

2020 • 2021

ANNUAL REPORT

GLOBAL CONCESSIONAL FINANCING FACILITY





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The FY21 Global Concessional Facility (GCFF) Annual Report was prepared by the GCFF Coordination Unit (CU) in the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group at the World Bank. The principal author was Agnes Said, with direction by Spyridon Demetriou, Senior Operations Officer, under the general leadership of Nabila Assaf, Manager. Support was also provided by Olivier Lavinal, Senior Operations Officer. The team is grateful to those who provided input and support.

The GCFF CU extends its gratitude to the GCFF donors: Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The GCFF CU also extends its thanks to the project teams, the four Benefitting Countries – Jordan, Lebanon, Colombia, and Ecuador – UNHCR and other development partners, as well as the Implementation Support Agencies.

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

BC	Benefitting Country	JICA	Japan International Development Agency
CDR	Council for Development and Reconstruction	JMC	Joint Monitoring Committee
DLI	Development Linked Indicator	MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	MIC	Middle-income Country
EIB	European Investment Bank	MOE	Ministry of Education
EMIS	Education Management Information System	MOH	Ministry of Health
FIF	Financial Intermediary Fund	MOL	Ministry of Labor
FY	Fiscal Year	MPWT	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
GCFF	Global Concessional Financing Facility	M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
GoC	Government of Colombia	NTPS	National Teacher Professional Standards
GOE	Government of Ecuador	OM	Operations Manual
GoJ	Government of Jordan	PDO	Project Development Objective
GoL	Government of Lebanon	PEP	Special Permit of Stay
IaDB	Inter-American Development Bank	PforR	Program for Results
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	PSSF	Private Sector Support Framework
IDA	International Development Association	RF	Results Framework
IE	Independent Evaluation	RPTA	Railways and Public Transport Authority
IMF	International Monetary Fund	UN	United Nations
ISA	Implementation Support Agency	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank	WAJ	Water Authority Jordan
IVA	Independent Verification Agent	WB(G)	World Bank (Group)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Annual Report highlights the progress and results achieved during Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20)¹. It provides an overview of GCFF funded operations in Lebanon, Jordan, Colombia and Ecuador, including a detailed status of each active operation, and includes financial statements for the fiscal year. This Annual Report includes a special focus on the results of the Independent Evaluation and the next phase of the GCFF, including proposals and recommendations on strengthening its results framework and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system and the inclusion of a Private Sector Support Framework (PSSF).

GCFF AT A GLANCE

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED (US\$ MILLIONS)

 43.46 Canada	 61.43 Netherlands
 78.92 Denmark	 59.99 Norway
 5.36 EU	 50.24 Sweden
 102.41 Germany	 175.38 UK
 99.56 Japan	 60.00 US

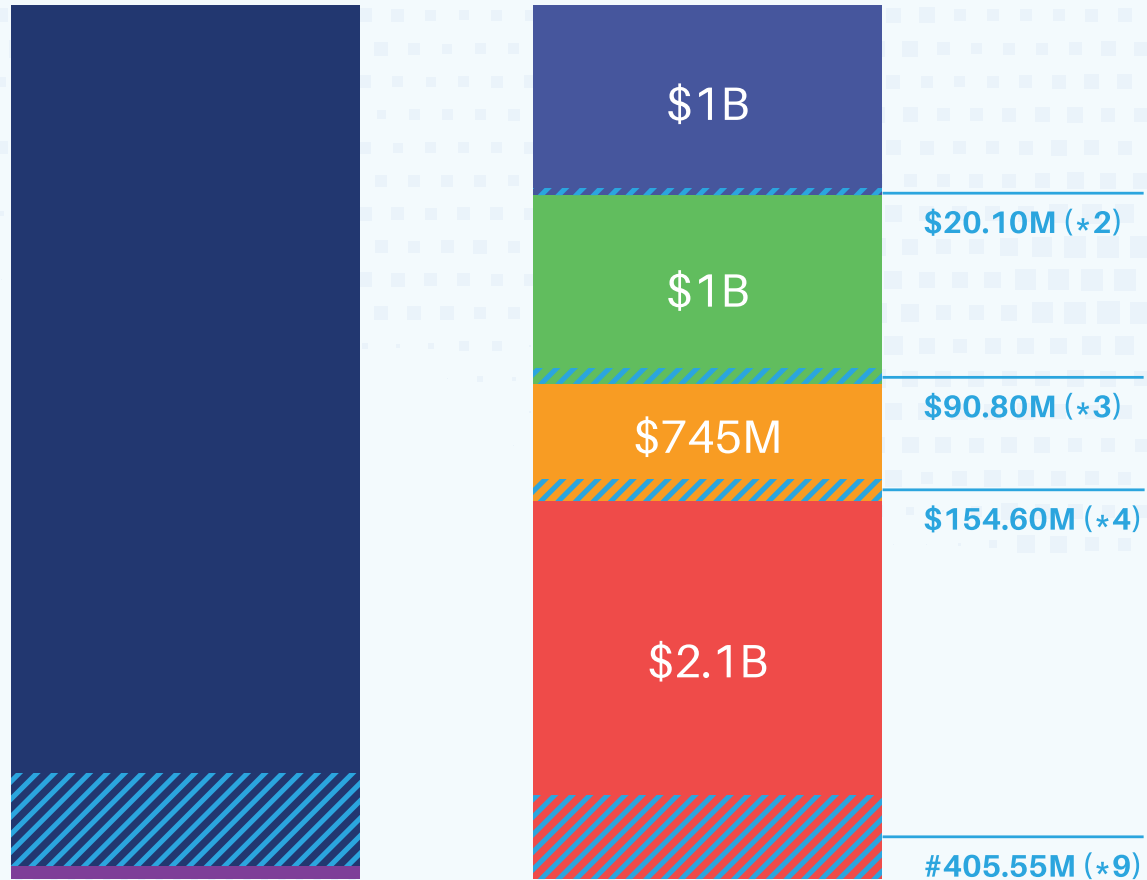
¹ The Annual Report follows the World Bank FY20, which covers the period from July 1, 2020 until June 30, 2021.

FUNDING DECISIONS (US\$ MILLIONS)

Total project amount
for GCFF funded
operations 2016-2021:
\$4.9B

Cumulative funding
decisions 2016-2021:
\$671.05M

Funding decisions
in FY21
\$48.3M



GCFF leveraging effect:

Each **\$1** from the GCFF
has unlocked **\$7**
in concessional loans

Total project financing:

Jordan
Lebanon
Colombia
Ecuador

GCFF funding

* Number of operations





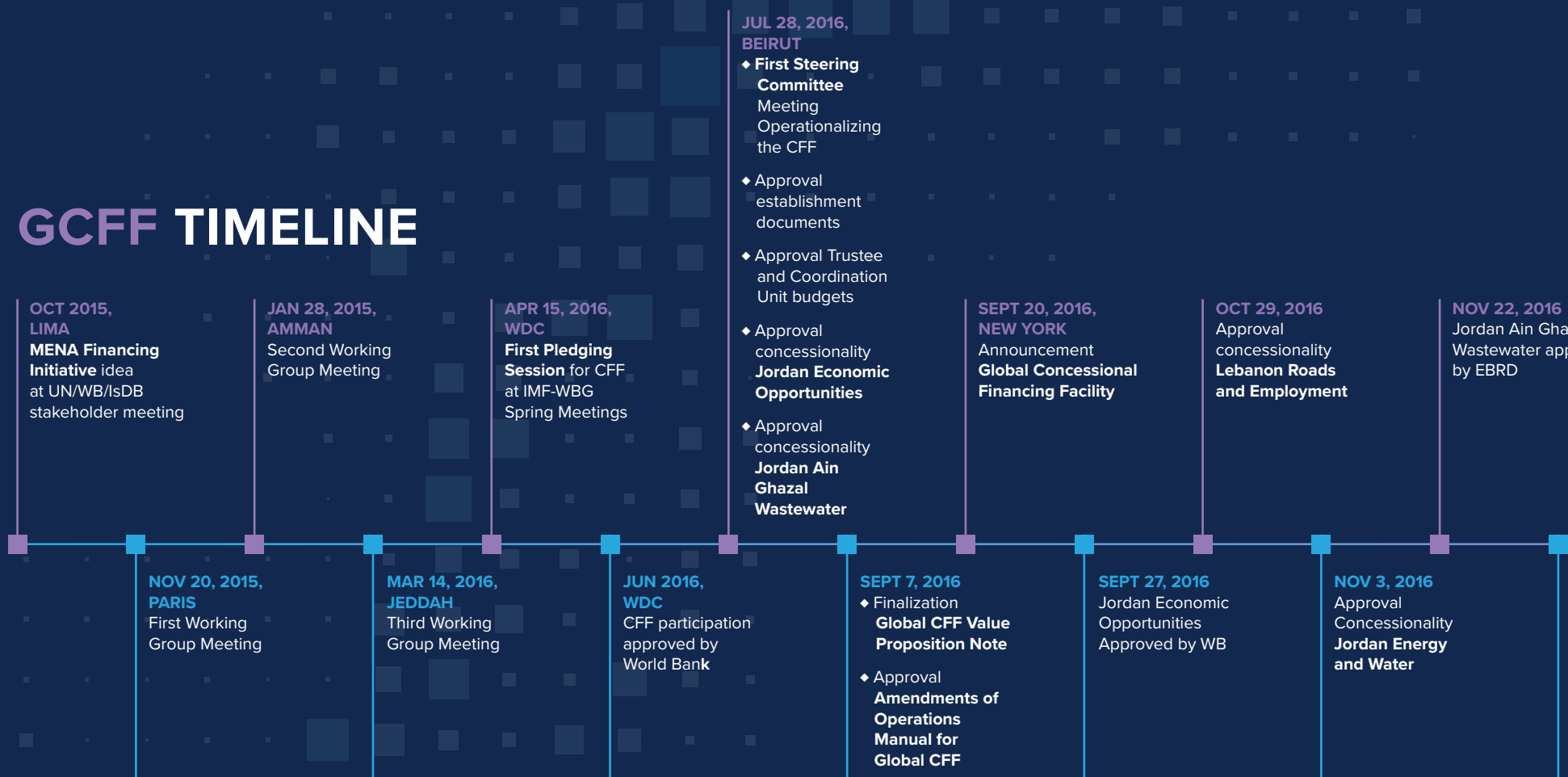
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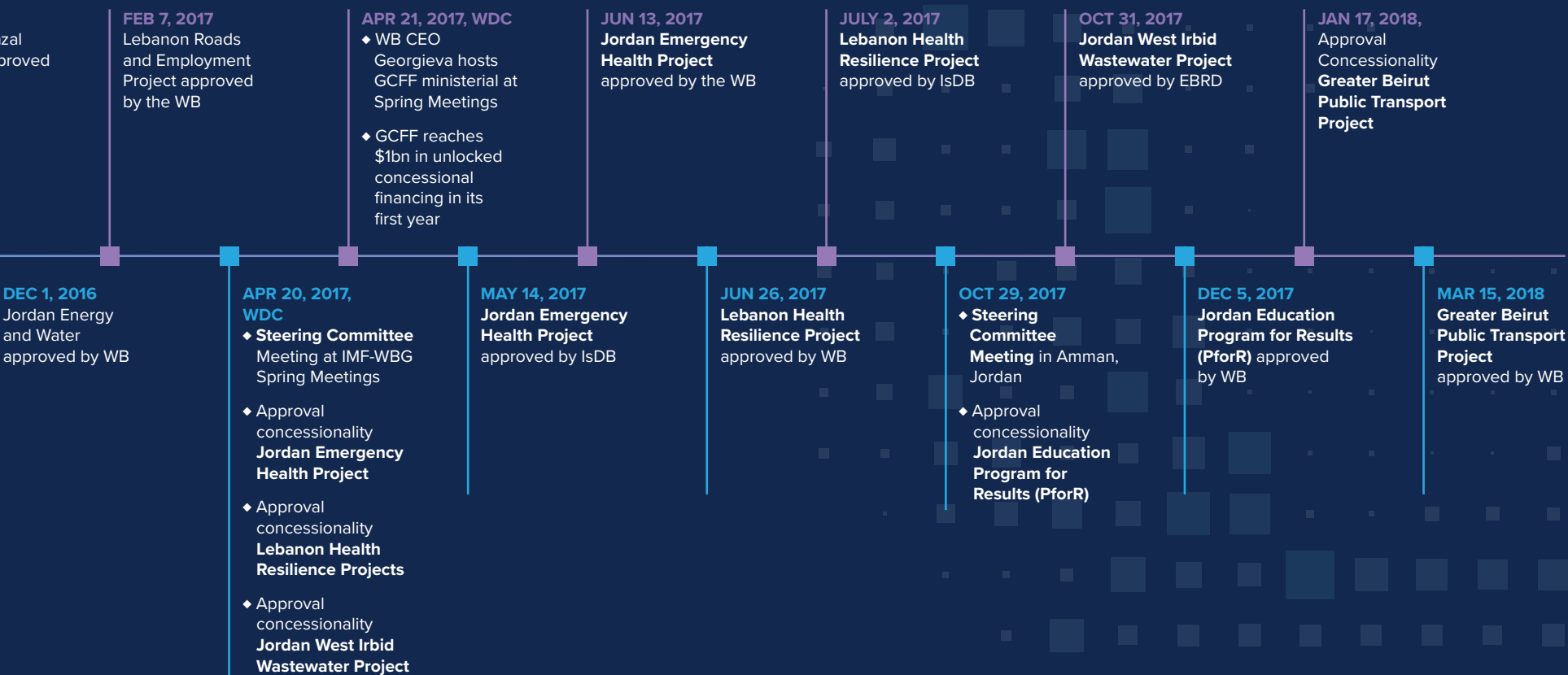
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Section 1

