



The Popular Aid
For Relief & Development
Build Empowered Communities

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



**BUILDING EMPOWERED
COMMUNITIES**



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SPECIAL THANKS

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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 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; awareness-raising and income-generating projects •
- 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. •

PARD also adheres to the SPEHERE principles through 10 core principles:

- The humanitarian imperative comes first. •
- Aid is given regardless of the race, creed or nationality of the recipients and without adverse distinction of any kind. Aid priorities are calculated on the basis of need alone. •
- Aid will not be used to further a particular political or religious standpoint. •
- We shall endeavor not to act as instruments of government foreign policy. •
- We shall respect culture and custom. •
- We shall attempt to build disaster response on local capacities. •
- Ways shall be found to involve program beneficiaries in the management of relief aid. •

Relief aid must strive to reduce future vulnerabilities to disaster as well as meeting basic needs. •

We hold ourselves accountable to both those we seek to assist and those from whom we accept resources. •

In our information, publicity and advertising activities, we shall recognize disaster victims as dignified human beings, not hopeless objects. •

Mission and Vision

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

The Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) are descendants of those who were forcibly displaced to Lebanon following the 1948 Nakba in Palestine. This displacement happened as a result of the ethnic cleansing occurring due to the Israeli occupation of Palestine. According to UNRWA, there are 475,000 registered PRL in the organization records. This number, however, is not indicative of the actual number of resident PRL as there is not one approved census that clearly specifies this figure. A most recent UNRWA and Government of Lebanon (GoL) update¹ estimates that there are around 180,000 PRL present in Lebanon. This discrepancy between the numbers is due to multiple factors including that many might have left the country.

The Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) face all kinds of discrimination despite their long presence in Lebanon (75 years) and the fact that a big percentage of them was born in Lebanon. This discrimination is mainly represented with the fact that they are not granted the civil and legal rights enjoyed by the Lebanese citizens. Two of those denied rights that majorly affect PRL in Lebanon are the right to ownership and the right to work. Since 2001, refugees are not allowed to own property assets in Lebanon and are obliged to bequeath them to religious authorities (Waqef) if purchased prior to the passage of the Law 296/2001.

On the labor level, refugees, particularly PRL, face difficulties accessing the labor market in Lebanon due to social discrimination and isolation and due to the legal denial of their right to work in various professions. PRL are banned from 39 professions per the Lebanese labor law. These professions are distributed among the following sectors and include:

Healthcare: 22 professions, including medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy, psychology •

Engineering: 3 professions, including agricultural engineering and typography •

¹ Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee, Central Administration of statistics, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2019). The Population and Housing Census in Palestinian Camps and Gatherings - 2017, Detailed Analytical Report, Beirut, Lebanon

Public Sector and Law: 2 professions, including law and public service •

Transport and Fishing: 5 professions, including teaching car driving and coastal navigation and fishing •

Services and Day-Care: 3 professions, including opening or managing a nursery •

Other Fields: 4 professions, including public accountant and tourist guide² •

There are different locations to where PRL reside in Lebanon. Initially, PRL reside in what is referred to as Palestinian camps. There are 12 officially recognized Palestinian camps in Lebanon that are under the mandate of UNRWA. However, it is estimated that around 45% reside in the camps³ which counts for approximately 81,000 individuals assuming a total of 180,000 resident PRL. That mentioned, around 99,000 PRL reside in areas outside the camps, mainly in areas such as the Palestinian gatherings, PARD's target areas.

For the definition of the gatherings, there is a lack of consensus on how they are defined which therefore affects their count. In a recent report⁴, gatherings were defined by "geographic area, outside the official camps, which is home to a minimum 15 Palestinian Households". With this definition, the number of recognized gatherings across Lebanon was 154 gatherings categorized into Adjacent Gatherings – to camps- and Other Gatherings. However, the term gathering was first recognized and defined by FAFO (2003) to describe locations that accommodate groups of Palestinian refugees. According to FAFO (2003) definition, a gathering:

has a population of Palestinian refugees, including Palestinian refugees who are registered with UNRWA and/or the Lebanese government or are not registered; •

has no official UNRWA camp status or any other 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 identifiable area. •

This definition counts for 42 Palestinian gatherings in Lebanon. For the sake of its work, PARD adopts FAFO's definition of gatherings and operates in those of Tyre, Saida, and Beirut.

² Assessing Vulnerabilities in Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon – Results of UNDP 2017 Household Survey

³ Protection brief: Palestine refugees living in Lebanon- Updated in September 2020

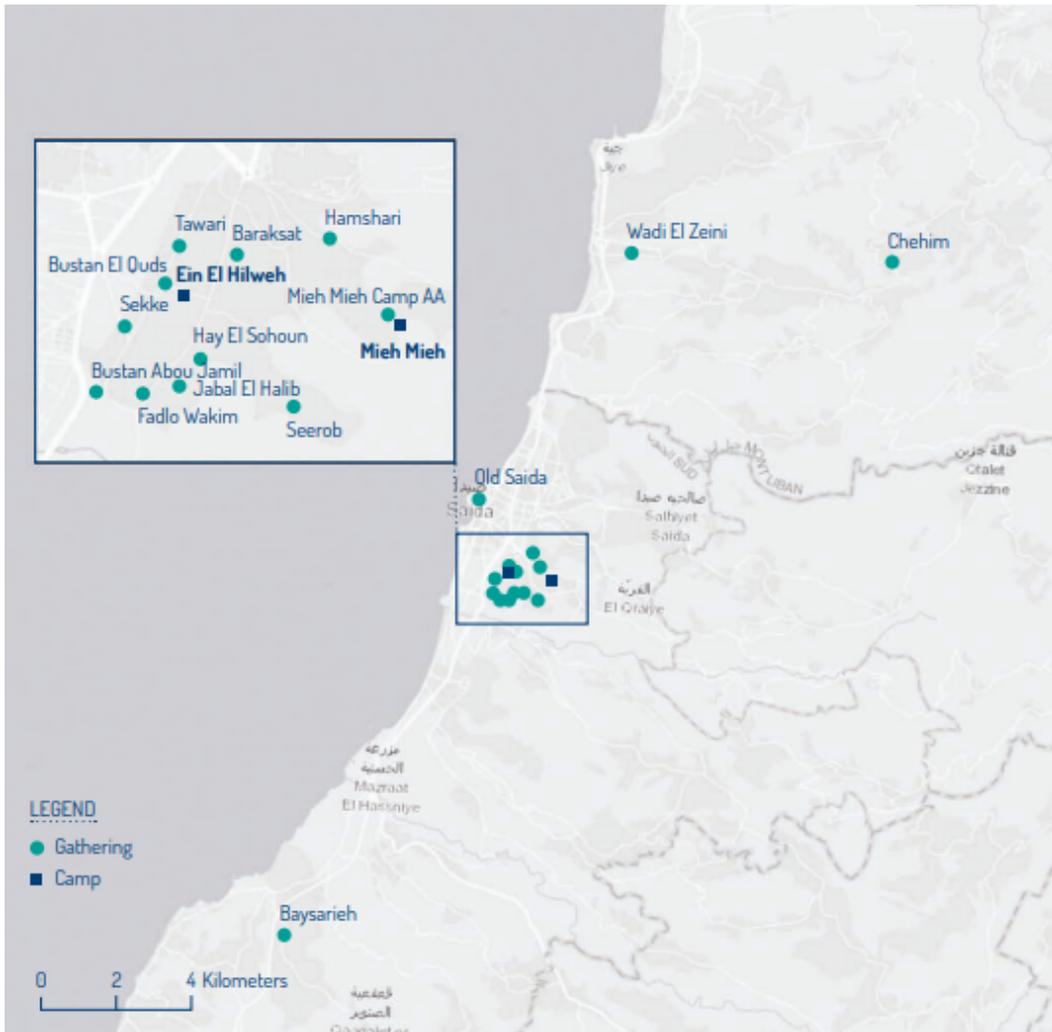
⁴ Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee, OP.Cit.



Map 1 Palestinian gatherings in Beirut ²

Being majorly but not exclusively of the Palestinian nationality, gatherings do not only include PRL. They also include Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon, Syrian, and Lebanese residents.

The residents of the Palestinian gatherings suffer multiple precarious conditions compared to those living in camps or other Lebanese areas. As UNRWA offers all services to Palestinian refugees regardless of their area of residence, if accessible, PRL in the gatherings can benefit from health and educational services at UNRWA's centers outside gatherings. However, the main concern lies in that UNRWA does not cover the rehabilitation of the infrastructure of the gatherings with excuses related to the lack of sufficient budgets. This duty is not always held by municipalities of relevant areas as multiple gatherings are constructed illegally on the municipality's lands or on lands owned by private landowners.



Map 2 Palestinian Gatherings in Saida 2

The state and conditions of the housing and population in the gatherings are also a major concern to the quality of life there. As the gatherings are not legally and officially recognized, many are at constant risk of evacuation and insecurity with high levels in Jal el Bahr. In addition, according to the most recent official figures in 2017⁵, the households in the gatherings are marked by a state of 35% more overcrowding compared to the general population in Lebanon. This difference is attributed to the fact that around 30% of the population of the gatherings lives in shared or stand-alone single houses increasing the number of individuals per room. This is also exacerbated by the fact that around 35% of the houses are affected by humidity and 22% are affected by darkness. These figures are expected to have increased in recent years.

⁵ Assessing Vulnerabilities, OP.Cit.

On the health level, PRL in the gatherings have limited access to health care and health care facilities. Although this service is covered by UNRWA, there are multiple factors that determine access to health care treatment⁶. These determinants include

- Family income and employment status •
- Health coverage •
- Distance to a health care center •
- Gatherings adjacent to camps: living in one of those gatherings increases the chances of obtaining health treatment by 6%, given that UNRWA health services are primarily centered in and around Palestinian camps. •



Map 2 Palestinian Gatherings in South Lebanon ²

⁶ Ibid

Given that the first determinant is family income, it contributes to the affordability of healthcare treatment. The lack of affordability is one major reason that keeps 11% of 57% of the PRL households in the gatherings reporting need for health treatment, untreated.

On the educational level, the level of education differs depending on the age group in the PRL communities⁷. The general level of school enrollment in the primary school age (6-12) is considerably high with 89%. For the preparatory school age (13 to 15), this number decreases to 77% with a more significant decrease in males than females.

Like in accessing health-care, the main reported reason to drop out is the lack of affordability along with other factors. For the primary school age, the 11% not enrolled in schools in this age attribute that to the mentioned lack of affordability. However, the drop recorded in the preparatory school age is resulted by another factor which is the need to work. The numbers of enrollment have probably dropped further following 2017 due to the multiple financial, economic, and health crises that affected the life of people and further lowered their ability to afford schooling and increased their need to have members of the family in labor. The average Palestinian family would pay an average of 236\$ per year on education in a range of 40\$ to 609\$ depending on the area of the location of the gathering⁸. That mentioned, the crises have drastically affected the ability of any family to spend the average number leaving them in a more drastic state of lack of affordability of education. This drop is attributed to the coping strategies some families had to follow which included putting children in labor where UNRWA figures⁹ estimate that around 4,500 Palestinian children engage in some form of child labor.

On another level, PRL suffer from unemployment and the unavailability of job opportunities. As they are discriminated against by the labor law that forbids them from practicing different jobs, PRL are left with very few job opportunities that don't yield enough income. These opportunities are focused in three main labor sectors: retail sales, with 30% of the employed population working in it, construction- 22%, and manufacturing- 13%. In addition, around 24% of the households in Palestinian gatherings have no employed family member therefore securing no income. These are, in addition to the risks that face PRL in labor, making their job insecure such as arbitrary dismissals and absence of end-of-service indemnities. These factors have led many families to live under the poverty line as UNRWA figures show that in 2016, 65 per cent of PRL lived under the poverty line, as did 87 per cent of PRS in March 2020¹⁰.

This situation was exacerbated by the influx of refugees from Syria into the gatherings. Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria in March 2011, gatherings and camps have housed a large

⁷ Assessing Vulnerabilities, OP.Cit.

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Protection brief, OP.Cit

¹⁰ Ibid

number of Palestinian and Syrian refugees from Syria. An estimated 52,400 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) were registered in UNRWA by beginning of 2014. Virtually all these refugees have flocked to camps and gatherings. Typically following family and social relations and seeking cheaper rents. 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).

PRS in Lebanon also suffer from employability challenges leaving 49% of them jobless in 2020¹¹.

PARD’s response to the beneficiaries’ needs:

In response to the needs and vulnerabilities of the Palestinians in the gatherings, PARD responded over the years in different areas. PARD established a polyclinic in Sabra. Established in 1985, the center dealt with the following activities:

- Curative medicine for adults and children •
- Vaccination of babies and children •
- Family planning •
- Giving lectures and instructions to child and women including home visits •
- Minor surgeries •
- Handing out milk and baby clothing •
- Laboratory tests •
- Pap smear and circumcision •

The clinic was established in response to the needs of the Palestinian displaced families of the destroyed Shatila camp during the war of camps 1985-1987, and a dental clinic was established in 2012. The clinic turned into a women’s health center running until now. PARD also established a dispensary in Saida in 1994 and was closed in 2010 due to the opening of other dispensaries. PARD had operating clinics in multiple areas like Dbaye, Wasta, and Jim Jim. Also, PARD started a mobile clinic in 1987 whose mission was to visit displacement centers, unregistered camps and far away places deprived of health facilities. It used to visit Burghuliye, Jwar al nakhel – Kfar badda and Naame. It is still running visiting the gatherings of Jal Al Bahr, Maashouk, Qasmiyeh, Shabriha, Jim Jeem, Wasta, Aitaniyeh, and Sikkeh. PARD has also responded to those needs through health trainings, establishing youth and women committees, and supporting small community projects.

Multiple other programs were started by PARD in response to the PRL’s needs in Lebanon. These programs included **health education** which started in 1987 in the Palestinian gatherings. This tackled multiple subjects including reproductive health, environmental health and social issues

¹¹ Ibid

such as early marriage, GBV and drug abuse. This activity also included a peer-to-peer approach to health education through training of trainers (TOT) which is also part of PARD's women and youth empowerment. Another program is the **empowerment of women and youth program** that started in 2000 and included training on empowerment, follow-up on formed women and youth committees, and support to small income generating projects for women or small community projects implemented by the women. In addition, it involved vocational trainings, combating illiteracy, and awareness raising on human rights, health and social issues and gender justice. Among that is also the first aid project for youth which took place from 1998 till 2020.

And since serving children is an integral part of PARD's work, **psychosocial activities for children** aged between 7 - 12 years started in PARD with the establishment of the center in Sabra in 1998, and continued till the present date in Beirut and South Lebanon (Shabriha, Maashouk, Jim Jeem and Wadi El Zeineh).

On another hand, PARD responded to many emergencies as part of its relief activities. Among those are a response after the Israeli aggression on Lebanon in 1996 and 2006. In 1996, PARD's response included distribution of cleaning and personal hygiene kits, baby kits, and anti-lice shampoo, water control, garbage removal, provision of hot water for bathing, provision of medical care, and health education in Saida as well as provision of medical services and distribution of cleaning materials and tools in Beirut. In 2006, PARD provided relief activities directly after the Israeli aggression which included:

- Provision of medical services and medications •
- Provision of first aid services •
- Health awareness raising •
- Securing shelter •
- Water and sanitation •
- Distribution of relief kits (food and hygiene kits) •
- Children activities •
- Participation in vaccination campaign against measles •

PARD also responded in the recovery phase which included:

- Distribution of school kits •
- Distribution of full fat and low-fat milk •
- Distribution of Olive oil •
- Distribution of blankets, diapers, children clothing, personal and family hygiene kits •

- Children activities •
- Water and sanitation •
- Repairing damaged houses •

Another project that was established as a response to a war context was the **environmental health project**. This project started in 1985 among the displaced refugees after the “war of camps”. It has been ongoing ever since and includes the following activities:

- Solid waste collection and sorting •
- Water testing •
- Rehabilitation of water and sewage infrastructure •
- Rehabilitation of water reservoirs and wells •
- Combating insects and rodent infestations •
- Raising community awareness on the protection of the environment •
- Training courses (local health educators, water care takers) •

Grand Relief Projects:

In 2003, PARD in partnership with **World Vision International**, implemented a project .1 supported by **ECHO** to rehabilitate the water and sewage infrastructure in the Beirut displacement centers (Gaza buildings) and the unofficial gatherings of the South (Kfarbadda, Aitaniyeh, Wasta, Qasmiyeh, Burghuliyeh and Shabriha). Works included construction of sewage systems, digging of new wells, construction of water systems, rehabilitation of water reservoirs and improvement of solid waste collection project.

In 2003-2004, PARD, in partnership with **CESVI**, implemented a project supported by ECHO .2 to rehabilitate water and sewage infrastructure in Nahr El Bared camp. Moreover, PARD implemented an awareness campaign on water-borne diseases and their prevention benefiting 955 women and 1145 children.

PARD, in partnership with **HumanServe International**, implemented a project to place a .3 water network and dig a well in Sikkeh gathering in 2006. This project additionally provided a generator to work the pump of the well providing water.

PARD, in partnership with **CISP**, implemented a project sponsored by ECHO to rehabilitate .4 sanitation and drinking water infrastructure of the Tyre Palestinian gatherings. PARD collaborated in engineering, raising health awareness and water testing.

PARD, in partnership with **Premiere Urgence (PU)**, implemented a project to replace the old .5 sewage network in Sikkeh with a new one in 2008. Moreover, PARD implemented a health

awareness campaign related to water and sewage. PARD was also in charge of the design, organization and implementation of the solid waste disposal project in Sikkeh.

In 2009, PARD implemented with **NRC** and the Popular Committee a project to improve the water well and water network in the gathering of Daouk-Beirut. PARD also partnered NRC in the maintenance of the improved infrastructure in Gaza buildings.

In 2013, in partnership with **UNDP** and **UNHABITAT**, PARD implemented a WATSAN project related to rehabilitation of sewage network, water system, and road networks in the gatherings of Saida and Tyre.

In 2013, in partnership with **SIDA** (Canadian government) and **MCC**, PARD implemented a project for the improvement of Shelters for Syrian refugees in the South gatherings.

In 2013, in partnership with **UNHABITAT**, PARD implemented a project to construct 18 rooms in Sikkeh (Adjacent area of Ain El Helwe camp) for Syrian refugees.

In 2014, in partnership with **OCHA** and **OXFAM**, PARD implemented a WATSAN project including the provision of water storage tanks, water quality monitoring and testing, rehabilitation of water wells, lowering pumps and installation of underground monitoring systems in boreholes in Ein El Helweh camp (Asohoun, Safsaf, Murshed and Hittin).

In 2014, in partnership with **OCHA** and **Welfare association**, PARD implemented a WATSAN project in the South gatherings.

In 2015, in partnership with **UNDP** and **SIF** (Secours Islamique France), PARD implemented a WATSAN project including rehabilitation of water and sewage networks, awareness campaigns, in the gatherings of Tyre and Beirut. In addition to rehabilitation of households.

In 2016, in partnership with **OXFAM**, PARD implemented a WATSAN project in the South gatherings including water control, solid waste collection, suction of septic tanks, health and hygiene awareness.

Since 2012 till now, with CFGB and MCC as donors and partners, PARD continues to support refugee families from Syrian and hardship cases in the Palestinian refugees host community in the South and Beirut gatherings. The average number of refugees helped reached 4255 refugees per month and the cost of the food voucher distributed ranged from 20-27 USD.

Situation Report

The protracted Lebanese civil war of 1975-1990 ended with the Taif Agreement. The neoliberal reforms that gained momentum in the aftermath of the civil war became more pronounced under Rafik al-Hariri, and the economy grew rapidly through urban restructuring and policies aimed at attracting financial inflows. However, with the industrial and agricultural sectors lagging behind the fast-growing financial sector and increasing corruption due to sectarian polarization and vested interests, a major economic crisis erupted in 2019¹².

¹² Anadolu Agency (AA KARIYEF), 5/5/2023. Farhat Tutkal.

In October 2019, the Lebanese government announced they planned to impose additional taxes on tobacco, gasoline, and on WhatsApp. The announcement triggered nationwide protests, and the demonstrations quickly turned into a movement against the infamous "confessional system" of Lebanon. The political atmosphere of Lebanon and the hopes of the youth during the "October Revolution" in 2019 left its place to despair rapidly. Starting from October 2019, the Lebanese lira began to depreciate against the US dollar due to the currency shortage. Since Lebanon has a fixed exchange rate regime, the authorities failed to stabilize the exchange rate during the currency shortage. The devaluation in the lira caused a large-scale black market for currency exchange to emerge for the first time after 22 years. As of November 2019, the cracks in the financial system have been revealed. Lebanese banks froze people's accounts and imposed restrictions on cash withdrawals and outgoing transfers. In April 2020, banks stopped the withdrawals of US dollars.¹³

Restrictions on traveling and continuous curfews caused by the COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected the already fragile Lebanese economy. In 2021, Lebanon became the world's most remittance-dependent country, with 53,8% of its GDP coming from remittance inflows. Also, Lebanon's economy depends on tourism incomes and currency inflow to the state. Considering the pandemic's devastating effects, Lebanon's situation has worsened dramatically.¹⁴

Another major devastation was the Beirut port blast on August 4, 2020. 218 people lost their lives, and over 7 thousand people were injured. The cost of the blast was above \$15 billion which held around 65% of Lebanon's GDP in 2021. 6 days after the blast, Lebanon's freshly formed government resigned. The political instability escalated the dire situation. The absence of accountability and the tragic economic situation, including daily blackouts (up to 18 hours per day), were only the early signals of the exacerbating situation¹⁵.

