



2020 Annual Report

A Year of Accomplishments.



The Popular Aid for Relief and Development

Your Partner In Innovation

Special Thanks:

PARD offers special thanks to the following organizations, volunteers and individuals for their support during the year 2020 (in alphabetical order):

- Basque Agency for Development Cooperation
- Bizkaia (The Provincial Council of Biscay)
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB)
- Galdakao Town Hall (Ayuntamiento de Galdakao)
- Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
- Norwegian People's Aid - Lebanon (NPA-Lebanon)
- Refugees Empowerment International Japan (RIJ)
- Solidaridad Internacional (NAZIOARTEKO ELKARATASUNA – SOLIDARIDAD)
- ZIOARTEKO ELKARATASUNA – SOLIDARIDAD)
- UNDP - Lebanon
- UN - Habitat

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Introduction

The Popular Aid for Relief and Development (**PARD**) is an independent grassroots organization working on gender justice and women's empowerment, youth empowerment, environmental health and relief for people in distress among Palestinian and Lebanese communities and refugees from Syria. It was founded in 1985 under the name of "The Relief Agency" by a group of volunteers. It received official recognition under the name of Popular Aid for Relief and Development through notification number 44/AD in 23/4/1990.

PARD believes that in addition to providing relief and support to the Palestinian refugees at times of disaster, there is a great need to provide environmental, health and social services to the marginalized and vulnerable groups in the Palestinian camps and gatherings in Lebanon at times of stability as well. These services are extremely crucial to the refugees' wellbeing and substantially contribute to building their resilience and ability to participate meaningfully in their communities.

PARD adopted a participatory approach to develop its new strategy for 2019-2021.

PARD adheres itself to the Millennium Development Goals which include the following:

- Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by supporting small local projects
- Achieving universal primary education: by providing remedial lessons to students, combat illiteracy and vocational trainings
- Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women: through the formation of women's committees
- Improvement of maternal health: through the mother and child health program
- Combatting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: through health education for prevention
- Environmental sustainability: by providing environmental health programs
- Developing a global partnership for development: through networking with local and international NGOs and UN agencies.

Mission

The Popular Aid for Relief and Development is a nonprofit, grass-roots, rights based NGO that aims to promote gender justice and the right of marginalized and vulnerable groups, especially in the Palestinian gatherings, to access social, health and environmental services. PARD does so by providing access to healthcare, environmental health and education services, and by empowering women, youth, and children to practice their rights and participate effectively within their communities. PARD also provides support and relief to people affected by disasters.

Vision

Refugees in Lebanon enjoy civil and social rights and gender justice, and are empowered to participate meaningfully in life-determining decisions. Palestinian women have the right to participate effectively and equally within the community. The Palestinian gatherings are environmentally clean, healthy and safe. PARD's programs are rights-based, need-responsive, participatory, well designed, implemented and monitored by a committed, highly skilled, efficient and motivated team.

Principles and Values

Human Rights & Social Justice: PARD believes all human beings have the same universal rights. These rights should guarantee freedom, justice, and equality to everybody. All individuals should have an equal opportunity to exercise the privileges of citizenship, freedom of speech, press, religion and to participate fully in civil life, regardless of race, religion, sex, or other characteristics irrelevant to the true value of each individual.

Gender: PARD believes that women should enjoy equal political, civil and social rights under equal circumstances that would lead to equal opportunities and capabilities. We believe that all society members and women in particular should be empowered to participate in the decision-making and implementation of issues that affect their lives.

Participation: PARD believes that all individuals and groups have the right to participate in the processes that define their lives. All individuals should have the chance to participate meaningfully in the making of decisions that influence their lives and the lives of their families. PARD believes that the organizations' stakeholders and constituencies are integral and full partners of the planning, action and learning processes that PARD takes on.

Accountability and Transparency: PARD perceives transparency as a reflection for openness and clarity on crucial issues such as decision making mechanisms, operations, finance and relations. We think of accountability as an expectation to the responsibility and commitment towards PARD's mission, values and promised quality performance.

Value of International Agreements: PARD is committed to all relevant international agreements and conventions on human rights, such as CEDAW, CRC, Beijing declaration and the Alma-Ata Declaration as well. PARD also believes in its role as an active participant that aims to contribute to the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals.

Beneficiaries

Over the past decade, international and local organizations working with Palestinian refugees in Lebanon have begun to rely on the terminology of Palestinian gatherings in order to refer to areas outside the twelve official Palestinian refugee camps proper where a large percentage of Palestinian refugees live in relatively vulnerable conditions. Although most of these refugees are registered with UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, and/or with the Lebanese Government, their place of settlement is not officially recognized. As a result, refugees living in most gatherings suffer from even more precarious living conditions than their counterparts in camps. Their tenure security is frequently threatened by the absence of a framework of rights and entitlement to recognize and protect their settlements. At the same time, UNRWA's mandate to provide basic urban services, mainly WASH, is defined within the boundaries of the Palestine refugee camps only. Despite these differences, however, research indicates that Palestinians in gatherings and in camps have a profound sense of identification that connects them together as a similar community so that the legal and administrative distinctions between Palestine refugee camps and gatherings in Lebanon are not typically paralleled by the perceptions of the refugees themselves. All in all, an estimated 140 thousand refugees live in Lebanon's 42 Palestinian gatherings, including 30 thousand new refugees from Syria, most of which are Palestinian.

The total new population of these areas represents about one third of the total number of Palestinian refugees registered with UNRWA in Lebanon; while the number of registered PRS living in the gatherings represents around half of those registered with UNRWA in Lebanon. Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria in March 2011, gatherings (and camps) have housed a large number of Palestinian and Syrian refugees from Syria. An estimated 52,400 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS hereafter) were registered in UNRWA by beginning of 2014 (UNRWA). Virtually all these refugees have flocked to camps and gatherings. It is estimated that more than two-thirds of the PRS are renting premises while the rest are hosted by other Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL).

Despite the prevalence of the terminology of "gatherings" in recent reports and research among Palestinian refugees, the list and number of gatherings is inconsistent across research and reports and typically depends on the definition adopted by the relief agency that has commissioned one study or another. For the purpose of this report, gatherings are defined –in line with the 2003 FAFO report, to be areas that:

- Have a population of Palestinian refugees (whether they are registered with UNRWA and/or the Lebanese Government or not);
- Has no official UNRWA camp status or any legal authority identified with responsibility for camp management;
- Is expected to have clearly defined humanitarian and protection needs, or have a minimum of 25 households;
- Has a population with a sense of being a distinct group living in a geographically identified area.

Within this definition, and building on the Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) conducted by UNDP and UN-Habitat, in partnership with PARD, during the Summer of 2013, the report identifies a total of 42 Palestinian gatherings distributed along the regions of Beirut, the Beqaa, Saida, Tyre and the North.

Twelve of these gatherings are located in close vicinity to camps (Beddawi, Nahr el-Bared, Mieh Mieh, Ain el-Helweh) and were typically produced as a spillover of the camps during periods of political unrest (1970-1990). These gatherings are referred to as "Camps' Adjacent Areas or AAs" and distinguished from other settlements since they benefit more easily, due to their proximity, from social services typically extended by UNRWA such as healthcare and schooling, but still do not fall within the radius of infrastructure provision. Each of these areas displays a similar morphology: a central population core is formed by the refugee camps established in the early 1950s by UNRWA and is surrounded by an array of two or more extensions that each holds the particular name of a "gathering" without behaving entirely as a separate entity. The largest of these agglomerations, Ain el-Helweh, counts eight such neighborhoods, each of which was developed in specific circumstances mainly during the early 1970s. Adjacent areas reflect both the influx of Palestinian refugees from other camps destroyed during the years of civil war (e.g. Tall ez-Zaatar Nabatiyyeh) and the so-called war of the camps (1984-1989), or the natural growth of neighborhoods that have not been officially expanded despite high demographic rates and over seventy years of settlement.

The other gatherings were largely established between 1948 and 1955 and coincide with the early arrival of Palestinians in Lebanon. These gatherings typically house refugees of Bedouin origins who, it is believed, had historically selected those settlements because their lifestyle (breeding animals) was incompatible with the high-

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density living imposed in the camps and because they were eager to live together, as extended families (Stell 2013). The majority of these gatherings are located within or in close proximity to main Lebanese cities (e.g. Tyre, Saida, Tripoli, Beirut) or villages (e.g. Sheem, Kharayeb, Abbasiyeh, Burj Rahhal, Marj), where they form distinctive quarters. In their morphologies, these gatherings are not entirely identical. Thus, most gatherings (including AAs) count coherent settlement entities with relatively identifiable boundaries. In contrast, other gatherings are scattered as a coherent group of houses within a larger agglomeration. This is for instance the case of the settlement of Nehmeh that consists of individual and building complexes as well as a few houses scattered within the area of Nehmeh that also house many Lebanese families. This is also the case of the gatherings in the Tripoli area (Mina, Bab el Raml, Zahreyye, Bab el Tabbeneh) where, it is worth pointing out, Palestinian refugees and Lebanese families frequently share the same buildings.

There are also several instances where gatherings were established later in order to house Palestinian refugees who had fled the violence of the Lebanese civil war (1975-1990) and/or the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. This is the case for instance of the Marj Settlement in central Beqaa that housed refugees who fled from the South during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Hamshari (Saida) that was established in 1986 by Palestinians fleeing the war of the camps for a safer haven, and Sheem (1978/79) that housed families who fled the Tall ez-Zaatar refugee camp upon its destruction in 1976.

Since March 2011, camps and gatherings throughout Lebanon have been hosting an increasing number of Palestinian and Syrian refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria. The vast majority of refugee families arriving to camps and gatherings are Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) who have arrived into gatherings and camps typically following family and social relations. According to a needs assessment conducted by UNRWA in 2014, about 29% of these refugee families are hosted by relatives and friends in already crowded venues while 71% are paying rent. The majority of these refugees live in poor conditions, whereby at least a quarter of them are in very poor quality housing not designed for residence (ANERA 2013, Mercy Corp 2013).

At least three reasons explain the arrival of refugees to these areas:

The first explanation relates to the history of Palestinian refugee settlement in the region, whereby numerous ties had connected Palestinian refugees across borders. Around 29% of the Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) arriving into Lebanon are hosted by friends and relatives, referred to as Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL) who, as noted above, frequently bear additional expenses and share available and limited resources without much support.

The second explanation stems from the patterns of housing in the city and the mode through which refugees have arrived to Lebanon. Already before the war in Syria, hundreds of thousands of Syrian laborers lived and worked in the country. As a low-income, relatively poor group, Syrians typically rented facilities in the cheapest venues of the city, mainly camps, but also informal settlements including some gatherings more generally. In the absence of public subsidies or a policy encouraging the production of affordable housing, all housing arrangements were secured within this informal segment of the land and housing market. As a result, both camps and gatherings were connected to the cities' housing markets through the mobility of these workers who frequently went across camps and settlements indiscriminately, looking for shelter near the employment opportunities they could secure.

The last reason for the influx of Palestinian as well as Syrian refugees in the camps is the outcome of the structures of the labor market that leaves very little opportunities for Palestinians to generate income. As a result, the possibility of generating income through renting rooms and/or apartments, even if at the expense of one's living conditions, is usual in these neighborhoods. Whenever possible, both camp and gathering dwellers resort to adding units to their already congested, structurally unsound buildings to rent out. The result is a dramatic deterioration of the living conditions –particularly seen in Beirut.

In this context, it is not surprising that gatherings (and camps) have hosted a large number of Palestinian and Syrian refugees from Syria. According to ANERA annual report (2020), there are more than 1.7 million refugees in Lebanon. Lebanon has the largest per capita population of Syrian refugees in the world. As of 2020, the Lebanese government estimates their country hosts 1.5 million Syrian refugees. Close to 300,000 Palestinian refugees also live in Lebanon. The Rapid Needs Assessment had estimated the total number of new refugees from Syria arriving to the gatherings at 30 thousand, 87% of which are PRS. The largest segment of PRS who took refuge in the gatherings are found in Saida area (38.5%), with concentration around Ain el Helwe Camp, followed by Tyre (21.5%), Beqaa (19%), the North (17%) and Beirut (4%). These findings are consistent with the demographic distribution of PRS in general, whereby; over half the PRS population who took refuge in Lebanon has arrived in the greater Saida Area, with about 17.2% in the Ain el-Helweh Camp. More generally, the majority (roughly 56%) of the PRS population has settled in South Lebanon, all in accommodations with/near existing gatherings and camps. Only 8% have settled in Beirut, in the Chatila Camp and in the Bourj el-Barajneh Camp and another 11.4% in the Beddawi Camp (ANERA 2013). Living conditions for most of these refugees are dismal, whereby many live in facilities not designed for housing and rarely access appropriate services. Access to employment is highly limited for an unskilled labor competing with a massive flow of refugees and limited work opportunities. Increased pressure is exerted on health, education, and other social services provided by UNRWA to original Palestinian refugees from Lebanon (PRL) and more recently to Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS).

Analyzing the livelihoods of the Palestinian population living in gatherings requires a different conceptual framework than the one used in the classic poverty assessments that would be typically introduced for the analysis of the informal settlement populations. This is because, in addition to the typical income poverty measures that measure the households' ability to secure the minimal income threshold defined essential for survival, we need to account for the barriers to market entry that place Palestinian refugees at a severe disadvantage from other low-income dwellers. Thus, while income poverty would indirectly imply that economic growth can improve the overall standards of living, assuming people can reap the benefits of economic improvements through labor, financial and other markets, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are considered legally as "visitors" in the country and banned from exercising over seventy different types of employment in the major economic sectors unless they are able to secure work permits, an unlikely scenario. As a result, employment conditions are in general quite bad for refugees, joblessness prevalent, and work conditions typically precarious (seasonal/informal). This is particularly the case for refugees living in the South and the Beqaa which earlier studies (Chaaban et al, 2010) showed to be extremely vulnerable.

In addition, refugees in Lebanon are not granted the civil and legal rights enjoyed by Lebanese citizens. Not only do they not benefit from political representation, but they are typically socially stigmatized and widely discriminated against when it comes to securing employment and/or other facilities.

Furthermore, Palestinian refugees have limited access to health or social services. Already in 2010, had found that 75% of Palestinian households in Lebanon had at least one member who suffered from chronic illness, that 15% included at least one member with disability, and that over 40% of households counted at least one member suffering from chronic depression. These numbers not only highlight the vulnerability of the Palestinian refugee community's health profile in relation to their Lebanese counterparts, but they are also likely to be well above their current status, with the arrival of a large number of PRS who are evidently suffering from health problems and using the same health facilities provided by UNRWA.

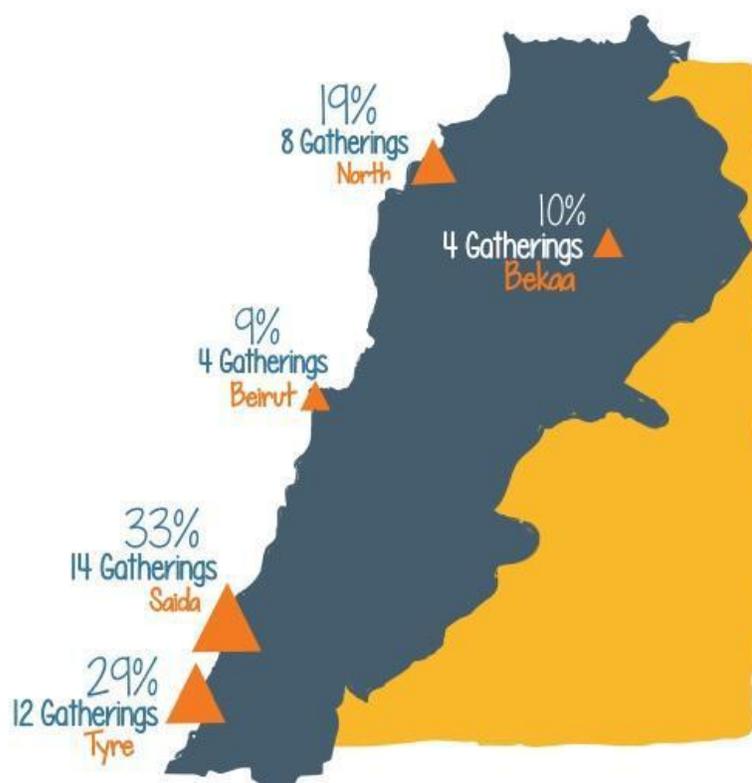
Finally, Palestinian refugees are unable to own property assets in the country since 2001 and required to bequeath them to religious authorities, if they have already purchased them. Given the central role of property ownership in the Lebanese economy as both a central financial asset for storing wealth and earning surplus value, the implications of the legal ban on property ownership has enormous social as well as economic implications for the refugee communities. Thus, speaking about the overall landscape of Palestinian rights in Lebanon, Palestinians in Lebanon face a "protracted mode of legal exclusion" that restricts their labor market participation, asset ownership, and mobility. Looking more generally at the responsibilities of the State of Lebanon, we find that Lebanon is not a signatory of the 1951 Convention on Refugees, nor does it have legal or administrative provisions in place to address the specific problems faced by refugees or asylum seekers. Instead, refugees or asylum seekers remaining in the country without authorization are treated much like any foreigners doing so. The Lebanese Government asserts that Lebanon is not a country of permanent asylum. Palestinian refugees are allowed to register with UNRWA, which carries out since 1949 health, relief, education and social programs for registered refugees, whether

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they live in camps or not. Yet, UNRWA's mandate defines its role in the provision of urban and infrastructure services to the borders of the twelve recognized refugee camps. At the same time, municipalities in general do not provide these services in the gatherings. In this regard, living conditions in Palestinian gatherings throughout the country are worsened, especially following the influx of new refugees from Syria.

Lebanon holds 42 Palestinian gatherings distributed among the five regions of Beirut, Beqaa, Saïda, Tyre and the North. These gatherings were inhabited originally by about 110 thousand dwellers, the great majority of whom (93%) are Palestinian Refugees, prior to the break of the Syrian crisis. With the wave of refugees' arrival from Syria to Lebanon, these gatherings were the destination of another 30 thousand inhabitants, of which those of Palestinian origins reached around 26 thousand.

The 42 gatherings are spread over five Lebanese regions, namely Saïda, Tyre, the North, Beqaa, and Beirut respectively, while being concentrated particularly in Saïda and Tyre, which make up alone for about two-thirds of the gatherings.



Geographical Distribution of the Gatherings

Location

The gatherings fall in and around main cities, and except for the Beqaa, they are located in coastal areas. Some are situated inside an urban context such as Old Saïda gathering, others within an urban periphery such as the Naameh gathering, and some others within a rural setting such as gatherings in Tyre area. The split between urban and rural in this context is in fact determined by the municipalities under which these gatherings fall, depending on the location within the region.

Municipalities

The gatherings are administered by a total of 25 municipalities, as follows:

- The four gatherings of Beirut region fall under the municipalities of Beirut, Ghobeiri and Naameh.
- The four gatherings of Beqaa region fall under the municipalities of Bar Elias, Baalbeck, Saadnayel, Anjar and Marj.
- The fourteen gatherings of Saida region fall under the municipalities of Saida, Miyeh w Miyeh, Darb El-Seem, Sibline and Chehim.
- The twelve gatherings of Tyre region fall under the municipalities of Adloun, Bissariyeh, Abbasiyeh, Kharayeb, Burj Rahal, Burughliyeh and Tyre.
- The eight gatherings of the North region fall under the municipalities of Tripoli, Beddawi, Mina, Muhammara and Bhanine.

REGION	Nº OF GATHERINGS	Nº OF CONCERNED MUNICIPALITIES
Beirut	4	3
Beqaa	4	5
Saida	14	5
Tyre	12	7
North	8	5
Total	42	25

Number of Gatherings per Regions, and Concerned Municipalities

The extent to which these gatherings are integrated within their geographical context varies from one region to another and more specifically from one municipality to another. The Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) shows generally that gatherings falling within the same municipality conveyed similar statements regarding the connection with this municipality, whether poor or good. While most gatherings do not benefit from basic services and projects undertaken by municipalities, about a third enjoys a harmonious relationship with mayors, as reported by key informants in each gathering. Despite the poor communication declared by the remaining gatherings, some interact with mayors on a case-by-case basis, especially regarding residents' official papers. Hence, service provision is minimal; in parallel tax collection is not a standard practice, yet some municipalities collect fees on an irregular basis, especially in relation to paperwork for residents' dwellings. In this respect, it is possible to draw a list of gatherings that hold a good level of communication and integration with hosting municipalities, characterised by agreeable connections with municipal members and regular coordination. This is in fact reflected in some basic urban services' provision and maintenance, namely at the level of sewerage systems and solid waste management.