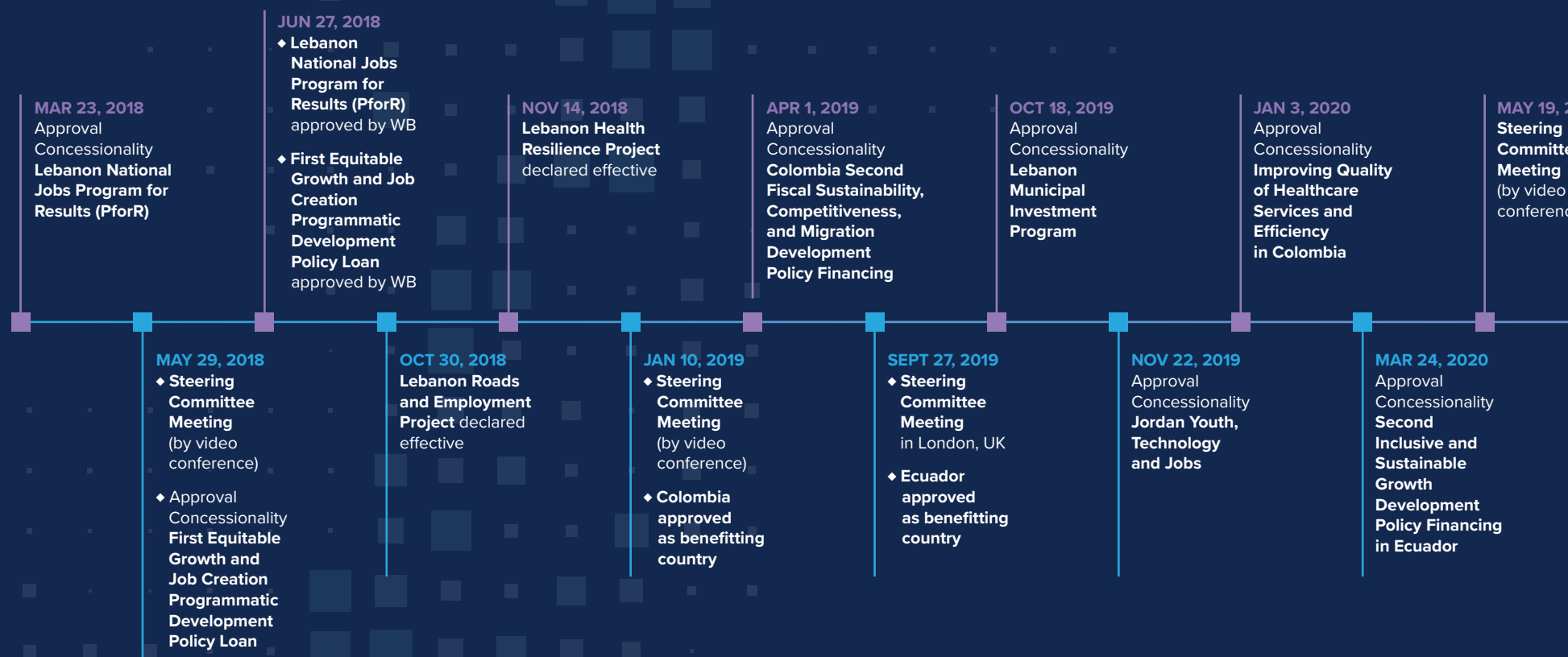
GCFF: THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

GCFF TIMELINE





GCFF TIMELINE





ROLE OF THE GCFF

The GCFF was established in 2016 at the initiative of the United Nations (UN), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the World Bank (WB) as a response to the Syrian refugee crisis. As the crisis unfolded, many of the fleeing Syrians sought refuge in neighboring Jordan and Lebanon. These two countries opened their borders to their neighbors in need, thus providing a global public good. However, the arrival of large numbers of refugees put a strain on their economies, service provision, and infrastructure. Each country has struggled to afford the additional costs of hosting refugees, in part because their status as middle-income countries (MICs) prevents them from borrowing from multilateral development banks on concessional terms traditionally reserved for the poorest nations.

The international community responded by creating the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF), to provide concessional financing to MICs hosting large numbers of

refugees. Since its establishment, the GCFF has expanded to include Colombia and Ecuador, which currently host large numbers of Venezuelan migrants and refugees.

The GCFF is a Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF), hosted by the World Bank, and operating in accordance with the GCFF Operations Manual approved by the GCFF Steering Committee, as amended over time. Under the GCFF, donor contributions are used to reduce the cost of borrowing to highly concessional levels on loans for development projects that benefit refugees and host communities. Therefore, support from the GCFF allows benefitting countries to borrow more affordably and eases the financial burden of addressing the long-term impact of the refugee influx. Development projects under the Facility may be supported by four partner MDBs: The World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the European Investment Bank (EIB). In April



2021, the GCFF Steering Committee approved the inclusion of the Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB) as a designated MDB of the GCFF eligible to become the fifth implementation support agency (ISA) of the GCFF.

Since its launch, the GCFF has received more than \$ 786.74 million (in USD equivalent) in pledges and contributions from ten Supporting Countries. Of that, the Facility disbursed \$671 million in concessionality amounts, which in turn have leveraged almost \$5 billion in much-needed concessional financing to support refugees and their host communities in Jordan, Lebanon, Colombia and Ecuador. In 2016, the GCFF's financing objective was set to \$1 billion for Jordan and Lebanon and \$500 million to be available for other middle-income countries facing refugee crises over a period of five years. To date, GCFF's funding trajectory has mostly been on target. However, fundraising for the global window remains a key priority in order to support Colombia and Ecuador.

HOW THE GCFF WORKS

GCFF Multiplies Donor Capital

\$1 from Supporting Countries can unlock \$7 in Concessional Loans.



Supporting Countries

Supporting Countries provide contributions to the GCFF to improve the lives of the forcibly displaced, and the countries hosting them.



Contributions made to the GCFF are allocated to projects that improve the conditions and well-being of refugees, infrastructure, and the delivery of public services in host countries.

Implementation Support Agencies

Allocations from the GCFF are used to significantly reduce the interest rates on loans made to Benefitting Countries by Implementation Support Agencies.



Benefitting Countries

Benefitting Countries are able to access affordable and more sustainable financing to cope with the influx of refugees.

GCFF INDEPENDENT EVALUATION

An independent evaluation of the GCFF was conducted between August 2020 and April 2021. The evaluation concluded that the GCFF remains highly relevant to the needs of Benefitting Countries (BCs) and the needs of refugees. The GCFF has been successful in responding to the critical financing needs of Benefitting Countries experiencing a significant influx of refugees. The role of the GCFF financing in contributing to stabilizing the situation in Lebanon and Jordan at the onset of the Syrian refugee crisis has been highlighted as a notable success. The concessional finance model has been considered successful for meeting Benefitting Countries' financial needs, incentivizing inclusion of pro-refugee elements in project design, and leveraging additional funding from MDBs. The findings also show that the GCFF provides a unique platform for a wide range of stakeholders to engage and discuss priorities in addition to sharing knowledge and expertise. Most notably, the evaluation deemed that partnering with multiple stakeholders across the humanitarian-development continuum was one of the key strengths of the GCFF.

The independent evaluation presented a set of recommendations to inform and enhance the next phase of the GCFF. The main findings showed that the GCFF would

benefit from a stronger focus on results, including a new Results Framework (RF) that would allow for the aggregation of results. The report also found that there was scope for improvement with regards to information sharing and reporting on projects and results, including an improved and more informative GCFF website. The report recommended improved stakeholder coordination and collaboration at the national level, particularly in terms of working with UNHCR. The report also echoed the need to enhance information sharing on the project pipelines for each BC.

The report and its findings were presented at the Steering Committee (SC) meeting on April 26, 2021. At the meeting, the SC tasked the Coordination Unit (CU) with conducting stakeholder consultations to discuss the recommendations and the path forward for the GCFF. In May 2021, the Coordination Unit conducted stakeholder consultations with Benefitting Countries, Implementation Support Agencies and partners, as well as with Supporting Countries. The stakeholder consultations informed the preparation of the Technical Note³ with proposals on the way forward for the GCFF. The Technical Note was endorsed by the Steering Committee at the SC meeting on June 23, 2021.

³ The Technical Note with the proposals can be found on the GCFF website at <https://globalcff.org/documents/>

PROPOSALS FOR THE NEXT STEPS OF THE GCFF



LOOKING FORWARD – PREPARING FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF THE GCFF

In June 2021, the Steering Committee approved the extension of the End Approval Date (EAD) of the GCFF by five years - from June 30, 2021 to June 30, 2026. Looking forward, the GCFF will continue to develop and respond to the needs of middle-income countries facing significant refugee crises and continue to innovate financing modalities in support of refugees and hosting communities. This includes a proposal to expand GCFF support to Private Sector Operations (PSOs) under a Private Sector Financing Framework (PSSF). The potential introduction of PSOs will require amendments to the GCFF Operations Manual (OM), which are expected to be approved by the SC by the end of 2021. The European Investment Bank (EIB) is finalizing a pilot PSO project together with the Government of Jordan.

The inclusion of the Inter-American Development Bank as an ISA to the GCFF was approved by the SC in April 2021. This new addition is an opportunity for the GCFF to increase its impact on the ground in Latin America. While the initial focus of the GCFF was the Syrian refugee crisis, the GCFF was created as a global instrument to respond to refugee crises wherever they may occur. As the Venezuelan political and economic crisis continues, Colombia and Ecuador continue to host large numbers of Venezuelans fleeing their country. This has had a significant impact on their economies and service provision. The inclusion of the IaDB will broaden the GCFF's partnership with regional MDBs.

Additional enhancements to the GCFF are expected to be introduced before the end of calendar year 2021. Based on the recommendations of the Independent Evaluation and the subsequent stakeholder consultations conducted in May 2021, the Coordination Unit will translate the proposals developed and endorsed by the Steering Committee on June 23, 2021, into amendments to the Operations Manual, and submit these for the approval of the Steering Committee.

Proposal 1: Reinforcing the Focus on Results

This proposal focuses on improving Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and strengthening the GCFF Results Framework (RF). As a first step, a Theory of Change will be developed, which will provide the foundation for the new fund-level RF. The theory of change will seek to demonstrate the causal pathways between GCFF support, project-level results, and impact on the policy environment and international coordination. A new fund-level results framework will be developed, aligned with the theory of change, to reflect fund-level achievements as well as aggregated project-level indicators. Recommended project-level results indicators linked to fund-level indicators will also be developed. While each operation has its own tailored results framework that is developed and implemented by the ISA, with the ISA maintaining responsibility for monitoring and reporting results, the menu of recommended project-level indicators in the Operations Manual (OM) will be reviewed

and revised in line with the revised fund-level indicators. Project teams will be encouraged to use or adapt one or more of the indicators in their project results frameworks whenever possible to facilitate aggregation and comparability of results. The OM will be updated to reflect these changes and provide guidance to ISA teams. The following three proposals were thus endorsed by the SC:

- Revise the GCFF theory of change and fund-level results framework
- Prepare recommended project-level results indicators linked to fund-level indicators
- Update the Operations Manual and provide guidance to ISA teams

Proposal 2: Improving the Application Review Process

The second proposal focused on improving the application review process. The SC endorsed the following proposals:

- The OM will codify the practice of presenting the pipeline of projects planned to be submitted to the SC as early as possible in the project preparation process to give the SC an opportunity to ask questions and provide early feedback. This will also entail including on the project dashboard links to any public documents available during preparation
- The CU will include as a standing agenda item at each (regular) SC meeting (and, if relevant, at intersessional meetings of the SC) an update by ISAs/BCs on the pipeline.
- More time will be provided at SC meetings to BCs to formally present the project pipeline.
- The 14-day review period will be maintained.

Proposal 3: Strengthening the Role of the development partners and UNHCR

Partners play a key role under the GCFF framework, informing the eligibility process, providing inputs to the SC policy discussions, and to country level consultations. Most notably, on forced displacement, the UNHCR provides its unique expertise and experience. As an observer, the UNHCR provides critical feedback on the nature and magnitude of refugee situations in Benefitting Countries. The partnership with UNHCR is multi-faceted and includes UNHCR's role in the assessment of the adequacy of the refugee protection framework, including under the GCFF. Consultations highlighted the importance of UNHCR and other development partners on the ground. Engaging with partners improves predictability and strengthens the quality of project reviews. The unique expertise of UNHCR can be leveraged to identify potential future risks and opportunities for improving the protection framework. The following proposals were put forward and endorsed by the SC:

- Upon a country being deemed eligible, the UNHCR will be invited to share with the SC an assessment that covers both the refugee protection framework and forward-looking assessment of opportunities and risks. The CU will work with UNHCR to design the appropriate format. It is expected to draw upon good practices of both the Refugee Protection Assessment (RPA) and the Refugee Policy Review Framework (RPRF) which are used under IDA. The SC is entitled to ask for country updates when it deems them necessary.

- UNHCR and other development partners will be systematically invited to ad hoc country-level meetings. In-country consultations, including with the UNHCR and other partners, will be systematically detailed and documented in the Funding Request.
- UNHCR will be invited by the Steering Committee to co-organize an annual virtual workshop with SC members and partners to present and discuss international best practices on refugee policies

Proposal 4: Enhancing Country-level Coordination

The IE recommendation on enhanced country-level coordination was broadly supported by GCFF stakeholders. The ISAs proposed implementing this recommendation by leveraging existing structures at country level. In order to enhance country-level coordination, the stakeholders supported the following proposals:

- In partnership and coordination with the relevant Benefitting Country, country-level meetings on a regular basis throughout the year will be held depending on the need for each country or at the request of SC members. The country-level meetings will be subsequently reported on at the SC meetings.
- Country-level coordination will be implemented by leveraging existing structures at respective country level.
- Country-level meetings should notably be used to present projects upstream to donors and partners during their preparation phase. These meetings should invite all representatives of SC members and partners, including relevant UN agencies

Proposal 5: Optimizing Reporting and Outreach

During stakeholder consultations, Supporting Countries, BCs and ISAs expressed the need to improve the GCFF outreach strategy, including improving the GCFF website and improved dissemination of results. GCFF stakeholders welcomed the following CU proposals on how to implement the outreach recommendations:

- Improving website content: Hiring a communication and web expert to help improve the web content. This will include restructuring the content on the website and making the website more user friendly, creating a project dashboard, providing more information about funding, results, status of project implementation, adding hyperlinks to donors and partners, publishing stories from the ground on projects, etc.
- Engaging with new communications tools: The GCFF will also work to produce regularly updated one-pagers with information on projects and funding, and short videos highlighting success stories. These communication tools are intended to be used by donors and partners to showcase what the GCFF is, what it has achieved, and what projects it is currently supporting in order to help with fundraising.
- The CU will organize virtual annual events for SC members and other stakeholders to showcase the impact of different policy approaches, as well as exchange information on good practices and lessons learned in order to find out what has worked and what has not. This will contribute to the coordination agenda, support the focus of the GCFF to promote refugee positive policies, and is also expected to be helpful with fundraising.

Proposal 6: Introducing a Risk Matrix

Introducing a Risk Matrix is important from the point of view of a forward-looking risk horizon at the fund level. The following proposal was thus endorsed by the stakeholders:

- A brief fund-level Risk Matrix shall be developed using a streamlined approach. The design of the Risk Matrix will be informed by lessons learned from similar financing instruments.

New Concessionality Formula

On April 1st, 2021 the WBG suspended the IBRD fixed spread product as a result of moving away from the LIBOR reference rate⁴. Like other global market players, the World Bank has taken steps to adopt new reference rates. The suspension of the IBRD fixed spread product has materially impacted the GCFF Concessionality Spread, which reflects the spread between the IBRD fixed lending rate and IDA regular terms (paragraph 17 of the GCFF Operations Manual). In the absence of an IBRD fixed lending rate, this calculation can no longer be made.

The GCFF Coordination Unit set up a Financial Technical Working Group⁵, which held several meetings in May 2021 to develop alternatives to the suspended concessionality formula. The technical working group agreed on a preferred option, which was presented to the Steering Committee.

The option that was selected and subsequently endorsed by the SC at the SC meeting on June 23, 2021 will use a Fixed concessionality spread, flooring it at [XX] % of concessionality.

