



2022 End of Year SECTOR DASHBOARD

Food Security and Agriculture

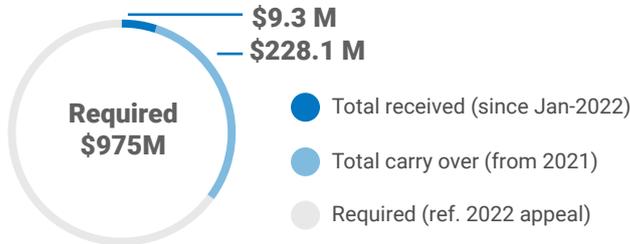


Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

The dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Food Security and Agriculture sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Promote food availability; OUTCOME 2) Promote food accessibility; OUTCOME 3) Promote food utilization; OUTCOME 4) Promote stabilization.

2022 Sector Funding Status

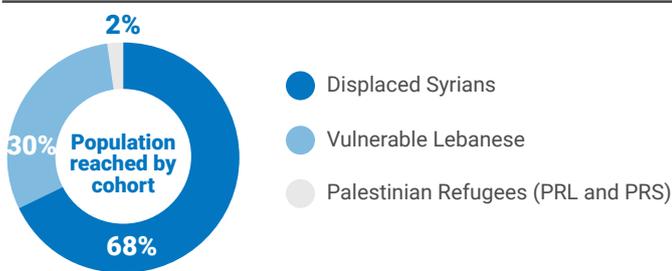
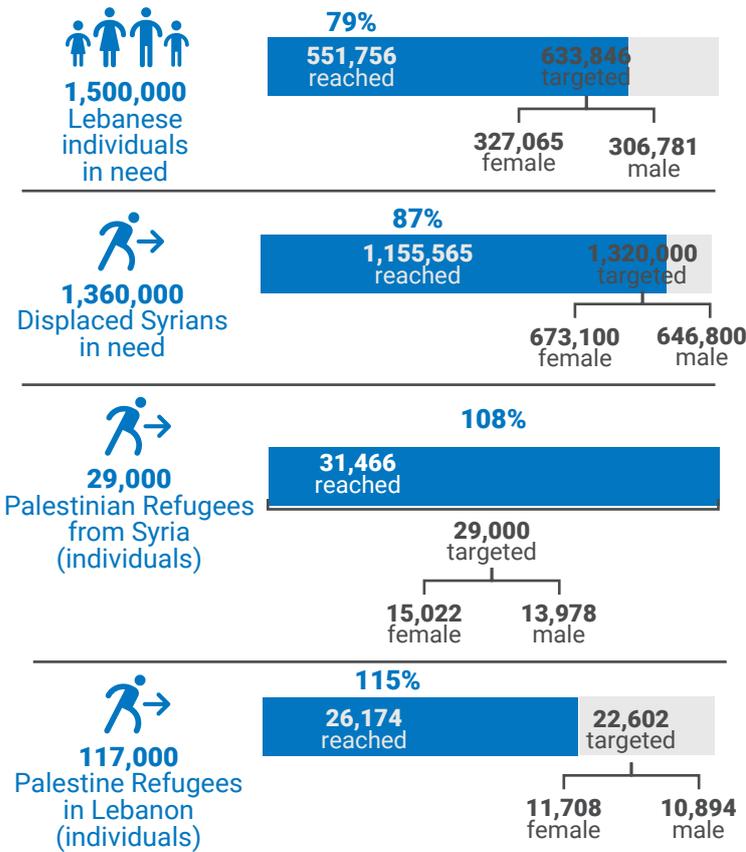
As of 31 December



