

SILA - The Skills and Innovation for Labor Advancement

Creating pathways to employment and stability for Lebanon's youth, farmers, and small businesses



Overview

SILA is a four-year initiative by Swisscontact supporting economic recovery and social cohesion in Lebanon. By focusing on agriculture and construction, two sectors with strong potential, SILA equips youth, farmers, and small businesses with the skills and tools to build sustainable livelihoods.

Challenge

Lebanon is in deep crisis. With over 80% of the population below the poverty line and unemployment exceeding 29%, opportunities are scarce especially for youth, women, and vulnerable communities. Agriculture and construction struggle with outdated practices, weak market access, and limited skilled labor.

Financing partners

This project is part of the Swisscontact Development Programme, which is co-financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA.

Solution

SILA responds with practical locally-led solutions:

- **Youth:** 160 young people gain technical, soft, and financial skills for jobs or entrepreneurship.
- **Farmers:** 750 smallholders improve productivity and market access.
- **Micro and Small Enterprises in Construction:** 600 businesses receive coaching, digital tools, and support to adopt green technologies.
- **Women:** Supported to overcome barriers and enter the workforce.
- **Sustainability:** Promoting climate-smart practices across sectors.

Facts and Figures

- 50% of trained farmers improve incomes
- 160 MSEs increase sales via digital platforms
- 160 youth access meaningful work
- Strengthened community resilience and social cohesion