



PROJECT OVERVIEW

QUEST: Recovering Businesses in Lebanon III

PROJECT GOAL

QUEST III strengthens the business enabling environment and ecosystem, increases access to finance for micro and small enterprises (MSEs), improves social cohesion among entrepreneurs and community members, and builds business capacity and soft skills.

As Lebanon continues to navigate a fragile economic recovery amid ongoing conflict and instability, QUEST Recovering Businesses Phase III builds on the financial and economic pathways established in Phase II. These efforts have already laid the groundwork for entrepreneurship, social cohesion and shared prosperity. Phase III expands this work into a broader national effort aimed at driving sustainable economic growth.

Phase III envisions an economy grounded in socioeconomic cooperation—one that fosters peace and strengthens connections among Lebanon’s various communities, regions, demographics, political affiliations and spiritual identities.

The project continues to support Lebanese entrepreneurs with a strong emphasis on youth and women. Through targeted investments, training and ecosystem engagement, QUEST III strengthens the business enabling environment, expands access to finance for MSEs, improves social cohesion among entrepreneurs and community members and strengthens business and soft skills capacity.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

A Corus International organization

Lutheran World Relief, part of Corus International, has worked at the nexus of humanitarian assistance and development in the Middle East since 1948. In late 2017, we began working in Lebanon to address diminishing economic opportunities and rising social tensions between Lebanese communities and Syrian refugees. When the devastating Beirut explosion struck in 2020, we acted swiftly to provide emergency support and recovery assistance.

Today, as Lebanon faces prolonged economic collapse, political instability and regional conflict, we remain committed to strengthening the resilience of vulnerable households and small businesses. Over the past three years, Lutheran World Relief has supported more than 2,240 micro and small businesses with access to financial and non-financial services.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- **An Economic Learning, Dialogue & Inclusion Forum (ELDI) Forum** will be strengthened as a key platform for policy dialogue and collaboration across the entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- **321 microenterprises** will receive financial services, training and business support including financial literacy, awareness on violence against women and girls, child labor and fair working conditions, business formalization and peer learning. Through this support, **\$562,000** in microfinance will be mobilized to help microenterprises start, stabilize or grow their businesses.
- **70 small enterprises** will receive financial services, training and targeted business support

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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.

including financial literacy, business formalization, peer learning and one-on-one coaching. These enterprises will also access **\$350,000** in microfinance to strengthen and expand their operations.

- **1 impact investment of \$75,000** will be made in a small enterprise through either an equity or debt mechanism.
- **80 interns** will receive training, capacity-building support and on-the-job internship placement with private sector companies.



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