

## OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-LBN\_D\_2.3

### **National authorities, private sector and CSOs are engaged in and actively support gender equality and women's economic empowerment and protection**

This outcome was achieved. Civil society organizations, private sector and national authorities actively supported women's economic empowerment and protection. Operationally, UN Women reached 13,322 people (11,202 direct and 2,120 indirect), addressing issues of food security and protection in Lebanon. Of these, 9,260 vulnerable women and girls in Lebanon – Lebanese, Syrians, Palestinians, and other nationalities, enhanced their skills, increased their income, and accessed protection services and goods. Of the 11,202 supported, 1,031 women (767 Lebanese, 217 Syrian, 46 Palestinian and one other nationality) increased their skills to help them enter the workforce, 471 women (268 Lebanese, 153 Syrian, 45 Palestinian, and 5 other nationalities) accessed the labor market. An estimated 2,120 family members of these women indirectly benefitted from increased income of the women workers. An endline survey of this work showed that 100% (target 80%) of women improved their self-confidence in work capabilities through participation in the programme and 98% felt that the programme improved their skills applicable to work opportunities. Of these, 100% increased their income security and, despite the challenging socio-economic environment in Lebanon, 27.13% percent found had employment opportunities at the end of the programme, exceeding the target of 15%. Twenty (20) women received vocational start-up kits to enable them to continue work after their training period. Through the opportunities generated through cash for work interventions, 2,319 people received 26,061 hot meals, 150 women in areas affected by the Beirut blast received PPE kits for COVID-19 prevention, and 150 women in Tripoli received hygiene kits that contained menstrual pads produced by women supported by UN Women. Furthermore, 7,001 women received protection services and increased awareness on GBV and PSEA through outreach. This was made possible through UN Women's partnerships with non-governmental organizations, and the mobilization of the private sector to support and engage in women's economic empowerment and protection. A survey showed that 99% of beneficiaries increased their sense of wellbeing at the end of the protection intervention as opposed to wellbeing at case intake. An estimated 1,047,388 women engaged with the GBV and PSEA awareness campaigning done through UN Women partner KAFA. Within the private sector, eighteen additional companies committed to gender equality practices in their companies by signing the WEPs, following training and support from UN Women, reaching a total of 38 WEPs signatories in Lebanon. UN Women support the WEPs signatories in revising their internal policies, this included Anti-Harassment as well as Diversity and Inclusion Policies. Institutionally, UN Women partnered with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) and the Ministry of Finance to support women's economic empowerment and protection. Five hundred and five (505) staff from MOSA working on the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP), Lebanon's largest social protection programme, have increased capacity on (1) gender equality and social inclusion; (2) gender-based violence (GBV) principles and concepts; and (3) safe identification and referral pathways of GBV cases, as a result of UN Women's support. This was achieved through trainings conducted jointly by UN Women and WFP. Overall, 98% of the attendees agreed that the training allowed them to gain new skills and knowledge in gender, social inclusion and GBV that will be useful to improve their work. There was also a significant increase in the average knowledge of attendees in gender and social inclusion, GBV, referrals and safety and security measures. While the average score earned by trainees in the pre-training evaluation ranged between 3.2 and 3.6 in these four indicators, it increased considerably to a range of 4.5 and 4.7 (out of 5), as reported in the post-training evaluation. Furthermore, national authorities and others use data generated by UN Women to advocate for gender-responsive

policies in the government. UN Women launched papers on gender-responsive taxation and gender-responsive procurement; UN Women published a gender analysis highlighting the voices of women in the agriculture and agri-food sectors and a legislative review of the legal framework governing women in these sectors. A study on sexual harassment and transportation in Tripoli was also completed and used in negotiations with the taxi syndicate in Tripoli around women's safe usage. These papers were produced to serve as advocacy tools that national authorities and others can use to promote gender-responsive policies.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-LBN\_D\_4.1

### **The Women, Peace and Security Agenda is implemented through an enabling environment that supports women's participation in conflict prevention**

