



The Popular Aid  
For Relief & Development  
Build Empowered Communities

# 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING EMPOWERED  
COMMUNITIES

## Popular Aid for Relief & Development

Committed to empowering vulnerable communities, restoring hope, and fostering sustainable development through humanitarian aid, social justice, and capacity-building initiatives. Together, we strive to create a future where dignity, equality, and opportunity are accessible to all.



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## **SPECIAL THANKS**

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- Mennonite Central Committee- MCC
- Refugee Empowerment International- REI
- Solidaridad Internacional (NESI)
- The Provincial Council of Biscay- Bizkaia
- The Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa
- UNDP Lebanon
- Najdeh Association / EFI / AFD

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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 kindergartens for children, 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 just under 500,000 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 recent UNRWA and Government of Lebanon (GoL) update<sup>1</sup> 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 (76 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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

- **Engineering**: 3 professions, including agricultural engineering and typography
- **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 guide<sup>2</sup>

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 camps <sup>3</sup>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 or informal settlements, PARD's target areas.

For the definition of the gatherings or informal settlements, there is a lack of consensus on how they are defined which therefore affects their count. In a recent report<sup>4</sup>, 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;
- as 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.

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<sup>2</sup> Assessing Vulnerabilities in Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon – Results of UNDP 2017 Household Survey

<sup>3</sup> Protection brief: Palestine refugees living in Lebanon- Updated in September 2020

<sup>4</sup> Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee, OP.Cit.

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 held by municipalities of relevant areas as multiple gatherings are constructed illegally on the municipality's lands or on lands owned by private landowners.

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. 5% of households live in overcrowded dwellings (more than 3 persons per room). Half of the Palestinian gatherings population (51%) live in apartments, 45% in single houses, 2.3% in shared houses and 2.3% in temporary shelters. Around 39% of the houses are affected by humidity and 19% are affected by darkness. These figures are expected to have increased in recent years<sup>5</sup>.

The main reason for not receiving treatment, cited by 98% of respondents, is related to inability to pay, which suggests that access to health will become increasingly more difficult as the economic crisis continues, and the health status of the population residing in Palestinian Gatherings will likely deteriorate further<sup>6</sup>.

On the educational level, the level of education differs depending on the age group in the PRL communities. 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 66% with a more significant decrease in males than females.

These illiterate children are especially at risk. 58% of them are boys and 42% are girls, which indicates that gender is not factor in keeping them out of school. Almost half of them (51%) are PRS children, while another 31% are PRL, and the rest are Lebanese.

Attendance rates begin to drop at age 13 (81%), with a significant drop taking place at ages 15 (72%) and 16 (62%) when children are just finishing intermediate school and moving on to the secondary cycle. This finding is in line with the attendance rate trend in national surveys. As expected, attendance rates continue to drop upon transitioning to university, with only a third (32%) of 19 year-olds being enrolled in education. Reasons for lack of attendance among 13-15

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<sup>5</sup> Assessing Vulnerabilities, in Palestinian gatherings in Lebanon-Results of the 2022 Household Survey -UNDP.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

year-olds include economic factors (high cost of education, child needs to work) in addition to a significant share relating the drop-out to the child “not liking school”. This suggest a need for education support among these vulnerable populations where the parents have low educational attainment (see previous section) and are unable to assist their children in schooling.

The share of households that have no employed member increased from 24% in 2017 to 29% in 2022, with PRS households being especially vulnerable in this regard. Indeed, 40% of them are without a gainfully employed member. On average, every employed person supports 3 dependents.

Because of the devaluation of the Lebanese Pound since the end of 2019, the monthly average earnings of the dwellers of Palestinian Gatherings fell drastically from USD 365 in 2017 to USD 100 in 2022.<sup>7</sup>

The coping strategies some families had to follow included putting children in labor where UNRWA figures estimate that around 4,500 Palestinian children engage in some form of child labor.<sup>8</sup>

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 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 2020<sup>9</sup>.

**PARD’s response to the beneficiaries’ needs:**

In response to the needs and vulnerabilities of the Palestinians and the Syrians in the gatherings, PARD responded over the years in different areas. PARD established a polyclinic in Sabra in 1985.

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 which was closed in 2010 due to the opening of other dispensaries in the same area. PARD had operating clinics in multiple areas like Maashouk,

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Protection Brief, OP.Cit

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

Shabriha and Kfar Badda. Also, PARD started a mobile clinic in 1987 whose mission was to visit displacement centers, gatherings and faraway 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, Qasmiyeh, 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 and Syrian'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 such as early marriage, GBV and drug abuse. 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.

The program included TOT training for local youth (males and females) on health education, combating illiteracy, children activities, and environmental issues (with focus on water care-taking).

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).

Since 2012, PARD has established three kindergartens for three to six years old children in Beirut, Wadi El Zeineh and Tyre.

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, 2006 and 2024.

## Situation Report

### General Situation in Lebanon

The political environment in Lebanon has been unstable for the past few decades due to a governance system deeply rooted in sectarianism, which has fueled decades of corruption, inefficiency, and lack of accountability. The state's inability to function effectively has been further worsened by an ongoing economic collapse that began in 2019. Hyperinflation, a broken

banking system, and the devaluation of the Lebanese pound have plunged a major part of the population into poverty, with many unable to access essential services such as healthcare, electricity, and education.

It is to be noted that even before the events of September 2024, Lebanon was hosting one of the highest per capita refugee populations in the world composed mainly of Syrian and Palestinian refugees. Poverty rates amongst these groups have been incredibly high. As of April 2023, 80% of Palestinian refugees were living below the national poverty line, and nine out of ten Syrian refugees required humanitarian assistance. Additionally, reports suggest that the relationship between refugees, particularly Syrian refugees, and the local population has become increasingly strained due to economic pressures and competition for resources. Tensions vary by region, with some areas experiencing more conflict than others.

In 2023, access to water and sanitation was already unequal across population groups with only 50% of Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL) households declaring adequate access against 73% of Lebanese households. However, the recent escalation of conflict (2024) is likely to drive increased WASH needs primarily due to mass displacement and widespread damage to water infrastructure (with 40 water facilities being damaged since October 2023). This places an estimated one million people in Lebanon in need of support to access water and sanitation. The situation is particularly critical in areas heavily impacted by the conflict and among IDPs living in overcrowded shelters.

The overall situation carries a high risk of disease outbreaks, particularly communicable and waterborne diseases, and hampers people's hygiene and dignity, especially for children and women.

In a country where income and wealth inequality are among the highest in the region, academics and UN agencies have said that the economic crisis widened the gap, as middle- and low-income families' savings disappeared, and there was little opportunity for upward mobility.

Four out of ten households in Lebanon earn less than \$100 a month. Earners throughout the country are struggling, with the median income ranging from \$78 per month in Beqaa to \$157 in Mount Lebanon.

The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) is the country's main social insurance mechanism and provides medical, educational, retirement, and family support programs to private formal sector and public sector workers. People working in the informal economy, estimated at 62 percent of the population in January 2022, are excluded from this program.

**Refugees and asylum seekers from Palestine and Syria are not eligible for any of the social Lebanese protection programs.**

Despite high and rising inflation since 2019, Lebanon's minimum wage has not been updated since 2017. On March 19, 2024, the Index Committee at the Ministry of Labor approved

increasing the minimum wage from LBP 9 million to LBP 18 million per month, with the consent of economic bodies and the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers.

On April 1, 2024, the decree was then forwarded to the Cabinet of Ministers.

On April 5, 2024, the Cabinet reviewed Decree No. 13164. The government approved the increase of the minimum wage to LBP 18 million. (202\$ at the rate of 89000 LBP for one dollar).

**Informal work is not covered under national labor legislation and thus excluded from minimum wage protections.**

For years, Lebanon lacked official data on poverty, in part owing to the lack of census data since 1932, with nongovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, and United Nations agencies filling the gap. In March 2022, the government released the first multidimensional poverty index, based on 2018/19 household survey data on 19 indicators across five dimensions: education, health, financial well-being, basic infrastructure, and living standards. The assessment found that in 2019 – before the economic crisis – 53.1 percent of the population were living in multidimensional poverty.

This reality has affected the situation of refugees who have flocked to Lebanon since the 1948 Palestinian Nakba, up until the entry of Syrians after 2011, when their classification as refugees and displaced persons was lost.

There are no precise figures or statistics that determine the number of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. While some estimates put the number at more than 479,000 registered with UNRWA, a census conducted in 2017 put the number at 174,000. The UNICEF website states that the number currently residing in Lebanon, along with Palestinian refugees from Syria, is 192,000.

The numbers mentioned about the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon are inaccurate, as a large number of those registered as refugees are not. A large number of them were living in Lebanon before the events of 2011, and as a result of the complications of renewing their residency permits, they abandoned them and registered as refugees.

On the other hand, a number of Syrians who entered Lebanon during the Syrian war refused to register with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and refused to receive any aid. Therefore, any figures reported regarding the number of refugees are inaccurate.

For the Syrian refugees, shelters and all logistical requirements were secured, and dozens of charities were established, receiving funding to implement refugee-specific projects. Over the course of ten years, billions of dollars were disbursed to organizations, agencies, and associations operating under this umbrella.

The international community has harnessed its capabilities and capacities to support Syrian refugees, particularly in neighboring countries Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan. Financial and in-kind

assistance was provided, in addition to allocating a full budget for education. This reality benefited the Lebanese state not only politically, but also economically, as Lebanon was also attractive to Syrian capital, which quickly transferred its businesses and funds from Syrian banks to Lebanese banks.

Thus, millions of dollars entered Lebanon with the start of the Syrian crisis.

Lebanon is not a country of asylum because it has not signed the 1951 UN Refugee Convention. However, it is committed to implementing international legal standards regarding the agreements it is bound by, particularly the Convention against Torture, which Lebanon ratified in 2000. This prohibits the deportation of any person to a country where their life would be in danger. This is verified by examining the asylum seeker's situation and the situation of their country.

If the Lebanese state forces a refugee to return despite his or her refusal for security or political reasons, it would be in violation of the International Convention against Torture, which it has signed. Under the law, the Lebanese state is obligated to facilitate asylum in a third country in coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Large numbers of Syrian refugees regularly visit their country, whether through legal corridors or smuggling routes.

### **Lebanon Situation: 7 October 2023 - 22 September 2024**

The situation worsened quickly after hostilities broke out on 7 October 2023, plunging Lebanon into a complex and rapidly escalating emergency. This new phase of the crisis is characterised by increasing threats to physical security, widespread destruction of infrastructure, and the mass displacement of civilians.

Issued on a daily basis by the Israeli army, displacement orders for more than 100 villages and urban neighborhoods across southern Lebanon continued to force people to flee, pushing many up to 30 km north. One quarter of Lebanese territory was under Israeli military displacement orders, according to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Since October 2023, more than 4,040 people have been reported killed in Lebanon, including 316 children and 790 women, while 16,590 people have been injured, including 1,450 children and 2,827 women.

Notably, since October 2023, according to the surveyed municipalities, no large-scale recovery or rehabilitation efforts have been carried out in affected localities, which has prevented any significant rebuilding or restoration. However, smaller scale efforts took place, short-term assistance was provided by civil society, UN agencies and international organizations as well as through local authorities and private entities.

On 17 and 18 September 2024, thousands of handheld pagers and hundreds of walkie-talkies intended for use by Hezbollah exploded simultaneously in two separate events across Lebanon and Syria, in an Israeli attack nicknamed Operation Grim Beeper. According to an unnamed Hezbollah official, the attack took 1,500 Hezbollah fighters out of action due to injuries. According to the Lebanese government, the attack killed 42 people, including 12 civilians, and injured 4,000 civilians. Victims had injuries including losing fingers, hands, and eyes, as well as brain shrapnel. The incident was described as Hezbollah's biggest security breach since the start of the Israel–Hezbollah conflict in October 2023.

Also briefing the Security Council, Volker Turk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, added further context by addressing the human rights and humanitarian law concerns stemming from these attacks.

“These attacks represent a new development in warfare, where communication tools become weapons, simultaneously exploding across marketplaces, on street corners, and in homes as daily life unfold,” he said.

“The attacks, “unleashed widespread fear and panic” among people in Lebanon, who were already suffering in an increasingly volatile situation since October 2023 and severe and longstanding economic crisis”, he added.

“Even wars are governed by rules to protect the rights and dignity of people and defend societal values”.

“Simultaneous targeting of thousands of individuals, whether civilians or members of armed groups, without knowing who held the targeted devices, their location, or surroundings, violated international human rights law and, as applicable, international humanitarian law”.

“International humanitarian law prohibits the use of booby-trap devices in the form of apparently harmless portable objects which are specifically designed and constructed to contain explosive material,” he said.

“It is a war crime to commit violence intended to spread terror among civilians”.

The High Commissioner reiterated his call for an independent, thorough, and transparent investigation into the circumstances of these explosions.

“Let me be clear – this method of warfare may be new and unfamiliar. But international humanitarian and human rights law apply regardless and must be upheld”.

Continuing, Mr. Turk said “simultaneous targeting of thousands of individuals, whether civilians or members of armed groups, **without knowledge as to who was in possession of the targeted devices, their location and their surroundings at the time of the attack, violates international human rights law** and, to the extent applicable, international humanitarian law.”

World Health Organization (WHO) in its Health Emergency Response report (1-7 November, 2024) registered that people in need are divided into 2.2 million Lebanese, 1.3 million Syrian, 119 thousand Palestinian refugee and 87 thousand migrants.

Lebanon's Health sector was under immense pressure of relentless attacks on healthcare facilities and personnel. Since 8 October 2023, at least 233 health workers have been killed while on duty, and at least 100 primary health care centers (PHCCs) have been forced to close. 5 Hospitals in southern Lebanon were shut down due to damage sustained in attacks and supply shortages.

Behind a façade of normalization of crisis conditions, the Lebanese economy remains in precipitous decline, markedly distant from a stabilization path, let alone a recovery path, according to the latest World Bank Lebanon Economic Monitor released. The systemic failure of Lebanon's banking system and the collapse of the currency have induced a pervasive dollarized cash economy.

The policy-making status quo, characterized by piecemeal and inadequate crisis management decisions undermining a comprehensive and equitable plan, continued to deplete capital of all kinds, including human and social, giving way to profound social inequality with only a few winners and a large majority of losers.

The Lebanese pound continued to depreciate sharply despite the central bank's foreign exchange interventions to attempt to stabilize the parallel market exchange rate.

Across all economic pillars, ad-hoc crisis management decisions continued to undermine an equitable and comprehensive recovery plan.

"As long as the economy is contracting and crisis conditions persist, living standards are set for further erosion, poverty will continue to spiral," said **Jean-Christophe Carret, World Bank Middle East Country Director**. "Delays in the implementation of a comprehensive reform and recovery plan will only further compound human and social capital losses and render the recovery longer and more costly."

The dollarized cash economy reflected a rapid shift towards hard currency cash transactions following a complete loss of confidence in an impaired banking sector and in the domestic currency. The cash economy was far from a net contributor to growth. On the contrary, it threatened to compromise the effectiveness of fiscal and monetary policy, heightened the risk of money laundering, increased informality, and prompted further tax evasion.

#### **Situation in Lebanon: 22 September – 26 November, 2024**

A year after the 7 October 2023 attacks, tensions between Lebanon and Israel have reached a critical point, marking a pivotal moment in an increasingly regionalised dynamic.

In late September 2024, skirmishes escalated into full-scale warfare after more than 11 months of what can be described as “controlled conflict.” Beginning the week of 23 September 2024, major escalation was marked by airstrikes across the country, including Beirut, as the Israeli military launched a large-scale ground operation in southern Lebanon.

Between September and November 2024, the conflict had significant humanitarian impact across Lebanon with over 4,000 fatalities, 16,500 injuries, and 1.3 million people directly affected or displaced, overwhelming government services and humanitarian response capacities.

Displacement in Lebanon has a long history, stemming from periods of conflict, mainly affecting people who live around the southern border. The civil war, as well as the conflict with Israel between 1975 and 1990, forced an estimated 810,000 Lebanese away from their homes - temporarily or permanently. In 1996, six years after the civil war ended, the Lebanese Ministry of Displaced (MOD) estimated that half a million IDPs remained across the country. In 2006, the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah led to the mass displacement of approximately 900,000 people, nearly 25% of Lebanon's population.

OCHA indicated that most of the newly displaced people required urgent assistance with older people and people with disabilities being the most vulnerable as they were often unable to leave their homes and were at heightened risks in conflict-affected areas.

Amongst those newly displaced, one-third of the households were sheltering in host settings, sharing space with non-displaced families, particularly in the Bekaa and Beirut regions. Collective shelters (21%), rented apartments (29%), and co-living with hosts (33%) were among the most common types of shelter. The escalation triggered cross-border movement, with an estimated 562,000 Lebanese and Syrian individuals leaving Lebanon after 23 September 2024, most of them via land routes towards Syria and Iraq.

The new wave of displacement combined with the continuous destruction provoked by the conflict in residential areas, personal property, land, and civilian objects, had led to an alarming increase in IDPs living in collective shelters. **Over 1177 collective shelters have been set up by the Lebanese government, accommodating 191,402 individuals.** Reports further indicate that some IDPs are living in overcrowded shelters predominantly established in educational institutions, with limited access to basic services, while others are sleeping in the open. Girls and women residing in collective shelters have expressed feeling unsafe, with concerns raised about their safety including the risk of SGBV. Furthermore, rental costs have risen dramatically, driving many households into debt and increasing risks of eviction.

Furthermore, the displacement of humanitarian staff from many of the conflict-affected areas has limited the ability of protection actors to reach affected and vulnerable populations. Additional barriers were being faced by the large refugee population of the country. Instances of

Syrians and other refugees being denied access to collective shelters due to their nationality were shown in a UNICEF update.

The majority of IDPs (50%) originate from three districts. These three districts span along the Southern border of Lebanon. Specifically, 21% are from Tyre, 16% are from El Nabatieh, and 13 % are from Bent Jbeil. The remaining 50% originate from 11 different districts.

UNICEF reports that about 350,000 children have been displaced by the ongoing conflict.

**Till the 26th of November, 13,700 Israeli raids and bombardment through Israeli planes were recorded.**

1177 shelters for the displaced people from the South were opened, 981 of them reached their maximum capacity.

The social security in the Lebanese Interior Ministry recorded 562,000 people (37 per cent Lebanese and 63 per cent Syrians) who crossed the border to Syria.

**Israeli government also faced multi-front engagements: The Gaza conflict increased West Bank violence, and airstrikes in Syria.**

**The results of the Israeli Genocide on Gaza strip till the end of 2024 was the following:**

Number of martyrs	47035
Number of women martyrs	12198
Number of children martyrs	17861
Number of wounded	111091
Number of massacres	10100
Number of martyrs from medical bodies	1115
Number of martyrs from the media	205
Number of detainees	6600
Number of missing	14222

**70% of the martyrs are women and children**

In addition to:

276 destroyed hospital and medical utility

512 school, university completely or partially destroyed.

437600 houses destroyed

216 governmental office destroyed

136 ambulance destroyed

981 mosques partially or completely destroyed

3 churches destroyed

**Estimated 100,000 tons of explosives were thrown by the Israeli army on Gaza**

**Estimated preliminary losses in Gaza reached 38 billion US dollars.**

Led by the Lebanese Prime Minister, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers oversaw national preparedness and response efforts, supported by the National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Unit. At the subnational level, Governors coordinated with local authorities for preparedness and emergency response. Meanwhile, UN and NGO partners under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator and in complement to the government-led response, continued to accelerate response and preparedness activities. As outlined in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) contingency plan, humanitarian partners carried out an emergency response to the humanitarian impact of the escalation in Southern Lebanon, under the 2024 Lebanon Response Plan (LRP), with US\$ 72.4 million required for three months' response to support up to 200,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance. As of mid-2024, only one third of that amount had been made available, \$24.6 million. The humanitarian Country Team requires \$110 million to fund the response for up to 290,000 people in Lebanon through the end of the year.

The UN and humanitarian organizations, in partnership with the Government of Lebanon, remained at the forefront of coordinating and delivering relief to displaced and affected communities. Government officials including key ministries held regular consultations with the Humanitarian Coordinator and wider humanitarian community to ensure a cohesive and effective response, prioritize urgent needs, and improve the overall delivery of assistance. Recent discussions have centered on strengthening civilian protection and addressing critical shelter needs for those who remain without temporary options for appropriate shelter. On 6 October 2024, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, visited Beirut calling for greater international support to stem the humanitarian catastrophe engulfing Lebanon. He met with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati and other senior officials and discussed UNHCR's support to displaced families.

**Despite ongoing efforts, the humanitarian community continued to navigate a highly challenging operational environment, facing multiple obstacles that hinder the delivery of aid.**

Security concerns, including active hostilities and threats to humanitarian workers, severely limited access to affected areas. In addition, physical constraints such as damaged infrastructure, road blockages, and disrupted supply chains exacerbated these challenges. Administrative hurdles, including delays in obtaining assurances from stakeholders, further complicated the timely and efficient delivery of life-saving assistance. These cumulative factors

significantly impeded the humanitarian response, making it difficult to reach those most in need.

Since 17 September, several Member States have made new and upcoming pledges in response to Lebanon's escalating crisis.

In-kind contributions have been reported from several countries.

**Despite the limited available funding, humanitarian actors continued to provide life-saving assistance to meet the needs of the most vulnerable affected communities.** However, support for people remaining in frontline areas remained limited due to many challenges, including funding, access, and security constraints.

UNICEF launched the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Lebanon appeal on 1 October 2024, in line with the UN Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for Lebanon. The HAC outlined UNICEF's humanitarian strategy to respond until December 2024 to the needs of one million people affected by hostilities in Lebanon, including 350,000 children. It required US\$ 105 million and was 33 per cent funded.

Since activating its emergency response on 24 September 2024, UNRWA has received displaced populations in 11 shelters, hosting newly displaced Lebanese and Syrians as well as Palestine refugees. To meet growing needs, UNRWA promised to expand shelter space.

The government's Disaster Risk Management (DRM) reports approximately 86,000 arrivals from Syria in Baalbek Governorate, including 20,000 Lebanese. Among the arrivals, some 34,000 people, mostly Syrians, are living in 210 informal Collective Shelters and another 52,100 are living in the community. Visits to collective sites indicated urgent heating/fuel, hygiene, and food needs. Additionally, newly arrived families have been observed in other areas including in South Lebanon.

With the ceasefire agreement reached on 27 November 2024, returns began quickly, and by 16 December 2024, DRM estimated that 180,564 had left the collective shelters. Nonetheless, high levels of destruction coupled with warnings and restrictions in accessing certain areas, mainly those situated on the borders, have limited the return of a large number of IDPs. Subsequently, on 12 December, DRM reported that after the ceasefire, the number of IDPs registered in shelters decreased by 97.07 percent, with the number of IDPs in shelters registered as 5,445 (as compared to 186,009 just before the ceasefire) with IDPs distributed in 66 centers (as compared to 1177 shelters before the ceasefire), the largest number of which are in the districts of Beirut, Baabda, and Aley.

Lebanon faced a complex protection situation whose roots lie in the combination of multiple historical conflicts, political challenges, and socio-economic crises. Over the last year, civilian populations experienced diverse threats, reinforced by pre-existing vulnerabilities and/or discriminations, especially for children and the refugee populations. Recent escalations of conflict have deteriorated the protection situation for all civilians, leading to significant

displacement, casualties and reduced access to essential services. According to the October Flash Appeal, one million people are considered in need of general protection in the country, 400,000 in need of child protection, and 300,000 in need of protection regarding Gender Based Violence.

