



PROJECT OVERVIEW

QUEST: Recovering Businesses in Lebanon II

PROJECT GOAL

Support marginalized women entrepreneurs in the private sector, along with the communities they represent, establishing a strong foundation for economic recovery and social stability in Lebanon.

The number of women entrepreneurs in Lebanon is quite low, and most women-owned businesses in the country are not formally registered, making it difficult for these women to access financing from banks. Women entrepreneurs often must use their personal savings to start their businesses, and expansion is limited to investments that can be made from subsequent earnings. Furthermore,

women entrepreneurs do not have access to capacity strengthening opportunities, nor to resources that lead to business growth. Since the economic meltdown that began in 2019, Lebanese women and youth entrepreneurs, particularly those in remote and peri-urban areas, have been disproportionately affected.

The second phase of the QUEST project, funded by Kerk in Actie (KiA), continues to promote social cohesion and equality between men and women in



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Lebanon through economic empowerment and the advancement of fair and safe working conditions. Women entrepreneurs will benefit from an enabling, inclusive economic environment to grow their micro and small enterprises while creating new job opportunities.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

1. Support and accelerate the business enabling environment and ecosystem for entrepreneurs and enterprises.
2. Provide access to finance for micro and small enterprises to foster business expansion, job creation and economic empowerment.
3. Improve social cohesion among entrepreneurs and community members and increase their business capacity and soft skills.

Since 2017, Corus organization Lutheran World Relief has implemented more than 14 projects and initiatives in Lebanon, spanning various business sectors and emphasizing an inclusive gender perspective. Lutheran World Relief has directly reached over 11,000 individuals since it started operating in the country.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- **An Economic Learning, Dialogue & Inclusion Forum (ELDI)** will be created to establish a consistent platform for information exchange and advocacy focused on supporting entrepreneurs.
- **250+ microenterprises** will gain access to financing/microcredit, along with financial literacy training and opportunities to engage in social cohesion activities.

**kerk
in actie**



The Corus Effect

Lutheran World Relief is part of Corus International, an ensemble of global leaders in international development and humanitarian assistance. In addition to Lutheran World Relief, the Corus family of organizations includes global public health agency IMA World Health, U.K.-based technology for development company CGA Technologies, impact investing fund Ground Up Investing, and direct trade company Farmers Market Brands.

We operate as permanent partners, integrating expertise, disciplines, approaches and resources to overcome global health challenges, develop productive and stable economies, improve resilience in the face of climate change, and respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

- **40+ SMEs** will gain access to financing/SME loans, including 120 customized business coaching days and opportunities to engage in social cohesion activities. Additionally, at least one SME will be awarded an impact investment of up to \$75,000.
- **\$450K+ in financing capital** will be mobilized to support entrepreneurs.
- **40+ Lebanese interns** will be targeted through the Maharat apprenticeship program.



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