2022 population reached

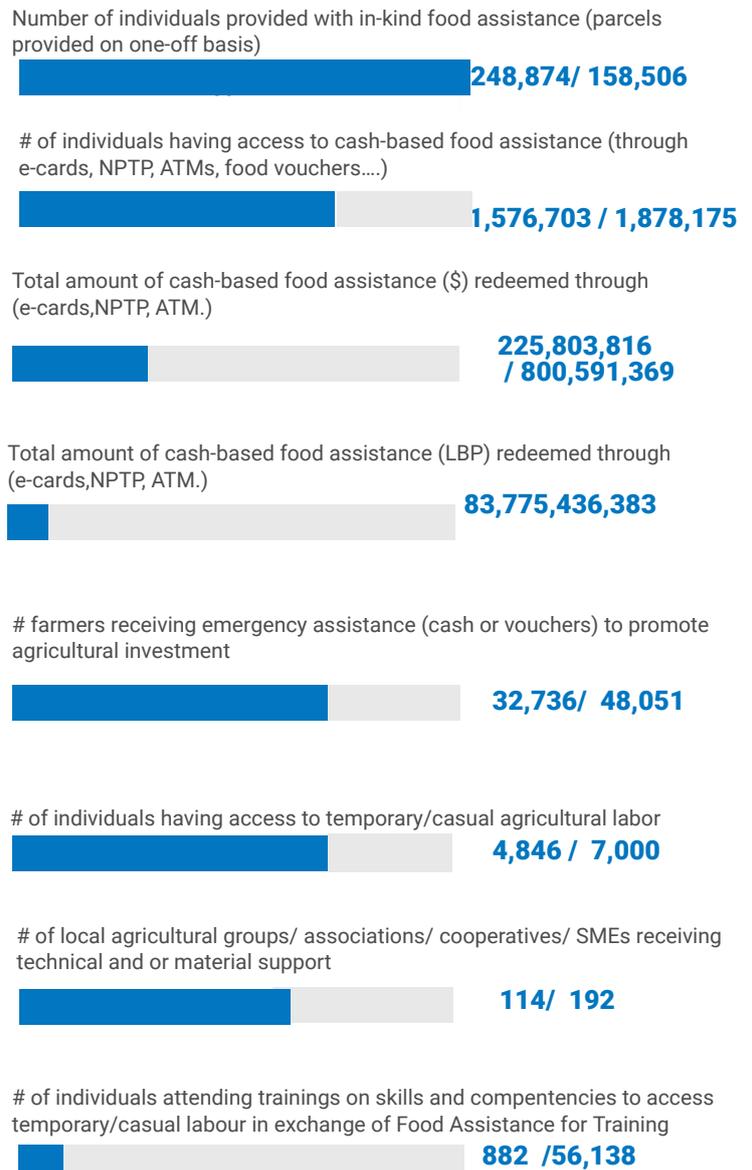


2022 population figures by cohort



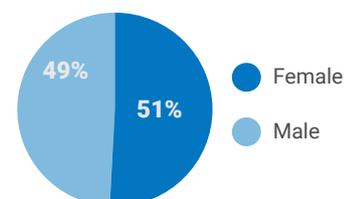
Progress against targets

Key Achievements



Gender breakdown

Gender Breakdown of vulnerable people reached with cash based food assistance

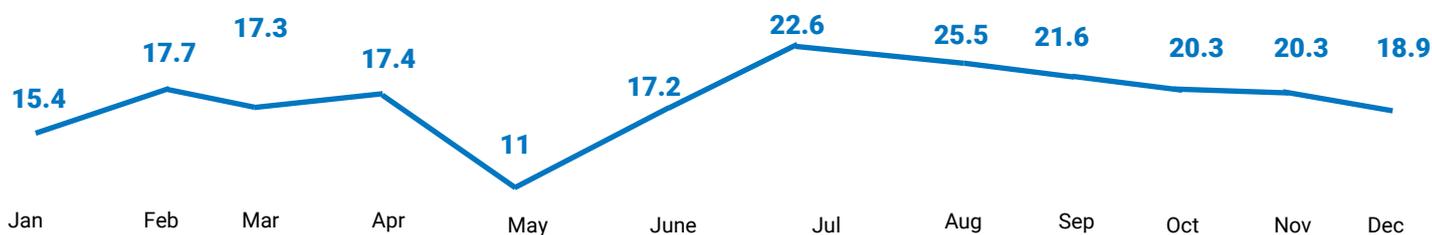


*Including refugees of other nationalities(10,708)