After the explosion, access to clean water in some parts was limited, and there were humanitarian crises in many fields. Access to the education of the Lebanese people as well as the Syrian and Palestinian refugees was declining, poverty and malnutrition were escalating, and the public services in the country were worsening each day. In 2021 a medicine shortage started and the lack of electricity made hospitals struggle to sustain the health devices such as respirators and dialysis machines.¹⁶

The protracted political deadlock ended after 13 months in September 2021. The new Mikati government raised hopes for the future. However, the hopes fell short soon after. The authorities have decided to leave the people to their fate and cut the government subsidies for medicines and oil. The pharmacy stocks returned to pre-crisis levels, and the unending lines in

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Anadolu Agency (AA KARIYEF), 5/5/2023, Farhat Tutkal.

gas stations ended. However, the situation turned from "all can access some" to "some can access all," which deepened the division between the people.¹⁷

The new government could not intervene effectively in the country's challenges, and constitutionally inherited structural problems that soon created another political deadlock. On May 15, 2022, Lebanon held its parliamentary elections. However, the traditional political parties still held the lion's share in seat distribution.¹⁸

Lebanon has been ruled by a caretaker government led by Najib Mikati since May 2022. Thus, the current government's authority is limited, and it cannot act decisively against the country's challenges. Under the economic downturn and unstable political environment, electing a new president is a must. The former Lebanese president Michel Aoun left his office after his 6-year term on October 30, 2022. The absence of consensus in the parliament created the following political vacuum. The lawmakers have tried to elect a new president more than 10 times, but all have failed.¹⁹

In July 2022, the country was downgraded to a lower middle-income country for the first time in 25 years. The crisis has been characterized by a near collapse of the banking sector and a brutal contraction of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which has decreased from US\$ 55 billion in 2018 to US\$ 21.3 billion as projected for 2022.²⁰

The unwavering economic and financial crisis Lebanon has faced since 2019, has severely impacted all the facets of the society and pushed a large group among the population into crisis conditions. Inflation and depreciation of the LBP has significantly affected the income and purchasing power of workers and employees and their capacity to meet basic needs is further eroded by increasing prices of basic goods. As of February 2023, annual inflation reached 190 per cent. The cost of the food Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) per person in February 2023 in LBP increased by 48 per cent from January 2023. Food inflation since October 2019 has increased by 11,300 per cent and by 4,400 per cent the energy inflation.²¹

The overlapping crises have also severely impacted availability and affordability of basic services such as healthcare, education, safe clean drinking water and sanitation services. Public services which were already struggling prior to the economic crisis are now reaching emergency thresholds and on the brink of collapse. While a large range of services including energy, education, water and healthcare have been traditionally provided by the private sector in Lebanon, the fallout of the economy has driven a large group of the population, notably from the middle-class, towards cheaper public options. However, due to neglect, mismanagement

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ United Nations Lebanon 04 May 2023, Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2023.

²¹ Ibid

and years of under-investment, public services are not able to meet the full scale of needs. Options for private services have reduced and remain prohibitive for most.²²

Moreover, the crisis is affecting the social fabric and disturbing community relationships. Political instability and eroding governance are driving crimes and dramatically worsening perceptions of physical safety and security, nationwide, also shrinking the operational space for aid actors. Communal relations are deteriorating at all levels and are increasingly leading to incidents, rhetoric escalations and violence.²³

Economy

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission visited Beirut from March 15 to 23 to conduct the 2023 Article IV consultation, assess the economic situation, and discuss policy priorities.

Some findings include the following:

Lebanon is at a particularly difficult juncture. For over three years, it has been facing an unprecedented crisis, with severe economic dislocation, a dramatic depreciation of the Lebanese lira and triple-digit inflation that have had a staggering impact on people’s lives and livelihoods. Unemployment and emigration have increased sharply, and poverty is at historically high levels. The provision of basic services like electricity, public health, and public education have been severely disrupted, and essential social support programs and public investment have collapsed. More broadly, capacity in public administration has been critically weakened. Banks are unable to extend credit to the economy and bank deposits are mostly inaccessible to customers. The presence of a large number of refugees exacerbates Lebanon’s challenges²⁴.

Despite the severity of the situation, which calls for immediate and decisive action, there has been limited progress in implementing the comprehensive package of economic reforms, set out in the Staff Level Agreement, notwithstanding some efforts by the government. This inaction disproportionately harms the low-to-middle-income population and undermines Lebanon’s long-term economic potential. The Government, Parliament, and the Central Bank (BdL) must act together, rapidly and decisively to tackle longstanding institutional and structural weaknesses to stabilize the economy and pave the way for a strong and sustainable recovery²⁵.

The economy remains deeply depressed. After contracting precipitously by about 40 percent since the start of the crisis, economic activity appears to have stabilized somewhat in 2022, driven by some recovery in tourism, further deleveraging of the corporate sector, and continued

²² United Nations Lebanon 04 May 2023, Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2023.

²³ Ibid

²⁴ International Monetary Fund Mission Concluding Statement, March 2023.

²⁵ Ibid

strong remittances inflows, which have supported consumption. However, many economic trends remain negative²⁶:

- Inflation is in triple digits, driven by a dramatic depreciation of the Lebanese lira, reflecting a lack of confidence in the Lebanese financial system, large increases in money supply, and the complex interplay of BdL circulars that gives rise to multiple exchange rates and speculative arbitrage²⁷.
- The collapse in budget revenue has forced a drastic and disorderly cut of public spending to minimal levels. Still, the government relies on central bank financing, accumulation of arrears and some donor assistance to support a budget deficit of over 5 percent of GDP. The deficit could be even higher, if the ongoing quasi-fiscal operations by the central bank—such as provision of FX at subsidized rates—are included²⁸.
- The banking sector is under enormous strain with an eroding capital position and substantial unrealized losses looming ahead²⁹.

The war in Ukraine and the rocketing fuel prices have also made things worse, even more so as the Lebanese have lived almost without government-produced electricity for the past two years and have had to rely on private generators for lighting. The increase in the price of fuel is also a problem for hospitals and motorists in a country where a public transport network is non-existent³⁰.

Adding to that, the Lebanese people have seen their life savings evaporate, with banks freezing the withdrawal of all deposits³¹.

Food

A nationwide nutrition survey on children under the age of five and women demonstrates the worsening crisis of malnutrition in the country, marked by major food and nutrition insecurity, poor health and nutrition practices, and a lack of access to quality services. Exacerbating threats to children’s nutritional situation, the impact of the Ukraine crisis is being felt in import-dependent Lebanon, with prices of food staples such as wheat flour and vegetable oil increasing even further. In 2020, Lebanon sourced 81% of its wheat from Ukraine. With an estimated 1.8 million Lebanese citizens (46% of the population) found to be food insecure in 2021, the

²⁶ International Monetary Fund Mission Concluding Statement, March 2023.

²⁷ International Monetary Fund Mission, OP.Cit.

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Care International: Acute economic crisis, 6/1/2023

³¹ Ibid

increases in food and fuel costs will disproportionately impact Lebanon's most vulnerable, further jeopardising the nutrition status of children and driving more families to take desperate measures to survive³².

Water

Lebanon's water structure is on the brink of collapse, which impacts access to safe water for more than 4 million people. Water shortages can result in families resorting to unsafe and expensive alternatives such as using untreated water from springs or relying on water trucking. Poor hygiene practices are also linked to an increased likelihood of waterborne disease, with infants and young children particularly vulnerable. In addition, due to the multiple ongoing crises, education has become a critical focus³³.

WASH

Water Establishments have suffered serious depletions in supplies, revenues, and financial and human resources, while also affected by an upward spiral in costs. Due to a reduced water supply from the Water Establishments, people have had to rely more on other costlier and less convenient water alternatives, such as water tankers and bottled water, whose prices have surged. The breakdown in sanitation services risks intensifying the spread of water-borne diseases, adversely impacting an already vulnerable public health situation³⁴.

An increasingly high number of individuals are facing dramatic challenges with accessing safe and sufficient quantities of water for drinking and domestic use. The recent cholera outbreak in Lebanon has further highlighted that the water infrastructure in the country is on the verge of almost total collapse. The country is also facing a sanitation crisis. Most wastewater treatment plants are no longer functioning due to electricity cuts and unaffordability of fuel to run the back-up power generator³⁵.

Electricity

In addition, economic collapse, high inflation and rising fuel prices further exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, have severely impacted the electricity supply in the country. Private generators have become the main suppliers of electricity in the country for institutions, private sector, and the general public. The increasing global fuel prices led to a sharp increase in the cost of running and maintaining generators, making them unaffordable for most residents of Lebanon while severely hampering economic activity and driving the costs of services up. Without electricity, households are unable to keep food refrigerated and keep and houses warm in winter,

³² Lebanon Humanitarian Situation Report, No.1, 1 January to 30 June 2022.

³³ UNICEF, OP.Cit.

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵ United Nation, Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2023, OP.Cit.

ultimately affecting their health and wellbeing. Children are unable to study after dark and there are safety concerns for women and girls at night. In addition, the livelihoods of many households are affected where jobs are dependent on electricity³⁶.

Decades of corruption and mismanagement have crippled the electricity sector, with the state unable to provide more than two to three hours of electricity daily. While widespread blackouts affect everyone living in Lebanon, the crisis has exacerbated inequality in the country.

A Human Rights Watch survey found that the average household had generator bills that accounted for 44 percent of monthly income. The disparities between income levels are huge³⁷.

Health

Health care system has been significantly affected. Increasing costs for the import of medications and medical supplies coupled with the unavailability of critical medicines, as well as maintenance of all health facilities, contributed to skyrocketing patients' costs for hospitalization and treatment. Skilled human resources also declined considerably as health personnel emigrated in search of better employment opportunities. Hospitals cut down their bed capacity by 50 per cent, leading to an overall insufficient number of functional hospital beds per population. While the risk of disease outbreak such as cholera and measles increases, due to poor sanitation systems, lower immunization and rising poverty, the system is increasingly unable to cope with new shocks³⁸.

The healthcare sector is crumbling amid the migration of thousands of doctors and nurses from Lebanon, a shortage in medicines and medical supplies, and electricity cuts. The National Social Security Fund (NSSF), the largest employment-based provider of social services, is almost bankrupt and has not been reimbursing subscribers for their medical bills³⁹.

The unavailability of vaccines hinders or delays children's immunisation. Even if vaccine availability was to improve, the prices of vaccines have increased four to five times since the beginning of the economic crisis, especially with the removal of government subsidies, rendering vaccines unaffordable to most Lebanese families⁴⁰.

Expected short-term impacts

- With the deterioration of health services, hospitals and healthcare facilities are only accepting patients in need of emergency care and delaying routine operations (Hamadeh et al.

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ World Report 2023: Lebanon – Human Rights Watch, 6/1/2023.

³⁸ Lebanon Emergency Response Plan, OP.Cit.

³⁹ World Report 2023: Lebanon – Human Rights Watch – 6/1/2023

⁴⁰ Independent Arabia 18/11/2021; KII 26/01/2022, Acaps.

07/04/2021). The situation compromises children's timely and appropriate access to health services and increases their risk of morbidity and mortality.

- To cut back on health spending, Lebanese people are delaying seeking medical attention. Children are at risk of not getting needed medical interventions until conditions become critical (Hamadeh et al. 07/04/2021).
- As a result of the deterioration of mental health services in the country, Lebanese children suffering from stress, anxiety, and other mental health issues are unlikely to receive the support they need (KII 26/01/2022; MSF 14/10/2021; DW 29/12/2021).

Expected medium-to-long-term impacts

- Because of the unavailability of vaccination, Lebanese children are at risk of lacking immunisation (Independent Arabia 18/11/2021). Adults not immunised as children have an increased risk of morbidity or mortality from preventable infectious diseases, although catch-up immunisation is possible even among adults (Tan and Nolan 2000).
- Immunisation weakness increases the risk of the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases in Lebanon, potentially expanding to other countries in the region (UN 17/09/2021)⁴¹.

Lebanese families struggle to provide sick children with needed medication. The prices of diabetes drugs have increased more than fourfold (a month's worth of insulin supply costs around 80% of the minimum wage). Patients are coping by reducing drug doses or stopping the intake of drugs altogether without consulting their doctors. Families are also struggling to afford other medical necessities for their children, including antiseptic and fever-reducing drugs (the prices of fever-reducing drugs have increased tenfold). A decrease in hoarding is improving drug availability, as the Government has partially stopped subsidising drugs. As availability improves, however, price hikes are rendering some drugs unaffordable.

The instability and uncertainty Lebanese children experience are also affecting their mental health (UNICEF 14/12/2020). The number of Lebanese children suffering from mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, and PTSD, is rising as the country goes through multiple crises. Lebanese families struggling with the economic crisis seek to lower their expenses by cutting back on health spending, affecting their ability to seek mental health support for their children.

Mental health services are difficult to obtain in Lebanon because of the loss of specialised staff in public health facilities and the high prices of private health services. Medication for mental health issues, including depression and schizophrenia, has tripled in prices since the Government removed subsidies in November 2021. Other medications, such as for bipolar patients, are not available.

Children are not receiving sufficient medical care when needed because of the continued rationing in the provision of health services in the public sector as a result of the economic

⁴¹ Lebanon Humanitarian impact of crisis on children, Acaps, 31 May 2022.

crisis. The quality of health services children receive in Lebanon is deteriorating, as a significant number of pediatric specialists have left the country. The tendency of families to delay seeking medical services because of financial difficulties is also affecting children's ability to receive timely medical attention.

In November 2021, the prices of infant formula increased by 50–70%, and the prices of diapers significantly increased after the Government partially removed subsidies⁴².

Cholera

In October, Lebanon reported its first Cholera cases in 30 years, with 5,819 suspected and confirmed cases and 23 deaths reported by December 31st. The lack of investment and maintenance in national water and sanitation systems contributed to the crisis and have further aggravated the outbreak. This has debilitated and burdened the already fragile health sector, which recently saw the mass exodus of approximately 40% of doctors, 15% of specialized Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurses, and 30% of midwives over the course of the crisis, leaving critical gaps in the quality, availability, and accessibility of healthcare for the population⁴³.

As the RCCE Lebanon Task Force lead, UNICEF is leading coordination efforts on the Cholera response with other sectors and actors on the ground to ensure an integrated response and intervention through awareness raising and community engagement. UNICEF, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), UNHCR, and WHO, is implementing an RCCE plan on the Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) which includes community mobilization as well as the dissemination of Information and Education Communication (IEC) materials by partners across hotspot areas. IEC material produced by UNICEF aims to be accessible and is also produced in sign language to ensure that OPDs and people with disabilities receive Cholera sensitization trainings and that the sensitization package itself is inclusive⁴⁴.

Through its RCCE partner Balamand University, UNICEF supported 24 Cholera sensitization sessions with over 5,000 participants. Attendees included UN partner agencies and organizations, teachers from public and private schools, frontline workers, municipality workers, and community volunteers. Over 272,000 individuals were engaged in Cholera prevention and awareness raising through community engagement and door-to-door activities, especially in hotspot areas, through UNICEF RCCE partners. Consultations and workshops took place across Akkar, North Lebanon, South Lebanon, Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, and Baalbek, Hermel during

⁴² Acaps, OP.Cit.

⁴³ UNICEF, OP. Cit.

⁴⁴ Ibid

which information about the outbreak was shared with key local stakeholders, including religious and community leaders. UNICEF added a Cholera page on its website to communicate the latest messages on Cholera which is regularly updated with newly published content. Lastly, to ensure activities were effective, UNICEF conducted a poll amongst youth to assess their knowledge on Cholera⁴⁵.

Education

The 2022/23 school year started in October for first and second shift schools, with the registration of students extended until the 10th of December. However, localized strikes began to take place in December, with tensions continuing to rise due to the low value of teacher salaries. Teachers in the morning shift initiated open strikes in January 2023 and further negotiations between unions and government are currently ongoing to agree on a teacher incentive package⁴⁶.

The crisis has also severely impacted the education sector, compromising the wellbeing of school aged children in Lebanon. Many among the most vulnerable are being deprived of their right to education and at higher risk of exploitation and abuse. More than 10 percent of the 1.2 million Lebanese children do not currently access education, mainly due to economic vulnerabilities. Teacher strikes, linked to their low salaries and the high costs of fuel and transportation, have largely contributed to the disruption of learning for a third scholastic year. Even when schools function, lack of transport and safety issues are often reported as barriers to accessing school especially for girls⁴⁷.

The crisis has had a devastating impact on the provision of public services. Schools have been struggling to operate amid resignations and strikes by teachers, electricity and internet cuts, and inflation. Public schools for hundreds of thousands of Lebanese and Syrian students have largely been closed for the last three years⁴⁸.

Freedom of Expression

Journalists, media workers, and activists in Lebanon are silenced by private actors and government authorities using criminal insult and defamation laws, often for criticizing government policies and corruption⁴⁹.

The broad jurisdiction of the military courts is particularly used to silence and punish any peaceful dissent or criticism of the security agencies. was convicted by the military court for

⁴⁵ UNICEF, OP.Cit

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2023 – United Nations in Lebanon, OP.Cit.

⁴⁸ Human Rights Watch, OP.Cit.

⁴⁹ World Report 2023: Lebanon, Human Rights Watch, OP.Cit

allegedly tarnishing the reputation of the Internal Security Forces after she posted a skit on her Instagram page⁵⁰.

Lebanon's social protection system suffers from large coverage gaps and is chronically underfunded. Since the financial crisis, Lebanon has only introduced one new social assistance program, the Emergency Social Safety Net Project (ESSN), financed by the World Bank, to provide cash transfers to 150,000 households during 2022⁵¹.

Despite increased support from donor states, Lebanese army soldiers, whose real wages have fallen from \$900 to less than \$50 a month, have received minimal pay increases and have had to take on extra jobs or quit. Within Lebanon's Internal Security Forces, desertions, inability to reach duty stations due to fuel costs, and the need to reduce shifts to allow members to do other work, has reduced their ability to meet security needs⁵².

As the crisis deepened, many have resorted to dangerous migration routes towards Europe by sea. In April, a boat carrying around 80 Lebanese, Syrians, and Palestinians sank off the coast of Tripoli following its interception by the Lebanese army navy. Only 48 survivors were rescued⁵³.

Refugees

Lebanon entered the fourth year of a crippling economic crisis that has had disastrous consequences for rights and pushed over 80 percent of the population into poverty. Marginalized communities, including refugees, people with disabilities, children, older people, migrant workers, and LGBT people, have been disproportionately impacted. The crisis has had a devastating impact on the provision of public services, and in particular education, security, and health⁵⁴.

While the crisis has impacted most people, the special rapporteur on extreme poverty found that women, children, migrant workers, Syrian and Palestinian refugees, and people with disabilities are particularly affected⁵⁵.

In these indexes and others, Lebanon's Syrian refugees are doing worse than their hosts. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that Lebanon has 865,530 registered Syrian refugees and estimates all Syrians in Lebanon at 1.5 million. Worldwide, Lebanon (population 6.8 million) is second only to the island of Aruba (population 110,000) and its displaced Venezuelans in the ratio of refugees to the native population⁵⁶.

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ Ibid

⁵² Human Rights Watch, OP.Cit.

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴ Ibid

⁵⁵ Ibid

⁵⁶ Why Syrian refugees in Lebanon are a crisis within a crisis – Brookings – April 15, 2021.

With overwhelmingly Sunni Syrians accounting for over 20 percent of Lebanon’s population, their presence was seen as threatening the country’s confessional governance and stability, eliciting immediate opposition from various groups. Lebanon’s fraught relationship with Syria over many decades has not helped and the crisis has worsened negative perceptions from accusations of stealing jobs from natives to crime⁵⁷.

An estimated 90 percent of Syrian refugee households live in extreme poverty, up from 55 percent in early 2019. The U.N. says these households are living on less than half the Lebanese minimum wage, roughly \$36 monthly and shrinking in real terms. This means deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation, health, shelter, and education. Indeed, over 80 percent of Syrian refugees lack legal residency since Lebanon stopped allowing UNHCR to register Syrians in 2015. To register outside UNHCR, a Lebanese sponsor, the approval of the authorities, and an annual \$200 renewal fee are required. This is unaffordable for most and approvals are difficult. Thus, many cannot access services, are hampered in their movements, and are exposed to exploitation, detention, and deportation⁵⁸.

