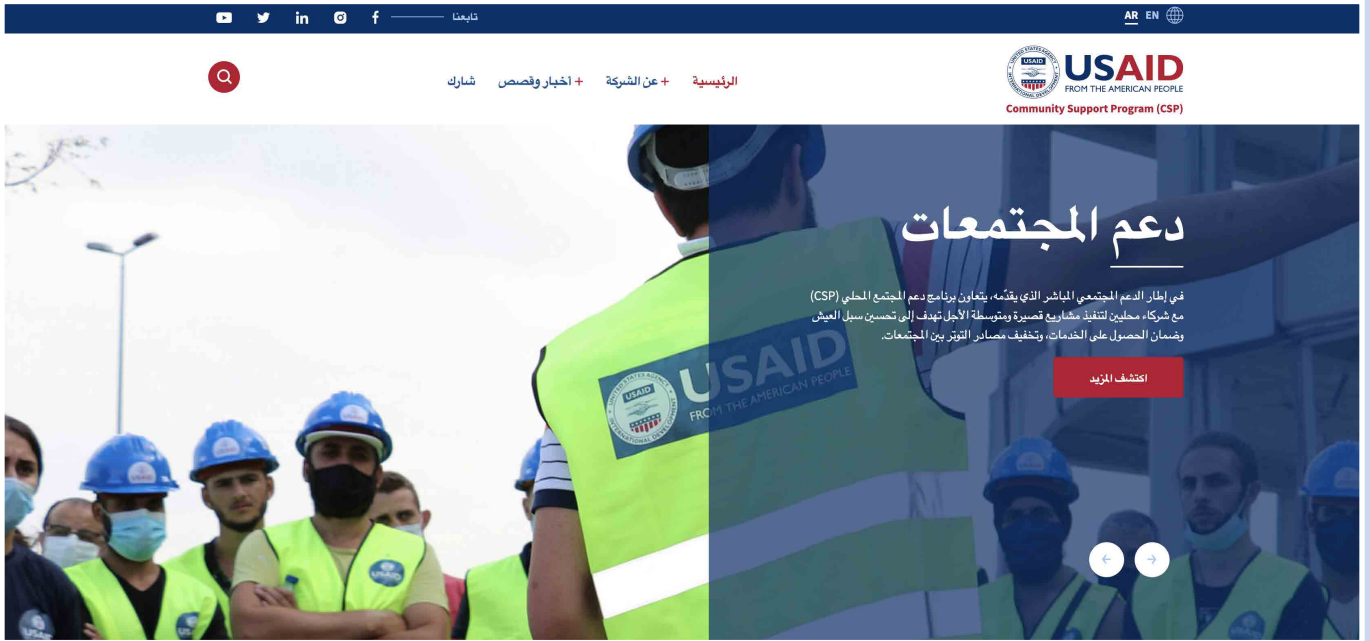




USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM



Community Support Program in Lebanon

December 2021

USAID/CSP Website: Now Available in Arabic and Includes an E-Learning Hub!

In October 2021, CSP launched its website in Arabic, making it accessible to a wider audience across Lebanon. The website, which includes impact material such as videos, success stories, and press releases, is also a forum for anyone interested in CSP's internship, scholarship, and career opportunities. Since the end of October 2021, the website also includes an updated free-of-charge E-learning hub that includes a wide range of training material migrated from USAID's BALADI-CAP project. The material is available to municipalities, CSOs, NGOs, and other stakeholders, and includes topics from organizational and HR management to digital media and strategic planning.



CSP Rehabilitates Streetlights to Enhance Safety and Security Throughout Lebanon



[Click here to watch a video on USAID/CSP's streetlighting interventions in the villages of Niha, Rashaya el Fokhar, and Khiara](#)

The worsening economic crisis in Lebanon is limiting municipalities' abilities to provide basic community services, including the needed rehabilitation of outdated and/or damaged streetlighting systems. As many neighborhoods remain unlit after sunset, residents across communities reported feeling unsafe on poorly lit roads and public spaces, prompting increased intercommunal tensions following any security incident. In response, USAID's CSP is enhancing safety and security by rehabilitating streetlights and replacing sodium lights with LED lights in villages throughout the Beqaa, North, and South Lebanon. After installation, CSP is also training municipalities on the sustainable maintenance and safe operation of the streetlights. Despite the ongoing nationwide fuel crisis, private generators continue to provide the streetlights with power at a much lower cost due to the cost-efficiency of LED lights compared to sodium ones. Throughout September and October 2021 in the Beqaa, CSP installed 63 LED lighting structures in Hawch Barada and made significant progress in upgrading 1,399 existing light bulbs and installing an additional 1,002 new fixtures in El Marj and El Qaraoun.