Based on the qualitative results of the RNA, the number of residents of the 42 gatherings was estimated originally at about 110 thousand, prior to the break of the Syrian crisis. The majority of the population is Palestinian, making up around 93 percent, while the remaining share is mostly Lebanese, with low prevalence of Syrian and other nationals. The figure below shows that residents, prior to the Syrian crisis, were concentrated in Saida, which alone hold about 41 percent of the population, reflecting the large number of gatherings in this region. North Lebanon ranked second with about a third, followed by Tyre with 13 percent. Beirut and Beqaa regions on the other hand held the lowest shares with 7 and 6 percent of total population respectively.

Despite the resemblance between some labor characteristics among Palestinian and Lebanese populations, namely economic activity and unemployment, notable differences occur at the earnings level, which is in fact a direct reflection of the occupations undertaken by the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon on one hand and the educational attainment on the other.

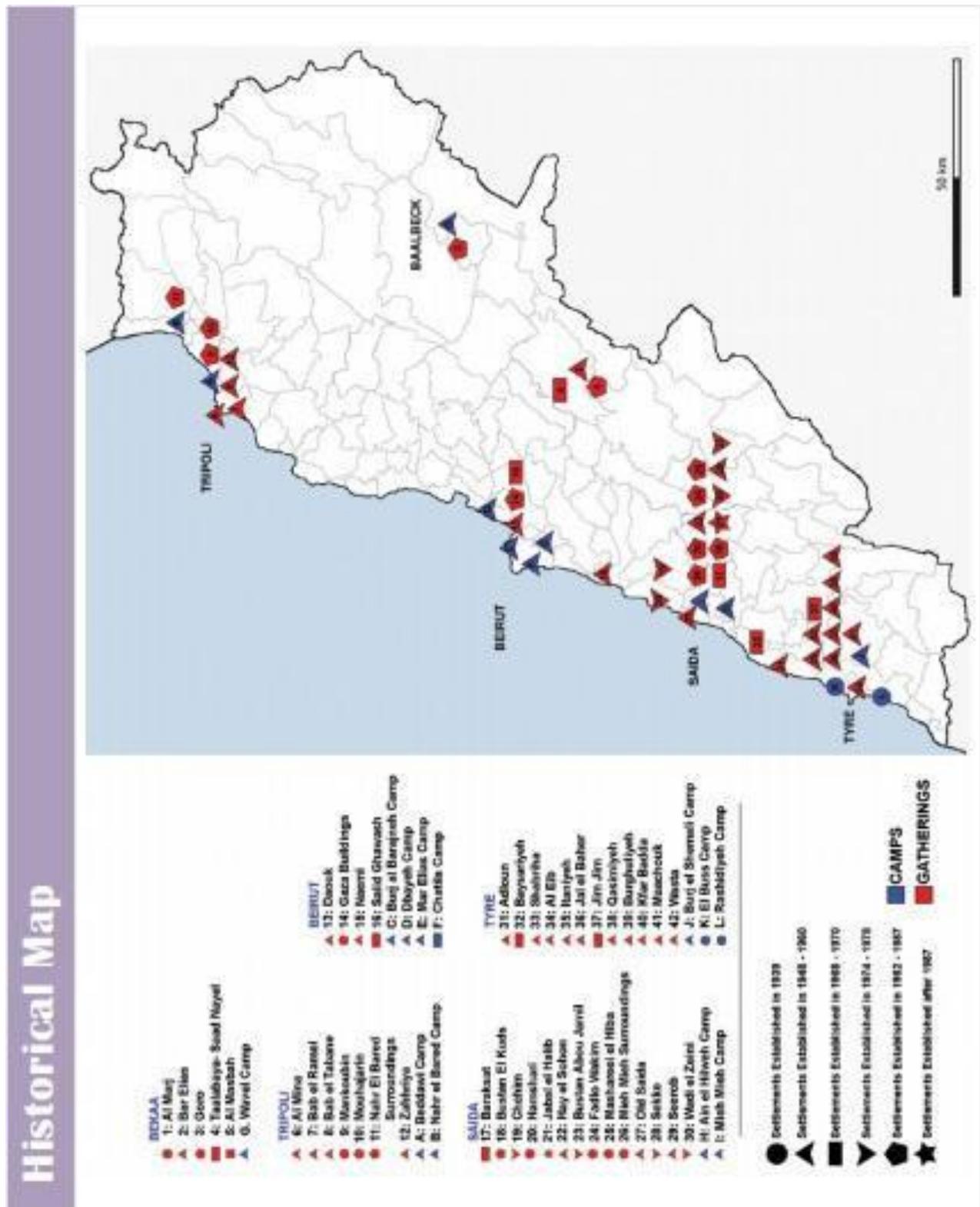
The RNA shows that remittances constitute a major source of income for residents of the 42 gatherings, not recording region-specific differences. The UNRWA-AUB survey reveals that female-headed households have a higher likelihood of having immediate emigrant relatives than male-headed ones. These relatives send remittances to improve the livelihoods of the recipient households, more so for female headed ones. However, this does not apply to extremely poor female-headed households, who experience a higher risk of falling into extreme poverty, due to the fact that these households have a larger family size and thus higher poverty risk.

The Labor Force Survey points out that a Palestinian worker earns on average a net monthly income of LL537,000, which is less than 31 percent of the Lebanese minimum wage. The majority of workers are very poorly paid, with half of the Palestinian workers earning less than a monthly LL 500,000. The low income levels are one major determinant of the high poverty rates among Palestinian Refugees. The UNRWA-AUB study points out that two-thirds of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon were poor in 2010, while extreme poverty recorded 6.6 percent. These figures compare against 28 percent and 8 percent among Lebanese in 2008. Considerable regional disparities are noted for poverty rates among Palestinian refugees, where poverty incidence is highest in Tyre (79 percent) and lowest in Central Lebanon Area (i.e. Greater Beirut, at 53 percent), and extreme poverty is significantly higher in Saida and Tyre (reaching almost 10 percent) than in other regions, and Saida and Tyre together host more than 81 percent of all extremely poor refugees. Poverty is significantly present for refugees working in the agricultural sector, since agricultural employment for Palestinian Refugees is mostly seasonal, informal and precarious. Poverty is also directly linked to educational attainment, where the headcount rate is significantly higher when the household head has low education (primary and below).

The influx of some 30,000 new refugees from Syria to Lebanon's gatherings added a new challenge at the employment level. Just like additional pressure was inflicted on basic services by the larger consumer base, competition on jobs is a major issue. Some gatherings' representatives conveyed that original dwellers are losing jobs, as they are being replaced by new refugees (PRS and SRS) at lower wages.

According to UNRWA (2014), around three quarters of all PRS households reported having debt; the probability of being indebted did not vary by region or by location, and households inside camps were as likely to have debts compared to those outside camps. The RNA results show that PRS households borrowed money mainly to cover rent and buy food items.

The data were gathered through various reports by UNRWA 2014, FaFo 2013 and 2015, DRC 2005, NRC 2009 and 2011, UNDP and UN-Habitat 2010 and 2014, ANERA 2013, Mercy Corp 2013 and UNRWA-AUB survey 2010.



Historical Map

Number of families of people living in Tyre, Saida and Beirut Gatherings

Location Name	No. of Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon PRL	No. of Palestinian Refugees from Syria PRS	No. of Lebanese	No. of Syrian Refugees from Syria	Others	Total Number of Population
<i>Tyre Gatherings</i>						
Shabriha	1519	263	45	10	29	1866 (2017)
Wasta	95	500	13	85	10	595 (2017)
Burghuliyeh	304	16	68	2	0	390 (2017)
Aitaniyeh	187	1	12	1	4	205 (2017)
Kfar Badda	272	7	14	1	1	295 (2017)
Jim Jeem	162	5	7	0	0	174 (2017)
Maashouk	1176	13	40	1	5	1235 (2017)
Jal al Bahar	1045	79	30	13	5	1172 (2017)
Qassmiyeh	1278	174	26	8	6	1492 (2017)
Baysariyeh	439	20	40	8	1	508 (2017)
Al Ebb	217	10	22	2	0	251 (2017)
Al Masaken Al Shaabiyah	142	8	24	4	0	178 (2017)
Naher Al Samer	192	47	9	0	4	252 (2017)
<i>Saida Gatherings</i>						
Sekkeh	1246	370	30	58	0	1704 (2017)
Baraksat	2619	440	99	39	10	3207 (2017)
Bustan el Kuds	1381	265	14	58	2	1720 (2017)
Bustan Abou Jamil	380	80	4	23	1	488 (2017)
Fadlo Wakim	172	14	0	4	2	192 (2017)
Hay el Sohoun	460	170	0	0	0	630 (2013)
Jabal el Halib	1580	266	22	44	8	1920 (2017)
Tawari	1078	251	61	11	1	1402 (2017)
Seerob	2975	164	159	25	12	3335 (2017)
Hamshari	450	17	40	5	3	515 (2017)
Wadi El Zaini	5777	1373	559	205	81	7995 (2017)
<i>Beirut Gatherings</i>						
Daouk	1730	15	175	350	85	2355 (2013)
Gaza Buildings	2150	115	0	400	0	2665 (2013)
Said Ghawash	1350	140	1300	320	0	3110 (2013)

Situation Report

For over a year, Lebanon's macro-economy has been assailed by compound crises, beginning with an economic and financial crisis, followed by COVID-19 pandemic and lastly the explosion at the port of Beirut.

I. The economy of Lebanon is in a state of crisis and is rapidly deteriorating. Lebanon is saddled with 94 billion dollars of public debt as of the end of July 2020.

Currently, Lebanon hosts more than 1.5 million Syrian and 400,000 Palestinian refugees, which is the largest refugee population per capita in the world, and 300,000 migrant workers, amounting to around 30 percent of the current total population of the country. The refugee presence has overstretched the basic healthcare services already strained by an overall stagnating economic and political instability.

The collapse of Lebanon's currency has led to triple-digit inflation rates which reached an annual rate of 120 percent. Inflation acts as a highly regressive tax, affecting the poor and vulnerable rate populations disproportionately, as well as people on fixed incomes such as pensioners. The sudden stop in capital inflows has implied a steady depletion of foreign exchange reserves at Banque du Liban (BDL). De facto liratication and haircuts on dollar deposits are ongoing, despite the official commitment of BDL and commercial banks to safeguard deposits.

Poverty is likely to continue to worsen, engulfing more than half of the population. A contraction of the Lebanese GDP per capita in real terms and high inflation will undoubtedly result in a substantial increase in poverty rates and will affect the population through different channels such as the loss of productive employment, decline in real purchasing power, and stalled international remittance. Highly skilled labor is increasingly likely to take up potential opportunities abroad, constituting a permanent social and economic loss for the country.

Immigration, mostly that of the educated youth, has doubled from 32,000 in 2018 to 67,000 in 2019.

Monthly minimum wage dropped from 450 USD to 56 USD.

Rate of unemployment has risen to 40%. The real value of the Lebanese currency has declined by at least 80%. 60% of parents are unable to afford private school tuition fees, so children are currently enrolling in the already under-funded, understaffed and overcrowded public schools.

The General Labor Union announced that, by its estimates, 55% of the Lebanese people now live below the poverty line.

In addition, lack of political consensus on national priorities severely impedes Lebanon's ability to implement long-term and visionary development policies. In August 2020, Lebanon's government resigned, acknowledging widespread anger over government inaction and mismanagement. A new government needs to quickly implement a credible macroeconomic stabilization strategy with short-term measures to contain the crisis, as well as medium- to long-term measures to address structural challenges.

However, authorities are in disagreement about the assessment, diagnosis, and solutions for the crisis. This resulted in a slew of uncoordinated, non-comprehensive, and insufficient policy measures, which have in fact worsened economic and social conditions. Government has failed to formalize a fiscal policy consistent with a credible medium-term macroeconomic framework. The banking sector has been advocating a bailout of the financial sector which is inconsistent with the restructuring principles that protect taxpayers. Monetary authorities have failed to address the exchange rate crisis and high inflationary conditions.

Needless to stress here that this economic situation reflects badly on the most vulnerable among the population in Lebanon, namely the Palestinian and Syrian refugees.

II. The spread of COVID-19

On February 23rd 2020, Lebanon reported its first COVID-19 positive case. On April 22nd 2020, UNRWA confirmed the first case of a Palestinian refugee camp resident testing positive for COVID-19. On March 15th, 2020 the Lebanese government proclaimed a state of general mobilization that called for the closure of public administrations and institutions, municipalities, autonomous utilities, universities, public and private schools as well as nurseries, curfews and temporary suspension of flights.

As of April 10th 2021, the total number confirmed to have COVID-19 was 494,633 cases. Number of people who died from COVID-19 reached 6630 people with a rate of 1.34%. UNRWA reported on 4 March 2021 that 7,186 Palestinian refugees have been confirmed COVID-19 positive and 230 Palestinians sadly died since the start of the outbreak in Lebanon.

Lebanon's healthcare system is characterized by a dominant, private for-profit sector that offers up to 75 percent of all health services, while the public-private non-for-profit network covers the rest of the population, namely the economically deprived and the most vulnerable inhabitants.

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Negative impacts of the economic crisis on the health sector include: (i) protracted delays in government payments of its arrears to hospitals; (ii) a dollar shortage along with unregulated restrictions on depositors' access to their funds, hindering the import of essential medical equipment, medicine and supplies; and (iii) an increase in unemployment rates leading to an increase in the number of uninsured citizens requiring government assistance to access health services. With both national and foreign demand conditions being subdued, companies including healthcare facilities continued to cut their staff numbers to salvage the increasing costs. The decrease in the number of healthcare workers, coupled with the increasing demands on healthcare services due to COVID-19 escalated the workload on hospitals.

The Syrian and Palestinian refugees are no less impacted by the widening Covid-19 epidemic than the Lebanese. But whereas the Lebanese struggle with limited access to sub-mediocre medical facilities, the refugees are even worse off. Syrian refugees have been generally overlooked by the Lebanese authorities as potential victims or carriers of the virus until mid-March 2020 when Prime Minister Diab declared a health emergency entailing sweeping measures.

Syrians are being scapegoated for the Covid-19 risk – which would not be the first time they were held responsible for events outside their control – or that the virus is being used as a convenient pretext to pursue the long-held tacit goal of getting rid of Syrian refugees.

Effects of COVID-19 on Women:

Globally, 75-80 percent of healthcare workers are female. According to the latest statistics published by the Order of Nurses in Lebanon for 2019, 79.52 percent of the nurses in Lebanon are females, including Palestinians (Order of Nurses in Lebanon, 2020). This puts female nurses at the forefront where they are the main carers and therefore, the most exposed to occupational health risk in the hospitals. In fact, statistics demonstrate that 60 percent of infected healthcare workers in Lebanon are female. This can carry far more risk than just work-related accidents of contagion: it might expose their families to a higher risk of infection especially if they are caring for vulnerable persons, such as infants, elderly or sick persons.

The economic crisis caused by the novel coronavirus could result in more than 25 million job losses, according to The international Labour Organization (ILO). Many of these jobs will be low-paid and part-time jobs, of which women have a large share. As ILO (2020) estimates, 55 percent of women are employed in the service sector. Female-dominated service sectors such as food, hospitality, and tourism are among those expected to feel the harshest economic effects of the measures to contain the spread of the pandemic.

Lebanon makes no exception as the majority of women are found in the informal sector, which lacks legal protection, renders them unable to access social safety rescue nets, and increases women's vulnerability to poverty and therefore to infection.

Among other emerging impacts of COVID-19 is the increased workload in the domestic chores women are expected to carry out which in turn drains them physically.

With the mass shutdown of schools and universities, an estimated 1,132,178 learners enrolled in pre-primary to upper-secondary education, 231,215 learners enrolled in tertiary education programs in Lebanon, and over 1.5 billion learners globally will be confined to their home according to UNESCO (2020). Over and above the domestic duties relegated to them, women are expected to carry out additional unpaid work, home schooling their children, while also attending to their "formal jobs" by working online. As the use of digital technologies is increased, women and girls become more targeted by gender-based online violence.

Case managers working with GBV survivors reported that since the beginning of the lockdown, more women and girls, especially among Palestinians and Syrians refugees are being exposed to online sexual harassment and blackmail. Lockdowns and movement restrictions have led to an even greater reliance on the internet, particularly the use of social media, and cell phones for communication, thus amplifying the likelihood of women and girls being exposed to GBV incidents online.

With the continuous lockdown measures in place, incidents of intimate partner violence continue to be on the rise. This is noted with a 5% increase in incidents of intimate partner violence between the third quarter of 2020 (67%) and the fourth quarter (72%), when lockdown measures imposed by authorities were stricter. Triangulated data from UNRWA indicates that there has been a rise in incidents of domestic violence within Palestinian camps and children have reported to have witnessed these incidents within their households. Furthermore, according to data collected by a national non-governmental organization, KAFA (Enough Violence and Exploitation), the number of calls from their hotline increased 3 folds, reaching an average of 950 calls on monthly basis during quarter 4 of 2020.

Local support groups are paralyzed or short on funds. Some domestic violence shelters are closed while others are full or are not accepting new comers. Many NGOs estimate that domestic violence is under reported due to the continuous presence of the abuser with the victim and the disrupted public services like police, justice, and social services.

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Women refugees also face dire conditions and increased violence coupled with the additional burden of care, given that their housing conditions lack heating and clean water. Particularly difficult for people living in conflict affected contexts, isolation, social distancing, and the stress of the crisis are exacerbating mental health problems and trauma among other forms of violence, especially that several Lebanese municipalities have imposed curfews to restrict the movement of Syrian refugees because of the virus, which often adds up to lack of documents and legal papers and prohibits the refugee victims of violence to escape abusers and reach out for help fearing persecution from security forces for “illegal undocumented status”. Those are also at high risk of human trafficking and child marriage due to increased precarity.

Sexual and reproductive health is a significant public health issue during epidemics, and safe pregnancy and childbirth depend on functioning health systems and strict adherence to infection precautions. UNFPA is supporting governments to keep health systems functioning and to maintain the provision of sexual and reproductive health and the right to information and services in the aim of protecting health workers and limiting the spread of COVID-19. These essential efforts seek to avoid higher rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, unintended pregnancies, teenage pregnancies, unsafe abortions, HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIS).

Lebanese Government Response

It is a fairly straight forward fact that the Lebanese government’s response to COVID-19 has been slow, inconsistent and deeply politicized.

At the beginning of the outbreak:

- ❖ 90% of all respirators in Lebanon were out of order.
- ❖ Public health sector has been systematically underfunded for decades.
- ❖ Hospitals are geared toward profitable treatment rather than prevention such as testing and quarantining.
- ❖ Shortage of tests kits.
- ❖ Lack of inter-agency coordination.

COVID-19 Vaccines:

Lebanon has secured around 6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine, 2.1 million from Pfizer-BioNTech, more than 2.5 million through the COVAX platform, and two million from AstraZeneca. The vaccines should cover 3 millions of the country’s residents, both Lebanese and non-Lebanese according to Ministry of Public Health, for about half the country’s population. The vaccine rollout has been slow, with only 23,934 doses administered as of April 5th 2021 in large part due to the limited quantity of vaccines available. Lebanon has so far received almost 300,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine, and on March 24th 2021 received 33,600 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine through the COVAX facility, a global pooled procurement system that aims to provide lower-income governments with enough doses for 20 percent of their populations by the end of 2021.

As of April 5th 2021 only 3,638 Palestinians and 1,159 Syrians have been vaccinated, though 19,962 Palestinian refugees and health workers and 6,701 Syrian refugees are eligible in the first phase of the vaccine rollout.

To speed up the vaccine rollout, the Health Ministry has allowed the private sector to import additional vaccines. Some politicians have already started securing vaccines for their constituents, raising fears that the distribution of vaccines will be based on political affiliation rather than transparent, evidence-based distribution criteria that apply equally to everyone in Lebanon, leaving marginalized groups behind.

There are still mounting concerns that vulnerable populations in Lebanon might be left without vaccinations. Some refugees and undocumented migrants may refrain from accessing health services, fearing that their legal and/or medical status might put them at risk of detention or deportation. These vulnerable groups often face obstacles in accessing COVID-19 testing facilities and some of them are likely to end up excluded from the vaccination process. It is important to note that the exclusion of these groups jeopardizes the global effort to contain the outbreak.

