



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Community Support Program in Lebanon

July 2022

CSP's Labor-Intensive Works in the Beqaa Provide Needed Income for 250 Lebanese Residents

The Beqaa region in Lebanon has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country and competition over low-skilled jobs remains a primary source of tension among residents. This month, CSP started implementing a series of short-term, income-generating Labor-Intensive Work (LIW) activities in four remote villages in the Beqaa: Qabb Elias, Fekha, Barr Elias and Bwarej. These include minor maintenance works such as cleaning, weeding, desilting, and removing bushes and debris on 53,500m of irrigation canals which serve the plots of an estimated 1,100 farmers. Overall, these projects are providing 250 local Lebanese residents with much needed income during these challenging times.

This month, we invite you to meet some of the people CSP is supporting through these Labor-Intensive Works

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Hussein Ghanam, 23
Labor Intensive Worker
Fekha, Beqaa

"I'm not only working for the money, but also to support the farmers from our community who have equally been suffering through this economic crisis"

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Hussein Ghanam, Labor Intensive Worker / Fekha

"I was forced to drop out of university during my first year of studying international business because my family could no longer afford the fees. My father is a mason, but doesn't work anymore because people can't pay for such services. I do daily work whenever possible, but these opportunities are far and few between – and only pay around \$2 per day. As a result, my family struggles to purchase food as well as other basic necessities. The income I am making on this project will allow me to purchase food and diesel to keep our household warm through the winter months."



"I will hopefully be able to afford my medication, but I am prioritizing bread and food for my children"

Riham Khodr, 25

Labor Intensive Worker
Qabb Elias, Beqaa

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Riham Khodr, Labor Intensive Worker / Qabb Elias

"I am married with four kids. I have rheumatoid arthritis and each month I need to pay for my medications. My husband is also a daily worker and I have to work to afford the medicine. His work is extremely irregular – he works for one day, and then he stays for 20 days unemployed because there are no opportunities for us. The crisis has really affected job opportunities for us and my medication has become harder to find and more expensive after the lifting of subsidies."

Fardaws Houjeiry, Labor Intensive Worker / Fekha

"This project gives us hope. I am a mother of three young children and thanks to this income, we are really looking forward to celebrating Eid Adha for the first time in three years. This is answering our needs and benefitting the whole village, which has been strongly affected by the crisis. We have no municipality, no public services, and there is little support for us. As a daily worker, I have been hired by other projects, but had to walk over two hours to save money on transportation. This one is different because it is within the village and, by clearing out the irrigation canals, it is also helping support the local farmers."



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"Thanks to our work with USAID's CSP, we are celebrating Adha Eid for the first time in three years"

Fardaws Houjeiry
Labor Intensive Worker
Fekha, Beqaa

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (CSP)



"This is a great initiative by USAID which is helping us to provide for our families and injecting a bit of life into our community ahead of Ahda Eid"