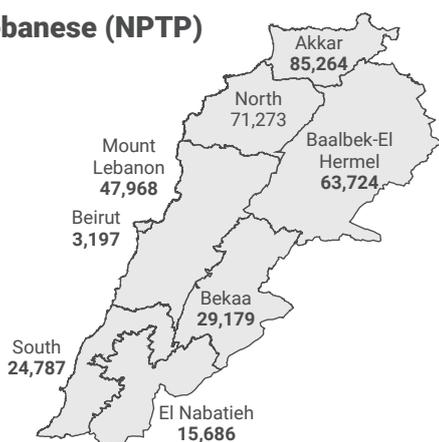


Analysis

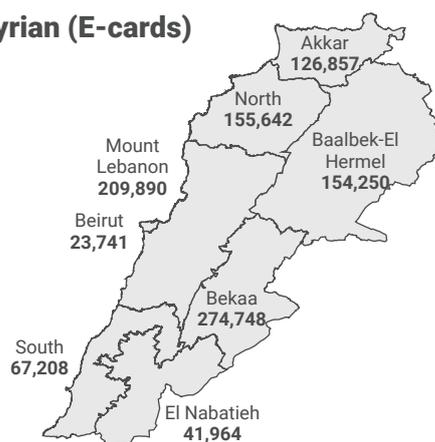
Amount (in Millions) of USD injected in the cash based food assistance system through various modalities (NPTP, e-cards, ATMs, food vouchers..)



Lebanese (NPTP)



Syrian (E-cards)



Sectoral situation update

The food security situation in Lebanon continues to deteriorate over the last 3 years given the severe economic, financial, and social crisis while also hosting the largest number of refugees per capita in the world due to the war in Syria. Based on the first Integrated Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC) and due to drivers of food insecurity such as high and rising inflation, currency depreciation, and unprecedented increase in food and non-food prices, left 1.98 million people facing high acute levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) of which 1.29 million Lebanese and 700,000 Syrian refugees. Nearly 85% of Lebanese households have been consuming less preferred less expensive foods while more than two third had to reduce the number of meals eaten¹. Around 1.37 million displaced Syrians were unable to meet their minimum basic needs. Almost all displaced Syrians² (97%) were resorting to food-based coping strategies, with 96% relying on less preferred less expensive foods and 74%

reducing portion sizes. Nearly 90% of Palestinian Refugees reported purchasing leftovers from the market, while the poverty rates reached 93%³. In addition, small-scale farmers' inability to purchase agricultural inputs has been putting at risk their food security, livelihoods, and the agricultural seasons, increasing the risks of not providing nutritious, fresh, safe, and seasonal food to their households and the communities. The food insecurity situation of all those currently residing in Lebanon is expected to continue to deteriorate as the availability and accessibility to food continues to be hampered and left unstable. Based on the IPC projection period January – April 2023, about 2.26 million Lebanese and Syrian Refugees are expected to face high levels of food insecurity IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above. This includes 354,000 individuals (7%) expected to face Emergency acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4), and 1.91 million (36%) expected to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

¹ WFP

² VASyR 2022

³ Socio-economic Situation of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon – Crisis Monitoring Report – September 2022 - UNRWA



1. ANALYSIS OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL

Sector Results on Food Assistance (Outputs 1.1 and 2.1)

Since the beginning of 2022, more than 1.7 million individuals in Lebanon received food assistance (of which 52% women) at least one time through the support of sector partners. Most of the response (86% of all food assistance) was done through cash-based interventions (e-cards, vouchers, ATM and through financial providers). Food assistance was provided either as one-off or short-term assistance to 22% of Palestinian refugees from Lebanon reaching 26,000 individuals (of which 53% women), almost all Palestinian refugees from Syria, 513,000 Lebanese (34% of Lebanese in need), and 85% of Syrian refugees (1,15 million - of which 52% women). Furthermore, around 11,000 refugees from other nationalities (of which 37% women) were provided with food assistance. Overall, 52% of individuals benefiting from food assistance were women and girls. It is to be noted that due to the growing needs and the multiple crises, the sector's partners reached in 2022 more vulnerable Lebanese through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) with almost 341,080 individuals supported (of which 51% women) recording a 56% increase compared to 2021. The total value of cash transfers reached USD 225.8 million including the NPTP, while the total amount disbursed in Lebanese Pounds was LBP 83.8 billion for cash-based and food vouchers modalities of assistance.

