**MUTLIANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plan in the sense of Article 23(2) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

## 1. SYNOPSIS

### 1.1. Action Summary Table

| 1. Title OPSYS Business reference: ACT-62757 | **EU support to address post conflict scenarios in Lebanon** Multiannual Action Plan in Favour of Lebanon 2024 and 2025
ABAC Commitment level 1 number: JAD.1495058 (for 2025) Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe). |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Economic and Investment Plan (EIP)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIP Flagship</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Team Europe Initiative</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Beneficiary of the action</td>
<td>The action shall be carried out in Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Programming document</td>
<td>Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-2027¹</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results | PRIORITY 2: Strengthening an inclusive and resilient economy
PRIORITY 3: Promoting a green and sustainable recovery |
| 7. Priority Area(s), sectors | DAC codes
730 – Reconstruction Relief & Rehabilitation |

¹ C(2022)8363 final of 24/11/2022
160 – Other Social Infrastructure & Services,
250 – Business and Other Services,
310 – Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</th>
<th>Main SDGs:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 - Decent work and economic growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Other significant SDGs:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 – Zero hunger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 - Good health and well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 – Gender Equality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9- Industry, innovation and infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 – Reduced inequalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 - Climate Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 – Life on land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 9. DAC code(s) | 73010 – Immediate post-emergency reconstruction and rehabilitation 30% |
|               | 16020 – Employment creation 20% |
|               | 31220 – Forestry development 15 % |
|               | 31130 – Agricultural land resources 15% |
|               | 25030 – Business development services 10% |
|               | 32130 – Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) development 10% |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10. Main Delivery Channel</th>
<th>40 000 Multilateral Organisations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| 11. Targets | ☐ Migration |
|            | ☑ Climate |
|            | ☑ Social inclusion and Human Development |
|            | ☑ Gender |
|            | ☑ Biodiversity |
|            | ☐ Human Rights, Democracy and Governance |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12. Markers (from DAC form)</th>
<th>General policy objective</th>
<th>Not targeted</th>
<th>Significant objective</th>
<th>Principal objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participation development/good governance</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aid to environment</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inclusion of persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RIO Convention markers</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12. Markers (from DAC form)</th>
<th>RIO Convention markers</th>
<th>Not targeted</th>
<th>Significant objective</th>
<th>Principal objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy objectives</td>
<td>Not targeted</td>
<td>Significant objective</td>
<td>Principal objective</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological diversity</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combat desertification</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change mitigation</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change adaptation</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EIP**
- EIP Flagship: YES
- Tags: YES

**Tags**
- transport: ☐
- energy: ☒
- environment, climate resilience: ☒
- digital: ☒
- economic development (incl. private sector, trade and macroeconomic support): ☒
- human development (incl. human capital and youth): ☒
- health resilience: ☒
- migration and mobility: ☒
- agriculture, food security and rural development: ☒
- rule of law, governance and public administration reform: ☒
- other: ☒

**Digitalisation**
- Tags: YES

**Connectivity**
- Tags: YES
14. Amounts concerned

Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020110 – Southern Neighbourhood
Total estimated cost: EUR 20 000 000.00
Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 20 000 000.00

The contribution is for an amount of EUR 20 000 000.00 from the general budget of the European Union for 2025, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

**BUDGET INFORMATION**

**MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

15. Implementation modalities (management mode and delivery methods)

Indirect management the entity to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1

1.2. Summary of the Action

The Action aims to support Lebanon in its recovery from the conflict raging in the country as a spill-over effect of the Israel-Hamas war that started on 7 October 2023. The Action will on the one hand promote the resumption of economic activities, including through the restoration of critical natural resources, to support post-conflict recovery. The action aims to provide a flexible envelope considering the fact that there has not yet been a cessation of hostilities and the parameters of conflict resolution are not yet available.

In Lebanon, the hostilities have resulted in the displacement of over 90,000 people and the destruction of natural resources, key infrastructures and vital economic assets. A multifaced approach will seek to restore economic activities and income generation, increase employability, revive businesses and improve environmental resilience with the long-term objective to ensure a smooth economic and environmental recovery for the most affected areas in Lebanon. This can be achieved by supporting sustainable agriculture and livelihoods, strengthening environmental resilience.