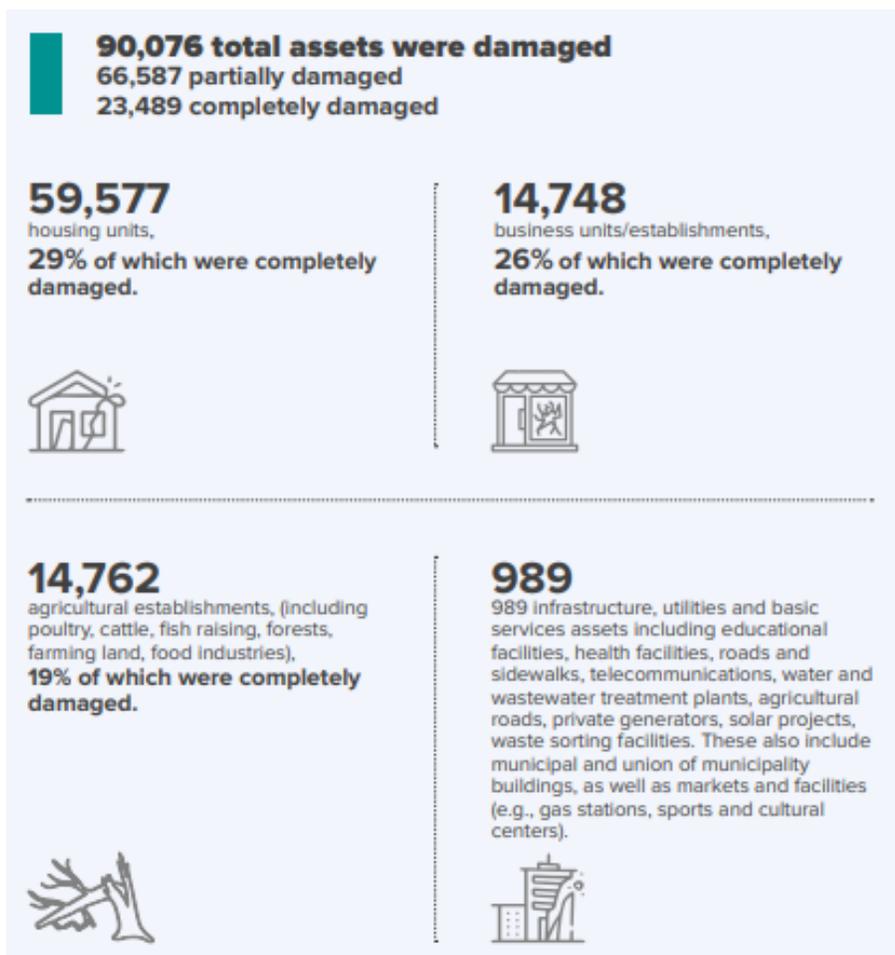
The impact has derailed Lebanon’s slow recovery from the 2019 economic collapse, deepening the multidimensional effects of widespread poverty and affecting the wellbeing of households. In October 2024, UNDP estimated that the Lebanese economy was to decline by 9.2 percent compared to a no-war scenario, assuming hostilities cease by the end of 2024. Even under this assumption, the economy is expected to further contract by 2.3 percent in 2025 and 2.4 percent in 2026. The medium-term negative economic outlook is attributed to an expected sharp slowdown in economic activity, significant losses in capital across all sectors, including infrastructure, buildings, factories, equipment, and utilities. Already, as per the UNDP/ARK Regular Perceptions Survey conducted in November 2024, 51 percent of households in affected areas reported that at least one adult lost a job or stopped working during said escalation.

Another reported

due to As a percent their economic worse off worse off with last percent spending their last year, percent some The access,

and rising

food security challenges all contribute to a worsening of the nutritional status of the most vulnerable. For children and pregnant and lactating women (especially refugees), this situation



46 percent damage or destruction of businesses the conflict. result, 81 reporting that household situation is or much compared year; with 63 reporting all or part of savings in the and 45 going into form of debt.

disruption of healthcare forced displacement, economic and

is likely to deteriorate further as challenges rise in addressing the full scope of nutritional needs amidst the conflict.

**The situation leaves Lebanon reliant on international aid, which is fundamentally inaccessible without clear reform agenda, political resolution, and assurances of stability, which consequently, complicates the recovery process. Further, without effective governance and a coordinated recovery plan, communities face even greater delays and challenges in replenishing livelihoods and resources.**

The summary of reported damages, based on the surveys completed by local authorities across 135 areas in 19 districts in 8 governorates, is presented below. The results include details on both partial and complete damage to various assets, such as housing, business establishments (e.g., shops), agricultural assets, municipal buildings, and other infrastructure.

The war resulted in partial or total damage to a variety of assets including housing units, business units/establishments, land/agricultural assets, infrastructure, and others. These were reported as follows:

Varying levels of damage were reported across the surveyed districts, including business establishments, agricultural assets, and damages to municipal buildings and union of municipalities. The highest number of damages were reported in Baalbek (22082), followed by Baabda (19068), Nabatieh (19013), Bent Jbeil (9334), Tyre (9187), and Saida (5148).

Other reported damages to infrastructure were highest in Nabatieh (202), followed by Saida (127), Beirut (105), and Sour (82) as follows:

Map 2: Reported Infrastructure Damage per District



The conflict has further exacerbated an existing educational crisis characterized by severe disruption to children's education in recent years, driven by the compounding effects of the economic crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beirut port explosion and widespread teacher strikes. Overall, 340,000 children and youth are considered in need of school access in a context where violence forced the Lebanese Minister of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) to close all education facilities until 4 November 2024. **With the crisis displacing more than one million individuals, it is estimated that 40% of Lebanon's 1.25 million school-aged children are displaced and the majority of the 1177 collective shelters opened by Lebanese authorities are located in public school buildings.** Vulnerable groups, including Syrian refugee children, those with disabilities, and newly displaced school-aged children, face even greater barriers to education, with many children at risk of dropping out due to challenges in accessing online learning and limited educational resources. Those who drop out are more exposed to protection risks such as child labor, child marriage, and exploitation.

Between October and November 2024, about 1.59 million Lebanese, Syrian refugees, and Palestine refugees (29 percent of the total population analyzed) experienced high levels of acute food insecurity.

Already facing a dire economic situation prior to the escalation of the conflict due to the protracted economic and financial crisis since late 2019, the conflict severely impacted economic activity and livelihoods across all sectors. Market functionality nationwide has dropped, with the most severe impact on operationally and supply chains in El Nabatieh, South and Baalbek-El Hermel governorates.

Albeit softening compared to previous years, inflation remains a key driver of food insecurity, with monthly food inflation reaching 5 percent and year-on-year inflation hitting 23 percent in October 2024, despite exchange rate stability. The phase-out of wheat imports subsidies, drove a 9 percent rise in the food Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket cost to USD 37.7 between May and December 2024.

The fifth IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis in Lebanon revealed a significant increase in food insecurity following the escalation of the conflict in September 2024. Between October and November 2024, 1.59 million people (29 percent) faced acute food insecurity, a 6 percent increase from the projected acute food insecurity levels for September 2024 (1.26 million people, 23 percent). Further increase of 1 percent is projected by March 2025. The projected deterioration is mainly driven by severely impacted economic activity by the conflict, inflation, and reduced humanitarian assistance affecting Lebanese and refugees.

Agricultural losses, inflationary food prices, and competition for resources between host and refugee communities are further exacerbating the crisis, with both local and displaced populations struggling to access food and income-earning opportunities. **Households with**

**limited income and female-headed households have been identified as among the most vulnerable and many could resort to harmful coping mechanisms.**

Lebanon's health system, already fragile due to long-standing issues of low capacity and inadequate infrastructure, has been further destabilized by the recent escalation in conflict. From October 2023 to October 2024, there were 54 reported incidents of violence against healthcare facilities, nearly half occurring in October 2024 alone. These attacks have severely restricted access to essential healthcare, particularly in conflict-affected areas. The country now faces an elevated risk of disease outbreaks, including waterborne and vaccine-preventable diseases, due to a combination of conflict-driven mass displacement and pre-existing vulnerabilities. The surge in trauma-related health needs, alongside disruptions in healthcare services, has affected the provision of essential health services for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and sexual and reproductive health (SRH). The ongoing violence and displacement also impacted the population's mental health, especially among refugees, with rising cases of anxiety and depression among children, particularly in the South Governorate and Palestinian households.

Several protection risks have emerged in the conflict where hundreds of civilians were being killed due to indiscriminate attacks using explosive weapons in populated areas resulting in over 90% of the recorded civilian casualties. The indiscriminate character of attacks led to a climate of terror where the civilian population experienced psychological and emotional distress. Furthermore, the presence of mines and other explosive ordnance increased the levels of land contamination, with an estimate that 20% of the recently used explosive ordnance may have failed to denote. In addition, extensive use of white phosphorus led to more health issues and the destruction of agricultural lands. **Protection issues include lack of access to adequate shelter, family separation, gender-based violence, and attacks on personal property which are likely to remain at the heart of the conflict dynamic and will continue to expose civilians to cases of eviction, discrimination and violence.**

The humanitarian situation for children in Lebanon, especially among refugees, is increasingly critical due to ongoing hostilities and economic hardship. The conflict has led to numerous cases of child separation from families. While many unaccompanied children have been reunited, the sustained violence heightened the risks of prolonged separation, exposing children to further vulnerabilities. Grave violations such as child killings, injuries, school attacks, have been documented. These escalating protection threats highlighted the urgent need for child protection mechanisms and enhanced mental health and psychosocial support to mitigate the severe impact on children's well-being and development.

The United Nations has reassured that the UNIFIL mission (peacekeeping along the Blue Line) and that the UN Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006) remains a key framework for addressing the conflict.

Many international actors are primarily focused on preventing the escalation of the conflict rather than supporting specific sides, and much of the international community's focus is on preventing civilian casualties and providing humanitarian assistance rather than offering explicit political or military support.

As of November 26, 2024, a ceasefire agreement to halt 13 months of conflict between Israeli forces and Hezbollah, has come into effect. Under the agreement, Hezbollah has 60 days to dismantle its armed presence in southern Lebanon, while Israeli forces are required to withdraw from the region within the same timeframe.

More than 883,203 internally displaced persons (IDPs) began returning to their communities.

Almost one-third of whom returned to Nabatiyeh District in South Lebanon. However, 113,600 remain displaced, including 3,833 (3 percent) residing in 41 collective shelters.

With a ceasefire, the focus has now shifted to return, recovery, and reconstruction. However, the pick-up of recovery and reconstruction efforts is anticipated to be slow, particularly due to the weakened institutional capacity over more than five consecutive years of fiscal and economic shocks, constraining the quick and far-reaching crisis response. Even the private sector response is expected to be slow given the loss of income and jobs caused by the war, in addition to the limited access to assets and income-generating activities.

For families returning to their areas of origin, risks of mines, unexploded ordnance (UXO), explosive remnants, structural damage, and winter exposure persist. There are also continuing and urgent needs for shelter to cope with damaged housing and infrastructure, support for essential services, especially for displaced families returning to their communities.

Humanitarian partners are preparing for the post-cessation of hostilities period, although extensive damage to homes and critical infrastructure, including roads, water, and electricity networks, is expected to delay the return of displaced populations to border villages. While some temporary returns to such areas have been recorded, these are largely attributed to individual households assessing and protecting private property. Humanitarian partners are working closely with local and national authorities to coordinate response and early recovery planning, emphasizing the need for areas to be cleared of rubble, unexploded ordnance, and potential chemical contamination. The road to recovery and reconstruction remains long and sustained efforts and funding will be needed to address both immediate humanitarian needs and longer-term reconstruction challenges.

On 4 October, the Acting Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) confirmed that an IASC Systemwide Scale-Up for Lebanon has been activated for six months, until 4 April 2025. The main aim of this scale up is to rapidly mobilize resources and capacities for the emergency response in the country for the coming period.

Cross-border movements between Lebanon and Syria continues via official and unofficial crossing points, with the Masnaa official border crossing in Bekaa being the only crossing open for vehicle traffic. Movements continue on a daily basis at a low but steady rate, mostly through Masnaa. While refugees continue to express interest in return to Syria, many continue to cite challenges and request UNHCR support with transportation, shelter, and continued support for returning IDPs.

Prior to the ceasefire, more than 620,000 people had left Lebanon for Syria, including 234,242 Lebanese and 390,656 Syrians, according to the Lebanese General Security Directorate. After the ceasefire, and following changes in the Syrian Government in December 2024, reverse movement flows towards Lebanon have occurred through official and unofficial border crossings. Lebanese authorities estimate that some 90,000 people, both Lebanese and Syrian, arrived from Syria since 8 December 2024. In terms of Syrians returning to Syria, UNHCR has reported that most are still assessing how the situation will evolve, with concerns relating to safety, security, documentation, housing, and schooling for children. As of 31 December 2024, UNHCR reported that around 115,000 Syrians had returned to Syria since 8 December 2024, approximately 10,000 of whom entered Syria through official crossings from Lebanon.

While return from Lebanon to Syria continues, the fall of the Assad government has also resulted in newly arriving Syrian families seeking refuge in Lebanon, including some Lebanese families.

UNHCR continues to monitor the population movements and engage with refugee and Lebanese returnees' communities to respond to mobilize the response to the most immediate humanitarian needs and track intentions, address questions and ensure dissemination of relevant information to the communities.

UNHCR and partners are provided with if-asked counselling lines for Syrians in Lebanon in response to the rapidly evolving situation in Syria.

In Syria, clashes between the new authorities and armed groups are ongoing. While insecurity remains a concern, the situation continues to rapidly shift, with difficulties in predicting how the coming period will evolve. Through its close contact with Syrian refugee communities in Lebanon, UNHCR has been monitoring refugee sentiments and concerns around return since 8 December. Most Syrians are expressing an interest in temporality visiting Syria to assess the situation. However, until now many are adopting a "wait and see" approach to observe how the situation evolves in Syria and reach clarity with respect to issues such as assistance. At the same time, some Syrian refugees are reportedly exploring a phased approach to return, with members of the family returning first to assess the situation and prepare the grounds for the family to settle in Syria.

**Nearing the end of the 60-day cessation of hostilities on 26 January 2025, military activities continued to be reported in parts of Lebanon, particularly in areas of southern Lebanon to**

**which the Israeli Army reiterated its restrictions on civilian presence. This continued to complicate population returns, hindering access to humanitarian assistance and recovery efforts, and undermines the protection of civilians.** While Israeli forces reportedly withdrew from certain villages during the reporting period, military operations, including artillery attacks and airstrikes, as well as demolitions and detonations of houses and civilian infrastructure in border villages and detentions of farmers, continued, reportedly resulting in civilian casualties. To date, at least 30 civilian casualties since the start of the cessation of hostilities in November have been recorded by OHCHR. The Israeli Army maintained its restrictions on access to more than 70 villages in southern Lebanon.

The situation continues to be challenging for those returning to their place of origin or to other communities impacted by the conflict, who are facing difficulties in accessing essential services, including food, clean water, healthcare, and shelter.

### **Lebanon Under American Tutelage**

Amid the dramatic political changes taking place in Lebanon, with the election of General Joseph Aoun as President of the Republic and the formation of a new government headed by Judge Nawaf Salam, the outlines of a far-reaching American project aimed at reshaping the country's political and security landscape have begun to emerge. This project, supported by Israel, is not limited to an attempt to weaken and disarm the resistance, but rather seeks to completely restructure Lebanon so that it comes under American control and tutelage, leading to its gradual inclusion in the "Abraham Accords" for normalization with "Israel" - in other words, to build a new political system that is subservient to both American and "Israeli" wills. This is one of the most prominent goals of the "Israeli" war on Lebanon.

The outlines of this plan are clearly evident in the approach taken by the United States towards Lebanon, through a campaign of systematic economic pressure, selective support for the Lebanese army, imposing sanctions on the resistance and its allies, and implementing the trilogy of international resolutions: 1559, 1680, and 1701, according to American interpretations. In addition, US policy demonstrates a marked interest in promoting a regional normalization agenda, often presented under the guise of initiatives aimed at "economic and political reforms." Together, these measures highlight the nature of the US plan or project, which seeks to achieve strategic goals in the region, with a particular focus on Lebanon as part of this broader vision.

The U.S. is showing unprecedented enthusiasm in opening a path for negotiations on peace agreements that include Lebanon and Syria, as recently noted by Stephen Biegun, U.S. President Donald Trump's envoy to the Middle East, who expressed optimism about the possibility of Saudi Arabia joining the "Abraham Accords," suggesting that political changes in the region could expand these agreements to include Lebanon and Syria, potentially opening the door for new diplomatic moves in this direction. However, the success of this project is not guaranteed, as Lebanon is not merely a card for the U.S. to play according to its interests; it is a country that

has withstood pressures and wars for decades, where resistance is an integral part of its national fabric, not just a transient phenomenon. Amid sharp internal divisions and accelerating regional challenges, the future remains open to several possibilities, especially since Lebanon's ruling authorities are maintaining a complete silence on all of this.

### **UNRWA Situation**

The United Nations Relief & Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), established in 1949 after the creation of Israel, supports more than 5.6 million Palestinians in the occupied territories, including in Jerusalem, plus refugees and their descendants in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. It had already struggled to raise funding in recent years, an issue dramatically exacerbated by Donald Trump's 2018 decision to cut US support, later restored by the Biden administration. In 2022, the US was the agency's biggest donor, providing \$340m.

The Gaza Strip is facing "inevitable famine" because of the decision by western countries to pause funding for the UN's agency for Palestinian affairs after Israeli accusations that 12 of the group's employees took part in the Hamas attack on 7 October last year.

Michael Fakhri, the UN special rapporteur on the right to food, said "famine was imminent" and now "inevitable", in a comment following the news that the US and fifteen other countries were suspending additional funding to UNRWA.

"This collectively punishes over 2.2 million Palestinians," he said.

According to the UN secretary-general, António Guterres, 12 UNRWA staff members were identified by Israel, nine of which had been fired, one killed and the identities of two more were being checked. A UN investigation has been launched.

The U.S. decision to temporarily pause funding for UNRWA will dramatically weaken the backbone of the humanitarian response for 2.2 million Palestinians in Gaza.

The plain reality is that UNRWA's humanitarian role in this crisis is indispensable and cannot remotely be replaced by any other aid organization. UNRWA employs more than 13,000 staff in Gaza, of whom 152 have been killed since the fighting began. This funding pause also poses major problems for UNRWA's mission and its more than 30,000 staff throughout the wider region. It is imperative that the United States and other donors resume support to UNRWA as rapidly as possible to avoid damaging the Gaza aid operation at a critical time.

Other aid agencies cannot replicate UNRWA's central role in the humanitarian response in Gaza, and amidst the current crisis many will struggle to even maintain their current operations without UNRWA's partnership and support. Over 1 million displaced Palestinians are sheltering in UNRWA facilities across Gaza. UNRWA's 13,000 staff in Gaza far outstrip the collective capacity of the rest of the humanitarian sector in the territory. Their role in the facilitation and

delivery of lifesaving humanitarian aid at scale in this crisis has been heroic. UNRWA's supply of vital shelter, food, and basic services like sanitation, as well as the use of infrastructure by other aid organizations, is irreplaceable. UNRWA staff have faced near impossible conditions for months: in addition to the UNRWA staff killed by military strikes, at least 360 people in UNRWA shelters have been killed by strikes; more than 1300 have been injured; and 145 UNRWA installations have been damaged. UNRWA workers continue to serve their community amid this unprecedented violence.

About half of Gaza's population was already heavily dependent on UNRWA assistance before the war, the organization providing help so essential that in some areas it supplants state services. The organization provides schooling, medical care, flour for local bakeries, and runs desalination plants to ensure Palestinians can get clean water.

UNRWA's schools have become shelters for those displaced amid the Israeli bombing campaign which has killed more than 26,400 people. The agency is also the main vector for aid distribution.

While UNRWA staff are trained for emergency responses, the worst-case scenario planning for Gaza envisioned 150,000 displaced people in 50 shelters for a maximum duration of 50 days. The war, has displaced 85% of the population from their homes and left civilians facing acute shortages of food, water and medicine in cold and wet winter conditions.

Prior to the donor decision, UNRWA had already been forced to make new distribution plans for food to accommodate the thousands of people camped in their shelters and often just as many outside, also on the verge of starvation after being displaced multiple times.

In its January 26 decision in *South Africa v. Israel*, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that "the State of Israel shall take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip." The institution best suited to provide "urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance" to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip is UNRWA. Sixteen countries, including the United States and other major donors, have suspended their voluntary contributions to UNRWA. Suspending funding is an indirect violation of the ICJ's decision and morally indefensible.

The sixteen countries that suspended funding are indirectly failing to provide the basic needs the ICJ ordered Israel to do. IF the Court was concerned with the catastrophic situation of Palestinians in Gaza and UNRWA is the major organizations that provides basic services and humanitarian assistance, failing to fund UNRWA is indirectly failing to provide basic services as ordered by the Court.

Israel will never "take immediate and effective measures" to help Palestinians as the Court ordered. Its continued assault in Gaza is doing the exact opposite.

Publicly, Israel has castigated UNRWA, “It’s time the international community and the U.N. itself understand that UNRWA’s mission has to end,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a group of ambassadors to the U.N. at his office in Jerusalem, as reported on February 1 by the *Times of Israel*. He was obviously upset that lawyers who represented South Africa at the ICJ cited UNRWA statements to support their case. “It (UNRWA) has to be replaced by some organization or organizations that will do the job,” he added.

The suspension of major donors’ funding UNRWA further weakens whatever hope there was to alleviate the Gazans’ adverse conditions recognized by the Court. If Israel will not “take immediate and effective measures,” and UNRWA is underfunded, the Court’s injunction will not be carried out. As the head of UNRWA, Phillippe Lazzarini, said: “If the funds continue to be suspended, we will be forced to close our activities at the end of February 2025, not only in Gaza, but also in the entire region.”

Hence, the sixteen countries who have suspended funding UNRWA have acted indirectly counter to the spirit of the Court’s 16-1 decision to provide basic services to almost two million people.

UNRWA has always been a controversial agency since its founding in 1949 by the U.N. General Assembly. It was created to provide relief to Palestinians suffering from Israel’s creation and the ensuing conflicts. Unlike the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, which is responsible for refugees worldwide, UNRWA’s focus has always been only on Palestinian refugees located in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

The fact that UNRWA is mandated to deal only with Palestinians has been the cause of historic anti-Palestinian and pro-Israeli biases against the organization. For example: Under President Trump, in 2018 the United States suspended funding to UNRWA when at the time roughly 200,000 children were enrolled in UNRWA schools; its twenty odd health clinics treated thousands of patients.

There should be no doubt about the importance of UNRWA. Several heads of U.N. agencies have expressed dire concerns about the suspended funding. “Withdrawing funds from UNRWA is perilous and would lead to the collapse of the humanitarian system in Gaza, which would have far-reaching consequences,” warned Martin Griffiths (Humanitarian Coordinator), Volker Türk (High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR), Achim Steiner (United Nations Development Programme, UNDP), Cindy McCain (World Food Programme, WFP) and Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (World Health Organization, WHO) in a joint statement reported by Swissinfo.

Israel accuses 12 UNRWA employees of taking part in the October 7 Hamas attack, in one way or another. Nine of the accused staff have been dismissed. But to put the number 12 in perspective: UNRWA employs 13,000 people in Gaza, 30,000 in the region. The allegations concern 0.1% of the UNRWA employees in Gaza. Like Israel’s disproportionate killing of over

25,000 Palestinians and destruction of most of Gaza's infrastructure in response to October 7, the suspension of UNRWA's funding is disproportional and biased, what Lazzarini has called "additional collective punishment."

Whether responsibility for providing material to Israel's "plausibly" committing genocide or responsibility for not paying voluntary contributions to UNRWA to provide basic needs to Palestinians will ever be legally punished is improbable. But there is a definite moral responsibility in both cases.

Suspending funding to an organization at the very moment it is most needed is morally indefensible. The organization deserves continuing funding, not continuing attacks and defunding.

The heroic work of UNRWA should be recognized and supported.

### **Israel's Plan for Postwar Gaza: Full Demilitarization and Closing UNRWA**

Netanyahu's (Israeli Prime Minister) plan goes on to say that Israel will work to ensure the permanent closure of the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, and the establishment of a new international body. The prime minister added that "rebuilding Gaza will only be possible once the Strip has been **demilitarized** and once a process of **deradicalization** has started. The rehabilitation plan will be carried out with funding from and under these leadership of countries of which Israel approves."

Netanyahu's proposal also deals with the civic government of postwar Gaza. His proposal is that civic affairs and responsibility for public order in Gaza "will be based on professionals with managerial experience. These local officials must not be identified with states or organizations that support terror and must not receive salaries from them."

In the medium term, according to Netanyahu's plan, Israel will maintain freedom of military operation in Gaza, will set up a buffer zone and will engage in operations to thwart smuggling along the Egypt-Gaza border.