ANERA, an International NGO, will provide the funding needed to purchase 40,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines, sufficient to vaccinate 20,000 Palestinian refugees residing in Palestinian camps across Lebanon, more than 10% of the estimated Palestinian refugee population (16+ years old) needing a vaccine in Lebanon. This effort is vital to reach populations at heightened risk. Palestinian refugees who contract COVID-19 reportedly face a morbidity rate three times higher than other residents of Lebanon.

III. Explosion at Port of Beirut:

On August 4th 2020, a large amount of ammonium nitrate stored at the port of the city of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, exploded, causing at least 204 deaths, 7500 injuries, and 15 billion USD in property damage, and leaving an estimated 300,000 people homeless. A cargo of 2,750 tons of the substance (equivalent to around 1.1 kilotons of TNT) had been stored in a warehouse without proper safety measures in the previous six years, after having been confiscated by the Lebanese authorities from the abandoned ship MV Rhosus. The explosion was preceded by a fire in the same warehouse, but as of February 2021, the exact cause of the detonation is still under investigation.

The blast was also felt across Turkey, Syria, Palestine and parts of Europe and was heard in Cyprus, more than 240 km (150 mi) away. It was detected by the United States Geological Survey as a seismic event of magnitude 3.3, and is considered one of the most powerful artificial non-nuclear explosions in history.

The Lebanese government declared a two-week state of emergency in response to the disaster. In its aftermath, protests erupted across Lebanon against the government for their failure to prevent the disaster, joining a large series of protests which had been taking place across the country since October 2019.

The blast destroyed the immediate dockside area, creating a crater approximately 140m (460ft) wide, which was flooded with seawater.

The warehouse where the initial fire and explosions were observed was obliterated and an adjacent grain silo was heavily damaged.

Satellite images show complete devastation in the port area, with one ship apparently blown out of the water and onto the dockside.

Based on an analysis of video, a team from the University of Sheffield estimated that the explosion was the equivalent of 1,000 to 1,500 tons of TNT – about a 10th of the intensity of the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

In terms of shelter damages, OCHA reports that the disaster has left 72,265 apartments and 120 schools structurally damaged and 20 primary healthcare centers and six hospitals partially or fully in-operational. This is in addition to damages to public facilities, infrastructure, and property which are yet unaccounted for.

Many of the city's residents around the devastated area already lived in precarious conditions prior to the explosions, both from a housing and a socioeconomic perspective. Surveys have found that the number of female-headed households were high in the areas most affected by the blast. The affected areas were also host to many migrant workers.

The mentioned major events in Lebanon naturally had their effects on PARD's activities in general. But the fact remains that they did not hinder the planned activities from reaching the designated objectives stated in this project. All necessary measures were taken for the prevention of COVID-19 starting from the protection measures for all the PARD workers in the project. The same measures were implemented for the patients in the mobile clinic, the women beneficiaries from the mammography and pap smear campaigns, the women attending the awareness sessions, and the women attending psychological group or individual therapy sessions. Measures included wearing face masks, social distancing, hands sterilization and so on.

The number of women participating was spread over longer periods of time since we could not receive more than ten for each activity. Yet at the end we overreached the proposed number of women in some activities such as mobile clinic patients or beneficiaries from raising awareness on sexual and reproductive health, GBV and early detection of cancer and diseases.

We also had to extend the working days in the fixed clinics to accommodate the women patients and raise awareness of how to deal with COVID-19.

PARD responded to the needs of the population affected by the explosion in the areas of Karantina, Nabaa and a quarter of Burj Hammoud. Those areas are inhabited by poor Lebanese, Syrian refugees, a minority of Palestinian refugees and migrant workers.

During the month of August directly after the explosion, the mobile clinic operated by the gynecologist, the midwife and nurse offered medical services to the devastated families with focus on women's health.

Moreover, PARD distributed hygiene kits, food kits, psychological consultations for trauma among women and children, and psychosocial activities for the children.

Reflection of the New Situation on Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon:

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) have three referential authorities: UNRWA, Lebanese government (LG) and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). Each one has special functions that can't be mixed. Some of these functions are explicit to a certain referential authority such as the right to work and ownership linked to the LG.

Relief and working opportunities, social, health and education services are linked to UNRWA. Political and national referential authority, services not covered by LG or UNRWA to support resilience, are linked to PLO.

The LG continues to deny the PRL their basic civil rights especially the rights to work and ownership. UNRWA services have diminished due to the deficit in its budgets caused by the withdrawal of the U.S support. PLO support has also diminished due to political differences among parties and the reduction of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) services, the major health organization affiliated to the PLO.

Previous studies showed that 56% of the PRL's working power is unemployed. The current situation has increased this percentage to about 80%.

42% of PRL lived under the poverty line before. Under the new crisis in Lebanon about 65% live under the poverty line. Hundreds of PRL have lost their work or jobs since so many workshops (carpenter, car repair shops, sweats makers, small shops, construction sites, smiths, small crafts shops and others) have closed. They have now lost their income and have become unemployed. They are unable to send their children to schools, vocational centers and universities (even if they only pay for registration and transportation fees). They are unable to pay hospitalization costs and the cost of medications for chronic diseases. Many PRL can't even pay their rent and have to move in with their relatives. They cannot face the higher prices in goods in the market, especially food.

The Palestinian camps and gatherings have organized many demonstrations and sit-ins and sent appeals to UNRWA and the International NGO's to support them during this crisis befalling on Lebanon.

Core Strategies

To accomplish its mission, PARD has chosen to take up the following four core strategies during 2019-2021. While the first three strategies are programmatic and operational, the fourth strategy addresses PARD's organizational development directly and supports the achievement of the first three.

The focus areas below represent the areas and themes of interest that will be addressed by PARD's programs when using proper identification, formulation and implementation approaches.

Program Strategies

I. Strategy One: Gender Equality and Women's empowerment

Areas of focus (Entities): peer education, right to participate, gender equity, access to sources, education, right of representation, freedom of expression, skills, illiteracy, communication, dialogue, civil and political rights, volunteers, awareness, community participation, training, community support, lobbying and advocacy, health consultations, advocacy, policies, biostatistics, nutrition, health protection, the right to prevention, treatment and control of diseases; access to essential medicines; maternal, child and reproductive health; equal and timely access to basic health services; the provision of health-related education and information; participation of the local population in health-related decision-making; right to access social and healthcare services, family planning, preventive and curative services and advice, etc.

II. Strategy Two: Environmental Health Services, Awareness and Trainings

Areas of focus (Entities): environmental health, access to safe water supply, disposal of solid waste, garbage collection, vector control, infrastructure development, environmental health hazards control and health education.

III. Strategy Three: Relief for People in Distress

Areas of focus (Entities): disaster management, preparedness, planning, disaster relief, recovery, food and nutrition, preventions, disability, water and sanitation, hygiene, shelter, non-food items, clothing, rescue, education, economic recovery, healthcare, training, participation, coping mechanisms, etc.

Organizational Development Strategies

IV. Strategy Four: Organizational Development of PARD

Areas of focus: governing bodies, administrative structures, roles and responsibilities, conflict management, capacity building, strategic management, strategic human resource management, image building, positioning, differentiation, fundraising, non-profit marketing, networking, etc.



This program targets 24 Palestinian gatherings in Beirut, Saida and Tyre areas benefiting about 6439 families (25,756 people).

Palestinian Women

Palestinian women refugees lack access to rights and to equitable development, assets and sources of income even within their own community. Female Palestinian refugees face double discrimination: externally for their refugee status and internally for their position as women. Although Lebanon has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), it has not committed itself to Article 16, which governs equitable marriage and family relations, which undermines the purpose of the treaty. The monitoring of CEDAW for Palestinian refugee women has also been particularly difficult.

Palestinian women face further obstacles in the workforce, such as discriminatory conditions favoring men who lack familial responsibility. The inequality between the genders has also been worsened by the reinterpretation of religious duties to excuse the marginalization and abuse of women. Moreover, the rise of fundamentalism in the camps and gatherings had led to more disempowerment of women, who have been stripped of decision-making power and positions.

Not only barred from participating in Lebanon's politics, refugee women also find themselves excluded from participating effectively and democratically in the Palestinian Popular Committees, the internal decision-making bodies responsible for the overall running of the Palestinian camps and gatherings. Several studies have found that a large rate of Palestinian women are exposed to physical violence, which is recognized as part of the cultural traditions. Given the widespread view that violence must remain private, the most common coping strategy for Palestinian women facing abuse is to "keep silent and stay patient".

In 2012, Lebanese and Palestinian women's organizations have joined forces for women's rights in Lebanon for the first time and put together a 10-point list with actions necessary to meet their demand of full equality. The demands are as follows:

1. Personal status civil law.
2. Women's right to pass on the citizenship to her children and family.
3. Criminalization of violence against women and girls.
4. Women's quota in the Lebanese parliament.
5. Reform of the electoral law.
6. Civil and human rights for Palestinian women in Lebanon.
7. The protection of women and promotion of their right in decision making.
8. Elimination of discrimination against women in the Lebanese Penal Code.
9. Gender equality in labor law and social security.
10. Gender equality in the tax system.

Where women's status is low, such as in the Palestinian camps and gatherings, family size tends to be large, which makes it more difficult for families to thrive. Population and development and reproductive health programs are more effective when they address the educational opportunities, status and empowerment of women. When women are empowered, whole families benefit, and these benefits often have ripple effects to future generations.

Empowering Palestinian women lies in the ability of each woman to control her own life. This implies that to be empowered, women must not only have equal capabilities and equal access to resources and opportunities, but they must also have the proper conditions to use those rights, capabilities, resources and opportunities to make strategic choices and decisions. And for women to exercise this right, they must live without the fear of coercion and violence.

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Addressing Palestinian women's issues also requires recognizing that women are a diverse group, in the roles they play as well as in characteristics such as age, social status, urban or rural location and educational attainment. Although Palestinian women may have many interests in common, the fabric of their lives and the choices available to them may vary widely. PARD plans to seek groups of women who are the most marginalized and vulnerable (for example, those who are heads of households or living in extreme poverty), so that interventions address their specific needs and concerns.

Palestinian women and girls need to be empowered so as to remove all discriminatory practices, traditions and policies that impede their access to resources and their ability to identify and implement actions that would lead to gender equity in their own context. PARD also plans to mobilize the Palestinian women and link them to larger women's movements that can unite their struggle and experience into a more unified action.

PARD places a special emphasis on empowering women by identifying and redressing power imbalances and providing women with more autonomy. PARD's programs range from trainings on health education, vocation and community awareness and advocacy, to relief programs targeting families such as food and hygiene kits, women's dignity kits, WASH projects etc. to empowering and supporting local women to create Women's Committees. These Women's Committees are made up of women who have undergone PARD's comprehensive training program aimed at strengthening decision-making and problem-solving in which the participants acquire skills such as managing, planning and implementing activities that are relevant to their individual, familial, and community needs, community mapping, conflict mediation, needs-assessment, and in advocating and lobbying for their rights as women, and as refugees. The Women's Committees also serve as a community alarm system, provide ideas, input and involvement in project implementation and serve as spokespeople to the male-dominated Popular Committee's that govern the Palestinian gatherings. PARD maintains that when women are empowered whole families and communities benefit and these benefits have ripple effects on future generations, and this assertion undergirds and manifests itself in all of their work.

Addressing gender issues within their context

Approaching gender issues using a culturally relevant and sensitive approach is absolutely integral in any setting, but particularly so when working in a context in which addressing such issues is extremely delicate; such is the case for the communities that PARD operates as these communities consist of Palestinians who have been in Lebanon for generations, Palestinians who fled from Syria, and Syrian refugees. In these communities it is not possible to approach gender issues directly and therefore it is not only necessary, but deeply advantageous to incorporate this work through gender-mainstreaming. The United Nations defines gender mainstreaming as "...the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in all areas and at all levels".

For the past thirty-five years PARD has been working in these gatherings and consequently has garnered a significant amount of trust and respect from both the governing bodies and the individual inhabitants themselves, this too is an essential component in our work and without this relationship we would not experience the same amount of success, especially regarding our work addressing gender issues. In fact, PARD believes that without this acceptance and relationship we would not have the access or ability to address these issues.

PARD places a special emphasis on empowering and supporting local women and working to redress power imbalances by providing women with more autonomy; accordingly, another integral component of their work in addressing gender inequality is their work with Women's Committees (WCs). From among these women PARD staff will assess which women are already active participants and well-respected in their communities and suggest that they join the committee in their community.

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The WCs in these gatherings differ from the Popular Committees (PCs) for several reasons. Firstly, the PCs are composed of almost entirely men, with very few exceptions, and even when there are women on the PCs they are not incorporated or integrated successfully, nor taken seriously. Moreover, the members of the PCs are appointed by political parties. These communities, and the PCs themselves, were not originally very open to the idea of WC's and even still the relationships between the PCs and the WCs vary and the levels of coordination and cooperation depends on the gathering. In fact, in some gatherings there is heavy competition over governing authority; because while the PCs are the technical governing body in these communities, practically the WCs have more influence in some places. Nevertheless, whether or not the PCs accept the WCs and are willing to work together the WCs tend to be the operating group that works most closely with PARD and other organizations to deliver services and provide resources for the communities. Previously PARD used the number of women they could get onto the PCs as an indicator of success for gender equality, but they realized that this was not actually a measurement of equality or success. "We are not helping to build them up to be decorative flowers, we are empowering them to have a voice". This situation led PARD to measure and indicate success of gender equality in other ways. For instance, one of the largest indicators is the fact that when most NGOs enter the Palestinian gatherings they work with the WCs and only coordinate with the PCs.

While PARD encourages the WCs to act independently and to partner with other NGOs working in their communities as well, PARD maintains a close partnership with them. PARD staff meet with each WC at least once a month, and are available to meet more frequently should the need arise. As the women serving on the committees are themselves members of these communities they already have the knowledge and insight into the issues and needs present. Therefore, the WCs significantly influence and shape the projects and work that PARD undertakes. Another way that PARD partners and empowers the women in these communities is by providing Training of Trainers program to help the women become social workers and undertake fieldwork themselves regarding needs assessments, community mapping, action plans, advocacy, etc. Thus the WCs play a significant role in the development and design of projects as well as the follow up and monitoring of projects.

Palestinian Youth

Palestinian Youth in Lebanon face an increasing number of problems and issues related to various environmental, social and economic factors. The objective of the PARD Youth Development Project is to deal with some of these issues in order to make Palestinian youth active and confident members of their society. PARD aims to carry out a number of activities in order to provide them with the tools necessary to become active members.

A study of Palestinian Employment in Lebanon (CEP & ILO, 2013) maps out the situation of the Palestinians specifically the youth in Lebanon. Between 260,000 and 280,000 Palestinian refugees reside in 12 camps and 42 gatherings all around Lebanon. According to the 2015 AUB/UNRWA survey, it was estimated that 89% of PRS are in poverty (cannot meet their basic food and non-food needs), with 9% living extreme poverty (unable to meet essential food requirements). In the same survey, it was found that 65% of PRL are in poverty while 3 % live in extreme poverty. The great majority live under harsh living conditions with high poverty rates, inadequate infrastructure and housing conditions, and limited access to quality services and social protection, in addition to being subject to discriminatory laws and regulations. The Palestinian workforce is poorly educated, young and lacking in skills. Most are engaged in low-status jobs concentrated in commerce and construction. A large proportion work on a daily, weekly, or productivity basis and are engaged in private employment. The very difficult economic and thus social situation is affecting their daily well-being as well as deteriorated psychological status. They are struggling with limited choices for earning a living, mainly cornered between unemployment and "belonging" to political and religious groups. This has created fractions and social problems that only increase their need for awareness and guidance. Thus, child labor and child marriage are increasingly used as coping mechanisms against deepening financial constraints.

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Based on a recent study by UNDP, the population in Palestinian gatherings is very young, with 60% of inhabitants below 30 years. Within the young category, 11% of the population are children below 5 years and a further 18% are children of 5 to 14 years old. Youth (15 – 29 years old) represent 30% of the population and 46% of the total working age population.

In spite of large improvements in education in Palestinian gatherings, youth suffer from a hard transition to becoming active members of the economy. Over 70% of 15-year-old adolescents are enrolled in school—both males and females. In contrast, barely 7% of 15-year-old males and almost no 15-year-old females are engaged in gainful employment. Throughout their adolescence years and early twenties, more youth are completing their education, and about 10% continue their studies at the age of 24. While schooling rates drop rapidly during these years, employment rates do not increase at the same pace. As a result, the percentage of youth who neither study nor work nor pursue training (NEET) increases from 30% among 18-year-old adolescents to about 60% among 24-year-olds. Young women from 18 to 24 face a significantly higher chance of being classified as NEET (67%) than young men (20%).

Not only are employment rates among youth low, but also unemployment is prevalent (reported that 56% of all Palestine refugees are jobless), suggesting barriers to entering the labor market. Employment opportunities, in spite of increasing among youth in their twenties, are still more limited for youth compared to the adult population. Female employment remains low throughout their whole life cycle—below 20%—but is particularly minimal among female youth. Unemployment rates among youth are significantly higher than among the adult population, with rates starting at 60% among males and 90% for females aged 15, and slowly decreasing to about 10% for adult males and 20-30% for adult females.

The main barriers that youth face in the labor market are associated with their lower social capital, information, and some skill mismatches. Without previous work experience of their own, young people often do not have enough information about where or how to search for jobs. More importantly, whereas adults frequently leverage existing social networks to access job opportunities and obtain references, young people are less likely to have access to such networks.

Education among youth in gatherings is on the rise; however, job opportunities are still limited by legal restrictions that ban Palestinians from working in certain high-skill jobs, in particular several liberal professions. Since 2005 they have been granted the right to practice about 70 professions that were previously restricted to Lebanese nationals. However, they are still prohibited from working in key professions, including all medical jobs, engineering and law. Therefore, an education, in these cases, does not guarantee a career and a better life.

As a result, some skill mismatches appear, where higher educated youth are over-qualified for the jobs that are available for them, leading to unemployment and dissatisfaction. For example, youth with university degrees have only slightly higher rates of employment in high-skilled white-collar jobs (25%) than those who do not have tertiary education (below 10%). Additionally, 75% of college graduates who are employed have jobs below their skills levels.

While early marriage is still prevalent, the year of one's first marriage has been progressively postponed. Higher levels of education and low employment rates delay marriage among youth. Studies in a similar context find that individuals' education delays marriage (Gebel and Heyne 2016).

Given the high percentage of youth classified as NEET and thus, do not directly engage in the "productive economy", it seems important to assess how youth in this category spend their time. While not counted in the economic data, there are some activities that keep youth more active and engaged in the community such as volunteering or helping with chores at home, compared to more passive leisure activities as watching TV or being on the internet.

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In these circumstances, 52% of households in the gatherings are concerned about the spread of drug use among youth. While this data (UNDP study) does not show actual consumption of drugs and might in fact overstate its magnitude, it demonstrates that households in gatherings are significantly concerned about this issue associated with disenfranchisement of youth in their communities. This finding adds to the narrative of previous reports which find that some inactive Palestinian youth, given high unemployment and lack of better future prospects, resort to the use of drugs (CLS and UNICEF 2017). According to a study commissioned by UNRWA and UNICEF, many Palestinian camp dwellers in Lebanon feel apathetic, depressed and hopeless about their future. They often end up using drugs or joining armed groups within the camps.

While illiteracy rates are moderate in the gatherings, access to higher education is quite limited with only 15% of the adult population reaching secondary level education. The vast majority of the population (61%) in gatherings has some years of education, having completed primary or at the most preparatory education (grades 7 to 9). Overall, only 24% of the adult population has attended more than preparatory school, with 15% reaching secondary or vocational education and only 9% receiving tertiary education (attended at least some years of university undergraduate studies). The figures do not significantly vary between men and women, with slightly higher levels of education for men.

There has been a progressive improvement in education levels across younger generations in gatherings. Illiteracy rates drop from over 40% for the elderly population (+65) to 6% for the young generation (20 - 24 age groups). Therefore, in the past 35 years, the numbers of university educated students have tripled in gatherings. 89% of primary school-age children are enrolled in formal education.

