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**“Resilient Communities: Supporting Livelihoods, Education
and Social Stability”**

INTERNAL TRAINING REPORT

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International Institute
for Nonviolent Action

I. GENERAL DATA

1. METHODOLOGY

As part of the effort to strengthen the basic social and economic skills of youth in refugee and host communities, the Fursa consortium has carried out a series of training activities (codenamed “A3” in the project’s LogFrame) in the areas targeted by the project.

In order to assess the effectiveness and impact of these activities, the Fursa staff and their local partners have conducted various data collection tasks. As a first step, participant registration data have been gathered, processed and stored by using KoBoToolbox from the beginning of the A3 activities (May 2017) till the end (July 2018). Secondly, a method of verification consisting in pre- and post-activity tests has been employed so as to gauge progress in participants’ knowledge as a direct result of the trainings. With the goal of offering the most complete and thorough overview of the activities, collected data have been disaggregated by age range, gender and nationality.

Overall, Fursa staff has collected data on most of the participants (96% in total) as reported beneficiaries amount to 86% of the participants in Lebanon and 98% in KRI. In both target regions, the majority of the beneficiaries are host community members (60% in KRI, 53% in Lebanon). While beneficiaries in Lebanon are characterized by a slightly larger female presence (60% women), in KRI 57% of the beneficiaries are men. A diverging trend also stands out with regard to the age range: whilst 88% of the beneficiaries in KRI fall in the 18-27 age range, only 43% of them belong to the same age group in Lebanon, with up to 33% being 28 or older. The dropout rate was significantly lower in Lebanon (6%) than KRI (16%).

The indicator chosen for the monitoring and evaluation of these activities calculates the percentage of participants who have increased their knowledge and skills in subjects such as language skills and vocational skills (For further information on the indicator please see Annex II (LINK)).

Steps have been taken to minimize error margins and information collected by field officers has been desk-reviewed so as to single out and eliminate potential errors and biases. In spite of this, challenges have arisen due to the lack of staff adequately trained in data collection, especially among the implementing partners.

2. STATISTICAL DATA

TARGETED BENEFICIARIES	Total number of beneficiaries targeted to date	Total number of reported beneficiaries to date (avg.)	% reported	% dropout	Age range 14-17	Age range 18-27	Age 28+	Male	Female	Hosting Community Members	Refugees	IDPs
KRI	1589	≈1564	≈98%	17%	108	1349	81	888	680	956	405	226
LEBANON	321	≈275	≈86%	6%	57	122	90	112	171	144	130	N/A
Total	1910	≈1839	≈96%	15%	165	1471	171	1000	851	1100	535	226

II. TARGETED SAMPLE DATA

1. METHODOLOGY

For the monitoring and evaluation of participants' progress a sample target of at least 20% for Lebanon and 15% for KRI was set, that is, respectively 65 and 241 beneficiaries who participated in the trainings from the beginning of the A3 activities to 31 July 2018. The reported beneficiaries have been selected through Simple Random Sampling criteria.

In order to gauge the knowledge increase, the beneficiaries underwent a pre-test, prior to the beginning of the training activity, followed by a post-activity test 1 ½ - 2 months later (Please see Annex I). Despite the relatively short time span between the two tests, the results suggest that the training activities have proved extremely successful in increasing the life skills knowledge of the beneficiaries. As a matter of fact, almost all the participants have reported a progress as a direct result of the trainings - against an initial target of 60% - and only 1% of the participants failed to improve their knowledge. Notably, around 40% of these have reported an increase of more than 100% in their score.

2. STATISTICAL DATA

SAMPLED BENEFICIARIES	Total number of sampled beneficiaries to date	Age range 14-17	Age range 18-27	Outside Age range	Male	Female	Hosting Community Members	Refugees	IDPs
KRI	241	16	222	3	128	113	147	73	21
LEBANON	65	16	31	18	30	35	31	34	-
Total	306	32	253	21	158	148	178	107	21
Region	Score decreased	Score increased 0-4%	Scored increased 5-25%	Score increased 26% - 50%	Score increased 51% - 75%	Score increased 76% - 100%	Score increased 101% - 200%	Score increased higher than 201%	Total
KRI	1	2	34	37	38	30	47	52	241
LEBANON	2	1	13	12	9	5	10	13	65
TOTAL	3	3	47	49	47	35	57	65	306

III. ANALYSIS

With Activity 3 (A3) – Technical and Vocational Training, COSV aimed at increasing economic self-reliance of youth in refugee and host communities by increasing their soft and vocational skills. Soft skills trainings supported beneficiaries to put in practice their already existing technical skills and increase their employability with the language and computer skills acquired. As for the technical trainings, the goal was to provide beneficiaries with increased technical knowledge and specific skillsets that would facilitate their access to local job markets.

COSV chose to monitor the strengthening economic and social skills of A3 beneficiaries by administering pre- and posttest covering the topics taught during the training. This means of verification allows for assessing the knowledge gained on the specific topics as a result of the training. By increasing the skills and the knowledge through the trainings, participants increase their employability, and become more confident in their research for jobs or open their own businesses.

The knowledge gained serves the Overall Objective of the project, i.e. strengthening the prospects of the youth in refugee and host communities for social and economic inclusion.

Some of the challenges faced during the implementation of Activity 3 are as follows linked to the selection criteria. In Lebanon, vocational trainings were delivered based on the specific needs of the businesses selected as part of the sub-granted micro-projects under Activity 5 (A5). Many of the beneficiaries therefore were selected for very specific skillsets and in collaboration with micro-project owners, a factor which helped maintaining a high level of commitment throughout the training programs. It has to be noted that, for the very same reason, selected semi-skilled beneficiaries did not always fit with the age-range criteria as they belonged to older age groups.

While this approach resulted in a low drop-out rate in Lebanon, in KRI – where the specific skillset criteria did not apply – beneficiaries struggled to find motivation and commit themselves to the training programs and were, as such, more prone to drop out.

As a result, for future phases, we suggest not limiting the age-range to 27 so as to give access to older but valuable and motivated beneficiaries. In addition, we suggest applying selection criteria based on the actual needs of the local job market (as determined through area-specific and up-to-date assessment studies) and the professional aspirations of the beneficiaries in order to ensure that more effective results and lower dropout rates are achieved.