Concessionality Spread:

- Calculated as: Fixed reference rate (Libor 6m) plus IBRD Variable Spread (18-20 Average Repayment Maturity) less IDA rate
- Variable Spread considered fixed for the quarter
- Updated every three-month period
- Fixed reference rate used as of now is Libor 6m to be replaced by new reference rate at end of 2022 per market standards

% Concessionality Cap:

- Maximum % on concessionality amount / loan amount
- Proposed to be set at 25% as of now based on a historical review
- Provides a safeguard to ensure that GCFF concessionality amount does NOT allow ISA concessionality to exceed IDA levels.
- Replaces IDA floor in the original concessionality calculation (i.e. the IDA regular fixed rate)
- May be revised according to market changes with Steering Committee approval

⁴ LIBOR in all non-USD currencies and certain tenors of the USD LIBOR will cease publication on December 31, 2021.

⁵ The Financial Technical Working Group included EBRD, EIB, Japan MoF, US Treasury, and the GCFF CU.

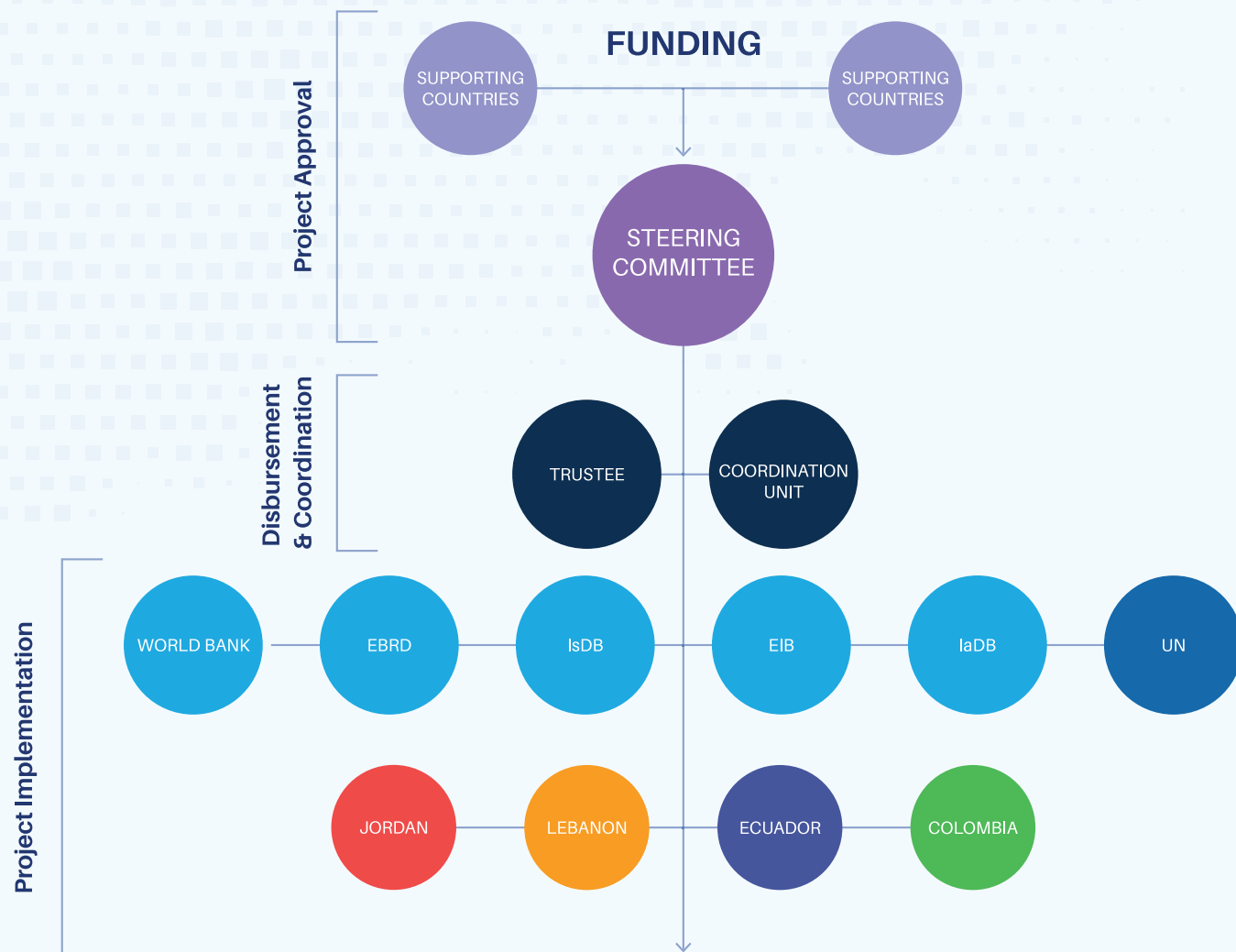
The selected alternative is the closest to the current formula and to core GCFF concepts, as defined in the Operations Manual. It offers the flexibility of a percentage of concessionality. By doing this, loans with short maturities can also benefit from the concessionality since the floor (now cap) becomes “proportional” to the ISA loan maturity through the percentage of concessionality. This formula includes the following four benefits:

1. Aligned to core concepts and elements of GCFF
2. Greater flexibility thanks to the use of a percentage of concessionality
3. Better adapted to the maturity of the loan as it takes into account the disbursement calendar
4. Simpler calculation in comparison to other two alternatives

This alternative will be reviewed in a year’s time (June 2022) to analyze its functioning and re-calibrate if necessary.



World Bank / Dominic Chavez

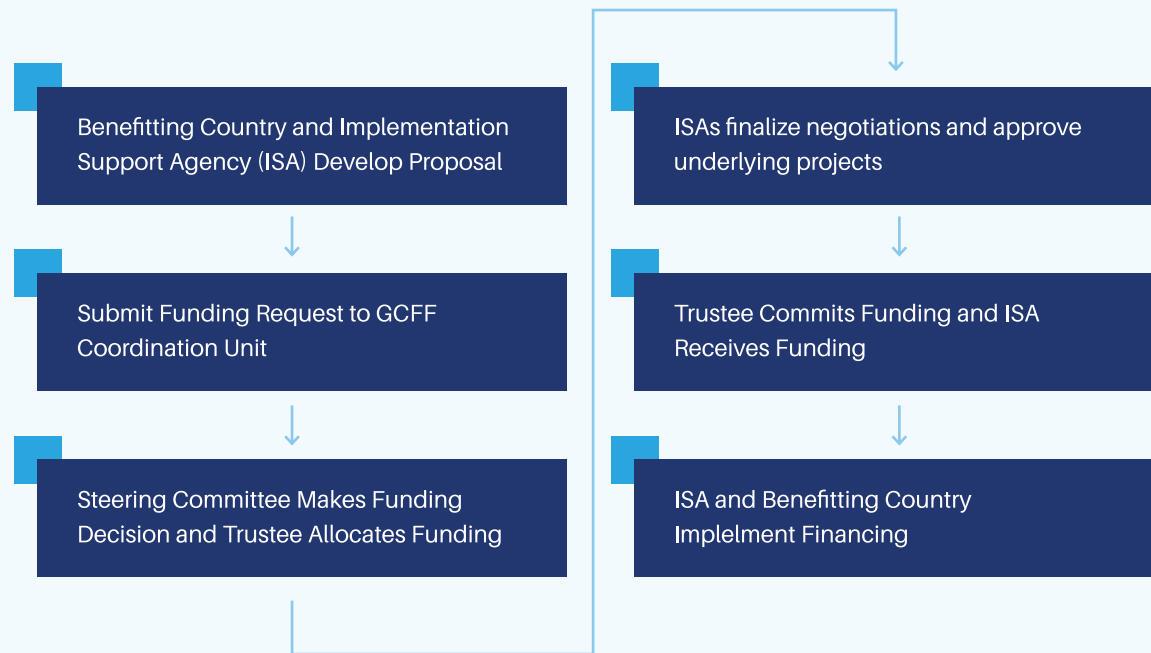


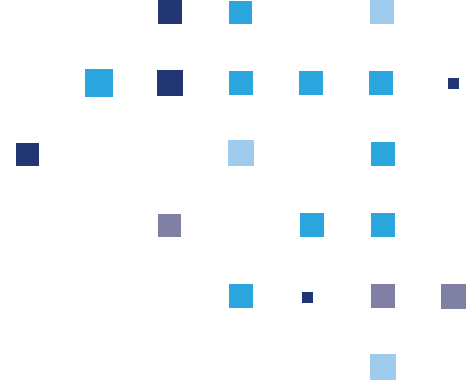


How does the GCFF Work in Practice?

In order to be considered for concessional financing from the GCFF, a Benefitting Country (BC) develops a **project proposal** in collaboration with an Implementation Supporting Agency (ISA). Together, they prepare **Funding Request** documents and the ISA calculates the **concessionality amount**. The BC submits the funding request to the Coordination Unit (CU), following a Funding Request Template. The funding request is appraised by the ISA and includes an endorsement of the designated ISA (currently the World Bank, EBRD, and IsDB). The Coordination Unit ensures that the documents **comply** with the requirements set out in the Operating Manual (OM) and relevant templates and, once the Trustee has confirmed that funds are available, **distributes** the Funding Request to the Steering Committee (SC) on a rolling basis. According to the OM, decisions of the SC may be taken on a no-objection basis, with standard review period of **14 days**. Decisions can also be taken at a Steering Committee meeting. If the Funding Request is not approved by the SC, the BC has the option to revise and resubmit it in collaboration with the relevant ISA. When a Funding Request is **approved**, the CU informs the Trustee of the decision, which then **allocates** the funding from the Trust Fund. Once the negotiations and approvals by the ISA for the project are completed, the Trustee **commits** and transfers the funds to the ISA. The ISA uses the requested funds in accordance with the Funding Request.

HOW DOES THE GLOBAL CONCESSIONAL FINANCING FACILITY WORK IN PRACTICE?





How are ISA Loans Made Concessional?

A central aim of the GCFF is to make development assistance more affordable to middle-income countries facing a refugee crisis. In order to do so, contributions from Supporting Countries are used to increase the level of concessionality of loans from an Implementation Support Agency (ISA) – a development bank that provides low-cost loans and technical expertise to carry out a development project. In this way, the ISA is able to provide loans at an overall reduced cost.

To determine the amount of contributions it needs to request for a given operation, an ISA starts by noting the ‘concessionality spread.’ This spread is the difference, (expressed in basis points, or one hundredths of one percent) between Fixed reference rate (Libor 6m) plus IBRD Variable Spread (18-20 Average Repayment Maturity) less IDA rate. The Variable Spread is considered fixed for the period

This calculation is updated every quarter. The Concessionality Amount for a given loan is calculated by applying the concessionally spread on the ISA loan amount. This result is capped at the Maximum % of concessionality.

KEY FEATURES OF THE GCFF

The GCFF is country-owned and responds to benefitting country priorities.

The GCFF provides concessionality for loan operations for middle income countries. On an exceptional basis, the GCFF can also provide grant funding.

GCFF funding is calculated to result in reduced borrowing rates that cannot go below the IDA (low income country) borrowing rate.

Funding requests involve operations that support both refugee populations and host communities, as part of the Benefitting Country's development agenda.

Funding requests are submitted by Benefitting Countries together with Implementation Support Agencies (ISAs) when projects are ready for internal approvals.

Decisions to allocate GCFF funds are made by consensus of the Supporting Countries.

The ISAs integrate GCFF funds into their loan operations based on their applicable policies and procedures.

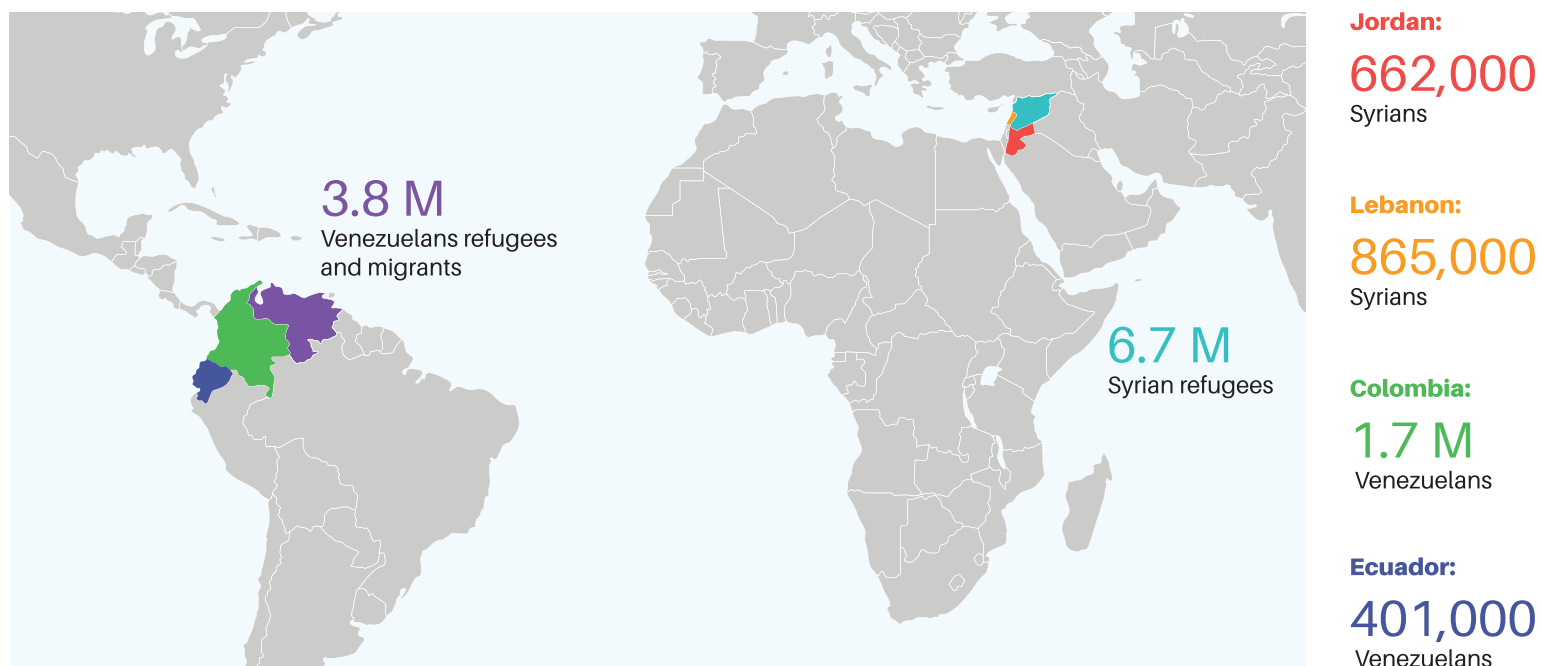
Results reporting includes specific pre-agreed indicators regarding refugees and hosts.



Section 2

GCFF Project Overview

The main objective of the GCFF is to provide concessional financing to middle income countries struggling with a large influx of refugees. The GCFF currently has four Benefitting Countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Colombia and Ecuador.



Country figures with the number of registered refugees according to UNHCR. All countries also report large numbers of unregistered refugees.