In December 2020, 50 percent of Syrian households were suffering from food insecurity, a doubling since 2019⁵⁹.

Recent months have seen an increase in actions by Lebanese security forces to detain and deport Syrian refugees, including those with documentation. In April, there were reports of raids on homes and arrests at checkpoints targeting Syrian refugees with an increase in such coercive activity, including in Beirut governorate. Around 450 Syrian refugees were arrested and at least 200 people deported that month. While deportations have previously occurred, the current political deadlock and regional rapprochement efforts with Syria are contributing to the increase in pressure on the refugee population⁶⁰.

Only 16 percent of Syrian refugees have legal residency, making most of them vulnerable to harassment, arrest, detention, and deportation. It is estimated that nine out of ten Syrian refugees live in extreme poverty⁶¹.

In addition, there are approximately 174,000 Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon, where they continue to face restrictions, including on their right to work and own property.

Observing the extreme poverty rates among Palestinians in Lebanon, the relief program in the Social Affairs Department of UNRWA covers only 15% of the total Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Since every person gets 30\$ every 3 months. In addition, there was the complete and

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ Brookings, OP.Cit.

⁵⁹ Ibid

⁶⁰ Acaps, OP.Cit

⁶¹ Human Rights Watch, OP.Cit.

sudden ceasing of the UNRWA university scholarship program since 2018. As the economic crisis reflects on the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, the study monitored the dismissal of hundreds of Palestinian workers from their jobs, noting that 65% of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are already unemployed, and it is noteworthy mentioning that 98.2% of the workers do not get sick or annual leave⁶².

In addition, the prices of basic goods, meat and vegetables, which increased between 40% and 60%, weakened the purchasing power of the Palestinian refugees community. As a result 38% of the Palestinians in Lebanon suffer food insecurity⁶³.

Regarding the ability to provide the health care bill, 72.4% of the refugees confirmed their inability to pay the substitution in the medical bill, according to the UNRWA treatment system, noting that 55% of the Palestinian refugees suffer from chronic diseases⁶⁴.

Women

Since the start of the crisis in October 2019, the Lebanese Pound has lost more than 95% of its value, placing Lebanon amongst the top five economic crises globally according to the World Bank. High levels of unemployment, a hike in food prices, skyrocketing inflation, huge increases in poverty, a decline of household purchasing power, and the removal of subsidies for medicines and fuel have made it harder for people to meet their basic needs. Over 3.5 million Lebanese people are estimated to live in poverty and around three- quarters are now income vulnerable. Women and girls, in Lebanon are particularly affected, facing structural and economic marginalization, increased violence, employment discrimination, and underpayment⁶⁵.

Women continue to face discrimination under 15 distinct religion-based personal status laws. Discrimination includes inequality in access to divorce, child custody, and inheritance, and property rights. Unlike men, Lebanese women cannot pass on their nationality to foreign husbands and children.

A growing number of feminist and domestic violence cases have underscored the need for a stronger implementation of Lebanon's family violence law⁶⁶.

Negative coping mechanisms

⁶² Current Lebanese crisis, Palestinian Association for Human Rights (Witness), June 1, 2023

⁶³ Ibid

⁶⁴ Witness, OP.Cit.

⁶⁵ UNICEF, OP.Cit.

⁶⁶ Human Rights Watch, OP.Cit.

The economic crisis has exacerbated access barriers to basic services and resources, leading people to resort to negative coping mechanisms and behaviors including diluting baby milk, substituting health food with cheap and poorer quality food, and using unsafe water⁶⁷.

Households are increasingly relying on negative coping mechanisms, further driving their exposure and susceptibility to the damaging effects of shocks and incidents of violence, deliberate deprivation, and coercion. The deteriorating economic conditions in the country, unemployment and poverty are expected to further impact the child protection needs in the most severely affected areas. As a result of the ongoing crisis, negative coping mechanisms, such as child labour, child marriage and different forms of violence and abuse lead to an overall increase of child protection needs, particularly among the most vulnerable and marginalized population groups. GBV is affecting all population groups while women and girls remain more affected due to entrenched gender inequalities. Contributing factors to the increase in GBV are the financial situation and unemployment, drug abuse and unavailability of public basic services⁶⁸.

As at September 2021, nearly 75% of Lebanese people were living in poverty. 82% of the population lived in multidimensional poverty in terms of income and various aspects of living conditions. To cope with economic hardships, Lebanese parents are resorting to desperate measures that affect their children, including cutting back on health and education spending, eating less and poorer-quality food, sending children to work in hazardous work environments, and marrying off young girls. These negative coping mechanisms compromise children's food security levels, education, and physical and psychological health. Such mechanisms are likely to have long - lasting effects on their wellbeing⁶⁹.

Considering the country's main problem is political, the scenarios without achieving political stability would be devastating. Actions toward economic diversification should follow stability to decrease the service sector's share in GDP. Also, building strengthened supervision mechanisms to avoid corruption and establishing a constitutional work group to solve structural problems are required. The apparent truth is that Lebanon has no time to lose. The authorities have to act decisively against the sinking economy. Even with a strong government and political will, an economic recovery may take many years. However, the unending political deadlocks make an effective economic intervention impossible⁷⁰.

Lebanon is at a dangerous crossroads, and without rapid reforms will be mired in a never - ending crisis. Poverty and unemployment will remain high, and economic potential will continue

⁶⁷ UNICEF, OP.Cit.

⁶⁸ Lebanon emergency Response, OP.Cit.

⁶⁹ Acap 31 May 2022, OP.Cit.

⁷⁰ Anadolu Agenci, OP.Cit

to decline. A continuation of the status quo would further undermine trust in the country's institutions and additional delays in implementing reforms will keep the economy depressed, with irreversible consequences for the whole country, but especially low-to-middle income households. High uncertainty will further weaken the external position and the Bdl (Lebanon Central Bank) will continue to lose scarce international reserves. Exchange rate depreciation and spiraling inflation will remain unabated, accelerating the already high cash dollarization of the economy. The informality of the economy will further increase, reducing the scope for taxation and further depressing budgetary spending, while increasing the risk of illicit activities becoming entrenched in the economy. Without acknowledging and credibly addressing the large financial gap in the banking sector, the banks will not be able to provide meaningful credit to support the economy, and small depositors will continue to incur large losses on their FX withdrawals, while medium-to-large deposits will remain indefinitely locked. Emigration, particularly of skilled workers, would accelerate, undermining future growth prospects even further⁷¹.

In January 2023, it is estimated that a total of 3.9 million people need some form of humanitarian assistance in Lebanon. This figure includes 2.1 million vulnerable Lebanese, 1.5 million Syrians refugees, 81,500 migrants living in Lebanon, and the 174,000 Palestine refugees in Lebanon and from Syria (PRL and PRS). While there are some variations among the population, notably in terms of protection risks, overall the severity and magnitude of humanitarian needs is primarily driven by people's inability to meet their basic needs and access basic services. This is compounded by harmful coping strategies, which result in heightened protection risks⁷².

The capacity of the country to cope with all these overlapping shocks is expected to continue decreasing in the absence of the implementation of comprehensive long-term development plans and structural reforms⁷³.

Education

School enrollment dropped to 43% for the current academic year. Around 35% (over 400,000) of school-age children were out of school in the 2020–2021 academic year. Protests, the pandemic, and the economic crisis have disrupted school education, meaning the last time many Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian children last attended school was in October 2019. Although there are no tuition fees for public education in Lebanon and UNRWA schools, the

⁷¹ International Monetary Fund, OP.Cit.

⁷² Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2023, United Nations – Lebanon, May 4, 2023.

⁷³ Ibid

financial situation of many families prevents them from sending their children to school. Transportation costs are the main barrier to accessing education⁷⁴.

Schools' readiness for the 2021-2022 academic year was limited. Challenges included inadequate funding to supply the lack of stationery, computer equipment, and hygiene materials. Schools have also had intermittent access to electricity. Some of the 700 schools in mountainous areas do not have the budget for heating during winter⁷⁵.

During the first semester of the current school year, Lebanese children only attended public schools for 21-25 days (much lower than the 75-85 days in a regular semester). The recurrent teacher strikes over pay, healthcare coverage, and transportation allowance repeatedly disrupted the school year. Lebanese teachers receive their salaries in pound. With the depreciation of the currency, the salary of Lebanese teachers has gone down to USD 1-2 an hour. Transportation costs also make it difficult for teachers to go to their place of work⁷⁶.

The public education sector is struggling to accommodate the influx of students from private schools because of a lack of space and shortage of teachers. The quality of public sector education pre-crisis was already low owing to poor infrastructure and undertrained teachers. As the economic crisis deepens, families who could no longer afford private schools are transferring their children to public schools. Prior to the economic crisis (between the 2014-2015 and 2017-2018 academic years), around 30% of Lebanese students attended public schools. This percentage went up to 36.5% during the 2020-2021 academic year, with more than 45,000 students transferring to public schools since the beginning of the economic crisis. The numbers have likely increased as private-to-public transfers have continued increasing during the 2021-2022 academic year. Schools in Lebanon are experiencing staff shortages as teachers leave their posts for better opportunities abroad. As a result, the teacher-to-student ratio has increased from 1:7.7 in 2017-2018 to 1:9.7 in 2020-2021⁷⁷.

Lebanese children have lost nearly 3.9 years of basic school education (out of 10.2 average years of basic school education). COVID-19 containment measures beginning in mid-March 2020 closed schools down, leading Lebanese schools to shift to online education. By September 2021, public schools had adopted a hybrid model (four days in school education and one online). With the economic crisis limiting access to electricity, the internet, and electronic devices, Lebanese teachers and families have been unable to afford the tools needed to properly implement online education, affecting the quality of education children are receiving⁷⁸.

⁷⁴ Acap, May 2022, OP.Cit.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Acaps, May 2022, OP.Cit.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

Expected short-term impacts

- The increased number of students per class as a result of the influx of students from private to public schools leads to higher failure rates. As a result, children are also more likely to drop out of school⁷⁹.
- Children who drop out of school spend more time on the streets, increasing their risk of acquiring unhealthy behaviors (including substance abuse)⁸⁰.
- Children who drop out of school often have fewer friends and are more likely to suffer from social isolation⁸¹.

Expected medium-to-long-term impacts

- The gap in access to quality education is likely to perpetuate socioeconomic inequalities in the country, including differences in educational attainment levels. This situation restricts the social mobility of children with lower socioeconomic backgrounds⁸².
- The inability to access basic education potentially hinders children from developing the necessary cognitive and non-cognitive skills. Such an outcome affects their sense of self-efficacy and self-esteem, as well as their future productivity and wellbeing⁸³.

Child labour

Because of the economic crisis, the number of children who have to work for money has significantly increased. Lebanese families are increasingly depending on income generated from child labour. Children as young as six years of age are working on the streets, in agricultural fields (including potato and tobacco farms), and on construction sites⁸⁴.

The lack of safety measures in these sites exposes children to physical and psychological harm. Children are working in hazardous work environments that lack proper protection measures, such as when using unsafe machinery and tools⁸⁵.

There is an increasing number of children subjected to sexual exploitation (including trafficking and prostitution), which is among the worst forms of child labour. Under Lebanese law, children

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid

⁸¹ Ibid

⁸² Ibid

⁸³ Ibid

⁸⁴ Acap, May 2022, OP.Cit.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

victims of trafficking can be detained for actions they committed while subject to trafficking. On the other hand, the law does not criminalise certain exploitation acts, such as the use of children in pornography. Gaps in information and the absence of a legal framework hinder the understanding of the full extent of the issue and the means to address it⁸⁶.

In response to the deepening economic and financial crisis in Lebanon, the Lebanon Emergency Response Plan (ERP) was launched in August 2021 which was extended to cover through December 2022 to ensure continuity of the response to the emerging needs in Lebanon. UNICEF is supporting the government's continued provision of public services to address the increasing needs of vulnerable children and their families. UNICEF continues to work in coordination with the Lebanon Humanitarian Country Team, leading the WASH, Education, and Nutrition sectors as well as the Child Protection sub-sector under the ERP and across all emergencies to ensure strategies respond to the needs of children⁸⁷.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Lebanon Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2, UNICEF, 1 July – 31 December 2022.

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Core Strategies

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

Strategy One: Gender Justice and Women and Youth Empowerment

Gender justice implies a society in which women and men enjoy the same opportunities, outcomes, rights and obligations in all spheres of life. **The overall and main goal of this strategy is to promote gender justice between men and women and empower Palestinian women, youth, and children to participate and have access to, control over and benefit from different resources.** Its main objectives are to:

- Improve youth and women access to political, cultural, social and economic resources. •
- Educate women and increase literacy rates among women. •
- Increase youth and women's labor force participation. •
- Increase Palestinian youth and women's access to political rights and participation in decision-making positions within the Palestinian communities. •
- Provide information, services and conditions to help women protect their reproductive health. •
- Promote vocational and other capabilities of youth. •

This strategy emerges from PARD's beliefs that long-term, sustainable development will only be possible when women and men enjoy equal opportunity to rise to their potential.

In line with this strategy, PARD will adopt an operational framework for addressing gender equality and women empowerment that has four main dimensions:

Capacities and education that refer to basic human abilities as measured by education, health, and nutrition. These capabilities are fundamental to individual well-being and are the means through which women would access other forms of well-being. •

Access to resources and opportunities which refers primarily to equality in the opportunity to use or apply basic capabilities through access to economic assets and resources, as well as political opportunity. Without access to resources and opportunities, both political and economic, women will be unable to employ their capabilities for their well-being and that of their families, communities, and societies. •

Security which refers to reduced vulnerability to violence and conflict. Violence and conflict result in physical and psychological harm and lessen the ability of individuals, households, and communities to fulfill their potential. Violence directed specifically at women and girls often aims at keeping them in “their place” through fear.

Maternal and child health which refers to 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.

Strategy Two: Child Protection

The general objective of the second strategy

Child protection is a set of measures that include response and prevention of violence and exploitation, and frameworks that prevent child abuse and neglect

Specific objectives of the second strategy

- Creating opportunities to educate children in different age groups through the establishment of kindergartens and school support.
- Improving the health, psychological and social situation of children of different age groups targeted through psychosocial support activities and applying the early childhood curriculum.
- Providing child protection services through activities, hotlines and referrals.
- Preparing safe centers to receive children.
- Participation of parents in following up the educational and psychological development of children through holding periodic meetings.
- Provide job opportunities for women and youth from the target group community in the child protection program.

The competitive advantages of the strategy:

- Rights-based and people-centered projects.
 - Responds to community needs that are not adequately covered by other interventions or NGOs.
- Linking education with health and psychology.
- Depends on educating parents about proper nurturing.
- Focuses on changing behavior to a better healthy lifestyle for children.

Strategy Three: Environmental Health Services

The main goal of this strategy is to ensure that the targeted groups have the right to access environmental health services. Its main objectives are to:

Improve the informed choices of the Palestinian communities and individuals towards health issues. •

Enhance life quality, reduce disease and promote better health conditions and practices among Palestinian refugees. •

Increase the life expectancy, reduce infant and child mortality and decrease communicable diseases within the Palestinian refugee gatherings. •

Reduce the environmental health hazards in the Palestinian refugee gatherings. •

To achieve those objectives, PARD wishes to focus, through its programs, on two main core areas:

Environmental Health: The rights to life and to health are included in several covenants. The ‘International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights’ guarantees the right to safe and healthy working conditions and the right of children and young persons to be free from work harmful to their health. The Covenant expressly calls on state parties to take steps for the improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene and the prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational, and other diseases. Through **improving and monitoring the water quality and supply, solid waste management and vector control**, PARD aims at improving the right of the Palestinian refugees and their access to healthier environments that have reduced risk factors that might negatively influence the wellbeing of the Palestinian communities in the gatherings. •

Strategy Four: Relief for People in Distress

The Humanitarian Charter of the Sphere Project expresses the conviction of humanitarian agencies that all people affected by disaster or conflict have a right to receive protection and assistance to ensure the basic conditions for life with dignity. The principles described in the Sphere Humanitarian Charter are not only universal, but apply to all those affected by disaster or conflict wherever they may be, and to all those who seek to assist them or provide for their security. These principles are reflected in international law, but derive their force ultimately from the fundamental moral principle of humanity: that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Based on this principle, there is an affirmation on the primacy of the humanitarian imperative: that action should be taken to prevent or alleviate human suffering arising out of disaster or conflict, and that nothing should override this principle. **Based on that, the main goal of this strategy is to ensure that affected population during disasters have the right to live with dignity while alleviating their suffering.** The relevant objectives are therefore to:

Provide relief and restore a self-supporting livelihood to people who have been stricken with hardship due to conflicts and natural disasters. •

- Mobilize all of PARD’s local human and material resources in collaboration with its local and international partners in the service of the affected population and communities. •
- Ensure protection and assistance as necessary. •
- Maintain a healthy environment and alleviate the spread of diseases. •
- Maximize the possibility of affected population speedily returning to their normal lifestyles. •

At times of disasters, PARD intends to implement its Emergency Plan, provide humanitarian aid to affected population and ensure that the rights of people affected by conflicts and disasters are upheld. To do so, PARD intervenes in the following five areas when possible:

- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) •
- Food Security and Livelihoods •
- Public health •
- Protection •
- Disaster Risk Reduction •

Strategy Five: Organizational Development for PARD

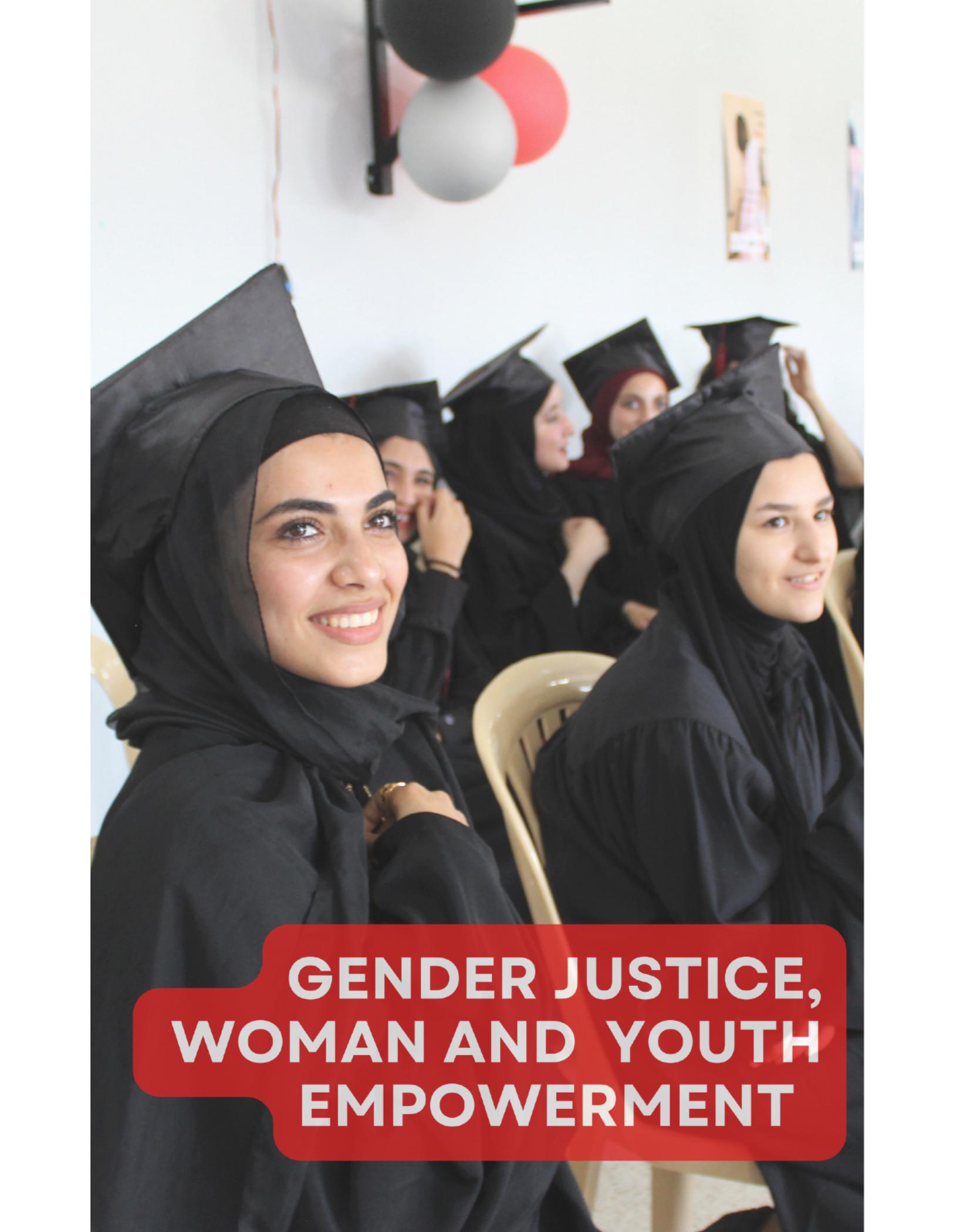
Nowadays nonprofit organizations working amidst the Palestinian communities are involved in providing relief, fundamental services, advocating for rights and policies, empowering local communities and encouraging participation. But as a result of the continuously growing needs of the targeted communities, these organizations are faced with significant emerging challenges. Among these are: the ability to respond to the dynamic changes; how to make better use of the limited resources they have access to; how to increase the capacity and accountability of their organizations; how to preserve the mission course and how to ultimately achieve the organization’s goals and objectives. **Therefore, the main goal of this strategy is to increase PARD’s organizational effectiveness, performance and service quality.** Its relevant objectives are to:

- Improve administrative management and internal delegation. •
- Implement the developed statutes, bylaws and policies. •
- Improve the organizational structures and procedures. •
- Increase the organizational performance and effectiveness. •
- Empower, delegate and motivate staff members. •
- Improve emergency response effectiveness. •

PARD embraces three specific values when choosing to develop its human resources and helping them achieve satisfaction. These are:

- Humanistic values that relate to openness, honesty and integrity •

- Democratic values that relate to social justice, freedom of choice, and involvement
- Developmental values that relate to authenticity, growth and self-realization

A group of young women, likely graduates, are seated in a room. They are wearing black graduation gowns and black hijabs. The room is decorated with balloons in shades of black, grey, and red. The women are looking towards the camera with smiles. A red banner with white text is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

**GENDER JUSTICE,
WOMAN AND YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT**

Empowerment of Women Trainings

Women Committees

PARD has provided health education groups in the Palestinian gatherings for years. In 2001, PARD began training on empowerment for the benefit of women graduates from the health education sessions. Since then, PARD has trained every year on empowerment in the targeted gatherings, 10 in the south and 3 in Beirut.