This outcome was achieved. During 2022, government, the UN and civil society continued to implement the NAP 1325, generating important results for Lebanon. With the NAP ending in 2023, it is estimated by the National Commission for Lebanese Women that 90% of interventions in the 1325 NAP that have been implemented or are on track (75 % implemented and 15 % on track). In achieving this, UN Women supported the NCLW to roll out NAP implementation, coordination and monitoring structures, while directly implementing elements of the NAP, including creating a national mediation platform and implementing mediation, dialogue and peacebuilding actions at the national and community level. Through UN Women support, eighteen Lebanese women peacebuilders and mediators strengthened their efforts to address conflict and promote dialogue and reconciliation at the community level – leading cross community dialogues on the past. 260 women from across Lebanon conducted more than 20 mediation and peacebuilding actions at community level on de-escalating conflict and dealing with the past. Targeted women mediators and peacebuilders report improved levels of tolerance and acceptance amongst each other, upgraded skills, and a stronger commitment to promoting peace and reconciliation in their communities. UN Women, in partnership with the Government of Switzerland, established a women's national peacebuilding network in Lebanon – a commitment under Lebanon's National Action Plan 2019–2023 on UNSCR 1325. The network will be launched publicly in May 2023. Through 16 local women's rights organization funded through WPHF, more than 2000 Women increased the level of their participation in recovery and peacebuilding processes. The grantees empowered women from diverse groups, including LGBTIQ, members of local civil society, elderly women, community members, socio-economic vulnerable groups, sex workers, young women among others.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-LBN\_D\_6.1

### **Governments and civil society support progress on implementation of normative and policy frameworks, and work together to drive forward legislative change and reform**

This outcome was achieved. In 2022, more women participated in political processes and the women's movement further expanded and strengthened its advocacy efforts and collaboration. In 2022, a voters elected a record number of eight women to parliament, representing a 33 per cent increase from the previous six female MPs, while representing an overall percentage increase in female MPs from 4.6 per cent to 6.4 per cent. For the first time in Lebanon's history, two elected female MPs ran on purely feminist platforms. Furthermore, a record number of women ran for elections, with 157 women submitting their candidacy, and 118 making it to electoral lists. Through UN Women's support, 450 women improved their political knowledge to participate in the 2022 electoral cycle on party lists, while securing media partnership to spotlight the role of 15 women candidates in the political and democratic systems. Of the women who submitted their candidacy for parliamentary elections, more than 65 per cent benefitted

fully or partially from support provided by UN Women, and more than 50 per cent of women who made electoral lists benefitted from support provided by UN Women. Moreover, 90 per cent of women who received an in-depth training package from the project ran for elections. Two of the eight women elected benefitted significantly from UN Women support. The women’s movement in the country, a vital building block for stability, strengthened significantly and women accessed more spaces of tolerance and understanding through UN Women’s interventions. In support of a stronger and more coherent feminist movement in Lebanon, the Lebanon Feminist Civil Society Platform (herein, Feminist Platform) expanded and solidified its purpose as a key convening and advocacy space for feminist actors in Lebanon, by endorsing a roadmap for action and an organisational structure. It focused its advocacy efforts on issues of women’s political representation, including advocating for a gender quota – which was introduced in Parliament and debated in plenary – a first for Lebanon – but did not pass and remains in committee. The Feminist Platform identified a list of critical gender commitments, grounded in Lebanon’s international normative commitments, that parties and candidates should uphold in the 2022 parliamentary elections and lobbied potential candidates to adopt it as part of their electoral programmes. Furthermore, the Feminist Platform issued six statements on women’s rights in the context of participation in elections. Further, the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) embraced the strategic focus of the Feminist Platform. Specifically, NCLW publicly supported advocacy and calls by the Feminist Platform for the implementation of a gender quota and brought these joint concerns to the sixty-sixth (66th) session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2022. This support by NCLW demonstrates the influential role played by the Feminist Platform and its potential to contribute constructively to inclusive sustainable development in Lebanon.