


TOGETHER FOR BETTER HIGHER EDUCATION

 LOCATION Baalbeck-Hermel, Lebanon	 DURATION 1 April 2021 → 31 March 2022	 BUDGET EUR 59,940
---	---	---

 PRIORITY AREA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Higher and Further Education • Completion of Higher and Further Education 	LEAD INSTITUTION	 The Lebanese Organisation of Studies and Training الجمعية اللبنانية للدراسات والتدريب
---	-------------------------	--


OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate access to higher education for vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian youths through linguistics and digital capacity building
- To ensure the retention of Lebanese and Syrian youths in higher education through psychosocial, career development, and skills training


BENEFICIARIES

243 vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian youths in higher education out of which 159 received a certificate of completion

	
42	117



ACTIVITIES

Access to higher education

- English and French language courses,
- Basic, intermediate, and advanced computer skills courses,
- Career orientation sessions and mentorship

Retention in higher and further education

- Career development techniques and skills trainings including teamwork, communication skills, problem solving,
- Practical and technical training in the students' majors,
- Psychosocial support (PSS) sessions

 LAMA 23 Years old <p>"I suffer from speech and hearing difficulties and a fear of mingling in society and making friends. I finished my studies in Accounting and Informatics TS2 with great difficulty but I persevered despite all challenges due to my persistence to have a successful career. Through this project, I have gained great confidence in myself and I am now very eager to enter the field of work because I was able to break the barrier of fear of communicating with others and working within a group. I see myself as being able to face society without being ashamed of my personality nor my health condition. I have now gained a great ability to control my stress and anger. I am very happy because I now believe that I, as I am, can continue my career with pride."</p>	ZAHRAA 32 Years old <p>"Due to the guidance, I had received during the psychosocial support sessions, I was able to change my thinking and my personality, and to better treat myself and my children. I now look at the future in a positive way as I learned how to turn my challenges into a positive goal that encourages me to progress, persevere, and devote myself to myself and my children, to better raise them in a warm home away from conflicts, problems, and psychological crises. This project helped me save myself and my family from collapse, and to be aware that the ultimate goal is my children."</p>
--	--

REFLECTIONS FROM THE LEAD INSTITUTION

Together for Better Higher Education was an innovative project that contributed to the strengthening of the collaboration between our organisation with public and private institutions.

Students were able to benefit from practical and market skills in three university majors, in Accounting, Web Development and Nursing, during a time where educational institutes were closed due to economic crises and Covid-19 restrictions and students were unable to attend their regular classes in their universities or their vocational institutes. Despite all challenges faced, we were able through this project to provide capacity building courses in English, IT, and career guidance as well as psychosocial support to reduce the crises' effects.

During implementation, the team had to find practical and mitigation measures to the various challenges faced whether electricity outage, the increase in the fuel costs and the scarcity of resources or the Covid-19 restrictions. A key measure was the reallocation of resources in the most cost effective and optimized ways.

The announcement and promotion of the project through various social media channels was crucial for a successful and bigger outreach to a significant number of interested applicants. This is definitely one of the main lessons learned and a good practice to be used in the outreach process in our future projects. We celebrated the graduation of 159 fully capacitated students with the required market skills and strong personality which reflects the importance of such projects to build and support their future.

MOSTAFA HARB

Project Coordinator, The Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training (LOST)