However, enrollment rates drop rapidly by the end of primary school, in particular among males, and only 50% of teenagers (16-18) still attend school. The first significant drop in enrollment rates is observed among children approaching preparatory school age (13-15 years old), as they have an average enrollment rate of 77%. By gender, the reduction is more significant in the case of males (from above 90% to 73%) than females (from above 90% to 82%). Furthermore, while an increase among male dropouts is observed at the age of 12, a similar increase is observed at the age of 14 for female dropouts.

Students in gatherings face difficulties passing school levels, and in particular, official exams such as the Brevet (in grade in 9) and the Baccaalaureate (in grade 12), resulting in grade repetition or dropouts.

The reliance on UNRWA schools is lower in gatherings (67%) than camps (80%). The high enrollment rates in UNRWA schools is also due to the fact that Lebanese children are given priority in public schools over non-Lebanese, and private schools are often not affordable for the population in gatherings (Hillenkamp 2008).

Adolescents aged 16 to 18 also predominately attend UNRWA schools, although this practice is more prevalent among females (66%) than males (56%). Enrollment in private education is still limited, with only about 10% using this type of education centers. By type of education, teenagers aged 16 to 18 are primarily enrolled in regular education, compared to vocational education. This is particularly the case for females, 79% of whom are in preparatory or secondary education, while 15% opt for vocational education. While regular education is still prevalent among enrolled male teenagers, 30% attend vocational schools.

Among youth aged 19 to 24, 22% of male students and 34% of female students are enrolled in secondary school, highlighting the challenge of grade repetition in school. 17% percent of men and 19% of women in this age group are enrolled in vocational education. Also noted that college level education is a privilege for the few who do not have family responsibilities and can meet educational expenses.

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Nearly 25% of adolescents aged 16 to 18 attend vocational education. Vocational education is particularly prevalent in gatherings near the UNRWA Sibling vocational center (Wadi el Zeineh, Hamshari and Mieh Camp adjacent area, Jim Jeam, Kfarbadda, Itanieh and Wasta). In those gatherings, nearly 50% of enrolled adolescents attend vocational schools.

Among primary school-age children (6 - 12), lack of affordability is the main reason behind not attending school. Among the 11% of primary school age children and 25% of all school children who are out of school, the main reason for not attending classes is their family's lack of affordability. Given that most students attend either UNRWA or public schools providing education for free, the lack of affordability might be related to the cost of transportation, books, and supplies.

Among adolescents (ages 16 to 18), demand-related drivers (mainly need to work) are the main reasons behind school drop-outs. As previously shown, only half of adolescents of secondary school age (16 to 18 years old) actually attend school in Palestinian gatherings, with females attending at a slightly higher rate than males (52% vs. 47%). Supply constraints are less prevalent as the main driver of dropouts for 28% of female teenagers and 17% of male teenagers. There are also significant gender differences in relation to reasons behind dropping out. 50% of male adolescents (16-18) who drop out of school decide to do so primarily due to the need to work, while a further 18% does so due to a lack of interest in further education.

The most cited supply constraint among male teenagers is the high cost of education (13% of the dropouts). Meanwhile, female teenagers more often cite the lack of affordable education (26%) along with three other main demand factors: marriage (18%), the need to work (16%), and a lack of interest in pursuing further studies (13%). Therefore, females' higher enrollment rates during this age period may be partly due to the fact that they have less societal pressures to find a job and contribute to household finances.

42% of the working age population (15-64) in Palestinian gatherings is economically active, with a large gender gap. While 30% of males in Palestinian Gatherings were inactive, up to 86% of females were not engaged in the labor market, which is considered a very large gender gap by national standards. This pattern is largely affected by different expectations faced by men and women regarding work outside the home and the low participation rate of women in the labor force (ILO 2011).

21% among those who are economically active in gatherings are unemployed. There are wide differences by gender, with women experiencing more than double the rate of unemployment than men (40% to 17% respectively). Females do not only participate significantly less in the labor force, but also face more difficulties finding jobs. By nationality, unemployment rates are high for all nationalities but somewhat higher for PRS (25% of the active population).

33% of adults in Palestinian gatherings are employed, given low participation rates and high unemployment. There are also large gender gaps in employment, with 8% of adult women working compared to 59% of men. By nationality, the highest employment rates are observed for PRL (34%) compared to 29% among Lebanese.

The low employment figures mask a further problem of underemployment, informality, and vulnerability. Among the employed, a significant 35% work less than the equivalent of full time work (40 hours per week). As a result, only half of those who are economically active (and 22% of the total working age population) are "gainfully employed", that is, working the equivalent of a full-time position (40 hours per week) or do not want or cannot work further hours. The other half is either unemployed or working less than what they would like.

Furthermore, only 45% of the working population in the gatherings are monthly paid employees (which is associated with higher degree of earning security) compared to 52% of Lebanese workers (ILO 2011). Also, 31% of workers in gatherings are daily laborers, with greater job instability and more volatile income, compared to only

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10% among Lebanese workers. Given the limited job opportunities for residents in gatherings, there is also a significant portion of the working population that is self-employed (15%).

Jobs for residents in Palestinian gatherings are concentrated in few sectors, with 67% of workers having jobs in sales, construction, and manufacturing.

Wages of residents in gatherings are drastically low (\$365 per month on average), and about 80% of workers earn less than the official minimum wage (of \$450).

Wages in Palestinian gatherings vary by gender and nationality. Not only do females have significantly lower employment rates, but when they attain employment, they earn less than men. On average, while men earn an average monthly income of \$370, women earn \$330 for jobs requiring similar efforts (11% less).

Refugees from Syria were found to have significantly lower wage earnings than Lebanese or PRL. PRS earn about 40% less on a monthly basis, and Syrians 25% less.

Youth from marginalized and disenfranchised communities can and should be empowered to advocate for social justice through civic engagement and socio-political action. As such, PARD realizes that investing in the Palestinian youth empowerment is an integral part of any development and social change. Without the understanding, involvement and positive knowledge of the youth to their context, the aspirations and heritage of the Palestinian community can be lost. Therefore, the youth should be well educated and supported to participate and make a significant difference. The youth should also be provided with tools and skills that would allow them to understand that the choices they may take can impact their lives and the lives of others as well. Thus their constructive, responsible and informed participation could lead to a positive chain of reaction and results within their communities.

To add to the problems of Palestinian children and youth in Lebanon is UNRWA's unprecedented shortfall to its 2018 operations. UNRWA started with a 446 million dollars, deficit, but has covered nearly half of the required funding (about 200 million dollars) as a result of their mobilization over the past six months. Significant and urgent efforts are still required to raise the remaining resources needed to preserve the access to education and other vital services for 5.3 million Palestine refugees in one of the most unstable regions in the world (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, West Bank and Gaza)

At risk is in particular the education for 526000 Palestinian refugee students, health care, food and emergency services in UNRWA's 5 fields of operation.

Activity One: Empowerment Training for Women and Youth

PARD has developed a comprehensive training program that aims to strengthen the women and youth communities in decision making and problem solving. They acquire basic skills in managing, planning and implementing activities related to their own needs and the needs of their families and communities and in advocating and lobbying for their rights as women and youth, and as refugees.

I. Empowerment of Women

(a) Women Committees according to location:

Location	No. of women committees	No. of members
Shabriha south and north Palestinian Syrian	2	13 15
Jal al Bahar two quarters Palestinian	3	26
Al Samer near Jal Al Bahar Palestinian	1	3
Maashouk Palestinian Syrian	2	12 25
Qasmiyeh upper and lower Palestinian	4	57
Kfar Badda Palestinian	1	6
Jim Jeem Palestinian	1	9
Wasta Palestinian	1	21
Aitaniyeh Palestinian	1	8
Sikkeh three quarters Palestinian	3	65
Burguliyeh Palestinian	2	28
Wadi El Zeineh Palestinian Syrian	2	15 12
Said Ghawash (Beirut)	1	22
Total	24	337



i Women committee meeting in Mdawar, Karantina

Training on empowerment was conducted on the basis of each women's committee alone or 2 to 3 committees together, or through separating the South and Beirut, or all of them together.

Most women's committees formed their action plans, codes of conduct and division of responsibilities in each committee alone. The division of work includes: public relations, health education, social issues, note taking, and head of committee (elected). Those plans of actions were revised to monitor progress, together between the women committees and PARD's community health workers (CHW).

Each women committee met once each month to follow up on their plans of action, their relationships with the popular committees, a variety of other committees, NGOs & UN agencies.

Training on empowerment during the reporting period covered many subjects. **Methods** used were brainstorming, role playing, PowerPoint presentation, constructing problem trees, map drawing, transparencies, and questionnaires. **Materials** used were maps, cards, flipcharts, and transparencies.

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Groups of women **meet weekly** at the center of Shabriha and Maashouk. They are not organized in groups, but they meet to express their ideas on different subjects that concern them, to exchange ideas and information and generally to enjoy the open friendly space offered to them.

For PARD, these meetings offer an opportunity to listen to the local targeted women, listen to their opinions, ideas, problems, suggestions and so on. Moreover, the meetings with those women encourage them to join in many of PARD's activities.

The network of women committees named "Eid Bi Eid" met with the participation of 35 women committee representatives. They discussed common challenges and different experiences and action plans. They further looked into ways to promote the work of their network.



ii Training on empowerment in Maachouk community center

(b) Activities and Achievement of Women Committees

After the basic training on empowerment, the women committees developed their own project ideas for community development – starting from the concrete situation in each community. They discussed them with the relevant stakeholders (PARD, the Popular Committees, and Municipalities and others) and implemented them through community mobilization, local existing resources and the resources of contacted organizations.

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Each women committee had its own agenda, interests, needs and projects. One common characteristic among them in the past and the present is the willingness to participate in PARD's activities.

The women and youth tried to fulfil their own local agendas, such as caring for the elderly, organizing dinners for the needy during the fasting month of Ramadan, supporting hardship cases, supporting people with chronic diseases, and supporting people with special needs.



iii Training on liquid soap making for women of Maachouk

❖ **Common Activities of Women Committees:**

- The women committees in the South and Beirut worked with PARD to deliver health education sessions.
- Participating in campaigns (promoting health issues in the community, cleaning whole areas in the gatherings, organizing spraying of insecticides, raising awareness on social and health issues such as drug addiction or AIDS and others).
- Alerting PARD if a certain contagious disease shows up (chicken pox, Hepatitis A, diarrhea, scabies, head lice and others caused by overpopulation due to the arrival of refugees from Syria or other reasons).
- Data collecting
- Celebrating International Mothers' Day & Women's Day with members of their communities.
- Supporting first aid teams in their gatherings.
- Coordinating with PARD in water caretaking.

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- Supporting and implementing health education for the community and teach literacy groups.
- Distributing support materials, including bread to needy families.
- Supporting the refugees from Syria (data collection, relief services).
- All the women and youth committees participated with many people from their communities in sit-ins to lobby for better services offered by UNRWA
- Members of the women committee in the Burghuliyeh, Kfar Badda, Qasmiyeh, Maashouk, Aitaniyeh, Jim Jeem, Wasta and Shabriha gatherings participated in compost preparation through special barrels distributed by PARD.
- Conducting many friendly meetings with women who have problems (domestic violence, marriage problems, problems with their children and so on) so they could unload problems through listening, discussing them openly and finding solutions when possible.
- Conducting social visits to patients, newly married couples, families bereaved through death, etc.
- Coordination meetings among the women's committees, in addition to individual visits and joint actions.

The methods which the women committees used to reach their achievements were acquired through PARD's training. The women used communication and conflict resolution skills, their own community mappings including their needs assessment, identification of stake holders, community mobilization and so on. They also used their skills in presenting their cases through preparing files (data collection pictures, maps), corresponding and conducting meetings and negotiations with stakeholders.

Through all the information collected, PARD together with the women committees submitted proposals to UN agencies and international NGO's to support the suggested works and activities.

❖ **Achievements of women committees:**

- Members of the women committees work as animators for children's activities with PARD and other organizations and as local health educators.
- **One member acts as a practical nurse at PARD Women's Health Clinic in Kfar Badda.**
- Some members work with PARD in the implementation of its relief projects. One works as the local water caretaker (Wasta), another collects local subscriptions from the beneficiary families for garbage collection.
- All women committees participate in local cleaning campaigns, insecticide spraying campaigns.
- Some women joined membership in local governance (popular committees) in their gatherings.

(c) Training and Activities for Empowerment

i. Training with UNDP

As part of its commitment to improve living conditions in Palestinian gatherings, the UNDP project has been promoting safe and inclusive community spaces for positive interaction between different community groups, particularly Lebanese and Palestinian dwellers.

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Capitalizing on community spaces it established in Shabriha in 2017 and Kharayeb in 2019 in partnership with PARD, the UNDP project contracted PARD to design and implement youth and women empowerment programs in the two centers, using community participatory approaches.

The UNDP project contracted PARD that is active in the Palestinian gatherings in South Lebanon to lead on the following tasks:

❖ **In Kharayeb and the gatherings of Jim Jeem, KfarBadda, Wasta and Aitaniyeh:**

- Promoting and publicizing the project within the gatherings communities through door-to-door approach and meetings with women and youth.
- Approaching and contacting the official and unofficial bodies that represent the members of the community such as municipality, popular committees, respected figures and etc...
- Establishing a women reference group of 16 women of all ages and nationalities residing in Jim Jeem, Wasta, Aitaniyeh and Kfar Badda gatherings and in Kharayeb through head hunting process via individual contact, personal approach, call for social meetings and contacting the already established entities such as popular committees.
- Establishing a youth reference group of 16 young women and young men (15-24) of all nationalities residing in Kharayeb and its gatherings through head hunting process via individual contact, personal approach, call for social meetings and contacting the already established entities such as popular committees.
- Developing and conducting two 5-day life skills trainings for women and youth groups through coordinating and organizing solid plan for each day to be conducted by qualified and experienced trainers, educators, and animators.
- Conducting training workshops (with participatory approach) with women and youth groups identifying their perceptions of reality, their needs and aspirations for change in their communities conducted by experienced and qualified trainers through pre-planned exercises and activities, focusing on community mapping exercise.
- Designing and organizing 8 activities based on the exercise results, including 4 activities/trainings targeting 80 women and men (25 and above) and 4 activities/trainings targeting 80 youth (15-24) to be supervised by experience and qualified trainers as well as the core groups through solid planning, coordination and organization within their respective localities.
- Organization and coordination of a 5-day summer camp for a group of 30 local Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian young women and young men designed for a healthy, safe, constructive and vibrant interaction among the youth to enjoy their time as they go through artistic, creative and conceptual trainings and workshops in order to develop and identify a practical idea to be implemented in one of the gatherings. Qualified, experienced and trust worthy staff will be organizing the summer camp to ensure the participation of the young women in the summer camp as parent's trust is essential for this matter. A suitable environment will be located by qualified and experienced coordinator to please the youth and their families.
- Establishing a formal contact with Kharayeb municipality to ensure the success of the project through attracting local Lebanese community in the project via direct contact, formal letter and official meeting.

❖ **In Abbasiyeh and Shabriha gathering:**

Same activities as in Jim Jeem and Kharayeb with the following additions:

- Designing and organizing 8 activities based on the exercise results, including 2 activities/trainings targeting 40 women and men (25 and above) and 6 activities/trainings targeting youth (15-24) to be supervised by experience and qualified trainers as well as the core groups through solid planning, coordination and organization within their respective localities.

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- Recruiting interested youth in a variety of trainings focusing on computer literacy and cyber safety, football for girls and boys and Dabkeh folk dance to be conducted by trainers, educators and animators. The trainers made sure to respect the diversity of the youth group, they conducted Dabkeh folk workshops which included Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian traditions.
- Establishing a formal contact with Abbasiyeh municipality to ensure the success of the project through attracting local Lebanese community in the project via direct contact, formal letter and official meeting.

In Abbasiyeh and Shabriha gathering, the following trainings took place:

Category	Subjects	Methodology
8 youth (1 M, 7 F) Both Palestinian and Syrian	Self confidence	Direct attendance
	Communication skills	Direct attendance
	Conflict resolution	Direct attendance
	Participatory leadership	Direct attendance
15 women	Self confidence	Direct attendance
	Communication skills	Direct attendance
	Conflict resolution	Direct attendance
	Participatory leadership	Direct attendance

In Kharayeb and its gatherings the following trainings took place:

Category	Subjects	Methodology
11 Youth (4 M, 7 F)	Self confidence	Direct attendance
	Communication skills	Direct attendance
	Conflict resolution	Online
	Participatory leadership	Online
12 Women	Self confidence	Direct attendance
	Communication skills	Direct attendance
	Conflict resolution	Direct attendance
	Participatory leadership	Direct attendance

The training on self-confident included:

- Definition of self confidence
- Elements of self confidence
- Effects of proper self-confidence on our lives.

The training on communication skills included:

- Definition of communication
- Mechanisms of communication
- Body language
- Types of communication (verbal, nonverbal)
- Keys of communication
- Self-evaluation
- Skills of communication
- Negative behavior in communication
- Obstacles

The training on conflict resolution skills included:

- Definition of conflict
- Stages of conflict
- Theories on the roots of conflicts
- Definition of violent
- Justification for violence
- Types of conflict
- Methods in dealing with conflict

The training on Participatory leadership included:

- Power and leadership
- Common types of power
- Roles (types of leaderships)
- Coordination
- Credibility and accountability
- Delegation of responsibilities
- Expectations from roles
- Commitment
- The animator and facilitator in group work
- How to secure positive thinking
- Self-criticism and its feed back
- Personalities of adults, teenagers and children
- Our role in society

(d) Raising awareness on health and social issues:

In 2020, 1202 women received awareness session on GBV. During those sessions a list was distributed among the women with the name of organizations and contact lists to contact them in case of GBV. Each awareness session had the following content:

- What is GBV
- Violence within a married couple only
 - Other types of violence
- Violence against young women or girls
- Discrimination between men and women
- Types of violence: physical – verbal – psychological
- Relation between violence and gender.
- Where to go when in need.

Awareness sessions took place in all the 10 targeted gatherings for the benefit of 1222 women. The title of the awareness sessions was Breast and Cervical Cancer. The sessions were conducted to encourage women to undergo mammography for their breasts and for Pap smear tests.



iv Breast cancer and pap smear awareness sessions in Shabriha gathering

The content of each session included:

- What are breast and cervical cancers
- Causes and symptoms
- Self-examination for breast cancer
- Mammography
- Pap smear
- Cure

1497 women attended sessions on sexual and reproductive health.

The content for the sessions on Reproductive and Sexual Rights – Self- confidence among women is as follows:

- Definition of reproductive health
- Rights of reproductive health for women and men
- Results of health care for women and men affecting the family and the community
- What are reproductive health services
- Definition of self confidence
- Elements of self confidence
- Effects of proper self-confidence on our lives

The same 1202 women received awareness session on Menopause – Osteoporosis – Sexual malfunction. The content of those sessions is:

- What is Menopause
- Symptoms of Menopause
- After menopause stage
- What is Osteoporosis

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- Causes and Symptoms
- Methods for prevention
- What is sexual malfunction
- Causes, results, symptoms
- Methods for prevention

This program was supported by SI, MCC, UNDP, UN-HABITAT and NPA.

II. Empowerment of Youth

(a) **Empowerment training** and raising awareness on important issues for the youth were administered through workshops as follows:

- 1- In January 2020, a training course was conducted for the 33 students (5 M, 28F) at the VC center titled “**Conflict Resolution**”.

The course included:

- Definition of communication
- Obstacles in communication (non-verbal communication)
- Verbal communication
- Verbal and nonverbal connection
- Process and components of communication
- The world without communication
- Communication at work (horizontal and vertical)
- Recruitment process (exams, interviews and C.V.s)
- Respect for work rules

- 2- In February 2020, a training course took place at the VC center for our students titled “**Promotion of Self Confidence**”.

The course included:

- Symptoms of self-confidence and benefits
- Wrong beliefs about self-confidence
- Difference between self-confidence and vanity
- Is self-confidence inherited or acquired
- Role of parents and schools in promoting self-confidence
- Promotion of self-confidence techniques
- Relation between self-confidence and success in life

Methods used in training include brainstorming, PowerPoint presentation, role playing, storytelling, drama.

Due to the spread of COVID-19, a training course on “**Safe use of internet**” was cancelled.

(b) Vocational Training:

In the scholastic year 2019-2020, PARD trained 55 Palestinian and Syrian youth living in the south gatherings and the surrounding areas. Of these youth, 15 were males and 40 were females. They graduated in the following vocations: Graphic Design, nursing, preschool education, sports coaching, Hospitality, accounting.