SPOTLIGHT COLOMBIA

Venezuelan migrants and refugees have moved in large numbers across Latin America since 2015. As of June 2021, the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) estimated that 5.6 million Venezuelans lived abroad, at least 4.6 million of whom were in Latin American and Caribbean countries. The arrival of so many migrants and refugees has created both challenges and opportunities for countries in the region. The COVID-19 pandemic has added another layer of complexity to the situation. In 2021, Colombia continued being the recipient of the highest number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, hosting an estimated 1.7 million people, or approximately 31 percent of Venezuelans in the region. In addition to this population, the country hosts Colombian and binational returnees (nearly 845,000) and Venezuelans in transit and crossing the border in circular movements.

The living conditions of refugees and migrants in Colombia have deteriorated significantly following the COVID-19 preventive isolation measures. The loss of income from formal and informal jobs has decreased their ability to access basic goods and services, such as food, health, and education: 60 percent of households reported having a source of income from employment, compared to 86 percent before COVID-19.⁶

The reduced ability to pay rents and other housing costs has resulted in evictions, primarily affecting women, with an estimated one in four households left homeless after such incidents. The limited access to water, sanitation, hygiene, and overcrowding situations have put this population at particular risk of COVID-19 contagium, and has had negative impacts on physical and mental health.⁷ In addition, many families are reporting that they cannot access the basics required to protect themselves from the virus, including masks and water and soap to wash their hands frequently. This situation has increased discrimination and xenophobia against Venezuelans who are scapegoated or considered vectors of the pandemic. The crisis has also affected vulnerable host communities, some of which are displaced residing in impoverished areas with limited access to basic services. 56.4 percent of Venezuelans in Colombia remain in an irregular situation.⁸ For refugees and migrants with the intention to stay in Colombia, the lack of regular status creates additional barriers and limitations to accessing rights, services, and opportunities. Such irregularity increases the exposure to protection risks during border crossing and transit, including sexual exploitation, trafficking, and smuggling of persons, forced recruitment by armed actors, gender-based violence (GBV), family separation, and incidents with irregular armed groups operating at the border.

⁶ GIFMM Joint Needs Assessment (JNA III) report, July 2020: <https://r4v.info/es/documents/details/79281>.

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Colombia Migration, as of June 30: <https://bit.ly/3bFYhKP>.

Considering the above, the Government of Colombia has made a commitment to support the regularization of the Venezuelan population, notably through the recently approved Temporary Statute of Protection for Venezuelan migrants (TSPV), which replaces the two-year Special Stay Permit and which provides a ten-year protection status and opportunity to develop a pathway to residency to the 1.7 million migrants in the country, including the nearly 1 million migrants in irregular status, provided they can demonstrate they entered the country before January 31. Venezuelans will undertake a three-stage process, including virtual registration, biometric identification, and issuing of documents. The goals for 2021 include issuing just under 50 percent (800,000) of TSPV documents and will require a total budget of US\$37.1 million, of which US\$ 23 million⁹ will come from international cooperation. The Government has also prevented statelessness by granting Colombian nationality to 57,000 children born in Colombia to Venezuelan parents.¹⁰

Since joining the GCFF in January 2019, Colombia has received US\$90.8 million in concessional financing for three projects worth US\$1.05 billion. The **Colombia Second Fiscal Sustainability, Competitiveness and Migration Development Financing** contributed to sustaining Colombia's efforts to regularize 260,000 Venezuelans and to put in place a national strategy for response that facilitates access to jobs and basic social services for Venezuelan migrants and refugees, as well as the communities that are hosting them. The **Improving Quality of Healthcare Services and Efficiency in Colombia project** supports the Colombian Government's 2018-2022 National Development Plan and focuses on affiliating 225,000 Venezuelans to the subsidized health insurance system, among other objectives. In FY21, the GCFF Steering Committee approved concessionality to the **Resilient and Inclusive Housing project**, which is currently awaiting effectiveness (expected at the end of August 2021). The Project aims to improving the access of quality housing for Venezuelan migrants and host communities.

⁹ Migracion Colombia

¹⁰ National Civil Registry Office, reporting period: August 2019 (start of this disposition) to 30 August 2020.

GCFF FY21 PORTFOLIO – OPERATIONS IN REVIEW


OVERVIEW OF GCFF FUNDING DECISIONS	
\$671 Million Funding approved to date	\$4.9 Billion Supporting projects worth
FUNDING DECISIONS FY21	
Jordan COVID-19 Emergency Response Additional Financing	Ecuador Third Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Development Policy Financing
Colombia Resilient and Inclusive Housing Project	
FUNDING DECISIONS FY16-FY20	
Jordan Youth, Technology and Jobs	Ecuador Second Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Development Policy Financing
Lebanon Municipal Investment Program	Improving Quality of Healthcare Services and Efficiency in Colombia
<i>Additional Financing Jordan Educations Support (PforR)</i>	Lebanon Health Resilience Project
Jordan Education Reform Support (PforR)	Lebanon Roads and Employment Project
Greater Beirut Public Transport Project	Economic Opportunities for Jordanians and Syrian Refugees (PforR)
Jordan West Irbid Wastewater Project	Ain Ghazal Wastewater Project
Jordan Emergency Health Project	<i>Additional Financing Jordan Emergency Health Project</i>
Jordan First Equitable Growth and Job Creation Development Policy Financing (CLOSED)	Colombia Second Fiscal Sustainability, Competitiveness and Migration Development Financing (CLOSED)
Jordan Energy and Water Development Policy Loan (DPL) (CLOSED)	Lebanon National Jobs PforR11 (CANCELLED)

¹¹ The operation was cancelled in July 2019

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Update on GCFF Supported Operations

This section contains information about ongoing GCFF operations. The operations are listed in chronological order, starting with the most recent funding decisions. For information on operations that have closed, please see previous Annual Reports.

	Implementation Support Agency THE WORLD BANK	Total Project Amount \$121.7 MILLION	GCFF Concessional Amount \$21.7 MILLION	% Disbursed 0%
	GCFF Approval Date 7 DECEMBER 2020	ISA Board Approval Date 27 MAY 2021	Project Status AWAITING EFFECTIVENESS	

The Project aims to improving the access of quality housing for Venezuelan migrants through the National Housing Program(s), Home Improvement (CDVD) and Rental Housing Program (SP); strengthening social cohesion between Venezuelan migrants and hosting communities through the Infrastructure and Neighborhood Programs; and strengthening the technical capacity for the development of the Programs, of the Ministry of Housing (MVCT) and hosting municipalities impacted by the migration flows from Venezuela. The Project aims to benefit more than 246,000 vulnerable households and 785,000 beneficiaries, including more than 12,000 low-income households (approximately 39,000 people) living in poor quality housing; 10,000 migrant households from Venezuela (approximately 36,000 migrants) benefitting from the rental subsidy; and 223,000 households (approximately 709,000 people) including 33,000 migrant

households (approximately 120,000 migrants from Venezuela) in areas where infrastructure and neighborhood upgrading interventions will be carried out.

The project was approved by the WBG Board of Directors on May 27, 2021. The team is working with the Government of Colombia (GoC) to meet the effectiveness. Implementation is expected to start at the end of August 2021. Although the project is not effective yet, it has already had some positive effects. The project contributed to generating a knowledge database, including geospatial analysis, on the living conditions of migrants from Venezuela and the impacts of COVID-19. It supported the GoC in expanding the eligibility of SDP to migrant households and has laid the background for successful implementation of housing assistance to Venezuelan migrants.



JORDAN COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE ADDITIONAL FINANCING

**Implementation
Support Agency**
THE WORLD BANK

**GCFF
Approval Date**
6 MAY 2021

**Total Project
Amount**
\$62.5 MILLION

**ISA Board
Approval Date**
16 JUNE 2021

**GCFF
Concessionality
Amount**
\$12.5 MILLION

Project Status
NOT YET
EFFECTIVE

**%
Disbursed**
0%

The purpose of the project is to provide financing to help the Government of Jordan (GOJ) purchase and deploy COVID-19 vaccines. The project will finance vaccination of 40 percent of the adult population for Jordan to reach vaccination coverage for at least 75 percent of the adult population, including refugees.

The project was approved by the WBG Board of Directors on 16 June 2021 and is awaiting effectiveness.

JORDAN EDUCATION REFORM SUPPORT PROGRAM

**Implementation
Support Agency**
THE WORLD BANK

**Total Project
Amount**
\$200 MILLION
(INCLUDING
\$100 MILLION
IN ADDITIONAL
FINANCING)

**GCFF
Concessional
Amount**
\$52.3 MILLION
(INCLUDING
\$18.6 MILLION
IN ADDITIONAL
FINANCING)

**%
Disbursed**
81%

**GCFF
Approval Date**
29 OCTOBER 2017
(*DECISION ON
ADDITIONAL FINANCING
ON 06/12/2020*)

**ISA Board
Approval Date**
5 DECEMBER 2017

Project Status
DECLARED
EFFECTIVE ON
14 DECEMBER 2017

Closing Date
31 MAY 2025

This project seeks to improve the quality of education for both Jordanian and Syrian refugee children by expanding access and improving quality of early childhood education, improving teaching and learning conditions, reforming the student assessment and certification system, and strengthening the education system management. The result areas have a common objective to enhance the quality of education available to Syrian refugees. By 2022, an estimated 160,000 Syrian refugee children are projected to have benefitted from the Program's specific interventions. The Program targets an increased enrolment of 30,000 students into the formal sector. In addition, the Program provides a very comprehensive set of activities and actions for making the education system more results oriented.

On June 29, 2020, the World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved an Additional Financing (AF) of US\$100 million (of which US\$18.6 million concessional from the GCFF and US\$81.4 million a non-concessional IBRD loan). The development objective of the AF remains the same as that of the parent PforR, i.e. to support the Government of Jordan's Ministry of Education to expand access to early childhood education, and to improve student assessment and teaching and learning conditions for Jordanian and Syrian refugee children. The AF operates along the original parameters of improving the quality of education and equity for the delivery of education services for both Jordanian and Syrian refugee children, with added interventions reflecting MOE strategic priorities and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent school and Ministry of Education (MoE) closures, the project has been making good progress. The Program has been making good progress. The number of Syrian refugee children in basic and secondary education has increased to 134,303 (February 2020), of which 4,835 are at the KG2 level. The total number of children enrolled in KG2 has increased to 101,758 (February 2020). This data is based on the enrollment figures in the MoE's Education Management Information System (EMIS), but though the independent verification agent (IVA) is in place, verification of these figures has not been possible to date due to school closures. Verification is expected to take place in the spring of 2021 followed by associated disbursement.

Following the adoption of the National Teacher Professional Standards (NTPS) in May 2019, the project has supported the MoE to coordinate with several donor partners regarding the development of standards for non-teaching staff, teacher in-service training, and digital platforms for online training. This has allowed for the project's support to focus on the teacher evaluation framework and providing technical assistance for the development of training material for teachers for grades 4-12.

Despite the multitude of challenges presented by the pandemic, the MoE remains committed to reforming assessment systems in the Jordanian education system. MoE has successfully drafted terms of reference detailing the requirements for the development of a national assessment strategy and the reform of the tawjihi high-stakes

exam (secondary school leaving and university entrance exam), and the procurement process will be launched in February 2021.

A new indicator was recently added to enhance the MoE's ability to respond to future school disruptions by leveraging education technology (EdTech) solutions for distance and blended learning. Terms of reference for the development of a blended learning strategy, curriculum mapping and digital content development have been completed and the procurement process will be launched in February 2021.

The project has benefitted refugees by:

- Incentivizing the Government of Jordan, in general, and the Ministry of Education, in particular, to monitor educational outcomes for Syrian refugees in order to be able to report on them and demonstrate disbursement-linked results under the operation.
- Incentivizing the Ministry of Education to include Syrian refugees in the policy priorities and reforms for the Jordanian education system as an integral part of that system. For example, when the Government decided that KG2 enrolment should be universal for 5-year-olds, this policy included Syrian 5-year-olds as well.
- The needs assessment on socioemotional learning programs in schools under the operation's TA took into account the characteristics of schools with Syrian refugees, so that the resulting interventions will also be able to address their unique needs and constraints.

The project has benefitted hosting communities by:

- Incentivizing the Ministry of Education to collect data on learning outcomes, which in turn leads to a better understanding of the quality of education and the challenges schools are facing, so these can be better addressed.
- Incentivizing the Ministry of Education to complete an updated Geographic Information System, which allows better management of the education system as a whole, leading to efficiency gains that benefit host communities as well as refugees.
- Incentivizing adoption of teacher professional standards and continued fundamental teacher performance reforms, which leads to better quality of teaching and better learning outcomes for host communities and refugees.

The project has also benefitted vulnerable groups:

by incentivizing the identification and collection of socioemotional data and the development of bi-annual reports that will aid in tracking key indicators mutually agreed upon by MoE stakeholders. By having an important focus on improving the school learning climate, including strengthening psychosocial skills and reducing bullying, this operation is supporting vulnerable children, in general, including Syrian children, in particular. In other words, Jordanian children from disadvantaged backgrounds or with disabilities would benefit from the interventions on improving the school climate together with Syrian refugee children.

Challenges:

The primary challenge remains the overall capacity of the Donor Coordination Unit (DCU) at MoE to manage the multitude of donor projects, heightened by the COVID-19 emergency situation. School closures and breakouts of the virus at MoE buildings have forced numerous implementation delays as well as cancellations of coordination meetings. Despite its critical role in supporting implementation, the DCU remains largely understaffed. Nonetheless, the DCU has managed to maintain momentum and has played a critical role in advancing several TA and DLI components.

Success stories:

The MOE has been keen on shifting towards evidence-based policymaking, as demonstrated by findings from analytical outputs by both the World Bank and wider donor group. The World Bank has held several discussions with key MoE staff on specific policy notes, most recently on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on potential loss of schooling and earnings. The overall commitment of the MoE to reforming key education components has also been commendable. Work in leveraging international best practice in developing KG2 QA systems has been ongoing, with a clear roadmap on finalizing a revamped QA system set for 2021. A similar story can be told on the MoE's commitment to reforming high-stakes examinations, with buy-in from senior officials at MoE.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES AND EFFICIENCY IN COLOMBIA

**Implementation
Support Agency**
THE WORLD BANK

**Total Project
Amount**
\$187.6 MILLION

**GCFF
Concessionality
Amount**
\$37.6 MILLION

**%
Disbursed**
52.8%

**GCFF
Approval Date**
7 JANUARY 2020

**ISA Board
Approval Date**
19 MARCH 2020

Project Status
DECLARED
EFFECTIVE ON
1 DECEMBER 2020

Closing Date
31 MARCH 2023

The Colombian General System of Social Security in Health (Sistema General de Seguridad Social en Salud, SGSSS) provides almost universal insurance coverage and a significant level of financial protection to its beneficiaries. The increase in health insurance coverage achieved after the approval of the 1993 health reform from 23.5% in 1993 to around 94-96% since 2010, had a particularly large impact on the poor: during the period 1997 to 2016, health insurance coverage for those in the lower income quintile increased from 42% to approximately 93%. Nevertheless, insurance coverage among migrants remains low. Although registered migrants are eligible to the SGSSS, only 25% of those eligible are currently affiliated and only 36% of those are enrolled in the subsidized regime.