The Palestinian miracle is reflected in the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in holding onto their land and their absolute refusal to leave it, despite all forms of oppression and genocide they have endured. "Israel" attempted to exploit and capitalize on the "Al-Aqsa Flood" operation, seeking to turn it from an ordeal into an opportunity to empty the Gaza Strip of its population and reoccupy it, by expelling its approximately 2.3 million residents and forcibly displacing them to Sinai in Egypt. Not only did it drop thousands of tons of explosives on the Strip, causing massive destruction that affected more than 70% of residential homes, administrative buildings, schools, and hospitals, but it also simultaneously cut off water, electricity, and energy, and prevented the delivery of food to all residents of the Strip. Moreover, it pursued the displaced to ensure they left the area permanently.

There is no doubt that the legendary steadfastness of the Palestinian people and their unwavering attachment to their land is what enabled the armed resistance, in turn, to stand firm against the Israeli war machine.

As for the **predicament of the Zionist project**, it is manifested in three key scenes that can be summarized as follows:

**Scene One:**

This is reflected in deep divisions shaking both the ruling regime and Israeli society. While it is true that the roots of these divisions run deep and predate the “Al-Aqsa Flood” operation—as evidenced by the ruling regime resorting to five early parliamentary elections within three years before managing to form a stable government, and by the massive and ongoing protests against judicial reforms the current government sought to implement—what occurred on October 7th has significantly deepened these divisions and turned them into a crisis that threatens the very future of the Zionist project.

Although the Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu succeeded in expanding the ruling coalition and forming a “War Council” that symbolized the unity of Israeli society in facing the “Flood,” divisions quickly emerged within the War Council itself—a phenomenon occurring for the first time in the history of Israeli wars.

These current divisions stem from several factors, most notably the Israeli army’s failure to achieve satisfactory results on the ground; the government’s setting of high and unrealistic goals for the war; its failure to recover hostages through negotiation and mediation; and Netanyahu’s own desire to prolong the war out of fear of being held accountable for the political responsibility of the October 7th events—or due to older corruption charges still looming over him.

**Scene Two:**

This is reflected in "Israel" standing before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), accused of committing acts of genocide against the Palestinian people. Although the court has not yet issued a final ruling in the case brought by South Africa against "Israel" in December 2024, it has found sufficient evidence to issue a binding order requiring "Israel" to take a series of provisional measures aimed at protecting Palestinians. These include: halting any deliberate actions that could cause the destruction of the Palestinian people, in whole or in part; preventing incitement to commit acts of genocide; and ensuring the provision of essential services and humanitarian aid.

It is also true that "Israel" has failed to comply with any of these enforceable provisional measures, due to the complicity of the American Biden administration and its constant readiness to use its veto power to block any punitive measures against "Israel" in the Security Council. However, the genocide case filed by South Africa will remain under consideration by the ICJ for several years to come. As a result, it will continue to hang over "Israel" like a sword

throughout the duration of the proceedings—providing multiple opportunities to expose the deep structural contradictions within a Zionist project that is inherently expansionist and racist by nature.

### **Scene Three:**

This is reflected in the profound shifts in global public opinion toward both "Israel" and the Palestinian cause.

Despite "Israel" launching a massive propaganda campaign to portray the events of October 7th as a terrorist act unrelated to its occupation of Palestinian land and its denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination—and despite the United States and most Western European countries adopting the Israeli narrative—very large segments of global public opinion have begun to recognize the falsehoods underlying that narrative, which is far removed from the truth. Consequently, many have rejected this narrative that seeks to justify a genocidal war deliberately waged by "Israel" against the entire Palestinian people.

There is abundant evidence of these shifts, including—though not limited to—massive protests in many Western capitals, including Washington, London, and Paris, demanding an end to the war on Gaza and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

It is true that the current round of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict — in which regional actors are also involved in one way or another — has not yet come to an end. However, the situation in the region as a whole will never return to what it once was.

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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 one 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

## Strategy One: Gender Justice and Women and Youth Empowerment



## Empowerment of Women

### Women Committees (WCs)

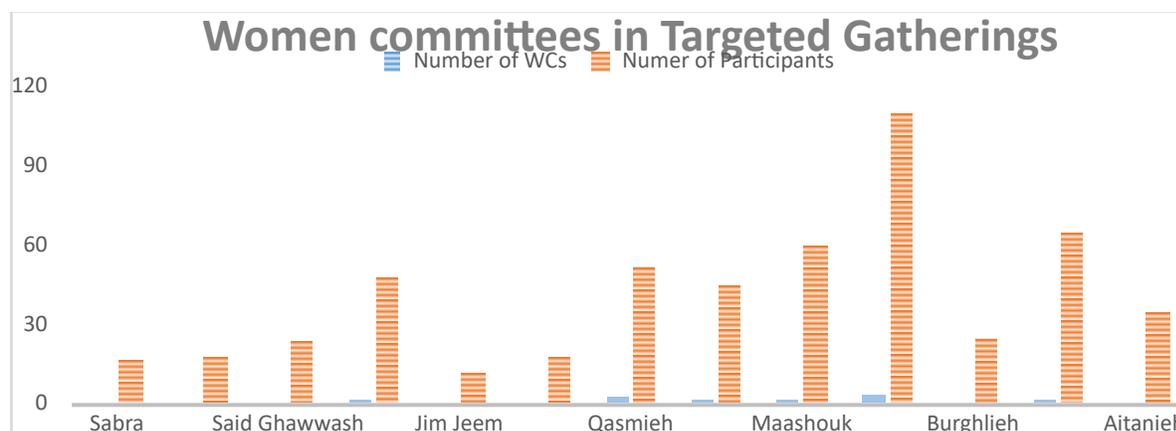
For many years, PARD has been conducting health education sessions within Palestinian gatherings. In 2001, the organization expanded its efforts by initiating empowerment training specifically aimed at women who had completed these health sessions. Since then, PARD has consistently delivered annual empowerment training across its target areas, which include ten gatherings in the south, three in Beirut and eleven in Saida. A key focus of PARD's mission is the empowerment and support of local women, striving to address and correct existing power imbalances by promoting women's autonomy.

Central to this goal is the organization's collaboration with Women's Committees (WCs). PARD staff identify active and respected women in the community and encourage them to join these committees. To ensure these women can effectively contribute to and influence their communities, PARD provides comprehensive training for WCs. The training covers a wide range of topics, including gender equality, project and campaigns planning, gender-based violence, conflict resolution, communication styles, community engagement, self-confidence, decision-making, and women's rights.



**For the year 2024, PARD supported 22 committees in 13 different gatherings** or surrounding areas that are: Shabriha, Jal El Bahr, Maashouk, Qasmieh, Kfar Badda, Jim Jeem, Wasta, Aitaniyeh, Sikkeh, Burguliyeh, Said Ghawwash, Sabra and Daouk. **These committees actively involved 529 women of different national backgrounds**, but mainly PRL, in active participation in their communities.

Next year, PARD proposes to build up new women committees in the gatherings of Saida.



*Figure: Location and number of women committees and participating women in the women committees empowered by PARD in 2024*

Most Women’s Committees took the initiative to develop their own action plans, codes of conduct, and systems for dividing responsibilities among members. These responsibilities typically cover areas such as public relations, health education, social issues, and documentation. Each committee also elects a "head of committee" to lead their efforts. The action plans are regularly reviewed in collaboration with PARD’s community health workers (CHWs)/ social workers to assess progress. To ensure effective internal communication and coordination, the committees hold monthly meetings to follow up on their action plans and manage their external relations with popular committees, NGOs, UN agencies, and other local groups.

- **Activities and Achievements**

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

Each women committee has 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 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.

While PARD supports the WCs' independence and encourages them to collaborate with other NGOs in their communities, it also maintains a strong working relationship with them. PARD staff meet with each WC at least once a month, and more frequently when necessary. Since the women serving on these committees are from the communities themselves, they bring valuable local knowledge and understanding of the specific needs and challenges their communities face.

- ***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.

- ***Coordination with Popular Committees***

The Women’s Committees (WCs) in these gatherings differ significantly from the Popular Committees (PCs) for several key reasons. Primarily, PCs are almost entirely male-dominated, with very few women involved—and those few are often marginalized and not taken seriously. Additionally, PC members are typically appointed by political parties, which limits grassroots participation. Initially, both the communities and the PCs were resistant to the idea of forming WCs, and the level of coordination and cooperation between WCs and PCs varies by location. In some gatherings, there is even significant rivalry over leadership and authority; while the PCs are the official governing bodies, in practice, WCs often have more influence on the ground.

Regardless of the PCs’ willingness to engage with them, WCs are generally the primary partners working closely with PARD and other organizations to implement services and provide support within the community. The number of women joining PCs as a measure of progress toward gender equality, did not reflect true empowerment. As PARD put it, “We are not helping to build them up to be decorative flowers, we are empowering them to have a voice.” PARD evaluates gender justice placing greater emphasis on the influence and activity of WCs, noting that most NGOs choose to collaborate with WCs directly, while merely coordinating with PCs.

- **WCs during the war**

During the war of 2024, PARD initiated the formation of Women's Committees in the Saida shelter as a vital component of emergency response and community organization among displaced populations. These committees were structured through a series of methodical meetings and activities aimed at empowering women and enhancing community resilience in the face of war-induced hardships.

The Women’s Committees were born in late October 2024, as a total of women of different nationalities and backgrounds, gathered in structured meetings facilitated by PARD staff. In these sessions, the idea of the committee was introduced not as a symbolic gesture, but as a functional, decision-making body. Women were asked to step into leadership roles—to be the eyes, ears, and voices of the shelter. They were tasked with identifying problems, organizing their community, and serving as liaisons between the residents and the shelter’s management.

The first order of business was defining their role: to activate women’s participation in managing daily life at the shelter, monitor pressing health and social issues, and ensure order. A group communication line was also established to allow for immediate coordination and response.

- ***Short-Term Results: Order, Health, and Cohesion***

Almost immediately, the impact of the Women’s Committees became evident. In the short term, these groups brought structure to a chaotic environment. One of their first initiatives was the development of a group charter—a collaboratively drafted set of rules that every member agreed to uphold. This document was more than a guideline; it was a symbol of shared responsibility and ownership over the shelter’s wellbeing.

The committees quickly moved to address urgent health issues. They led general hygiene campaigns and created bathroom cleaning schedules. By introducing routines like daily morning cleaning drives and lice prevention inspections, they drastically reduced the risk of infectious disease outbreaks, which are common in crowded displacement settings. They worked hand-in-hand with PARD to distribute cleaning supplies and lice treatment shampoos, while ensuring adherence to health practices through peer monitoring.

The committees also helped implement rules for room behavior—such as prohibiting smoking indoors, selecting room representatives, and preventing interpersonal violence. These rules were not imposed from above but were discussed and shaped by the women themselves, fostering a sense of accountability and mutual respect.

Moreover, the committees played a vital role in managing services. They informed residents about the availability and timing of mobile clinics, medication distributions, and support sessions. Their involvement ensured that aid was distributed efficiently and fairly, while also communicating the challenges faced by PARD in maintaining these services.

- ***Expanding Roles: Education, Safety, and Social Support***

As the weeks progressed, the Women’s Committees expanded their scope. Women received training on more sensitive issues. In sessions led by the social workers, they discussed how to prevent violence against children, how to accept others in shared living environments, and how to cope with psychological stress. These discussions addressed rising tensions in the shelter and helped foster empathy and understanding among families forced to live in close quarters.

Another vital role the committees undertook was preparing for emergency evacuations in case of bombing threats. They were briefed on safety procedures and were expected to take lead roles in coordinating evacuations, particularly helping vulnerable residents like children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

- ***Long-Term Impact: Empowerment, Ownership, and Legacy***

Though the committees were formed in response to a crisis, their legacy extends far beyond the immediate needs of the shelter. In the long term, these committees planted seeds of empowerment. For many of the women involved, this was their first experience in leadership. They were no longer passive recipients of aid; they were active agents shaping their environment.

Through repeated participation, women built skills in communication, problem-solving, community organizing, and negotiation. Their confidence grew as their voices were heard and their decisions respected. This shift in identity—from displaced victims to community leaders—represents a hopeful and powerful transformation with enduring consequences.

Moreover, the committees strengthened social cohesion. By fostering cooperation among diverse residents, they built networks of solidarity that can withstand future crises. They also

modeled participatory governance, setting a precedent for community involvement in humanitarian settings.

Importantly, these women will carry their experiences beyond the shelter. Whether returning home or resettling elsewhere, they will take with them the skills, confidence, and vision developed during their time in the committee.

## Upcycling Clothes trainings for livelihood

As part of its commitment to **promoting gender justice by enhancing women's access to livelihood opportunities**, PARD incorporated a training session within its women empowerment program designed to support this goal of income-generating skills.

The training focused on upcycling of clothes—also known as creative reuse—which involves converting by-products, waste, or unwanted items into new products that are perceived to have higher value, whether artistic or environmental. In contrast, recycling entails breaking down waste materials to produce new substances or items, and often includes energy recovery as part of the process.

To clarify the distinction: recycling typically involves the destruction of the original item to create something entirely new, while upcycling repurposes the item in its existing form. With upcycling, the original object remains identifiable, giving it a narrative that reflects both its past and new function. This approach not only pays homage to what the object once was but also transforms it creatively, often using a range of methods and materials.

Ultimately, reuse and upcycling can lessen the demand for recycling and are therefore beneficial to the environment. When an item is no longer reusable or suitable for upcycling, recycling becomes the more sustainable alternative to disposal in landfills.

To implement the concept of ecological and environmental sustainability for the **benefit of 50 women**, training courses on upcycling of used clothing were conducted, each over a period of 3 days, lasting for a total for 12 teaching hours:

- Kfarbadda: a total of 15 PRL women from Kfar Badda, Jim Jeem and Aitaniyeh.
- Wasta: a total of 20 women from Wasta, of different nationalities: PRL, PRS and Lebanese.
- Sikki: a total of 20 women of different nationalities: PRL and Syrian.

The workshop program included:

**Day 1** focused on introductions, expectation setting, and foundational learning. Participants engaged in an icebreaker activity, were introduced to the workshop and its goals, and took a pre-training knowledge test. A group code of conduct was established, followed by a presentation on environmental sustainability with emphasis on upcycling and recycling. A local sewing trainer was introduced, and participants received sewing kits along with instructions and demonstrations. The day concluded with hands-on hand-sewing practice.

**Day 2** centered on skill development. After another icebreaker, participants brought materials from home and practiced various sewing techniques, including embroidery and stitching.

**Day 3** provided more advanced training. It included a recap of earlier sessions, machine sewing practice, and the creation of items like hair ties, pot holders, sheets, curtains, and accessories. The program ended with a post-training knowledge check.

**Overall, the workshop combined theoretical knowledge with practical skills, fostering creativity, sustainability, and economic empowerment.** Since these workshops were part of the cash for work project where by households were rehabilitated, the trainees were the women beneficiaries in this project.

After the trainings, the participant women were encouraged to practice what they had learned in the workshops, and implement the techniques and ideas on their own projects. They were given a period of time to prepare materials and products ready for sale and for marketing their own home-based businesses related to sewing, upcycling and recycling of old materials and clothes. Social workers followed up with the women. The objective of those follow-up meetings was to discuss preparations for the sales day where the products prepared by the women participants would be exhibited. Specifically, the women were asked if they needed any extra instruction for certain sewing cuts or stitches, as the trainer was willing to help them digitally, since they had already formed WhatsApp groups. The women were encouraged to join the sales day so that they can advertise their work and try to sell them to get extra income.



**As for the Sales Day,** it was conducted in Sikki gathering, with a **total of 109 participants**, who were either upcycling workshops' participants, women activists, women committee members, or first aid trainees. Additionally, several individuals from the gathering attended as well. On the day of the event, the upcycled products were displayed on tables and stands, and some home-

made food preserves were also displayed. The attendees were highly engaged with these products and the significant achievements. Many women expressed how they liked the idea of recycling clothes and fabrics.

At the beginning of the event, a general overview of the project was presented. After that, one of the women who participated in the Wasta workshop delivered a thank-you speech to the project and encouraged other women to participate in these courses.

The products included 5 main categories:

- Baby products: cover- pillow cover- clothes
- Kitchen products: covers for refrigerator- pot holder- yogurt sacks
- Bedroom products: bedsheets- pillow cover- cushion cover
- Clothing products: skirt- short- prayer outfit- dress- pajama
- Decoration and accessories: hair ties- hairclip- purse

Then, the women proceeded to view the products in groups. They were very pleased with the products and encouraged each other, asking how these products were made and how they turned out so beautifully. Some women purchased items from the displayed products, which was an encouragement to one another. Finally, refreshments were distributed to all attendees.



### International Women's Day

To commemorate the occasion of International Women’s Day, at the municipality of Saida, **109 women in total participated** from the following informal settlements: Wasta, Kfarbadda, Aitanieh and Sikki. Additionally, women committee members of the 4 informal settlements participated in the event. The participants were of different nationalities: PRL, PRS, S and Lebanese.

The event program included:

1. Speech by PARD’s director focusing on the need to be in solidarity with the people in Gaza, especially the women and children.
2. Speech by a young female beneficiary from vocational training project supported by PARD and NESI.
3. Video showcasing street interviews with different people (men and women) about the definition of International Women’s Day and what it means to them. Group discussion about the video and the audience’s opinions and knowledge.
4. Pre-event knowledge test (done by raising hands)
5. Interactive theater about women exploitation in general and GBV. 7 women from Aitaniyeh and Wasta informal settlements participated in the theater. The roles played were 2 story tellers (curious neighbors), one authoritative father, one mother, one daughter, one granddaughter, one male director of a company (exploiter). The theater showed how a woman can stand up for her rights.
6. Group discussion about the interactive theater, focusing on similarities among refugees and women in particular.
7. Post-event knowledge test was conducted (by raising hands).

Finally, refreshments were distributed to all participants. A folklore dance was presented by a group of young women trained by PARD on folklore dancing. This presentation encouraged the woman to participate in the folklore dancing as well in celebration.



**SPHERE training**



A 4-day training workshop on SPHERE was conducted from April 29 to May 2, 2024, with a **total of 28 female participants**. Its primary goal was **to prepare and empower a group of female volunteers** from ten gatherings in South Lebanon and Saida to **play an active role in crisis response and decision-making**, particularly within the humanitarian and crisis-related context in that period.

**The training focused on the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, known as the SPHERE standards.** These include critical areas such as shelter, water and sanitation, hygiene promotion and waste disposal, non-food items, and health and nutrition. The sessions employed a participatory, hands-on approach designed to match the diverse backgrounds and learning levels of the participants. Through interactive activities, group discussions, and multimedia presentations, the women were introduced to the foundational concepts of humanitarian response and the importance of delivering aid that preserves life, health, and dignity.

One particularly impactful activity involved testing various water containers to demonstrate the importance of choosing appropriate aid materials, especially in contexts where women and children are the primary carriers of water. This exercise emphasized the risks associated with poor choices, such as open buckets that could lead to contamination or accidental drowning. Videos were also shown to illustrate the origin of the SPHERE Charter and to visually explain the practical implementation of its standards in shelter design and service provision during displacement.

Participants entered the training with limited knowledge of SPHERE, but many showed initiative by researching the topic independently. As the sessions progressed, they developed a deeper

understanding of **how effective aid combines empathy with structured, scientifically-informed action**. Misconceptions around hygiene, nutrition during crises, and the uncritical acceptance of aid were addressed and corrected. For example, participants learned that proper nutrition remains vital even in emergency settings. They also came to understand that aid recipients have the right to safe, suitable, and dignified assistance as outlined by SPHERE standards.

The training fostered a strong sense of unity and purpose among the participants, culminating in the formation of an empowered and trained volunteer network committed to supporting PAR D’s relief efforts in both crisis and peacetime. The workshop concluded with evaluations that showed significant knowledge gains and a genuine enthusiasm for continued learning and engagement.



### **Psychological First Aid (PFA) training**

The PFA training was implemented **to strengthen the capacity of women, teachers, and animators** in Palestinian informal settlements in South Lebanon **amid growing insecurity in the region**. With beneficiaries experiencing heightened fear and psychological strain, the training aimed **to provide participants with essential tools to support individuals in distress and respond to trauma effectively**.

Led by a qualified and experienced clinical psychologist, the program consisted of **10 sessions** conducted between February 27 and May 21, 2024. Each session catered to a specific group, including members of the women’s committee, PAR D teachers, and animators, with a total of **301 participants**. The participant demographics reflected the diverse makeup of the community: 68% were PRL, 21% Syrian, 8% Lebanese, and 3% PRS.

The sessions, lasting two and a half hours each, covered a comprehensive agenda. They began with ice-breakers and a pre-evaluation test, followed by an introduction to PFA, its guiding principles, and ethical considerations. Participants learned to recognize psychological distress

and practiced responses through group discussions and role-playing. Special attention was given to providing PFA for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, people with disabilities, pregnant women, new parents, and individuals grieving loss. Techniques for self-care, including guided meditation, were included to help participants manage their own stress and maintain resilience.

Training methods combined multimedia presentations, interactive activities, discussions, and simulations. This diverse approach ensured that participants not only understood the theory but also practiced the application of PFA in real-life scenarios. Teachers and animators were specifically trained to support children, equipping them with strategies to provide emotional support in educational and psychosocial settings.

Outcomes of the training included enhanced awareness of psychological responses to trauma, improved communication skills in crisis contexts, and a stronger ability to offer immediate and compassionate support. Post-training evaluations showed clear gains in confidence and knowledge, validating the effectiveness of the program.

Despite the overall success, one notable challenge was the participants' emotional burden due to ongoing regional tensions. To address this, guided relaxation exercises were incorporated, helping attendees stay grounded and better absorb the training.



### **Interactive Theater Workshops**

A series of **interactive Theater sessions** were conducted in **Saida Shelter (10 sessions targeting 100 women), gatherings in South Lebanon (15 sessions targeting 212 women) and in Beirut (11 women)**. These sessions served as a **creative and participatory platform to address sensitive social issues affecting women**, particularly in crisis and displacement contexts, where experiences of violence, discrimination, and exploitation are often silenced.

**Interactive theater was chosen as an engaging, community-based tool to spark open dialogue and collective problem-solving.** Through live performance and audience participation, the sessions tackled important topics such as GBV, early marriage, discrimination, and women's rights. The approach allowed participants to voice their concerns, challenge harmful social norms, and collaboratively explore solutions in a safe and supportive environment.

Each session began with an **icebreaker activity**, where women introduced themselves and shared issues they wished to address. This helped build trust and create a safe space for open discussion. The theater facilitators then guided participants through exercises on **advocacy, lobbying, and campaign planning**, using interactive methods such as colored card questions, role-playing scenarios, and group debates.

A central feature of the sessions was **role-play exercises**, where women took on fictional personas and reenacted real-life situations involving violence, exploitation, or injustice. This creative technique helped participants empathize with victims' experiences, reduce judgment, and collectively discuss the social pressures and harmful narratives women often endure, such as being told to remain silent or accept abuse in times of crisis.

The sessions also emphasized that access to services and protection is a right for every woman and that no one has the authority to deprive them of assistance or coerce them into harmful situations. Discussions challenged the community's tendency to minimize or deny the existence of GBV and exploitation, promoting a culture of acknowledgment, empathy, and advocacy for change.

**The interactive theater activity proved highly impactful in empowering women** to speak openly, express their struggles, and participate in finding community-based solutions. Many participants expressed increased confidence and emotional relief through storytelling and role-play, while others noted a better understanding of advocacy strategies and their own rights.

The sessions concluded with an evaluation to measure knowledge gained and attitudes changed, followed by the formulation of advocacy goals and community action ideas suggested by the participants themselves.



### **Stress Management Workshops**

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance the mental and emotional well-being of refugee women, a specialized stress management training program was conducted in 2024 across 10 Palestinian gatherings in South Lebanon. **The activity benefitted a total of 186 refugee and vulnerable women** living in the targeted informal settlements, offering them practical tools to **manage the psychological pressures associated with displacement, poverty, and unstable living conditions.**

The 10-day training program, delivered by a consulted licensed clinical psychologist, provided a safe and supportive environment where women could openly discuss mental health challenges, learn coping strategies, and foster mutual support. Each workshop ran for 4 hours daily, totaling 40 training hours per location, and transportation, refreshments, and snacks were arranged to encourage participation and ensure comfort.