Sector Results on Agricultural Livelihoods (Outputs 1.2; 2.2; 2.3; 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6)

In 2022, and in order to alleviate the multi-faceted crises on the agricultural community, the Sector enhanced the technical and operational capacities of a total of 37,148 small-scale farmers thus, benefitting from the implemented agricultural livelihoods interventions. These included technical trainings and distribution of agricultural inputs to improve crop and livestock farming practices as well as emergency short-term support through cash or vouchers modalities to purchase agricultural inputs to promote agricultural investment and sustain their farming activities. In addition, such support benefitted small-scale farmers from new or rehabilitated infrastructure and assets, from vaccination campaign and from improved access to markets through trainings and technical support, as well as linkages to market actors. The overall committed total value of investment in agriculture and assets reached USD 703,998 in 2022. This corresponds to rehabilitation of lands, construction of water reservoirs among others. The number of agricultural productive infrastructure and communal assets rehabilitated/built up was 235.

In addition, a total of 156 agricultural cooperatives and/or agricultural associations (formal and informal) received support (in-kind, financial, or technical) representing 80% of the 2022 set targets. Around 101 of these agricultural cooperatives and/or associations received a total amount of grants reaching USD336,429 as per the approved Business Plan they submitted. At the same time, a total of 507 members (of which 17% women) of these cooperatives/associations received technical trainings and/or equipment to strengthen value chain practices and among these trainings, those related to food safety, quality control and soap production were delivered to around 262 members (of which

78% women). The sector continued to have the interactive dashboard on agricultural cooperatives/associations and MSMEs which was developed jointly with the Livelihoods Sector, regularly updated. ([link](#))

A total of 5,368 individuals were employed in temporary casual labour and received training on skills and competencies in the agriculture sector, of which 36% were women. The assistance provided employment opportunity in return of cash, while creating agricultural assets benefiting small-scale farmers and farming communities. Out of the total assisted with temporary casual labour, 60% were Lebanese individuals, 37% Syrians, and the remaining Palestinian refugees and refugees of other nationalities.

Sector Results on Food Utilization (Outputs 3.1, 3.2 and 4.1)

Lebanon compounded crises is having an impact on increasing the risk of malnutrition thus affecting the diet of vulnerable groups and more specifically of pregnant and lactating women, young children, elderly people as well as people with specific needs. As part of the Sector's partners interventions geared towards improving food utilization of these people, a total of 2,220 caregivers (54% Lebanese; 46% Syrians) of children < 5 and Pregnant and Lactating Women received awareness sessions on healthy nutrition and diets and were enrolled in malnutrition programmes referred to the Food Security and Agriculture Sector and receiving assistance. In addition, 2,523 households of caregivers with Pregnant and Lactating Women and/or with children < 5 years received cash-based food assistance (cash and/or vouchers). A total of 685 individuals (38% Lebanese; 46% Syrian refugees; 19% Palestinians) attended trainings on food safety and quality measures/practices of which (of which 75% women).

Under the output 4.1, the support provided to national and decentralized institutions working in food security, agriculture and social protection continued throughout 2022. This has been done through the sectors' partners working closely with their national counterparts to help them improving the delivery of food security, agriculture and social protection programmes. In this context, the Ministry of Agriculture with its Regional Services, the Green Plan, the General Directorate of Cooperatives and the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI) were supported throughout the on-going projects/programmes of the implementing partners in addition to the Ministry of Social Affairs and its related Social Development Centers (SDC).

Among such technical support provided to the Ministry of Agriculture, a Data in Emergency programme to monitor the impact of the multiple shocks on the food security and livelihoods of the farmers' households was implemented through three main surveys in 2022 to monitor the food security situation of the farmers. The results from the assessments will be utilized to inform the needs and response planning to farmers. Furthermore, 82 staff (of which 70% women) from MoA and the General Directorate of Cooperatives received trainings on food safety and quality control measures.



2. KEY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SECTOR TO LCRP OUTCOME AND IMPACTS

The FSAS response has directly supported the achievements of the LCRP Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 4. Under SO 2 "Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations" - Impact 2 "Immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations are met", the FSAS was able to reach more than 1.77 million Lebanese, Syrian refugees, Palestinian refugees and refugees of other nationalities. The response included provision of food assistance to 1,734,000 and agricultural and livelihoods support to 41,572. The latter also contributed to SO 1 "Ensure protection of vulnerable populations" – Impact 1 "Displaced persons from Syria and vulnerable populations live in safe protective environment" and SO 4 "Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability" – Impact 4 "Mitigated deterioration in the economic condition of vulnerable populations".