The Action aligns with Priority 2 of the MIP to strengthen the economy, as well as Priority 3 to promote a green and sustainable recovery. The action aligns with SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), as well as the principles set forth in DAC 310 (Agriculture) and DAC 320 (Forestry), demonstrating a comprehensive approach to sustainable economic growth and environmental conservation. This Action also holds significant relevance within the framework of the EU Strategic Approach to Resilience and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. The Action also aligns with the EU Green deal, the Joint Communication "Renewed Partnership with the southern Neighbourhood -- A new Agenda for the Mediterranean," specifically the policy area of Strengthen resilience, build prosperity and seize the digital transition, and the Green transition: climate change resilience, energy and environment as well as Lebanon's sustainable development strategies.
The Action will contribute to the fulfilment of the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 GAP III, in particular to its thematic areas of engagement “Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women” and “Integrating women, peace and security agenda” Likewise, it will contribute to the implementation of the EU Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the EU’s Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024.

1.3. Beneficiary of the action

The action shall be carried out in Lebanon, which is included in the list of ODA recipients.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

Since late 2019, Lebanon has been facing an unprecedented crisis, which has led to a dramatic economic contraction, a large increase in poverty, unemployment and brain drain. In March 2020, Lebanon defaulted on its Eurobonds which was followed by a deep recession, a dramatic fall in the value of the Lebanese currency and triple digit inflation. The deteriorating economic situation has hit the public sector to an extent that it is visibly disintegrating. Public authorities lack the necessary funds to maintain operations and to pay their staff more than symbolic salaries. The COVID-19 pandemic and the August 2020 port of Beirut explosion have compounded the crisis.

The crisis has had devastating effects on the country’s economy and its people, resulting in a massive impoverishment of the middle classes. The public sector has been particularly hard hit with the bulk of the labour force still paid in Lebanese lira, suffering from plummeting purchasing power. Thousands of highly qualified civil servants are leaving for better paid jobs in the private sector or migrating in search of better opportunities.

The current economic crisis in Lebanon is a result of a complex set of factors, including political instability, corruption, and mismanagement of public finances. The economic contraction has resulted in a sharp increase in unemployment, poverty, and inflation, making it difficult for the government to deliver essential services and for the people to access basic necessities. In addition, the 2020 default on public debt cut Lebanon’s access to financial markets. In 2021, the devaluation of the national currency against the US dollar accelerated, affecting dramatically an economy highly dependent on imports. The Central Bank and the banking sector severely restricted access to people’s savings and limited cash withdrawals. Subsidies (food, gasoline, medications) were lifted abruptly. Inflation, which reached 230.4% in 2023, exacerbated by currency depreciation and rapid dollarisation, is expected to decrease in the coming years. Although, the World Bank has refrained from a 2024 forecast, citing high uncertainty, the economy is nonetheless expected to recover modestly, amidst a global economic slowdown and protracted regional conflict. Essential reforms, including those agreed upon with the IMF in the April 2022 Staff-Level Agreement (aimed to address inter alia banking sector restructuring and fiscal deficits), have largely not been implemented. The banking system is dysfunctional, and the economy relies on cash.

Lebanon’s leadership has inadequately addressed the crises due to a lack of consensus. The Council of Ministers operates in a caretaker capacity since May 2022, with no consensus on a presidential candidate since November 2022. The absence of a Head of State hinders government formation, causing a political vacuum. It also hinders

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2 The Gender Action Plan III is a Joint communication by the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy which was welcomed through EU Presidency Conclusions of 16 December 2020. Drafting was led by European Commission in close consultation with EU Member States, EEAS, civil society organisations, partner governments, and international organisations (UN entities, International Finance Institutions among others). The different parties contributed to the drafting of the document through meetings and through responses to a survey conducted during the process.

3 en_gender_alert_on_the_conflict_in_south_lebanon_december_2023.pdf (unwomen.org)
legislative process. Some of the political parties consider that until a President is appointed, the Parliament is only an electoral body and can only legislate in emergency cases. Since November 2022, there have been only five legislative sessions with twelve unsuccessful electoral sessions to elect a President.