Those students finalized their education by June 2020.

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Palestinian refugees from Syria, Palestinian refugees from Lebanon, and Syrian youth were chosen from their community for their interest in community participation, educational aspirations, and demonstrated initiative. For all components of this project, PARD considered the recommendations of popular and women's committees, but also used a guiding criteria to select youth.

For **vocational training**, PARD prepared a questionnaire to collect all the information needed and relevant to the project (name, age, nationality, place of residence, level of education, father's and mother's occupation if any, whether or not candidate was working, home situation, participation in other training courses, etc.)

Interviews were conducted with candidates sent by popular and women committees in the gatherings, in addition to the WhatsApp announcements.

The criteria taken into consideration were as follows:

- Numbers of males and females should be similar.
- Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, PRS, and Syrian refugees are considered.
- Economic situation hinders candidates to pursue education (i.e., the father does not work or works in low-paid jobs, is dead or absent, or the family is large (seven members or more)).
- Candidates dropped out of school and are over 15 years.

Many local vocational training centers were contacted in the areas of Tyre, Beirut and Saida, and one in particular was chosen for the following reasons:

- Long experience in vocational training.
- Very good reputation in general.
- High success rate among their students, especially in official exams (B.P., B.T., and T.S.).
- Excellent premises.
- Willingness to coordinate with PARD on all issues related to the students.
- Offer of one scholarship for each of ten students (if possible).

After several visits between the schools' administrations and PARD, contracts were signed with AFAK schools (in Tyre and Beirut).

	Vocations	Males	Females
1-	Nursing	7	10
2-	Practical nursing	1	3
3-	Child Care	-	4
4-	Preschool Education	-	12
5-	Sports Coaching	3	-
6-	Accounting	3	5
7-	Assistant accounting	-	2
8-	Graphic Design	-	1
9-	Hospitality	1	2
10-	Marketing and public relations	-	1
	Total	15	40
		55	

The Ministry of Education cancelled all official exams due to the spread of COVID-19 in Lebanon.

All students received certificates that they have succeeded in the scholastic year 2019 – 2020.

Due to the spread of COVID-19 in Lebanon, the VC center stopped classes on February 23,2020. The school started giving online lessons using WhatsApp, videos and Zoom application. Students and teachers

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were connected, lessons explained and home works given same as in classroom (using visual and audio methods).

(c) Extra activities of the students at the V.C. center:

Our students participated in the following activities:

- Visit to Lebanese Red Cross center to get introduced to their services.
- Visit to Tyre Water Plant to get introduced to the equipment available and how water is purified.
- Visit to Zahrani Electrical plant.
- Visits to needy families to offer material support.
- Participation in one open day for health in coordination with a local NGO in Terdibba village near Tyre.
- A visit to a sports club in Deir Qanaoun Al Naher near Tyre.
- Participation in preparation of breakfast for a group of elderly at the V.C.
- Visit and preparation of food for the elderly at Rachidiyeh camp for Palestinians in Tyre.
- Participation in the ceremony of the Lebanese Independence Day.
- Participation in the weekly sports day of mini-football.
- Preschool education students visited the books exhibition in the Islamic university to check on children books and stories.
- Participation in the student council elections.
- Some students in preschool education practice once a week in two private and public kindergartens.
- Students of nursing practice once a week at Hiram Hospital.
- One student, Hisham Manasri, a student of Sports coaching, practices coaching at the Evangelical school once a week (Football, basketball and volleyball).

Activity Two: Training on first aid and providing services

This project started in 1998 in coordination with the Norwegian People's Aid. The coordination included training, exchange visits and support, both financial and in-kind. Since NPA trained local trainers (TOT), PARD has been doing its own training for new youth groups who wished to join first aid teams.

Currently there are five first aid teams working in the gatherings of Jal al Bahar, Shabriha, Qasmiyeh, Maashouk, and Kfar Badda. The total number of the first aiders for now has reached 59 (30 M, 29 F), but more numbers will join due to the constant training courses on first aid which take place among the youth in the gatherings. Each team meets once a week locally, and the coordinator meets with every team weekly to discuss progress and respond to their needs. Assignments and responsibilities in the teams are shared and divided among all the team members.



V First Aid services in Karantina area, after the Beirut port explosion in 4 august 2020

(a) The teams conducted the following activities:

Self-training including refreshment courses, training of youth from local communities, participation in PARD's campaigns (vaccination, awareness, cleaning campaigns, spraying insecticides and others), provide first aid services to the communities, and support activities in national and international occasions, beside their participation in the health education sessions and other capacity building activities.

In the centers, the first aiders, under the supervision of the team leaders (nurses) offered first aid services to their local communities. **During 2019 - 2020, 7,513 services were offered to 1,980 refugees** (Palestinian and Syrian) residing in the five above-mentioned gatherings.

Services included treatment and dressings for wounds and burns, fixation of fractures, consciousness revival, first aid for poisoning, removal of sutures, I.V. insertion of serums, intramuscular injections, blood pressure monitoring, diabetes monitoring, and others.

Cases include people wounded by glass, sharp instruments, barbed wires, falling down, and people burned by hot water, hot oil, fire and other things. Cases also include anemia, pneumonia, scleroderma (bed wounds), myocardial infraction, hypertension, hypotension, ulcer, lower back pain, cysts, stress and other things. Causes also include car accidents, weakness in heart muscles and others. Some cases were transported to the closest hospitals with ambulances under the team's leaders and assistant supervision.

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First aiders do not remove sutures, insert injections (I.V. or I.M.), and do not do post-operation dressings. Such cases are treated by the team leaders (qualified nurses). PARD, through support from donors provided for the first aiders' cloths, first aid materials, and equipment.



Vi PARD's First Aid team in Karantina, after the Beirut port explosion

(b) Cases transported by Ambulances

Type of cases transported		No. of Cases	Name of Hospitals Receiving the Cases
-Loss of consciousness. - Severe burns -Hip Fracture -Asthma - Ankle fracture - Polio myelitis - Kidney stone attack	- High level of Diabetes and hypertension - Hypotension - Brain Thrombus - Common bile duct obstruction - Abdomen pain - Knee fracture	56	- Hiram - Jabal Amel - Italian-Lebanese Hospital - Al Raii - Al Hamshary hospital

- poisoning	- Ankle Hairline fracture (unshaded)		
- Shortness in breath	- Third degree burn		
- Foot Fracture	- Leg fracture		
- Brain stroke			
- Nervous breakdown			

The services are vital for the communities who live in the south gatherings located in rural areas some of which are 20 km or more away from cities, where emergency centres or hospitals are placed. Moreover, those services save money and efforts for the benefit of people who have low incomes and no health security.

Many members of the first aid teams have nursing background. These members are involved in the cases which require more professionalism such as suturing and injection.

(c) Training of First Aid Teams:

i. Training on basic first aid:

This course took place in Maashouk gathering for the benefit of 12 (11M, 1F) first aiders.

The course included:

- Introduction to first aid
- Role of the first aider
- Burns
- Wounds
- Hemorrhage
- Poisoning
- CPR
- Position of injured person
- Fixture of fractures

14 hours of training covered the course, including many practical exercises.

ii. Training on advanced first aid:

This course took place during the months of December 2019 and January 2020. The beneficiaries were first aiders chosen from among the five first aid teams in Maashouk, Jal al Bahar, Shabriha, Qasmiyeh and Kfar Badda. They were chosen because they proved to be committed to their teams, and volunteered their time and efforts for servicing their communities.

8 (6M,2F) first aiders benefited from a 40 hours course on advanced first aid.

The course included:

- Examination and treatment of trauma patient
- Airway management
- Use of oxygen and ambo bag
- Use of neck collar and back board
- Basic first aid for chest and abdominal and pelvic injuries
- Asthma, angina pectoris, myocardial in fracture, stroke, diabetes, epilepsy
- Poisoning
- First safety and management

The course included many practical sessions.

(d) Raising Awareness for first aid teams:

Many raising awareness sessions on health issues were conducted for the benefit of the first aiders.

(A) In Qasmiyeh the 11 (5M, 6F) first aiders benefited from an awareness session on **Hepatitis A**.

The session included:

- Introduction to hepatitis A
- Symptoms
- How the disease is transmitted?
- Prevention
- Vaccine
- Treatment
- Hepatitis A with newborns
- Difference between Hepatitis (A), (B) and (C).

(B) In Qasmiyeh, the 18 (9M,9F) first aiders benefited from an awareness session on **Drugs addiction**.

The session included:

- Introduction to Drugs Addiction
- Smoking weed
- Physical and psychological tolerance on drugs
- What is addiction in general
- Prevention
- Dealing with addiction

(C) In Qasmiyeh, 12 (6M,5F) first aiders benefited from an awareness session on **Hypertension**.

The session included:

- Introduction to Hypertension
- Symptoms
- Prevention
- Who are most vulnerable to hypertension
- Importance of proper nutrition and sports
- Treatment

(D) Raising awareness sessions on **COVID-19** took place in March 2020 in the gatherings of Jal al Bahar, Maashouk, Qasmiyeh, Shabriha and Kfar Badda.

The beneficiaries were the following:

- Jal Al Bahar first aid team of 13 (2M, 11F)
- Maashouk team of 11 (10M, 1F)
- Qasmiyeh team of 11 (5M, 6F)
- Shabriha team of 18 (9M, 9F)
- Kfar Badda team of 6 (4M, 2F)

The sessions included:

- Introduction to COVID-19 virus
- How is it contagious
- Prevention
- Who is most vulnerable to become inflicted with the virus
- Wrong beliefs about this virus
- Advises for first aiders to protect themselves and others

(e) Extra activities for First Aid Teams:

i. General:

- In Maashouk gathering, the First aid team participated in putting out (extinguishing) a fire in the electricity pole using the centers fire extinguisher.
- Contribution to the funerals of two local people, one man and one woman in Maashouk, and for another death in Shabriha. The first aiders distribute water to drink, help in lifting heavy things and so on...
- The first aid team in Kfar Badda played a friendly game of football with young men in Jim Jeem gathering and won 2-0.
- The Maashouk first aid team participated in the distribution of daily hot meals for the poor during the fasting month of Ramadan with an organization called Baraem.

ii. Combating the spread of COVID-19 in Tyre:

- Participation with the popular committee in spraying a mixture of water and chlorine for prevention of COVID-19 between the houses of the Bas camp. Through support of NRC, the Maashouk first aid team distributed what was called the COVID-19 prevention kit (chlorine, hand soap, sprayer) for the benefit of 1200 PRL, PRS, S and Lebanese. The distribution was done jointly with volunteers from NRC, the popular committee and UNRWA.
- Participation with the popular committee in spraying a mixture of water and chlorine for prevention of COVID-19 between the houses of the Burj Al Shimali camp. Through support of NRC, the Maashouk first aid team distributed what was called the COVID-19 prevention kit (chlorine, hand soap, sprayer) for the benefit of 3100 PRL, PRS, S and Lebanese. The distribution was done jointly with volunteers from NRC, the popular committee and UNRWA.
- The first aid teams in Shabriha, Maashouk, Jal al Bahar, Qasmiyeh and Kfar Badda participated with the popular committees in spraying a mixture of water and chlorine between the houses for prevention of COVID-19.
- The first aid teams in Jal al Bahar, Maashouk, Shabriha, Qasmiyeh and Kfar Badda joined PARD in an umbrella (house by house) distribution of hygiene Kits in the following nine Palestinian gatherings: Jal al Bahar - Maashouk - Shabriha – Qasmiyeh – Burghuliyeh – Kfar Badda – Jim Jeem – Aitaniyeh – Wasta.

The hygiene kits were donated by UNDP and MCC.

Each kit contained the following:

- Sprayer for water (1 liter)
- 2 chlorine bottles (disinfectant)
- 2 Dettol bottles (disinfectant)
- 3 kitchen towels
- 4 towels
- 3 sanitary napkins
- 1 bottle of hair shampoo
- 1 bottle of dishwasher liquid
- 1 bag of cleaning powder for washing clothes
- 2 head scarves
- 2 rolls of nylon garbage bags
- 1 hair comb
- 2 packets paper tissues
- 8 rolls of toilet paper
- 2 hand soap bars
- 3 toothbrushes
- One tube of toothpaste
- 1 finger plaster packet

(f) Special Activities:

- 1- The first aid team in Shabriha acted as a standby to administer first aid services to any football team practicing or playing in the football playground located near our first aid center. Those practices and games took place at least twice each week, and our first aid team has actually provided first aid services to several of the football teams.
- 2- The first aid team in Maashouk frequently compete in playing football with other teams in the playground of nearby Burj Rahal village.
- 3- The first aid teams participated in spraying of insecticides in the gatherings.

Activity Three: Psychosocial Children Activities

1. Community Changes

There have been multiple community changes since July 2020 mainly due to the current pandemic. Ever since, Lebanon has been alternating between partial and full lockdown. The country gradually stopped the full lockdown with strict health measures imposed on the people. One main aspect of these measures was the closure of any institution or a building if a positive COVID-19 case is recorded in it. The re-opening of all sectors lasted until October 2020. Then, the number of COVID-19 cases increased dramatically, especially the past few months, with daily records exceeding 2000 cases at times. The total number of cases in Lebanon to date is 186,408. During the months of October and early November, there was a different adopted approach to lockdown. It was altered to be area- specific depending on the number of cases in it. The list of areas under lockdown was updated weekly. In multiple weeks, the areas where we operate were under this lockdown. PARD's PSS center were closed in July and August but operating from September to mid-October when there was no lockdown, then had to close in the periods of area specific closure which included Tyre areas (Maashouk, Shabriha, Jim Jim, and Kfarbadda). The closure in these 4 areas extended from October 21st till the end of November. From November 15th till November 30th, the whole country was on full lockdown. These lockdowns did not only affect the course of work of PARD's centers, but also hindered the jobs and the lives of all people including the refugees in these areas. They were obliged to stay at their homes with strict measures on going out. This has negatively affected the psychological state of all the community, both children and parents.

2. Learning and unexpected results

At PARD, there was a need to understand the ongoing, changing needs and concerns of the community in order to modify the planned activities accordingly. The major concerns the community had were health-related. With the increasing number of cases of positive COVID-19 and the rising awareness about the virus and its precautions, parents were more concerned about their children's safety health-wise. Tyre was an area that recorded multiple cases and had to go on lockdown multiple times. Therefore, children and parents were more careful when leaving houses or in social areas. Less people were going out even during the periods where there was no lockdown. When the activities resumed in the centers in September, some children were not attending due to their parent's concern of the virus even with fully taken precautions. Given that situation, PARD considered the need for further emphasis on improving computer and multimedia skills of the staff in order to proceed with the remote delivery of the PSS activities through audio-visual tools. The staff also settled and addressed the parents' health concerns through increasing and improving communication to assure them that all health measures were being considered, from wearing masks, to hand sanitizing, to reducing the number of children per group to ensure social distancing. The staff found that such concerns must be constantly addressed and negotiated on a timely basis to make sure that the community feels safe and assured health-wise.

3. Changes to future plans

Based on the community changes arising, specifically those related to COVID-19 spread, there was a need to change the way the activities are delivered. There is a need to shift to online, remote PSS services in the times when lockdown is enforced. Also, the number of children in every group must be reconsidered and reduced to make sure social distancing is ensured during the periods when in-person activities can be delivered.

Multiple activities took place in order to launch the project and fulfill this outcome. The project coordinator started by revising the PSS curriculum already existent. The PSS curriculum was modified to the suitability of the area and the implementation of the project itself. The curriculum was planned to target multiple psychosocial aims that contribute to the improvement of the emotional and social well-being of the children. The targeted aims planned in the curriculum were: emotion identification, expression, and control, creativity, communication, friendship, bullying, team work, resilience, self-confidence and self-esteem, trust, and problem-solving. The plan was divided into phases and each phase was divided into weeks for proper follow-up. The first phase focused on ensuring the emotional understanding and control of the children themselves. By the end of this phase, the child will be able to better understand, express, and control their emotions which was essential for the following phases. The second phase mainly focused on improving the children's relation with their peers. This was planned to occur through proper communication skills (verbally and non-verbally) and through emphasizing qualities of friendship, bullying, and team work. This phase aimed to develop better bonds between the children as they usually show violence towards one another. The third phase was the phase where family bonds are central. This phase was particularly crucial as it is bidirectional (parents have to cooperate as well). After these activities, the children were supposed to build proper emotional bonds with their families which was important for the following stages of building resilience and trust. The last two phases were mainly centered about improving the child's psychological and developmental skills on the long term. It was divided into two phases for feasibility purposes and follow-up. This was the most crucial part of the plan as it wraps up all the previous aims and signifies if the child has shown proper improvement. As for the implementation part of it, the animators were introduced to the plan, how it's divided over the weeks, and how to tackle each aim in a play-based approach. Activity suggestions for each week were provided in order to give a clear idea on how to serve the psycho-social targets mentioned.

All the activities were conducted remotely via using mobile Apps such as WhatsApp.

- The parents received audio visual materials via the WhatsApp group on regular basis. The materials focused on raising awareness about COVID-19 virus and how to protect the children and the adults from being infected.
- Short videos were sent to the parents on a regular basis. The videos focused on how to deal with children in the times of pandemic regarding their eating, nutrition and general health. These videos emphasized on children's routine such as their sleeping, exercises, social distancing, entertainment activities and etc. for example, in these videos the parents were encouraged to supervise and control the amount of time the children spend on playing games, watching TV and/ or using mobile phones.
- The short videos sent to the parents regarding healthy physical exercises such as stretching and Yoga. These videos were sent to their parents periodically.
- PARD distributed personal hygiene kits to every child. The parents were organized to pick up the personal hygiene kits from the allocated meeting points. Physical distancing was taking into consideration while planning the distribution of the kits.
- PARD distributed stationary kits for the children which were picked up by the parents from the designated centers. The kits contained activity books for the children plus other relevant stationary items.

4. PSS Children Activities in Karantina and Nabaa:

After the outreach was done, the animators ended with 150 enrolled children, 93 in Nabaa and 57 in Karantina. The children were divided into groups of 10 to 15 depending on the area and the timing. The kids were also divided by age where kids aged 7 to 9 would be together and kids aged 10 to 12 would be together.

As for the children that were observed to be in need of special and specific types of psychological support, those were referred to psychotherapy or case management through a referral channel PARD has used with other NGOs.

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Parent meetings were being held on a monthly basis as of October. In person parent meetings took place in the months of October, November and December. During these meetings, the following issues were discussed and explained to the parents respectively: nonviolent methods of discipline (where parents were introduced to new concepts of discipline other than the ones they're used to that are centered about physical violence and shouting), awareness of child protection (where issues of neglect were brought up), communication strategies with the children and in the family, and conflict resolution methods within the family in order to provide the best environment for the children.