Related to the FSAS theory of change, the sector partners were able to provide around 1.48 million individuals with cash-based food assistance, including the support to the NPTP which reached

more than 340,000 vulnerable Lebanese. This was complemented by in-kind food assistance to around 300,000 individuals of which half were Lebanese. Provision of emergency cash and voucher support, aimed at restoring agricultural livelihoods and productive capacities, as well as building households' resilience to future shocks, was scaled up targeting 32,736 farming households, benefiting more than 160,000 household members of small-scale farming families. In support to strengthen Lebanon's agriculture production capacity, the FSAS partners reached 5,368 individuals with temporary casual labour and training on skills in the agricultural sector. Sector partners strengthened the capacities of 156 agricultural Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and agricultural cooperatives, particularly those whose members are women, to make value chains in agriculture and food production more competitive and profitable. The sector will increase its reach, by ensuring a coordinated response and avoiding duplication across other actors.

3. CHALLENGES, RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The year 2022 continued to be a challenging year for the FSA Sector. Food access and availability continued to be a major concern across all population cohorts with the growing needs and demands and with the soaring of food prices and essential needs, the increase in fuel prices and the impact of lifting the subsidies on commodities and medicines combined with the continuous depreciation of the Lebanese pounds and the decline of the people's purchase power.

In November 2022, based on WFP market monitoring, the SMEB reached LBP 11.1 million (USD 282) for a family of five, and LBP 1.1 million (USD 28) the food SMEB component per person. The food SMEB is constantly increasing, forcing the FSAS partners to readjust assistance and adapt their interventions. In December, the amount disbursed to Syrian refugees (around LBP 500,000 per person) was twice lower than the SMEB of November 2022 (LBP 1.1 million). To cope with this constant change, some partners have opted for a disbursement of entitlements in USD, while others continue to amend their transfer values monthly. As part of the deduplication discussion for Syrian refugees' food assistance, the sector has prepared an SOP on the process. This includes active partners to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss on common issues including the minimum recommended transfer value, which is the basis of the deduplication exercise. Similarly, as the response to Lebanese is increasing, it is imperative that FSAS partners coordinate their assistance. As such, the sector and its partners will be discussing in 2023 the launch for the deduplica-

tion system of assistance for both food and agriculture responses using the "Building Blocks" system, while continuing to advocate for a harmonized targeting methodology and centralized social safety-net systems. Building Blocks system allow humanitarian organizations a neutral space to coordinate the delivery of assistance.

From the agricultural livelihoods' perspective, and in the context of the protracted economic and financial crisis, the prices of imported agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, feed, veterinary drugs) are still high and unaffordable to small-scale farmers. Emergency support in the form of cash and/or vouchers for the purchase of these inputs is necessary to allow farmers to sustain their farming activities for the coming agricultural seasons and to avoid the agriculture sector moving to a low inputs system which might result in lower yields and lower marketable production. To this effect, funds are needed to support domestic food production and farmers through different schemes and these funds need to be made available as complementary to short-term relief food assistance.

The FSA sector is facing funding shortfalls, compared to the increased needs. By the end of 2022, USD 228.1 M (23% of the total LCRP appeal of the sector) was received, of which 90% directed towards food assistance interventions. This represents 24% of the funding requirement for food assistance, while agricultural livelihoods interventions were only 18% funded.

4. CASE STUDY 1

The MoA, in collaboration with WFP and FAO, and through the FSAS and partners conducted for the first time in Lebanon the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) analysis. A level 1 training was conducted to 64 government, NGO and UN staff between 5 and 8 September 2022. This included members from five government institutions (MoA, MoPH, MoET, CAS and MoEW), 6 United Nations agencies (WFP, FAO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCHA and UNDP), 12 NGOs (SCI, WVI, Caritas, ADRA, Oxfam, ACF, Mercy Corps, REACH, Care International, ACTED, GVC and Tabitha), the FSA and Nutrition Sectors. Following the training, the IPC analysis was carried out from 9 till 16 September targeting Lebanese and Syrian refugees. The IPC covered all 26 districts in Lebanon and looked at two analysis periods: the current covering September – December 2022 and the project covering January – April 2023. The preliminary results were presented to the FSAS partners during a dedicated session on November 16. The report was published and shared on December 22nd, which was followed by a formal launch on the 18th of

January, under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Agriculture Dr. Abbas Hajj Hassan, FAO Representative Nora Ourabah Haddad and WFP Representative and Country Director Abdallah Alwardat.