This PforR supports a program which is part of the Colombian Government's 2018-2022 National Development Plan ("Plan Nacional de Desarrollo," PND). The PforR will focus on strengthening the health sector stewardship and managerial functions of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and, as such, will support the development of the policies and regulations required to achieve the PND's expected results. The objectives of the operation are to improve the quality of health care services and improve efficiency of expenditure in the health system. The Program is structured around these two pillars and contributes to improving access to quality healthcare services for Venezuelan migrants who are regularly registered through the special residency permit (PEP) program. Through this PforR, 225,250 migrants from Venezuela will be affiliated to the mandatory health insurance through the social security system and will be provided with the same rights to access healthcare services as any Colombian citizen.

On December 21, 2020, the PforR disbursed \$99.03 million to the government of Colombia after full completion of six disbursement-linked indicators (DLI) and partial completion (70%) of one additional DLI, out of a total of twelve DLIs expected under the Program. To date, 70 percent (179,090) eligible migrants have been affiliated to the SGSSS health system under the PforR. It is expected that the Government will be able to affiliate enough migrants to ask for a full disbursement by October 2021. The other DLIs, and development objectives and intermediate indicators of the Program are expected to be achieved during 2021 and 2022.

The project has benefitted refugees by:

The migrants affiliated to the health system have access to the health services stated in the Health Benefit Plan. They have the same rights than any Colombian citizen. As defined by law, the benefit plan refers to the full range of services and technologies provided to ensure the right to health, making health care more comprehensive by preventing, alleviating, and treating diseases and facilitating rehabilitation.

The project has benefitted hosting communities by:

The project is designed to attend the affiliation of host populations in case they lack health insurance and also of Colombian nationals who have returned to the country due to different causes. Part of the training given to the territorial entities and insurance companies emphasizes these situations which may be found while supporting the affiliation of migrant populations. This is part of the policy which aims to achieve full universal health coverage.

The project has benefitted vulnerable groups by:

Though the affiliation of migrants by sex is similar (52.6% men and 47.4% women), there is a significant percentage of children and youth migrants affiliated to the health system, more than 31% belong to the group of age between 0 and 26 years old. In regard to the percentage of migrants provided with health care services in 2020, 69.1% correspond to women, while the distribution by age groups 66% correspond to infants, children, teenagers and youth population.

Challenges:

- Territorial institutional weakness: in regard to this problem, the government has been supporting departments and municipalities providing in-person (before the pandemic) and virtual (webinar, online courses) trainings to territorial officers in the process of affiliation for migrants. These strategies have also been extended to health insurance companies.
- Unawareness amongst migrant population in regard to affiliation to the health system: the government with the support of international cooperation agencies has developed communication strategy, through videos, flyers, banners, radio and very soon TV advertisement to inform eligible migrant population of the benefits and process of affiliation to the health system.



World Bank / Dominic Chavez

- Barriers for the affiliation: a technical exercise with eligible migrants and different stakeholders is realized frequently to identify different kind of barriers and to formulate solutions.
- Xenophobia regarding eligible emigrant affiliation: several communicative and sensibilization campaigns have been launched particularly at the local level, to inform communities, public officers, of the benefits of affiliation, including health impacts for population.

Success stories:

- Articulation and frequent interaction between different governmental agencies and territorial authorities (departments and municipalities), as well with health insurance companies has been crucial to coordinate efforts towards the affiliation and access of migrant populations to health services.
- Coordination with international cooperation agencies (multilateral and bilateral), NGOs, and media has proved to complement efforts towards the affiliation of migrants, in activities such as communication campaigns, webinars, online courses, workshops and financing consultants who work at local level.
- Interaction with migrant associations has enabled authorities to receive feedback in the process of affiliation, particularly to identify barriers.

JORDAN YOUTH, TECHNOLOGY AND JOBS

**Implementation
Support Agency**
THE WORLD BANK

**Total Project
Amount**
\$200 MILLION

**GCFF
Concessionality
Amount**
\$36.9 MILLION

**%
Disbursed**
4.6%

**GCFF
Approval Date**
22 NOVEMBER 2019

**ISA Board
Approval Date**
20 MARCH 2020

Project Status
DECLARED
EFFECTIVE ON
7 APRIL 2020

Closing Date
31 MARCH 2025

In 2016, Jordan launched its REACH2025 Digital Economy Action Plan. The action plan seeks to streamline and digitalize the entire Jordanian economy in areas such as health, education, CleanTech, finance, transport, communication and security. It is expected to accelerate GDP growth by an additional 3 to 4 percent and create up to 150,000 jobs.

The Jordan Youth, Technology and Jobs project is aligned with the REACH2025 vision. It supports the GoJ in achieving its commitments to advance the digital economy as a strategic growth sector. In particular, it aims to increase access to digitally enabled income opportunities (i.e. employment) for youth and improve the delivery of selected digitalized services in Jordan. In order to do so, the project will focus on interventions that address constraints to both the supply and demand side of digitally skilled labor in Jordan, for example by addressing the core weaknesses underlying the skills mismatch.

The project was declared effective of April 7, 2020 and its focus has been to launch and set up the framework under which it will be operating, draft implementation arrangements and

contact key stakeholders. To date, the following positions in the PMU have been filled: Environmental Officer, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Digital Business Sector Officer, and Grants Officer. The technical offers of the IVA were evaluated and the Technical Report of the IVA has been signed. Work has been initiated under all subcomponents, with identifying action plans, mapping of potential partners, issuing and approving of TORs and RFAs, signing of contracts, management systems designed, etc.

Challenges:

There were delays in signing the MoUs with DigiSkills, and the coordination with MoE and NCCD, but that was addressed through the broad consultations throughout the Ministry.

Success stories:

The grants that are given through GrowJo Talent shows high success rates of employment which will be further studied and analyzed.



LEBANON MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM

**Implementation
Support Agency**
THE WORLD BANK

**Total Project
Amount**
\$100 MILLION

**GCFF
Concessionality
Amount**
\$9.3 MILLION

**%
Disbursed**
0%

**GCFF
Approval Date**
18 OCTOBER 2019

**ISA Board
Approval Date**
AWAITING
APPROVAL

Project Status
NOT YET
EFFECTIVE

Closing Date
31 DECEMBER 2025

The Lebanese economy currently faces an uncertain political environment and severely limited fiscal space. With the continuing turmoil in the country, exacerbated by the Syrian crisis, Lebanon's economy remains vulnerable. The weakened economy has had a direct impact on the fiscal transfers from the Independent Municipal Fund (ImF) to local governments and has been accompanied by a sharp erosion of public services in all key sectors, both in terms of access and quality. Despite Lebanon's weak public finances, addressing municipal infrastructure and service delivery gaps and boosting social spending by central and local governments is a matter of immediate priority.

The Lebanon Municipal Investment Program (MIP) aims to improve municipal services and local economic opportunities in 18 secondary cities and improve the enabling environment

for private sector participation in municipal investments in selected primary and secondary cities. The participating cities have been facing serious infrastructure and service deficits well before the Syrian Crisis. While the influx of displaced Syrians has exacerbated the situation, it has created an opportunity to leverage MIP investments to improve the social welfare of the host communities and the displaced living in these secondary cities. This would be achieved through improved basic infrastructure and services as well as increased local economic opportunities benefiting the "whole community" within the participating cities. All the residents (both host communities and displaced) of the 18 participating cities including the ones from neighboring cities will benefit from job opportunities created through construction and economic activities funded under the MIP.

The project is currently awaiting Board approval.

Challenges - Project Implementation in Lebanon:

Lebanon is home to the highest number of refugees in proportion to the host population in the world. According to the UNHCR, 879,529 registered Syrian refugees reside in Lebanon and approximately 400,000 refugees are in the country informally, with the addition of Palestinians and other refugees, bringing the estimated total to about 1.5 million, in a country with Lebanese population of 6.7 million. The large influx of refugees has posed immense challenges to this small country, which lacks the resources, infrastructure, and political will to respond to their needs. As of August 2020, more than 55 percent of Lebanon's population is trapped in poverty, and extreme poverty has increased from 8 percent in 2019 to 23 percent in 2020. These crises have pushed the refugee population to the brink – over the 2019–2020 period the number of refugees living below the extreme poverty line rose from 55 percent to 89 percent. Local communities increasingly perceive refugees as threats to social stability, and a number of municipalities instituted curfews for Syrians. However, the majority of Syrian refugee households (54 percent) reported that their relationship with host communities was positive or very positive.

In Lebanon, a confluence of large negative shocks- economic and financial collapse, the August 2020 Beirut blast and the COVID-19 pandemic have led to the implosion of the economy; Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted by 20

percent in 2020 with additional declines forecast for 2021. Unemployment and poverty have soared while the social fabric wears thin. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are particularly acute for displaced people who work in the informal sector and all of this leaves the displaced population struggling for access to increasingly scarce resources and services.

COVID-19 is already causing widespread loss of livelihoods among the displaced who work in the informal sector and will increase the burden of care on host countries. In Lebanon, informal work accounted for 92 percent of work for Syrian refugees in 2018. Many have closed their businesses and lost work opportunities. 60 percent of Syrians have been permanently laid off due to COVID-19, relative to 39 percent of Lebanese citizens. The pandemic has also made refugees' lives more precarious, lessening their prospects for return. Without jobs and income, many refugees suffer from increased food insecurity, inability to pay rent, and debt from health care costs. While COVID-19 has led to socio-economic difficulties for all in the country and in the region, the lack of economic inclusion places refugees at a particular disadvantage.

As of June 2021, Lebanon received US\$ 154.6 million in concessional financing from the GCFF, for four projects worth US\$745 million. **The Roads and Employment project** and the **Greater Beirut Public Transport project** focus on

improving the country's infrastructure and connectivity. **The Municipal Investment Program**, which is not yet effective is still part of the portfolio and is expected to improve basic infrastructure and services as well as increased local economic opportunities benefiting the "whole community" in the 18 participating cities. **The Health Resilience project** aims to provide vaccines and increase access to quality health care for thousands of poor families in Lebanon – both Lebanese and Syrian. Through this project, the GOL has taken an inclusive approach and was able to procure 2,251,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines financed by the Bank were the first vaccines received and deployed in Lebanon and constitute an estimated 80% of the vaccine doses administered to date. This has significantly helped in reaching the current vaccination progress in the country where more than 17% of the population has received at least one dose of the vaccine, including refugees and migrant workers.

The GCFF portfolio in Lebanon has proven to be a critical platform for the response to several crises in the country. Both the **Lebanon Health Resilience** and the **Roads and Employment** projects are progressing well, despite the challenging context. The latter was recently restructured to include a new agriculture component to help mitigate

against the impact of the pandemic and financial crisis. This will provide support to Lebanese farmers who were not able to produce in 2020 as well as expand income generating opportunities to the many Syrians who rely on the agriculture sector for employment and food security. However, the **Greater Beirut Public Transport Project** (GBPTP) project is unlikely to deliver its development objective before the close of the project and for this reason the WB is in discussion with the GoL on a possible restructuring of the project. **The Municipal Investment Program** has stalled due to the challenges faced by Lebanon, but the Country Management Unit of the World Bank is keen to discuss the project with the care-taker government, once the circumstances are conducive. Upon relaunching the dialogue with the Government, the project would move towards planned approvals. Seeing that Lebanon is in a caretaker status there are currently no IBRD pipelines projects planned for Lebanon until there is clarity on the formation of a Government. Finally, it is important to note that given the fragile and deteriorating conditions for refugees as well as the host communities in Lebanon, strong partnership between the WB as an ISA and UNHCR and the ongoing in-country dialogue through the GCFF Lebanon Group to coordinate and push the development dialogue around displacement issues remains a priority.

JORDAN EMERGENCY HEALTH PROJECT

Implementation Support Agency

THE WORLD BANK/ ISLAMIC
DEVELOPMENT BANK

Total Project Amount

\$350 MILLION (\$250 MILLION
WB & \$100 MILLION IsDB)
(THE TOTAL PROJECT
AMOUNT INCLUDES \$200
MILLION IN ADDITIONAL
FINANCING)

% Disbursed

60% (WB) AND 100% (IsDB)

ISA Board Approval Date

13 JUNE 2017 (WB) & 8/3/2017
(IsDB)

Recipient Entity

MINISTRY OF PLANNING
AND INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION

GCFF Concessionality Amount

\$93.8 MILLION (\$72.8 MILLION
WB AND \$21 MILLION IsDB)
(THE TOTAL CONCESSIONALITY
AMOUNT INCLUDES \$58.9
MILLION IN ADDITIONAL
FINANCING)

GCFF Approval Date

20 APRIL 2017 (*DECISION ON
ADDITIONAL FINANCING ON
05/23/2019*)

Closing Date

31 OCTOBER 2023

The Jordan Emergency Health Project received \$200 million in Additional Financing in June 2019 and was subsequently extended until 2023. The project was established to maintain the delivery of primary and secondary health services to poor, uninsured Jordanians and Syrian refugees. The access of this population to critical health care is at risk, as the influx of large numbers of Syrian refugees has put severe strains on the delivery of basic health services. There is a shortage of health workers and waiting times have increased. The project supports care for the target population at primary health care centers across the country (including such services as maternal and child health care; malnutrition prevention and treatment; integrated management of childhood illness; and management and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases), and both outpatient and inpatient services at the 33 hospitals of the Ministry of Health (MOH). The project follows a Results-Based Financing model, disbursing funds against independently verified results. In addition to maintaining current services, the project is also providing technical assistance and capacity building to help improve health sector efficiency. The project is implemented by the WB and the IsDB.

Challenges:

The institutional capacity of MoH has been strengthened with new team members and with the Bank's fiduciary and environmental and social support. In addition, the consultancy for building back better stronger primary health care services was contracted ensuring synergies with lessons learned during the pandemic.

Success stories:

The public health system approach of financing services for refugees and Jordanians has paid off in the response to the pandemic and in the first rounds of vaccinations for refugees, vulnerable groups and Jordanians as well. From September 2019 to April 2020, the project disbursed US\$100 million of which US\$30 million disbursed as retroactive financing to reimburse for health services delivered to the target populations from November 2018 to May 2019. Implementation of capacity building activities were launched and those for improving primary health care services underway with planning stages. As the COVID-19 global pandemic crisis hit the country, the project provided vital resources to ensure continuity of care which included mobile delivery of medicines during the lockdowns. Upfront allocations of project resources were critical in the first stages of the pandemic. Resources that will be reimbursed soon, have also been part of the financing to deploy vaccines to both Syrian and non-Syrian refugees and all Jordanians. It should be noted that there is no update on the results (# of services provided to beneficiaries) in this round of reporting as verification had not been finalized by the time of drafting this report.