Lebanon has among the world’s highest numbers of refugees per capita with an estimated 90 per cent of Syrian households in 2023 living in extreme poverty. About 1.3 million Syrian and Palestinian refugees are currently residing in Lebanon, primarily in northern areas. These refugees have limited access to food and income, with many dependent on humanitarian assistance. In some areas, the refugee population exceeds the local population, straining community resources. Many worst-affected refugees and poor households in northern areas are expected to be facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes given high and rising prices amid limited labor opportunities, exacerbated by the sharp decline in tourism that occurred following the outbreak of Israel – Hamas conflict in October 2023.

Lebanon has already started to feel the impact of the Israel-Hamas war in terms of hostilities at the southern border. The World Bank assesses that Lebanon is the hardest hit among the neighbouring countries by the conflict. It is estimated that the real GDP growth will contract by 0.6 percent to 0.9 percent in 2023, depending on the extent of the tourism contraction, reversing the positive pre-conflict baseline. Recognising the urgent need for recovery, efforts are underway to address these challenges, but will need to be scaled up once the war ends.

2.2. Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis

The spillover of the Israel-Hamas conflict into Lebanon since October 2023 has significantly impacted local communities and natural resources. The latest updates from the UNOCHA’s 17 May 2024 Lebanon Flash Update #18 – Escalation of hostilities in south Lebanon report that 93,881 individuals are internally displaced (IDPs) due to the conflict (51% of which are female) with 1570 IDPs living in 18 collective shelters. According to the FAO-WFP jointly led Lebanon Food Security Cluster’s 24 April 2024 South Emergency Response Update, 365 cadastres in other regions have reported the arrival of IDPs. Seventy civilians have been killed, among which 18 health workers. Nine water facilities have been damaged or destroyed, affecting water access for 100,000 residents. Lastly, six health facilities and 72 schools have been partially or fully closed, impacting 20,000 children. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by crises and experience higher levels of gender-based violence, with direct impacts on their livelihoods, skills development and access to critical services, including health and education, in addition to taking on increased care-related tasks, such as providing food and water and caring for the sick and children that are out of school due to the conflict.4

The regions that have so far been most affected by the conflict – Southern Lebanon and the Beqaa valley – are also the main areas of agricultural production in Lebanon. Olive trees, citrus fruit trees, grapes and temporary crops including cereals, vegetables and industrial crops are among the most commonly cultivated crops in these areas. Olive trees are particularly abundant, allowing for the production of high-quality olive oil while supporting the livelihoods and food security of numerous farmers.

The conflict has been dramatically impacting natural resources. Based on the UNOCHA’s analysis5, as of 7 March 2024 the total agricultural area and forestland affected by fires due to shelling reached 1,897 hectares. According to the FAO-WFP’s 24 April 2024 South Emergency Response update, 63% of farmers faced challenges reaching their fields, with 26% forced to abandon their agricultural fields due to displacement. Additionally, 23% experienced decreased harvest yields, and 85% encountered difficulties in transporting their agricultural products, leading to 72% reporting income losses. The environment has suffered tremendously, with habitat destruction,

4 Government of Austria supports UN Women’s efforts to provide comprehensive livelihood and protection services to displaced women and girls in South Lebanon | UN Women – Lebanon
5 UN OCHA Lebanon: Flash Update #13 – Escalation of hostilities in South Lebanon, 7 March 2024
widespread deforestation, and persistent pollution rendering the land largely unusable for both human habitation and agriculture.

The conflict has also severely impacted people with disabilities (PwDs), exacerbating their vulnerabilities, limiting access to essential services such as healthcare, rehabilitation, and support systems. According to UN reports, approximately 15% of Lebanon's population lives with disabilities, and the ongoing violence has disrupted their daily lives, forcing many to flee, which compounds their challenges. Humanitarian organizations estimate that thousands of people with disabilities in southern Lebanon face heightened risks due to damaged infrastructure and reduced mobility, leaving them particularly susceptible to injury and inadequate care during times of crisis. Overall, the conflict has not only strained Lebanon's healthcare system but also severely impacted the living conditions of people with disabilities, further complicating their ability to receive adequate care and support.

In the post-conflict phase, following the findings of a future Needs Assessment to be conducted in coordination with other relevant development partners in the country as per standard practice, the Action will adopt a needs-based approach, which will encompass capacity building, environmental, agricultural and infrastructural rehabilitation efforts, as well as direct support to farmers and small businesses, which will be essential to restore economic capacity and well-being for the local communities. The conflict has also exacerbated the country’s overall fragile socio-economic conditions, further straining the capacity of public institutions to deliver essential services. The destruction of infrastructure, displacement of communities, and disruption of economic activities have highlighted the urgent need for comprehensive actions to build resilience, promote stability, and foster inclusive development.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action.