Ibrahim el Bast
Labor Intensive Worker
Bwarej, Beqaa

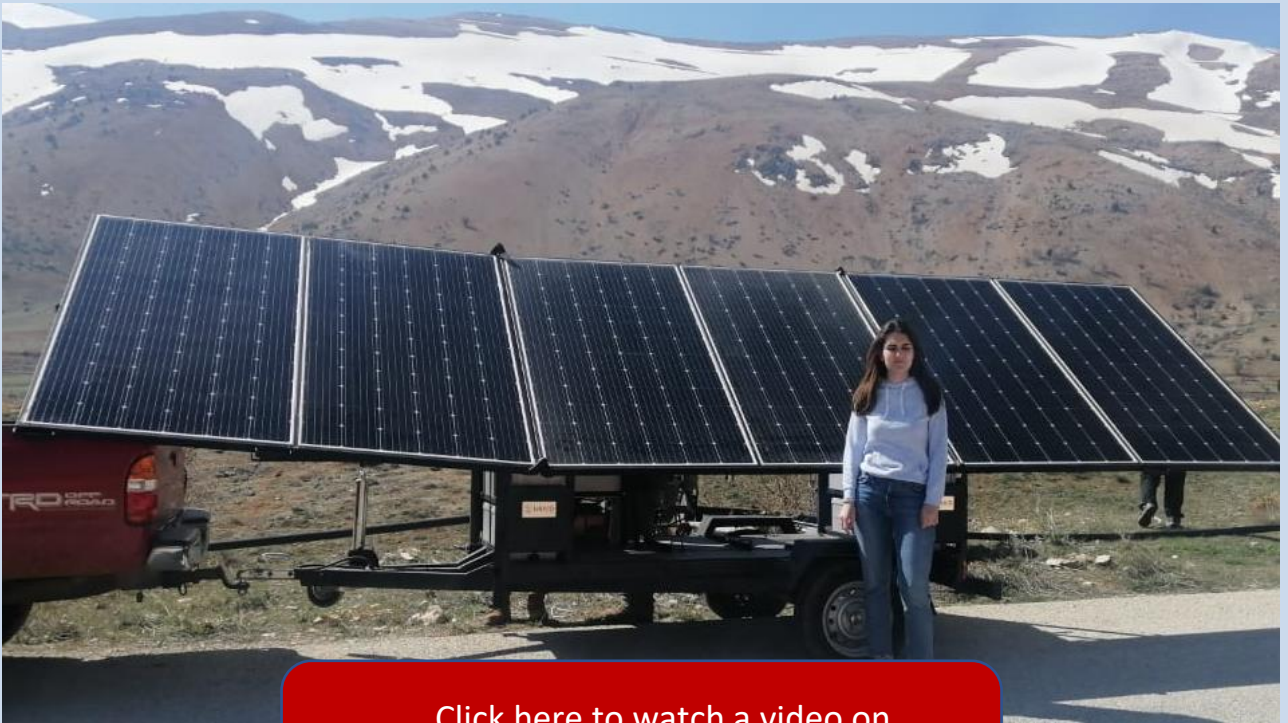
COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (CSP)



Ibrahim el Bast, Labor Intensive Worker / Bwarej

"I used to work as a procurement officer in the private sector, but I have been unemployed for the past four years. I volunteer with local NGOs but they do not provide an income. My father is also unemployed and suffers from many health problems. This income will help me to buy some of the medication he needs as well as clothes and food for the rest of the family. This is the first project which focuses on the local community by addressing the unemployment here. It is a great initiative by USAID which is helping us to provide for our families and injecting a bit of life into our village ahead of Ahda Eid."

USAID's CSP Wins Best in Show Award at the SID-US Innovation Competition for Solar Interventions



[Click here to watch a video on CSP's solar interventions](#)

With electricity shortages in Lebanon at a peak and fuel to run backup generators becoming increasingly unaffordable, local authorities can no longer ensure access to essential services which is leading to increased communal tensions over limited resources. In response, USAID's CSP is implementing a series of 22 solar energy interventions across Lebanon to counter the collapse of essential services. These include supporting municipalities to sustain the provision of services such as water, streetlighting, household electricity, and powering a seedling nursery and farmer equipment, as well as enhancing a recyclables facility. The interventions are expected to increase electricity from two to eight hours per day, decrease CO2 emissions, and generate employment opportunities in the near future. As such, CSP won 'Best in Show' in the innovation competition at the Society for International Development – United States (SID-US) annual conference.

The hybrid conference brought together more than 1,000 international development actors who recognized USAID/CSP's innovative approach to solving the gap in delivery of critical services through affordable, renewable energy. These interventions will strengthen access to services, enhance livelihoods, and mitigate tensions for more than 310,000 residents.

CSP Launches Framework to Improve Diaspora Support to Local Communities

Consisting of approximately 4 to 14 million people, the Lebanese diaspora has been providing much needed assistance to Lebanese citizens, especially since the start of the crisis in 2019. Through direct payments to households, municipalities and civil society organizations, diaspora remittances – estimated at over \$6 billion/ year – have significantly contributed to the provision of food items, medication and income to more than 250,000 Lebanese households. Nevertheless, as Lebanon’s multifaceted socio-economic crisis continues to worsen, many communities are no longer able to sustain USAID investments intended to improve public services at the local level.