GREATER BEIRUT PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROJECT

**Implementation
Support Agency**
THE WORLD BANK

**Total Project
Amount**
\$295 MILLION

**GCFF
Concessional
Amount**
\$69.8 MILLION

**%
Disbursed**
3.6%

**GCFF
Approval Date**
17 JANUARY 2018

**ISA Board
Approval Date**
15 MARCH 2018

Effectiveness
DECLARED EFFECTIVE ON
31 JULY 2019

Closing Date
31 DECEMBER 2023

The project aims at improving the speed, quality and accessibility of public transport for passengers in the city of Beirut and the city's northern entrance. Low and middle-income Lebanese and Syrians living in the Greater Beirut area will directly benefit from the project by using the system for their transportation needs. The project will also contribute to reduced traffic congestion, improved air quality and improved mobility. The BRT system will be almost fully accessible to



persons with disabilities and will introduce measures, such as well-lit stations, professional bus drivers, security cameras in buses and stations, and security guards at stations and select buses, in order to increase women's ridership. The project will also improve traffic safety with the introduction of about 25 pedestrian bridges along the Northern Highway. The project is expected to create about 2 million labor days of direct short-term jobs in the construction industry, most of it for low-skilled Lebanese and Syrians.

The project was approved by the World Bank Board of Directors in March 2018 and by the Parliament on June 26, 2019, and it became effective in July 2019. The project faces major delays in implementation. Some of the causes behind the persistent delays are external to the project, such as the COVID-19-related lockdowns, the tragic explosion of August 4, 2020 at the port of Beirut, the absence of a fully functional Government, poor project ownership and proactivity,

and major delays in the implementation of associated infrastructure. Others are related to the slow administrative and procurement procedures at the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR).

The project is unlikely to deliver its development objective before the closing date on December 31, 2023 and for this reason the WB is in discussion with the GoL on a possible restructuring of the project. The World Bank continues engaging in discussions with the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), the Railways and Public Transport Authority (RPTA) and the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) to determine the future of the project and proceed with a partial or full cancellation.

Challenges:

The project took around 17 months from board date to effectiveness as this was linked to the delays in the formation of the government during that period. Since project

effectiveness, the project has also faced several challenges that delayed its implementation. These were mostly exogenous to the project and more related to the social, political and health situation in Lebanon, notably: (i) the COVID-19-related lockdowns and CDR's resistance to move towards electronic procurement, (ii) the tragic explosion of August 4, 2020 at the port of Beirut, (iii) severe social unrest end of 2019 and the closure of government offices including CDR for several weeks and (iv) the absence of a fully functional Government for several months. Other causes behind the delay are associated with poor project ownership and lack of proactivity from the MPWT and the RPTA, as well as long procurement processes at the CDR and reluctance to use electronic procurement methods.

The World Bank has therefore been engaging in discussions with the Prime Minister's Office, the MPWT, the RPTA and the CDR to determine the future of the project.

JORDAN WEST IRBID WASTEWATER PROJECT

**Implementation
Support Agency**
EBRD

**GCFF
Approval Date**
20 APRIL 2017

**Total Project
Amount**
\$24.8 MILLION

**ISA Board
Approval Date**
31 OCTOBER 2017

**GCFF
Concessionality
Amount**
\$2.5 MILLION

Project Status
DECLARED
EFFECTIVE ON
30 APRIL 2019

**%
Disbursed**
0%

Closing Date
31 DECEMBER 2021

The project aims to strengthen Jordan's resilience to the Syrian refugee crisis by addressing urgently needed rehabilitation of the wastewater treatment system in the north of Jordan, which hosts the largest number of Syrian refugees. Their presence has placed immense strain on already overstretched wastewater services. The project will target 15 towns in West Irbid. It will construct the wastewater network within all the towns, serving an area of 22 km², by connecting them to the Wadi Al-Arab wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). It will provide first-time sanitation to over 105,000 residents and thus address urgent socio-economic needs of both the local population and the refugee community in the project area. Infrastructure improvements financed through the operation are likely to avert potential health issues and related economic losses. This project is also co-funded by the European Union Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, with a grant co-funding of EUR 20 million.

The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has been working with the support of EBRD and the mobilized consultants on the pre-qualification process for all packages, which was concluded on 20 January 2020, in addition to finalizing the detailed design for the whole project, which is being procured through a single stage tender. The full RFP, for the construction of the network, including detailed design, was issued on 13 August 2020, and was closed on 1 November 2020. The final evaluation report is currently under review by the tendering committee at WAJ, and the winning bidder(s) are expected to be selected by August 2021. As to the pumping stations tender, the RFP is expected to be issued in July 2021, and contract to be awarded by October 2021. Completion of construction is expected by Q2 2023 for all construction packages.

During detailed design, 3 additional villages were added to the original scope, to avoid creating social tensions by excluding these surrounding villages from the project. The original financing agreements state that funding is for 15 villages, and the funding available was estimated on that basis. Due to the additional scope, it is expected that the final project cost will be approximately EUR 15 million higher than the original estimated project cost of EUR 53 million. WAJ has requested the EBRD to consider financing the additional EUR 15 million, and this request is currently under assessment by the EBRD.

The EBRD's consultant, supporting the inclusive procurement process, has designed the structure of the process in Jordan through a number of training exercises with WAJ and outreach to potential partners (training service providers in Jordan), this will enable the local

population to benefit from not only first time wastewater services but also employment opportunities. The structure will follow 2 phases, firstly classroom based and then on the job training. Following the drafting of the curriculum by an EBRD mobilised consultant, CMC consultancy were subsequently contracted in 2020 to carry out the recruitment and off-site training.

Challenges:

A risk was identified by the Water Authority of Jordan in inciting social tensions in areas excluded from the project but within a close proximity. These villages have now been included.

Success stories:

Including the additional 3 villages in the project, taking the total to 18, creating an efficiency of scale in the project due to its size.



Implementation Support Agency	Total Project Amount	GCFF Concessionality Amount	% Disbursed
THE WORLD BANK/ ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK	\$150 MILLION (\$120 MILLION WB & \$30 MILLION IsDB)	\$30.1 MILLION (\$24.2 MILLION WB & \$5.9 MILLION IsDB)	50.7% (WB), 0% (IsDB)
GCFF Approval Date	ISA Board Approval Date	Project Status	Closing Date
20 APRIL 2017	26 JUNE 2017 (WB) & 2 JULY 2017 (IsDB)	DECLARED EFFECTIVE ON 14 NOVEMBER 2018	30 JUNE 2023 (WB) & 31 DECEMBER 2019 (IsDB)

The project was designed to increase access to quality health care for thousands of poor families in Lebanon – both Lebanese and Syrian. Health care in Lebanon suffered from structural problems even before the Syrian crisis. The influx of Syrian refugees has put enormous added pressure on health services and contributed to rising tensions. The project aims to reach 715,000 people. It will focus on strengthening the capacity and resilience of both primary and hospital-level institutions. The project will provide the targeted population with (i) gender-specific wellness packages; (ii) treatment for the most common non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension; (iii) reproductive health services; (iv) mental health services; and (v) services for the elderly.

The Lebanon Health Resilience Project (LHRP) builds on and scales up the ongoing Emergency Primary Healthcare Restoration Project (EPHRP) which provides subsidized packages of Primary Healthcare (PHC) services to poor

Lebanese and displaced Syrians in Lebanon. The LHRP aims to provide health benefits packages for the poor, reduce the regional income and gender discrepancies in access to health care, and incentivize primary care, while addressing the financing and capacity constraints of the public hospital sector, and addressing the rising burden of non-communicable diseases, gender-based violence, mental health issues, and the re-emergence of communicable diseases.

In response to the Government’s request to use the project’s funds for the acquisition and deployment of COVID-19 vaccines, a second restructuring was processed and approved by the Board on January 20, 2021, allowing for a reallocation of US\$18 million from Component 1 (Scaling up the scope and the capacity of the primary health care Universal Health Coverage (UHC) program) to Component 4 (Strengthen the Government’s capacity to respond to COVID-19).

Due to the recent shift of the government's focus and the PMU's work towards COVID-19 response and vaccine deployment, activities under Component 1 (Primary Healthcare Services) and Component 2 (Hospital Services) under the project have stalled. Moreover, the reallocation of funds from Component 1 towards COVID-19 activities has resulted in less funds available for Component 1. The Bank team will work closely with the PMU to delineate the optimal pathway in moving forward with the envisaged activities supporting service provision and enhanced social safety net for the poor.

Technical auditor was recruited to conduct technical and financial verification of inpatient COVID-19 services at contracted public and private hospitals for the cases admitted between April and December 2020. As of February 2021, a TPA was on board and started auditing COVID-19 admission claims. To date, 2,846 admission claims were reviewed and cleared by the Bank for coverage totaling US\$ 2,265,066.

The project continues to support the Government of Lebanon (GOL) in the procurement of COVID-19 goods and commodities. Goods and supplies were procured to equip 45 public and private hospitals in order to increase their ability to test and treat suspected cases. ICU beds and their associated equipment were procured to increase the ICU capacity by 180 ICU beds, in addition to the procurement and installation of negative pressure to further increase the ICU capacity by 85 ICU rooms.

GoL amended the supply agreement with Pfizer to secure 751,000 vaccine doses in addition to the 1.5 million doses procured under the initial agreement, bringing the total number of Pfizer doses purchased to 2.251 million doses. The total number of doses purchased is enough to fully vaccinate 1,125,500 individuals. More than 1,200,420 doses have been delivered so far and currently being administered in 54 vaccination sites across 8 governorates. As of June 29, 2021, 683,314 individuals have received at least one Pfizer dose¹². Out of these, 359,851 are fully vaccinated (received the first and second Pfizer doses). The World Bank signed an agreement with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to act as a Third Party Monitoring (TPM) agent for the independent monitoring of Lebanon's COVID-19 vaccine roll-out to ensure safe, effective and equitable vaccine deployment. The key objective of the assignment is for the WB to receive independent verification of the GOL's compliance of the vaccination deployment with the NDVP, WHO standards and World Bank requirements reflected in the legal agreements, ESMF and the POM, with respect to supply chain management and administration of COVID-19 vaccines at (i) the key points in the supply chain and (ii) vaccination sites from the technical, environmental and social safeguards perspectives. IFRC reports are shared with the MoPH, and members of the National Vaccination Committee and the Vaccine Executive Committee regularly for quality improvement and follow up on observations from

the field. Findings requiring urgent attention are also shared in near real-time with the MoPH for corrective action as needed. Moreover, a Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) chaired by the Bank was established bringing WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNRWA, and IOM to provide high-level oversight of progress in the implementation of the vaccination.

The LHRP project conducted the COVID-19 vaccination readiness assessment using the integrated Vaccine Introduction Readiness Assessment Tool/ Vaccine Readiness Assessment Framework (VIRAT/VRAF 2.0) instrument. This assessment informed the planning for the COVID-19 vaccination program. The VIRAT/VRAF 2.0 measures readiness across ten key areas relating to country readiness: (1) Planning and Coordination, (2) Budgeting, (3) Regulatory, (4) Prioritization, Targeting, and COVID-19 Surveillance, (5) Service Delivery, (6) Training and Supervision, (7) Monitoring and Evaluation, (8) Vaccine, Cold Chain, Logistics, and Infrastructure, (9) Safety Surveillance, and (10) Demand Generation and Communication. The World Bank team, in collaboration with other development partners, supported the MoPH to develop a high-quality NDVP which was adopted on January 27, 2021. The project is also participating in the COVID-19 vaccine national committee and the associated technical working groups to provide technical assistance to the MoPH in the vaccination program.

Challenges:

Currency devaluation and issues with hard currency

- The value of the project's funds is being diluted, due to the large differential observed between the exchange rate authorized for DA payments for locally sourced goods and services, and the exchange rate of market value. At the end of February 2021, the Bank of Lebanon (BDL) increased the authorized rate from 3,900 to 6,240 LBP/USD, but the market value is close to 15,000 as of June 2021.
- The BDL is also restricting the use of USD payments, unless justified, which is impacting the project's implementation. Therefore, the project is working closely with the BDL to provide all the necessary documents to effect USD payments for justifiable expenditures as per the criteria set. The international community including the World Bank has requested the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to set an exchange rate for the externally financed programs closest to the market rate in order to preserve the value of funds.
- In addition, the capital control restrictions in Lebanon are limiting the capacity of international suppliers/contractors under Bank projects to import equipment, and raw materials. Direct fund transfers (direct payments) from the World Bank to third parties (suppliers/contractors/consultants) have been halted at the request of the MOF

and all funds will need to pass through the MOF single treasury account before reaching the project designated account. This mechanism is pausing constraints for local payments as beneficiaries (suppliers/contractors/consultants) are forced to withdraw the funds in Lebanese Lira which is currently being devaluated leading to a loss in the value of the money received

Lack of progress in implementation of Component 1 (Primary Healthcare Services) & Component 2 (Hospital Services)

Due to the MoPH's urgent need to focus on COVID-19 response, implementation of other project activities is stalled, namely: provision of primary healthcare services and hospital services under Components 1 and 2.

Success stories:

The second restructuring, which was approved on January 20, 2021 in a special session of the World Bank Board of Directors, is the first World Bank support for COVID-19

vaccination in the world. This second reallocation of LHRP funds for COVID-19 vaccination, brought the total value of the COVID-19 component to US\$58 million, of which US\$34 million is dedicated to COVID-19 vaccination. Less than 48 hours later, the MoPH was able to transfer the payment for the purchase of what would be the first COVID-19 vaccines Lebanon would receive.

The Bank was able to rapidly mobilize the resources to respond to the GoL request to restructure the project to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic (under the first restructuring). Procurement of PCR machines, ventilators, ICU beds and their accessories, essential equipment and PPEs strengthened the capacity of the healthcare system in the country to respond to the outbreak.

Progress in intermediate results indicators of the Results Framework (RF) reflect the significant efforts made to strengthen capacity and improve access to COVID-19 services: the number of COVID-19 treatment centers is 111 (target: 6); the number of COVID-19 rapid response teams is 20 (target: 5); number of vaccination sites is 55 (target: 30).

¹² The number of Pfizer doses delivered to Lebanon and the number of individuals vaccinated with Pfizer include both the public and private sectors.



LEBANON ROADS AND EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

Implementation Support Agency
THE WORLD BANK/ ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK

Total Project Amount
\$200 MILLION

GCFF Concessionality Amount
\$45.4 MILLION

% Disbursed
16.7%

GCFF Approval Date
29 OCTOBER 2016

ISA Board Approval Date
6 FEBRUARY 2017

Project Status
DECLARED
EFFECTIVE ON
30 OCTOBER 2018

Closing Date
30 JUNE 2023

The Roads and Employment Project, the first one for Lebanon to benefit from the GCFF, is the first phase of a \$500 million national road rehabilitation program. It addresses two key objectives: 1) improving transport connectivity along select paved road sections through the rehabilitation of 500 km of roads, and 2) creating short term jobs for Lebanese and Syrians. In addition to providing enhanced quality of roads, the project also has many other benefits. It is expected to create about 1.5 million labor days of direct short-term jobs for low-income Lebanese and Syrian refugees. It will also benefit about 10 to 15 midsize contractors for road rehabilitation works, and about 10 small contractors and SMEs all over Lebanon for routine maintenance works. The project is also expected to reduce road crashes by 15 percent on five priority road sections. In addition, the Roads and Employment Project has important sectoral reform dimensions such as setting up the first road asset management in Lebanon, developing a national road safety strategy and action plan, and introducing routine maintenance.