The Ministry of Environment (MoE) sets the basic principles and general provisions to regulate environmental protection and management, preservation and maintenance of environmental basins, and assessment of environmental impact of projects. The Minister of Environment has also been appointed by the Prime Minister as a National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) coordinator for the government’s contingency plan following the Israel-Hamas war and clashes in the South of Lebanon.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) is responsible for the formulation and implementation of the country’s agricultural and fisheries policy.

Local authorities such as Municipalities and Unions of Municipalities are instrumental in ensuring compliance with regulations and sustainable practices. Municipalities are an important part of forest management plans that are normally developed to contribute to collective and effective forest monitoring and development. To note that municipal elections have been postponed repeatedly over the last couple of years, most recently due to the ongoing conflict.

Civil Society Organisations: Lebanon has a vibrant, diverse and active civil society, with the number of registered organisations reaching more than 8,000 according to some estimates. They represent Lebanese citizens calling for better services delivery, reform, political accountability and transparency and have a key role in monitoring state institutions’ activities.

Furthermore, partnerships with international organisations, environmental associations and NGOs, and agricultural cooperatives and syndicates are essential for capacity-building, research, and community engagement.
2.3. Lessons Learned

The Action’s formulation is informed by previous similar experiences, namely the 2006 war in Southern Lebanon. A major common challenge relates to conducting comprehensive assessments due to the intensity of the conflict. Indeed, the volatile security situation in the aftermath of the 2006 war posed risks to assessment teams and humanitarian workers, limiting their ability to conduct thorough on-the-ground assessments in some areas. This can be observed in the current context, with a limited availability of reliable data. Back in 2006, various organisations, including government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and international humanitarian actors, mobilised to conduct rapid assessments to determine the most pressing needs of affected communities such as food, water, shelter, and medical assistance, as well as assessing damage to critical infrastructure, including agricultural land and livelihood assets.

Engaging local communities in the recovery process proved to be a key aspect to foster ownership and ensure the success of post-conflict interventions in 2006 and will be integrated in this Action. This involvement can range from participatory needs assessments to community-led initiatives aimed at rebuilding livelihoods and restoring the environment. In many cases, local communities played an essential role in providing information to humanitarian organisations and government agencies about the damage incurred during the conflict, as well as their immediate needs for assistance. Community members were often the first responders to the crisis, providing support to their neighbours.

On the importance of coordination among international and local institutions, the extent to which coordination were achieved after 2006 war varied depending on factors such as the scale of the humanitarian operation and the capacity of local institutions. The coordination platforms that were established after 2006 war and the Syrian crisis helped in setting working structures and collaboration mechanisms in the country (Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, the Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF), etc.), which provide a solid base for multi-partner coordination in the response to the current conflict. The Action will be informed by planned and ongoing studies and analysis under EU funded actions. This Action will complement the Action on Blue and green economy (AAP 2025), the Food and Resilience Facility (AAP 2022) implemented by FAO and WFP and EU funded ENABLE project implemented by ILO (AAP 2022).

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective/Impact of this action is to:
Support the medium and long-term recovery and stability in Lebanon upon cessation of hostilities at the Southern border.

The Specific Objective (Outcome) of this action is to Reinforce a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery in Lebanon’s conflict-affected areas.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objective (Outcome):
1.1 Gender-responsive and equitable business resumption, service delivery and entrepreneurship in Lebanon’s conflict-affected areas with a focus on sustainable agriculture and environmental protection are supported

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1:
- Land clearing, including from hazardous material resulting from bombings
- Technical and material support for land rehabilitation, including soil analysis, erosion control, and reforestation strategies
- Provision of targeted access to finance for affected businesses, with specific attention on those headed by women
- Capacity building to foster income-generating opportunities and decent and safe employment, with a focus on women in all their diversity
- Gender sensitive conflict prevention and social stability trainings.
- Master planning and capacity building for management bodies of the existing natural reserves
- Technical and operational support for the provision of basic services

3.3 Mainstreaming

**Environmental Protection, Climate Change and Biodiversity**

Outcomes of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)
The SEA screening concluded that key environmental and climate-related aspects need be addressed during design.