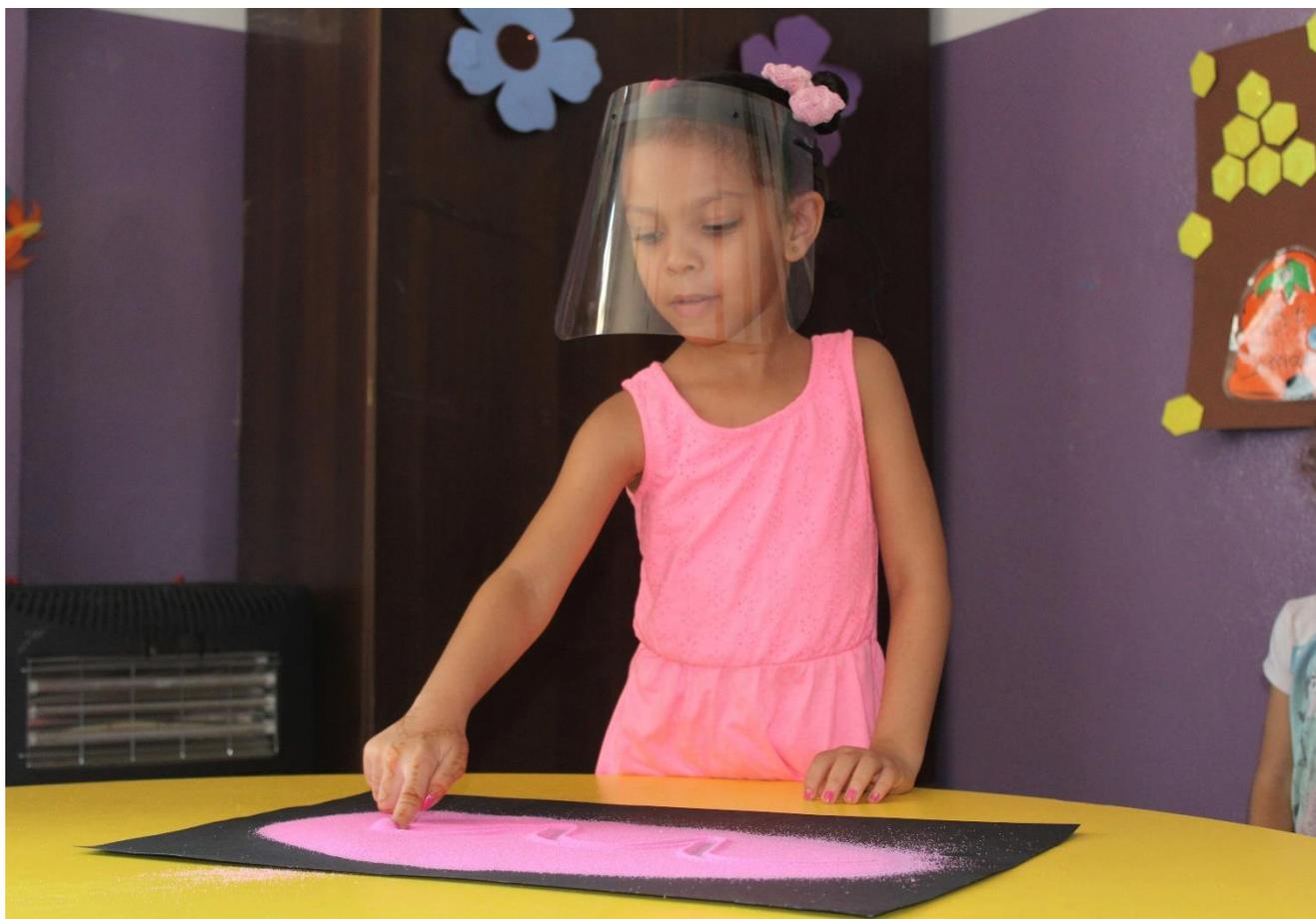


Vii Psychosocial support activities in Nabaa center

Who directly participated in activities In Karantina and Nabaa	# of People	
	# Female	# Male
Children, ages 7-12 (approximate numbers)	90	60
Parents of participant children (approximate numbers)	62	11
Family members of participant children (indirect participants)	283	233
Total Number	435	304

5. PSS Children Activities in Shabriha, Maashouk, Kfar Badda, Jim Jeem and Wadi Al Zeineh:

Same activities were implemented in the Southern gatherings as in Karantina and Nabaa. 460 (190 M, 270 F) children (PRL, PRS, S and L) benefited from PSS activities during 2020.



Viii Children Psychosocial support in the South

6. Community Center in Shabriha:

- **Basic computer skill classes** were given in the December for 31 participants, 17 females and 4 males, in the center in Shabriha. These 31 participants attended twice in the month of December and are planned to finish the full course in the coming months. The participants had access to computers during their presence in the classes. The classes cover multiple computer skills from learning the basics of the computer, its hardware and software, to learning how to use the essential programs of Microsoft office (Word, Power Point, and Excel).
- **The folkloric Dabke trainings** resumed in December for 15 participants, 14 females and one male. So far, one training has occurred due to the health situation. The trainings are expected to proceed as long as the health situation allows and the number of participants is planned to increase.
- In December, the **football team** was given supplies to resume training in the coming months.
- Psycho-social videos resumed to be delivered through online tools (i.e. WhatsApp) during the months of July, August, and November on a regular basis. These videos included materials regarding the children's behavior during the lockdown and the way parents should deal with their children and meet their psychological needs. The videos included information that would help the parents with their children's daily routines as eating patterns, nutrition, sleeping, and entertainment, same as those sent in the months of February through June. Bearing in mind that this only happened during the national lockdowns. During the rest of the project period we continued the in person activities with both the children and the parents with high precautions procedures. The number of children in every group was reduced to be between 12 and 15 to ensure social distancing. Activities were held once a week on Friday for two hours each session. The activities were play-based activities that focused on improving team work skills and the emotional

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wellbeing of the children. A total of 193 participated in the activities. Of those, 104 were girls and 89 were boys. By nationalities, 16 were Lebanese, 13 were PRS, 114 were PRL, and 50 were Syrians.



IX Computer skills classes in Shabriha community center

Activity Four: Puppet Theater

Puppet Theater Performances

- **Ten puppet shows** for the children were conducted in December in the areas of Maashouk, Shabriha, and Sibline (i.e. the community area of Wadi Zayne). The shows were held in five days, two shows per day adding up to 10 puppet shows in total. Each show was attended by 20 children with COVID-19 measures taken into consideration. In total, the shows were attended by 200 children. The puppet shows were titled "Shatti Ya Denyi Sissan" and "Shu Sar b Kfarmenkar". Both of the shows are aimed to educate the children on personal hygiene and disease awareness and prevention



X The puppet show performance "شتي يا دني صيسان" in the community center of Shabriha

Activity Five: Providing Health Services to Women

The right to health is a fundamental part of our human rights and of our understanding of living in dignity. Health is an integral issue of fundamental human rights and social justice and binds social work to apply these principles in both policy and practice. All people have an equal right to enjoy the basic conditions that underpin human health. These conditions include a minimum standard of living to support health and a sustainable and health-promoting environment. All people have an equal right to access resources and services that promote health and address illness, injury and impairment, including social services. Non-discrimination and equality are critical components of the right to health. PARD believes that it should continue to work for the realization of these universal rights through the development, articulation and pursuit of socially just health and social policies and practices especially for the Palestinian community.

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon face several obstacles in relation to the right to health. The Government of Lebanon does not provide any support to the Palestinian refugees while the UNRWA's services are limited to a specific budget that is diminishing year after year. Considering health as a human right requires specific attention to individuals and groups of individuals in the Palestinian society, in particular those living in vulnerable situations.

The equitable provision of affordable and accessible primary healthcare is central to human development, critical to meeting the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and a basic human right. Attention to the equity dimension of health care is especially important within the Palestinian communities because of its widespread poverty, high under-five and maternal mortality rates, low levels of basic health care utilization and the obstacles to health care services.

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Women and children are among the most vulnerable groups in the Palestinian community. PARD plans to implement rights-based programs that would provide education and services to women, children and their families. Promoting the health of pregnant women and providing advice and medical consultation are some of integral parts of PARD's program that aims at improving the lifestyle of this group. This focal area also supports the fifth Millennium Development Goal that revolves around improving maternal health.

Based on vulnerable assessment studies conducted for both the Palestinian and Syrian refugees in Lebanon, findings show their need for primary health care services focusing on reproductive health, psychological support, protection from exploitation and gender based violence (GBV). In response to their needs, PARD in partnership with Solidaridad International and The Basque Agency for Development Cooperation provided medical consultation, pre and post-natal services, family planning and other medical services for the refugee women in ten informal settlements in the South. Moreover, PARD raised awareness among refugee women on sexual and reproductive health rights, as well as early detection of breast and cervical cancers and GBV. A campaign for the early detection of breast and cervical cancers including mammography and pap smear tests complemented the awareness raising sessions.

Furthermore, psychological support reflected in private and group sessions for women victims of GBV was provided. As a necessary and adjacent activity, a field study was implemented comprising of a review of existing information on violence against women and girls in the Southern informal settlements, and including the collection of testimonies and summarization in a document analysis.

Patient satisfaction questionnaires were filled and testimonies were written reflecting the opinions of refugee women beneficiaries on all the activities implemented in this project. Case studies were recorded, some through video films.

Finally, an evaluation process for the project was carried out to obtain information on the achievements of project results in their different dimensions, progress, weaknesses and strengths in different stages of their design, implementation and monitoring, which will contribute to future interventions.



Xi Reproductive health services at PARD's mobile clinic in Shabriha area



xii Free medication assistance at our mobile clinic,

RESULT 1

Creation of health care spaces and services that promote the right to health among the highly vulnerable refugee population of 10 informal settlements in southern Lebanon.

Result 1	Brief description of Activities
Activity 1.1. Purchase, supply and commissioning of medical equipment and medicines in two clinics.	All medical equipment required for the work of the gynecologist was purchased. Also medications related to women's health were also purchased.
Activity 1.2. Purchase, supply and commissioning of medical equipment and medicines for the mobile clinic.	The mobile clinic was completely maintained (internal furnishing, electricity, wheels, mechanic for the motor) All medical equipment required for the work of the gynecologist was purchased. Also medications related to women's health were also purchased.
Activity 1.3. Performance of medical examinations, pre- and post-natal services, family planning.	During 2020, 7700 medical services were provided for 3456 women (PRL 1818 women / PRS 416 women /Syrian 712 women / Lebanese 510 women). The medical consultation took place in the mobile clinic, Shabriha clinic, and Kfar Badda clinic covering 10 gatherings. In addition to the medical consultations, 180 home visits took place by the midwife and community health workers to women who have newly given birth to their babies, instructions were given to these women to protect their and their babies health. 2000 women received

	<p>sanitary napkins, 500 pregnant women or women who newly gave birth received baby diapers.</p> <p>153 newborn babies were circumcised by our gynecologist. The mothers benefited from this service through the mobile clinic. The main reason given for the ritual is cleanliness. It is essential that every Muslim washes before praying. It is important that no urine is left on the body. Muslims believe the removal of the foreskin makes it easier to keep the penis clean because urine can't get trapped there.</p>
<p>A.1.4 Performance of gynaecological examinations and services and mammograms for the early detection of cancer.</p>	<p>In 2020, 263 women have taken Pap smear. All women beneficiaries were transported by PARD to the specialized center of Kayan for their tests. Each time they were accompanied by PARD community health worker. They received brochures on breast and cervic cancer.</p> <p>In 2020, 428 Women have taken Mammography. All women beneficiaries were transported by PARD to the specialized center of Kayan for their tests. Each time they were accompanied by PARD community health worker. They received brochures on breast and cervic cancer. The results of Mammography and Pap smear results showed the need for follow up, categorized as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women who need to repeat mammography - Women who need to repeat Pap smear tests - Women who need ultra sound for their breast - Women who need gynecological treatment <p>Each test result was reviewed by our gynecologist. The women who need gynecological services were treated in our clinics.</p> <p>428 mammography reports and 263 pap smear results were reviewed by the gynecologist. Follow up measures were taken. 77 cases needed follow up either with gynecologist or surgeon, the rest of the cases were normal.</p>
<p>A.1.5 Conducting patient satisfaction surveys</p>	<p>During 2020, 900 patient satisfaction questionnaire have been filled, and analyzed. The findings of the questionnaire show that: *20.2% of the respondents to the questionnaire are PRS, 50.3% are PRL, 13.8% are Lebanese, and 15.7% are Syrian.</p> <p>-When asking them whether X (a certain entity) provides health services needed to the people in the targeted area, the answers are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *For Palestinian Crescent Society (PRCS): 7.9% (Yes) and 92.1% (No) *UNRWA: 67.1% (Yes) and 32.9% (No) *Private Doctor: 100% (No) *Pharmacy: 82.9% (Yes) and 17.1% (No) *PARD clinic: 100% (Yes) *Kayan Center: 100% (No) <p>-Percentage of satisfaction with the treatment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Doctor: 99.7% *Nurse: 99.6% *Midwife: 99.4% *Result of the treatment: 99.5% *treatment for free: 99.5% <p>-Was the problem you visited for, treated?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *99.9% answered by Yes

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	<p>*0.1% answered by No</p> <p>-Percentage of people satisfactions about the working days and hours of the clinic: *90.1% are satisfied</p> <p>-How can the services in PARD's clinic improve? 11.6% → Increase the variety of medication 12.3% → Increase the working days of the clinic 76.1% → No improvement</p> <p>What new services do you recommend? *7.5% → laboratory *1.8% → Baby Clothes *1.7% → Milk for babies *17.2% → general Practitioner *15% → Pediatrician *56.8% → No recommendation</p>
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RESULT 2

Provided a comprehensive psychosocial care service to refugee women victims of violence in 10 informal settlements in southern Lebanon.

Result 2	Brief description of Activities
Activity 2.1. Dissemination of information about the psychological and legal assistance service in the communities.	We did awareness sessions on GBV for 1202 women and we distributed list of referrals if they need any further help. We had given advice for women and forwarded them to referrals and they took the decision.
Activity 2.2. Providing psychological care to women victims of violence	The psychologist sits with groups of women in the gatherings who are interested in psychological support. The second step would be to offer deeper psychological consultation to specific women who needed it, either through group therapy or individual follow-up, especially women victims of GBV. Cases being followed up include depression, mental confusion, mild dementia, menopause related depression, stress/anxiety, emotional pressure, tourettes, post-traumatic stress disorder.
Activity 2.3. Advise women victims of gender-based violence and refer them to specialized institutions for legal assistance.	Women victims of GBV are very often referred to specialized entities depending on the cases. Some need the services of a psychiatric, legal advices, local police, schools or training on a vocation.
A.2.4 Collect and systematize information on women victims of violence in informal settlements.	A group of women stated that they understand and apply the new practices in sexual and reproductive health and gender approach learned. A number of testimonies have been disseminated among number of women. Videos and data of diffusion are presented.

RESULT 3

Sensitized the refugee population in 10 informal settlements in South Lebanon on sexual and reproductive rights, gender equity and promoted the construction of peace through the collection of testimonies and their international dissemination.

Result 3	Brief description of Activities
<p>Activity 3.1. Conduct of 60 awareness-raising workshops on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence</p>	<p>1202 women received awareness sessions on GBV, Menopause – Osteoporosis – Sexual malfunction. 1222 women received awareness sessions on Breast and Cervical Cancer. 1497 women received awareness sessions on sexual and reproductive health and self confidence.</p>
<p>Activity 3.2. A.3.2 Conduct research on violence against women and girls in the informal settlements targeted by the intervention.</p>	<p>Research was carried out on violence against women and girls in the 10 informal settlements targeted in order to analyze and document the nature of the problem, analyze human rights violations and identify good practices for the recovery of cases of gender-based violence. This was done by first conducting a desk study of existing information on violence against women and girls in informal settlements, then collecting testimonies and proceeding with the field study.</p> <p>Subsequently, all the information was systematized in a single document, which summarizes the analysis and highlights the problems and good practices implemented by the project.</p>
<p>Activity 3.3. A.3.3. Production of a "Short Film" of testimony on the health and reproductive situation of women in the informal settlements that are the object of the intervention.</p>	<p>The production of a creative video (Short Film) on the sexual and reproductive health of women in the informal settlements covered by the intervention was carried out through collaboration with the group "Studiocamps". This entity is made up of Palestinian refugees who live every day in the camps and informal settlements of the region and has experience in editing videos and short films of the local reality. In order to make the short film we proceed to the selection of cases and dynamics of the settlements that will generate a means capable of bringing the complex and multifaceted local reality closer by means of a different vision to the one we usually represent so that it serves as a testimony, promotes a critical sense and simplifies the understanding of the processes of denunciation, thus bringing the target public closer together.</p>

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The women clinic in Sabra (Beirut) provided 1470 affordable medical consultations and treatment to 850 refugee women and poor Lebanese.



Xiii PARD's medical staff at the women clinic in Sabra





XIV Medical services at the women clinic in Sabra

Activity Six: Training and Meetings with Popular Committees

Workshops with Popular Committees:

Meetings between the women committees and popular committees (local governance) in the targeted gatherings continued throughout the year. The agendas of those meetings ranged from information exchange on activities or campaigns, joint lobbying with UNRWA or Lebanese municipalities, decision making and problem solving. Meetings between the committees will probably continue due to the need to solve problems facing their communities and realize common projects.

Subjects discussed or resolved were divided into two categories mainly:

1- Issues directly related to the local communities:

Several problems were discussed:

- Garbage disposal
- Electricity problems
- Sewer network problem
- Maintenance works on some buildings
- Asphaltting the road
- Spraying of insecticides
- Chlorination of water
- Distributing rodenticide bags
- Collecting fees to pay the local garbage collector in Beirut
- Follow up on rehabilitation of shelters supported by NRC (Jal Al Bahar).
- Discuss results of meetings with Lebanese municipality in Burj Rahal to recruit their services related to the sewage network and other services (Qasmiyeh women committee).

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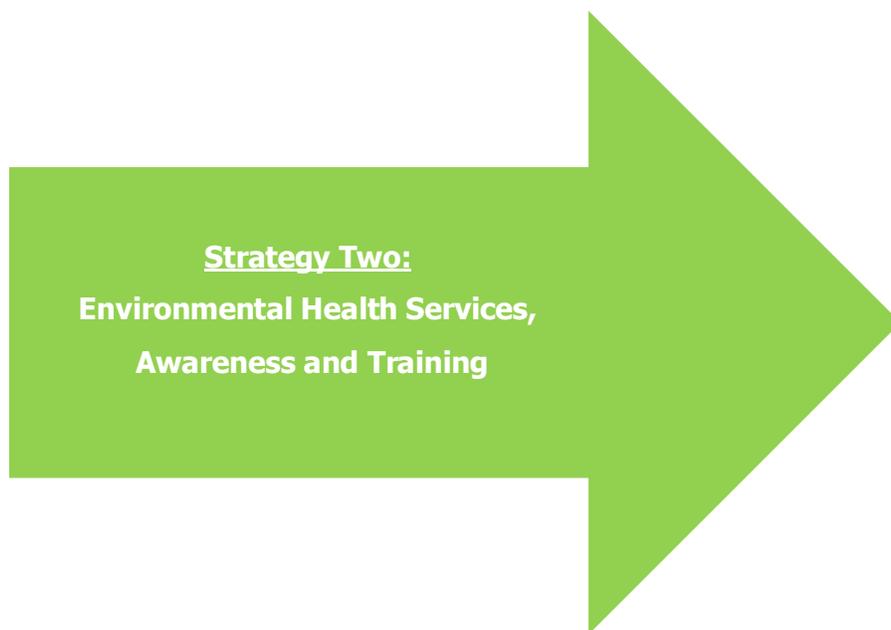
- Facing water shortages in the summer of 2015 in all gatherings.
- Damage in electricity cables causing electricity cuts and solving the problem of the maintenance needed in all gatherings.

2- Issues related to the presence of refugees from Syria in the gatherings:

- Prepare new statistics for refugees from Syria in all gatherings.
- Prepare action plan for cleaning campaigns and spraying of insecticides in all gatherings.
- Follow- up on issues related to refugees from Syria such as new born registration and residency visas.
- Deteriorating situations of host families due to the large numbers of refugees from Syria.
- Increased consumption of electricity because of the increasing number of Syrian refugees in the gathering and its effects.
- Problems facing water network in the gathering.
- Problems in sewer drainage in a buildings inhabited by Syrian Refugees.
- Compare statistics on Syrian Refugees.
- Problems faced due to the cut in support of international organizations & UN agencies to the refugees from Syria in general, and to the PRS residing in the gatherings specifically.

This program was supported by :

- **Basque Agency for Development Cooperation**
- **Bizkaia (The Provincial Council of Biscay)**
- **Galdakao Town Hall (Ayuntamiento de Galdakao)**
- **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)**
- **Norwegian People's Aid - Lebanon (NPA-Lebanon)**
- **Refugees Empowerment International Japan (RIJ)**
- **Solidaridad Internacional (NAZIOARTEKO ELKARATASUNA – SOLIDARIDAD)**
- **UNDP - Lebanon**



15,806 Palestinian refugees and poor Lebanese (8693 females and 7113 males) living in the gatherings of Tyre and Beirut.

Activity One: Solid waste collection and disposal

This activity includes regular solid waste collection at the household level, in addition to cleaning public zones in the southern gatherings.

2040 tons of solid wastes were collected through 1020 shifts (2 tons/shift) in 6 locations in Tyre gatherings in the South to the main dumping place.

4,422 Palestinian refugees Palestinian refugees from Syria, Syrian refugees benefited from this project in the south, (3,432 females and 1,990 males).

The sorting of solid waste project supported by UNDP continued throughout the year 2020:

- IN Jim Jeem, Kfar Badda, Aitaniyeh and Wasta in coordination with Kharayeb municipality.
- In Baisariyeh in coordination with Baisariyeh municipality.
- In Jal Al Bahar in coordination with Abbasiyeh municipality.
- In Hay El Zaiton near Miyeh Miyeh camp in Saida in coordination with Miyeh Miyeh municipality.
- In Wadi El Zeineh in coordination with Siblin municipality.