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

In that light, PARD offers multiple trainings for the WCs in order to be able to actively participate in their communities and have an efficient and tangible effect. The training curriculum included sessions on gender equality and respectful relationships, gender-based violence, conflict resolution, communication types and styles, strengthening women's role in the community, developing self-confidence and self-image, effective decision making, and women and human rights.

For the year 2022, PARD supported 28 committees in 13 different gatherings or surrounding areas that are: Shabriha, Jal El Bahr, Al Samer near Jal Al Bahar, Maashouk, Qasmiyeh, Kfar Badda, Jim Jeem, Wasta, Aitaniyeh, Sikkeh, Burguliyeh, Wadi El Zeineh and Said Ghawash (Beirut). These committees actively involved 434 women of different national backgrounds, but mainly PRL, in active participation in their communities.

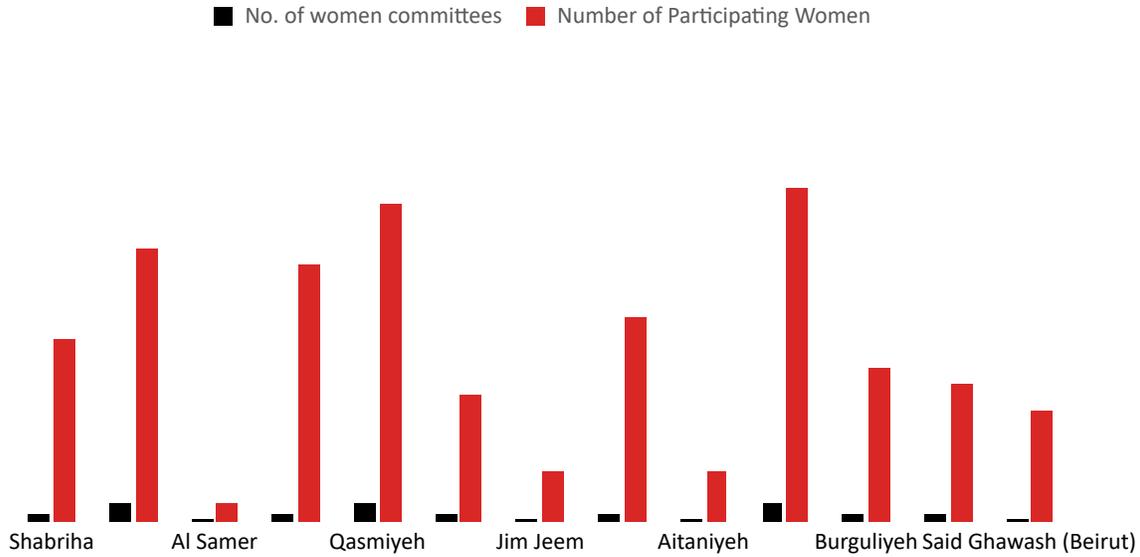


Figure 3: Location and number of women committees and participating women in the women committees established by PARD in 2022

Most women’s committees formed their own action plans, code of conduct, and division of responsibilities. The division of work includes tasks related to: public relations, health education, social issues, and note taking. Each committee also has an elected “head of committee”. The set plans of action were revised to monitor progress, together between the women committees and PARD’s community health workers (CHW). Also, for proper internal communication and coordination, each women committee met monthly to follow up on their plans of action and their external relationships and coordination with the popular committees, NGOs, UN agencies, and other committees in their community.



Figure 4: Nationality distribution of the women participating in women committees

Activities and Achievements

After the basic training on empowerment, the women committees developed their own project ideas for community development – based on community mapping and 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 fundraising resources of contacted organizations.

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 fulfill 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.

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 collection •
- 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. •
- Supporting and implementing health education for the community and teaching 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 •
- 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. •

Achievements of women committees

Women committees in different areas have multiple achievements, among which are:

- Members of the women committees work as animators for children's activities with PARD and other organizations and as local health educators. •
- 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. •

Coordination with Popular Committees

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 undertake. 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.

Preserved food trainings for livelihood



As a part of PARD’s belief in the necessity to give women the opportunity to livelihood in order to achieve gender justice, and as part of its women empowerment program, PARD conducted a training that would benefit women in that sense. **Food preservation trainings** were held in order to provide women with sustainable skills needed to produce home-made food preserves in aim of selling them to produce an income. The main goal of this training is to enable women to improve their economic situation by making preserved food in natural ways for a long time and at reasonable costs.

Eighty-seven women and heads of households from four different nationalities were therefore trained on this topic. The participants reside in seven different gatherings - Maashouk, Qasmieh, Aitanieh, Kfarbadda, Wasta and Sikki

The workshops were held at the Maashouk and Jim Jeem community centers which are managed by PARD, as well as in Qasmieh and Sikki. The training courses were given over three days for 4 hours each. Therefore, each participant attended a 12-hour course. The sessions included trainings which focused on tips and tricks to help women make well-preserved food using natural materials available at a reasonable cost. In addition, they also attended lectures on proper nutrition and composting, thus benefiting from new and valuable information. These lectures, given by a specialist, provided scientific information about the process of production of ecologically sustainable food preserves and sustainable habits for production and recycling of products, such as vegetables to create organic compost. The attendees also participated in the practical application of preserved food, which consolidated the information for them. Some of the raw materials available in the season were also distributed to the attendees with 5 jars for each to apply it at home and bring them the next day in order to ensure that they are prepared correctly.

In August, PARD organized a **preserved canned food sales day** in the community center of Maashouk, with participation of the 87 women who received training on making preserved canned food. The sales volume reached 300 jars with an average price of 2 USD/Jar, depending on the type of preserved food, which constituted an incentive for the participants to expand their marketing and business.

Training of Trainers ToT



As part of the women empowerment program, PARD provided **training for women to become community health trainers on health topics**. In 2022, 5 local active women were chosen from each of the gatherings of Maashouk, Jal Elbahr, Qasmieh, Shabriha and Wasta, resulting a group of 25 local women. The duration of the TOT was 4 days in September 2022. The training curriculum included focus on the skills necessary to present topics related to women’s health, such as gender- based violence (GBV), early marriage, safe motherhood including family planning, nutrition basics, and training methodology. It aimed at accruing training and communication skills in providing awareness sessions on these topics. At the end of the workshop, certificates of participation and completion of TOT training were distributed to the 25 participants. These local health educators then went on to conduct awareness sessions to 420 participating women in the local communities in which they resided.

International Women’s day



Commemorating International Women’s Day took place in March at the community centers of Maashouk and Jim Jeem run by PARD. The first event took place at Jim Jeem community center for 58 women (40 PRS, 3 S, 15 L) from Wasta, Aitanyeh and Kfar Badda. The second event took place at Maashouk community center for 40 women from Sikkeh (31 PRS, 5 S, 4 L). The celebration program for both events included screening of a film about the story of International Women’s Day, videos and songs related to the theme, and finally a “dabke” traditional folkore dance was performed in celebration.

In addition, the different experiences of the women were shared, highlighting the similarities as refugees and women in particular. This event encouraged on the one hand, the analysis of the structural causes of conflicts, while on the other hand promoted the creation of a culture of peace and the rapprochement between the different cultures present in informal settlements.

International Refugee Day



Commemorating International Refugee day took place during July and August 2022 in the community centers run by PARD, in the informal settlements of Maashouk and Shabriha. The first event took place at Maashouk community center for the benefit 75 women (42 PRL, 30S, 3 L). The second event took place at Shabriha community center for 25 women (12 PRL, 11 S, 2 L), totaling up to 100 women.

During each event, the women introduced themselves, their country of origin, their town or village, and what that place is most famous for. The point of this activity was to help the women get to know each other and their areas of origin, and to create harmony between Palestinians and Syrians. Another activity was done to iterate the problems different groups of refugees are facing in Lebanon, in an open discussion manner to better understand the problem and identify potential solutions or mitigation strategies. In addition, there was a free drawing activity in which the women from both the Palestinian and Syrian refugee communities practiced their expression through art. Some of them drew a plane as a symbol of wanting to travel and migrate, other drew drawings to symbolize dignity, and also some drew ships which also symbolized migration or travel. At the end there was the traditional “Dabkeh” in which all Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian styles of the dance were merged together which helped create more harmony between those nationalities present.

In conclusion, it is noted that these events focused on International Refugee law and the rights of refugees in Lebanon, with special emphasis on the differences and peculiarities between PRL, PRS, Syrians and Lebanese women, with the aim of shedding light on the similarities between the different groups. The overarching aim was to promote intercultural coexistence between the four groups of nationalities participating in the workshop.

➤ Empowerment of Youth Trainings

Youth empowerment through livelihood



As part of the youth empowerment activities PARD carries, it provides young skilled youth in the Palestinian gatherings with opportunities to livelihood through rehabilitation.

Fifty-nine refugees have been selected to carry out the **rehabilitation work for 50 selected houses** (see *Rehabilitation of Houses in Emergency Relief Strategy*) in 2022. Those 59 (53 PRL, 3 PRS, 3 S) workers were chosen on the basis of accumulated experience and willingness to work with PARD. Moreover, the majority of the chosen workers were those who suffer from difficult living conditions in the current crisis in the country.

The workers, both skilled and non-skilled, were of different professions and backgrounds, which include plumbing (12 workers), electricity (12 workers), blacksmithing (5 workers), tile setting (3 workers), carpentry (4 workers), plasterer (3 workers) and painting (16 workers) in addition to four general workers.

This activity was very impactful in terms of increasing the income of the youth. It secured a 50-75% increase in the income of around 75% of the 59 workers and a 75-100% increase for 22% of them. This activity created a significant opportunity to improve the income of skilled and non-skilled individuals in the gatherings as they are usually reimbursed less for the same work they did on this project as reported by some of them. This activity will continue in 2023 to provide more livelihood support for the individuals in the rehabilitation project's targeting gatherings.

In another project aimed at improving living conditions in Palestinian Gatherings and Host Communities in old Saida by **supporting small businesses, needed equipment were provided to small business owners in multiple sectors** in order to improve their services, and therefore improve their economic status. At the end of the project, **79 businesses were targeted** which ranged from food and beverage businesses, home-based businesses, female and male hairdressing, decoration, mobile phone shops, carpentry, among many others.

In addition, in the project aimed at improving living conditions in Palestinian Gatherings and Host Communities in old Saida by supporting small businesses, **A tailored food safety training program was provided to small F&B businesses as well as F&B HBB from Old Saida targeted area in the project.** The training was conducted over a period of 4 days, 5 hours per day, amounting to a total of 20 teaching hours. This intensive workshop was attended by 5 male youth from the Food and Beverage businesses, and 10 women from the household-based businesses. Furthermore, in order to deliver the curricula, the training was adapted to include interactive theoretical and practical participant-led approaches. As a follow-up, visits to the businesses were done to ensure that the business owners gained the needed knowledge and skills that would improve their quality and safety of work and are implementing it in their businesses.

Youth empowerment through education:

16 young refugee women from the South Lebanon Palestinian gatherings, which include Shabriha, Sikkeh, Maashouk, Jal El Bahr, Wasta, Aiteneyye, Kfarbadda, Jim Jim, Qasmiyeh, and Burghlieh.were registered for vocational training as nurses and assistant nurses in the Afak Vocational Center in Tyre. The selection of these students was based on application and interviews, where priority was given to females of refugee status as well as economic status of the family. The teaching methodology was based on a hybrid system, as per the decisions of the

Lebanese Ministry of Education, utilizing a combination of in-person and online teaching and practical training was used for this vocational training course.

These 16 young refugee women were provided with full scholarships, also covering 100% of the cost of transportation. Of the 16 girls, 13 girls passed. A ceremony was done at the end of the academic year to celebrate the graduation of the students at Maashouk Community Center.

➤ Health Services

In compliance with its strategy for woman empowerment, PARD provides various health services, mainly female reproductive health services. These services are given primarily through PARD’s mobile and fixed clinics in the gatherings in South Lebanon and the clinic located Sabra, Beirut. That is in addition to other health services that occur in laboratories and contracted with PARD.

Beirut Clinic

PARD’s clinic in Sabra, Beirut has been active for over 10 years. **In 2022, it provided multiple affordable medical services to 4029 refugees and impoverished Lebanese residing** in this area with an emphasis on women health services. The services included affordable consultations in multiple medical professionals in the areas of general health, pediatrics, nutrition, dermatology, ear-nose-throat (ENT), obstetrics and gynecology. A big emphasis was placed on the provision of medical services for women, as evidenced by the fact that over 50% of all medical services provided were obstetrics and gynecology. These services benefited 2103 women (40% PRL, 23% S, 33% L) who are of diverse nationalities, but mainly, Lebanese and PRL, and reside in Sabra itself or the nearby areas.

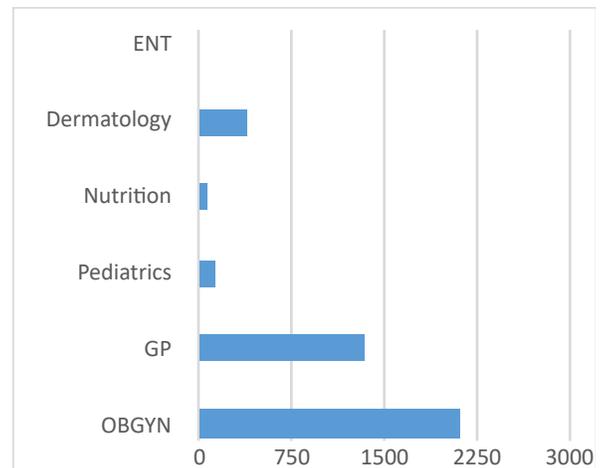


Figure 12: Numbers of benefiting patients for each of the services of PARD's clinic in Beirut



Clinics in South Lebanon

The mobile clinic ran by PARD in South Lebanon and the two fixed clinics located in Shabriha and Kfarbadda provided 5606 female medical services for the year 2022 in 10 Palestinian gatherings, which are Shabriha, Sikkeh, Maashouk, Jal El Bahr, Wasta, Aiteneyye, Kfarbadda, Jim Jim, Qasmiyeh, and Burghlieh. These services were provided for 2506 women residing in the gatherings and from various nationalities including Lebanese, Syrian, PRL, and PRS. Of these women, 903 were PRL, 48 were PRS, 1309 were Syrian, and 246 were Lebanese. It is important to note that, despite the current situation in Lebanon, the medicine storage of the clinics was constantly maintained, in order to cover the needs of the beneficiaries.

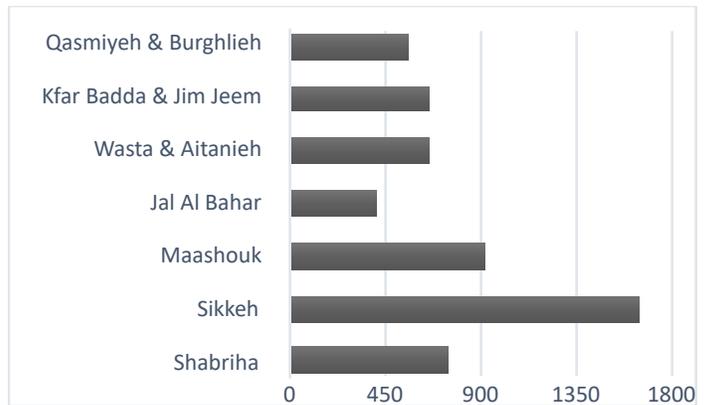


Figure 13: Number of medical services provided in each of the 10 targeted gatherings



Reproductive Health

Pap smear and mammography campaigns are one of PARD's major activities in reproductive health for prevention and awareness on breast and cervical cancers. PARD provides these services, in collaboration with a dispensary, for refugee women residing in the 10 Palestinian gatherings in South Lebanon; Wasta, Shabriha, Sikkeh, Kfarbadda, Jal El Baher, Aitaniyeh, Qasmiyeh, Maashouk, Jim Jim, and Burghuliyeh. These activities are preceded by awareness sessions on the matter in order to familiarize the women with both types of cancers, importance of early detection, and the processes done for detection and diagnosis.

In 2022, a total of 654 (325 PRL, 13 PRS, 140 S, 176 L) women benefitted from 510 mammograms, 500 pap smear services, in addition to 13 ultrasound/echographies. The results of each test were reviewed by specialized gynecologists at the follow-up case visits (1010 follow-ups).

Women who needed additional gynecological services were seen at our clinics.

Psychological Support



PARD provides diverse forms of psychological support for refugee women victims of violence in the gatherings. These activities are held by a psychologist experienced in handling gender based violence (GBV) cases and recruited exclusively for this purpose.

Group Therapy Sessions

Throughout 2022, the psychologist conducted 46 psychological support group sessions with of women from the ten Palestinian gatherings in Southern Lebanon, **for a total of 494 women** (362 women attended at least once, with 132 women participating more than once). Thanks to the involvement of the local women's committees and the work of PARD's field workers, no resistance to women's participation in the group sessions was detected. On the contrary, some of them preferred this type of sessions to the individual ones to avoid the possible "stigma" of the individual sessions, if by chance, they were "discovered". However, the project team keeps such appointments in safe places and provides both anonymity and safety in the sessions. Through these group counselling sessions, they have been made aware and trained on how to

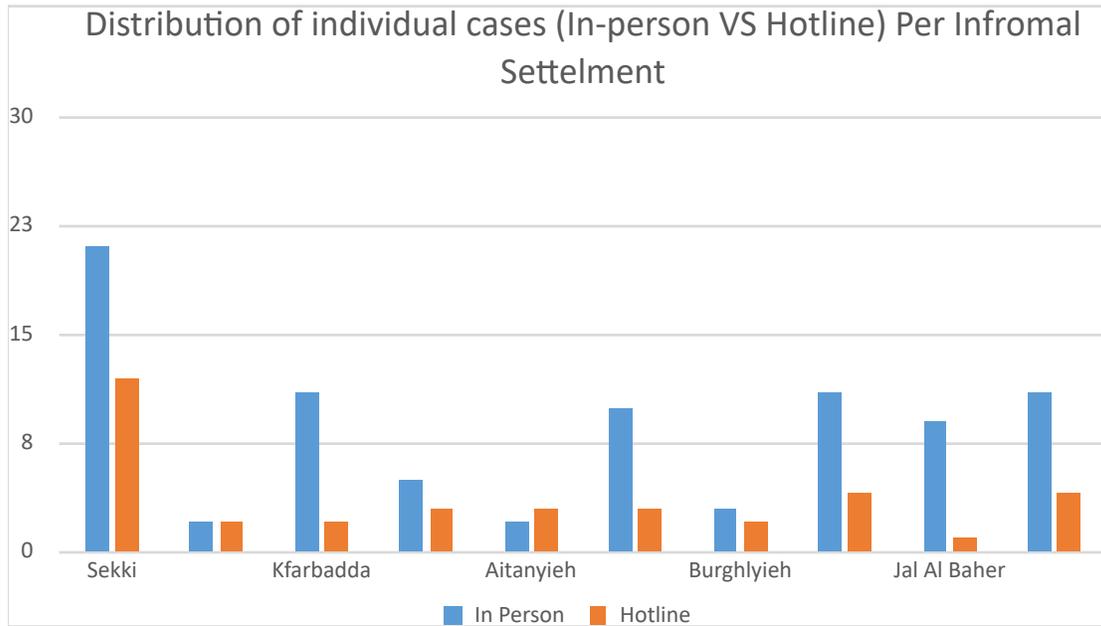
identify and recognize cases of GBV and where to seek help. The content of these sessions was easier to sensitize with the involvement of the women committees and PARD’s field staff.

