



PROTECTION AND SOCIAL COHESION



In the protection sector, the Trust Fund promotes social services for children, women, and adults, such as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), gender-based violence related (GBV) services, as well as child protection services to asylum seekers. Moreover, the Trust Fund had funded a mine clearance action, implemented by MAG in Iraq. As part of the social cohesion activities, the Trust Fund has supported horizontal activities across sectors, such as peacebuilding activities, peer-to-peer information, outreach, information campaigns, and awareness sessions on various topics, including hygiene, environment, and protection.

Both thematic sectors aim at:

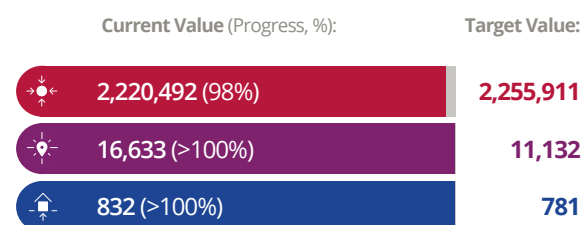
1. Improving access to psycho-social support services (and safe land);
2. Strengthening capacities to provide children, women, and adult protection services;
3. Improving infrastructure for refugees, migrants and IDPs, such as asylum centres;
4. Access to social cohesion activities;
5. Strengthened local capacities to provide those activities and services, and
6. Improved, refurbished or upgraded infrastructure to deliver those activities.

The Trust Fund has supported 32 actions in various sectors that have informed the selected protection-related indicators, through the work of 23 lead implementing partners, such as ACF, AFD, ASAM, AVSI, Austrian Red Cross (AuRC), Danish Red Cross

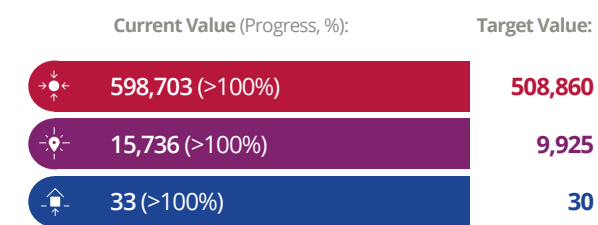
(DRC), EFI, GJU, GIZ, the Italian Agency for International Cooperation (AICS), IOM, MAG, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, MoLEVSA, Medair, SPARK, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women, WHO and World Vision. Five projects with protection goals and/or components