**The workshops aimed to:**

- Increase awareness of the impact of chronic stress on physical, emotional, and psychological health.
- Equip participants with simple, effective stress management techniques such as deep breathing, mindfulness, grounding exercises, and relaxation methods.
- Foster emotional resilience and promote self-care and positive coping mechanisms.
- Enable women to identify personal stress triggers and develop individualized management strategies.
- Encourage open conversations around mental health to reduce stigma and promote access to professional support services.
- Strengthen community bonds by fostering solidarity and mutual support among participants.

A variety of interactive methods, including icebreakers, group discussions, visual presentations, and practical exercises, ensured active engagement and reinforced learning. To assess the training's impact, pre- and post-tests were conducted at each location, revealing significant improvements in participants' knowledge and confidence in managing stress. The overall average score increased from 51% before the training to 78% after, with notable progress in all locations.

Feedback from participants highlighted the immediate benefits of the practical techniques, especially breathing and grounding exercises, which were easily applicable in their daily lives. The activity not only improved individual stress management skills but also promoted collective empowerment and community-based learning, with several locations demonstrating particularly strong outcomes due to active group participation and support.

This initiative emphasized the importance of integrating mental health and psychosocial support within community-based programs for refugee women, laying the groundwork for ongoing emotional resilience, well-being, and mutual care in the informal settlements of South Lebanon.

### **Training on Empowerment, Awareness-Raising and Health Education**

Over the implementation period, a comprehensive program of empowerment and health awareness trainings, through several projects and initiatives, was delivered to refugee and vulnerable women residing in informal settlements across South Lebanon and Beirut. **The initiative aimed to enhance women’s knowledge, skills, and capacities in areas critical to their health, safety, rights, and social participation, while fostering leadership and resilience within their communities.**



The trainings covered a wide range of topics designed to address both immediate health concerns and broader social challenges faced by women in permanent and temporary displacement contexts. Health-related sessions focused on raising awareness about reproductive health, infectious and chronic diseases, proper use of medications, mental health, nutrition across the lifecycle, and the prevention of GBV and early marriage. These sessions provided practical information, promoted safe health practices, and encouraged women to seek timely medical care and support services.

In parallel, **empowerment-focused trainings equipped participants with essential life and leadership skills.** Topics included peacebuilding and conflict resolution, communication skills, participatory leadership, community mapping, advocacy and mobilization, campaign planning, and the development of group charters to foster cooperation and collective action. Women were also trained on human and women’s rights, gender justice, and employment preparation, enabling them to advocate for their rights, access resources, and pursue livelihood opportunities.

**Through these interactive and participatory sessions, refugee women built personal confidence, strengthened their capacity to navigate daily challenges, and established supportive peer networks.** The program created safe spaces for open discussion, mutual learning, and solidarity, contributing to the overall well-being and empowerment of women in marginalized communities.



The activity not only increased health literacy and awareness but also empowered women to play active roles in decision-making and community mobilization efforts, promoting healthier, more equitable, and resilient communities in the informal settlements of South Lebanon and Beirut, as well as during temporary internal displacement from South Lebanon to Saida shelters during the Israeli War of October-November 2024.

Workshop Topic	Total Number of Participants	Course Objectives
Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution	581	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To equip women with skills to manage interpersonal and community conflicts peacefully.</li> <li>• To promote dialogue, tolerance, and cooperation within informal settlements.</li> <li>• To empower women as mediators and peace advocates in their communities</li> </ul>
Proper Use of Medications	381	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To raise awareness about the correct use, storage, and disposal of medications.</li> <li>• To prevent misuse, self-medication risks, and antibiotic resistance.</li> <li>• To educate women on recognizing side</li> </ul>
Preparation for Employment	173	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To build job readiness skills such as CV writing, interview techniques, and workplace ethics.</li> <li>• To boost women’s confidence in pursuing livelihood opportunities.</li> <li>• To inform women about local employment resources and vocational</li> </ul>
Reproductive Health	361	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase knowledge about women’s reproductive health, hygiene, family planning, and maternal care.</li> <li>• To dispel myths and address harmful traditional practices.</li> <li>• To promote access to reproductive health services and informed decision-</li> </ul>

<p>Group Charter</p>	<p>166</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To guide women in creating a shared agreement outlining group values, rules, and responsibilities.</li> <li>• To strengthen group cohesion, accountability, and cooperation.</li> <li>• To ensure inclusive, respectful, and safe participation for all members in women committees.</li> </ul>
<p>Local Community Mapping</p>	<p>156</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enable women to identify community resources, services, risks, and opportunities.</li> <li>• To enhance local knowledge for effective community mobilization and service access.</li> <li>• To promote women’s participation in local needs assessments and decision-</li> </ul>
<p>Campaign Planning</p>	<p>483</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop skills in planning and implementing awareness and advocacy campaigns.</li> <li>• To guide women in setting objectives, identifying target audiences, and choosing effective communication methods.</li> <li>• To encourage collective action on issues</li> </ul>
<p>Human and Women Rights</p>	<p>505</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase awareness of fundamental human and women’s rights under local and international law.</li> <li>• To empower women to recognize and address violations of their rights.</li> <li>• To promote a culture of dignity, equality, and justice within the community.</li> </ul>

<p>Gender Justice</p>	<p>381</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To introduce the concept of gender justice and its relevance in daily life.</li> <li>• To challenge harmful gender norms and inequalities affecting refugee and marginalized women.</li> <li>• To support women in advocating for fair treatment and equal opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p>Communication Skills</p>	<p>391</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve interpersonal and group communication skills.</li> <li>• To build women's confidence in expressing their opinions, needs, and rights.</li> <li>• To develop listening, negotiation, and</li> </ul>
<p>Participatory Leadership</p>	<p>426</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To cultivate leadership skills among refugee and vulnerable women.</li> <li>• To promote inclusive decision-making and empower women to take active roles in community initiatives.</li> <li>• To encourage collaborative leadership styles based on empathy, participation, and accountability.</li> </ul>
<p>GBV and Early Marriage</p>	<p>218</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To raise awareness about gender-based violence (GBV), its types, risks, and consequences.</li> <li>• To address the harmful impact of early marriage on girls and women.</li> <li>• To provide information about protection mechanisms and referral pathways for survivors.</li> </ul>

<p>Infectious Diseases</p>	<p>120</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To educate women on the causes, prevention, and management of common infectious diseases.</li> <li>• To promote hygiene, vaccination, and early treatment practices.</li> <li>• To reduce the spread of communicable diseases within overcrowded</li> </ul>
<p>Chronic Diseases</p>	<p>120</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To raise awareness about the prevention, early detection, and management of chronic illnesses like diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease.</li> <li>• To promote healthy lifestyle practices.</li> <li>• To encourage regular medical check-ups and adherence to treatments.</li> </ul>
<p>Mental Health</p>	<p>120</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce stigma around mental health issues.</li> <li>• To equip women with stress management techniques and emotional coping skills.</li> <li>• To inform women about available mental</li> </ul>
<p>Nutrition through the Lifecycle</p>	<p>120</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To educate women about nutritional needs during different life stages (childhood, adolescence, pregnancy, and old age).</li> <li>• To promote affordable, balanced diets using locally available foods.</li> <li>• To raise awareness about malnutrition</li> </ul>
<p>Advocacy and Mobilization</p>	<p>294</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To build advocacy skills for addressing community challenges and defending women's rights.</li> <li>• To guide women in mobilizing their communities for collective action and social change.</li> <li>• To introduce strategies for engaging stakeholders, authorities, and media.</li> </ul>

<p>Policy against Sexual Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH)</p>	<p>98</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help participants understand what sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) are, and how they differ from other types of violence.</li> <li>• Inform women of their rights to safety and dignity, and the responsibilities of humanitarian workers to uphold these rights.</li> <li>• Equip participants to identify situations where SEA may occur and understand the warning signs.</li> <li>• Provide information on how and where to safely report SEA incidents, including</li> </ul>
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## Empowerment of Youth

### Youth empowerment through livelihood

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

**Forty-four refugees have been selected to carry out the rehabilitation work** for 40 selected houses (*see Rehabilitation of Houses in Emergency Relief Strategy*) in 2023-2024. Those 44 (77% PRL, 7% PRS, 7% S, 9% Lebanese) 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 (14) and un-skilled (30), were of different professions and backgrounds, which include plumbing (6 workers), electricity (6 workers), blacksmithing (4 workers), carpentry (2 workers), aluminum fabricators (3 workers) and painting (23 workers). Worthy of note is that in this phase of the project, 3 out of the 44 workers were women who wanted to generate income through this project, as unskilled 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 31% of the 44 workers and a 75-100% increase for 64% of them. This activity created a significant opportunity to improve the income of skilled and un-skilled individuals in the gatherings as they are usually reimbursed less for the same work they did outside this project as reported by some of them. This activity will continue in 2025 to provide more livelihood support for the individuals in the rehabilitation project's targeting gatherings.



### 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 Burghlie **were registered for vocational training to study nursing** 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 an in-person, face-to-face modality, for 5 days a week, including practical experience.

These 16 young refugee women were provided with full scholarships, also covering 100% of the cost of transportation.



### **Youth empowerment through training on First Aid**

With the aim of focusing on strengthening the role and resilience of refugee women in Palestinian gatherings in southern Lebanon, a series of **ten Basic-Level First Aid training courses** were conducted. These courses targeted both young women and men, **aiming to equip them with essential first aid skills** that could prove life-saving in emergencies—particularly in areas with a history of security instability.

Held over a total of **40 training days**, with four-hour sessions each day, the courses took place in **Jim Jeem and Sikki gatherings**. A total of **109 youth participants** took part in the program, comprising **99 females** and **10 males**. The participants represented diverse backgrounds, including **94 PRL**, **7 PRS**, and **8 Lebanese** individuals.



The training was led by a specialized first aid instructor. The curriculum spanned a wide range of topics across four core days: an introduction to first aid, transporting the injured, monitoring vital signs, and ensuring the safety of the first aider; managing strokes and bleeding; responding to burns and drowning; and handling fractures, insect bites, suffocation from charcoal fumes, and correcting harmful first aid misconceptions.

A highly **interactive and participatory approach** characterized the training. Real first aid tools were used, and every session included hands-on practice, ensuring that all participants had the opportunity to apply what they learned. This method helped reinforce skills and boosted participant confidence.

Additionally, in August 2024, **23 refugee volunteers (21 females and 2 males) received a 4-day training workshop on advanced first aid** at the Jim Jeem Community Center. Participants were from: Jal Al-Bahr, Maashouk, Shabriha, Burghliyah, Qasmieh, Wasta, Aytaniyah, Kfar Badda, Jim Jim, and Sikki gatherings. This training was conducted by a skilled nurse/experienced first aider. The trainees were of different educational levels, and of the age group 16-28 years. This four-day training program focused on enhancing participants' field first aid skills, especially in emergency and accident scenarios, building on knowledge from a previous training phase.

- Day 1: Began with a pre-test and a review of key first aid procedures from the basic level most of the trainees had participated in 2023, including emergency response and patient transportation techniques in various accident scenarios.
- Day 2: Covered first aid for fractures, wounds, and eye injuries, as well as responses to insect and snake bites, emphasizing proper techniques for stabilizing patients.
- Day 3: Focused on treating burns, highlighting common mistakes that worsen injuries, and addressing fire-related emergencies, including how to safely reach and assist burn victims.
- Day 4: Addressed first aid for stroke and heart attack cases, blood pressure monitoring, treatment for different poisonings, and paramedic safety. It also emphasized creative problem-solving by using alternative tools when standard medical equipment is unavailable. The program concluded with a post-assessment, final evaluation, and certificate distribution.

Overall, **the training aimed to improve emergency preparedness, response capability, and practical skills** in critical first aid situations.

## 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 in Sabra, Beirut. That is in addition to other health services that occur in laboratories contracted by PARD.

### Beirut Clinic

PARD's clinic in Sabra, Beirut has been active for over 10 years. **In 2024, it provided multiple affordable medical services to 2312 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 69.50% of all medical services provided were obstetrics and gynecology. These services benefited 1208 women (41% PRL, 27% S, 32% L) residing in Sabra itself or the nearby areas.

## Clinics in South Lebanon

- **Reproductive health:**

The mobile clinic in South Lebanon and the two fixed clinics located in Shabriha and Kfarbadda provided 4816 reproductive health medical services for the year 2024 in 10 Palestinian gatherings, which are Shabriha, Sikkeh, Maashouk, Jal El Bahr, Wasta, Aiteneyye, Kfarbadda, Jim Jim, Qasmiyeh, and Burghlieh, in addition to shelters for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Saida during the Israeli war. **These services were provided for 1849 women** from various nationalities including Lebanese (270), Syrian (938), PRL (517), and PRS (124). 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.



The services included **routine gynecological consultations and obstetric care**, addressing a range of women's health concerns from prenatal check-ups to the management of common gynecological conditions. Clinics also offered **family planning services**, including counseling on contraceptive options and the provision and examination of intrauterine devices (IUDs), ensuring women could make informed decisions about their reproductive health.

**Ultrasound services**, both gynecological and obstetric, were an integral part of the clinics' offerings, enabling early detection of health issues and continuous monitoring of pregnancies. Additionally, minor procedures such as cervical cauterization, wound dressing, and cervical periscope examinations were performed when needed.

Throughout the reporting period, the clinics recorded a high turnout of beneficiaries, reflecting the critical need for accessible reproductive health services in these communities. The activity not only addressed immediate healthcare needs but also contributed to the overall well-being

and empowerment of women by improving their access to essential health services in safe and supportive environments.

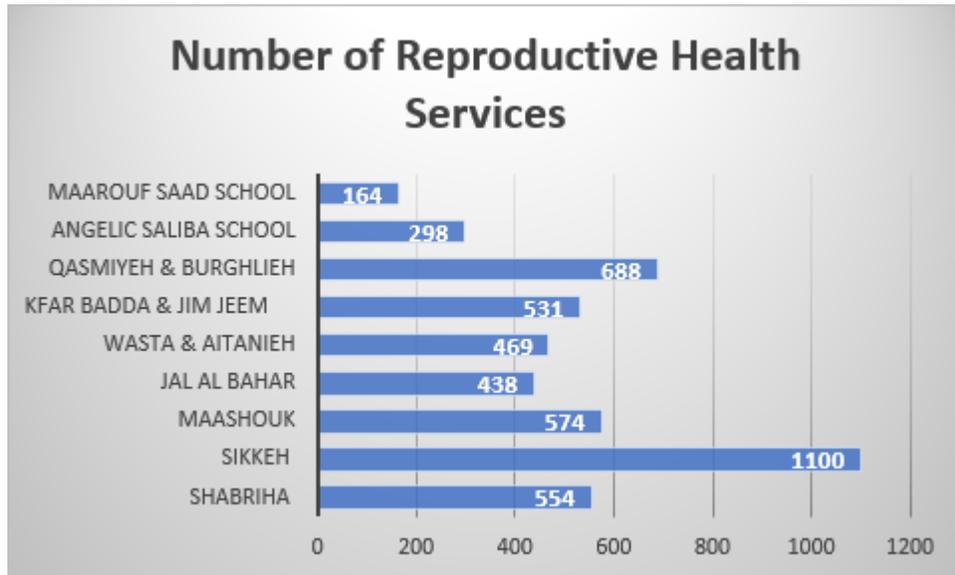
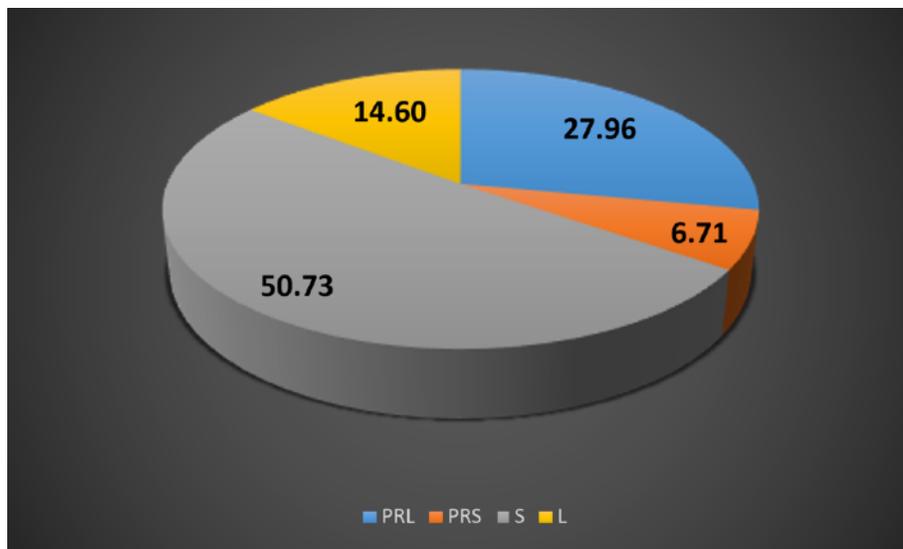


Figure: Distribution of reproductive health services by location/gathering



*Figure: Distribution of women who benefited from reproductive health medical services by nationality percentage*

- **Screening for breast and cervical cancers:**

**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 medical center, 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 2024, a **total of 542** (202 PRL, 12 PRS, 107 S, 221 L) **women benefitted from 297 mammograms, 400 pap smear services, in addition to 94 ultrasound/echographies.** The results of the tests were reviewed by specialized gynecologists at the follow-up case visits. Women who needed additional gynecological services were further followed-up at the clinics. During the Israeli aggression on Lebanon in October-November 2024 and subsequent displacement to Saida shelters, papsmear tests were also conducted for the IDP women at the shelters, serviced by PARD. Around 113 women (almost all were Lebanese) benefitted from this service; this is incredibly important since these women came from villages in the South of Lebanon, which had been under Israeli threat and aggression since October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 and therefore, their reproductive health had been neglected due to the circumstances.



- **Pediatric health**

Over a period of three months, a new initiative was implemented to provide essential pediatric health services to vulnerable children in the underserved communities of the gatherings of South Lebanon. This initiative was in part, an emergency/relief response due to the Israeli war in Lebanon, affecting people's safe movement and economic stability. Additionally, it was one of the prioritized needs of the communities as stated in the participatory identification processes conducted in early 2024 (*please refer to Organizational Development Strategy*). The activity aimed to improve the health and well-being of children by offering accessible, quality medical care, with a particular focus on general check-ups, the diagnosis and treatment of common infectious diseases, and the provision of necessary medications.

The mobile clinic operated on a rotational schedule, visiting the 10 targeted gatherings in South Lebanon, on a weekly basis to ensure consistent and equitable access to health services. A qualified medical team, including a pediatrician and a nurse, staffed the clinic and provided comprehensive care to children ranging from infancy to 15 years of age.

Key services delivered included routine pediatric check-ups, during which children were assessed for growth and development milestones, nutritional status, and general health indicators. Health education was also provided to caregivers on proper hygiene practices, nutrition, and early signs of illness.

**A significant component of the activity focused on the early detection and management of infectious diseases**, such as respiratory tract infections, skin diseases, and gastrointestinal illnesses, which are prevalent in marginalized communities. Children diagnosed with these conditions received immediate medical treatment through the provision of appropriate medications, including antibiotics, antipyretics, and rehydration solutions, as prescribed by the attending physician. This was essential especially in light of the dire situation of increased medication cost, increased transport cost for referral to central UNRWA clinics in the official camps and worsened overall health situation in such circumstances.



Throughout the three-month period, **the mobile clinic provided pediatric services to a total of 1000 children** (362 PRL, 533 S and 105 L; 521 Males and 479 Females), contributing to the reduction of untreated illnesses and promoting healthier childhood development.

### **Number of Children Benefitting from Pediatric Health Services**

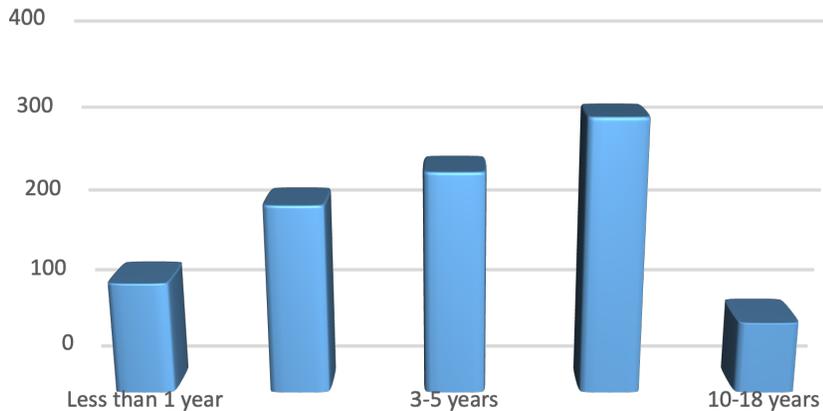


Figure: Distribution of children who benefited from pediatric health medical services by age

- **Psychological Support**

PARD provides diverse forms of psychological support for refugee women victims of violence and those in need of emotional and psychological support in the gatherings. These activities are performed by an experienced psychologist, highly trained and knowledgeable in handling gender-based violence (GBV) cases and recruited exclusively for this purpose.

### A. Group Therapy Sessions

Group therapy is a therapeutic approach that leverages the power of collective support, allowing participants to share their stories, gain insight into their struggles, and develop effective coping strategies. Facilitated by a trained therapist, group therapy provides a safe space for individuals to express emotions, receive feedback, and build connections with others. **The initial group therapy sessions can include any women that shows interest in participating in such sessions or any women who is in need of emotional and psychological support.** However, PARP is aware that in the Palestinian gatherings, all women are familiar with each other so it is clarified at the beginning of the session the following: confidentiality, voluntary participation and the availability of private individual support.

The psychologist outlines the purpose of the session and ensures the space is sensitive, inclusive, and focused on the participants' overall well-being. While personal issues are welcome, including experiences of abuse, the session is guided to meet the collective needs of the group.



Throughout the year of 2024, **77 group therapy sessions were successfully conducted reaching a total of 897 women** (51 below 18 years and 846 adults above 18 years). These sessions were distributed as follows:

- 67 groups conducted across 10 informal settlements in South of Lebanon.
- 10 groups conducted across 3 informal settlements in Beirut

The group sessions lasted between 90 and 120 minutes. The timing and location of each session were agreed upon by the women themselves to ensure convenience and accessibility.

No.	Governate	Gathering	Number of Group Sessions
1	South of Lebanon	Sikkeh	9
2		Kfarbadda	5
3		Jim Jeem	4
4		Wasta	3
5		Aintanyieh	4
6		Qassmyieh	4
7		Burghlyieh	3
8		Shabriha	7
9		Jal Al Baher	5
10		Maachouk	8
11	Beirut	Daouk	4
12		Sabra	3
13		Saed Ghawwash	3
<b>Total of Group Sessions Implemented</b>			<b>62</b>

*Table: Distribution of group therapy sessions by gathering*

In response to the escalating demand for psychological support and the increasing incidence of GBV in Lebanon, PARD expanded its services in 2024 to address these critical issues. According to UNHCR (2023), the risk of GBV increases in conflict and displacement, a threat to over 60 million forcibly displaced and stateless women and girls. Reflecting this trend, UN Women (2023) reported that in Lebanon, "women and girls are increasingly facing gender-based violence at home, at work and in the public sphere."

Over the past years, PARD has consistently exceeded its GBV response targets, reflecting the rising number of identified GBV cases across settlements. This surge has been especially evident in the aftermath of the country's worsening crises, where displacement, economic collapse, and insecurity have significantly heightened the vulnerability of women and girls.

Consequently, **PARD conducted a total of 62 group therapy sessions focusing on GBV in 2024**, with 10 sessions held in Beirut gatherings and 52 in southern gatherings. These sessions aimed to provide psychological support, raise awareness, and empower participants to address and prevent GBV within their communities.

In addition, **15 group therapy sessions were conducted focusing on Psychological Well-Being in Times of Conflict, with a particular emphasis on stress management**. Four of these sessions targeted individuals under 18 and differed from the adult sessions by incorporating various child-friendly techniques such as mindful dancing, drawing, and balloon games to help children express their emotions. It is worth mentioning that these group therapy sessions with youth were the only ones that included males, as it was particularly challenging to engage adult men in group therapy due to prevailing societal beliefs that discourage men from acknowledging or seeking help for mental health struggles.