The Roads and Employment Project (REP) was approved by the World Bank's Board of Directors on February 6, 2017. The loan agreement was signed on June 21, 2017, and the project was declared effective on October 30, 2018 following exceptional efforts and commitment by the Lebanese authorities, at highest levels, to ensure it is made effective by the October 31, 2018 deadline.

Satisfactory progress on project implementation has been observed since the last round of reporting, despite the challenges the country has faced including the COVID 19 Pandemic, and the economic and financial crisis impacting the availability of material in the country. Six civil works contracts under Batches 1 and 2 are in implementation and are creating much needed jobs, six works contracts under Batches 3 and 4 have been signed, and one contract is pending the signature of the contractor.

The restructuring of the project was completed mid-March 2021, and the ESMF has been prepared and cleared, and published on the CDR website, and the Output Agreement has been signed between the CDR, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization. The restructuring includes a vouchers program of 300 USD per voucher benefiting 26,700 farmers, and which was launched on June 14th, with around 10,000 applications received to date. It also includes the procurement and delivery of 1,000,000 animal vaccines which is under preparation by the Ministry of Agriculture.

To date, a total of 24,000 labor days were created until end of May 2021, and the number of labor days created is expanding with the increase in intensity of the progress of works on the first six works contracts, and the initiation of the construction works on the six additional works contracts recently signed. In addition, a total of 263 labor days of trainings were conducted. A training program for the laborers is being designed in collaboration with the ILO.

The Lebanese host communities as well as the Syrian refugees have also already started benefiting from enhanced response of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport through the timely deployment of equipment delivered by the project on mountain roads during extreme weather and snow events, resulting in less hazard and enhanced service during extreme weather conditions.

The Lebanese population as a whole and the Syrians in Lebanon, including women, will benefit from the project through improved connectivity, lower transport costs, and improved road safety. Transport costs and poor road safety disproportionately affect the poor and lower-income groups. The project will particularly encourage broader participation and benefits for women. Separate consultation sessions were carried out in all region to engage women in discussions on the types of jobs in construction or related supporting sectors they could most benefit from, and to hear from them about any challenges and feedback on the projects.

Challenges:

The project has faced a few challenges that delayed its implementation, mostly exogenous to the project and more related to the social, political and health situation in Lebanon. The project took around 18 months from board date to effectiveness as this was linked to the delays in the elections of the parliament and the formation of the government. In addition, since the project effectiveness, Lebanon experienced severe social unrest in October 2019, with the closure of government offices including CDR for several weeks. While preparation and back office work were maintained during that period, the procurement process was halted. This challenge was compounded by the recent lockdowns due to COVID-19, the tragic explosion of August 4, 2020 and CDR's resistance to move towards electronic

procurement. The economic and financial situation is also resulting in scarcity of materials and equipment in the country further halting the progress of works. Other causes behind the delay are associated with the long and bureaucratic procurement processes at the CDR.

Success stories:

Despite all the difficulties Lebanon has faced, the team has established a good work practice together with the counterparts, contractors and consultants to oversee implementation progress and supervise the works at distance. The World Bank now received weekly updates and pictures of works being implemented on all work contracts on a weekly basis. This process shall be maintained in the future. In addition, a platform for citizen engagement has been prepared with IMPACT and is planned to be launched within the coming two weeks to collect feedback from citizens on the project.

Timeliness:

The total duration of the project has been extended by 1 year as part of the restructuring as further delays due to the pandemic and the economic and financial crisis have been impacting the progress of works in the past 6 months. The project is expected to be delivered and closed by June 30, 2023.



World Bank

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR JORDANIANS AND SYRIAN REFUGEES P4R

Implementation Support Agency
THE WORLD BANK

Total Project Amount
\$400 MILLION

GCFF Concessional Amount
\$51 MILLION

% Disbursed
81.2%

GCFF Approval Date
28 JULY 2016

ISA Board Approval Date
27 SEPTEMBER 2016

Project Status
DECLARED
EFFECTIVE ON
24 OCTOBER 2016

Closing Date
31 JANUARY 2023

Since 2016, the Project has been supporting the implementation of the economic opportunities' component of the Jordan Compact, which objective is to improve job and entrepreneurship opportunities for Jordanians and Syrian refugees. The Project supports the implementation of labor market reforms to enable more formal and legal participation of Syrian refugees in the labor force as well as better working condition in the industrial sector. The PforR also aims to improve Jordan's competitiveness and attractiveness for investment through the following investment climate and investment promotion reforms: (i) Improving the legal framework for home-based businesses; (ii) improving the predictability of business regulations, (iii) streamlining the business licensing process; (iv) trade facilitation: expanding the Customs Golden List; and (v) investment promotion and retention: setting quantitative targets for Jordan Investment Commission.

Since its approval by the GCFF Steering Committee, the project has been restructured and benefitted from a \$100 million additional financing from IDA, bringing the total project amount to \$400 million. The restructuring concerned the Disbursement Linked Indicator (DLI) for work permits, which will enable better formalization of Syrian labor. It will also expand the scope of the project and extend its implementation period by two years, to January 31, 2023. This scale up of the project will support the government's reforms in the areas of: i) improved formality and decent work, ii) entrepreneurship, iii) financial inclusion of Jordanians and Syrian refugees, with a focus on women and the poor, through digital finance; iv) women's economic empowerment, notably through the development of the care economy; and v) export competitiveness.

The project is still progressing well with some disruptions due to the second wave of COVID which hit the country during Q1-2021. The implementation rating remains satisfactory at this stage and collaboration with all counterparts is productive. The Ministry of Labor (MoL) is taking measures to overcome these delays, including activating a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU) to facilitate the issuance of the new flexible work permits brought by the restructuring and additional financing (IDA). Licensing of home-based businesses (HBBs) continues to progress, with a predominance of women-owned businesses. The Ministry of Interior has issued a circular clarifying identity requirement for Syrians to register a business. This should improve the business registration figures.

The labor component of the parent Project had a transformative effect on Syrians economic opportunities. Through granting them the right to work and starting a home-based business. The restructuring and additional financing further expanded the right to work by introducing a new flexible work permit scheme in all economic activities. The additional financing also aims to increase the number of HBBs owned by Syrians and improve financial inclusion for Syrians through access to e-wallets. The number of Syrian e-wallet holders increased from a baseline of 18,030 to 42,273 by March 2021 (not financed by the GCFF but by the IDA additional financing of June 2020).

The project has been supporting - in a satisfactory manner - the implementation of the economic opportunities component of the Jordan Compact, objective of which is to improve job and entrepreneurship opportunities for Jordanians and Syrian refugees.

- The emergence of home-based businesses thanks to a new regulatory framework (2017) followed by awareness campaigns. This formula has proven to be a conduit for women entrepreneurship who represent more than half of registered home-based businesses.
- The predictability of business regulations is being improved through a new Code of Governance Practices for Policies and Legislative Instruments in Government Departments, which is being implemented by 6 ministries and agencies in a pilot mode since September 2019.
- Improved business licensing at Greater Amman Municipality.
- Improved trade facilitation by expanding the Customs Golden List.
- Improved investment promotion and retention, through a more effective Jordan Investment Commission.

Results:

- 38,756 work permits were issued during calendar year 2020 to Syrian refugees, of which 7% to Syrian women (the share of women is increasing).
- So far, 1,496 Home-Based Businesses (HBB) started or formalized their activity by March 2021, with a predominance of women owners (60%).
- Improved access to e-wallets and basic bank accounts to women from a baseline of 202,036 to 358,848 by March 2021 (financed by IDA).

In June 2020 the project received additional financing from IDA in the amount of \$100 million to support the GoJ ambitious reform agenda to grow the Jordanian economy mainly through investment climate and sectoral reforms. It also continues to support Jordan in honoring its commitments to the Jordan Compact by granting Syrians refugees access to economic opportunities. The \$100m IDA additional financing of the project supports the government's reforms in the areas of: i) improved formality and decent work, ii) entrepreneurship, iii) financial inclusion of Jordanians and Syrian refugees, with a focus on women and the poor, through digital finance; iv) women's economic empowerment, notably through the development of the care economy; and v) export competitiveness.

The project's additional financing will continue to directly benefit Syrian refugees through access to the three pillars of economic opportunities.

- **Access to the labor market**, through the extension of GoJ commitment to allow Syrians to access the labor market at no cost and issue them work permits beyond the original closing date up to end of 2022. The work permit regime will be made more efficient and more flexible.
- **Improved informality and working conditions** by improving workers (including Syrians) registration in social security and better working conditions in agriculture, an important sector for Syrians' livelihoods.
- **Access to entrepreneurship opportunities**, through home based-businesses. This will particularly benefit women.
- **Access to finance through digital financial services**, as allowed by the new National Financial Inclusion Strategy, which is a pathway for Syrians to be financially included.
- **A focus on women's economic opportunities**. The program aims to increase female labor force participation by improving the investment climate in the childcare sector and expanding women's entrepreneurial activity through improving the investment climate for home-based businesses. The program also aims at addressing the issue of social norms hindering women's employment.
- **Improved export competitiveness** and job creation in the agricultural sector, which employs Syrians.

Challenges:

A new flexible work permit scheme was introduced in December 2020 providing flexibility to work in all open occupations within an economic activity and without association with a specific employer, with a single work permit. Issuance of permits was disrupted by the second wave of COVID which hit the country during Q1-2021. The Ministry of labor is taking measures to overcome these delays, including activating a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU) to facilitate the issuance of flexible work permits.

Success stories:

A DLI that changed the conversation. The labor component of the project had a transformative effect on Syrians economic opportunities as it supported the opening of the labor market to Syrians. The MoL is continuing to reform the access of Syrians to the labor market by introducing additional flexibility to workers. The program will also assist MoL in improving labor market governance by introducing a standard classification of occupations. The MoL is committed to adopting the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-8) for classification of occupations and using it to issue work permits for Syrians first, then for all nationalities.

AIN GHAZAL WASTEWATER PROJECT (JORDAN)

**Implementation
Support Agency**
EBRD

**Total Project
Amount**
\$25.3 MILLION

**GCFF
Concessionality
Amount**
\$1.95 MILLION

**%
Disbursed**
0%

**GCFF
Approval Date**
28 JULY 2016

**ISA Board
Approval Date**
22 NOVEMBER 2016

Project Status
DECLARED
EFFECTIVE ON
29 MARCH 2019

Closing Date
31 JANUARY 2021

The Ain Ghazal Wastewater project seeks to support the strengthening of Jordan's resilience to the Syrian refugee crisis by addressing urgently needed municipal infrastructure rehabilitation. The Project will offer practical, timely and effective solutions that are in line with the Government's priorities in promoting the delivery of efficient and safe municipal services, creating employment opportunities and complementing humanitarian assistance. Capital grant co-financing will help to mitigate affordability constraints, which are exacerbated by the burden of hosting the refugees.

The project supports Jordan to increase its resilience by providing urgently needed infrastructure for the benefit of host communities and refugees alike in a region severely impacted on by the influx of refugees. The project will create

jobs throughout the construction phase, involve the private sector, and is financed in such a way as to support Jordan's fiscal budget by utilizing a sovereign loan and providing a high proportion of grants. More specifically, the project aims to urgently improve the operational capacity of the wastewater system that links with the As-Samra WWTP, the largest wastewater treatment plant in the country, situated in north-central Jordan. The construction of a new wastewater conveyor (redundancy pipe) would serve to accommodate the increase in the wastewater flows triggered by the refugee influx and would mitigate potential serious pollution to the environment.

The project is under review due to shifting priorities of the new Minister. The EBRD as ISA is working with the GoJ on how to move it forward.



PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

CFF PORTFOLIO MONITORING (AS OF JUNE 30, 2021)										
ISA	Project Name	Date Concessionality Approved by CFF	Date ISA Board Appr.	Closing	Total Financing Plan (\$m)	Total Project Amount (\$m) (ISA Loan + Concessionality)	of Which Concessional Portion	Transferred to ISA (\$m)	Disb Underlying Operation (\$m)	Disb Underlying Operation (%)
JORDAN										
WB	Economic opportunities for Jordanians & Syrian Refugees	28-Jul-16	27-Sep-16	31-Jan-23	386.00	400.00	51.00	51.00	324.72	81.2%
EBRD	Ain Ghazal Wastewater Project	28-Jul-16	22-Nov-16	31-Jul-22	47.20	25.30	1.95	1.95	0.00	0.0%
WB	Jordan Second Programmatic Energy and Water DPL	28-Jul-16	01-Dec-16	12-Dec-17	250.00	250.00	25.00	25.00	250.00	100.0%
WB	Jordan Emergency Health Project	28-Jul-16	13-Jun-17	31-Oct-23	50.00	50.00	13.90	13.90	49.86	99.7%
IsDB		28-Jul-16	14-May-17	16-Oct-20	100.00	100.00	21.00	21.00	100.00	100.0%
WB	Jordan Emergency Health AF	28-Jul-16	24-Jun-19	31-Oct-23	200.00	200.00	58.90	58.90	100.00	50.0%
EBRD	Jordan West Irbid Wasterwater Project	28-Jul-16	31-Oct-17	31-Dec-21	62.40	24.84	2.50	2.50	0.00	0.0%
WB	Jordan Education Reform Support Program	28-Jul-16	05-Dec-17	31-May-23	700.00	200.00	52.30	52.30	162.37	81.2%
	Jordan Education Reform Support AF	28-Jul-16	29-Jun-20		100.00	100.00	18.60	18.60	0.00	0.0%
WB	Jordan First Equitable Growth and Job Creation DPL	28-Jul-16	27-Jun-18	30-Jun-20	500.00	500.00	111.00	111.00	500.00	100.0%
WB	Jordan Youth, Technology, and Jobs	28-Jul-16	20-Mar-20	31-Mar-25	200.00	200.00	36.90	36.90	9.25	4.6%
WB	Jordan COVID-19 Emergency Response AF	28-Jul-16		30-Jan-24	63.75	62.50	12.50	12.50	0.00	0.0%
Jordan		28-Jul-16			2659.35	2112.64	405.55	405.55	1496.20	70.8%
LEBANON										
WB	Roads and Employment Project	29-Oct-16	6-Feb-17	30-Jun-23	200.00	200.00	45.40	45.40	33.48	16.7%
WB	Health Resilience Project	20-Apr-17	26-Jun-17	30-Jun-23	120.00	120.00	24.20	24.20	60.84	50.7%
IsDB		20-Apr-17	2-Jul-17	1-Nov-22	30.00	30.00	5.90	5.90	0.00	0.0%
WB	Greater Beirut Public Transport Project	17-Jan-18	15-Mar-18	31-Dec-23	345.00	295.00	69.80	69.80	10.59	3.6%
WB	Municipal Investment Program	18-Oct-19		31-Dec-25	100.00	100.00	9.30	9.30	0.00	0.0%
Lebanon					795.00	745.00	154.60	154.60	104.91	14.1%

