The project aims at reducing social tensions and expanding protection spaces for the target communities by adopting a comprehensive approach, which focuses both on engaging Syrian refugee and Lebanese youth as actors of social change in the displacement-affected communities and on involving and engaging local stakeholders to create a supportive environment allowing youth to build networks and respond to community challenges. Focusing respectively on youth engagement, local authorities and stakeholders’ engagement, the project will work towards three objectives:

I. Representative youth of the communities capacitated to motivate and mobilize reducing tension and promoting social cohesion

LOST will support the creation of four youth-led groups (YLGs) and will be giving the support and capacitation needed so they become active in their communities. The youth will be trained on several areas that serve to benefit in successfully implementing youth-led social cohesion initiatives; thus, youth will be enabled to become motivators and mobilizers towards reducing tension and promoting social cohesion.

II. Targeted communities and relevant stakeholders are more inclusive and supportive to create an enabling environment for youth-led social cohesion initiatives

In the targeted areas of Baalbeck-Hermel, the communities and relevant stakeholders will also be targeted towards becoming more inclusive and supportive. Stakeholders’ Support Committees (SSCs) will be created to include key community stakeholders to ensure that the communities are engaged and supportive for youth to lead in reducing tension and promoting social cohesion.

III. Community-based social cohesion and tension reduction interventions are led by youth groups in collaboration with engaged communities and relevant stakeholders

Once both YLGs and SSCs have the needed knowledge and aptitudes, they will be able to collaborate in implementing interventions that aim at reducing tensions within their communities. 8 community service activities, 16 community projects and 20 community events/recreational bridging activities will be implemented by youth. In parallel, the private sector will be actively involved and committed to contribute to the communities and the youth; 20 crisis-affected youth-led businesses will be granted with in-kind support in return of social contributions that give back to the communities. Finally, cash for work interventions reflecting youth priorities will be identified and implemented, and will engage 80 youth coming from vulnerable communities in skilled and unskilled work.

Objectives and Activities

- **Duration:** 2022
- **Budget:** 571,533 EUR
- **Geographical area:** Baalbeck-Hermel governorate
- **RDPP thematic area:** Protection
- **Direct Beneficiaries:**
  - 40 - 60 youth leaders
  - 40 – 60 local stakeholders
  - 50 frontlines from local authorities
  - 20 youth-led businesses
  - 80 youth cash for work beneficiaries
- **Indirect beneficiaries:** 1,000 youth and other stakeholders
- **Partners:** Arci Culture Solidali (ARCS)