In response, USAID’s Community Support Program has been building the capacities of municipalities and communities to improve diaspora contribution mechanisms to benefit local communities and ensure their ability to operate and maintain upgraded public services. On July 6, 2022, 18 participants from municipalities and local organizations attended CSP’s launching event, "Enhancing the Diaspora Contribution to Improve and Sustain Public Services," which introduced the framework aiming to improve networking mechanisms between local communities and diaspora organizations.



USAID/CSP's "Enhancing the diaspora contribution to improve and sustain public services" launching event– July 6, 2022

“ *This is the first initiative of its kind. Whereas we used to communicate with Lebanese expatriates without planning, we will now work on a strategic and transparent process within a well-defined legal framework* ”

Malek Fares, Mayor of Amioun Municipality.

Residents Tackle Solid Waste Crisis in Koura, North Lebanon



[Click here to watch video on USAID/CSP's sorting at source interventions in Koura](#)

Stretching from the Mediterranean Sea up to Mount Lebanon, Koura District is renowned for its natural beauty and for being home to some of the country's most extensive olive orchards. In recent years however, the area has been grappling with dwindling essential services; in particular, the improper disposal of solid waste has caused trash to accumulate on its rolling green foothills since 2019. Although Koura is served by two Materials Recovery Facilities - in Bechmezzine and Amioun - these were unable to cover the rising needs in the area due to the rising costs of paying for collection and recycling especially amidst the worsening nationwide economic crisis. As a result, residents' waste was being gathered by private collectors and municipalities and disposed of in the local dumpsite in Adwa where it was incinerated. The solid waste crisis intensified after April 2019 when the dumpsite was closed down, which forced municipalities to reduce collection and dump and burn their waste on public lands.

To ensure a comprehensive solution to solid waste management for over 100,000 residents in Koura District, USAID's Community Support Program (CSP) employed a multifaceted approach to upgrade the capacities of both Materials Recovery Facilities, as well as installed over 100 plastic bins and 341 metal recyclables collection points across 18 villages in the district, while in parallel implementing a wide-ranging community awareness campaign on sorting at source.

USAID Celebrates Efforts to Improve Perception towards the Technical and Vocational Education Sector in Lebanon

On June 29, 2022, USAID's Community Support Program (CSP), held a closing ceremony for its three-month media campaign focusing on public perceptions of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector in Lebanon. The ceremony was held at the Padova Hotel in the presence of USAID Supervisory Program , Officer Nicholas Vivio and representatives from 13 private TVET partner institutions and 48 partner businesses. The campaign aimed to address the lack of public awareness on the sector's beneficial contributions to employability of graduates and the improvements made by USAID and other donors to the sector at the curricula and training levels, through a series of televised interviews, radio shows, and social media messaging reaching more than 1.5 million viewers. The event was followed by a roundtable discussion on learning from and adapting implementation of TVET projects in Lebanon.

Since 2019, the workforce development component of USAID's CSP has improved six curricula at private TVET institutions, provided scholarships to 741 individuals seeking technical and vocational education in sectors with growth potential, placed 345 of them in internships, and facilitated full-time employment to 45 graduates. The scholarship covers students' tuition, medical insurance, and provides them with a monthly stipend covering transportation fees for the duration of their course and internship, as well as a tablet/laptop to facilitate their learning.



“ Our main objective was, and still is, to transform partner TVETs into successful independent, demand-driven business models, and improve the skills of, and employment opportunities for at least 1,000 unemployed or underemployed Lebanese from vulnerable communities ”

USAID's Supervisory Program Officer Nicholas Vivio



“ Through this project, USAID contributed to preventing the migration of Lebanese youth by facilitating students' abilities to succeed in their studies, And creating all conditions to help them find employment ”

Father Hanna Kanaan, Director of Foyer de la Providence, one of CSP's private TVET partners