**The objective of these group therapy sessions was to:**

1. Provide awareness and support
2. Provide them with a safe space for self-expression
3. Target GBV cases and provide them with individual psychological support if needed
4. Help them deal with daily stressors and develop self - help capacities
5. Build supportive social network
6. Develop communication and socialization skills.

Moreover, the sessions helped the participants understand GBV and different psychosocial and contextual considerations in humanitarian and refugee settings; the survivor-centered

approach; the process of support group planning, implementation, and documentation; and the necessity of personal “safety”. Furthermore, it was important to explain the ethics of the psychology (Protection from Harm, right to Withdraw, Confidentiality, informed consent, debriefing) so the women would feel safe during the sessions. Also, the group sessions respected the GBV Guiding principles: ensuring the safety of GBV victims, ensuring confidentiality, respecting the GBV survivor, and practicing non-discrimination. The group sessions were flexible and went with the needs of the women participating in the group. No topic was off-limits in these sessions, including: sex; emotional maturity and expression; human trafficking; violence against women, children, and families; stereotypes; human rights; shock; and self-care. However, the background and the culture of the women was taken into consideration before discussing any sensitive topic.

### **Outcomes and Impact of the Group Sessions:**

- Increased identification of GBV cases, with emotional abuse and intimate partner violence being the most common.
- Participants gained practical tools to recognize and cope with GBV and its psychological consequences.
- Follow-up sessions deepened emotional expression and encouraged peer support.
- Women improved their ability to manage stress and differentiate between adaptive and maladaptive coping strategies.
- Each participant developed a personalized stress management plan, enhancing emotional resilience.
- Group activities such as venting and drawing created safe spaces for emotional expression and connection.
- Referral information empowered women to seek available protection and psychological support services.
- Sessions reached vulnerable communities in informal settlements, particularly Syrian and Palestinian refugee women.
- High engagement reflected the urgent need for psychosocial and GBV support.
- Discussions sparked community-level dialogue and reduced stigma surrounding GBV and mental health.
- Participants reported feeling more emotionally connected, socially engaged, and appreciative of the psychological support provided.

### **B. Individual Psychological Support Sessions**

Individual therapy offers a confidential space where people can explore personal challenges, receive tailored psychological support, and develop coping strategies at their own pace. While

some participants are referred through group sessions, hotlines, internal referrals or other organizations—particularly in GBV-related cases—others seek individual sessions independently to address a range of emotional, psychological, or situational difficulties. This one-on-one support is essential for those needing deeper, personalized care beyond group settings.

**The objectives of individual therapy sessions include:**

1. Offering a confidential and judgment-free environment for survivors to express their thoughts and emotions.
2. Helping survivors process their trauma, understand its impact, and navigate their feelings.
3. Encouraging self-reflection and fostering self-awareness.
4. Supporting survivors in identifying and achieving their personal goals.
5. Developing tailored coping mechanisms to deal with trauma and violence.
6. Strengthening self-esteem and empowering survivors to make confident decisions.
7. Enhancing interpersonal skills to improve relationships and interactions.
8. Assisting survivors in creating a roadmap for healing and personal growth.

Throughout the year of 2024, **Individual Psychological Support sessions were provided for 361 Individuals** (259 GBV cases, 102 in Emotional Distress). Since beneficiaries could report more than one type of complaint in the same visit, some beneficiaries reported non-GBV complaints in addition to their GBV issues.

<b>Types of Consultation</b>	In-Person	271
	Hotline	90
<b>Ages</b>	Children<18 years	44
	Adults 25 - 65 years	302
	Seniors > 65 years	15
<b>Nationalities</b>	PRL	226
	S	86
	L	40
	PRS	9

The data Table: *Distribution of individual sessions by type, age and nationality* indicate a

consistent and widespread prevalence of psychological and emotional abuse as they are being the most commonly reported. Physical assault and sexual assault were also significant concerns, though less frequently than psychological abuse. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) was identified

in several cases, underscoring the need for targeted interventions in this area. Beneficiaries of this service were predominantly from PRL, followed by S and L individuals, reflecting the demographic composition of the target groups. The follow-up rates varied; however, it was evident the increased demand for follow-ups particularly in hotline cases indicating a continued need for support and guidance, and reflecting the context of war and lack of safety and stability at the time,

The consistent identification of psychological distress and emotional abuse highlights the critical importance of addressing mental health alongside physical violence in GBV interventions. **The findings emphasize the need for comprehensive and sustained support services, including hotline availability and regular follow-ups, to ensure ongoing assistance and recovery for survivors of GBV.**

It is noteworthy that while most beneficiaries who received individual psychological support were already experiencing psychological disturbances, their primary concern at the time was the fear of the ongoing Israeli bombardment. At least one third of the beneficiaries identified the security situation in the south as their main worry. Additionally, many other beneficiaries reported a significant increase in stress levels over the past few months, often without a clear understanding of the underlying cause.

### C. Referrals

Throughout the implementation of mental health services, PARD facilitated multiple referrals to ensure survivors and individuals in need received the necessary services. These referrals included **legal assistance, psychiatric care, shelter, emergency clinical management of rape (CMR), vocational training, education, and rehabilitation.** Several organizations such as Skoun, UNRWA, ABAAD, Amel, NRC, Save the Children, Humanity and Inclusion, and Himaya were instrumental in receiving these cases based on their area of expertise and the assessed risk level. Most referrals were categorized as high risk, particularly for GBV survivors requiring immediate protection or medical/psychiatric intervention. **In addition to the referrals made by PARD, the organization also received cases from external partners.** These included GBV survivors referred by Al Jana and ABAAD for psychological support, **highlighting the strong coordination between actors within the GBV sector.**

During both group and individual therapy sessions, the psychologist shared an annually updated GBV referral list, including contact details for trusted service providers such as legal aid, doctors, and NGOs. These contacts were verified to ensure accessibility, relevance to women in the South, and eligibility based on nationality. Additionally, **PARD is an active member of the South**

**GBV Working Group led by UNHCR, where coordination among actors is strengthened ensuring broader outreach and reduced duplication of services.**

#### **D. Vocational Training**

Under the project “**Medical, Psychosocial and Educational Assistance in Ten Informal Settlements in South Lebanon**”, recognizing that many GBV survivors struggle with achieving independence due to limited resources, vocational training was integrated into programming to empower women both economically and socially. Psychological support helped participants build confidence and decision-making abilities, but the lack of practical opportunities remained a barrier.

To address this, **vocational training was offered to 10 high- and moderate-risk GBV survivors** over a three-month period at Al Afak Vocational training Center. After consulting with the women, hairdressing was selected as the collective focus, with added training in basic makeup skills to enhance employability. Selection criteria included risk level, expressed need, and psychological readiness to commit to the program.



**The projects/activities in this strategy were supported by:**

- Ø Basque Agency for Development Cooperation
- Ø Bizkaia (The Provincial Council of Biscay)
- Ø MCC- CFGB
- Ø NAZIOARTEKO ELKARATASUNA – SOLIDARIDAD INTERNACIONAL
- Ø Leioa Town Council
- Ø Association Najde/ EFI/AFD
- Ø Al Basma Foundation



## Strategy two: Child Protection



## Educational Activities for Children

### Introduction:

#### Situation of Children in Lebanon - 2024

##### Overview

As Lebanon endures yet another year of compounding crises, children are increasingly bearing the brunt of the country's prolonged economic collapse, political instability, and the ongoing war in the south. In 2024, the situation has reached alarming levels, with conflict, displacement, and poverty converging to threaten the survival, development, and protection of thousands of children.

The continued hostilities along the southern border, combined with deepening economic hardships, have led to widespread school closures, increased child labour, deteriorating mental health, and a breakdown in essential services. Children are facing acute risks to their physical and emotional well-being, with long-term consequences for the country's social fabric and future recovery.

#### 1. Access to Education Severely Compromised

- As of early 2024, **26% of Lebanese households** reported that their school-aged children are not attending school—up from 18% in April 2023.
- Among **Syrian refugee households**, the rate of non-attendance has reached an alarming **52%**.
- The most commonly cited barriers to education include the **rising cost of materials, transportation**, and the need for children to contribute to household income.
- In southern Lebanon, **dozens of schools remain closed** due to active conflict, affecting over **6,000 students**, while attendance is minimal in schools that are still operational.
- Thousands of internally displaced children remain **completely cut off from education**, with little to no access to alternative learning modalities.

#### 2. Escalation in Child Labour

- The proportion of households sending children under 18 to work has increased to **16%**, up from 11% in 2023.
- Among Syrian refugees, **1 in 3 families** reported relying on child labour as a survival strategy.
- In many cases, entire families—including children—are engaged in informal, unsafe, and exploitative work, often at the expense of schooling and well-being.

### 3. Rising Psychosocial Distress

- In the **South Governorate**, **46% of children** are reported to be suffering from **anxiety**, and **29% from depression**.
- In **Nabatieh**, **46% of children** show signs of anxiety, and **33% report depressive symptoms**.
- Among **Palestinian refugee children**, nearly **half suffer from anxiety**, and **30% report depression**, exacerbated by ongoing violence in Gaza and the West Bank, where many have lost or are separated from family members.
- Children are exhibiting signs of **severe psychological stress**, compounded by displacement, poverty, and the absence of consistent support systems.

### 4. Household Vulnerability and Negative Coping Mechanisms

- **84% of households** reported having to borrow money or purchase food on credit—an increase of 16 percentage points since mid-2023.
- **24% of families** said they had to **withdraw children from education** entirely due to financial constraints.
- **81% of households** reported reducing spending on **healthcare**, further endangering children's health and development.
- Families are increasingly resorting to harmful coping strategies, prioritizing survival over long-term well-being.

### 5. Loss of Hope Among Children

- **34% of children** in Lebanon believe their lives will be **worse one year from now**, compared to 27% in 2023.
- This sense of despair is particularly acute among refugee children, many of whom have never known a life outside displacement, conflict, and economic insecurity.

#### Resources:

- UNICEF's "Caught in the Crossfire" report
- UNICEF's report titled "Children hit ever-harder by Lebanon's unrelenting crises"
- UNHCR's Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) 2023
- UNHCR's Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (IMS) document

## Early Childhood Education- Kindergartens

For 13 years, PARD has been providing kindergarten (KG) education services to refugee: Beirut. And for nine years in Wadi EL Zeineh (Sibline), and Borj El Shemali (Tyre). Two of these locations, Daouk/Sabra and Wadi EL Zeineh, are Palestinian gatherings where the Kindergartens serve as vital educational centers. The third location, Borj El Chemali, is situated near multiple gatherings, including Shabriha, Maashouk, and Borj El Shemali camp, benefiting children from these areas as well.

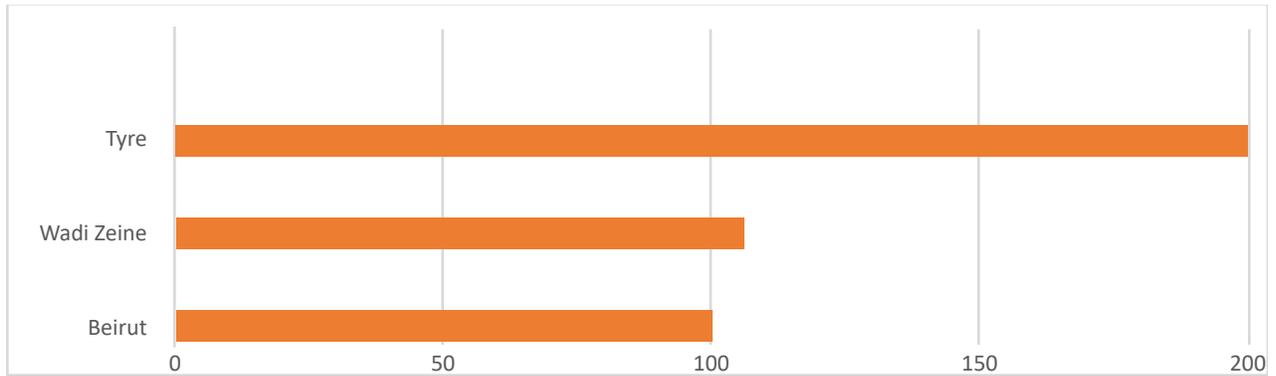
All three KGs are officially certified by the Lebanese Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MEHE) and deliver the Community Based-Early Childhood Education (CB-ECE) curriculum, catering exclusively to refugee children of Palestinian, Syrian, and other nationalities aged between 3 and 5 years. This curriculum not only provides age-appropriate education but also prepares children for enrollment in the Lebanese educational system and progression into elementary level education.

PARD ensures uniformity and high quality across all its centers by implementing standardized core plans, aims, and methods. Each class is assigned a teacher and an assistant to monitor student progress effectively. Teachers are allocated to levels based on their competencies, previous education, work experience, and ability to engage with children. Additionally, each center has a designated head teacher who acts as a coordinator, ensuring smooth coordination of activities.

The education team consists of 45 dedicated staff members, including a project coordinator, education officer, head teachers, teachers, and assistant teachers. The majority of the staff are recruited from the local communities where the kindergartens operate, reflecting PARD's commitment to empowering and supporting local communities as part of its broader organizational vision.

Curriculum-wise, a consistent annual implementation plan has been designed for all three KGs, albeit with different initiation dates. This plan outlines how educational materials will be delivered to the children, ensuring consistency and quality education across all centers.

As for the scholastic year 2024-2025 which encompasses the months of October of 2024 till July of 2025, **the number of enrolled children in the three KGs is 406**. These children were distributed along the three KGs for **200** in Tyre, **106** in Wadi EL Zeineh, and **100** in Sabra, Beirut.



- **Beirut Kindergarten**



Since 2012, PARD has been operating a kindergarten center in Beirut. Following its official registration in 2019, the kindergarten has adhered to the academic calendar set by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE). In the 2024–2025 scholastic year, Daouk Kindergarten provided early childhood education to **100 children** from diverse backgrounds residing in the surrounding area.

The center operates **five classrooms**, each staffed by a qualified teacher and an assistant, ensuring a supportive and engaging learning environment. This structure also **contributed to local economic empowerment by providing employment opportunities for 12 women from the nearby gatherings**, including 10 teachers and assistants, one head teacher, and one cleaning staff member.

The student body consists of an equal number of boys and girls—50 each—distributed across three educational levels: **18** children in KG1, **40** in KG2, and **42** in KG3. Among the KG3 students, all 50 will be certified by PARD upon completion of the CB-ECE curriculum, confirming their readiness to transition to the elementary level. Of the total enrolled, **92** students were of Syrian nationality, while **5** were PRL and **3** were Lebanese.

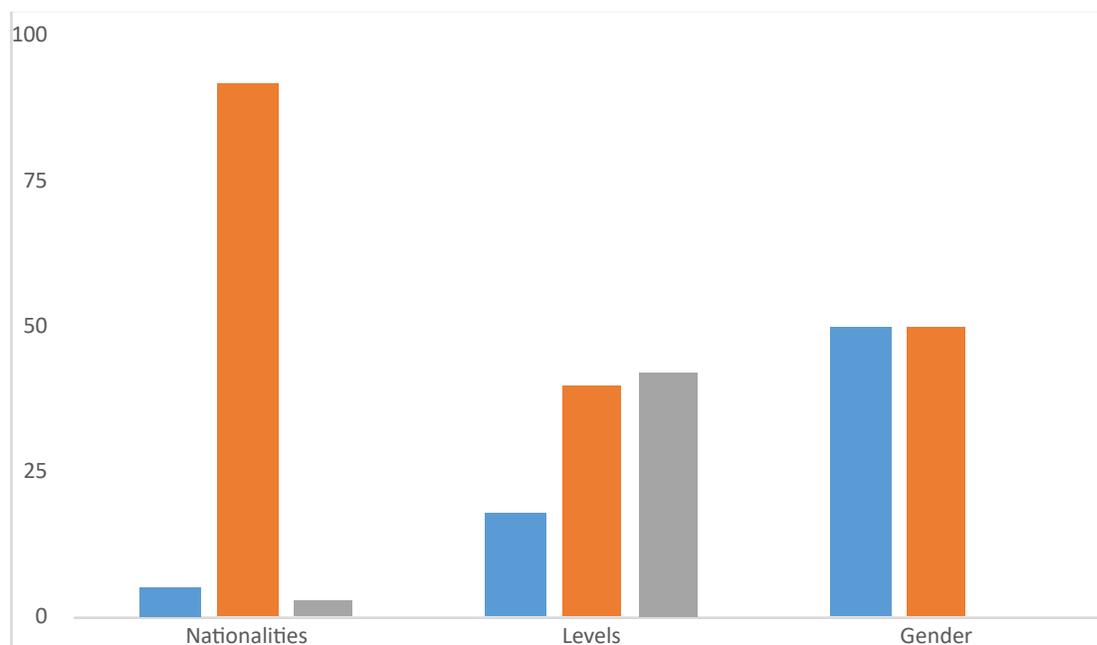


Figure: Disaggregation of the children who attended PARD’s KG in Beirut-Daouk for scholastic year 2024-2025 by nationality, level and gender.

- **Wadi EL Zeineh Kindergarten**

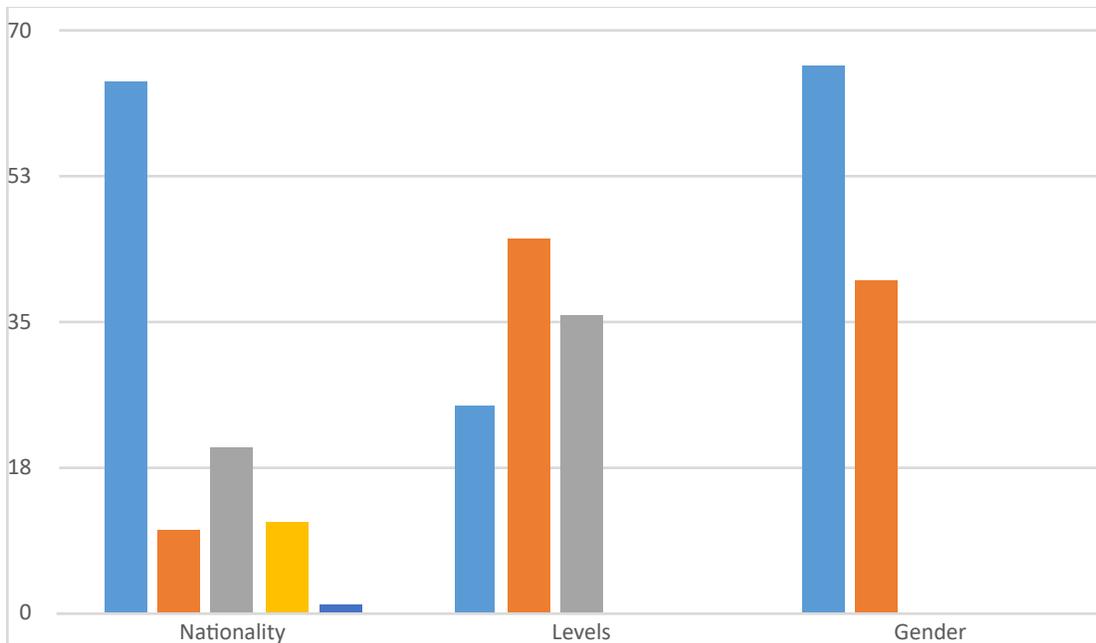


PARD's kindergarten in Wadi EL Zeineh has been actively providing Early Childhood Education (ECE) services since its establishment in 2016. In 2019, the center received official registration and certification, enabling it to adopt the Competency-Based Early Childhood Education (CB-ECE) curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE). The

kindergarten follows the official scholastic calendar, in alignment with PARD’s Beirut-based center.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, covering the period from October 2024 through 2025, the Wadi EL Zeineh kindergarten is serving a total of **106 children**, comprising **40 males** and **66** females from various national backgrounds. The children are distributed across three educational levels: **25** in KG1, **45** in KG2, and **36** in KG3.

To accommodate this number, the center operated five classrooms, each supported by a dedicated teacher and assistant. In line with the model implemented in Beirut kindergarten, **the Wadi EL Zeineh center created employment opportunities for 12 women from the local community**. This includes 10 educators (teachers and assistants), one head teacher, and one cleaning lady.



*Figure: Disaggregation of the children who attended PARD's KG in Wadi EL Zeineh in 2024-2025 by nationality, level, and gender*

- Tyre Kindergarten:



PARD's kindergarten in Tyre has been delivering Early Childhood Education (ECE) services since 2016. In 2019, it received official accreditation from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and subsequently adopted the Competency-Based Early Childhood Education (CB-ECE) curriculum in alignment with national standards.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, the kindergarten provided educational services to **200 children**—116 boys and 84 girls—across the three standard kindergarten levels. Enrollment was distributed as follows: 24 children in KG1, 68 in KG2, and 108 in KG3. All students in KG3 are scheduled to receive graduation certificates issued jointly by PARD and MEHE, qualifying them to advance to Grade One in the following school year.

The student population reflects the center's diversity, including 152 Syrian children, 29 Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS), 13 Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL), and 6 Lebanese children.

The kindergarten operated with a total of 10 classrooms, each led by a teacher and supported by an assistant. **This structure allowed for the employment of 22 women from the local community**, encompassing 18 educators (teachers and assistants), one head teacher, and one staff member responsible for cleaning and hygiene services. In this way, the Tyre kindergarten not only functions as a vital early learning facility but also plays a significant role in supporting women's economic empowerment in the area.

### **Parent Community Meetings**

PARD recognizes that a child's development is closely tied to active and ongoing communication with their parents. In line with this understanding, structured monthly meetings are held across all three kindergartens and community centers. These meetings aim to engage parents in meaningful dialogue, gather their feedback on the quality and relevance of the educational programs, and address any concerns related to their children's learning journey, attendance, and overall well-being.

While these sessions **play a critical role in tracking student progress and enhancing parental satisfaction**, their impact extends beyond educational outcomes. By bringing together parents from various national and cultural backgrounds, **these gatherings foster social cohesion and promote stronger community bonds. They serve as a platform for parents to exchange experiences, support one another, and cultivate mutual understanding**—thereby contributing to a more integrated and resilient community.

Discussion topics during these meetings cover a wide range of themes, including resilience-building, healthy lifestyle habits, nurturing creativity, cultural inclusion, fostering healthy relationships, school policies, creating positive learning environments, the value of education, and the role of positive parenting in child development.

## Child Protection

PARD’s Child Protection Program is designed to ensure that all children are safeguarded from violence, abuse, and exploitation, with a strong focus on protecting their physical, mental, and emotional well-being to secure their long-term development and safety. **All kindergarten and center staff, including educators, receive training on Child Protection Minimum Standards, safe identification of risks, and appropriate referral mechanisms.**

In addition to staff capacity building, children and their caregivers participate in regular psychosocial and behavioral awareness sessions that address a variety of child protection themes. These sessions aim to promote resilience, healthy coping strategies, and awareness of rights and responsibilities.

Referrals are carefully managed by PARD’s in-house psychologist, who begins with a comprehensive assessment to understand the specific needs and vulnerabilities of each child. This initial evaluation forms the foundation for developing a tailored intervention plan that supports not only the child but also their family.

Each intervention plan is created in collaboration with the caregivers and may include a combination of therapeutic services, educational support, or referrals to specialized social and health services. Progress is regularly monitored through follow-up evaluations, allowing the psychologist to refine and adjust the support plan to ensure it remains effective and responsive to the child’s evolving needs.

Furthermore, the psychologist plays a pivotal role in **coordinating among all stakeholders—caregivers, educators, and external service providers—ensuring a unified and holistic approach to the child’s protection and development.**

Through this comprehensive and personalized model, PARD aims to empower both children and their families, fostering a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment that promotes overall well-being and resilience.

## Psycho-social support activities

Since 1995, PARD has been delivering psychosocial support (PSS) activities for children aged 7 to 12, particularly those living in marginalized gatherings. These children are significantly impacted—both directly and indirectly—by the country’s ongoing socio-economic and political crises. The accumulated pressures, especially during critical developmental years, have often confined children to their homes, limiting their opportunities for social interaction and healthy emotional development. In response, PARD’s PSS interventions are designed to create safe and engaging spaces that support the psychological and social well-being of children, while encouraging meaningful interaction with peers, families, and their wider community.