SOCIAL COHESION PRIORITY SECTOR OUTPUTS



PROTECTION PRIORITY SECTOR OUTPUTS



Access to services Local capacity Local infrastructure

Protection disaggregated results

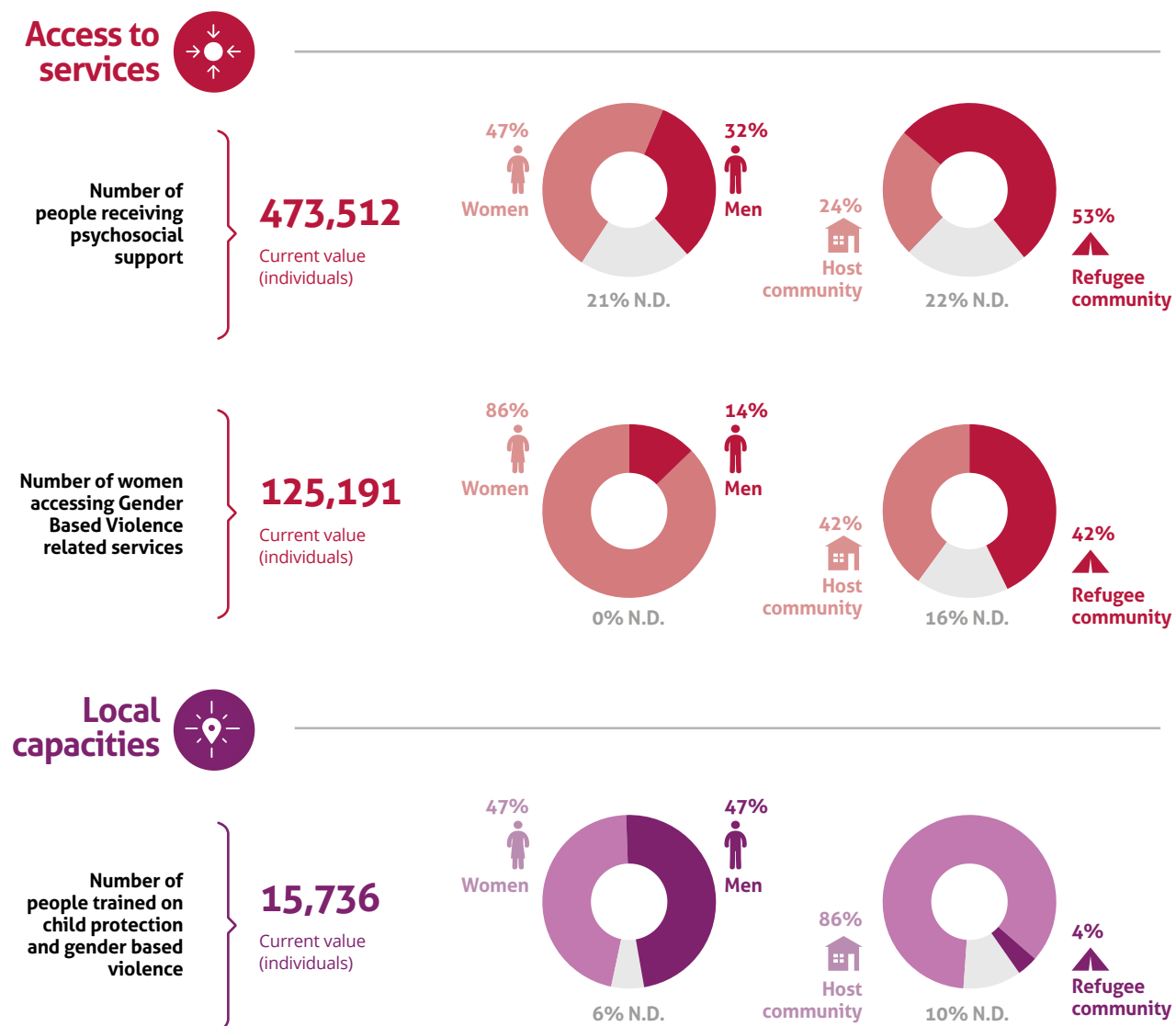


Figure 13: Trust Fund: Protection related results disaggregated by sex and community of origin (as of 31/03/2024)
*N.D.: Not disaggregated.

are still being implemented, although one of these in Iraq already closed the operational phase.¹⁶ The focus in this sector remains improved access, capacities, and governance of social services in Jordan and Lebanon. Targets have not changed since most actions have closed their operational phase. Progress has continued in terms of **output delivery in the protection sector**. Aggregated planned targets have been exceeded for all outputs, including **access to psychosocial support and GBV services, local capacities' strengthening and improvements in asylum facilities**. At **project level**, there are two actions showing some scope for improvement regarding access to psychosocial services in Lebanon (T04.253) and training in child protection and GBV (T04.306) in Jordan.

Overall, women (Figure 13) continue to access psychosocial support and GBV related services to a larger extent than men. Refugee communities are largely accessing more psychosocial support, than IDPs and host communities, while there is not a significant difference regarding GBV services access by community of origin. Capacity building on child protection and GBV has similarly reached women and men, largely from host communities.

Social cohesion activities are included in more than **70 actions** across all sectors **through a wide number of lead implementing partners**, such as: ASAM, AFD, AISPO, ASAM, ARC, AVSI, DAAD, DRC, EFI, GIZ, GJU, GVC, ILO, Medair, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MoFA), AICS, Oxfam, UNDP, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN Women, VNG International, WHO, WFP and World Vision. Currently, 24 actions are continuing implementing social cohesion related activities across sectors and in all countries. Progress in terms of **output delivery for social cohesion indicators** continues to be satisfactory. For peer- to-peer activities, the delivery of capacity building, and strengthened municipalities with new services and infrastructure, targets have been exceeded. For the KPI on awareness campaigns and on refurbished community centres, output delivery continues to be high (83% and 88%, respectively). At **project level**, there is some room to improve achievement of targets in training of public servants and local organisations in Jordan (T04.292 and T04.202) and Lebanon (T04.253). Infrastructure improvements in SDCs in Jordan (T04.253) need to be delivered, as well as outreach campaigns in Jordan (T04.235) and Lebanon (T04.253, T04.272, T04.296).