These 46 sessions took place in the same 10 gatherings where PARD operates in South Lebanon, which are Kfarbadda, Maashouk, Jal El Bahr, Shabriha, Sikkeh, Burghlieh, Qasmiyeh, Jim Jim, Aitanieh, and Wasta. These sessions were attended by women from different nationalities and different age groups.

Individual Psychological Support Sessions

In 2022, the psychologist also offered more in-depth psychological counselling to individual women in need, especially to women who are victims of gender-based violence. To that end, **121 individual counselling sessions were held for women victims of violence** (85 through face-to-face sessions and 36 through hotline sessions). In addition, many other psychological cases have been tackled as well (24 non GBV cases; 15 through individual face to face sessions and 9 via the helpline). All cases are systematized and classified as low, moderate or high risk. In addition, the helpline is also used for follow-ups of cases in need.

The ages of these females varied between 10 and over 46 years. Most of the cases were adults 25- 65 (57%) followed by young adults 18 - 25 (18%) and most of those cases reported by the



survivor herself and the women were familiar with the advantages of the psychological support on their well-being.

Adolescents Psychological Intervention

Child marriage is considered a negative coping strategy that families resort to in times of financial hardship, while having regional differences in Lebanon related to the impact of economic crisis, “the South of Lebanon reporting the highest percentage of early marriage in 2022”⁸⁸. Also, PARD did a study regarding early marriage at the Palestinian gatherings in phase 3 of the project and we identified results that helped us understand the reasons that push people for early marriage.

For those reasons, we initiated an intervention with female refugee adolescents in targeted informal settlements in south Lebanon, in order to address the issue of early marriage in those settlements.

The goal of the intervention was to prevent early marriage by providing adolescents in five of the targeted settlements three main topics (Introduction about independency, Self-Esteem, Emotional Intelligence), those topics could protect them from early marriage and help them be independent.

Three group sessions were implemented during the summer vacation of the female adolescent’s- ages between 14 - 18 years in five targeted gatherings (Jal Al Bahr, Wasta, Qassmyieh, Sekki & Maashouk).

To assess acquired skills and knowledge change, pre and post evaluation assessments specifically designed for this intervention were implemented, and relevant changes in the post-evaluation results with comparison to the pre-evaluation results were noted.

Training on Empowerment

As part of its health activities, PARD provided awareness sessions on multiple topics, focusing on women empowerment. For 2022, during the period from January till the end of December, **41 workshops were held in the 10 gatherings** PARD operates in South Lebanon. The topics covered in these workshops included building self-confidence, conflict resolution skills, communication skills, and preparation for employment. In addition, as part of the women empowerment program, 94 women from 5 gatherings in South Lebanon, mainly Maashouk, Shabriha, Qasmieh, Jal Elbahr and Wasta, participated in several trainings, aiming at empowering women in general and women committees in those areas, specifically. The trainings aimed for the women to acquire basic skills related to their own needs and the needs of their families and communities.

⁸⁸ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/96398>

Workshop Topic	Participants	Course Objectives
Building self confidence	246	To develop the women's capacity on communication mechanisms, encouraging women to communicate between one another and with their local communities thus enhancing their role in the
Communication skills	211	To enhance self-confidence capabilities on the personal and social levels.
Conflict resolution skills	211	To enhance conflict resolution capabilities so women can participate in the resolution of local community and rights disputes through associations and
Preparation for Employment	125	To improve women's communication at work (horizontal and vertical), prepare them for the recruitment process (exams, interviews and CV), respect work rules, draft cover letters attached to job
Participatory Leadership	94	To empower women's capacities so they can effectively serve in leadership roles in their
Community Mapping Skills	94	To develop women's capabilities in understanding the importance of their role and participation in local community mapping.
Community Lobbying Skills	94	To increase awareness on the importance of community lobbying to make a change in the local community and enhancing women's awareness of their role in the community lobbying process.
Campaign planning skills	94	To recognize the basics of planning and organizing in order to enable women to gain leadership experience and encourage them to organize themselves to advance their causes and defend their rights.
Gender - Based Violence	94	To better identify and understand of GBV & Discrimination related to customs and culture.
Gender Justice	94	To correctly understand gender, know the difference between sex and gender and be able to analyze
Networking	94	To strengthen the women's skills with other committees, woman networks and human rights
Early Marriage	94	To reduce early marriage incidence and raise awareness on consequences of early marriage

Code Of Conduct	94	To set code of conduct for each women committee in a participatory manner, to guide their relationships together and highlight the values they agree to abide
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Postnatal services

In addition to the prenatal services offered by PARD’s clinics, PARD also provides postnatal services and education. **The midwife and community health workers made 95 home visits** to women who had just given birth, instructing them on how to protect their baby’s and their own health. In addition, 210 boxes of diapers and 17 baby kits were distributed to women with newborns during clinic services and home visits.

The projects/activities in this strategy were supported by:

- Basque Agency for Development Cooperation** Ø
- Bizkaia (The Provincial Council of Biscay)** Ø
- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)** Ø
- Solidaridad Internacional (NESI)** Ø
- UNDP - Lebanon** Ø
- Local Subscription** Ø



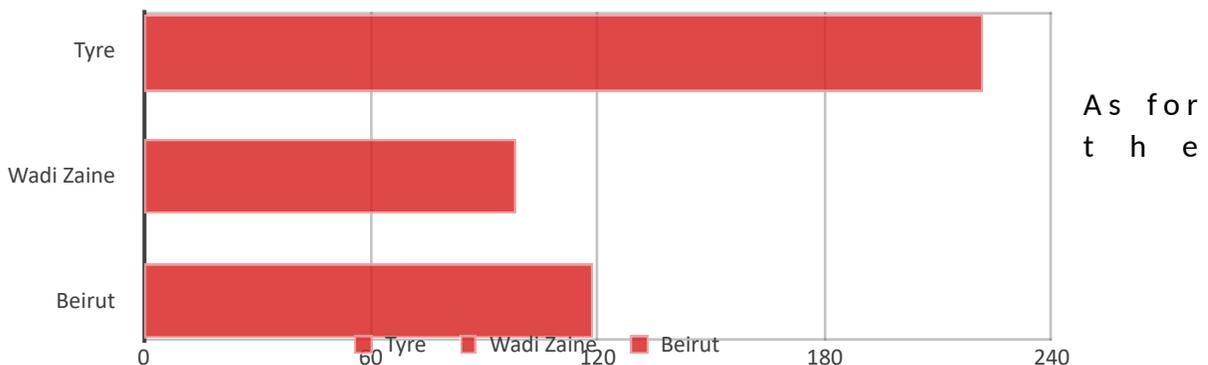
**CHILD
PROTECTION**

➔ Educational Activities for Children

Early Childhood Education- Kindergartens:

PARD has been providing kindergarten (KG) education services for refugee children for over **11** years. This activity is available in three areas in Lebanon: Beirut; Wadi Zaine, (Sibline); and Borj El Shemali, (Tyre). Two of these locations are Palestinian gatherings- Daouk/Sabra and Wadi Zaine- where the KG centers are at the heart of the areas. The third location, Borj El Chemali, is near multiple gatherings including Shabriha and Maashouk and Borj El Shemali camp where children from those areas benefit from the KGs. **All three KGs are officially certified from the Lebanese Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MEHE) in 2019 and deliver the Community Based- Early Childhood Education (CB-ECE) issued by the same ministry.** This curriculum exclusively enables refugee children of PRL, PRS, and Syrian nationality aged between 3 and 5 years to receive an education appropriate to their age. It prepares them to enroll in the Lebanese educational system and proceed into the elementary level. All the services provided in the KG centers are early childhood education services given by professional teachers who meet PARD’s criteria of previous education and experience.

PARD ensures that the educational services given in all its centers are unified at their core plans, aims, and methods in order to maintain the same high-quality education in all its centers. In order to achieve that, each of PARD’s classes was assigned a teacher and an assistant, to follow up with the students and their progress. Each teacher was assigned to the level she is most capable of handling based on her competencies of previous education, previous work experience, and ability to work with children. Also, each center was assigned a head teacher who acted as a coordinator in order to ensure the most organized flow of activities. Curriculum-wise, the same annual plan of implementation was designed for the three KGs, with different dates of initiation, which encompassed how the material will be given to the children.

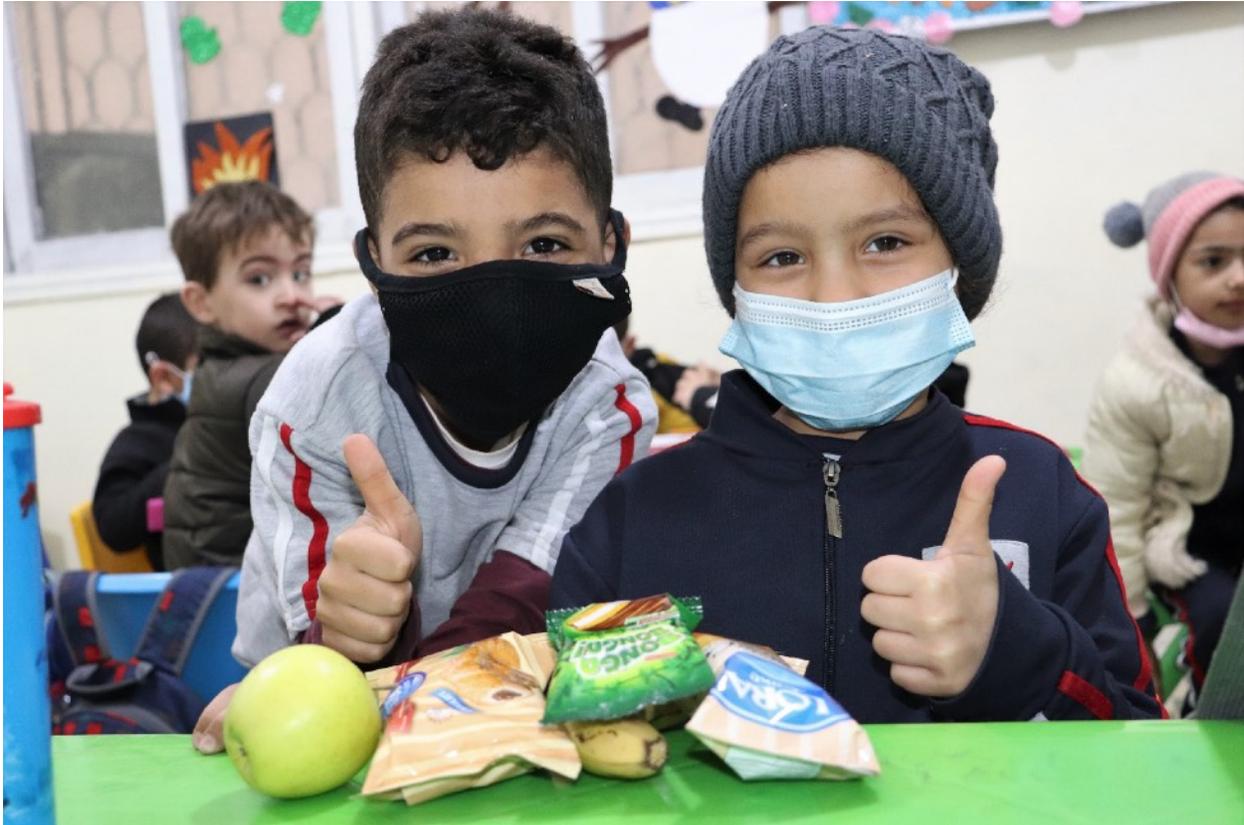


scholastic year 2022-2023 which encompasses the months of October of 2022 till June of 2023,

Figure 5: Number of enrolled children in PARD's three KG centers for scholastic year 2022-2023

the number of enrolled children in the three KGs is 851. These children were distributed along the three KGs for **200** in Tyre, **109** in Wadi Zaine, and **111** in Sabra, Beirut. In addition, **431** children started a four-month round of the CB-ECE curriculum with PARD in Daouk, and this activity is planned to continue until July 2023 with a second round.

Beirut Kindergartens

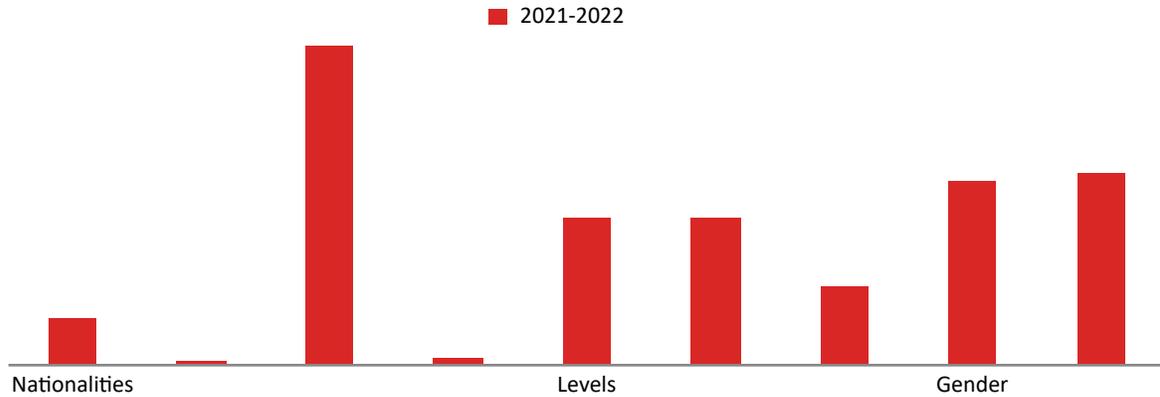


PARD has been operating in Beirut since 2012. Since their official registration in 2019, PARD's KGs operate according to the scholastic year determined by MEHE. In the scholastic year 2022-2023, Sabra's Kindergarten center provided education for **111** children of different backgrounds residing in the nearby area. The KG had 5 operating classes for these **111** children where each class had an assigned teacher and assistant. Therefore, the KG also provided a labor opportunity for 11 women in the gatherings: 10 teachers and one cleaning lady for the center. The students in this center were **55** males and **56** females from diverse nationalities distributed over the three levels with **25** in level 1 (i.e. KG1), **51** in level 2 (i.e. KG2), and **35** in level 3 (i.e. KG3). Of these **35** children who were in level 3, all were certified by PARD to have completed the CB-ECE curriculum and were qualified for entrance of the elementary level.

For the scholastic year 2022-2023, PARD's services were added to a new center in Daouk, a few neighborhoods away from Sabra. In this scholastic year, which encompasses the months

November of 2022 through July of 2023, the KG center in Sabra serves **431** children, **227** males and **204** females, of different nationalities distributed over two levels with **38** in level 2 and **393** in level 3.

Preschool education was also given in the center in Daouk. However, they will be given two rounds of CB-ECE education each extending for four months. The first round started in November 2022 and the activities will proceed until March 2022. The first round included **220** children, **120** males and **100** females. The second round included **211** children, **104** males and **107** females mainly from the Syrian nationality and mainly in level 3.



Wadi Zaine Kindergarten

Like in Beirut, PARD has been operating in Wadi Zaine for multiple years. Ever since its launching in 2016, the KG has been providing ECE services to children aged between 3 and 5 years. After the official registration and certification in 2019, it started using the CB-ECE curriculum by MEHE. Like Sabra, it operates according to the official scholastic year.



In the scholastic year 2022-2023, which encompasses the months October of 2022 through June of 2023 and continues till 2022, the KG center in Wadi Zaine serves **109** children, **48** males and **61** females, of different nationalities distributed over the three levels with **26** in level 1, **58** in level 2, and **25** in level 3.

For this scholastic year, the children were distributed over 5 classes where each was assigned a teacher and an assistant.

Therefore, like in Sabra, the KG was able to provide job opportunities for 11 females from the community of Wadi Zaine- 10 teachers and assistants and one cleaning lady for the center.

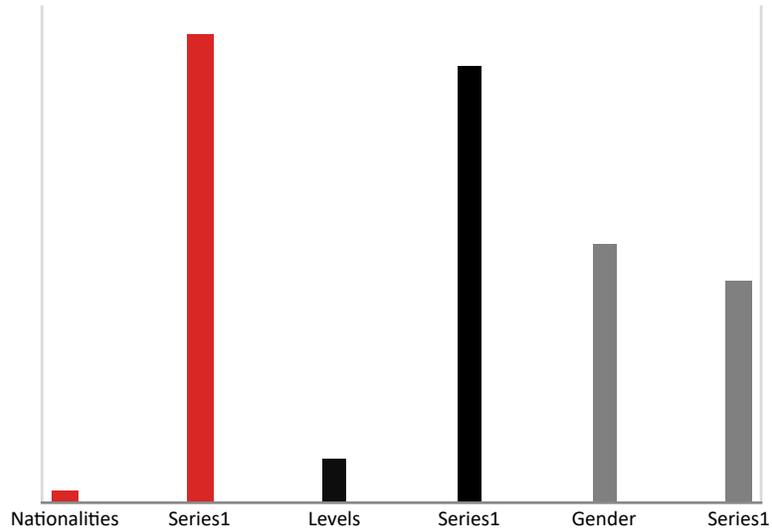


Figure 6: Disaggregation of the children who attended PARD's KG in Beirut- Daouk in 2022-2023 by nationality, level, and gender

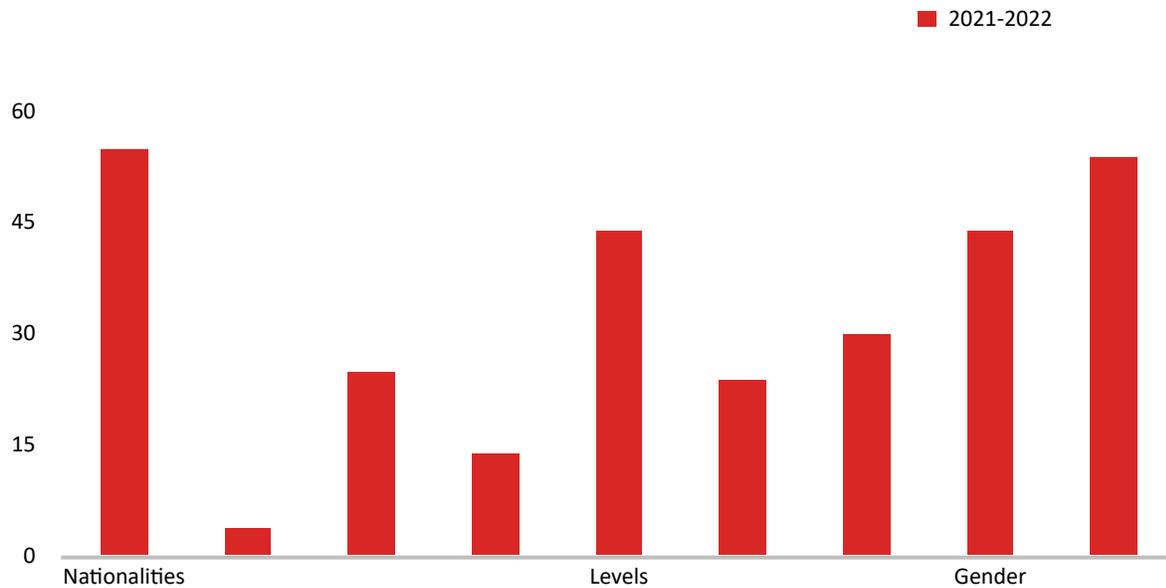


Figure 8: Disaggregation of the children who attended PARD's KG in Wadi Zaine in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022- by nationality, level, and gender

Tyre Kindergarten:



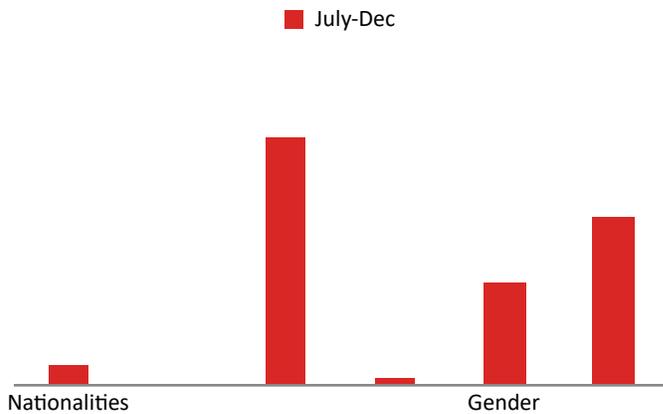
PARD's KG in Tyre has been operating since 2016, and like the other KGs, it got registered in MEHE in 2019 and ever since has been using the CB-ECE curriculum. In 2022-2023, the KG provided ECE activities for **200** children, **83** males and **117** females, from different nationalities distributed over the three levels. As for this distribution, **58** were in level 1, **103** in level 2, and **39** in level 3. Level 3 children got certificates from PARD (exceptionally for this year since MEHE didn't provide them official certificates) to proceed into the elementary level. Also, these students were distributed over **9** classes where each was assigned a teacher and a coordinator. Therefore, this KG provided job opportunities for **19** females from the community: **17** teachers and assistants, **1** head teacher and one cleaning lady for the center.