Photo: USAID/CSP worker installs LED bulbs in Hawch Barada, Beqaa – Photo by CSP field engineer Rosaline Chemaly, winner of the CSP monthly photo challenge

CSP Builds Resilience of the Municipalities of Ed Damour, El Mechref and Kfarmatta Against Forest Fires



Photo: USAID's CSP trains forest fire committee members on early interventions during forest fires - Kfarmatta (top left), Damour (top right), El Mechref (bottom).

Back in 2019, Lebanon's Chouf region witnessed a wildfire which destroyed large portions of a number of villages, including the neighboring towns of Ed Damour, El Mechref and Kfarmatta. Home to more than 22,000 Lebanese residents and 2,000 Syrian refugees, all three villages saw over half of their total areas burned down by the fires. In immediate response, USAID's CSP supported the clean-up of the affected areas through paid labor-intensive works, where 160 village residents were hired for the cleaning of irrigation canals and solid waste, as well as tree trimming and pruning.

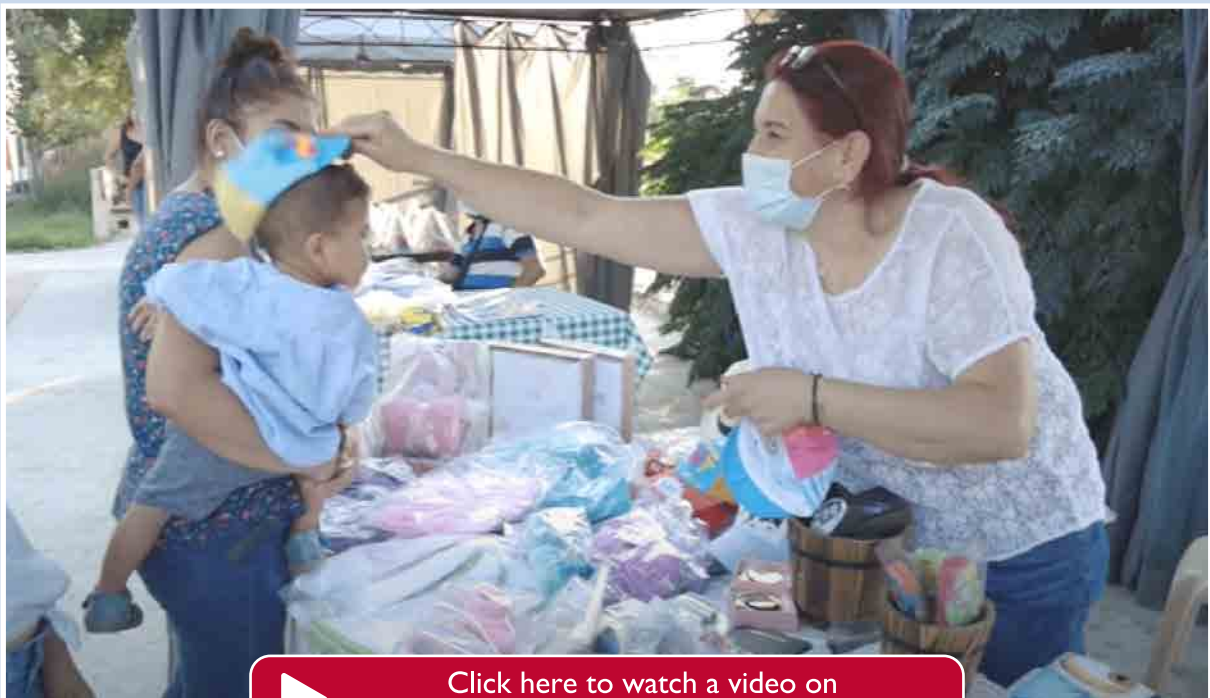
As the climate crisis continues to escalate across the globe, and temperatures reach new highs, Lebanon has been experiencing a significant rise in wildfires over the past years. In September 2021, and in order to further build the resilience of three municipalities against further risks, CSP awarded a grant to the Association for Forests, Development and Conservation (AFDC) to assist each municipality in establishing a forest fire committee. AFDC also provided a series of capacity building sessions to all committee members on fire prevention best practices. Through the sessions, and in order to reduce risks and increase local community preparedness, each municipality mapped fire hazards, and developed a forest management plan for the prevention of wildfires.