→ 16. Projects are currently being implemented in: Lebanon (AICS: T04.253), Jordan (GJU: T04.215, UN Women: T04.249, AECID: T04.306), and Iraq (SPARK: T04.218). T04.218 has closed their operational phase since March 2024.

Social Cohesion disaggregated results

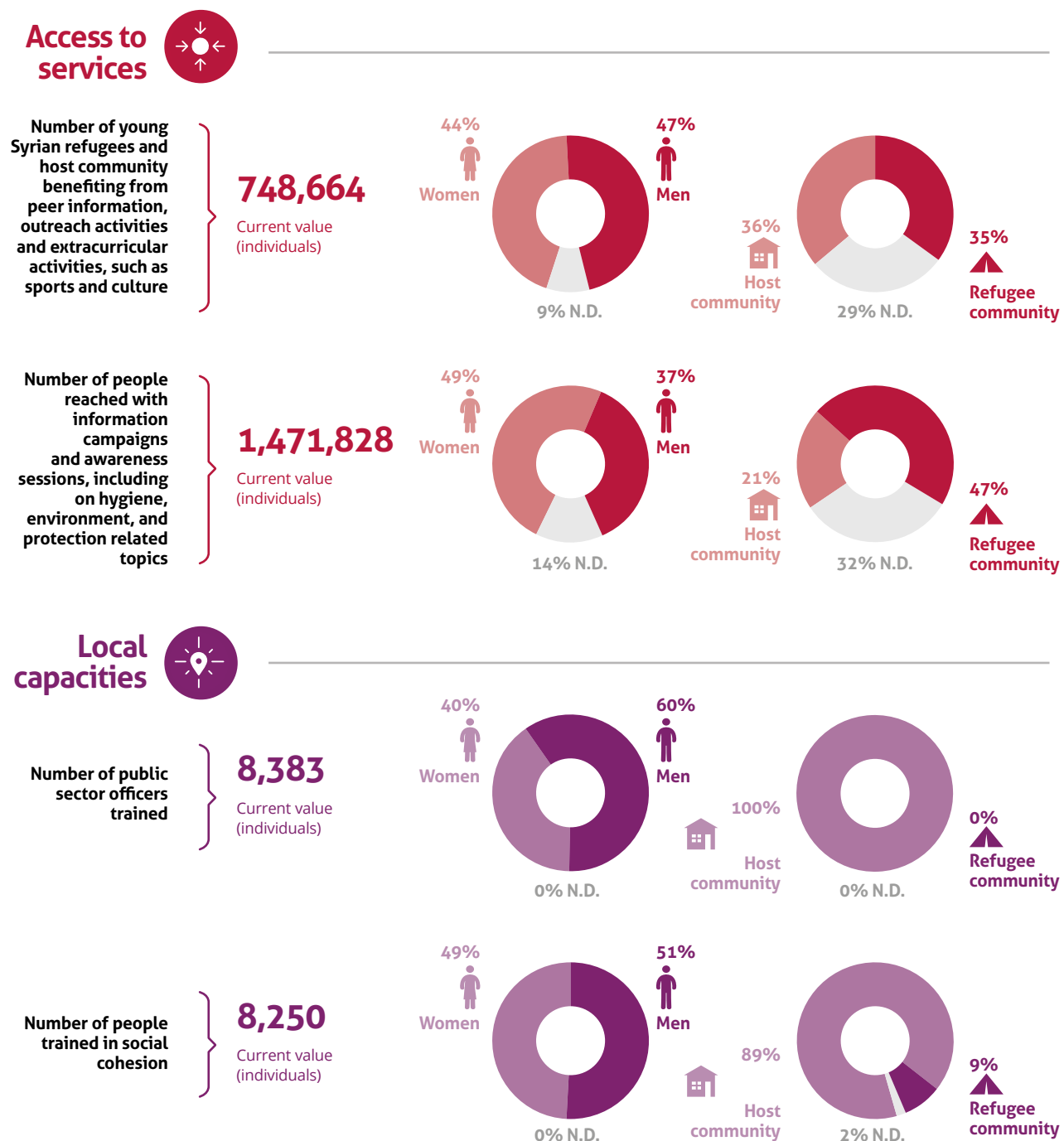


Figure 14: Trust Fund: Social Cohesion results disaggregated by sex and community of origin (as of 31/03/2024)
*N.D.: Not disaggregated.

