres (30% of the total



planned). The installation of photovoltaic systems in those centres, initially conceived to facilitate registration, is now allowing additional delivery of services, due to savings in electricity. Another set of results relate to the forestry and CfW component, which contributed to 150 hectares of forest land preservation in the Wadi Al Hujer Nature Reserve in Southern Lebanon. The installation of benches and maintenance works conducted along the trail have also contributed to improving eco-tourism and recreation related income. According to the ROM assessment, the North Lebanon Water Establishment has also reported increased collection rates (from 15% to 47%) due to increased customer satisfaction. Trained extension staff has been also approached by other stakeholders to deliver further training sessions on fertilisation, irrigation, integrated pest management, irrigation, or orchard management.

At **national level**, the project delivered improvements at the existing extension centres and established 40 registration centres. Although the sustainability of the national registry is ensured for two years, it is not certain to what extent registration will increase in the current context of the conflict, financial and economic crises. The national farmers registry has shown potential to target vulnerable farmers and identify beneficiaries for other programmes. However, national authorities, such as the MoA, the Ministry of Environment, or of Labour, continue to rely on external development partners to provide basic services. The registry still needs to increase its registration numbers to be effective.

## LIVELIHOOD OUTCOMES IN JORDAN

***FAO:** Enhancing resilient livelihoods and food security of host communities and Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon through the promotion of sustainable agricultural development (T04.149) – completed.*

The FAO led project was also recently monitored in Jordan. The **ROM assessment** (09/24) has been positive and confirms achievement of all four outputs that lead to increased livelihoods and food security. According to the most recent QIN (03/24), 27% of the 4,500 supported households increased (agricultural) income, exceeding the 20%-target, and this includes Syrians and Jordanian families.

In terms of **individual behavioural changes**, access to additional income sources is one of

the most important ones for farmers to improve living conditions. As of March 2024, 65% of the beneficiaries (Syrian refugees) of this component had actively engaged in the micro-business component, for example, using the training and seed capital to set up a micro-business. An example of an unplanned positive outcome of the CfW component is the inclusion of women participating in the rangeland rehabilitation activities. Access to finance for Syrian refugees through the e-wallets is also highlighted as a key unplanned outcome since they do not have access to bank accounts. Regarding access to jobs as part of the CfW activities, refugees at Zaatari camp, albeit disappointed with the short duration of the assignments, “valued the skills, the improved environment and employment opportunities” and see the long-term benefits. They also shared they “were able to pay debts and meet household needs”.

In addition, the project supported farmers, who had training through the Farmers Field School (FFS) and Farmer Business School (FBS), received grants for equipment and have been able to



increase their productive capacity. The ROM report also mentions improved food security, livelihoods, and dietary diversity. Beneficiaries of the FFS and the micro-business start-ups *"have reported income increases between 26% and 93%"* after having participated in the project activities. The targeting module of the farmer registry allows the identification of beneficiaries for social assistance and eventually for other assistance programmes. This has facilitated the project and the MoA to target the most vulnerable farmers so that they *"improved temporarily their individual livelihoods"*. A limited *"cohesion study"*, undertaken by World Food Programme (WFP), suggests that social cohesion has increased through the participatory processes used in the community initiatives. Some of the participants in the CfW component also say that *"work teams provided an opportunity to meet new people and build new friendships where Syrians and Jordanians may socialise together"*.

**Local changes** can be enumerated as part of the infrastructure improvements in plant nurseries, canal cleaning and lining or gabions to prevent landslides during heavy rains. Other examples of local changes include the rehabilitated rangeland and forests whereby CfW workers achieved rehabilitating 1,847 hectares across four governorates. The ROM report suggests there might be further outcomes at a later stage after these investments in forests and rangeland, e.g., reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, soil erosion prevention and/or air quality improvements. New local practices might also emerge after the transfer of skills in composting and seedling production to the CfW workers. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is looking at possible ways of replicating this approach. The training in FFS has exceeded targets and attracted community-based organisations to participate which in turn may result in additional development of institutional capacities.

Changes at **national level** are highlighted as part of the institutional training of MoA's national staff to use the farmer registry (which registered 47% of the farmers, 70% was planned) and extension officers at the governorate level in the FFS and FBS methodologies. The staff highlighted the effectiveness of these approaches to increase

productivity. These methods are now embedded in the Ministry and the infrastructure upgrades of MoA centres will also enable a continuation of delivering FFS and FBS training. The ROM assessment evidenced that some development partners have used the targeting module of the farmer registry to select beneficiaries. In addition, the capacities of the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship (MoDEE) have been strengthened to be able to assist in the maintenance and management of the farmer registry. Furthermore, FAO's joint research with the National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC) on the use of organic waste for crop production will continue. The Jordanian government is assessing the extension of the pilot project, and its legislative framework needs for a broader implementation.