CFF PORTFOLIO MONITORING (AS OF JUNE 30, 2021)

ISA	Project Name	Date Concessionality Approved by CFF	Date ISA Board Appr.	Closing	Total Financing Plan (\$m)	Total Project Amount (\$m) (ISA Loan + Concessionality)	of Which Concessional Portion	Transferred to ISA (\$m)	Disb Underlying Operation (\$m)	Disb Underlying Operation (%)
COLOMBIA										
WB	Colombia Second Fiscal Sustainability, Competitiveness, and Migration DPF	4-Jan-19	21-May-19	21-May-20	750	750	31.50	31.50	750.00	100.0%
WB	Improving Quality of Healthcare Services and Efficiency in Colombia	7-Jan-20	19-May-20	31-Mar-20	187.6	187.6	37.60	37.60	99.03	52.8%
WB	Resilient and Inclusive Housing Project	7-Dec-20			136.7	121.7	21.70	21.70		
Colombia					1074.30	1059.30	90.80	90.80	849.03	80.2%
ECUADOR										
WB	Second Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Development Policy Financing	24-Mar-20	07-May-20	30-Jun-20	506.00	506.00	6.00	6.00	506.00	100.0%
WB	Third Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Development Policy Financing	27-Oct-20	24-Nov-20	31-Dec-20	514.10	514.10	14.10	14.10	514.10	100.0%
Ecuador					1020.10	1020.10	20.10	20.10	1020.10	1.00
Grand Total					5548.75	4937.04	671.05	671.05	3470.24	70.3%

- Total Financing Plan refers to the Project financing package, which includes borrower's financing and financing from any other sources (e.g. private sector, co-financiers, donors, etc.)
 - Jordan Economic Opportunities for Jordanians and Syrian refugees includes US\$100 million IDA credit as part of integrated financing package for a total project amount of US\$300 million
 - Total ISA Loan Amounts for EBRD Ain Ghazal Project and EBRD West Irbid Wastewater Project based on GX rate on submission to the GCFF
 - Jordan Energy and Water DPL complemented by separate budget support from Japan – not included in the total project commitment amount
 - After approval by the GCFF, the ISA Loan Amount of the EBRD West Irbid Wastewater Project increased to EUR 22.5m or US \$25.6m (FX rate as of 02-06-2019)
 - Financing was withdrawn for the Lebanon Jobs Program (\$400 million, of which \$70.1 million financed by GCFF) and the operation is excluded from this table
- * Dollar amounts shown with \$ refer to US Dollars
- * Total may not round up due to rounding



Section 3

GCFF in FY 2021

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The World Bank acts as the GCFF Trustee and is responsible for producing periodical reports on the financial status of the GCFF Trust Fund. The following represents the GCFF Trust Fund financial information as of June 30, 2021.

Pledges and Contributions: A pledge represents a Supporting Country's expression of intent to make a contribution. Pledges are converted to contributions by way of a countersigned Contribution Agreement/Arrangement. As of June 30, 2021, Contributions and outstanding Pledges to the GCFF Trust Fund totaled the equivalent of \$786.74 million. Of this amount, \$736.74 million has been deposited as cash into the GCFF Trust Fund.

Investment Income: The GCFF Trust Fund is by design a rapidly disbursing trust fund with low balances. While held in trust, the funds are invested in accordance with the investment strategy established for all trust funds administered by the World Bank, in a short-term fixed income portfolio with an

investment horizon of one year. As of June 30, 2021, the GCFF Trust Fund earned investment income of approximately USD 23.42 million on the liquid balances in the GCFF Trust Fund and investment income received from Implementation Support Agencies (ISA).

Funding Approvals: As of June 30, 2021, the GCFF Steering Committee had approved funding from the GCFF Trust Fund totaling USD 675.80 million to cover Concessionality amounts and ISA Costs, as well as Administrative Budget of the GCFF Coordination Unit and Trustee.

Funds Held in Trust: Funds Held in Trust reflect contributions paid-in from Supporting Countries, plus investment income, less cash transfers. Funds Held in Trust as of June 30, 2021 amounted to USD 93.69 million.

Funds Available for GCFF Steering Committee Funding Decisions: Funds available to support GCFF funding decisions amounted to USD 84.36 million as of June 30, 2021.

FINANCIAL STATUS (AS OF JUNE 30, 2021)		
	Total	% of Total
SUPPORTING COUNTRY PLEDGES AND CONTRIBUTIONS		
Contributions	736.74	93.6%
Pledges outstanding a/	50.00	6.4%
Total Pledges outstanding and Contributions	786.74	100.0%
CUMULATIVE RESOURCES		
Resources Received		
Cash Receipts	736.74	90.9%
Investment Income earned b/	23.42	2.9%
Total Resources Received	760.16	93.8%
Resources not yet received		
Contributions not yet received	-	0.0%
Pledges outstanding	50.00	6.2%
Total Resources not yet received	50.00	6.2%
Total Potential Resources (A) (in USD millions)	810.16	100%
CUMULATIVE FUNDING DECISIONS		
Concessionality	671.05	99.3%
ISA Costs	0.85	0.1%
Administrative Budget	3.91	0.6%
Total Funding Decisions Net of Cancellations (B)	675.80	100%
Total Potential Resources Net of Funding Decisions (A) - (B)	134.36	
FUNDS AVAILABLE		
Funds Held in Trust with no restrictions	120.33	
Approved Amounts Pending Cash Transfers	28.96	
Total Funds Available to Support Steering Committee Decisions	91.37	

a / This does not include potential pledges that may be provided if a Supporting County enters into a loan agreement with IBRD wherein grant amounts may be generated to benefit GCFF

b/ Represents investment income earned on the liquid balances of the GCFF Trust Fund and investment income received from ISAs

Note: Sub-totals may not add up to due to rounding

PLEDGES AND CONTRIBUTIONS AS OF JUNE 30, 2021 (IN USD MILLIONS)													
				Effective (or signed) Contribution in Currency of Contribution					Receipts in Currency of Contribution				
Supporting Country		Pledge in Currency of Contribution	USDeq. a/	Global	Lebanon/ Jordan	Jordan	Lebanon	Total	Global	Lebanon / Jordan	Jordan	Lebanon	Receipts in USD b/
Canada	CAD	57.00	43.46	17.00	40.00	-	-	57.00	17.00	40.00	-	-	43.46
Denmark	DKK	507.10	78.92	437.10	-	70.00	-	507.10	437.10	-	70.00	-	78.92
European Commission	EUR	5.00	5.36	-	5.00	-	-	5.00	-	5.00	-	-	5.36
Germany	EUR	91.48	102.41	-	67.65	23.83	-	91.48	-	67.65	23.83	-	102.41
Japan	USD	134.56	134.56	14.56	60.00	25.00	-	99.56	14.56	60.00	25.00	-	99.56
Netherlands	EUR	53.00	61.43	3.00	20.00	-	30.00	53.00	3.00	20.00	-	30.00	61.43
Norway	NOK	524.20	59.99	30.00	494.20	-	-	524.20	30.00	494.20	-	-	59.99
Sweden	SEK	180.00	20.24	-	180.00	-	-	180.00	-	180.00	-	-	20.24
Sweden	USD	30.00	30.00	10.00	20.00	-	-	30.00	10.00	20.00	-	-	30.00
United Kingdom c/	USD	40.30	40.30	-	-	40.30	-	40.30	-	-	40.30	-	40.30
United Kingdom	GBP	102.50	135.08	8.00	-	94.50	-	102.50	8.00	-	94.50	-	135.08
United States	USD	75.00	75.00	25.00	-	35.00	-	60.00	25.00	-	35.00	-	60.00

a / Represents (1) actual US dollar value of paid-in cash contributions and/or (2) June 30, 2021 value of pledges outstanding and/or unpaid contribution amounts

b/ Represents actual USD receipts

Note: totals may not add up to due to rounding

CUMULATIVE FUNDING DECISIONS AS OF JUNE 30, 2021						
Concessionalality	ISA	Global	Lebanon / Jordan	Jordan	Lebanon	Total
Colombia - Fiscal Sustainability, Competitiveness and Migration Development	IBRD	31.50	-	-	-	31.50
Colombia - Improving Quality of Healthcare Services and Efficiency	IBRD	37.60	-	-	-	37.60
Colombia - Resilient and Inclusive Housing	IBRD	21.70	-	-	-	21.70
Ecuador - Second Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Development Policy Financing	IBRD	6.00	-	-	-	6.00
Ecuador - Third Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Development Policy Financing	IBRD	14.10	-	-	-	14.10
Jordan - Economic Opportunities	IBRD	-	11.24	39.76	-	51.00
Jordan - Ain Ghazel Wastewater	EBRD	-	1.95	-	-	1.95
Jordan - Energy and Water Development Policy Loan	IBRD	-	-	25.00	-	25.00
Jordan - West Irbid Wastewater	EBRD	-	2.50	-	-	2.50
Jordan - Emergency Health	IBRD	-	7.95	5.95	-	13.90
	IsDB	-	12.01	8.99	-	21.00
Jordan - Emergency Health (Add'l Financing)	IBRD	-	18.17	40.73	-	58.90
Jordan - Education Reform Support	IBRD	-	41.88	10.42	-	52.30
Jordan - Education Reform Support (Add'l Financing)	IBRD	-	3.49	15.11	-	18.60
Jordan - First Equitable Growth and Job Creation	IBRD	11.26	18.45	81.29	-	111.00
Jordan - Youth, Technology and Jobs Project	IBRD	-	-	36.90	-	36.90
Jordan - COVID19 Emergency Response Add'l Financing		-	11.92	0.58	-	12.50
Lebanon - Roads and Employment	IBRD	-	28.91	-	16.49	45.40
Lebanon - Health Resilience	IBRD	-	24.16	-	0.04	24.20
	IsDB	-	5.89	-	0.01	5.90
Lebanon - Greater Beirut Public Transport	IBRD	25.39	32.35	-	12.07	69.80
Lebanon - Municipal Investment Program	IBRD	-	1.77	-	7.53	9.30
		147.55	222.64	264.73	36.13	671.05
ISA Costs						
EBRD		-	0.17	-	-	0.17
IsDB		-	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.07
IBRD		0.19	0.19	0.18	0.05	0.61
		0.19	0.41	0.20	0.05	0.85
Administrative Budget						
Coordination Unit		0.28	1.31	0.59	0.04	2.22
Trustee		0.19	0.96	0.51	0.03	1.69
		0.47	2.27	1.10	0.07	3.91
Total Funding Decisions		148.21	225.31	266.03	36.26	675.80

Note: totals may not add up to due to rounding



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FUNDS AVAILABLE AS OF JUNE 30, 2021 (IN USD MILLIONS)										
	Total		Global		Lebanon / Jordan		Jordan		Lebanon	
Cumulative Receipts		760.16		153.01		304.10		266.03		37.02
a. Cash receipts from Supporting Countries	734.74		148.04		291.58		262.47		34.65	
b. Investment Income earned a/	23.42		4.97		12.52		3.56		2.36	
Cumulative Cash Transfers		666.47		148.21		223.54		266.03		28.69
a. Concessionality	661.75		147.55		220.87		264.73		28.60	
b. ISA Costs	0.81		0.19		0.40		0.20		0.02	
C. Administrative Budget	3.91		0.47		2.27		1.10		0.07	
Funds Held in Trust (3 = 1- 2)		93.69		4.80		80.56		0.00		8.32
Funding Decisions Pending Cash Transfer		9.33		-		1.77		-		7.56
Funds available to support Steering Committee decision (5 = 3 - 4)		84.36		4.80		78.79		0.00		0.76

a / Represents investment income earned on the liquid balances of the GCFF Trust Fund and investment income received from ISAs

Note: totals may not add up to due to rounding

MONITORING & EVALUATION

GCFF-funded operations feature a series of development objectives and results indicators to measure the progress and impact of projects, as approved by the ISA's board of directors. Specifically, the GCFF Operations Manual requires the relevant ISA to "monitor and evaluate overall Project performance in accordance with its policies and procedures." The Coordination Unit and the Trustee therefore have no direct responsibility for M&E of the operations themselves.

The ISAs are required to provide progress reports every six months. The progress reports are submitted to the Coordination Unit for compilation and distribution to the Steering Committee for informational purposes. Each ISA is also responsible for reporting financial information on a six-month basis.

The results framework for the GCFF, which can be found in its Operations Manual, is focused on the provision of concessionality to financing from ISAs for projects that address the development impact of the influx of refugees, as well as on improved coordination among Benefitting Countries, Supporting Countries, ISAs and others around such ISA financing. Each ISA is also required to include in its funding request information on its results framework, which should be specific to each project.

The operational updates are used to evaluate performance, including performance ratings provided in the individual progress reports; levels of disbursements; and lead time to effectiveness. The information is used in discussions around solutions to bottlenecks and other issues which may affect progress of the project. For this purpose, the Operations Manual provides an M&E template with a subset of results and indicators that focus on how the project addresses the impact of the influx of refugees. ISAs are required to provide 2-3 key measurable indicators which can be selected from a list of sample indicators in the Operations Manual.

The results framework and monitoring & evaluation of the GCFF are currently under review and will be revised in line with the proposals outlined in Section 1 above.

Results

The GCFF identified four high-level targets to track results in achieving provision of concessionality and improved coordination. In FY21, five years after the Facility was operationalized, all indicators are on track or have been exceeded.

PROVIDING CONCESSIONALITY AND IMPROVING COORDINATION STATUS MATRIX				
Indicator	Baseline	Target	Status as of June 30, 2021	Comments
Indicator 1: Amount of contributions raised	0 (2016)	US \$1 billion in contributions (2021) (yearly milestone of: US \$200m)	US \$786.74 million pledges and contributions (includes Global Window)	On track
Indicator 2: Amount allocated by the GCFF per year	0 (2016)	US \$150-200 million (yearly)	US \$134.2 million ¹³	On track
Indicator 3: Amount of total MDB financing made on concessional terms from the GCFF	0 (2016)	US \$3 billion in concessional MDB financing (2021) (\$600m per year)	US \$4.937 billion	Exceeded
Indicator 4: Share of respondents from Benefitting Countries, ISAs, and Supporting Countries who indicate that GCFF implementation is making a useful contribution to coordination efforts	-	Percent of respondents indicating that the CFF is making a useful contribution to coordination efforts: (a) of the MDBs involved; and (b) between the MDBs and UN around country level interventions to address the impact of refugees	2 satisfaction surveys were conducted by the CU (July 2017 and 2018). The limited feedback received encouraged the CU to rethink the questionnaire in order to better integrate findings into GCFF-sponsored operations.	The survey has been suspended and will not be part of the GCFF RF

¹³ Yearly average between 2016 and 2021 based on the \$671.05 million allocated up to June 30, 2021.

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