While women (Figure 14) continue to have more access to general outreach activities, men are slightly above in terms of peer-to-peer information and other extracurricular activities. Regarding capacity building, men have accessed training to a larger extent as public sector officers. Training on social cohesion topics has reached women and men to a similar extent. Refugees show higher exposure to general awareness campaigns, while peer-to-peer activities has reached both communities to a similar extent. Host communities are the ones largely accessing capacity building for public servants and officers in local organisations.

PROTECTION AND SOCIAL COHESION OUTCOMES IN LEBANON

The project "addressing life-cycle vulnerabilities through social protection establishing social grants in Lebanon" (T04.292), implemented by ILO and UNICEF, aims at widening coverage of social protection in the country, strengthening the social protection system; providing social grants and referrals to complementary services and enhancing the engagement with non-governmental stakeholders in the social protection strategy debate. The most recent ROM (11/23) had highlighted the finalisation of the design of three social grants (outcome

2) and the overachievement regarding the engagement in national platforms and debate on social protection reforms (outcome 3). Delays have been preventing a faster pace in progressing on the approval of the National Social Protection Strategy (outcome 1), the main pillar to strengthen the social protection system.

Regarding changes at individual level, although it is early to evidence the impact of the National Disability Allowance (NDA) -one of the approved social grants- on access to services and wellbeing of people with disabilities, the ROM report quotes some "preliminary findings that show that the NDA is perceived as valuable financial relief and psychological wellbeing". Beneficiaries also say that it "fosters independence and reduces family burdens and they use the funds to buy mainly medicine or spare parts/maintenance for their special devices". Apart from the economic positive effects, the psychological ones are highlighted by the report after having received 12 months of NDA support. The recent QIN reports that more than 27,000 people (33% women, 54% refugees), exceeding the planned target, have benefitted from the NDA with the Trust Fund support. Syrian refugees have also benefitted from the NDA in the same way as the Lebanese people with disabilities. In the case of the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS), the government continues to insist on benefitting only Lebanese citizens, although it mentions the need to generate



synergies with the UN Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2023. Regarding the gender sensitive approach, the project is trying to use to address women's concerns in the NSPS, and if successful, the strategy could enhance assistance to mothers and mitigate gender violence.

In terms of **organisational and institutional changes**, it is worth mentioning that the NDA has been designed to reach refugees and host communities, young and older people. A referral mechanism has been established by UNICEF, and the Rights and Access (R&A) centres' operations have been enhanced. This has contributed to a positive working environment and staff morale, and therefore, to better services. Information systems are now strengthened and a Social Protection Partners Forum

(SPPF), a non-governmental platform co-chaired by UNICEF/ ILO, the EU, and the World Bank, is working on a regular basis engaging with the highest level of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). Organisations from people with disability are engaging in consultations and other civil society organisations and think tanks are involved in the national debate on social policy reform, too. Gradual steps have been introduced to promote coordination, according to the ROM, and this has been crucial in a difficult country context.

Regarding the **national, policy and/or regulatory level**, the ROM report underlines that the *“existing NDA model (is) extending benefits to the most vulnerable people with disabilities aiming for their empowerment beyond financial aid, (is) particularly crucial for the 80% of people with disabilities*

who are outside the labour market”. The report states clear impact prospects at policy level, where advocacy has resulted in the development and approval of the NSPS and the design of the NDA, the child social grant (CSG) and the pension grant. Apart from improved internal capacities of the MoSA, it is reported that the *“overall national social protection vision from social safety nets to one based on life-cycle vulnerabilities and risks”*.