---

### **UNESCO: Support to Livelihoods through Cultural Heritage Development (T04.185) in Jordan – completed.**

This UNESCO led project aimed at 1) improving self-reliance through access to immediate short-term decent employment opportunities for Syrians and Jordanians in the cultural heritage sector in the Northern Governorates of Jordan; and 2) setting the basis for an enabling environment for entrepreneurship development in the cultural heritage sector. The recent **ROM assessment (09/24)** highlights that, despite the project having exceeded the planned target for short-term employment generation (objective 1), the development of an enabling environment in the cultural heritage sector beyond the project is not evident. The project, therefore, has only partially met its goals.

The project in Jordan helped to create 1,305 (102% of the target) short-term jobs in the cultural heritage sector, with an average contract duration of 79.4 days. Access to these jobs is one of the main changes at **individual level**. The project used an Employment Intensive scheme. The quality and duration of the jobs were highly



praised, as was the project itself and the working conditions, by the interviewed CfW participants. However, one of the frustrations raised was that there were no plans to ensure access to jobs beyond the project duration. From the interviewed unskilled or low skilled workers, only one admitted having found a job after the completion of the CfW scheme. Regarding the 55 high-skilled workers who received specialised training in cultural heritage, half of the 32 interviewees had found a related job within 6 to 12 months of completing the training.

In terms of **local changes**, the ROM report does not show any evidence. However, it does highlight the choice of the two international NGOs that have extensive experience with CfW and the local technical partners with strong expertise in maintenance and restoration of targeted sites. In addition, the report notes that, with regard to the promotion of a cultural resources management (CRM) market, only two training sessions were undertaken, so that institutional outcomes were not recorded at the time of the ROM assessment. Furthermore, the redesign of some outputs, such as the Public Private Partnership (PPP) pilot project was undertaken at a later stage and, therefore, could not be implemented.

The eventual effects of the improved local sites are not considered by the ROM report. Nevertheless, the ROM assessment recommends using the PPP project proposal -drafted under the project- to mobilise additional resources and promote linkages between the community around the cultural sites, entrepreneurial and touristic activities to create jobs and contribute to the local economy. The initially expected work on tourism development was not successful, due to design weaknesses and different expectations among project stakeholders. The site maintenance tourism development plans were elaborated but never completed, and they included *"the rehabilitation of trails, the installation of shelters to safeguard vulnerable areas of the sites from climate-related events, the establishment of restoration zones for tourists, and the placement of billboards"*. These expected activities could not be implemented through CfW, so that those plans have not been used by project partners. As a result of the project, new working relationships have been established. AVSI is now partnering with Turath

Architecture and Urban Design Consultancy -a project stakeholder- for a new project funded by the Italian government in Rihab.

The project design did not include any outcomes at the level of **national policy, strategy, or regulatory level**. Furthermore, the project was not embedded in national institutional structures and *modus operandi*. Although the Department of Antiquities (DoA), responsible to maintain cultural heritage in the country has been highly committed and engaged with the project, the CfW approach is not aligned with its mandate or with its way of operation. The hiring of workers to maintain cultural heritage sites, for example, is undertaken by municipalities in agreement with the DoA through Ella Markezia, the administrative decentralisation authority that is not allowed to hire non-Jordanians. Additionally, the allocation awarded to DoA by the government to maintain cultural heritage sites is insufficient, with no margin to complement investment. The Ministry of Tourism, also one of the project stakeholders does not have the social mission of CfW approaches nor the experience with it either. Apart from the lack of investment funding, there are additional barriers for these two institutions to intervene the way the project proposed: **1.** The Jordanian government does not hire non-Jordanians in general, and it is very rare in the particular cultural heritage sector; and **2.** local legislation does not foresee any regulations for PPP initiatives. The ROM report includes one positive exception where the beneficiaries of the training on cultural heritage conservation have become part of recruitment database of the training provider the DoA regularly uses for maintenance works.





## LIVELIHOOD OUTCOMES IN TÜRKIYE



### *FAO: Building Resilience of Syrians under Temporary Protection and Host Communities in Turkey through Supporting Socio-Economic Integration and Creating Livelihood Opportunities (T04.187)*

This FAO led project aims at improving self-reliance of livelihoods for vulnerable Syrians under temporary protection (SuTP) International Protection Applicants and Status Holders (IPASH), and host communities living in the target provinces. The two main components refer to agri-food vocational skills improvement, and job promotion, which includes formal employability enhancement in the agricultural sector and creation of short-term seasonal jobs.