The program focuses on fostering emotional resilience, enhancing interpersonal relationships, and promoting a sense of belonging. All activities are facilitated by trained psychosocial animators selected for their educational background and relevant experience in child development and social work. The current team includes 2 animators in Beirut, 2 in Wadi EL Zeineh, and 6 deployed across PARD’s community centers in the South.

The PSS curriculum was recently revised and expanded to address emerging needs within the communities. A total of 12 thematic areas were introduced or updated to reflect contemporary challenges and ensure the sessions remain relevant, interactive, and impactful. The updated themes include:

- Positive communication
- Emotional awareness and regulation
- Building friendships and social connections
- Self-esteem and confidence-building
- Resilience and adaptive coping
- Creativity and imagination
- Teamwork and cooperation
- Strengthening family bonds
- Addressing bullying and promoting healthy relationships (including cyberbullying)
- Cultural inclusion and diversity
- Problem-solving and critical thinking
- Physical well-being and healthy lifestyle habits

These activities are implemented across five main gatherings in South Lebanon—Maashouk, Jim Jim, Kfarbadda, Shabriha, and Wadi EL Zeineh —and are hosted in three of PARD’s community centers located in Maashouk, Jim Jim, and Shabriha, as well as in the kindergarten centers in Beirut and Wadi EL Zeineh.

For the 2024 cycle, a total of **218 children** were registered for participation. Enrollment took place in July and was distributed as follows: 50 children in Beirut, 50 in Wadi EL Zeineh, 45 in Maashouk, 43 in Shabriha, and 30 in Jim Jim.

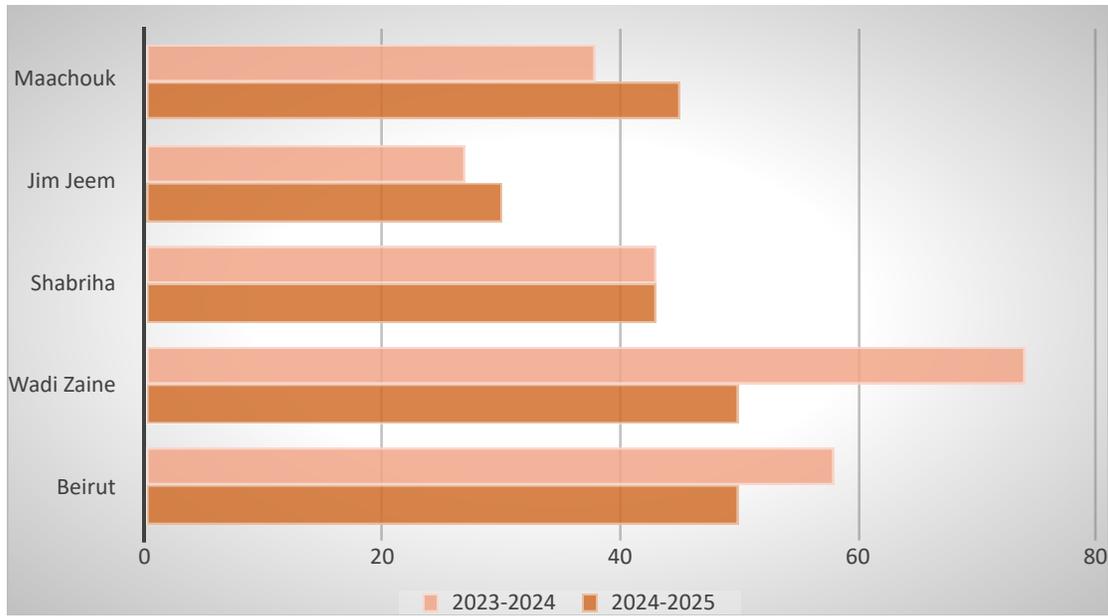


Figure: Comparison of registered children in PSS activities in PARD's community centers in the past 2 years

- **Shabriha Community Center**



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

**Dabkeh (folklore) team ages 16-18 years** (12 F) who are trained on 2 folklore songs. They practice every Sunday and have performed in many events like the graduation parties and women empowerment end of project celebrations.

**Football Team** ages (7-15 years) (14 F and 34 M) A football team has been formed at the center, equipped with matching uniforms and guided by a volunteer trainer. The team holds weekly training sessions on the center's playground. Recently, the team proudly participated in PARD's Child Protection Graduation Ceremony, showcasing their progress and contributing to the event's positive and empowering atmosphere.

**Children Psychosocial Activities** for 43 children (26 M, 17 F), (Syrian: 21, PRL: 20, PRS:2).

**Meetings with mothers (32 women)** of children participating in the activities took place for 12 months. Themes discussed included introduction to psychosocial activities, challenges in coping with children and positive parenting. Some parents were working and could not attend the sessions. Moreover, some parents have more than one child in the PSS activities.

**Needs Assessment (Identification Process)** for 22 women from 9 South gatherings was conducted by PARD's trainer/social worker.

**Children's Activities by others:** The Palestinian Red Crescent organized 10 activity sessions for 20 children aged 9 to 14 years.

**Women's Committee Monthly Meetings:**

Monthly gatherings were held for the women's committees (40 members) to discuss community needs, assess strengths and weaknesses, and collectively propose solutions. These meetings serve as a platform for advocacy, coordination, and local engagement.

**Distribution of Materials:** food parcels, hygiene kits, blankets and winter clothing for children were distributed in the center for the benefit of vulnerable families.

- **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 45 children (22 M, 23 F), (PRL:15, Syrian: 30).**

**Meetings with mothers (30 women)** of children participating in the activities took place for 12 months. Themes discussed included conflict resolution, prevention of home accidents, safe use of internet, and family violence. Some mothers are working and could not attend the sessions. Other mothers might have more than one child in PSS activities.

**Psychological First Aid (PFA) Training:**

PARD's psychologist delivered a training session on the principles of Psychological First Aid (PFA), focusing on how to support children during crises. The session targeted 18 participants from the Child Protection (CP) team.

**First Aid Training by the Palestinian Red Crescent (PRC):**

A First Aid training was conducted for 17 members of the CP team by PRC, aiming to strengthen their emergency response capacity within the community.

**Interactive Theater Training for Women:**

**Eight women participated in an interactive theater training** facilitated by the social worker of the Women’s Empowerment Project. The training addressed critical social issues including gender-based violence, discrimination, and women’s rights, using drama as a tool for awareness and expression.

**SPHERE Standards Training:**

**A training session based on SPHERE** humanitarian standards, focusing on effective response during emergencies and crises, **was delivered to 29 women from various gatherings.** The training aimed to build knowledge around humanitarian principles, preparedness, and coordinated response.

**Mental Health Awareness Sessions:**

PARD’s psychologist conducted **mental health awareness sessions for 18 women** from different gatherings. The sessions aimed to promote psychological well-being, reduce stigma, and encourage access to mental health support services.

**Legal Awareness and Support by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC):**

Under the Information, Counseling, and Legal Assistance (ICLA) program, **NRC provided eight free legal consultation sessions.** Ten beneficiaries (5 men and 5 women) from Maachouk Gathering received guidance on various legal topics, including civil documentation, housing, and family law.

**Women’s Committee Monthly Meetings:**

Monthly gatherings were held for the Women’s Committees (45 members) to discuss community needs, assess strengths and weaknesses, and collectively propose solutions. These meetings serve as a platform for advocacy, coordination, and local engagement.

**Mobile Health Clinic - Women’s Health Services:**

A mobile clinic visits the area twice per month as part of the Health Project, offering essential gynecological services, prenatal care, and birth control consultations. Women benefit from these regular services, which ensures access to reproductive health care for vulnerable populations.

**International Women's Day Event:**

The CFGB Relief Project organized a Women's Day event for 38 women, coordinated by the Relief Project Coordinator, to celebrate women's resilience and raise awareness on gender equality through interactive activities and discussions.

**Distribution of Materials:** food parcels, hygiene kits, blankets and winter clothings for children were distributed in the center for the benefit of vulnerable families.

**Post-Evaluation Sessions** of the Food Assistance Cash Support project was implemented by the social workers.

**Women's Trainings and Awareness sessions:** PARD's social worker conducted an awareness session for the benefit of 38 local women on gender-based violence.

**Psychology support and awareness raising**

PARD psychologist conducted many group therapy and individual therapy sessions in the center. Moreover, she conducted training and awareness sessions for women on mental health, parenting, self-care and stress-management.

- **Jim Jeem Community Center**



**Children psychosocial activities:** For 30 children (12 Male, 18 Female), (PRL: 16, L:5, Syrian:9).

**Meetings with mothers** monthly parents meeting were conducted for 18 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 (20 members) meets regularly in the center. They meet to discuss women issues, or issues related to their community.

**Women's Trainings and Awareness sessions:** PAR D's social worker conducted an awareness session for the benefit of 17 local women on gender-based violence.

**Psychology support and awareness raising:** The psychologist conducted many group therapy and individual therapy sessions in the center. Moreover, she conducted training and awareness sessions for women on mental health, parenting, self-care and stress-management.

**First Aid Training** with PARD: The sessions focused on essential first aid skills and emergency response techniques.

**Post-Evaluation sessions** of the Food Assistance Cash Support Project was implemented by the social workers.

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

**Distribution of Materials:** food parcels, hygiene kits, blankets and winter clothings for children were distributed in the center for the benefit of vulnerable families.

**Women's Trainings and Awareness sessions:** PARD's social worker conducted an awareness session for the benefit of 16 local women on gender-based violence.

**Psychology support and awareness raising**

PARD psychologist conducted many group therapy and individual therapy sessions in the center. Moreover, she conducted training and awareness sessions for women on mental health, parenting, self-care and stress-management.

- **Wadi Al Zeineh Community Center**

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

**Early Childhood Education** program is being provided for 106 children, focusing on holistic development through age-appropriate learning activities that support cognitive, emotional, social, and physical growth in a safe and nurturing environment.

**Psychosocial activities for 50 children** (28 males, 22 females), (PRL:34, Syrian:8, L:5, PRS:3).

**Meetings with mothers (30 women)** were conducted for mothers of children 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 (30 members) meet regularly in the center. They meet to discuss women issues, or issues related to their community.

**Internal Meetings and Trainings at Wadi Al Zeineh Center:** Several internal meetings and capacity-building trainings were conducted for the Child Protection (CP) team at the Center. These included sessions on PARD's internal regulations and policies, educational techniques such as active learning and gamification, as well as a refresher on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). The aim was to strengthen the team's skills and ensure alignment with organizational standards.

**Remedial Support Activities for elementary Students:** From June to August 2024, remedial support activities were organized for 50 children at the elementary level to help strengthen their foundational knowledge in core subjects including Math, English, and Science.

**Premiere Urgency organization has conducted a training for the CP team in Wadi Al Zeineh (12 females) on** Introduction to Disability and Inclusion.

**Distribution of Materials:** food parcels, hygiene kits, blankets and winter clothings for children were distributed in the center for the benefit of vulnerable families.

- **Al Daouk Community Center**



The center was established in 2012 along with its Kindergarten in Daouk Beirut Area. It covers many activities as follows:

**Early Childhood Education** program was provided for 100 children, focusing on holistic development through age-appropriate learning activities that support cognitive, emotional, social, and physical growth in a safe and nurturing environment.

**Psychosocial activities for 50 children** (22 males, 28 females), (Syrian:45, PRL:5).

**Women Groups:** It hosts meetings and focus groups of the **women committee** in the area with 56 participants who meet regularly in the center to discuss women issues, or other related issues to their community.

**Meetings with mothers (35 women)** were conducted for mothers of children 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.

#### **Remedial Support Activities for elementary Students:**

From June to August 2024, remedial support activities were organized for 50 children at the elementary level to help strengthen their foundational knowledge in core subjects including Math, English, and Science. These sessions aimed to bridge learning gaps, reinforce academic skills, and ensure children are better prepared for the upcoming school year. The support was delivered through interactive, child-centered methods tailored to the individual needs of the students.

**Distribution of Materials:** food parcels, hygiene kits, blankets and winter clothing for children were distributed in the center for the benefit of vulnerable families.

**Women’s Trainings and Awareness sessions:** PARd’s social worker conducted an awareness session for the benefit of 30 local women on gender-based violence.

#### **Psychology support and awareness raising**

PARd psychologist conducted many group therapy and individual therapy sessions in the center. Moreover, she conducted training and awareness sessions for women on mental health, parenting, self-care and stress-management.

## **Child Protection & Emergency Education Response**

*Angelic Saliba Public School Shelter, Saida – September to November 2024*

Following the outbreak of war on September 23, 2024, PARd assumed full responsibility for Angelic Saliba Public School in Saida, transforming it into a shelter for displaced families from the South of Lebanon. In response, the Child Protection (CP) and Education teams launched immediate emergency interventions to support affected children’s psychosocial and educational needs.

### **Psychosocial Support (PSS) Activities:**

Structured PSS sessions began on September 27 and were conducted five days a week, facilitated by 10 animators. A total of **110 children** (66 girls, 44 boys: 70 Syrian, 33 Lebanese, 8 PRL) were divided into three age groups (3–6, 7–12, 13–17). Key topics included emotional expression, resilience, hygiene, and bullying prevention.

In Phase 2 (Nov 16–27), PSS sessions shifted to afternoons (3 days/week), featuring arts, self-care, and special events. A **Dabke team (12 children)** and **football team (19 children)** involved youth groups. A highlight was the **Independence Day celebration** on Nov 22 with 90 participants. PARD’s **puppet theater** performed “The Immigrant Fly” twice, reaching **152 children** with messages on hygiene and community values.

### **Education Response:**

Education support began on October 7 for **110 children** (40 preschoolers, 31 Cycle 1, 39 Cycle 2), taught by 10 teachers (8 from Beirut/ Wadi EL Zeineh and 2 volunteers from among the displaced families). Core subjects—Math, English, Arabic—were taught five days/week. Diagnostic tests and education kits ensured personalized learning.

Phase 2 (Nov 16–26) focused on assisting children with their **online schoolwork**, offering personalized tutoring, continued SEL support, and provision of educational materials.

### **Trainings for the CP team included:**

- Puppet theater team training on bullying
- Three-day first aid training
- Upcoming refresher training on Child Protection, Teaching in Crisis, and SEL

### **Closure:**

Activities concluded on **November 27**, following a ceasefire and the return of displaced families. The CP and Education teams played a crucial role in restoring stability, learning continuity, and emotional resilience for children during the crisis.

### **The projects/activities in this strategy were supported by:**

- Ø Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
- Ø Solidaridad Internacional (NESI)
- Ø UNDP - Lebanon
- Ø The Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa
- Ø REI - Refugee Empowerment International - Japan
- Ø Human Serve International - Canada
- Ø Al Basma Foundation
- Ø UN-HABITAT

## Strategy Three: 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. For the year 2024, no funds were secured to cover the costs of salaries for two drivers and two workers and fuel and maintenance for the two garbage disposal trucks.

### 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 waste water 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 232 cesspits were emptied through 311 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
1	Kharayeb	29	38
2	Maashouk	47	65
3	Kfar Badda	61	94
4	Wasta	29	30
5	Qasmiyeh	22	35
6	Rachidiyeh	15	16
7	Burghuliyeh	6	6
8	Bus	1	1
9	Shabriha	13	17
10	Jal Al Bahar	7	7
11	Jim Jeem	2	2

<b>Totals</b>		<b>232</b>	<b>311</b>
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## Cleaning Campaigns of General Premises



At least once a year, each gathering organizes a cleaning campaign whereby a team of workers and volunteers clean up their gatherings.

In 2024, 20 campaigns took place in the gatherings in the South, and the collected wastes were removed by garbage trucks and deposited at designated places.

## International Mother Earth Day



On April 22, people unite to celebrate International Mother Earth Day. The day is to focus on the responsibility to rebuild our troubled relationship with nature. It recognizes that “the Earth and its ecosystems are our home” and that “it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the Earth.”

International Mother Earth Day was established in 2009, This Day also recognizes a collective responsibility, as called for in the 1992 Rio Declaration, to promote harmony with nature and the Earth to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations of humanity.

International Mother Earth Day is annually celebrated for the following purposes:

1. To raise global public awareness of the challenges to the well-being of the planet and all the life it supports,
2. To recognize a collective responsibility to promote harmony with nature and the Earth, and
3. To achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of the present and future generations of humanity.

**The theme of this year is “Planet Vs. Plastic”. The campaign this year aims to demand a 60% reduction in plastic by 2040.** This year marks the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, a global celebration encouraging environmental stewardship in support of a healthy planet.

At the community level, many actions can be done in order to understand and implement the main concepts of environmental sustainability and sustainable environmental education. In the daily lives of refugees in the informal settlements in which PARD operates, these concepts are continuously passed on to the community, by education and daily implementation.

To commemorate the occasion of International Mother Earth Day, one event was hosted in the garden of Saida office.

**106 women attended the event from the informal settlements of Wasta, Kfar Badda and Sikkeh.** Those women included participants in women's upcycling clothes course, women beneficiaries from the home rehabilitation project, members of women committees and female activists.

At the beginning of the event, women were welcomed, greeted, and attendance was recorded. A brief presentation was given about the activity, its purpose, and the goals of the meeting.

An initial assessment (pre-test) was conducted for the women before starting any activity, and the importance of this day was explained. Reviving this occasion was very important for preserving the environment and learning how to use and exploit small pieces of land in homes for planting.

After that, the upcoming used fabric upcycling exhibition, which was scheduled later, was discussed.

A short film titled "Where Does Our Waste Go?" was shown. This video was very important as it contained crucial environmental information that benefited the women. Following that, a video titled "Experiences from Women's Committees in Communities" was shown.

The second video featured a woman named Naifa, a member of a women's committee residing in Maashouq. She demonstrated how Jew's mallow sticks can be reused to manufacture household dishes and containers. These dishes and containers, along with straw baskets, were displayed in the video.

After the video, a brainstorming session on environmental topics was held, and the women were very interested in the subject.

In the planting activity, the women participated by filling plastic bottles with soil and planting them. These bottles were then hung on ropes tied to trees, creating a beautiful appearance.

The activity was very successful in terms of attendance, participation, and interaction. A post-assessment (post-test) was conducted afterwards. Knowledge improved from 37% to 80%

regarding the topic of Mother Earth and environmental sustainability. In conclusion, everyone was thanked, and refreshments were served.

**Attendance:**

From Sikki gathering, 44 women attended the event. As for Wasta, 42 women participated in addition to 20 women from Kfarbada.

	Total	Women committees members	Beneficiaries of household renovation	Upcycling workshop participant	Women activist
Sikki	44	22	10	15	13
Wasta	42	24	13	20	10
Kfarbada	20	11	0	14	9

- ❖ Please note that there is overlapping as many women may belong to more than 1 category at the same time.

**Upcycling and Reuse of Old Clothes Training:**



Upcycling, also known as creative reuse, is the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless, or unwanted products into new materials or products

perceived to be of greater quality, such as artistic value or environmental value. On the other hand, Recycling is the process of converting waste materials into new materials and objects. This concept often includes the recovery of energy from waste materials.

Therefore, to highlight the difference between both concepts, we can summarize by saying that **recycling involves the destruction of waste in order to create something new, whereas upcycling takes waste and creates something new from it in its current state.** When upcycling, the original form is retained and the object is recognizable, which gives it a story — you can see what it has been and also what it has become. In this sense, the upcycled object is a kind of tribute to the object it used to be. While recycling is practical, **upcycling is highly creative and can involve a wide variety of techniques and materials to create the finished product.**

In summary, reuse and upcycling reduce the need for recycling and are therefore great options for the environment. Once a material can no longer serve any purpose, then it is eco-friendlier to upcycle it than it is to send it to the garbage.

To implement the concept of ecological and environmental sustainability, three training courses on upcycling of used clothing were conducted for the benefit of 55 women over a period of 3 days each, lasting for a total for 12 teaching hours:

- At Kfar Badda: a total of 15 women (PRL) women from Kfar Badda, Jim Jeem and Aitaniyeh.
- At Wasta: a total of 20 women from Wasta, of different nationalities: PRL, PRS and Lebanese.
- At Sikki: a total of 20 women of different nationalities: PRL and Syrian.

	Date	Location	Participants	Rehabilitation beneficiaries	% of participants who are rehabilitation beneficiaries
<b>Workshop 1</b>	27-29/3/2024	Kfar Badda	15 women	-	-
<b>Workshop 2</b>	19-21/3/2024	Wasta	20 women	12	60%
<b>Workshop 3</b>	27-29/2/2024	Sikki	20 women	18	90%
<b>Total</b>			55 women	30	60%

**The workshop program included:**

**Day 1:**

- Icebreaker activity in which participants are paired up, and after a 2-minute conversation, each woman will present her partner to the audience.
- Introduction of the workshop and the project

- Brainstorming activity in which participants state their expectations
- Pre-event knowledge test
- Code of Conduct for the group is established (punctuality, attendance, respect of others...)
- PowerPoint presentation about environmental sustainability; with special focus on upcycling and recycling in addition to their benefits at the economic and ecological levels.
- Introduction of Sewing trainer (women committee member from Sikki); currently working in this field
- Distribution of sewing kits and materials to each participant
- Explanation on purpose and manner of use of the materials in the kit
- Demonstration of some examples
- Practical training on hand-sewing

**Day 2:**

- Icebreaker activity among the participants
- Participants brought samples from home to work and practice
- Practical implementation of several types of sewing, embroidery and stitches

**Day 3:**

- Icebreaker activity among the participants
- Review of previous days' contents
- Practical implementation using a sewing machine
- Making hair ties, pot holders, sheets, curtains, accessories as practice
- Post-event knowledge test was conducted

Regarding the pre and post tests, they focused on knowledge gained from the presentation and introduction sections. The results are summarized as follows:

% of Correct Answers Pre Test	% of Correct Answers Post Test
81%	91%

During the 3-day workshops, refreshments were distributed to all participants, as well as arranged transportation from and to the training venues.

**This program was supported by:**

- Ø **Solidaridad International (SI)**
- Ø **The City Council of Donostia - SanSebastian - In partnership with SI**

## Strategy Four: Relief for People in Distress



## Distribution of Cash and Hygiene Kits

PARD's main work and mission are directed towards the Palestinian refugees and other refugees residing in the gatherings. Gatherings in 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 assistance and hygiene protection 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 of existing databases. **Beneficiary households were 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 person with one or more children
- A household with only elderly members
- Household where the 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)

For the year 2024, the cash for food modality was utilized, where beneficiaries would receive cash from OMT centers, \$15 per individual, with a maximum of 5 individuals per family (cap of \$75 per family).

Moreover, PARD distributed hygiene kits and baby kits for ages 0 to 24 months. Each of the kits has a particular composition that is usually based on universal standards.

Good hygiene is crucial to preventing the spread of infectious diseases and to helping children live long, healthy lives.

For families, good hygiene means avoiding diseases and reducing spending on health care. In some contexts, good hygiene can ensure a good social status for the family and help individuals maintain self-confidence.

Hygiene Kits/ Relief Kits are composed of:

- Soap Bar
- Laundry Washing Powder
- Cleaning Liquid
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste for adults
- Toothbrush Adult
- Cotton Towel
- Garbage Bag 20L
- Sanitary Pad (3 Packs of 10 Pads)
- Carton Box
- Toilet Tissues
- Hand soft tissues

Baby kits are composed of:

- Diapers
- Baby Bathing Soap
- Baby Underwear
- Baby rash cream

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

PARD provided cash assistance for food to vulnerable households belonging to the following groups: Lebanese (**10%**), Syrians (**18%**), Palestinian refugees from Syria (**1%**), and Palestinian refugees from Lebanon (**71%**) residing in Palestinian Gatherings in Beirut and South Lebanon.