The project *“Integrated Social Services Provision (ISOSEP) to Lebanese and Syrian Refugee Communities in Lebanon” (T04.253)*, implemented by **AICS**, intends to address the social service needs of vulnerable communities by enhancing the institutional capacities and systems of MoSA at both central and local levels, i.e., of Social Development Centres (SDCs) and civil society partners of MoSA. The most recent **ROM report (08/23)** had acknowledged severe delays, due to a temporary suspension of activities -from October 2022 to March 2023- to reassess the project. At **individual level**, improved social primary services, provided by SDCs and NGOs, are expected for 15,000 users, however service delivery cannot be measured yet due to delays in various interventions, such as personnel training, infrastructure, and process improvements.

The emphasis of the project is on **institutional and organisational improvements** at the level of MoSA centrally and locally, through SDCs and

local NGOs. To date, 29 (from 32 selected) SDCs have been assessed to define institutional needs. The final number of SDCs with improved infrastructure is not yet measured. Centrally, it has been decided that the central server of MoSA will be upgraded, too. The Social Information System (SiS) E-networking system is updated and includes 32 SDCs. Training of 46 officers from the SDCs was provided, according to the most recent QIN. Furthermore, to improve the integration of social services in the communities, and establish a referral system for secondary cases, a call for proposal for NGOs had been launched. The ROM report could not establish a clear assessment of effectiveness, due to the low degree of implementation. However, some finished procurement processes -from the SiS e-networking system, infrastructure rehabilitation and service provision, were suggested as signs of progress. In line with this, the new leadership in MoSA had designated a new focal point for the project in Beirut who is taking a proactive coordination role. Some directors of SDCs had also shared a positive outlook for the project's successful implementation. A positive factor here has been an agreement to offer per diems to cover SDC staff costs, such as transportation and food, since many of those professionals do not get any salary. There is still not much information available at progress toward outcome level achievements. The realisation of defined outcomes will also be dependent on the



cooperation between the NGOs and the effectiveness of the SIS e-networking system. Currently, the project does not include any measures to change **national policy or the regulatory framework**. It needs to be said that the political, economic, and social context is highly volatile and challenging for all public institutions and organisations.

The **Regional Development and Protection Programme, RDPP II, (T04.164)**, implemented by the **Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, aims at improving access to safe and sustainable livelihood opportunities for displacement-affected populations, in support of durable solutions; expanding protection space for vulnerable refugees and host communities and promoting a more conducive environment for durable

solutions. The recent **ex-post ROM mission (05/24)** highlights that the programme overall in Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq, **“achieved 70% of its outcomes successfully and the other 30% partially with 80% progress made, with most exceeding initial targets”**.

In Lebanon, it is reported that RDPP II has led to positive behavioural **changes at individual level**. While Syrian women and youth accessing grants and training, report increased sociability and personal growth thanks to the start of self-employment, parents and children participating in the 1001 Nights civic education programme, inform about improvements in **“intergroup relations between Lebanese and Syrian parents” and about “cooperation, confidence and performance at school”**, respectively.

Teachers also underline their enhanced teaching capacities with children from different backgrounds using participatory learning methodologies. Regarding the livelihood component, 744 jobs were created by partners and more than 1,300 people accessed livelihood opportunities. It is also included in the ROM report, for example, that 66% of the beneficiaries perceived improved household livelihood, exceeding the 40% target; and 56% of beneficiaries perceived ability to maintain comparable livelihoods in Syria exceeded the 20% target. Regarding the protection component, it is reported that targeted children were removed from child labour by 48%, exceeding the 40% target; and that there is a perceived sense of safety in communities improved by 60% of the sample, surpassing the 50% target. Additionally, 69% (surpassing the 40% target) of the displaced affected communities targeted by the project perceived **“change in the performance of local authorities and civil society actors’ response and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child labour”**.

On changes at the level of **local organisations and institutions**, RDPP II contributed to strategic shifts in local organisations’ interventions, according to the ROM assessment. It is highlighted that the capacity of national and local authorities and community-based organisations (CBOs) has been enhanced. Despite efforts from youth and women

have engaged with the community and municipalities to identify future interventions, the deteriorated social and economic environment led to prioritise delivery of public services before social cohesion measures at municipal level. In the livelihood sector, some NGOs have widened their portfolio and **“improved labour market analysis, identified emerging sectors, focused on decent work conditions and prioritised sustainability in the value chain examination”**.