Parent Community Meetings:

PARD believes that the work done with the children is only complete when there is proper communication with the parents. Therefore, **monthly meetings are usually held in all three KGs with the parents** of the children in order to get an insight into their satisfaction and the

The project included the following activities:

- Academic educational support lessons: these activities included helping the children after school. Educational support is given to them in multiple subjects and areas by the assigned teachers from PARD, each where necessary.
- Working with children to cope with their grief, fear, and psychological pressure. This activity is usually held to help the children with the recurring problems in their communities and surroundings which places an unwanted pressure on them.
- Providing psychological first aid to the children and helping them adapt to their new environment which, as the previous activity, aims at improving the psychological wellbeing of the children given their surrounding context.
- Engaging the children in recreational activities like singing, painting, drawing, theater, sports, and outdoor visits. These activities provide leisure for the children which they do not commonly have the opportunity to experience at their houses or in their neighborhoods.
- Providing the children with life skills empowerment such as communication skills, conflict resolution skills, and creative leadership which enabled them to form friendships and communicate with one another.



During the period extending between the months of November of 2022 till June of 2023, **these activities were provided for 130 children, 78 males and 52 females** of different nationalities aged between 6 and 12 years and residing in the nearby areas. This activity is provided by **5 teachers, 1 assistant, 2 facilitators** and one cleaning lady, so it secures job opportunities for **9 females** from the community.

Figure 10: Disaggregation of children attending educational support activities in 2021

Child Protection Component:



Child protection program aims to ensure that every child is protected from violence, exploitation. This means protecting their physical, mental and psychological needs to safeguard their futures. All the teachers and center staff are trained on the child protection minimum standards and safe identification and referrals. Both children and caregivers at PARD's centers (ECCD and RS) receive psychosocial and social behavioral awareness sessions on different related topics.

2 facilitators with a psychosocial background and excessive CP trainings were responsible to deliver the components of this program through a detailed curriculum.

In these activities the caregivers of ECCD project benefited from different psychological sessions:

75 caregivers have attended positive parenting sessions, **15** caregivers have attended Emotional Support sessions and **100** caregivers have attended Social behavioral change sessions.

100 children from the Retention Support project have benefited from Focused psychosocial support sessions (FPSS), **25** caregivers have attended mental health psychological support (MHPSS) and **15** caregivers have attended Emotional Support sessions.

Moreover **40** cases have received emergency cash assistance (ECA) provided through case management services after being referred and followed up by a well-trained case worker assigned in this project.

The welfare association generously distributed stationary kits to all the children enrolled in PARD's CP (Child Protection) programs. A total of 800 stationary kits were provided to the participants of the education projects.

By distributing 432 kits to Daouk KG, 100 kits to Sabra KG, 100 kits to Wadi Zeiny KG, and 200 kits to Tyre Bourj chemali KG, the welfare association ensured that a significant number of children would benefit from this initiative.

Psycho-social support activities

PARD provides psychosocial support activities for children aged between 7 and 12 years. As the children residing in the gatherings bear the social pressure of the country's multiple crises both directly and indirectly, there is an obligation to support them through this circumstance. This support is necessary especially to help them get through the global pandemic that obliged the children to spend some important developmental stages at their houses with few opportunities for interaction. In response to that, the psychosocial activities given by PARD provide the children with space and time dedicated for their psychological and social well-being allowing their interaction with one another. In addition, the activities aim at not only enhancing their relationships with one another; but also their relationship with their families and their environment.

For that aim, PARD uses a psycho-social support curriculum which is reviewed systematically to ensure maximum compatibility with the needs and convenience of the children. The curriculum is 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 are: emotion identification, expression, and control, creativity, communication, friendship, bullying, teamwork, resilience, self-confidence and self-esteem, trust, and problem-solving. These were given in a play-based approach that ensures an easy way for the children to grasp the concepts.

These activities are provided for children coming from four geographical areas, particularly in South Lebanon in the gatherings of Maashouk, Jim Jim, Kfarbadda, Shabriha and Wadi Zaine (North of Saida). The activities happen in three community centers based in Maashouk, Shabriha, and Jim Jim as well as PARD's KG center in Wadi Zaine.

As the enrollment of children for these activities happens in July, for the year 2022. **There were a total of 236 children**, 119 males and 117 females, with 55 in Shabriha, 32 in Maashouk, 26 in Jim Jim and Kfarbadda, and 96 in Wadi Zaine. All those were aged between 6 and 12 years.

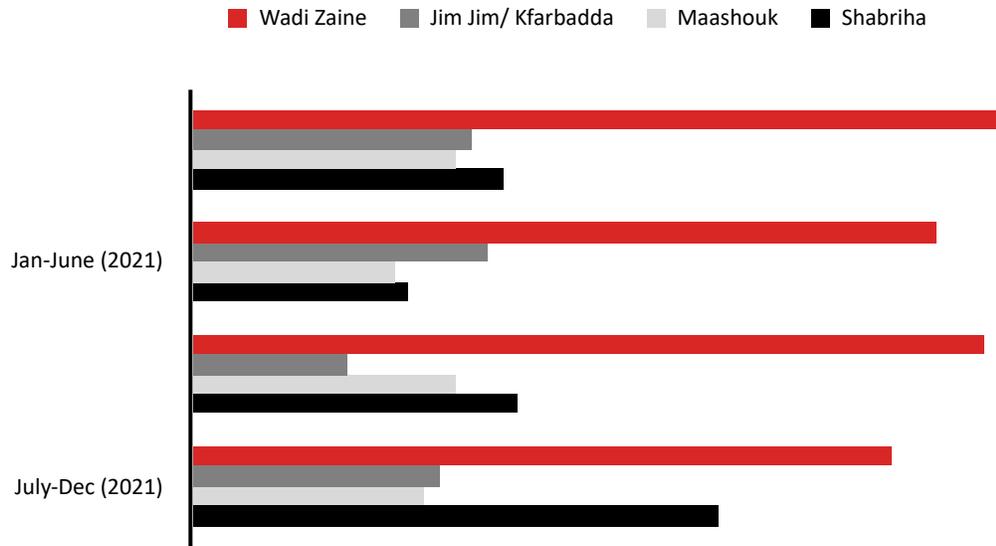


Figure 11: Disaggregation of children who attend PSS activities in Shabbriha, Maashouk, Jim Jim, Kfarbadda, and Wadi Zaine by gender.



The folkloric Dabke classes were held bi-weekly basis during the same three months. The sessions were attended by 14 participants; 13 females and 1 male. By the end of the sessions, the participants were a fully equipped Dabke team.



The football trainings resumed on a bi-weekly basis. In December, recruitment of the members of the team occurred. A total of 24 children aged between 12 and 15 participated; 12 of those were males and 12 were females. From March through June, the trainings of the participating individuals continued to be held by a coach. They were provided with material and equipment to help them with the training like shoes, clothes, balls, and bags. By the end of the sessions, they had the potential to be a football team that represents its area.

Shabriha Community Center



The center was established in 2017 with support from **UNDP**. It covers many activities as follows:

For children over 12 years of age who are not included in psychosocial activities, PARD .1 provides:

One dabkeh (folklore) team ages 16-18 years (12 F) who are trained on 3 folklore (a) songs. They practice every Sunday and have performed in many events like the graduation party of the vocational training youth in Tyre, and on Commemoration of Nakbah in one UNRWA school.

Football teams: Two football teams were formed: (b)

Ages 10-12 years: 20 players (7 F, 13 M) -

Ages 13 – 15 years: 30 players (14 F, 16 M) -

Proper uniforms, balls, training spaces and a volunteer trainer were provided for them. They train once a week after school. They also joined many friendly games with other football teams in other areas in the South. When they practice, boys and girls play together, and the girls proved to be very competent. Playing football promotes team work, physical and self-confidence.

Children Psychosocial Activities for 55 children (30 M, 25 F). .2

The activities serve the following objectives:

Participatory leadership and cooperation as a team. The exercises: a train, the leader and the blind, safari trip.

Protection against sexual harassment and violence. The exercises: Red/Green/ Blue.

Gender equality. The exercises: Me and my family, I can do it.

Bulling and protection: Role playing a story (interactive theater).

Handicrafts aiming at discharging (unloading) of negative feelings.

This training was promoted through the participation of the coordinator of program in STAR One training with MCC.

Development of child imagination through creating a story, characters and solutions (as a group).

Promoting self-confidence through the treasure box (cards with good characters), free platform, and trip to Treasure Island.

Child rights through exercises to discharge of fears.

Child relaxation through physical exercises and dancing: Bees dance (STAR 1), balloons, singing.

Child concentration through puzzles, Laban Labneh, hot and cold.

Health related activities:

Personal hygiene: storytelling, germs war, washing hands properly, teeth brushing.

Environment Hygiene: race for garbage sorting + puppet show (Immigrant fly).

Water preservation: race for carrying water, cleaning with water spare city.

Handicrafts: Reuse of materials.

Proper nutrition: eating healthy sandwiches during breaks, exercise of fruit salad.

Meetings with mothers (18 women) of children participating in the activities took place for 11 months. Themes discussed included introduction to psychosocial activities, challenges in coping with children and positive parenting.

Puppet Theater: One puppet theater performance was implemented for the benefit of 53 children on the theme of primary eyes protection (the hazards of fireworks). .3

Support of women groups: The two women committees (36 members) meet regularly in the center, to discuss matters related to them as women and issues related to their community, in addition to activities with PARD. .4

Support of first aid center in Shabriha The first aid team uses one of the rooms in the center and offered about 30 first aid services per month to the community in Shabriha. .5

Coordination Role of the Center: .6

With “**Terre Des Hommes**” INGO who conducted 4 raising awareness sessions on (a) “Protection and Rights”, “Early Marriage”, GBV and “Child Harassment”, and 2 empowerment sessions on “Chocolate Decoration” for the benefit of 15 young women in Shabriha. At the end of the courses, the women received “personal care” kits. Furthermore, they received 20\$ for a period of one year through OMT.

In addition, TDH conducted 4 psychosocial activities for children (ages 6-13 years) once per week for the period of one month.

Save the Children conducted focus groups in the center as needs assessment for three (b) days, for 8 men, 9 women and 21 youth. The needs assessment collected information about security and safety, sexual harassment and drugs abuse.

Al Shifaa organization conducted a lecture on the national Palestinian identity for the (c) benefit of 42 women.

PARD raised **awareness on Covid-19** in the center for the total of 174 women in Shabriha as follows: .7

45 mothers -

5 hardship cases	-
74 members of the local women committees and their neighbors and relatives.	-
50 women patients in the mobile clinic visiting Shabriha.	-
Moreover, hygiene kits and brochure on Covid-19 were distributed to the 174 women who attended the awareness sessions.	
PARD raised health awareness in the center for the benefit of 70 women on the following subjects: Cholera – Early detection of breast and uterus cancer – family planning and genital inflammations.	.8
43 women received psychological group therapy in the center.	.9
Commemorating World Refugee day took place in PARD’s community center, in Shabriha. The event focused on International Refugee law and the rights of refugees in Lebanon, with special emphasis on the differences and peculiarities between PRL, PRS, Syrians and Lebanese women. After this analysis, the similarities between the different groups was discussed through the presentations and testimonies of refugee women from different groups with the aim of promoting intercultural coexistence between the four groups of nationalities participating in the workshop. The appropriate distancing and protective measures were considered to prevent any contagion of COVID 19.	.10
25 Palestinian and Syrian refugee women and Lebanese women participated.	
17 women were trained on empowerment in the center. The subjects included the following:	.11
Communication skills	-
Self confidence	-
Conflict resolution	-
Participatory leadership	-
Community mapping skills	-
Community lobbying skills	-
Planning campaigns	-
GBV	-
Gender Justice	-
Networking	-
Early Marriage	-

Code of conduct

-

41 bags of diapers were distributed through the center to vulnerable families with babies aged from one month to 24 months. .12

Maashouk Community Center



The center was established at the end of 2018 with support from **UN-HABITAT** and **UNDP**. It covers many activities as follows:

Children Psychosocial Activities: For 49 children (25 M, 24 F). The activities serve the following objectives:

- Participatory leadership and cooperation as a team. The exercises: a train, the leader and the blind, safari trip.
- Protection against sexual harassment and violence. The exercises: Red/Green/Blue.

- Gender equality. The exercises: Me and my family, I can do it. -
- Bulling and protection: Role playing a story (interactive theater). -
- Handicrafts aiming at discharging (unloading) of negative feelings. -
- This training was promoted through the participation of the coordinator of program in STAR One training with MCC. -
- Development of child imagination through creating a story, characters and solutions (as a group). -
- Promoting self-confidence through the treasure box (cards with good characters), free platform, and trip to Treasure Island. -
- Child rights through exercises to discharge of fears. -
- Child relaxation through physical exercises and dancing: Bees dance (STAR 1), balloons, singing. -
- Child concentration through puzzles, Laban Labneh, hot and cold. -

Health related activities:

- Personal hygiene: storytelling, germs war, washing hands properly, teeth brushing. -
- Environment Hygiene: race for garbage sorting + puppet show (Immigrant fly). -
- Water preservation: race for carrying water, cleaning with water sparecity. -
- Handicrafts: Reuse of materials. -
- Proper nutrition: eating healthy sandwiches during breaks, exercise of fruit salad. -

Meetings with mothers (21 women) of children participating in the activities took place for 11 months. Themes discussed included conflict resolution, prevention of home accidents, safe use of internet, and family violence. Incentives were distributed to the women including sanitary napkins, shampoo, detergents, blankets and others.

Support of Women Groups: The women committees (50 members) meet regularly in the center. They meet to discuss women issues, or issues related to their community. .2

The women committee members celebrated **the international mother’s day** in the center. .3

Hosting of Different Meetings: The center hosts the meetings of the animators of children activities, the first aiders, parent’s meetings (of children activities), women committees and others. .4

PARD conducted **health education sessions** for the benefit of 150 women on the following subjects: Cholera – Covid-19 – Early detection of breast and uterus cancer – Family planning and genital inflammations. .5

79 women benefited from **psychological group therapy** in the center. .6

The mobile clinic specialized in women's health visits the center every two weeks .7 benefiting women patients.

One course on C.V. writing and interview skills was conducted in the center for the .8 benefit of 16 vocational training female students studying nursing. The scholastic year 2021-2022 for the students in a specialized vocational training center was supported by PARD.

The center hosted the graduation party for the 16 vocational training female students .9 studying nursing. The Dabkeh team from Shabriha center provided entertainment in this party. The party was attended by groups of men, women and youth coming from different informal settlements, including the parents of those students.

PARD conducted **training on empowerment** for the benefit of 32 refugee women from .10 the informal settlements of Maashouk (18 women) and Jal Al Bahar (14 women), in the center. Subjects included:

- Communication skills. -
- Self confidence -
- Conflict resolution -
- Participatory leadership -
- Community mapping skills -
- Community lobbying skills -
- Planning campaigns -
- GBV -
- Gender Justice -
- Networking -
- Early Marriage -
- Code of conduct -

The center hosted a celebration for International Women's day The event focused an .11 analysis from different approaches to the rights of refugee women, promoting a critical analysis of the causes of the different conflicts affecting Lebanon. To begin with, the causes of the Palestinian and Syrian conflicts was analyzed and their direct effect on the population resident in southern Lebanon, under criteria of action without harm and through a participatory dynamic avoiding revictimisation with special attention to

refugee women, Palestinian women in Lebanon (PRL), Palestinian women resident in Lebanon from Syria (PRS) and Lebanese women.

In addition, the different experience of the above mentioned groups was shared, highlighting the similarities as refugees and women in particular. This event encouraged on the one hand, the analysis of the structural causes of conflicts, while on the other hand promoted the creation of a culture of peace and the rapprochement between the different cultures present in informal settlements.

The methodologies applied were multiple: PowerPoint presentation, case studies and testimonies, 4 short film and brochure.

The appropriate distancing and protective measures were considered to prevent any contagion of COVID 19.

40 Palestinian and Syrian refugee women and Lebanese women participated.

The center was used for the distribution of food vouchers for vulnerable families. .12

86 bags of diapers were distributed through the center to vulnerable families with .13 babies aged from one month to 24 months.

Commemorating World Refugee day took place in PARD's community center, in .14 Maashouk.

The event focused on International Refugee law and the rights of refugees in Lebanon, with special emphasis on the differences and peculiarities between PRL, PRS, Syrians and Lebanese women.

After this analysis, the similarities between the different groups was discussed through the presentations and testimonies of refugee women from different groups with the aim of promoting intercultural coexistence between the four groups of nationalities participating in the workshop.

The appropriate distancing and protective measures were considered to prevent any contagion of COVID 19.

75 Palestinian and Syrian refugee women and Lebanese women participated.

A training course for the production of ecological sustainable food preserves was .15 conducted for the benefit of **23 Palestinian and Syrian refugee women** in the center.

The trainer was chosen from among the women living in the settlements. She was a Syrian woman who works in preservative food making and has a simple and interesting way of explaining.

5 courses (3 days each) took place for the benefit of women from Maashouq,

- After receiving and welcoming the attendees, the participants were introduced to each other within an activity where every woman introduced herself to the attendees and gave overview of what she does in her life.
- After the introduction, brainstorming the participants took place to show how much they know about preservative food (types of preserved food, methods of preserving food, what is the use of preserved food. . . and so on).
- The participants were introduced to the goal of this training, which is to enable them to improve their economic situation by making preserved food in natural ways for a long time and at reasonable costs.
- It was found through brainstorming that most of the participants have a good background on the work of preserved food, although they talked about how the food was spoiled, probably through technical mistakes.
- The trainer was able to communicate the information to the participants in a clear and simple manner (As she belongs to an agricultural environment and lives in Qasmyieh settlement) where she taught them many tips and tricks that help them make well-preserved food using natural materials available at a reasonable cost. The extent to which the participants comprehended the materials in the training was shown through the pre and post evaluation.
- The lectures on proper nutrition and composting had a good impact on the attendees, as they benefited from new and valuable information.
- The attendees also participated in the practical application of preserved food, which consolidated the information for them. Some of the raw materials available in the season were also distributed to the attendees with 5 jars for each to apply it at home and bring them the next day in order to ensure that they are prepared correctly.

The following materials were distributed:

1. The programme of the training divided into three days of training.
2. A brochure for healthy nutrition.

3. A pamphlet to explain the detailed procedure for preparing preserved food.
4. A pamphlet explaining the natural procedures for food preservation.
5. Pamphlet explaining the ecologically sustainable habits for production and recycling of products in the creation of compost.

The center hosted a **preserved food sales day** which attracted 105 visitors from **.16** Maashouk informal settlement and the neighboring area.

Jim Jeem Community Center



Children psychosocial activities: For 44 children (19 Male, 25 Female). The activities .1
serve the following objective:

- Participatory leadership and cooperation as a team. The exercises: a train, the leader and the blind, safari trip.
- Protection against sexual harassment and violence. The exercises: Red/Green/ Blue.
- Gender equality. The exercises: Me and my family, I can do it.
- Bullying and protection: Role playing a story (interactive theater).
- Handicrafts aiming at discharging (unloading) of negative feelings.
- This training was promoted through the participation of the coordinator of program in STAR One training with MCC.

- Development of child imagination through creating a story, characters and solutions (as a group).
- Promoting self-confidence through the treasure box (cards with good characters), free platform, and trip to Treasure Island.
- Child rights through exercises to discharge of fears.
- Child relaxation through physical exercises and dancing: Bees dance (STAR 1), balloons, singing.
- Child concentration through puzzles, Laban Labneh, hot and cold.

Health related activities:

- Personal hygiene: storytelling, germs war, washing hands properly, teeth brushing.
- Environment Hygiene: race for garbage sorting + puppet show (Immigrant fly).
- Water preservation: race for carrying water, cleaning with water spare city.
- Handicrafts: Reuse of materials.
- Proper nutrition: eating healthy sandwiches during breaks, exercise of fruit salad.

Meetings with mothers 11 parents meeting were conducted for 14 mothers of children participating in the psychosocial activities took place in the center. Themes discussed included introduction to psychosocial activities, challenges in coping with children and series of positive parenting.

Support of Women Groups: The women committee (10 members) meets regularly in .2 the center. They meet to discuss women issues, or issues related to their community.

The women committee members celebrated **the international mother's day** in the .3 center.

Hosting of Different Meetings: The center hosts the meetings of the animators of .4 children activities, parent's meetings (of children activities), women committees and others.