The most recent **ROM report (07/24)**, which included within its data source interviews with some of the beneficiaries, concluded that the project *“has been mostly successful in achieving its outcome in terms of quantity-based outputs delivered, and in terms of quality”*. However, the ongoing final evaluation will be able to determine the achievement in terms of the perception of people about their family economic situation” based on a broader sample.

At an **individual level**, the project has strengthened the capacity to increase agricultural production of more than 2,900 small producers, 27% of SuTP and 30% women through 60 vocational training (including Turkish), and 60 Farmer Field School (FFS) training sessions in 10 provinces. According to the ROM report, the farmers perceive *“they have increased their employability”*, but only those taking vocational training received *“authorised certificates of the Public Education Centres of the Ministry of*

*National Education for Lifelong Learning, which is a countrywide valid document evidencing their agri-food and Turkish language skills to enter the agriculture labour market”*. They all reported satisfaction with *“the working conditions, payments, and social security within their six months work under CfW+ at universities, municipalities, and cooperatives”*. Surveyed FFS participants revealed that, after the training, they increased crop production by 21% -exceeding the target of 20%, and agri-food production, for example, in fruit and olive production (in Yayladağı and Altınözü, Hatay) or dairy, tomato and fishery products (in Catak and Gevas). Selected farmers also report the application of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Climate Sensitive Agriculture (CSAs). Some also reported the creation of micro-businesses and increased earnings, after accessing FFS. Furthermore, some of these farmers are hiring SuTP farmers as seasonal workers.

The project has exceeded the quantitative targets of creating jobs -1,344 in total (compared to the 1,200 target), which includes 57% of women and 39% of SuTP. Regarding formal employment, the achievement was below target at 88% given certain challenges related to work permits and exemptions resulting in access to formal jobs being more limited. In terms of short-term jobs, a total of 1,900 people (58% women, and 89% SuTP) -from an original 1,800 target- have gained access. Furthermore, 252 SuTP (44% women) were employed due to the grants awarded to the farmers and small agriculture and fishery businesses. In general, the ROM report highlights that interviewed farmers and seasonal workers improved their employability and earnings, although access to long term stable jobs remains very challenging, especially after the earthquake. The project, with a focus on supporting women led cooperatives, has positively enhanced women empowerment, according to the ROM assessment.

The ROM assessment underlines positive **changes in local organisations**, such as the cooperatives. Interviewed members of 3 of the 13 supported cooperatives confirm positive results after the



project support, such as increasing of members' income. Further positive effects are expected in the longer term, since some of them have recently received grants to acquire equipment and inputs to produce. The creation of the sales platform: [hepsiyerinden.coop](https://hepsiyerinden.coop) has been fundamental in helping cooperatives to increase their membership and sales. Nevertheless, it is still in the initial stages of operation and sustainability is not yet ensured. According to the report, *"the digital FFS platform [uygulamalificiftciokulu.org](https://uygulamalificiftciokulu.org) managed by Onder Ciftci Cooperative serves as a valuable source for farmer"* and will continue to provide services.

The support of municipalities, universities, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) and the District and Province Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry (DPoAF) are also mentioned as conditioning factors of the success. The DPoAFs will continue the FFS methodology to support farmers and cooperatives. The project has facilitated that DPoAFs have closer links to final beneficiaries having a *"better understanding of the geographic specific difficulties and needs"* of the local farmers. DPoAFs have improved the way they communicate with SuTPs, IPASH and vulnerable host communities regarding available support to improve livelihoods, and employment services, according to the ROM assessment.

The ROM report also includes an example of Altınözü municipality which worked with SuTP workers to develop community parks, although after the CfW scheme ended, due to regulations, were not able to hire them. In Yayladağı district, relations have improved between SuTPs and host communities and farmers, as well as with DPoAFs. The networking between 10 cooperatives to share experiences and promote their businesses has also been improved thanks to the project support. As a result of the awareness raising and collaboration between Turkish and SuTP farmers and workers, positive effects regarding social cohesion are mentioned in the ROM assessment, too, resulting in positive effects in the social fabric, and eventually, hindering social tensions.

Although the project did not include specific actions to promote **policy or regulatory changes**, the action has led to MoAF adopting *"the newly developed training curriculum for vocational trainings, the training methodologies and approaches, particularly considering GAP, CSA, hygiene production and packaging, as well as occupational health and safety"*. The action has been well-embedded into the governmental structures. The ROM assessment reports that the *"cooperation enhanced with the Directorate General of International Labour Force (DGILF) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS) has improved the capacity of DPoAFs to provide guidance to SuTPs and IPASH to obtain work permit exemptions"*. There is no policy intention to allocate budget of MoAF to specifically target employability of SuTPs and IPASHs. The only way is to access a work permit exemption to access ISKUR employment guidance. There is no new policy support to cooperatives, but there are already tax exemption or grants provided by MoAF to cooperatives.