There has been a difficult political, economic, and social context to advocate and influence changes at **national policy level** to improve protection, livelihoods, and durable solutions for the Syrian refugees. The ROM report acknowledges the **“restricted space for such activities”**. Despite efforts from RDPP II with 39 dialogues, 89 meetings to promote national and regional advocacy, and the establishment of the Durable Solutions Platform, producing high quality research, the achievements highlighted by the ROM assessment encompass three main actions. **“ABAAD has contributed to criminalising sexual harassment and revising the penal code, ALEF’s partner has supported the amendment of the marriage age law and OXFAM Ibis’s livelihood project empowered a network (“My Work, My Rights”) to advocate for workers’ rights, influencing policy makers’ opinions”**. The ROM report also mentions four policies and statements supporting refugees’ access to services that were



issued, but no impactful changes in government strategy followed. Regionally, the Platform of Durable Solutions contributed to exchanges across the region on child labour and livelihoods.

PROTECTION AND SOCIAL COHESION OUTCOMES IN JORDAN

Results of **RDPP II in Jordan** are compiled in a recent **ex-post ROM report (03/04)**. The report highlights that at **individual level**, 51% of the beneficiaries had reported increased access to income generating opportunities. Over 1,300 individuals accessed livelihood opportunities, while 790 jobs were created by RDPP partners in Jordan. Job related targets have been exceeded in sectors with future employment potential and improving work conditions. Regarding protection, 82% (40% target) of beneficiary displaced communities perceived change in the performance of local authorities and civil society actors' response and prevention of SGBV and child labour. The report also indicates empowering of women with financial assistance, training or MSME development support, addressing economic and protection issues in parallel, is positively affecting **"their self-confidence, decision-making and community engagement"**. Furthermore,

livelihood effects are also reported in the ROM assessment, and include 66% of beneficiaries perceiving improved household livelihood security, exceeding the 40% target; or 56% of beneficiaries perceiving ability to maintain comparable livelihoods in Syria, exceeding the 20% target. In terms of protection, targeted children were removed from child labour by 48%, exceeding the 40% target; and the perceived sense of safety in communities targeted by RDPP II improved by 60%, surpassing the 50% target.

On **changes at the level of local organisations and institutions**, the programme enhanced the capacity of over 500 actors in various competencies to strengthen social cohesion and address the protection concerns of vulnerable communities. A livelihood learning study highlights effects of the job creation on improved networking between companies and changed perceptions of the private sector towards vulnerable groups. RDPP has also influenced the shifting from humanitarian to a development approach in the strategies of local organisations. It is interesting to highlight that the articulation of the institutional capacity development approach with the localisation principles **"have proved beneficial for both direct partners and sub-partners or beneficiaries of the RDPP in Jordan"**. A strong ownership in all levels of intervention has helped to strengthen the social and institutional fabric that partially continues with RDPP III's support.

In terms of **changes in national institutions at policy and regulatory level**, the ROM assessment, also underlining the narrow space for research and advocacy, RDPP II has **"influenced some government policies, such as adding the offense of 'begging' in anti-trafficking laws, and forbidding child labour in the agriculture sector regulations, through advocacy efforts partially supported by the programme"**. It is also mentioned that the government of Jordan implemented some measures to facilitate Syrian refugees' access to the labour market, such as waiving fees for work permits, operate home-based businesses or simplify administrative requirements. Furthermore, according to the Ministry of Youth that lacked experience working on SGBV, RDPP **"(was crucial) on women's rights awareness in conservative areas and was considered a best practice to support confidence building"**. RDPP II also supported the Ministry of Labour that **"led updates in the child labour strategy and the development of an annual action plan, enhancing coordination"** (of all implementing agencies). Some unintended positive effects are included in the ROM report, such as the NGO Tamkeen supporting the Ministry of Labour with equipment leading to an improved inspection system. ILO and GIZ built on this and have continued with a more integral capacity building approach..