Some of the main findings from the IPC analysis are as follows. During the current period September - December 2022, about 1.98 million Lebanese residents and Syrian refugees corresponding to 37% of the analyzed population, are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above. A total of 306,000 people (6%) are in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 1.68 million people (3%) in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Based on the projected analysis period January and April 2023, about 2.26 million people, corresponding to 42% of the analyzed population are expected to face high levels of food insecurity IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above, impacted by a further deterioration of the economic situation and depreciation of the Lebanese Pound (LBP), protracted inflation, and soaring international prices. The analysis estimated that 354,000 individuals (7%) are expected to face Emergency acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4), and 1.91 million (36%) are expected to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).



Figure 1 IPC TWG members conducting IPC analysis

Specifically, 1.46 million Lebanese resident (38% of the resident population) and 0.80 million Syrian refugees (53% of total number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon) are projected in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above.

The results of the IPC analysis represent the basis of the needs analysis and have informed the response plan of the FSAS for 2023. The IPC analysis was carried out in collaboration with the FSAS sector and its partners, linking to the Sector Objective 4 - Promote and stabilize food security through support/ capacity building and strengthening of national public institutions and their decentralised services" linked to the "Food Stabilization" concept of Food Security.

4. CASE STUDY 2

In Baalbeck, Siba, a women farmer feels free when she works in her garden. Siba Bayyan, 32, is a farmer in the Baalbeck district, in the Bekaa valley. She lives with her husband and their two children in a small house built in the middle of a huge field overlooking the historical Roman temple ruins of the city. When Siba talks about what she grows in her garden, the list feels endless, "Peas, spinach, radish, coriander, tomatoes, pomegranate, strawberries, parsley, lettuce," she says, "and I plant and take care of each sprout with my own hands." Proud of her know-how, Siba says that she was born a farmer, "I come from a long line of farmers, it's like farming is in my blood." Siba and her husband have lived their whole married life in this field. In the mornings, they start the workday at around 5 or 6 am. Siba gets her two kids, Aline and Mohammad, ready for school and then works in the field all day until it's time for their return and time to help them with their schoolwork. Siba talks about the hardships she has been facing ever since the crisis in Lebanon started three years ago. She, much like most of the Lebanese living in remote areas, no longer has access to electricity and generators; she also had to sell her belongings and go into debt to afford solar panels for the upkeep of her field irrigation system.

With time passing by, she can no longer afford to replace the old tools she uses for harvest and is now forced to rent them for a few days instead of owning them. The quality of the fertilizers, pesticides, and seeds she must buy has gone down too since better quality brands have become too expensive for local supply stores to stock because they are priced in US Dollars. Siba often cannot find a product at all due to this exact same reason. These financial hardships add up to the discrimination she was already facing every day, "because I am young and a woman," she says, "I've always heard that farming isn't my 'job', that it isn't for me; they say that farming is not a woman's job. But I don't listen to these voices. My work gives me freedom."

As a participant in the BASATINE program, Siba has now been given access to money vouchers worth \$490 to help her buy seeds, tools and products she needs for the new season. "All the money we have saved on products can now be spent on our kids'

tutions," she says. When asked what she dreams for her field and for her business, she replies, "I work hard every day for my kids to have better opportunities and to have a better life." In 2022, BASATINE has supported 1000 smallholder farm units with critical inputs that they would otherwise have missed to engage in the farming season.

With support of L'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Bolstering Agriculture Systems' Ability to Invest, Nourish, and Employ (BASATINE) is a four-year trendsetter Consortium programme that aims to support 7,000 farmers and other value chain and associated sector actors in areas of Beqaa and Akkar focused on the production of cereals, legumes and vegetables. The project addresses food insecurity, needed income and technical support to farmers to survive the current economic crisis, as well as improve the capacity of food systems to maintain employment and growth in the longer term via stronger domestic production and system linkages. This will ultimately contribute to greater economic stability – particularly for women and improved rural development, and more positive social cohesion between communities at a local level. The BASATINE Partners are: CARE (as lead), Mercy Corps (MC), Berytech Foundation, Georges N. Frem Foundation (GNFF), Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training (LOST) and Al Majmoua.



Figure 2 Siba picking produce planted with the support of BASATINE project

