

Evaluation Summary

Mid-term evaluation of the project “Training and Employability for Vulnerable Populations Impacted by the Syrian Crisis in Lebanon”

Country: **Lebanon**

Sector: **Education**

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Date of the evaluation: **June 2019**

Key data on AFD's support

Project number: CLB1079

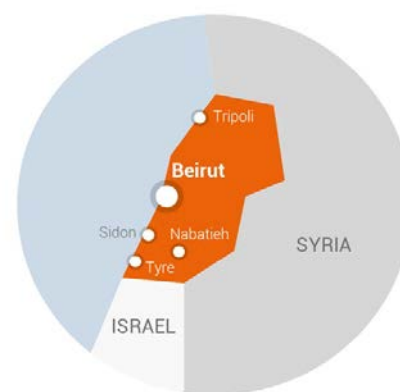
Amount: €5 M

Disbursement rate: 1/3 as at 31/12/2018

Signature of the financing agreement: January 2017

Completion date: June 2022

Duration: 5.5 years



Context

Since 2011, the Syrian crisis and the massive influx of refugees have sorely impacted the already weakened Lebanon's economy, infrastructure and public services. This has led not only to the pauperisation of both the host populations and refugees, but also to labour market tensions that are endangering the country's internal balances. The difficulties people experience in integrating the labour market are exacerbated by a technical education system that often proposes overly theoretical courses which fail to match the needs of the labour market, on the one hand, and the needs of vulnerable populations, on the other.

Actors and operating method

Project management is ensured by the non-profit IECD and its Lebanese partner, Semeurs d'Avenir.

Objectives

- Improve the social and professional integration of young Lebanese people through long technical training courses leading to a state diploma.
- Provide occupational skills for vulnerable Lebanese people and Syrian refugees through short courses which lead to a qualification and target occupations that offer outlets on the local labour market.

Expected outputs and mid-term outputs

- Creation and overhaul of two Technical Baccalaureate streams - maintenance and IT development - using a skills-based approach (100% of the target achieved mid-term), each stream trains 200 young people (37% achieved mid-term)
- Capacity-building for the General Directorate of Technical and Vocational Education (DGETP) through the overhaul of two streams and a sectoral study of the streams to be renovated (50% achieved mid-term)
- 1,600 vulnerable young people graduate from a short training course leading to a qualification (46% achieved mid-term)

300 young people having launched a project trained on managing their business via the SFB (Skills for business) programme (24% achieved mid-term)

Performance assessment

Relevance

Ahead of project design, numerous studies at national and local level were conducted to determine the beneficiaries' needs, the employment basins in several Lebanese regions and the choice of programme for long training courses, as well as employers' needs at both local and national levels. The project is in line with the priorities of the vocational training sector.

Effectiveness

The evaluation showed that the mid-term results were satisfactory overall. IECD seems capable of achieving the project's objectives for the short training courses and SFB training. Implementation of the programmes for the long training courses is taking more time than initially planned. Implementation of the speciality IT course and the extension of the Maintenance stream to newly partnered schools will help to achieve the quantitative results for the long training courses, with a one-year time lag.

Efficiency

A breakdown of the budget into programme items reveals that investments for each section are reasonable depending on the number of beneficiaries, and the per-beneficiary unit cost is within standards.

Impact

The increase in incomes helps to keep the young people out of precariousness. The beneficiaries' satisfaction, as well as their self-confidence, have a positive social impact. The project provides a long-term contribution to strengthening institutions and schools, such as the DGETP and technical schools.

Sustainability

The results of the long training programme are likely to persist beyond project completion, as they are anchored in the national institutions.

Added value of AFD's contribution

AFD brings substantive added value to long training courses thanks to the mobilisation of Team France and its long-term commitment to education. This is a key advantage when it comes to convincing the Ministry of Higher Education and structuring the DGETP. AFD's interest in this sector can prompt other donors to support public and private institutions even after this project has been completed.

Conclusions and lessons learnt

The project meets the recognised needs.

The implementation of the projects is off to a good start and should enable the objectives to be achieved by the end of the project.

IECD is encouraged to update the project's logical framework, in line with its monitoring–evaluation system. The evaluators also recommend preparing a transition plan in view of an exit strategy.