Outcomes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project).
The EIA screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project).
The CRA screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

**Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender equality is a significant objective, indicators will be disaggregated by sex. The action contributes to GAP III’s thematic area “Economic empowerment: Enhancing women’s economic opportunities, promoting entrepreneurship, and addressing gender disparities in the labor market, including access to decent work, financial resources, and economic decision-making”.

**Human Rights**

The proposed action is fully aligned to the existing EU human rights strategies and action plans. Human rights concerns are mainstreamed throughout the action and will be taken into consideration in all activities to be drawn up during implementation stage. The action has been designed following a “rights-based “and “leave-no-one behind” approach.

**Disability**

This action is labelled as D1. The Action will ensure involvement of persons with disabilities’ organisations or specialised organisations, in the activities, in order to include an adequate disability approach to the intervention. The needs of persons with disabilities will be taken into consideration in the needs assessment.

**Democracy**

In line with EU commitment to promote legally binding international standards to the fundamental rights and the rule of law, the action will promote Lebanon commitment to international conventions.

**Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

This action applies conflict-sensitivity and a do-no harm approach throughout the planning and implementation of the action, and addresses related priorities and recommendations.
Disaster Risk Reduction

The action will focus on Disaster Risk Reduction, with a particular emphasis on restoring natural habitats and biodiversity to enhance readiness and resilience to potential disasters. Through targeted efforts, the action aims to mitigate disaster risks by restoring and preserving natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

3.4 Risks and Assumptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Risks</th>
<th>Likelihood (High/Medium/Low)</th>
<th>Impact (High/Medium/Low)</th>
<th>Mitigating measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. External Environment</td>
<td>The escalation of hostilities along the Southern Border of Lebanon intensifies and extends to a nationwide scale</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Activities will be implemented after the end of the conflict and will be adjusted to the needs on the basis of the conflict’s evolution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. External Environment</td>
<td>Political or social instability and tensions</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Promote inclusive governance that represents diverse communities and ensures fair participation and reducing feelings of marginalisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Focus on sustainable economic development to address issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. People and the organisation</td>
<td>Stakeholder opposition</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Stakeholder engagement in the planning process through workshops and meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. External environment</td>
<td>Inadequate human resources of line ministries and authorities to follow up on programme activities</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Engagement of line ministries in priority areas and strategic topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. External Environment</td>
<td>Climate change leading to forest fires: Rising temperatures can lead to fires that destroy forest ecosystems</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Support to civil defence’s forest fire fighting and establish firefighting plans with local communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. External Environment</td>
<td>Climate change leading to land degradation and soil erosion</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Support to restoration of agricultural lands and promote sustainable land management practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External environment</td>
<td>Limited engagement in favor of gender equality and the empowerment of women, a human</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>The project will provide adequate resources to work with institutions and non-state actors on the importance of integrating gender equality, a human</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. People and the organisation</td>
<td>Resistance to change</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Engage in stakeholder consultations and change management activities to address concerns and build buy-in among public officials.</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. People and the organisation</td>
<td>Inadequate infrastructure</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the existing digital infrastructure to identify gaps and weaknesses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**External Assumptions**

**Stability of the political and security situation in Lebanon:** The effective implementation of the Action depends on a stable political and security environment in the country. In the absence of stability, progress may be slow or ineffective.

**Public Awareness and Engagement:** Basic public awareness and interest in environmental issues, with an expectation that community members are willing to participate in and support environmental programmes.

**Partnerships:** Effective coordination with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), international agencies and local communities.

**Political will and commitment:** The government and key stakeholders are committed to supporting and implementing a post-conflict recovery and development agenda.

Regular monitoring and evaluation should be integrated into the programme to assess the validity of these assumptions and adjust strategies accordingly.

**3.5 Intervention Logic**

The underlying intervention logic for the action is that:

IF a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery in Lebanon’s conflict-affected areas is achieved, THEN the action will contribute to medium and long-term recovery and stability in Lebanon upon cessation of hostilities at the Southern border.