Gathering	Number of individual beneficiaries	Number of HH beneficiaries
Kfar Bada	352	86
Jal AL Bahr	568	128
AL Wasta	369	79
AL Daouk	725	162
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,014</b>	<b>455</b>

*Table: Number of individual beneficiaries and households per gathering*

PARD received 1956 hygiene kits and 330 baby kits from UNDP, distribution took place as follows:



**Distribution by Area took place as follows:**

**Hygiene Kits**

Wadi EL Zeineh 583

South Lebanon 239

Saida and Beirut 1134

**Total = 1956**

**Baby Kits**

Wadi EL Zeineh 79

South Lebanon 24

Saida and Beirut 227

**Total = 330 kits**

**Winter Kits:**

As part of our winterization support efforts, we successfully distributed a total of 1,000 winter kits to vulnerable children between the ages of 4 and 12 residing in Palestinian gatherings across South Lebanon. Each kit included a warm jacket, a blanket, and a pair of rain boots to help protect children from the harsh winter conditions.



**Food Parcels:**

As part of our ongoing efforts to support food security, a total of 1,000 food parcels were distributed to vulnerable families residing in Palestinian gatherings across South Lebanon.



**Winter Blankets:**

As part of our ongoing winter assistance efforts, 96 high-quality winter blankets were distributed to vulnerable families in Al Sekkeh gathering, South Lebanon.



## Relief Activities 23 September - 26 November 2024



### I. Background

One year on from the escalation of hostilities across the country's southern border, Lebanon's humanitarian crisis deteriorated at an alarming rate. Israeli airstrikes have not only intensified

but also expanded into previously unaffected areas and increasingly targeted critical civilian infrastructure. The relentless bombardment amplified the suffering of vulnerable populations.

Issued on a daily basis by the Israeli army, displacement orders for more than 100 villages and urban neighborhoods across southern Lebanon continued to force people to flee, pushing many up to 30 km north. One quarter of Lebanese territory was under Israeli military displacement orders, according to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

**Up till the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2024, 15,699 injuries and 3,768 registered deaths were reported.**

**1177 shelters for the displaced people from the South were opened, 981 of them reached their maximum capacity.**

190,740 thousand displaced people, about 45,189 families, were reported in the 1177 shelters (public schools and others), yet **estimations predict the number of displaced people to be over 1.2 million people.**

The social security in the Lebanese Interior Ministry recorded 562,000 people (37 per cent Lebanese and 63 per cent Syrians) who crossed the border to Syria.

UNICEF reported that about 350,000 children have been displaced by the ongoing conflict.

Till the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, 13,700 Israeli raids and bombardments by Israeli planes were recorded.

Led by the Lebanese Prime Minister, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers oversees national preparedness and response efforts, supported by the National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Unit. At the subnational level, Governors coordinate with local authorities for preparedness and emergency response. UN and NGO partners under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator and in complement to the government-led response, accelerated response and preparedness activities.

## **II. Preparation Phase for Relief Activities**

Saida specifically is at the core of receiving displaced families from the South, and is known for its warm embrace of displaced people and its unwavering solidarity during past conflicts (2006 War). As the city expects to host displaced families, they are often hosted in public spaces and schools that lack essential amenities.

In response to this pressing humanitarian crisis, and in anticipation for the potential expansion of the conflict and the participation of Lebanon in the war leading to hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people, the NGO Platform in Saida and the Municipality joined hands to prepare and provide essential aid to these vulnerable families.

The Platform of NGOs in Saida have met repeatedly to discuss the situation in the South of Lebanon. Moreover, a meeting between the platform and the Municipality of Saida was

coordinated. The platform attended a meeting held by the head of the South Governorate (Muhafaza).

All NGOs were already preparing themselves to play an active role in receiving displaced people from the South of Lebanon, if the situation escalated to a wide-scale war with Israel.

PARD as a member of the platform of Saida, has revised its Emergency Plan 2022-2024 which led to preparedness planning and activities to face the above mentioned situation.

On October 9, 2023, the administrative board of the NGO Platform in Saida met to discuss the events in the Gaza Strip and the corresponding escalation of military action in the South of Lebanon. As a result of this meeting, **the following actions took place:**

- A meeting with the head of Saida municipality whereby permission was granted for the platform to use the premises of the municipality for its activities. The head of the municipality ascertained his complete support for the activities of the platform.
- Meetings were held with local parliament members and political leaders in Saida whereby they expressed their support to potential actions taken by the platform such as to establish contact with Ministry of Education to open up schools for displaced families in the South.
- A meeting was held with all the members of the platform to explain the situation, to inform them of the results of meetings with the municipality and local political leaders, and to give the NGOs the green light to start preparing for potential relief operations.
- Within the meeting of the NGOs Platform and during the emergency committee meeting, it was agreed to implement a number of training workshops targeting participants representing the participating associations within the emergency committees. A training course was implemented on the topic **“environmental support during emergencies in shelter centers”**.
- Location: Sidon Municipal Hall
- Trainer: PARD
- Date: 11-11-2023
- Number of attendees: 17
- Participating associations: Nabaa - Nazih Bizri Foundation - Zaytouna - Al-Najda - Marouf Saad - Caritas – PARD - Development for Humanity and the Environment - Care - Al-Samoud Children’s Home - Al-Sharhabeel Association.
- The goal was to work to provide relief and support to the displaced during crises in an organized manner that preserves the rights and dignity of the target group and within the minimum standards in the field of humanitarian response.

- The training aimed to empower and develop the capabilities of volunteers participating from associations members in the Environmental Committee on the issue of environmental support during crises in shelter centers, with the aim of organizing efforts and working under conditions of displacement that create pressure and tension, which creates an atmosphere of chaos in the absence of a team capable of dealing with these circumstances literally.

The training included the following titles:

- 1 - The Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, SPHERE
- 2 - A special activity: Exercise on a situation in a shelter.
- 3- Water: Individuals in shelter centers safely obtain sufficient water in terms of quantity, quality, activities, and tasks required to carry out this.
- 4- Sanitation facilities
- 5 - Managing waste collection, transportation and disposal
- 6 - Control of disease vectors
- 7 - Supervising the cleanliness of rooms and bathrooms on a daily basis
- 8 - Raising awareness about preventive measures to prevent the spread of the disease
- 9 - Involving the beneficiaries, i.e. the displaced families in the center, in planning and implementing activities and establishing committees among them
- 10 - Coordination with the municipality and the authorities concerned with environmental health in the displacement center area
- 11- Emphasizing the importance of permanent coordination with the rest of the committees and how to make referrals between the committees according to the situation.

### **Psychological first aid**

On November 11, 2023, the clinical psychologist conducted a PFA training for the benefit of 30 participants, representing 19 NGOs who are members of the Platform of NGOs in Saida. This training took place at the municipality of Saida.

### **What is Psychological First Aid (PFA)?**

This service is provided directly after the traumatic event and is carried out by a psychologist or any non-specialized individual who is trained to provide this psychological first aid. This service includes:

1. Supporting individuals and helping them feel safe and calm
2. Assess needs and concerns
3. Protecting individuals from further harm
4. Help provide basic and immediate needs such as food and water
5. Active listening
6. Help to access psychosocial support services
7. Alleviating the effects of psychological trauma
8. Identifying individuals affected by trauma (loss of a loved one, loss of a home, exposure to traumatic scenes, or those suffering from previous psychological problems)
9. Dealing with sensitive situations (seizures, news of the death of a family member, severe psychological stress...)

One more training took place on Methods for filling up statistics questionnaires using technological methods. The course was conducted by Lana Al Mustakbal NGO.

**On November 15, 2023 the emergency plan of the platform was revised by the administrative board (workshop) and sent to all the members of the platform for confirmation.**

Later, the NGO members of the platform were asked to join the following committees:

- General relations
- Welcome committee for displaced families and statistics committee
- Health and first aid committee
- Social and common kitchens committee
- Psychological support committee
- Environmental Health committee
- Volunteers committee
- Shelter committee
- Education committee
- Documentation and accountability committee
- Media committee

Each committee with NGO members conducted its own meeting.

In general, the following was discussed:

- The capabilities of each NGO while working with displaced people (health, education, shelter, psychosocial activities, food, relief items, water issues, health and social education, children activities and others).
- Trainings needed for the committee members on different issues.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024, **PARD conducted a training course on “Psychological Health in Humanitarian Action” for the benefit of 22 participants** (18 F, 4 M) from 11 local and international NGOs and agencies.

The participants included: TDH, UNRWA, Najdeh, PUI, ARCPA (Al Jana), AMEL, ABAAD, LUDD, Ahluna, Intersors and Moasat.

In the training session on the well-being and psychological health of frontlines in the NGO sector, **the emotional and mental challenges that humanitarian workers face in the field were addressed**, including compassion fatigue, burnout, vicarious trauma, and stress. The session emphasized self-awareness, stress management strategies, emotional regulation, boundary-setting, and the importance of peer and organizational support. We explored practical tools to promote mental resilience, self-care techniques, and how to build a culture of psychological safety within teams.

The goal was to equip frontliners with both individual and systemic approaches to protect and enhance their mental well-being while maintaining professional effectiveness in high-pressure environments.

Furthermore, during 29-30 August 2024 and 5-6 September 2024, **PARD conducted a training course on the SPHERE project (Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response).**



12 participants (6M, 6F) from 10 local NGOs, members of the platform of NGOs in Saida benefited. The training was spread over four days and included the following:

- What is SPHERE
- The Humanitarian Charter
- Protection Principles
- Core Humanitarian standard
- Water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion
- Food security and nutrition
- Shelter and settlement
- Nutrition and Health

Moreover, the public schools in the city of Saida were visited, and a needs assessment was prepared. The purpose was to prepare proper shelters in case it became necessary to receive displaced families from the South.

The Mayor of the South of Lebanon was visited by the administrative board, and was presented with the Platform's revised emergency plan. After several meetings with members of his office, the platform became a member of the official Lebanese emergency plan. Platform members attended all meetings of the units of the emergency plan in Saida, and information was exchanged on a regular basis.

### III. PARD Role in Relief Activities 23 September- 26 November 2024

At 11:30 P.M. on Monday, 23/9/2024, PARD received the responsibility of a shelter for the displaced people from South Lebanon. The shelter is the Saida Public Middle School. It has 20 rooms accommodating 400 individuals, divided into 90 families.

To cover activities, 60 staff and volunteers worked 24-hour shifts.

In Saida, 29 shelters were opened to receive about 8200 displaced people from the South (about 4900 families).



#### Distribution of Food and Relief Materials

In partnership with The Farouk Scouts, PARD distributed the 3 meals, hygiene kits, diapers, baby kits, women's dignity kits, kitchen kits, mattresses, pillows, covers, different clothes, and educational kits as follows:

##### 1. Distribution of Baby and Dignity Kits for Women

Item	Quantity
Dignity kit for women	246

Baby kits	23
Sanitary Pad bags (10 pieces each)	590
Baby Diapers (0-2 years old)	142
Baby Milk	146
Baby Formula	60
Baby bottles	69

**2. Distribution of Food (24<sup>th</sup> September till 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Breakfast	26600 portion
Hot meals for Lunch	26600 portion
Dinner (croissant, Donuts, sandwiches)	26600 portion
Ready to Eat Kit	830
Arabic Bread bags	2000
Cooking oil	18
Salt bag	18
Sugar bag	56
Bean boxes (24 cans)	90 box
Water gallons (3.5 liters)	720
Water bottles (1.5 liters)	1620
Fruit bags (bananas, apples, and dates)	345 bag
Juice bottle (1 liter)	90
Children snacks	430 bag



### 3. Distribution of Hygiene kits and kitchen kits

Item	Quantity
Empty water gallons (20 liters)	90
Anti-lice shampoo	5
Hygiene Tools	19
Hygiene kits	720
Kitchen kits	90



#### 4. Distribution of Non-Food Relief Items



Item	Quantity
Mattresses	400
Covers	400
Pillows	400
Sheets	400
Portable solar Lighting	90
Children Toys	77
Mat	100
Women Turtleneck	117
Women Underwear ( pack of 14 pieces)	117
Women pajama	117
Women socks (pack of 3)	117
Women head cover	117
Men underwear (pack of 9 pieces)	123
Men socks (pack of six)	123
Men turtleneck	123

Men slippers	123
Men pajama	123
Children underwear (pack of 9 pieces)	169
Children socks (packs of 6)	169
Children winter jackets	169
Children pajamas	169
Children winter boots	169
Children turtleneck (pack of 2)	169

In coordination with PRCS and Amel International, PARD distributed materials for handicapped people and elderly as such:

#### 5. Distribution of materials for the Handicapped People

Item	Quantity
Diapers for the elderly	175 pieces
Medical beds	3
Water mattress	4
Medical socks	1
Seat cushion	1
Aluminum cane	1
AFO device for legs (Ankle, foot, orthoses)	1
Wheel chair	1

Since PARD began relief activities at the shelter at Angelic Saliba School due to the Israeli war escalations on Sep. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, **many activities related to women and youth empowerment programs have been implemented as part of the relief activities** in the displacement center, as such:

#### **Training and group sessions:**

- First Aid training for PARD staff
  - The emergency team benefited a comprehensive three-day training on **first aid** principles. This training focused on equipping the team with essential skills and

knowledge needed to respond effectively in emergency situations. Participants actively participated in key first aid techniques, including assessing injuries, performing CPR, managing bleeding, and stabilizing individuals until professional medical help arrives.

- Throughout the training, the team also learned how to stay calm under pressure, make quick decisions, and provide care in a safe and efficient manner. This hands-on approach ensured that team members were fully prepared to handle medical emergencies in the field, improving their capacity to support the well-being of displaced individuals and other affected populations.
- Nutrition session for 10 children (13-11-2024) on basic healthy eating habits.
- 2 sessions with a psychologist from the Nonaida organization for venting and stress management for staff members who wished to participate voluntarily
- Puppet theatre training, with a theatre trainer, for 6 teachers.
- First aid training for the association's employees and scouts, 3 sessions.



**Health:**

Health services were provided at the shelter since the start of the crisis. First, through PARD exclusively, when PARD’s mobile clinic visited the center and provided medical services (consultations and medications) for 44 cases in the specialties of General Medicine and Pediatrics. Then PARD’s gynecologist provided OBGYN services for 28 women using PARD’s mobile clinic.

Additionally, CAP Anamour and Amel International were scheduled to cover the shelter’s medical needs, through a visit each. CAP Anamour visited the shelter every Wednesday, providing general medicine services. Amel Associated visited the shelter every Saturday and provided general medicine, pediatric and midwife medical services. Additionally, they covered the chronic medication needs of the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in the shelter, once a month and provided vaccines for children. On Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, Amel International in collaboration with Lebanese Ministry of Health, implemented a vaccination campaign at the shelter for all shelter children ages 10 years and below. In addition to the influenza vaccine for adults, 21 displaced persons benefited.

Medical treatment included 567 cases for general medicine and pediatrics, 49 cases for obstetrics and gynecology, 36 cases for endocrinology and hypertension and 32 cases for dermatology. 16 children were vaccinated for Tetanus, Diphtheria, whooping cough, Hepatitis B, Influenza and poliomyelitis. 21 adult's flu vaccine.

In addition, PARD's midwife and 2 volunteers provided first aid and medical checkup services in the shelter. In total, they have provided **524 services** up until Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and the details are summarized in the below table:

Total Number	Checkup	Dressing	Over the Counter Medications	Anti-lice Shampoo	Blood Pressure	Blood Glucose
524	42	21	21	9	404	27

Lastly, PARD's midwife conducted awareness sessions at the shelter for the benefit of women regarding the importance of early detection of cervical cancer. Afterwards, a pap smear campaign was conducted at the shelter in which 23 women participated. Additionally, awareness sessions were conducted at Maarouf Saad public school, after which only 9 women participated in the pap smear campaign. All the samples were sent to Al-Karim Laboratories first for analysis. Worthy of mention, PARD's OBGYN mobile clinic (Gynecologist and Midwife) provided medical services for 25 women beneficiaries at Maarouf Saad public school.



## Psychological Support

The ongoing displacement crisis created a pressing need for mental health and psychosocial support for affected individuals. In response, comprehensive psychological support services were provided to address the emotional and social needs of women, men, teenagers, and families at the shelter. This report summarizes these activities, detailing their structure, topics, and the positive impacts observed.



### Psychological Support and Intervention Overview

#### 1. Group Sessions

**Total Group Sessions:** 20

**Total Participants:** 123

#### **Target Groups:**

1. Adult Women (Aged 30+) - Two groups - 6 sessions
2. Young Female Adults (Aged 18-30) - one group - 5 sessions
3. Young Male Adults (Aged 18-30) - one group - 2 sessions
4. Female Teenagers (Aged 11-17) - one group - 4 sessions

5. Male Teenagers (Aged 11–17) – one group – 3 sessions

**Topics Discussed**

1. **Topics for Adult Women (Aged 30+)**

- **Managing Stress and Mindfulness Practices:** Techniques for reducing stress and staying grounded.
- **Balancing Self-Care with Family and Social Responsibilities:** Strategies for integrating self-care while meeting family and social expectations.
- **Family Relationships and Dynamics:** Exploring healthy communication and conflict resolution within the family context.

2. **Topics for Young Female Adults (Aged 18–30)**

- **Managing Stress and Mindfulness Practices:** Building resilience through mindfulness.
- **Career Planning and Self-Development:** Guidance on setting career goals and building skills.
- **Family Dynamics and Relationships:** Understanding family roles and navigating relationships.
- **Critical Thinking and Decision-Making:** Enhancing cognitive abilities to make informed choices.

3. **Topics for Young Male Adults (Aged 18–30)**

- **Identifying and Discussing Personal Needs:** Sessions on understanding personal and career aspirations, addressing challenges, and setting actionable goals.
- **Building Responsibility and Trust:** Activities allowing young men to take on responsibilities, such as organizing tasks or mentoring, to strengthen leadership skills, teamwork, and self-confidence.

4. **Topics for Teenagers (Aged 11–17)**

- **Managing Stress and Mindfulness Practices:** Coping strategies for adolescent stress.
- **Self-Expression and Emotional Regulation:** Encouraging healthy ways to understand and express emotions.
- **Messages of Hope Activity:** A group activity where teens shared positive messages around the shelter, building a sense of community support and optimism.

2. **Individual and Psychological First Aid (PFA) Support Sessions**

- **Total Individual Support Sessions:** 72
- **Demographics:** 24 Males, 48 Females
  - 22 Individuals Under 18 (10 Males, 12 Females)

### 3. Family Support and Conflict Resolution

Support was provided for nearly **all families** at the shelter from the beginning and continued throughout the project to foster harmonious living conditions. **Specific interventions included targeted family support sessions for 6 families experiencing significant conflicts.** These sessions focused on improving communication, understanding each family member's perspective, and developing conflict resolution strategies. Through this support, families were better equipped to manage tensions and create a more peaceful cohabitation environment within the shelter.

### 4. Skill-Building and Community Engagement Initiatives

Through a survey assessing adult skills and interests, **2 women with embroidery skills were identified and volunteered to teach others in the shelter. A total of 25 adult women participated in these embroidery training sessions,** which provided a constructive activity, fostering a sense of purpose and community among participants. Additionally, it was found that several men enjoyed playing football. **Arrangements were made with a coach, leading to over 22 men joining regular football sessions.** This initiative not only encouraged physical activity but also strengthened social bonds and built a supportive community atmosphere. An interactive theatre session was prepared for 100 displaced women over 10 sessions, with a theatre trainer.

### Impact Observed

- **Emotional Stability:** Mindfulness practices and individual sessions contributed to improved emotional stability and personal resilience.
- **Empowerment of Young Women:** Empowerment Circles helped young women recognize their value, strengthening their sense of identity and confidence.
- **Teen Engagement and Peer Support:** Teens were more open in expressing feelings and developed a sense of responsibility through the "Messages of Hope" activity.
- **Grief and Trauma Processing:** PFA sessions provided essential support for individuals experiencing grief and trauma, establishing a foundation for ongoing recovery.
- **Strengthened Family Dynamics:** Family support sessions improved communication and reduced tensions, enabling families to cohabitate more harmoniously.

### Challenges Faced

- **Limited Space:** Space constraints were a recurring challenge. However, flexible scheduling and creative adjustments helped ensure successful session outcomes.

**Women & Youth Empowerment through Women Committees, Awareness-Raising, Trainings and Health Education:**

Since the beginning of the crisis and activities at the shelter, the women empowerment trainers were consistently present at the shelter to establish a two-way effective communication channel with the IDPs, and build rapport. To that purpose, they conducted daily morning rounds in order to cover the immediate needs, concerns, and any other arising issues among the population. In order to manage better, the shelter was divided into 2 floors among the empowerment trainers this made communication easier and quicker to flow from and to the shelter's management team (ERT), and among the floors. This also helped in planning cleanliness campaigns, distributions, medical services and visits, etc...



### **First Floor of Shelter:**

#### **1. Formation of Women Committees**

A woman from each room was selected, (34 women) and this committee was formed. This committee met daily after the morning round. To that end, 2 formal weekly meetings were conducted for the women committees, in total of 16 meetings until Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

#### **2. Formation of Men Committees**

The formed men committees (15 men) met once weekly for a total of 8 meetings until Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### 3. Floor Division and Group Formation

The floor was divided into two sections (A and B), and a women's group was formed from each section. These two groups met according to the empowerment and health awareness schedule, and joint meetings were held when needed.

### 4. Needs Assessment for the Groups

The needs for these groups were identified based on the current conditions of displacement, leaving their homes, fear, and stress, as well as the sharing of rooms and public facilities in the shelter with families of different backgrounds and personalities. This led to a need for psychological support and acceptance of others first, followed by social health awareness to make their stay both mentally and physically healthy.

**In summary, 10 empowerment trainings were conducted on the first floor for the benefit of 196 participants.**

**Subjects included:** Communications skills, the importance of team work and volunteering, social networking and communication through activities, conflict resolution, group charter.

**7 health awareness sessions were conducted in the first floor for the benefit of 141 participants.**

**Subjects included:** personal hygiene, lice prevention, genital inflammations, diarrhea, scabies, early detection of breast and cervical cancer, public hygiene.

### **Second floor:**

6 empowerment training sessions were given for the benefit of 96 participants.

**Subjects included:** group charter, communication skills, early marriage, GBV, women rights and participatory leadership.

Moreover, 11 health education sessions were given for the benefit of 179 participants.

**Subjects included:** general hygiene, personal hygiene, contagious diseases, rationalization of medicine intake, menstrual cycle, chronic diseases, nutrition, and early detection of breast and cervical cancer, heart and artery diseases.

**19 women committees meetings** were conducted to discuss problems they faced. **8 men committee meetings** were conducted for the same purpose.

### **Cleanliness Campaigns: (Men, Women)**

- September: 3 Campaigns

- October: 12 Campaigns
- November: 6 Campaigns (up to 11/13/2024)

	Men		Women		Total
	1 <sup>st</sup> floor	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor	1 <sup>st</sup> floor	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor	
General Shelter Meetings	2				2
Committee meetings	8	8	16	19	51
Empowerment Training Sessions	3	-	7	6	16
Empowerment Participants	43	-	153	96	292
Health Education Sessions	1	2	6	9	18
Health Education Participants	14	39	127	140	320

### Psychosocial and Educational Activities for Children

Since the escalation of the war on Monday, September 23, 2024, the Child Protection team immediately began planning intervention activities to support the children and ease their transition during this difficult time.

On Wednesday, **September 25th**, the animators began engaging the children in spontaneous fun activities, including coloring, games, and dancing, to bring them some joy and relief. Meanwhile, the PSS activities plan was revised to better address the children’s needs during this challenging period. With a clear plan and schedule in place, the structured PSS sessions commenced on Friday, September 27th. These sessions were held five days a week for two hours each day.

#### Psychosocial Support Activities:

**Phase 1: During this initial stage, a team of 10 animators (from Beirut and Wadi Al Zeineh team) facilitated PSS sessions for 110 children** (66 females and 44 males, including 70 Syrian, 33 Lebanese, and 8 Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon - PRL). **The children were organized into three age groups:** Group 1 (ages 3–6), Group 2 (ages 7–12), and Group 3 (ages 13–17).

The sessions in **Phase 1** focused on key themes critical to the children's well-being and development during this difficult period, including:

- Emotional Expression: Encouraging children to recognize and express their feelings in healthy ways.

- Coping Mechanisms and Resilience: Building resilience and teaching practical skills for managing stress and uncertainty.
- Personal and Environmental Hygiene: Promoting hygiene practices for personal and communal health.
- Violence Prevention and Bullying Resistance: Educating children on managing conflicts and resisting bullying through constructive strategies.