“I have learned that the first few minutes in any fire are the most crucial. I am now confident with my abilities in avoiding its spread at the right time,”

said Lialy Kaadan, training participant from Damour.

The Village of El Qariye in southern Lebanon Inaugurates its New Municipal Event Space with USAID/CSP's Support

El Qariye is a small town in South Lebanon, where limited livelihood opportunities have been contributing to rising tensions within the community. In response, the municipality decided to rehabilitate an old dumpsite into a public space to provide residents with local economic opportunities. To support the municipality's initiative, CSP equipped the new space with kiosks, tents, benches, sunshades, and prefabricated latrines, as well as built the municipal staff's technical capacities in project and event management. CSP also supported the municipality in developing a business plan for the space and provided trainings to community members on food safety and digital marketing. Over 700 people visited El Qariye's first local market held in August 2021, where 16 local vendors generated more than LBP 11 million in sales.



[Click here to watch a video on USAID/CSP's interventions in El Qariye](#)

CSP Provides Support to Three New Businesses to Ensure Internship Placements for Scholarship Recipients

CSP continued to map, reach out, and select new private sector businesses that are willing to place recipients of technical and vocational education scholarships in internship programs, and offer them employment. In return, interested businesses were offered CSP technical support in human resources management to enhance their internal processes and operations.

Throughout September and October 2021, CSP completed its tailored technical assistance to three new businesses. The first, Care @ Home, is a home-based healthcare firm which provides quality medical care for individuals with temporary or recurrent illnesses and disabilities. The second, Lakkis Farm, is one of the top-ranking dairy and meat farms in Lebanon. And the third, Naqaa Medical Centre, is a relatively new family-run clinic which includes polyclinics, laboratories, and radiology services.

As a result of the support provided by CSP, these three firms have committed to providing 14 internship opportunities to graduates of coursework in home-based healthcare (six at Care @ Home, and eight at Naqaa Medical Centre), as well as four internship placements at Lakkis Farms for graduates from the repair and maintenance courses.



“ Through my internship, I was able to gain invaluable hands-on experience which will directly serve me in my career ”

said Mohamed Danab, intern

Photo: CSP's partnerships with private businesses has resulted in 175 JET scholars being placed in internships, out of a total of 190.

With USAID/CSP's Support, Ain Ebel is Now Officially on Lebanon's Touristic Map!

Located in the scenic and mountainous region of Nabatieh, Ain Ebel has suffered significant economic hardships due to its proximity to Lebanon's southern border and contentious relations with surrounding villages. Dwindling economic opportunities, especially among the youth, has forced many to move away in search for better futures; only 1800 of its 10,800 registered residents live there permanently. In response, CSP supported the community to develop its tourism activities by establishing a cultural hiking trail and upgrading the town's market and festival grounds. Parallel to this in-kind assistance, CSP trained the municipality and members of Activists Working for Ain Ebel Association (AWFA) on the trail's maintenance, guest house management, and the planning of markets and festival events. On October 30, 2021, over a hundred residents from Ain Ebel and neighboring villages attended the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the municipality and the Lebanon Mountain Trail Association (LMTA), marking its official registration on Lebanon's map of hiking trails. Attendees enjoyed food and music with their families at the town's market, and then participated in a hike led by the local trail guides.

“ Thanks to USAID's assistance, Ain Ebel's inclusion on the touristic map provides a great opportunity to plan for activities and create new livelihoods opportunities for our community, ”
said Imad Lallous, Head of Ain Ebel Municipality.



Photo: Residents examining the trail map



Photo: Signing of the MOU between Ein Ebel Municipality and LMTA



Photo: Food stands at Ein Ebel market



Photo: Families enjoying the activities of the day