IF individuals and businesses in Lebanon’s conflict-affected areas are provided with technical and material support with a focus on sustainable agriculture and environmental protection, AND the provision of basic services is supported, AND the assumption of political stability and security holds true, THEN a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery in Lebanon’s conflict-affected areas to resume will be made possible.
3.6 Indicative Logical Framework Matrix
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Results chain: Main expected results [maximum 10 @]</th>
<th>Indicators [at least one indicator per expected result @]</th>
<th>Baselines (values and years)</th>
<th>Targets (values and years)</th>
<th>Sources of data</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impact 1</td>
<td>Contribute to medium and long-term recovery and stability in Lebanon upon cessation of hostilities at the Southern border</td>
<td>1. Number of (a) jobs, (b) green jobs supported/sustained by the EU (GERF 2.13 and MIP indicator) 2. Number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises applying Sustainable Consumption and Production practices with EU support (GERF 2.6 and MIP indicator)</td>
<td>TBD in the inception phase</td>
<td>TBD in the inception phase</td>
<td>Baseline Assessment, data sources from CNRS, UNEP and others such as international organisation data portals and reports (Global SDG Indicators Database, <a href="https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/">https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/</a>)</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcome 1</td>
<td>1. Support a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery in Lebanon’s conflict-affected areas</td>
<td>1.1 Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land (GERF 2.1) 1.2 Number of businesses in Lebanon’s conflict-affected areas restored with</td>
<td>TBD in the inception phase</td>
<td>TBD in the inception phase</td>
<td>EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems (Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention; Baseline and end line studies conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention; Baseline and end line surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention; ROM reviews)</td>
<td>Local stakeholders are willing to adopt sustainable practices. Cultural acceptance and integration of sustainable practices. Resilience to external pressures and shocks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 1 related to Outcome 1</td>
<td>EU supported interventions</td>
<td>1.3 Number of people directly benefiting from EU supported interventions that aim to reduce social and economic inequality (GERF 2.39)</td>
<td>1.4 Number of people directly benefiting from EU-supported interventions that specifically aim to support civilian post-conflict peace-building and/or conflict prevention (GERF 2.24)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1 Support to business resumption, skill enhancement and entrepreneurship in Lebanon’s conflict-affected areas with a focus on sustainable agriculture and environmental protection</td>
<td>1.1.1. Number of businesses in Lebanon’s conflict-affected areas restored with EU supported interventions</td>
<td>TBD in the inception phase</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.2. Number of people who have benefited from institution or workplace based VET/skills development interventions supported by the EU</td>
<td>Disaggregated by sex</td>
<td>TBD in the inception phase</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1.1.3. Area of agricultural lands affected by the conflict that have been restored and cleared with the support of the EU and region (GERF 2.14)
4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the Government of Lebanon.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from entry into force of the related Financing Agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission’s responsible authorising officer by amending this financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures. ⁶

4.3.1. Indirect Management with a pillar-assessed entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with a pillar assessed entity which will be selected by the Commission’s services using the following criteria:

- Operational presence in Lebanon and experience in managing and coordinating complex, multi-stakeholder projects
- Proven technical experience and capacity to operate and coordinate recovery programmes in a post-conflict context
- Neutrality and capacity to work with governmental and non-governmental actors in all areas of Lebanon.

The implementation by this entity entails the implementation of all the activities of this Action.

4.4 Changes from indirect to direct management (and vice versa) mode due to exceptional circumstances

If the implementation modality under indirect management as defined in section 4.3.1 ‘Indirect Management with a pillar-assessed entity’ cannot be implemented due to circumstances beyond the control of the Commission, the modality of implementation by direct management by grant would be used:

a) Subject matter of the grant (s)
   - Providing comprehensive support for land rehabilitation, including soil analysis, erosion control, reforestation, and hazardous material removal.
   - Delivering training in agricultural best practices, fire prevention, and recovery strategies to bolster community resilience.

⁶ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.
- Facilitating capacity building and access to finance for affected businesses to foster income generation and safe employment opportunities.
- Implementing skill development initiatives, conflict prevention training, and master planning for natural reserve management to enhance environmental sustainability and social stability.

b) Type of applicants targeted
- International Organisations, environmental associations and NGOs specialised in multifaceted challenges of land rehabilitation, economic recovery, and social stability.