XV Solid waste collection and disposal in Wasta gathering

Activity Two: Spraying of insecticides

Rodents and insects constituted a major source of nuisance to the residents of the gatherings, especially during summer when the number of insects increases tremendously. To control the problem, PARD implemented twenty spraying campaigns in each of the 10 gatherings in the South and 2 gatherings in Beirut, in addition to the gathering of Wadi El Zeineh.

PARD sprayed 18,200 liters of insecticides (200 ml of insecticides for every 20 liters of water). About 15,155 people benefited from this project (8,335 females and 6,820 males).

Activity Three: Cleaning Cesspits

PARD operates a special truck for suctioning septic tanks in the Southern gatherings. Some gatherings are not linked to major wastewater pipelines and therefore discharge their household wastewater into primitive ground septic tanks. These usually overflow and contaminate the land and water sources around them.

A new truck for suction of waste water was purchased with support from UNDP. 101 cesspits were emptied from the Southern gatherings and camps.

Number of Cesspits Emptied

Location	Number of Cesspits Emptied (Beneficiaries)	Number of Shifts
Shabriha	7	7
Rachidiyeh	15	20
Kfarbadda	27	37
Wasta	11	16
Al Maashouk	22	32
Burghuliyeh	6	17
Jal Al Bahar	2	2
Al Kharayeb	9	13
Qasmiyeh	1	4
Jim Jeem	1	1
Total	101	149

Activity Four: Cleaning campaigns of general premises

At least once a year, before implementing spraying of insecticides, each gathering organizes a cleaning campaign whereby a team of workers and volunteers clean up their gatherings. In Jal Al Bahar gathering, one cleaning campaign was supported by the municipality of Abbasiyeh.

In 2020, **20 campaigns took place in the gatherings** in the South, and the collected wastes were removed by PARD's 2 garbage trucks and deposited at designated places.

6 campaigns were implemented in the Beirut gatherings.

Activity Five: Distribution of rodenticides, anti-lice shampoo

The Beirut gatherings are overcrowded habitats with problems in the sewage systems. The Southern gatherings are not over crowded, but individual problems related to the sewer system and household garbage might pose breeding places for rodents like in Beirut. The local health educators and members of local women's committees are the ones who distribute rodenticides to control such pests. Distributions are accompanied by written instructions on proper use and the protection of family users. **700 rodenticide Units were distributed in 2020.**

Additionally, 570 anti-lice shampoo were distributed during the year



xvi Distribution of lice shampoo in Wasta gathering

Rodenticides Distributed

Location	Number of small bags (50 bags for one unit)	Number of Units (Beneficiaries)
Beirut Gatherings	600	120
South Gatherings	2900	580
Total	3500	700

Anti-lice Shampoo Distribution

Location	Number of Anti-lice Shampoo (Beneficiaries)
Beirut Gatherings	50
South Gatherings	460
Wadi El Zeineh	60
Total	570

This program was supported by UNDP Lebanon.



PARD became involved in the relief operation for refugee families from Syria since July 2012. Our relief program was guided by PARD's contingency plan prepared in 2012 and revisited in 2019. Since July 2012 till the end of 2020, PARD implemented many projects for the benefits of refugees from Syria residing mainly in the Palestinian gatherings (nine in Tyre, seven in Saida, four in Beirut and one in Wadi Zeineh). The targeted refugees have reached about 14,903 people including both Syrians and Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS). The support ranged from food and non-food items (NFIs) to WASH activities, shelter rehabilitation, health education and children education. Moreover, PARD responded to the needs of the affected people from the Beirut Port blast, specifically in Karantina and Nabaa.

Relief activities in 2020 included the following:

1. Nutrition

a. With CFGB and MCC

PARD supported 3,000 refugees monthly through distributing vouchers (100,000 Lebanese pounds each) for 12 months. The criteria for choosing the families follows:

- The families do not receive food assistance from WFP or other organizations.
- The families have limited income.
- The households are headed by women.
- The household is headed by a widow.
- The families are living in gatherings.

The refugees reside in the following gatherings:

- **Tyre area:** Shabriha, Jal al Bahar, Al Samer, Maashouk, Qasmiyeh, Burghuliyeh, Wasta, Aitaniyeh, Kfar Badda, and Jim Jeem
- **Beirut:** Daouk, Said Ghawash, Gaza Buildings, Sabra

Nearby supermarkets to the gatherings were contracted and the refugees chose what they need from food items within the monetary cost range of the vouchers received.



XVII Food Kits distribution at Bourjhammoud's warehouse



xviii Food vouchers distribution in Bourjhammoud



XIX Distribution of food kits for the beneficiaries of Nabaa, Karantina and Bourjhammoud areas

b. With NPA

In 2020, a project called "Humanitarian Assistance to Vulnerable Communities in Lebanon" was implemented with NPA support. It included the distribution of food parcels to support the families in the southern gatherings who suffered from the economic crisis in Lebanon, in addition to the spread of COVID 19 and the imposed government closures and curfews.

Distribution took place as follows:

	Location	No. of Food Parcels Distributed
1.	Wasta	198
2.	Qasmiyeh	404
3.	Maashouk	370
4.	Jal Al Bahar	243
5.	Aitaniyeh	64

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6.	Shabriha	342
7.	Kfar Badda	131
8.	Jim Jeem	90
9.	Jal Al Bahar	78
	Total	1920

2. WASH Activities

Distribution of hygiene kits during 2020:

(a) With MCC:

Item	Quantities Distributed	Location
Personal Hygiene Kit	7,840	Karantina – Nabaa – Burj Hammoud
Family Hygiene Kit (Buckets)	1,529	
Comforters (Blankets)	3,500	
Tooth paste	9,374	

The family relief hygiene bucket included

- 1 bucket with a lid
- 4 towels
- 1 bottle of hair shampoo
- 1 package of sanitary napkins
- 2 hair combs
- 4 hand soap bars
- 4 toothbrushes
- 4 bags of cleaning powder for washing clothes
- 1 nail clipper

The personal hygiene kit included

- 1 cloth bag
- 1 soap bar
- 1 small towel
- 1 toothbrush

b- With UNDP:

Location	Number of Hygiene Kits Distributed	Number of Baby Kits Distributed
Beirut Gatherings	1504	310
Wadi Zayne	2262	483
Saida Gatherings	3124	649
Tyre Gatherings	1827	386
Karantina	346	80
Total	9,063	1,908

9,063 PRL, PRS and Syrian.



XX The food security team's preparation of hygiene kits at the warehouse of Bourj Hammoud

3. Response to Emergency Needs of Families After Beirut Port Blast

On Tuesday August 4, 2020 huge blast ripped at port of Beirut, killed over 200 people, and injured more than 5000, leaving around 300,000 homeless individual.

Aftermath, PARD conducted a field visit in the surrounding areas on **August 7 and 8 2020**, to check damages, meet affected people and to try to identify needs and areas of intervention. Consequently, PARD provided a mobile clinic and an ambulance in Karantina Beirut, and focused on three main areas, Karantina (Modawar), Borj Hammoud, and Naba'a. A primary assessment was conducted on **August 9, 2020** and the following needs were identified:

- Hygiene kits and detergents
- Food parcels
- Kitchen utensils
- Trauma recovery including first aid psychological support
- First aid for injured people
- Environmental activities
- Minor and major shelters

As a result, PARD commenced its activities on **August 10 2020**. These activities included:

1. Distribution of **346 hygiene kits** for Lebanese and Syrian families in Karantina.
2. Distribution of **80 baby kits** each containing 4 diaper bags (supported by UNDP).
3. **Spraying insecticides** in Karantina area following the removal of rubble and rubbish.
4. Psychosocial activities for **40 children** with a special focus on trauma reduction and stress management.
5. PARD's first aid team provided first aid assistance to **80 injured people**.
6. PARD's psychologist worked with **10 children** who had critical psychological issues and fears resulting in severe trauma, and provided them with the needed psychological therapy at home. This activity was implemented an individual level.

On August 16, 2020 PARD decided to conduct a comprehensive survey in the three areas of intervention, and got socioeconomic information as well as shelter conditions. This survey was conducted by a group of 6 social workers and one supervisor through door to door home visits. The Survey was completed by the end of **August, 2020**

4. Education

a. Kindergarten for Refugee Children from Syria and Palestine

Refugee children from Syria age six and older join either UNRWA schools (PRS) or public Lebanese schools (Syrian). Some local NGOs accommodated refugee children age three to five, but many remain unenrolled.

In response to this need, PARD established three kindergartens in Beirut, Wadi el Zaineh, and Tyre to accommodate the vulnerable refugee children who are unenrolled in institutions. All the kindergartens have three levels of education, KG1 for three-year-olds, KG2 for four-year-olds, and KG3 for five-year-olds. In some kindergartens, more than one class was opened for the same level to accommodate the children.

The child protection policy was circulated among all the workers in the kindergartens, including teachers and other staff. They all signed the commitment toward protecting the rights of the children they work with.

The teachers working in the kindergartens were carefully selected based on a set of criteria as follows:

- University degree in education or psychology or equivalent for teachers, and BT in kindergarten education for assistants (Baccalaureate Technique).
- At least two years of previous experience in similar jobs including children's activities and early education.
- Good communication skills, team work spirit, commitment, and basic English skills.

PARD has been attending the education cluster meetings held by UNHCR and the Ministry of Education to discuss preschool education and formal education. The cluster members recommended harmonizing the curriculum in all kindergartens working with refugees from Syria. Lately, there was an agreement to use one curriculum for all kindergartens and PARD has approved it after training the head teachers from the three kindergartens on the curriculum in advance. PARD started using the new curriculum in October 2018 and continues to do so.

Lebanon witnessed multiple events that largely affected the economy and the society and consequently the implementation of the project and the academic year 2019/2020. In October 2019, riots and uprisings happened all across Lebanon in reaction to unjustified increase of taxes and corruption. As the uprisings continued for over a month, the country witnessed a three-week closure of most of the country sectors. In the light of all these events and as a result of the past Lebanese financial policies, Lebanon was faced by yet another problem that is the deterioration of the Lebanese Lira rate compared to the US dollar. This deterioration largely affected the Lebanese economy as well as the cost of living and the socio-economic status of the Lebanese people. Parents faced this financial problem with schools as most schools increased their tuition fees. Consequently, this improved the status of our KG and gave it an advantage being completely free of charge.

After demonstrations ceased, and particularly in March 2020, the country went on lockdown after multiple corona virus cases were registered. The full lockdown lasted until May 2020. During this period, all schools, including the KG in Tyre, were obliged to close and shift to distant learning to preserve children's right for education given the pandemic.

All the lessons were operated remotely through online applications. There were multiple methods considered upon this shift including live sessions. However, live sessions were not feasible for the children given the absence of enough devices and time conflicts between siblings' sessions. For that purpose, the most convenient method was sending recorded videos of the classes to the children. Teachers recorded videos of them explaining the lessons and sent it to the children. In order to maintain the effectiveness of the method, the videos were short

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and limited to 4-6 minutes in order not to overwhelm the child or the parent following up with them. The teaching videos were shared on WhatsApp groups, and the teachers worked on ensuring proper follow-up with the children. For that purpose, they received the videos of children doing their homework and activities on a timely basis. The teachers were in contact with the parents and children regarding their educational progress. This follow up is what made us capable of continuing the evaluation of the children throughout the months of closure to ensure that they finish the academic year with met educational needs. Conducting examination was unfeasible during this period.

The community faced the fact that children's lives including their education could be affected by adults' world. The economic, political uncertainty affecting the families changed the children's education. COVID-19 virus was another factor that affected the whole community. What made it possible to continue the education program was due to kindergarten's organization and community's discipline and solidarity.

The normal operation of the kindergarten was interrupted due to the spread of COVID-19 virus in March 2020. PARD kindergarten in Tyre has decided to use online education with the children as the Ministry of Education and High Education decided to do in all schools, kindergartens and universities in all Lebanon. All the people in Lebanon have access to internet after the Ministry of Communication has made efforts for people to have access to their phone numbers and internet connection through providing extension to all mobile phone number holders free of charge.

Psychosocial group activities with children were shifted to online psychosocial sessions to avoid physical contact with the children.

The activities with parents and the community were altered and performed both remotely and on an individual basis taking into consideration proper social distancing and health measures.

As the KG shifted to distant learning, teachers were provided with electronic devices (i.e. laptops) to prepare their lessons and send them to the children. As their knowledge in producing audio-visual learning material was minimal, they also received trainings on how to prepare the lessons in order to ensure providing the children with the best quality of education they can deliver.

Individual psychosocial activities were conducted twice per week by the psychosocial assistant for the 202 children through online tools such as WhatsApp. The psychosocial activities conducted remotely were set with a smaller number of children than planned and for a shorter period of time. The group included 3 children at a time as they were conducted via WhatsApp video call. The psychosocial assistant would closely interact with the children, give them a space to express themselves, and perform short activities with them like story-telling, calming physical exercises, interactive oral activities, drawing, and free expression. Also, the children received videos of stories and suggested activities to do at home from the psychosocial assistant on a timely basis. Also, the psychosocial assistant was in constant communication with the parents regarding their psychological statuses.

Online Zoom sessions were conducted with community members once a month. These sessions were held to spread awareness on COVID-19 and its relevant precautions. They also aimed at further explaining the status of their children's education in light of the pandemic. Also, children & their parents participated in these Zoom meeting to become more aware on how to protect themselves, their families, and their communities from COVID-19. Precautionary measures were advised by qualified trainers. The sessions also included reflecting on the psychological impact of isolation in the time of COVID-19 pandemic. With their mandatory presence at home, parents have become more in need of psychological support therefore the psychosocial assistant allocated time to communicate with the parents for them to share their difficulties and to get assistance on how to act and react with their children given the hard times. Many of the children expressed their desire to meet up with friends in person. However, they did it together online.

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In the light of COVID-19 spread, parents and community members were invited to small awareness sessions where audio visual and hardcopy materials were produced & distributed to highlight the needed precautions and the psychological impact the pandemic and the lockdown bring about.

Due to the spread of COVID-19 virus, the kindergarten staff & teachers were obliged to produce audio visual teaching materials where the teachers record a slide show with a voice-over of themselves explaining the lesson. That demanded the staff & the teachers to develop their skills in audio visual production very quickly. PARD provided basic trainings in audio visual production for the staff & the teachers. However, there is a need for more comprehensive trainings in order to produce better quality audio visual teaching materials.

Parents showed motivation and flexibility in adopting existing channels of communication (i.e. WhatsApp) to receive teaching videos from respective teachers.

In general, the mothers, the older sisters and brothers followed up with the children's education through communicating with the teachers and focusing on the children's activities and homework.

Although the parents felt the pressure of having the children at home at all time, they showed great patience as they expressed their understanding of the peculiarity of the situation due to the pandemic.



XXI Wadi el Zeineh kindergarten

Beirut Kindergarten

This kindergarten was established in 2012 and continued operating in response to the needs of refugee families and the hard cases from among the host Palestinian community. In 2020, it accommodated 140 children (62 M, 78 F). As for nationality, 63 of the children were Syrian, 33 PRL and 44 were PRS. It is operated by 6 teachers, 5 assistant teachers, one coordinator, and one cleaning lady.

The classes were divided as follows:

- 2 classes—KG1 level
- 2 classes—KG2 level
- 2 classes—KG3 level

Wadi el Zeineh Kindergarten

This kindergarten was established in 2016. In 2020, it accommodated 128 children (62 M, 66 F). It is operated by 5 teachers, 5 assistant teachers, one cleaning lady, and one coordinator. As for nationality, 10 children were Syrian, 7 PRS, 72 PRL, 38 Lebanese.

The classes were divided as follows:

- 2 classes—KG1 level
- 2 class—KG2 level
- 1 class—KG3 level



XXii Healthy food awareness sessions at Wadi el Zayneh's kindergarten

Tyre Kindergarten

This kindergarten was established in 2016. In 2020, it accommodated 202 children (98 M, 104 F). As for nationality, 121 children were Syrian, 12 PRS, 62 PRL, and 7 Lebanese. It is operated by 10 teachers, 10 assistant teachers, one cleaning lady, and one coordinator.

The classes were divided as follows:

- 4 classes—KG1 level
- 3 classes—KG2 level
- 3 classes—KG3 level

b. Student Educational Support for PRL, PRS and Syrians

PARD implemented educational, psychological, and academic support for 100 vulnerable children from ages 6-12. The children were a mixture of vulnerable host Palestinian children and refugees from Syria (both Syrian and Palestinian) living in Beirut.

The project included the following:

- Academic educational support lessons
- Working with children to cope with their grief, fear, and psychological pressure
- Providing psychological first aid to the children and helping them adapt to their new environment
- Engaging the children in recreational activities like singing, painting, drawing, theater, sports, and outdoor visits.
- Providing the children with life skills empowerment such as communication skills, conflict resolution skills, and creative leadership.

The project took place in summer before the start of the scholastic year in September 2020. The project was run by ten staff, including a coordinator, teachers, assistants, a psychological assistant, and a cleaner. The project was prepared to engage both boys and girls whereby they learned that they have equal rights and responsibilities through the recreational activities.

The outcomes were the following:

- Basic educational needs of vulnerable 6-12 year-old Syrian and Palestinian refugees were met through access to adequate educational support activities.
- A positive bridge was built between the host Lebanese Palestinian children and their families, and the refugee children and their families, through the safe trauma healing spaces. This helped reduce student bullying, community tensions, and conflict.

The outputs were the following:

100 children participated in informal educational support lessons and were better prepared for the next scholastic year. The same children participated in the summer recreational activities.

The activities benefitted both the refugees from Syria and the host community.

PARD has learned to design the project according to the circumstances created by the spread of COVID-19 virus. The project has to take into consideration the safety of the community specifically in relation to physical distancing.

Activities

❖ Five main activities up until mid-March 2020 were conducted at PARAD's kindergarten:

Hygiene:

The educators familiarized the children with the importance of personal hygiene and ways to maintain their personal hygiene. The educators used games and storytelling to improve their children's consciousness about hygienic issues both at home and in other public spaces.

Arts & Handicrafts:

The educators used arts activities to explore the creativity of the children. The children used recycled materials to create artistic items. The children explored colors, shapes and concepts during these activities.

Social:

The educators used role plays in setting up situations the children would act upon and later on discussed the social behavior of the participants.

Sports:

Physical sports were facilitated by the educators in a safe manner. The activity encouraged the children to participate in healthy grouped activities.

School homework:

The educators helped out with children's school homework to improve their educational performance.

Three main activities were conducted via WhatsApp from mid-March 2020 till June 2020:

Audio visual materials were produced and distributed to 100 children via WhatsApp groups. The audio visual materials focused on hygiene, arts and handicrafts, and sports.

Hygiene:

Short videos were produced in relation to COVID-19 virus. The videos inform the children and their parents about how to protect themselves from infection and encourage them to respect physical distancing, putting on masks and wash their hands regularly with sanitizer. The videos were sent to the WhatsApp groups three times per week.

Arts and Handicrafts:

Short videos were produced and distributed via WhatsApp groups. The videos focused on simple activities for children using their hands and imagination to produce art works and handicrafts. The videos were sent to the children once a week.

Sports:

Short videos were sent to children and their parents via WhatsApp groups demonstrating exercises that could be done at home. The videos were distributed twice a week.

- 5 days a week they had workshops each day. A student participated in one activity for 4 hours a day, 100 students every day in total. As well, the children were supported in their school homework one day a week.

The activities conducted from January till March 2020:

Anti-Bullying sessions were embedded in all activities of the project. As well, due to the intense situation in the country there was an emphasis on psychosocial activities that dealt with issues such as violence, tolerance and solidarity.

The activities were embedded in all other scheduled activities.

Changes to activities planned this reporting period

From January till mid-March 2020 the project organized extra days per week in order to compensate for the missing hours resulted by popular uprising in the previous period. From mid-March till June 2020, there has been no activities due to COVID-19 virus and respecting the physical distancing rule.

