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**Community Support Program in Lebanon**

**February 2022**

## **CSP Equips Bqarsouna Municipality with a Snow Blower and Salt Spreader in Time for this Winter's Heavy Snowstorms**

Located at an altitude of 1,100m in the mountainous region of North Lebanon, Bqarsouna regularly experiences heavy snow fall in the winter, forcing road closures, and disrupting local economic activities and access to public services. Although the municipality owns a skid-steer loader, due to limited financial resources amidst the ongoing socio-economic crisis, it is unable to afford the equipment needed to remove the snow and cater to the seasonal needs of the population. In mid-December 2022, CSP upgraded the municipality's skid steer loader with a snow blower attachment as well as a salt-spreader.

*“The equipment provided came just in time ahead of the heavy storms which hit the region in January 2022. It enabled the municipality to efficiently clear the roads and facilitate residents' movements as well as their access to essential services during difficult weather conditions,”*  
Nasha't Shandab, Mayor of Bqarsouna.



*Photo: A Bqarsouna municipal worker uses the USAID-provided snowblower and salt spreader to open roads blocked by the snow – January 2022*

## USAID/CSP Enhance the Livelihoods of 120 Farmers in Saidoun, South Lebanon



[Click here to meet some of Saidoun's farmers and learn about USAID/CSP's support to the village](#)

The Saidoun Agricultural Cooperative (COOP) supports farmers in the area through initiatives such as seedling distribution and facilitating irrigation. However, as a result of the ongoing socio-economic crisis and the devaluation of the local currency, the COOP has been suffering from a significant increase in production costs, which has made lives more difficult for farmers. “The plowing equipment was too expensive, and given the limited resources of residents here, many were forced to leave their lands uncultivated”, stated Maround Al Khawand, local farmer and member of the COOP.

In response, and to improve income generating opportunities of 120 farmer households, CSP provided the COOP with five rotary cultivators, two trailers, nine mechanical pruning shears, six mechanical olive harvesters, and other needed materials. In parallel, CSP provided training to members of the COOP on the operation and maintenance of the equipment in order to ensure its effective use and sustainability. CSP equally trained members on asset management and bookkeeping to support the establishment of a community-based rental system to maximize the number of farmers benefitting from the provided equipment.

*“Whereas previously it would take us several weeks to cultivate our lands, we are able now able to cultivate them within one week!”* said Cherbel Al Khawand, Head of the Saidoun Cooperative.

## CSP Equips the Jurd el Qaitea Union of Municipalities with Fire Fighting Equipment, North Lebanon



*Photo: CSP hands over fire truck equipment to the Jurd el Qaitea first responders' team and Union of Municipalities – December 2021*

During the summer of 2021, raging wildfires burned large swathes of Lebanon's pine forests in the mountainous north of the country. These fires were exacerbated not only by increasingly hot and lengthy heat waves, but also by weak municipal response mechanisms amidst Lebanon's ongoing socio-economic crisis.

Whereas the region's mountains and forests usually draw in thousands of hikers and visitors, the fires have severely affected tourism in local towns. Among these, the Jurd el Qaitea Union of Municipalities has seen a significant drop in tourists which has consequently taken a toll on local livelihoods. In response, CSP is enhancing the union's capacities to better respond to the wildfires. On December 20, 2021, CSP equipped the union-owned truck with fire response gear. In January 2022, CSP equally provided training sessions to union members on the operation and maintenance of the provided equipment and supported the development of an enhanced financial operational model to sustain the activity. Overall, this intervention is addressing wildfires among the areas 93,000 residents, while helping them preserve natural resources and promote tourism activities.

*“ The fire equipment provided by USAID are a much-needed support to the union as they helps us improve our preparedness and early response to fires in the area, ”*  
Abd el Ilah Zakaria, Head of the Jurd el Qaitea Union of Municipalities

## USAID CSP Provides Orientation Sessions and Computer Tablets and Laptops to 349 JET Scholarship Recipients



*Photo: Orientation session at Al Abir Institute in Minieh where CSP introduced the JET scholarship and distributed tablets to 127 JET scholars, February 10, 2022.*

Between December 2021 and February 2022, and under its workforce development component, CSP conducted orientation sessions at nine of its thirteen private Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institute partners across Lebanon. The sessions were conducted for 349 Jobs, Education and Training (JET) scholarship recipients who are initiating their vocational or technical courses at CSP's partner TVET institutions for the 2021-2022 academic year. During the sessions, students were provided a comprehensive presentation on the scholarship's elements and requirements, and clarifications to all their queries. The sessions concluded with the distribution of tablets or laptops to each recipient to facilitate their online learning.