4.5 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.6 Indicative Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicative Budget components</th>
<th>EU contribution in 2025 (amount in EUR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcome 1: Economic, agricultural and environmental recovery composed of</td>
<td>19 800 000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect management – cf. section 4.3.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation – cf. section 5.2</td>
<td>200 000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit – cf. section 5.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic communication and public diplomacy - cf. sec 6</td>
<td>will be covered by another Decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>20 000 000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

For each component or, if more relevant, sub-component, a project steering committee (PSC) shall be set up to oversee and validate the overall direction and policy of the projects. It will also provide guidance for the programme activities and oversight of implementation, provide co-ordination to ensure overall coherency. The PSC shall meet at least twice a year.

The implementing partners will assist the PSC by fulfilling a technical secretariat functioning jointly and ensuring an active and meaningful participation of right holders as applicable (i.e. representatives of the relevant Ministries, beneficiaries, public and private sector organisations…) in each of the programme activities and in the decision making.
As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner’s responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its Outputs and contribution to the achievement of its Outcomes, and if possible at the time of reporting, contribution to the achievement of its Impacts, as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the log frame matrix.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Arrangements for monitoring and reporting, including roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Implementing partners will be requested to identify clear baselines setting and targets and specify whether additional surveys are needed in case data are not yet available and/or should be refined during the inception phase. If needed, additional survey can be funded at contract level and budget lines to this aim to be clearly identified in the contract.

- Implementing partners will set in place a robust system to monitor the impact of the actions (in terms of its intended impact and results, as well as conflict sensitivity, gender equality, energy savings, GHG emissions reduction…).
- Collection of data will be the responsibility of the implementing partners and baselines data must be available at the latest at the end of the inception phase while results data must be collected on time for the submission of the final report.
- Analysis of sex-disaggregated data will be encouraged whenever relevant and possible.
- Implementing partners will be requested to identify yearly milestones/targets to ensure a proper monitoring of the achievements at the time of the submission of the annual report. Grants contracts (or relevant agreements with final beneficiaries) logical framework will be developed based on the logical framework for each of the Outcomes to promote coherent data collection and reporting.
- To promote the measurement of the impact of the action, the programme will make use of and possible participate in surveys done by others (i.e. national authorities or other donors). Peer review mechanisms will be favoured, alongside with the engagement of relevant national stakeholders in order to promote stronger national M&E capacities.

Monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach, and rights of persons with disabilities including inclusion and diversity. Indicators shall be disaggregated by sex and disability.
5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for problem solving, learning purposes, in particular with respect to with respect to the overall strategic approach to the EU in Lebanon in supporting policy dialogue, engagement of CSOs, social cohesion and address the external dimension of the Green Deal ⁷.

The Commission shall form a Reference Group (RG) composed by representatives from the main stakeholders at both EU and national (representatives from the government, from civil society organisations (private sector, NGOs, etc.), etc.) levels. If deemed necessary, other donors will be invited to join.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at one calendar month in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation exercise and missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

Evaluation services may be contracted under a framework contract.

Evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach, conflict sensitivity, as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women’s empowerment and disability inclusion. Expertise on human rights, disability and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

All entities implementing EU-funded external actions have the contractual obligation to inform the relevant audiences of the Union’s support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. To that end they must comply with the instructions given in the 2022 guidance document Communicating and raising EU visibility: Guidance for external actions (or any successor document).

This obligation will apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, the partner country, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU Member States. In each case, a reference to the relevant contractual obligations must be included in the respective financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and contribution agreements.

For the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action, the Commission may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, as part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union. Visibility and communication measures should also promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds. Effectiveness of communication activities on awareness about the action and its objectives as well as on EU funding of the action should be measured.

Implementing partners shall keep the Commission and the EU Delegation fully informed of the planning and implementation of specific visibility and communication activities before the implementation. Implementing partners will ensure adequate visibility of EU financing and will report on visibility and communication actions as well as the results of the overall action to the relevant monitoring committees.
Appendix 1: IDENTIFICATION OF THE PRIMARY INTERVENTION LEVEL FOR REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

✓ Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);
✓ Articulating Actions and/or Contracts according to an expected common chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure a more efficient and aggregated monitoring and reporting of performance;
✓ Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

The present Action identifies as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract level (i.e. Grants, Contribution Agreements, any case in which foreseen individual legal commitments identified in the budget will have different log frames, even if part of the same Action Document)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☒</td>
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