Activities Until October

Staff members continued to send audio-visual materials and videos of specific subjects to 100 children and their parents. The subjects covered were hygiene, arts and handicrafts, and sports:

- Hygiene related videos progressed to include more than just awareness about COVID-19, but also tackled the importance of disease prevention and videos about other common diseases like the flu. These videos highlighted the necessary precautions that should be taken for COVID-19 prevention, new findings and information about the virus, and an explanation of the difference between the common flu and the corona virus. As the latter was a misconception to some parents and children, it had to be emphasized in some videos. Such videos were sent three times a week.
- Arts and handicrafts videos aimed at finding a method for entertainment for the children that didn't require them to leave their houses. Therefore, more videos were being sent with recommendations of material changes in case the materials were unaffordable. These videos were sent once a week.
- Sports related activities were short videos of exercise routines the children can easily follow up and perform in order to keep them physically active during the lockdown. These exercises included sports, yoga, and rhythmic breathing. The sport videos were sent twice per week.

As of the month of October, activities resumed to be in person while taking health measures into consideration.

- Hygiene related sessions resumed with the children. The educators used storytelling, role playing, and personal demonstrations of healthy hygiene habits. The educators made sure that the children grasped the proper way of washing their hands and sanitizing them, coughing, sneezing, and dealing with the mask. This was for the children's sake health-wise in the light of the pandemic.
- Arts and handicrafts activities also resumed but with different activities and different materials. Mostly, the activities focused on up-cycling used products and reusing them in art crafts. Children enjoyed the activities in person more as they had more materials and options to create with.
- More complex sport activities were delivered for the children. The sport activities delivered in person required more space and therefore got better acceptance from the children.
- As schools resumed, the children were followed up weekly for help in their school work where needed. The help offered was in all subjects according to the children's demand and need.

Activities had to be conducted remotely through WhatsApp since children were not allowed to attend physically to the KG due to the lockdown. In the months of reopening, the staff had to follow up and continue what was being sent online. PARD is committed to performing all the activities as long as the health situation of the country allows.

Until the month of October, children were not able to attend physically in the KGs audio-visual material tackling psycho-social topics were sent to the children. The videos sent discussed topics of violence, bullying, discrimination, and acceptance. Some videos were of stories tackling one of the mentioned topics. The aim of sending these videos was to keep the child engaged with these ideas in an adapted way that takes into consideration both the strict health measures imposed and the child's presence at home. Also, during this period, there was a close follow-up from the psychosocial assistant with 10 domestic violence cases to tackle the issue on a family basis and help them through the circumstances.

In October, and after the months of lockdown, there was a need to perform basic psychosocial activities once a week to help the children improve their behavior and emotional state that was negatively affected by the lockdown. These psycho-social activities also aimed at building friendships between the Syrian and the Palestinian children and further emphasize bullying and violence to enhance social cohesion among the children. During these months, the psychosocial assistant continued the in-person follow-up with 4 more families reporting domestic violence.

c. Vocational Training

In 2020, **PARD trained 55 youth (15 M, 40 F) in vocational training centers in Tyre and Beirut.** The vocations targeted were the following:

- Nursing
- Practical Nursing

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- Child Care
- Preschool Education
- Sports Coaching
- Accounting
- Assistant Accounting
- Graphic Design
- Hospitality
- Marketing and Public Relations

See details in *Empowerment for Youth Project*.

d. Distribution of stationary and Hygiene Kits to students in UNRWA schools in the Palestinian gatherings in Tyre.

As a result of the economic crisis in Lebanon, and the restrictions imposed by the Lebanese government to contain the spread of COVID-19, PARD decided to support the Palestinian families whose children study in 5 UNRWA schools in the Palestinian gatherings of Shabriha, Kfar Badda, Qasmiyeh, Adloun, and Maashouk.

Two levels of education were targeted from level 1 elementary until the 9th level intermediary.

Accordingly, the following activities took place:

- The head of the education department at UNRWA was contacted. And approval was obtained.
- The directors of the targeted 5 UNRWA schools were contacted to coordinate the process with them. Lists of registered students were obtained through those directors for education levels 1 to 9.
- Kits were prepared according to the educational levels of the students
- In addition to stationary, personal hygiene kits were added to support the combat against COVID-19. Distribution took place during the time when the parents and students received their books and curriculums from the UNRWA schools.

Distribution schedule:

Name of School	Location	No. of kits distributed
Qaysariyeh School	Shabriha	170
Mansourah School	Qasmiyeh	235
Awja School	Adloun	125
Tantourah School	Maashouk	178
Houla School	Kfar Badda	330
Total		1038

Each kit distributed to each student consisted of:

a) **Elementary level 1 and 2:**

- 4 Copy books (21x16.5 cm) , 2 Arabic, 2 English, 2 Arithmetic
- 4 Pencils + eraser + sharpener
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1 face towel
- 1 soap bar
- 2 tooth brushes

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- 1 tooth paste
- 1 nail clipper

b) **Intermediary** from level 3 till level 9:

- 4 Copy books (21x28 cm)
- 4 Pencils + eraser
- 1 ink pen
- 1 face towel
- 1 soap bar
- 2 tooth brushes
- 1 tooth paste
- 1 nail clipper

1038 students benefited from the kits.

Moreover, **stationery and hygiene kits were distributed for the children in Jal al Baher gathering**. Those students join UNRWA schools in the camps of al Bas, Rashidiye and Burj Shamali in Tyre. And since the gathering is inhabited by mostly poor families we took the initiative to support the children for the same reasons mentioned above. **284 school kits and personal hygiene kits were distributed** to students from level 1 to level 9 with support from the local popular committee in Jal Al Baher gathering.

5. Children's Activities

PARD implemented children activities:

With a focus on improving the psychological and social situation of about 739 children from among the Palestinian refugees, Syrian refugees and poor Lebanese families, and to improve social cohesion of their families with the host communities. Methods included interactive community psychological activities, computer and English classes, basic first aid, health awareness, puppet theater performances and monthly meetings with the parents.

See details in *Empowerment Program: Children's Activities*.



XXIII Psychosocial support activities at Karantina community center

6. Minor Rehabilitation of Homes

In 2020, a project called “Humanitarian Assistance to Vulnerable Communities in Lebanon” was implemented with NPA support. It included both the distribution of food parcels and the rehabilitation of houses owned or rented by vulnerable families, PRL, PRS or Syrian residing in the Palestinian gatherings in the South.

Vulnerability Criteria included:

- Women headed households
- Families with disabilities
- Families with more than five children who live in poverty
- Families with chronic diseases

50 houses were rehabilitated as follows:

Location	No. of Houses
Wasta	19
Aitaniyeh	8
Kfar Badda	14
Sikkeh	9
Total	50

Rehabilitation included painting, electricity, blacksmithing, carpentry, tiling, controlling dampness in ceilings and walls.

7. Training of SPHERE project:

21 people from PARD participated in the 3 days course (18 F, 3 M).

The participants included 2 project coordinators, 4 animators for children activities, 2 project officers, 3 center coordinators, 7 project assistants, 2 drivers and 1 media officer.

The **aim** of this course was to:

- 1- Upgrade the capacity of PARD's workers in Humanitarian response, to become better equipped to organize any response to natural or man-made disasters such as wars.
- 2- This training is part of PARD's general strategy on humanitarian response. All PARD's workers should be trained on SPHERE project in all projects.

The course included:

- 1- What is SPHERE
- 2- Humanitarian Charter
- 3- Protection principles
- 4- Core standards
- 5- Minimum standards for
 - (a) Water supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion
 - (b) Food security and Nutrition
 - (c) Shelter, Settlement and non-food items
 - (d) Health Action

Each chapter contained a set of standards.

The standard structure included:

- Minimum standards (for water, sanitation, hygiene promotion, food security, nutrition, shelter, non-food items and health)
- Key actions
- Key indicators
- Guidance notes

Many **practical sessions** took place together with the theoretical presentation. They were used as **learning tools**:

- In hygiene promotion, using real materials, the participants were asked to put together a family kit, a woman kit and a baby kit.
- In the food security and nutrition chapter, the participants were asked to put together a food kit, taking into consideration quality, expiry dates and calories.

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- In the non-food items chapter, the participants were asked to put together a kitchen kit needed for eating, drinking and preparation of food in shelters.
- Participants were introduced to chlorine pills to be used in cases of water contamination and how to use them properly. Moreover, they were asked to carry ten liters and twenty liters water cans from place to place, to realize the difficulty refugees or displaced people face during water shortage in shelters.
- Participants were introduced to the guidance brochures distributed to inflicted people during disasters on subjects such as food preservation, personal hygiene, anti-lice, anti-scabies, typhoid, diarrhea, measles, breast feeding and others.

Methods used during the course included:

- Brainstorming
- Power point presentations
- Exercises
- Film projecting
- Using of real food and non-food items

Evaluation:

For evaluating the course, the following tools were used:

- Pre-test questionnaire
- Daily recap (oral)
- Daily evaluation questionnaire
- Post-test questionnaire

Recommendations

- Conduct a rapid needs assessment course.

- ❖ At the end of the course, certificates were distributed to the participants.

This program was supported by:

- **Basque Agency for Development Cooperation**
- **Bizkaia (The Provincial Council of Biscay)**
- **Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB)**
- **Galdakao Town Hall (Ayuntamiento de Galdakao)**
- **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)**
- **Solidaridad Internacional (NAZIOARTEKO ELKARATASUNA – SOLIDARIDAD)**
- **UNDP – Lebanon**
- **UN - Habitat**



The Overall Goal of the Organizational Development Strategy is to increase PARD's organizational effectiveness, performance and service quality.



XXIV Sphere training of PARD's staff at Cherry Blossom's hotel in Bhamdoun

(a) Capacity Building for Employees and Volunteers

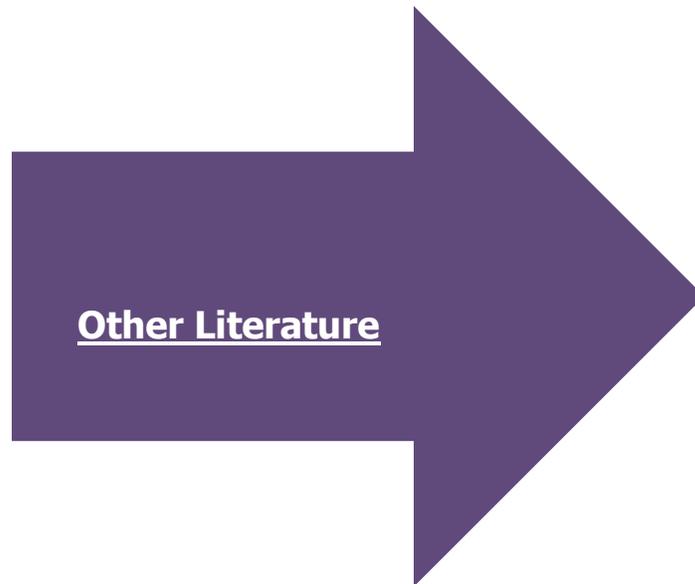
Employee	Subject	Organization
2 project coordinators 4 animators for children activities 2 project officers 3 center coordinators 7 project assistants 2 drivers 1 media officer.	SPHERE Project	Workshop PARD



XXV Discussions of controversial subjects between PARD's team during training

(b) Workshops for Organizational Development and Financial Auditing:

- **A Gender Committee** was formed to follow-up on the tasks stated in PARD's Gender Policy. They meet regularly.
- **One external evaluation** was conducted by a specialized evaluator and one financial audit for the project "**Medical and Psychosocial Assistance to the Palestinian Refugee Population in Southern Lebanon**", supported by SI Solidaridad Internacional (NAZIOARTEKO ELKARATASUNA – SOLIDARIDAD)



PARD is part of a number of coordination forums and national and international coalitions that focus on Palestinian rights and issues.

Coordination Forums

1. **The coordination forum of the NGOs working among the Palestinian Community** has been operating since the beginning of 1995. Its aim is to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon in all aspects of their lives, including the political (through lobbying), social, and health, educational and economic. PARD has been a founder of this forum of 16 NGO members. As long as this forum helps its NGO members to reach a better understanding about the problems facing them and facing the communities they work with, and succeeds in complying with its aims, namely to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinian refugees, PARD will remain an active member within it. This forum has implemented many joint projects, participated in joint training programs and participated in national and international workshops and conferences.

2. **The Platform of Social and Health NGOs in Saida Area** was established as a result of the Israeli aggression on the South of Lebanon July 1993. PARD is one of its founders, and it has played an active role in it from the start. There are approximately 100 NGOs who are members of this forum. This forum has implemented many joint projects both for the Lebanese and Palestinians in the areas of health, social issues, education, and relief in the city of Saida and the surrounding area. It gained official recognition from the Lebanese Ministry of the Interior in 2015. PARD is a member of its administrative board.

3. **EPEP Network**
 PARD had been cooperating with EPEP for several years in projects related to combating the illiteracy of women in the gatherings. EPEP is now in the process of creating an “academy” for combating illiteracy, and has invited PARD to become a partner in this project, along with other partners from Lebanon and the region. The academy focuses on creating new materials and methods in combating illiteracy, in addition to organizing many training courses for new facilitators working in the same domain.

4. **International Coalition**
 PARD is part of an International Coalition for Right of Return for Palestinians. The coalition includes organizations, institutions, and groups from all around the world that pursue the Palestinians’ right to return to their homeland, Palestine. The coalition includes entities from Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Germany, France, the Netherlands, the USA, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Belgium, and Poland. The coalition members meet once a year to issue opinions on certain events and to coordinate activities related to the right to return to Palestine.

Coordination / Net Working

(a) Coordination

Name of Association	Activity
Al Jana (ARCPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of PARD animators on activities encouraging reading. - Film projection for women. - Participation in “Janana Week” – puppet making.
Sabil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobile library for children. - Puppet theater performance.
Terre Des Hommes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising awareness sessions for women. - Income generating workshops.
Women Philanthropy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising awareness of women on proper raising of children. - Open days with PARD for children activities.
Al Ghad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Psychosocial activities for children.
UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Committee consisting of UNDP, PARD and the Municipality of Siblin to work on garbage sorting and other issues.

(b) Networking

Name of Association	Activity	Duration
UNRWA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Discussion of Protection trends/incidents affecting Palestine refugees in Tyre/South Lebanon: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Access to Territory (new arrivals, border monitoring) ii. Civil status documentation (birth registration, statelessness, residency permit, access to camps) iii. Access to Services (discriminatory practices, access to information, persons with specific needs) iv. Freedom of Movement / Detention (curfew, check points, arbitrary detention) v. Physical safety (threats, violation, security incidents, minorities) vi. SGBV vii. Child Protection viii. House, land and property ix. Right to Work x. Social Cohesion xi. Refugee Outreach xii. Training and Capacity building opportunities 	
EPEP	Combating Illiteracy in the Arab world spasmodic.	



xxvi Networking and participation in Human Rights International campaigns

Annexes From Children Activities:

Story 1:

Dalia Moussa Jomaa is a 12 year old Syrian living with her working mother, aunt, grandmother, and two siblings. Her father is dead and she lives in Shabriha gathering after escaping Syria due to the war. Dalia goes to Ksaria School in Shabriha. Once, she complained about not being able to see in school, and after a doctor's visit, Dalia was diagnosed with a severe inflammation in her corneal nerve which is causing her blurriness. By December 2019, and for a long while, Dalia lost eye-sight temporarily and was not able to participate in any activities.

By that time, Dania had has been in PARD's activities for three years and during these three years, the psycho-social activities helped her build confidence and overcome her shyness with her friends. Therefore, she loved the activities and missed them. Knowing that, in early 2020, the psycho-social assistant and the animators as well as some of Dania's friends paid her a visit to check on her. This gave Dania a sense of belonging to her friends and encouraged her to participate again in the activities with promises that he will get the needed help.

With minimal eye-sight, Dania decided to go back to the activities in early 2020 with the presence of her grandmother. Some activities were planned for her to be able to perform easily with the help of the animators and her friends. Now, and in the current months, Dania's eye sight has much improved and largely returned to normal. She never misses an activity session and always participates. According to her mother, the activities and the friends she has made there helped Dania get through the hard times she was experiencing. Her mother said that because of her medical condition, Dania was losing interest in everything and was refusing to get out of the house. However, thanks to the support and encouragement of the animators, the psycho-social assistant, and her friends to go back to the activities, Dania overcame this issue and benefited much from the activities.

This story shows how the project and the activities held aid children and benefit them on a psycho-social level. It is of particular significance since it shows that the project helped Dania not only once, but twice: one time when she overcame her shyness and gained confidence, and the other when she overcame her medical condition and its psychological impact on her.

Until today, Dania is still attending the activities and is highly satisfied with her presence there.

Story 2:

Mohammad Ibrahim is a 10 year old Syrian boy who lives with his father, mother, brother, and sister in Nabaa, Mohammad moved to Nabaa area with his family around a year ago. Mohammad has hearing and speaking impairment which usually sets him back from communicating with his friends. In addition to that, during the war in Syria, Mohammad got injured which left him with an amputated arm. Mohammad's family suffers from extreme poverty and consequently did not get the proper help needed for Mohammad.

When the psycho-social activities first started and Mohammad joined us, had multiple behavioral problems with his friends. He used to show aggression towards them, scare them, and hit them at time. Upon contacting his mother, she mentioned that this has been one of Mohammad's traits, but has also increased after the Beirut blast. At first, Mohammad would show these behaviors towards his friends in the activities and would sometime show this type of aggression towards the animator. He would also show resistance to change and would decide to leave the sessions. He was withdrawn from his friends. Later on, Mohammad started liking the nature of the activities being given and would decide to stay till the end of the session. Session after session, he started to show high commitment to showing up to them. With the proper psychological support and the help of the animator, Mohammad now constantly attends the psycho-social support sessions and has shown great improvement. His aggressive behavior has significantly decreased both during the session and at home as reported by his mother. Also, he made many friends in the activities that he now enjoys their company and they enjoy his in return. They understand his impairment now and try to communicate with him inn every possible way. Mohammad now doesn't miss a session and always looks forward coming back again.

This story is particularly interesting because it describes the issue of a young boy who has shown significant psychological and behavioral improvement during the psycho-social activities despite his physical impairment. It describes how the activities provided are inclusive for all and not exclusive to some over the others and are unconditional in the way in which they aim to improve the well-being of the children. Of course, Mohammad needs

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a specialist follow-up on his physical situation which his mother mentions that he's been getting it from time to time; however, PARD will continue to support him psycho-socially as he enjoys his presence.

Annex from Educational Support:

Loay Mohammad Solaiman, a 12 years old child who lives with his parents in Daouk gathering. Loay is Syrian, and his family was displaced from Syria to Lebanon in 2013, he is from Homs, but he doesn't remember anything from his life in Syria.

Loay is attending the "Student Educational Support" project four years ago, since they arrived to Daouk. They knew about the project from the neighbors and relatives. His parents insisted to register him because he had a weak personality, and they wanted him to make new friends.

When Loay started to come to the center, he was feeling shy, and he didn't want to play with others. Then the animators helped him with the assistance of his mother and father and he became friendly and he started to make new friends.

Loay's hobby is reading, and he loves to live in Canada. Also he's looking forward to be a pilot.

Stories

Rahaf Hajj Ibrahim is a ten years old Syrian refugee child living with her parents - Kassem and Hoda, two sisters- Rayan, 8 years and Nouf, 5 years- & brother- Saad, 3 years- in Daouk gathering in Beirut. Her family was displaced to Lebanon seven years ago. When they left Syria, Rahaf was only three, and she doesn't remember anything from there. She is currently in grade 3, and she attends a public school in Beirut.

Along her school attendance, she attends PARD's center in Daouk, the "Student Educational Support" project, in order to study with her friends with the help of the teachers there. She also enjoys going there since she plays in the center with her friends.

At first, Rahaf refused to go to the center since such activities are a novelty to her. However, after she visited it a couple of times with her mother and got used to the teachers there, she continued to attend regularly. Also, as she was introduced to new children and made new friends, Rahaf got more and more excited to constantly attend the center's activities. Also, the teachers at the centers helped Rahaf improve her academic performance and do better at school. Rahaf enjoys reading, and her dream is to be a doctor in the future. Also she hopes to live one day in Germany. Rahaf is still following up with PARD's centers to date.

This story is particularly special because it doesn't only show how the project has helped Rahaf, but also how her attitude changes throughout her presence. The change in Rahaf's attitude shows what positive impact the project leaves on the attending children.

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The Popular Aid for Relief and Development is a non-profit, grass-root; rights based NGO that aims to promote gender equality and the right of marginalized and vulnerable groups, especially in the Palestinian gatherings, to access social, health and environmental services.

PARD does so by providing access to healthcare and environmental health services and by empowering women and youth to practice their rights and participate effectively within their communities.

PARD also provides support and relief to people affected by disasters