*“I feel grateful and proud to have been awarded this scholarship as I am now hopeful for a brighter future,” - Tarek, electricity student and JET scholarship recipient at the Al Abir Technical and Vocational institution in El Minieh, North Lebanon.*

*The Jobs, Education and Training (JET) scholarship provided by USAID's CSP covers students' tuition, medical insurance, and provides them with a monthly stipend for the duration of their course. In addition to completing their chosen technical and vocational course, scholarship recipients also attend soft-skills training – which aims to enhance their employability skills – and take part in community service activities as well as complete a two-month internship*

## USAID/CSP Supports 18 Municipalities in Koura, North Lebanon to Improve Solid Waste Management Systems and Practices



Click here to watch a report on USAID/CSP recyclable interventions in Koura – *MTV Lebanon, Despite Everything there is Good News*' segment, prime time news – January 12, 2022



The closure of a local landfill site in April 2019 and the devaluation of the national currency reduced the capacities of many villages in the Koura District to collect and manage solid waste, leading to harmful practices such as illegal dumping and garbage burning. In response, CSP is working with 18 communities in Koura to reduce the amount of generated solid waste by enhancing the capacities of municipalities to recover recyclables and encouraging residents to sort at source. By November 2021, CSP had also provided the Bechmizine Material Recovery Facility (BMRF) with two vertical balers, a plastic crusher, a truck scale, and a backup generator to expand the material recovery facility's ability to receive, process, and sell recyclables collected from the villages.

In parallel, CSP is supporting the villages to establish recyclables collection points and providing recyclable bins and containers across the district. Additionally, on December 31, 2021, and with the support from 110 volunteers from 13 villages, CSP initiated its door-to-door awareness campaign to distribute 2,919 home recycling bins across the villages, targeting over 52,000 residents.

## Photo of The Month



Photo by Fadi Attieh – Berqayel North Lebanon, February 2022

Marie-Belle Mansour, a mechanical engineering student from the Lebanese American University (LAU), is a CSP intern placed in partnership with USAID's University Scholarship Program (USP). In this photo, and as part of her internship, Marie-Belle trains municipal workers in Berqayel, North Lebanon on the operation and maintenance of a mechanical street sweeper broom provided by USAID.

# CSP Kicks Off the Implementation of Wastewater Management Interventions in Nmairiye and Aitanit

On January 4, and January 25, 2022, CSP signed construction subcontracts for two of its six wastewater management interventions in Aitanit, Beqaa and in Nmairye, South Lebanon. In the Beqaa, CSP is collaborating with the Beqaa Water Establishment and Al Buhaira Municipal Union to rehabilitate the Aitanit wastewater treatment plant and mitigate pollution resulting from the discharge of untreated domestic and industrial wastewater. The intervention will enable the treatment of up to 5,000 m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater per day, benefitting around 27,000 residents in the villages of Aitanit, Baaloul, El Qaraoun, and Machgara.



“ We will be implementing the project as per all approved specifications and standards, and following USAID requirements ” - William Debs, Parallel Contracting

Photo: USAID’s CSP kicks off implementation for rehabilitating the Aintanit wastewater treatment plant with design subcontractor, Earth Link & Advanced Resources Development (ELARD) and selected construction subcontractor, Parallel Contracting – December 2021

Meanwhile, in South Lebanon, CSP is rehabilitating the Nmairye pumping station, which will carry 6,800m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater per day from the communities of Deir Ez Zahrani, Habbouch, and Kfar Roummane to the treatment plant in El Charqiye. This activity is expected to benefit around 50,000 residents by mitigating health and environmental hazards caused by uncontrolled discharge of untreated wastewater. Furthermore, the project includes the construction of a 410-meter access road to the station which will facilitate operators’ access to operate and maintain the facility.



“ We look forward to implementing this much-needed pumping station, which will to serve thousands of residents in the area, ” - Mohamad Irani Yamen Establishment for General Trading

Photo: CSP Chief of Party Rhett Gurian (left) and Director of Yamen Establishment for General Trading (right), the selected contractor for rehabilitating the Nmairye pumping station, sign construction agreement for the intervention – January 2022

## Learn About USAID's Support to Ain Ebel and Discover a New Southern Cultural Hiking Destination!



[Click here to watch a video on Ain Ebel's new hiking trail, local market, and festival grounds](#)

USAID's CSP supported the community of Ain Ebel to develop tourism activities and livelihood opportunities by establishing a cultural hiking trail and upgrading the town's market and festival grounds. In parallel, CSP trained the municipality and members of Activists Working for Ain Ebel Association (AWFA) on the trail's maintenance, first-aid care, guest house management, and festival/event planning.