

Employment Promotion in Lebanon II (EPL II)

The background

Lebanon continues to face deep political, economic, and social crises, which have severely impacted all sectors, including employment. The prolonged financial collapse, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beirut Port explosion in 2020, and most recently, the conflict in 2024, has led to widespread job losses, business closures, unemployment, underemployment, and a severe loss of purchasing power. These events have particularly affected youth, young adults, women, people with disabilities, and Medium, Small, and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs).

As a result, many companies are unable to pay attractive salaries, resulting in either job cuts or employees quitting their jobs to seek better opportunities abroad or in other sectors. This creates a paradox of having an increased number of job seekers with unfilled positions in high-demand sectors requiring skilled workers.

While civil society and the private sector offer non-formal education, training, and job-placement services, these efforts are often not utilized or are insufficient to adequately support job seekers.

Our Objective

The objective of this project is to improve the employability of young adults, women, and people with disabilities by offering training and building their capacities, while also stimulating the demand for jobs through providing business development support to MSMEs and aim to better match both sides.

Project name	Employment Promotion in Lebanon II
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Lebanon
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Governmental Partner	Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)
Duration	September 2024 – August 2027

Our approach

Between 2022 and 2024, the first phase of the project successfully facilitated sustainable employment opportunities for 1,395 youth and strengthened 320 MSMEs through targeted business development services, contributing to a more resilient and dynamic labour market. Building on these achievements, EPL II will focus on fostering sustainable cooperation among employment promotion actors by facilitating coordination, supporting the establishment of joint approaches, improving the match between labour supply and demand, and continuing to support MSMEs with business development services.

The project identifies measures that improve the employment prospects of the target groups and designs activities to improve their employability. In addition, the project supports MSMEs, that have the potential to create jobs, to bolster their competitive position and improve working conditions, thus safeguarding existing jobs and creating new ones.

To achieve these goals, we are working together with key partners from the private sector and civil society actors that have experience in developing and implementing measures to promote employment and support MSMEs.



L: Vocational Training session for women.

R: Business Development Training with MSMEs

Finally, we aim to strengthen the cooperation between employment promotion actors in Lebanon, to provide integrated, needs-oriented and gender-responsive services.

The areas of work

The project is built upon 3 main pillars:

- **Enhancing the employability of individuals:**
Through specialized non-formal qualification programs tailored to specific sectors with high employment potential as well as courses for career transitions such as life skills, promoting entrepreneurship, career guidance, counseling, and job placement services.
- **Improving the competitiveness of MSMEs operating in selected employment-relevant sectors:**
Through tailored business development services with a focus on an improvement of their productivity, energy efficiency, innovation technologies (fostering socio-ecological transformation) and job quality.
- **Building and bolstering a collaborative eco-system of employment promotion actors:**
Through enabling complementarity of measures for beneficiaries to the end of efficient job matching mechanisms.



Facts and Figures

Expected Results:

- 2,250** Beneficiaries, of whom 70% are youth and young adults, 40% are women, and 10% are people with disabilities benefit from a labour-market oriented measure to improve their skills.
At least 55 MSMEs confirm that these measures meet their needs.
- 310** MSMEs participate in Business Development Services to increase their competitiveness with the aim of retaining existing jobs or creating new ones.
In addition.
- 70** MSMEs are supported in measures for good working conditions.
- 800** Beneficiaries find employment in 60 months after the completion of the respective measures.
- 650** Beneficiaries successfully placed in follow-up measures by the employment promotion actors.
- 80** ‘Good’ jobs in MSMEs are created.



Graduation of 80 youth after completing 400-hour training on coding and soft skills.

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