PARD conducted **health education sessions** for the benefit of 25 women on Covid-19. .5

6 women benefited from **psychological group therapy** in the center. .6

A training course for the production of ecological sustainable food preserves was .7
conducted for the benefit of 14 Palestinian and Syrian refugee women in the center.

The center hosted a celebration for International Women's Day in the center with the .8
participation of 58 women, Palestinian and Syrian refugees, in addition to local
Lebanese women.

The center was used for the distribution of food vouchers for vulnerable families. .9

30 bags of diapers were distributed through the center to vulnerable families with .10
babies aged from one month to 24 months.

Wadi Al Zeineh Community Center



The center was established in 2016 together with its Kindergarten. It covers many activities as follows:

Psychosocial activities for 88 children (45 males, 43 females). The activities serve the following objectives:

- Participatory leadership and cooperation as a team. The exercises: a train, the leader and the blind, safari trip.
- Protection against sexual harassment and violence. The exercises: Red/Green/ Blue.
- Gender equality. The exercises: Me and my family, I can do it.
- Bullying and protection: Role playing a story (interactive theater).
- Handicrafts aiming at discharging (unloading) of negative feelings.
- This training was promoted through the participation of the coordinator of program in STAR One training with MCC.
- Development of child imagination through creating a story, characters and solutions (as a group).

- Promoting self-confidence through the treasure box (cards with good characters), free platform, and trip to Treasure Island.
- Child rights through exercises to discharge of fears.
- Child relaxation through physical exercises and dancing: Bees dance (STAR 1), balloons, singing.
- Child concentration through puzzles, Laban Labneh, hot and cold.

Health related activities:

- Personal hygiene: storytelling, germs war, washing hands properly, teeth brushing.
- Environment Hygiene: race for garbage sorting + puppet show (Immigrant fly).
- Water preservation: race for carrying water, cleaning with water spare city.
- Handicrafts: Reuse of materials.
- Proper nutrition: eating healthy sandwiches during breaks, exercise of fruit salad.

Meetings with mothers (23 women) were conducted for mothers of children .2 participating in the psychosocial activities in the center. Themes discussed included introduction to psychosocial activities, challenges in coping with children and series of positive parenting.

Support of Women Groups: The two women committee (27 members) meet regularly in .3 the center. They meet to discuss women issues, or issues related to their community.

A training course for puppet theater performance took place in the center for the .4 benefit of 10 Kindergarten female teachers. An expert on puppet theater productions trained the teachers on performance in a certain play called “The Immigrant Fly”, its theme being hygiene and environment protection.

One puppet theater performance was conducted in the center for the benefit of 100 .5 children ages 3-6 years. The trained performers (10 K.G. teachers) moved the puppets, in addition to the dialogue and songs, relaying the message to enhance public hygiene and protection of the environment.

The center celebrated **the international mother's day** with the participation of the 10 K.G. teachers and 100 children. .6

Coordination role of the center: .7

With Jana Association: 100 women and 100 children attended awareness sessions on cholera. -

With Initiate: 60 beneficiaries from Wadi Al Zeineh attended awareness session on Covid-19. In addition, PARD has held through partnership with Initiate association psychosocial and behavioral support activities for 100 children. Different social themes were implemented through short movie stories about 1000 Nights historical theme (Alf Layle wa Layle) with many morals like saying the truth, trust, friendship and many others in addition to application booklets (answering questions and expressing what they have learned by drawing). 5 facilitators were trained to deliver the curriculum to the children and helping them relate it to their real life experiences. -

With the local popular committee: 30 male youth were trained on hair cutting for men. After the training, the youth received equipment for hair cutting. -

With ULYP association: 24 children from psychosocial activities participated in extracurricular activities. -

With UNDP: psychosocial first aid (PFA) the project was implemented in collaboration with UNDP in February 2022 at Wadi Zyni center where 40 children and 40 caregivers have benefited from 6 consecutive sessions related to Mental health, Traumas, Wellbeing and self-care. The children were divided into 2 age groups (10-13 and 14-17). The sessions were held by 4 trained facilitators with close follow up from UNDP coordinators. -



The projects/activities in this strategy were supported by:

Basque Agency for Development Cooperation	Ø
Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)	Ø
Solidaridad Internacional (NESI)	Ø
UNDP - Lebanon	Ø
The Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa	Ø
Save the Children - BMZ	Ø
REI - Refugee Empowerment International - Japan	Ø
Human Serve International - Canada	Ø
Welfare Association	Ø



**ENVIRONMENTAL
AND HEALTH
SERVICES
PROGRAM**

➤ Solid Waste Collection and Disposal

The Objective of the activity is to decrease the hazards of accumulated household garbage through regular collection of garbage in six Palestinian gatherings in the South of Lebanon. It includes regular solid waste collection at the household level, in addition to cleaning public zones in the southern gatherings. PARD has been operating this project since 1994.

Garbage, in most gatherings, is disposed in open containers located in central areas of the gathering. The open containers are an insect breeding ground, and hence a potential source of health risks. If the containers are not emptied frequently enough, garbage is thrown next to them, potentially attracting animals.

Solid waste management activities

Regular solid waste collection at the household level in 6 gatherings, which entails maintenance, provision of salaries of workers and fuel for the garbage collection truck. •

Collect sorted garbage in 6 of the gatherings and deliver to local municipalities through a special truck or to dumping sites •

Spraying of insecticides and provision of rodenticides to combat harmful insects and rodent infestations. •

Distribution of anti-lice shampoos and anti-scabies lotion when needed. •

Conduct annual general cleaning campaigns of the public zones in the 6 gatherings in Southern Lebanon •

Coordination with the Lebanese municipalities of Tyre, Abbasiyi, Burj Rahhal, and Kharayeb on solid waste management •

Two thousand four hundred eighty (2480) tons of solid wastes were collected through 1240 shifts (2 tons/shift) in 8 locations in Tyre gatherings in the South to the main dumping place.

Since 2019 PARD has been working closely with partner NGOs and local Lebanese municipalities to reduce the garbage collected through sorting. So far together with UNDP, ICRC and others, PARD has implemented successful garbage sorting projects.

The sorting of solid waste continued throughout the year 2022:

Jim Jeem, Kfar Badda, Aitaniyeh and Wasta in coordination with Kharayeb municipality •

Baisariyeh in coordination with Baisariyeh municipality •

Wadi El Zeineh in coordination with Siblin municipality •

- Qasmiyeh in coordination with Burj Rahal municipality •
- Jal al Bahar in coordination with Abbasiyeh municipality •
- Hay al Zaitoun near Miyeh Miyeh camp in Saida in coordination with Miyeh Miyeh Municipality •

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) mandate to provide basic urban services, mainly WASH, is defined within the boundaries of twelve Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon only.

So, solid waste is collected regularly by PARD from eight informal settlements in the South, on a door-to-door basis. Those are Maashouk – Shabriha – Qasmiyeh – Burghuliyeh – Wasta – Aitaniyeh – Jim Jeem and Kfar Badda. About 1250 families benefit from this project. Previously, PARD conducted a door-to-door training on the importance of sorting materials. Special barrels were distributed to sort the garbage, cartons, tins and plastic in one barrel, organic materials in another. After the previous raising awareness activities were completed, the municipalities of Kharayeb, Abbasiyeh, and Tyre started collecting the sorted materials.

The municipality of Kharayeb for the informal settlements of Wasta, Aitaniyeh, Kfar Badda and Jim Jeem. Abbasiyeh municipality for the informal settlements of Shabriha, Qasmiyeh and Burghuliyeh. Tyre municipality for the informal settlement of Maashouk.



The economic and financial situation in Lebanon has deteriorated dramatically since the year 2019. As the consequences of the financial crisis were evident and of great impact on people lives, since then the situation continued to worsen even more. Given that no reformatory

actions were taken by the successive governments to efficiently decrease the intensity of the crisis, and given that no reformatory policies are in sight in order to uproot the problem and handle it in a solution-based approach on the long run, all residents in Lebanon continue to suffer dire consequences.

Recently, and as one of the coping mechanism of the refugees and poor Lebanese living in the informal settlements, people started selling their sorted materials to private companies in Tyre. The companies send special trucks to collect glass, plastic, cartons, tins, electrical devices and metallic materials, from the families weekly, and pay those families money in return. In this way, the families earn some income. Prices for the materials range from 0.3\$ to 1\$ per kilo. This new system is very efficient and sustainable since different garbage materials are always available in homes.

As a result, this system has reduced the quantity of garbage collected which leads to less trips to the dumping place for organic materials. The dumping place charges per visit, so the general costs of the activity decreases.

Through garbage collection the streets and common areas in the informal settlements are clean from garbage which attracts rodents and insects harmful to the physical and psychological wellbeing of the people living there.

The popular committees (local governance) and the women committees helped in organizing, monitoring and evaluating the garbage collection activity to ensure its success and make sure that the beneficiaries are satisfied.

In addition, this activity provided jobs for two garbage truck drivers and two workers who are local people living in two of the informal settlements.

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 spraying campaigns in the 7 gatherings in the South and 1 gathering in Beirut.

The announcement for spraying insecticides takes place through popular committees, women committees and mosques. People usually keep their children and chickens indoor during the spraying process. Volunteers usually help in alerting the people and spraying of the insecticides, especially in the narrow alleys of the gatherings.

PARD sprayed 6300 liters of insecticides (200 ml of insecticides for every 20 liters of water). Or 63 liters of undissolved solution.

About 7,261 people benefited from this project, 3,994 females and 3,267 males



Picture 14: Spraying insecticides

➤ Cleaning Septic Tanks

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 and 195 cesspits were emptied through 249 transport trips from the Southern gatherings and camps.

The beneficiaries usually call the driver of the truck to empty their septic tanks in exchange for a certain amount in Lebanese pounds which should cover the costs of the activity for sustainability purposes.

Schedule for Suction of Percolating Pits – South

	Location	No. of Pits	No. of Transport Trips
	Kharayeb	30	35
	Maashouk	13	19
	Kfar Badda	61	78
	Wasta	25	26
	Qasmiyeh	16	24
	Rachidiyeh	27	39
	Burghuliyeh	16	16
	Aitaniyeh	3	8
	Bass	1	1
	Jal Al Bahar	1	1
	Jim Jeem	1	1
	Abbasiyeh	1	1
Totals		195	249

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 2022, 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. Six campaigns were implemented in the Beirut gathering.

Distribution of Anti-Lice Shampoos and Raising Awareness Sessions

The women committee of Qasmiyeh informal settlement noticed that some children in the two local kindergartens were infested with lice.

They demanded raising awareness sessions for the benefit of the mothers of the children in the two kindergartens.

PARD's local health educator conducted two awareness sessions for the benefit of 70 mothers using flipcharts. At the end of each session, instructive brochures and anti-lice shampoo was distributed.

110 anti-lice shampoo bottles were distributed since some mothers have more than one child in the kindergartens.

COVID-19 Prevention Activities

The women in the South gatherings of Qasmiyeh, Maashouk and Shabriha expressed their needs for urgent health support through a series of identification processes (needs assessments). The need for health support was very relative in response to the spread of COVID-19.

The head of the National Scientific Committee for the Corona Vaccine, Dr. #Abdul Rahman Al-Bizri, confirmed to "Al-Nahar" (local newspaper, date: 02/01/2022) that there were "increases in the number of corona infections, and he expected that we will witness an increase in the number in the coming months after the end of the holidays, referring to the pressure on hospitals and the number of patients hospitalized as a result of infection".

"The data so far indicate that the epidemiological situation associated with the increase in the number of Corona injuries is still under control. However, these data may suddenly change if people continue to be lax in adhering to preventive measures, and if the momentum of vaccination campaigns and people's demand for them does not continue. Therefore, it is necessary to raise the voice and appeal to everyone to pay attention and be strict in the prevention measures and the demand for vaccination so that we do not reach the scenario of closure that would destroy the remainder of the economic cycle with the insane rise in the exchange rate".

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports ascertain that good IPC programs (Infection, prevention and control) can reduce health care infections by 70%. The COVID 19 pandemic and other recent large disease outbreaks have highlighted the extent to which health care settings can contribute to the spread of infections, harming patients, health workers and visitors, if insufficient attention is paid to infection prevention and control (IPC). Where good hand hygiene and other cost-effective practices are followed, 70% of those infections can be prevented.

The empowered women committees with about 148 members in the targeted informal settlements of Shabriha, Maashouk and Qassmiyeh participated in all the activities related to this intervention, including participation in the development of the Project, in the activities carried out and in the evaluation.

About 148 members of the women committees acted as volunteers in distribution of vouchers to beneficiary families. Those families received vouchers so that they were not crowded together in one center for the distribution. Distances were maintained and preventive measures against the spread of COVID-19 were taken such as the distribution of masks and constant use of hand sanitizers.

Women committees organized women groups to attend awareness raising on COVID 19 in the following locations:

#	Location	Description
	Shabriha	(1) Women's health clinic (2) Community center
	Maashouk	Community Health Center
	Qasmiyeh	Center of a local NGO
	Kfar Badda	Women's Health Center
	Jim Jeem	Community Health Center

Distribution of the hygiene kits took place as follows:

#	Location	Beneficiary	No. Of Kits distributed
	Shabriha	(a) 74 Women participants in awareness sessions (b) 45 Mothers of children participating in psychococial activities (c) 5 women of hardship cases (d) 50 women patients in Shabriha clinic	174
	Qasmiyeh	(a) 68 women participants in awareness sessions	68
	Maashouk	(a) 75 Women participants in awareness sessions (b) 32 Mothers of children participating in psychococial activities (c) 18 women of hardship cases	125
	Kfar Badda	(a) 35 Women participants in awareness sessions (b) 50 women patients in Kfar Badda clinic	85
	Jim Jeem	(a) 26 Mothers of children participating in psychococial activities (b) 24 women of hardship cases	50
	Total		502

Beneficiaries

The **Shabriha, Maashouk and Jim Jeem community centers** host many activities for (1) women, youth and children, including psychosocial activities for women. PARD chose to raise awareness on COVID-19 for the mothers in these centers:

- 45 mothers in Shabriha -
- 32 mothers in Maashouk -
- 26 mothers in Jim Jeem -

The total number of mothers reached **103 mothers**.

In addition, the centers work with women who are considered hardship cases in activities related to mental health, training on empowerment and others. PARD chose to include those women in awareness raising on COVID-19 as such:

- 5 women in Shabriha -
- 18 women in Maashouk -
- 24 women in Jim Jeem -

The total number of hardship cases women reached **47 women**.

The hardship cases are women headed households, women with handicapped relatives, women belonging to large families, and women with chronic diseases.

The other category of women who received awareness raising on COVID-19 are either (2) members of the local women committees, or their neighbors, relatives and so on...

They were distributed as follows:

- Shabriha = 74 women -
- Qasmiyeh = 68 women -
- Maashouk = 75 women -
- Kfar Badda = 35 women -

The total number of women reached 252 women.

The third category of women receiving awareness raising on COVID-19 are the women (3) patients in the women’s health clinics in Shabriha and Kfar Badda:

- Shabriha: 50 women -
- Kfar Badda: 50 women -

The total number of women patients at the clinics reached 100 women.

The total number of women receiving awareness raising on COVID-19 in the informal settlements in the South of Lebanon reached 502 women.

Each hygiene kit distributed consisted of the following:

Soap bar (1)	-
Bacterial hand sanitizer (500 ml x1)	-
Liquid soap (2)	-
Chlorine (4 liters)	-
Paper tissues (2)	-
Rubbish bags (2 packets/30 pieces each)	-
Masks (1 pack of 50 pieces)	-
Dish washing liquid (4 liters)	-

The hygiene kits delivered to each of the local medical and community centers were done through a formal handover to the responsible persons, while maintaining appropriate measures for COVID 19 prevention.

For health education and raising awareness on COVID 19, a **brochures was prepared** including the definition, common symptoms, modes of transition. Those brochures were distributed to women who participated in the awareness sessions.

Originally the awareness raising campaign should had been carried out through the circulation of a car through the informal settlements. With the use of a microphone and a loud speaker we were supposed to broadcast prevention and awareness raising messages on the dissemination of COVID 19. We preferred to use the method of direct contact with the beneficiaries through awareness sessions using methods such as brainstorming, PowerPoint presentation, and the evaluation of each session to observe the level of understanding of the participants. This method has always proved to be more effective than using a mobile car broadcasting messages.

Added value: During activities taking place between PARD and the women of the Informal Settlements, the women expressed their lack of vaccination against COVID-19 as related to fear, misconceptions and the high expense of transportation to government assigned vaccination centers. The factors of fear and misconceptions were addressed through raising awareness sessions and distribution of relevant instructive brochures.

As for the high cost of transportation, PARD contacted the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) for planning and implementing a **joint vaccination campaign together with the ongoing awareness sessions**. The PRCS responded positively, by offering free Pfizer vaccines through a mobile vaccination unit, in coordination with the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health MOPH.



Total numbers of vaccines given in the campaign was 45 (different age groups, sexes and dosages).

➤ Cholera Prevention Activities

In October, Lebanon reported its first Cholera cases in 30 years, with 5,819 suspected and confirmed cases and 23 deaths reported by December 31st. The lack of investment and maintenance in national water and sanitation systems contributed to the crisis and have further aggravated the outbreak. This has debilitated and burdened the already fragile health sector, which recently saw the mass exodus of approximately 40% of doctors, 15% of specialized Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurses, and 30% of midwives over the course of the crisis, leaving critical gaps in the quality, availability, and accessibility of healthcare for the population.

As the RCCE Lebanon Task Force lead, UNICEF is leading coordination efforts on the Cholera response with other sectors and actors on the ground to ensure an integrated response and intervention through awareness raising and community engagement. UNICEF, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), UNHCR, and WHO, is implementing an RCCE plan on the Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) which includes community mobilization as well as the dissemination of Information and Education Communication (IEC) materials by partners across

hotspot areas. IEC material produced by UNICEF aims to be accessible and is also produced in sign language to ensure that OPDs and people with disabilities receive Cholera sensitization trainings and that the sensitization package itself is inclusive.

PARD conducted awareness raising on cholera in the informal settlements of Maashouk, Shabriha and Jim Jeem for the benefit of 245 women. Brochures on cholera were distributed.

This program was supported by:

Welfare Association - Lebanon	Ø
Solidaridad International	Ø
The City Council of Donostia - SanSebastian	Ø
Local NGOs (Najdeh - Nabaa - Beit Atfal Al Sumud)	Ø



**RELIEF FOR PEOPLE
IN DISTRESS**

PARD's main work and mission are directed towards the Palestinian refugees – and other refugees- residing in the gatherings. Gatherings in the South Lebanon and Beirut, like other gatherings in Lebanon, suffer a devastating state of lack of infrastructure, very limited employment opportunities, competition over available resources, and a crowded residential situation due to the overpopulation present there. Co-occurring with the economic crisis that has dire consequences on the financial situation of refugee families in the gatherings, these factors exacerbate the situation and make basic pillars of living inaccessible for many therefore leading to a state of food insecurity for many.

In response to the basic needs of the people in the gatherings given the state of food insecurity they are in and given the need for basic hygiene resources, and as part of its relief response, PARD provides Food Security (FS) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services in these areas. PARD makes sure that individuals benefiting from those activities are those most in need according to need and vulnerability assessments performed prior to every phase of initiation of activities in addition to validity assessments to existing data bases. The validation assessment used are those endorsed by the food security sector in order to select and enroll beneficiaries. Beneficiary households will be selected based on the following criteria with priority given to those households that meet more than one criteria:

- Families with children (children at risk of child labor, children with disabilities, children at risk of malnutrition under 59 months, children with protection risk) •
- Single Female Headed households and caregivers for children under 24 months and elderly dependents •
- Pregnant and Lactating women •
- Household headed by a single elderly with one or more children •
- Household with only elderly members •
- Household where head/more than one member suffers from a severe chronic illness, or immunodeficiency, or is disabled, and with dependents (elderly and/or children) •
- Household with four or more dependents (elderly and/or children) •

Each of those activities, FS and WASH, has a modality that PARD has been utilizing since years. For FS activities, there are mainly two modalities usually adopted by PARD, food vouchers and food parcels. For the year 2022, only food vouchers were utilized in FS activities where beneficiaries would redeem vouchers of a specified amount for, strictly, food products.

As for WASH activities, those are usually performed as provision of different types of kits for different purposes or age groups. The ones mainly provided by PARD are hygiene kits, also referred to as relief kits, personal hygiene kits, baby kits- for ages 0 to 24 months. Each of the kits has a particular composition that is usually based on universal standards.