**These themes were tailored to each age group, ensuring relevance and effectiveness in fostering emotional and social resilience among the children.**

## **Phase 2:**

During this phase, an additional emergency arose when a threat was reported to the building adjacent to the school where PARD was operating. This incident required the immediate evacuation of all displaced residents (DRPs) and staff to a temporary, safer shelter. Once the threat had passed, the group returned to the school.

Due to the evolving security situation, PARD's team members from Beirut and Wadi Al Zeineh were no longer able to travel to Saida, as they had resumed in-person teaching at PARD's kindergartens. To adapt to this situation and ensure continuity of support, PARD engaged 10 teachers who had been displaced from Tyre and previously worked at Burj Chamali Kindergarten, enabling them to carry on the essential educational and psychosocial support for the children in Saida.

**In this phase, a total of 45 children** (25 Female and 20 Male, including 10 Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon, 29 Lebanese, and 6 Syrians) **participated in the activities.** These sessions were conducted four days per week. Additionally, other NGOs and individual initiatives occasionally organized supplementary PSS and recreational activities for the children.

### **The key topics covered during this phase included:**

- Friendship and Social Bonds: Encouraging positive relationships and building social skills.
- Family Connections: Strengthening the children's sense of family support and resilience.
- Healthy Habits: Promoting good hygiene and wellness practices.
- Conflict Resolution: Teaching constructive ways to manage conflicts and foster peaceful interactions.

**These sessions were designed to meet the children's social and emotional needs,** providing stability, fostering positive connections, and equipping them with essential skills for coping in challenging circumstances.

PARD received **PSS (Psychosocial Support) materials** following funding for its relief activities. These materials have been invaluable in enhancing the effectiveness of the sessions, making them more engaging and enjoyable for the children. The supplies, which include educational games, art materials, stress-relief tools, and other interactive resources, have played a crucial role in facilitating the activities.

By incorporating these materials, the PSS team has been able to create a more dynamic and supportive environment, allowing children to express themselves creatively, learn coping mechanisms, and engage in fun, therapeutic exercises. These resources not only helped to make the activities more enjoyable but also contributed to the overall emotional and psychological well-being of the children during such a challenging time.



In addition, PARD PSS team established a **football** team and a **Dabke** (traditional folkloric dance) team to support stress relief and coping for Group 3 children (ages 12-17). **The football team, comprising 19 children** (9 Female and 10 Male), trained twice a week, focusing on core techniques and moves to develop their skills and teamwork.

Meanwhile, **the Dabke team, consisting of 12 children** (10 Female and 2 Male), trained enthusiastically to perform a national song. The trainer guided them through essential techniques, preparing them for a final performance as part of the PSS activities. These initiatives provided the children with a healthy outlet for expression, fostering resilience and unity.



**The Wadi Al Zeineh puppet theater team performed the “Immigrant Fly” puppet show twice, delivering key messages about environmental awareness, hygiene, and positive community habits.** The first performance took place on October 4th at the shelter PARD operates within Angelic Saliba Public School, where **90 children attended**. The second performance was held on November 9th at Maarouf Saad Public School as part of a collaborative effort to engage surrounding communities and organizations, **with an audience of 62 children**.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the show, joining in with clapping, dancing, and singing along. Most importantly, they absorbed the show’s valuable moral lessons, promoting a sense of responsibility toward their environment and community.

### **Trainings:**

- The Tyre **puppet theater** team benefited from training for an upcoming show that addresses the critical issue of bullying. This new performance was carefully developed to resonate with young audiences, focusing on the impact of bullying and promoting empathy, respect, and positive interactions.
- The team rehearsed various scenes and dialogues to bring relatable characters and situations to life, ensuring the message is clear and impactful for children. The show performed at the current shelter and other shelters in the area, aiming to reach as many children as possible. This initiative sought to create a safe space for dialogue on bullying, helping children understand its consequences and encouraging a supportive community culture.

### **Education Activities**

**As part of the emergency response, the PARD education team identified the critical need for educational support for children residing in the shelter, particularly since most of them have not attended school since October 7th of the previous year.** Recognizing the extent of this gap, the team quickly devised a plan to assess the children's current educational levels.



After conducting a survey with parents to gather relevant information, **a diagnostic test was administered to the children to determine their academic standing.** Based on the results, the children were divided into three groups for targeted support:

- Preschoolers: Ages 3 to 6
- Cycle 1 (Grades 1–3): Ages 7 to 8
- Cycle 2 (Grades 4–6): Ages 9 to 12

#### **Phase 1:**

The educational classes officially commenced on October 7th, operating regularly with a schedule of five days per week, three hours per day. The core subjects—Math, English, and Arabic—were prioritized to ensure a comprehensive learning experience. **A dedicated team of 8 teachers from Beirut and Wadi Al Zeineh, along with 2 volunteer teachers from the displaced persons (IDPs), provided educational support to a total of 110 children,** which included 40 preschoolers, 31 children in Cycle 1, and 39 children in Cycle 2.

To enhance the learning experience, **education kits, including backpacks and all necessary stationery, were distributed to all the children,** ensuring they had the tools they needed to study effectively. The lessons were carefully designed to address educational gaps, utilizing a variety of creative teaching strategies and incorporating play-based learning to make the sessions engaging and effective.

**Both the children and their parents expressed great satisfaction with the outcomes of the lessons**, as well as with the sense of routine and stability the classes provided—something they had been missing while living away from their homes. **This initiative has not only supported the children's academic progress but also helped restore a sense of normalcy during these difficult times.**

**Later on**, Tyre education team, consisting of 10 teachers, took over the responsibility of continuing the support lessons. **The increased staff provided a valuable opportunity for more focused, individualized attention.** The teachers were able to address each child's specific needs more effectively, reinforcing key concepts as if they were offering private tutoring. This approach allowed for deeper understanding and greater retention of the material.

Additionally, **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)** sessions were integrated into the curriculum. These sessions focused on helping the children cope with their fears and trauma through arts and crafts activities. The creative expression allowed the children to share their emotions in a safe and supportive environment, promoting emotional healing while reinforcing the importance of self-expression and resilience. This integration of SEL into the educational program further supported the children's overall well-being during this challenging time.

## **Phase 2**

The commencement of online classes at the children's schools has impacted attendance at the morning activities. After meeting with the parents, the decision was made to shift the classes and activities to the afternoon and weekends.

### **Psychosocial Support (PSS) Activities:**

Starting November 16, PSS activities were adjusted to take place in the afternoons, three days a week (Friday, Saturday, Sunday), to align with the children's online school schedules. This shift allowed the team to continue providing essential emotional and social support to the children. The sessions during this phase focused on fostering creativity and promoting self-care, ensuring that the children had a healthy outlet for their emotions and stress during these challenging times.



Key activities included:

- **Themed Sessions:** Creativity and self-care were the primary themes explored during this period. Activities such as drawing, painting, and crafting encouraged self-expression and helped the children build resilience and confidence.
- **Independence Day Celebration:** On November 22, a special event was organized in collaboration with Mirna Sweets and Al Farouk Scouts to celebrate Lebanon's Independence Day. The event featured a variety of engaging activities, including arts and crafts, interactive games, face painting, and a Dabke performance by the girls trained with PARD. The children also participated in a collaborative painting of a large Lebanese flag. This joyous celebration brought a sense of hope and unity to the displaced children and their families.
- **Puppet Theater Training Completion:** The puppet theater team completed its training, focusing on addressing the critical issue of bullying. The team prepared for upcoming performances designed to resonate with young audiences, using relatable characters and scenarios to promote empathy, respect, and positive interactions.

### Education Activities:

**From November 16 to November 26, the education support classes were rescheduled to the afternoons to accommodate the children's online schooling.** During these sessions, teachers provided invaluable assistance to the children, helping them with their online school assignments and offering additional academic support tailored to their needs. The smaller group sizes allowed for more personalized attention, ensuring that each child received the guidance necessary to keep up with their studies.

Key actions during this phase included:

- **Provision of Materials:** All children were supplied with the necessary stationery and materials to facilitate their learning, ensuring that they could fully participate in both their online classes and the supplementary support sessions.

- **Focused Tutoring:** Teachers worked closely with the children to address specific academic challenges, reinforcing key concepts and providing targeted support to bridge any learning gaps.
- **Integration of SEL into Education:** Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) activities continued to be a vital component of the program. Arts and crafts sessions provided the children with opportunities to express their emotions, build resilience, and foster a sense of normalcy amidst the ongoing crisis.

**Closure:**

On November 27, a ceasefire agreement was reached, marking a significant turning point in the crisis. Displaced individuals began safely returning to their homes the following day. This phase of the emergency response marked the conclusion of PARD’s on-site activities at the Angelic Saliba Public School shelter.

The Child Protection (CP) team expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to be part of PARD’s impactful efforts in supporting displaced children and families during this critical time. Through dedicated psychosocial and educational support, the teams played a vital role in providing stability, fostering resilience, and offering hope to children and their families during one of the most challenging periods of their lives.

**Evacuation Threats:**

Twice during October and November 2024, the school which was turned into a shelter where PARD supported the displaced families from the South, a place directly behind the school was threatened to be bombarded by the Israeli forces.

Directly after the first threat, it was essential to evacuate the school and moved the people to a safer temporary shelter. Upon returning to the school after two days from the threat, **PARD prepared an evacuation plan, and the displaced families were sensitized on this plan.**

**Its components included:**

1. Keep quiet upon hearing the news for the need to evacuate
2. Carry a bag or sack prepared beforehand containing the following:
  - a. Private documents such as the identity card, passport, birth certificate, ownership bills for land or house, school or university diplomas, medical reports, pictures or others.
  - b. Underwear for members of the family
  - c. Some outer clothes for members of the family, especially for the children and elderly.
  - d. Medicines used constantly (most for chronic diseases)
3. Make sure that you carry your mobile phone and its charger.

4. Move quietly towards the entrance of the school. No pushing creating chaos is allowed.
5. When reaching the street, turn to your right towards the next nearby school.
6. Wait quietly in the playground of the school until your accommodation is provided.

Each family in the shelter understood the need to follow the mentioned steps in the evacuation plan.

When the news about the forced evacuation spread in Saida, the emergency unit in the municipality sent the Lebanese Red Cross to train the people on a more elaborate evacuation plan.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, one day before the cease fire agreement, Israel again threatened to bombard the place directly next to the shelter. Again, we had to evacuate the school at night. The Israeli forces actually bombarded the designated location at 7:00 p.m. none of the displaced people were injured.

## 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 and unskilled youth workers from the community who work in specific professions (see youth empowerment section).

40 houses were rehabilitated for the year 2023 – 2024 in the gatherings of Wasta and Sikkeh.

Additionally, 21 houses were rehabilitated for the year 2024-2025 in Sikkeh. 14 more houses will be chosen for works in the gatherings of Wasta and Kfarbadda in 2025.

The rehabilitation works will focus on the isolation of roof tops of houses from dampness, in response to the demand of the people who previously benefited (in former projects) from a variety of works (plumbing, carpentry, electricity, tiling, blacksmithing, painting).

**The selection of the houses** was based on 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

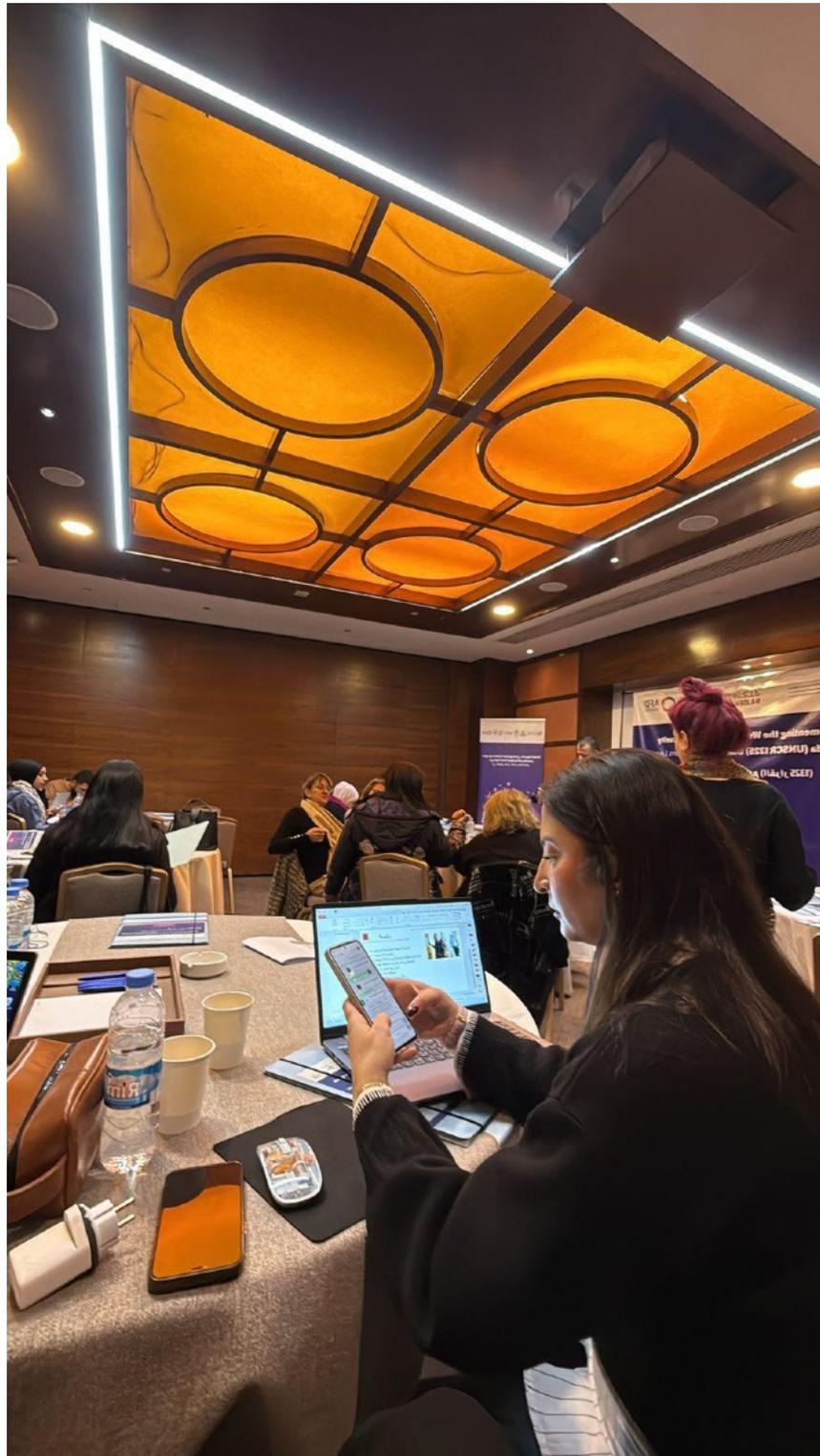
**This project provides work for mostly young men, both skilled and unskilled.** Their income would cover some of the urgent needs such as hospitalization, medications or treatment for cases with chronic diseases, schooling or university fees, rent and others.

In the first phase of the project (2024), 21 workers benefited directly through cash for work. An estimation of 31 workers will benefit from the second phase in 2025.

The activities in this strategy were supported by:

- Ø Solidaridad Internacional (NESI)
- Ø Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB)
- Ø Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
- Ø UNDP - Lebanon
- Ø Bizkaia (The Provincial Council of Biscay)
- Ø City Council of Donostia (San Sebastian)
- Ø Al Basma Foundation
- Ø Leioa
- Ø UNICEF
- Ø Development and Cooperation Association (DCA)
- Ø Amel International
- Ø Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS)
- Ø CAP Aramur
- Ø Danish Church Aid (DCA)
- Ø Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Ø Plan International
- Ø Action Against Hunger
- Ø Terre Des Hommes (TDH)
- Ø Islamic Association for Social Care (Al Reaaya)
- Ø Association of volunteers in International Service (AVSI)
- Ø Muslims Around The World (MATW)
- Ø The Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad
- Ø Al Farouk Scouts
- Ø Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)
- Ø Najdeh Association/ EFI/ AFD
- Ø City Council of Vitoria-Gasteiz
- Ø Provincial Government of Alava

## Strategy Five: Organizational Development of PARD



## Trainings

As part of **the capacity building** plan of its team and responding to their needs, PARD conducted a series of trainings in multiple aspects of work. These trainings were costumed to the needs of our programs.

**(a) Training for the Administrative staff:**

Title of Employee	Title of Work Shop	Trainer
Director	Self-care and well-being training	PARD
Executive Secretary	Self-care and Well-being training	PARD
4 Volunteers	First Aid	PARD
Media Officer	Multimedia workshop	UNICEF
	Filming workshop	Cinema for Peace
	Self-Care and Well-Being training	PARD
Human Resources Officer	Self-Care and Well-Being training	PARD

**(b) Training for the Empowerment of Women and Youth program:**

<b>Title of Employee</b>	<b>Title of Work Shop</b>	<b>Trainer</b>
<b>Title of Employee</b> Coordinator of “Gender Justice and Women and Youth Empowerment” program	<b>Title of Work Shop</b>	<b>Trainer</b>
	Gender – sensitive project planning and MEAL	Najdeh Association
Psychologist Psychologist	Self-care and Well-being training	PARD
	Self-care and Well-being training	PARD
	Psychological first aid	National mental health program (NMHP)
	Focus group discussion tool	UNHCR
	Disability inclusion	UNHCR
	Gender-sensitive project planning and MEAL	Najdeh association
Program officer “Gender Justice and Women and Youth Empowerment” program	Gender-sensitive project planning and MEAL	Najdeh association
	The SPHERE project Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response	PARD
	First Aid	PARD
	Civil Defense / First Aid	Space
	Shelter evacuation plan	Lebanese Red Cross
Mid-Wife	Well-Being and Mental Health	Najdeh Association

**(c) Training for the Child Protection Program**

<b>Title of Employee</b>	<b>Title of Work Shop</b>	<b>Trainer</b>
Coordinator of Child Protection Program	Self-care and well-being training	PARD
	Education in emergencies	Save the Children International
	Artificial Intelligence Reporting	UNICEF
Project officer child protection program	Self-care and well-being training	PARD
	Staff care	Reframe for Mental Health Services
	Artificial Intelligence Reporting	UNICEF
	Social Emotional Learning	Amel International
	GBV awareness	Amel International
	Self-care training	Amel International
	Ideas Box training	Amel International
	NGO protocol training	Amel International
	Risk communication and community engagement training	Amel International
Psycho-social Children Activities Officer	Self-care and Well-being training	PARD
	First Aid	PARD
5 teachers in K.G. Tyre	First Aid	PARD
Head Teacher in K.G. Tyre	First Aid	PARD
6 Tyre K.G. teachers 10 Beirut K.G. teachers 11 Wadi El Zeineh K.G. teachers	Refresher training and annual planning workshop	PARD

**(d) Training for the “Relief for People in Distress” program:**

<b>Title of Employee</b>	<b>Title of Workshop</b>	<b>Trainer</b>
Coordinator of the Relief for People in Distress program	Staff care	Reframe for Mental Health Services
	Self-care and Well-being training	PARD
Field Coordinator Relief Program	Self-care and Well-being training	PARD
	Emergency Preparedness plan	Save the Children
Field Assistant Relief Project	Self-care and Well-being training	PARD
Field Assistant Relief Project	Self-care and Well-being training	PARD
Driver Relief project	Self-care and Well-being training	PARD

## Organizational Development



**Self-Care and Well-Being Training Report**

Trainer Josiane El Haddad, January 6 and 7 2024.

**Venue:**

The training took place at Dar Assalam center in a beautiful, quiet area surrounded by greenery in Wardaniyeh town, Ikleem al Kharoub area.



**Participants:**

- Director
- Executive Secretary
- Media Officer
- Coordinator of Gender Justice and Women and Youth Empowerment Program
- Psychologist
- Coordinator of Child Protection program
- Project Officer of Child Protection program
- Psycho-social children activities officer
- Coordinator of Relief for People In Distress program
- Field coordinator for Relief for People in Distress program
- Two field assistants for Relief for People in Distress program
- Driver for Relief for People in Distress program

- Four social workers / trainers
- Human Resources officer

**Program of the training course:**



<b>Day 1</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Understanding well-being	9:00 – 11:00 am
Coffee break	11:00 – 11:30 am
Challenges in NGO work	11:30 – 1:00 am
Lunch break	1:00 – 2:00 am
Resilience building	2:00 – 3:30 am
<b>Day 2</b>	
Self-care strategies	9:00 – 11:00 am
Coffee break	11:00 – 11:30 am
Compassion fatigue Burnout prevention	11:30 – 1:00 am
Lunch break	1:00 – 2:15 am

## Project Evaluations

At the end of two of its projects, PARD contracted **external evaluators to assess the success of the implementation of the projects** and their effects on the benefiting communities **in addition to financial external 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 Psychological and Educational Assistance to the Refugee women in South Lebanon” and “Reconstruction, Livelihoods and Gender Equity in Informal Settlements in Southern Lebanon”. These projects were implemented in partnership with NESI and supported by the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation and the Provincial Council of Bizkaia.

**The evaluations produced recommendations which were used to develop the targeted projects.**

### Production of Studies:

In the project “Medical and Psychological and Educational Assistance to the Refugee women in South Lebanon”, **expert researchers were contracted to prepare studies on:**

1. Women’s Civic Engagement in 10 Gatherings in South Lebanon: Lessons Learned.
2. Needs Assessment of Pediatric Health Needs in Refugee Gatherings in South Lebanon.
3. Violence Against Women and Girls and Depression among Survivors: A study in Gatherings of Beirut and South Lebanon.

The first study aimed to demonstrate that women’s committees in ten gatherings in Southern Lebanon have gained sufficient skills, experience, influence and credibility to effectively surmount traditional gender roles and to participate in solving/responding to community problems/needs.

The second study aimed to assess the key barriers to pediatric healthcare access among refugee children, examine the role of financial constraints and healthcare infrastructure, and identify potential interventions to improve service availability.

The third study objectives were:

- The assess the prevalence and severity of depression among victims of VAWG residing in Palestinian gatherings in Beirut and South Lebanon. This objective is chosen due to the

absence of data on the mental health impact, particularly depression, among victims of gender-based violence (GBV) in the targeted Palestinian gatherings in Lebanon.

- To identify the correlation between experiences of VAWG and levels of depression among these victims, while assessing the potential need for further mental health interventions, including psychiatric involvement and the use of medical treatments or drugs, to improve their well-being.

## Identification Processes

**PARD conducted two Identification processes for women in the Tyre and Saida gatherings.**

The first identification process took place in Shabriha community center with **22 women participants representing 9 Tyre gatherings** (Jal Al Bahar, Maashouk, Shabriha, Qasmiyeh, Burghuliyeh, Kfar Badda, Jim Jeem, Aitaniyeh, and Wasta), **in addition to one gathering in Saida called Sikkeh.**

The second identification process took place in PARD Saida office with **21 women representing 11 Saida gatherings** (Baraksat, Tawarek, Sikkeh, Kinayat, Hay Suhoon, Bustan al Quds, Bustan Abu Jamil,, Jabal Al Halib, Hiba projects, Sirob and old Saida).

Both processes aimed to identify the needs and challenges faced by society, especially women, and to propose solutions and recommendations for these challenges.

**The projects/activities in this strategy were supported by:**

- Ø Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
- Ø Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB)
- Ø Save the Children / BMZ
- Ø UNHCR
- Ø ABAAD
- Ø UN Women
- Ø UNDP
- Ø UNICEF

## 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

1. **The coordination forum of the NGOs working among the Palestinian Community** has been operating since the beginning of 1995. Its aim is to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon in all aspects of their lives, including the political (through lobbying), social, and health, educational and economic. PARAD 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, PARAD will remain an active member within it. This forum has implemented many joint projects, participated in joint training programs and participated in national and international workshops and conferences.
2. **The Platform of Social and Health NGOs in Saida Area** was established as a result of the Israeli aggression on the South of Lebanon July 1993. PARAD is one of its founders, and it has played an active role in it from the start as a member of its administrative board. There are approximately 100 NGOs who are members of this forum which 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.



## 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 arising problems or issues.
- **Gathering Working Group led by UNDP** 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.



The Popular Aid  
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# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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