Hygiene Kits/ Relief Kits are composed of:

- Soap Bar •
- Laundry Washing Powder •
- Cleaning Liquid •
- Shampoo •
- Toothpaste adult •
- Toothpaste Children •
- Toothbrush Adult •
- Toothbrush Children •
- Bucket with Lid •
- Comb •
- Cotton Towel •
- Garbage Bag 20L •
- Cleaning Clothes (3 per pack) •
- HH Dishwashing gloves •
- Bleach (1L) •
- Torch •
- Alcohol Antiseptic 70% Ethanol 500ml •
- Spare Batteries (Pack of 2) •
- Reusable Mask •
- Heavy Duty Gloves •
- Sanitary Pad 00 (Pack of 10 Pads) •
- Carton Box •

Baby kits are composed of:

- Diapers (ea) •
- Detergent •



Baby Bathing Soap

Baby Underwear

Pajamas

Digital Thermometer -Non Mercury

-
-
-
-

The diapers in this kit are modified in size from one kit to another according to the age of the baby.

Area	Gathering/ Area	# of Household Kits (Hygiene kits)	# of Baby Kits
Tyre	Jal al Bahar	300	60
	Wasta		
	Maashouk		
	Jim Jim		
	Kfar Badda		
	Burghuliyeh		

Lebanon	Aiteneyye	500	00
	Al Eab		
	Shabriha		
	Qasmiyeh		
	Nahr el Samer		
	Baisariyeh		
Saida	Baraksat/ Taytaba	1,060	212
	Bustan Abo Jamil		
	Bustan Al Quds		
	Taamir		
	Nemrin & Hettin		
	Nidaa Insani		
	Hay Al Quds		
	Abo Salim P/C		
	Sikkeh		
	Mojamaa		
	Safsaf & Ras Al Ahmar		
	Tawaree'		
	Samireyaa		
	Moujamaa Al Bahaa		
	Jabal Al Halib		
	Safouri		
	Hamshari/ Mieh Mieh		
	Arab Al Ghweir		
	Kenayat		
Abo Jihad al Wazir			
Mount Lebanon	Wadi Zayne, Chhim, Other Iqlim & Naameh	700	140
	Total	2,060	412

Table 3: Types and numbers of distributed WASH kits in gatherings of Tyr, Saida, and Mount Lebanon

The total number of participants that were benefited from the food vouchers project were 3,277 individuals in the first two months of the project, then starting July 2022 the number of beneficiaries increased to 3,500 individuals.

Food Security – Beirut

Monthly food voucher distributions in Beirut in the two gatherings Daouk and Said Ghawash benefited **1938 individuals of different national backgrounds**. Those were 1000 males and 938 females where each gender category includes both adults and children. The beneficiaries of this activity were Syrian, PRS, and PRL.

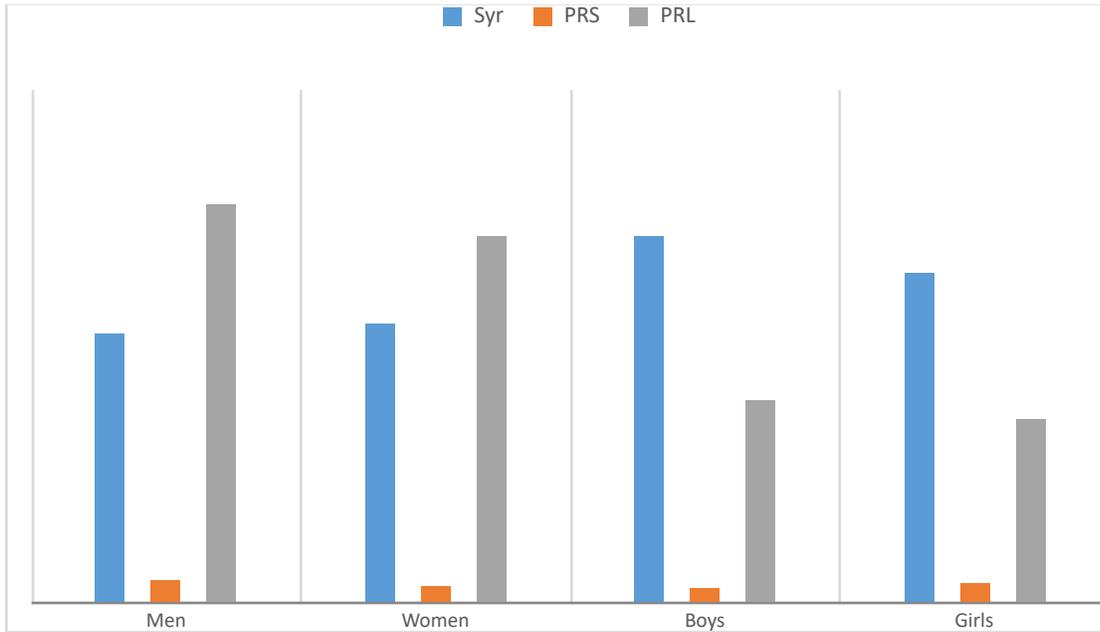


Figure 1: Disaggregation of beneficiaries of food vouchers in Beirut gatherings by gender and nationality

The project has been allowing vulnerable participants to improve their access to food by getting a monthly voucher equivalent to 80% of the recommended SMEB value from the food sector.

With the worsening financial situation of the country and the volatile and unstable fluctuation of the currency, the amount of the vouchers varied across distributions as mentioned in the table below.

Month	Amount of Voucher in LL	Average of Lira Rate/ month
April 2022	545,000	25,000
June 2022	633,000	29,000
July 2022	687,000	30,000
August 2022	687,000	34,000
September 2022	707,000	39,000
October 2022	790,000	38,000
November 2022	790,000	42,000
December 2022	880,000	45,000
January 2023	884,000	61,000
February 2023	960,000	82,000
March 2023	1,034,000	104,000

The provided food vouchers ensured access to nutritionally balanced food assistance by providing a sufficient voucher value through the changing situation. There were two stores as options for the beneficiaries and were in an accessible location to all being located in Sabra. The distributions took place PARD's KG centers in Daouk/ Sabra where the beneficiaries would come to receive their vouchers depending on the number of family members.

Food Security – South

Monthly food voucher distributions in gatherings in South Lebanon **benefited 1562 individuals of different national backgrounds**. Those were 772 males and 790 females where each gender category includes both adults and children. The beneficiaries of this activity were Syrian, PRS, and PRL.

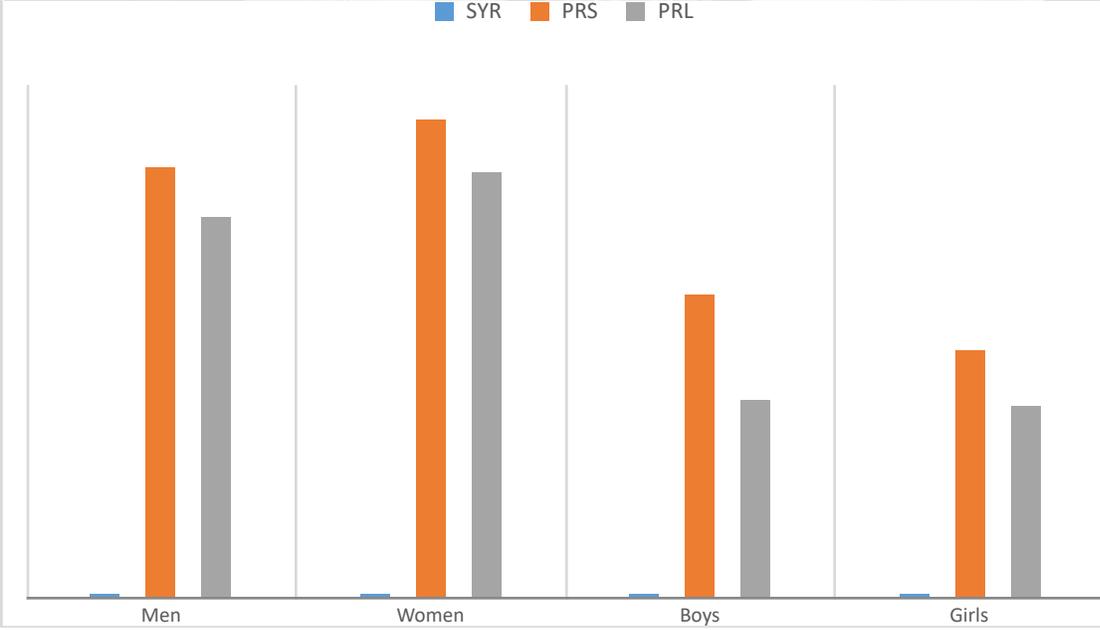


Figure 2: Disaggregation of beneficiaries of food vouchers in South gatherings by gender and nationality

Like in Beirut, the amount of the vouchers varied across distributions. The provided food vouchers ensured access to nutritionally balanced food assistance by providing a sufficient voucher value through the changing situation. There were three stores as options for the beneficiaries and were in an accessible location to all being located in Abbaseye, Masakin and Sarafand. The distributions took place PARD’s KG center in Tyr.

Nutritional awareness sessions were conducted to promote strengthening dietary diversity and health eating habits and food preparation to prevent malnutrition. Changes in availability and access to food should not negatively affect dietary composition or intake. The sessions helped the beneficiaries on how to benefit the most from the vouchers which could positively increase the food consumption score. In total 12 awareness sessions were conducted, one in each area (South and Beirut) every two months.

Nutrition sessions included: Nutrition Basics, Food Safety, Infant and Young Children Feeding Practices, Nutrition Needs during Pregnancy and Lactation, Nutrition for Children (4-12 years), Nutrition for Elderlies. **Total of 183 females attended these sessions** in Beirut and South gatherings between April 2022 – February 2023.

Nonfood Items

Distribution of Clothes

PARD has implemented this distribution funded by MCC in order to distribute clothes and toys to the participants of the Child protection program (KGs and PSS activities).

These contributions took place in the **two kindergartens** in Beirut (Sabra center) and north Saida (Wadi El Zayne center). Regarding the psycho-social activities’ participants, they took **place in four Palestinian gatherings in South Lebanon** (Shabriha, Maachouk, Jimjim, and Wadi Zayne) and in **Beirut**.

Each child has received a winter set that includes a jacket, a sweat suit, a pair of boots, and a toy.

In terms of numbers, **a total of 563 sets were distributed** as follows: 110 kids in Wadi El Zayne kindergarten, 111 in Sabra Kindergarten, 240 children in PSS south, and 102 in PSS Beirut.

Who directly participated in activities during this reporting period?	563 of People
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Use participant population information from the proposal.	306 Girls	257 Boys
PRL students (4-6yrs) in Sabra KG	3	6
PRS students (4-6yrs) in Sabra KG	1	0
Syrian students (4-6yrs) in Sabra KG	50	48
Lebanese students (4-6yrs) in Sabra KG	2	1
PRL students (4-6yrs) in Wedi Zyni KG	30	29
PRS students (4-6 yrs) in Wedi Zyni KG	7	7
Syrian student (4-6 yrs) in Wedi Zyni KG	15	9
Lebanese students (4-6 yrs) in Wedi Zyni KG	7	5
Egyptian students (4-6 yrs) in Wedi Zyni KG	0	1
Syrian students (6-14yrs) of educational activities in Maachok gatherings	4	2
PRL students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Maachok gatherings	21	17
PRS students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Maachok gatherings	0	2
Lebanese students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Maachok gatherings	1	2
Syrian students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Jim Jim gatherings	13	20
PRL students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Jim Jim gatherings	7	8
PRS students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Jim Jim gatherings	0	0
Lebanese students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Jim Jim gatherings	1	1
Syrian students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Shabriha gatherings	10	17
PRL students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Shabriha gatherings	26	4
PRS students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Shabriha gatherings	6	1
Lebanese students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Shabriha gatherings	2	0
Syrian students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Wedi Zyni gatherings	4	6
PRL students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Wedi Zyni gatherings	25	18
PRS students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Wedi Zyni gatherings	2	3
Lebanese students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Wedi Zyni gatherings	9	8
Syrian students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Sabra gatherings	45	34
PRL students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Sabra gatherings	7	5

PRS students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Sabra gatherings	3	2
Lebanese students (6-14yrs) of PSS activities in Wedi Zyni gatherings	5	1
Total	563	

Minor Rehabilitation of Houses

As part of the relief activities held by PARD, there are minor rehabilitation activities for houses in the gatherings in South Lebanon. These activities are performed by the skilled youth workers from the community who work in specific professions (see youth empowerment section). **The houses rehabilitated for the year 2021-2022 are 63 in 7 gatherings:** Sikkeh (11 houses), Kfarbadda (5 houses), Aitaniyeh (8 houses), Wasta (10 houses), Qasmiyeh (11 houses), Shabriha (7 houses), and Maashouk (11 houses). The rehabilitation activities covered multiple areas of specialty such as plumbing, carpentry, painting, electricity, tiling, and blacksmithing. The selection of the houses happens according to a set criterion for the family residing in it that includes:

- women heads of household •
- disabilities •
- situations of poverty and extreme poverty •
- number of family members (5 or more children) •
- chronic diseases •

During the evaluation visits, the following is taken into account

Health. As a basic necessity for normal life, the house must be in good condition in terms of water and sewage networks so that there are no wastewater leaks or waste in the network. .1

One of the **safety** requirements of any home is that the electrical mains must be properly extended (either concealed in walls or partitions or externally in conduits). The extensions must be properly insulated and kept away from direct contact, either with people or with the contents of the house, so as to avoid electric shocks or contact that could lead to a risk of fire or death. .2

Privacy. The right to privacy has been taken into account in identifying the costs of maintaining all windows and doors, or installing new ones when maintenance is not possible or damage is severe. .3

People with special needs, have the right to lead a normal life just like anyone else .4 which requires some adjustments done for their convenience.

The projects/activities in this strategy were supported by:

Bizkaia (The Provincial Council of Biscay)	Ø
Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB)	Ø
City Council of Donostia San Sebastian	Ø
Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)	Ø
Solidaridad Internacional (NESI)	Ø
UNDP - Lebanon	Ø



**ORGANIZATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT OF
PARD**

Trainings

As part of the capacity building plan of its team and responding to their needs, PARD .1 conducted a series of trainings in multiple aspects of work. These trainings included topics of gender sensitization in field activities.

Capacity Building

.A

Title of Training	Trainer	Attendees
Inter-agency in humanitarian action trainings	UNDP	Psychologist
Gender Justice	ABAAD	Coordinator of women empowerment and child protection programs
Women Political Participation	ABAAD	Coordinator of women empowerment program
Interagency Gender in Humanitarian Action - TOT	UN Women	Coordinator of women empowerment program
Child Protection Case Management	Save The Children	12 Teachers of Beirut Kindergarten + case worker
Safe identification and referral	Save The Children	12 Teachers of Beirut Kindergarten + case worker
SOP - Standard Operating Procedure Case Management	Save The Children	12 Teachers of Beirut Kindergarten + case worker
Social Emotional Learning (SEL)	Save The Children	12 Teachers of Beirut Kindergarten + case worker + CP program coordinator
Safe guarding	Save The Children	12 teachers of Beirut Kindergarten + one accountant + child protection program coordinator + CP officer + case worker + Human resources officer + cleaning lady.
Child Marriage	Save The Children	Case worker
Hygiene Promotion	Save The Children	12 teachers of Beirut Kindergarten
Emotional Abuse Training	Save The Children	Case worker
Remote Learning Training	Save The Children	12 teachers of Beirut Kindergarten + coordinator of CP program
Training on Accountability Mechanisms in Humanitarian Responses	Save The Children	Case worker + MEAL officer + Accountant

School Safety Improvement Plan (SIP)	Save The Children	8 parents + 4 Beirut KG. teachers
Introduction to Trauma Awareness and Resilience (ITAR)	MCC	Child Protection Program Coordinator
Child protection coaching program	International Red Cross	Case worker
Mine risk education (MRE) or Explosive ordnance risk education	UNICEF	Case worker
Group support for wellbeing training	Save the children	Child protection program coordinator
Protection working group	UNHCR	Psychologist

Training on SPHERE Project:

.B



28 people from PARD participated in the 3 days course (17 F, 11 M).

The participants included 7 from the Relief program, 8 from the Empowerment of women program, 2 from Child Protection program, 10 belonging to the administration and one human resources officer.

The participants include one program manager, three program coordinators, one financial manager, one accountant, 11 project officers, 7 field workers, one secretary, 2 drivers and one human resources officer.

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

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

The course included:

- What is SPHERE .1
- Humanitarian Charter .2
- Protection principles .3
- Core standards .4
- Minimum standards for .5

Water supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion	(a)
Food security and Nutrition	(b)
Shelter, Settlement and non-food items	(c)
Health Action	(d)

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.	-
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	-

Training on Basic First Aid: **.C**

This course took place in Saida office for the **benefit of 14 PARD employees** (6 M, 8 F).

The course included:

Introduction to first aid	-
Role of the first aider	-
Burns	-
Wounds	-
Hemorrhage	-
Poisoning	-
CPR	-
Position of injured person	-
Fixture of fractures	-
Insect and animal bites.	-

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

Revision of PARD’s Emergency Plan: **.2**

This workshop took place in February 2022 for the purpose of upgrading its contents. 12 PARD employees (3 M, 9 F) participated in this two days workshop, which was conducted by PARD’s director.

The participants included one program manager, one financial manager, three program coordinators, one accountant, three project officers, one administrator, the MEAL officer, the human resources officer.

The workshop included revision of all possible scenarios, the vision and mission of PARD, the role and duties of the response committee, SWOT analysis, the early warning system, media, finance and others.

Project Evaluations **.3**

At the end of two of its projects, PARD contracted evaluators to assess the success of the implementation of the projects and their effects on the benefiting communities in addition to

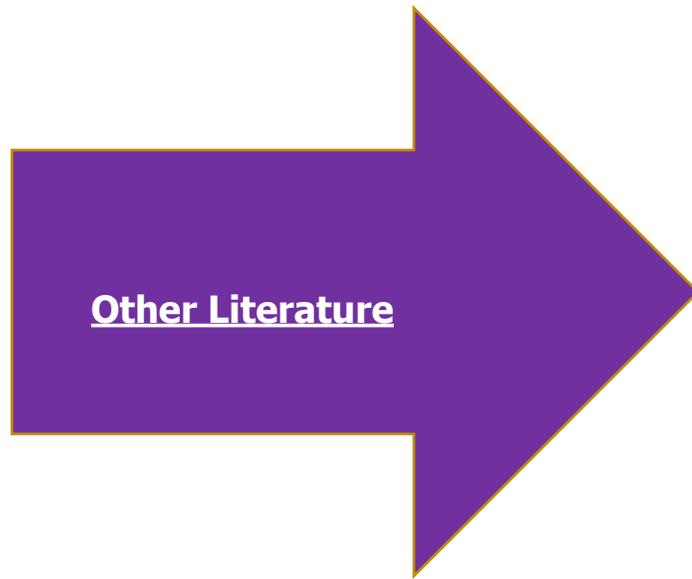
financial audits supported by the donors. The evaluations were carried out to obtain information on the achievements of the project results in their different dimensions, progress, weaknesses and strengths in the different stages of the project’s design, implementation and monitoring.

The projects targeted in these evaluations were “Medical and Psychosocial Assistance to the Refugee Population in South Lebanon” and “Reconstruction, Livelihoods and Gender Equity in Informal Settlements in Southern Lebanon”.

In addition, in the “Medical and Psychosocial Assistance to the Refugee Population in South Lebanon” project, an expert researcher was consulted to conduct a study on GBV and Economic Abuse in the targeted gatherings. Entitled “Discrimination Through Economic Abuse in Times of Conflict: Case of Palestinian Women in Lebanon”, the study aimed to provide a comprehensive look into GBV and economic abuse, both quantitatively, in regards to prevalence among the ten targeted refugee gatherings in the south, and qualitatively, via focused group discussions, among 3 different target groups (women, young women and young men).

The projects/activities in this strategy were supported by:

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)	Ø
Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB)	Ø
Save the Children / BMZ	Ø
International Community for Red Cross	Ø
UNHCR	Ø
ABAAD	Ø
UN Women	Ø
UNDP	Ø
UNICEF	Ø



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

Other Literature

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

Coordination Forums

The coordination forum of the NGOs working among the Palestinian Community has .1 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.

The Platform of Social and Health NGOs in Saida Area was established as a result of the .2 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.

Coordination

With the following organizations and entities: Terre Des Hommes – Al Shifaa – Popular committees – Jana Association – Initiate – ULYP – UNDP.

Networking

South Health Working Group, established and led by UNHCR, is the coordination group for - all agencies providing assistance to refugees in the field of Health. The group meets to discuss ongoing and planned projects and share key information on implementation and operational developments.

- South GBV and Protection Working Group, led by UNHCR’s Gender-based Violence section and holds a monthly meeting for all stakeholders, with the aim of disseminating relevant information and data, constantly updating referral pathways and discussing an arising problems or issues.

- Gathering Working Group for regular meetings with UNRWA, UNDP and all NGOs working in the gatherings, to share management criteria, and to implement an effective division of labour in the humanitarian field.



BEIRUT

ARD JALOUL, JALOUL BUILDING , FLOOR 1



SAIDA

BEZRI BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR,
RIAD EL SOLOH STREET
