



# Annual Report 2019

## The Popular Aid for Relief and Development

1ST floor, Jaloul building,  
Ard Jaloul, Beirut, Lebanon  
PO BOX 114/5149 Beirut,  
Lebanon

+961 1 855 716  
[pard@pard-lb.org](mailto:pard@pard-lb.org)  
[www.pard-lb.org](http://www.pard-lb.org)



The Popular Aid  
For Relief & Development  
*Build Empowered Communities*

## **Special Thanks:**

PARD offers special thanks to the following organizations, volunteers and individuals for their support during the year 2019 (in alphabetical order):

- Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB)
- Human serve International- Canada
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- Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
- Norwegian People’s Aid - Lebanon (NPA-Lebanon)
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- Stavanger Katedralskole (Norway)
- Solidaridad Internacional
- UNDP - Lebanon
- UN - Habitat
- Welfare Association

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## **Introduction**

The Popular Aid for Relief and Development (**PARD**) is an independent grassroots organization working on gender equality 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.

The past few years have been characterized by several challenges that have impacted both the Lebanese people and the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Among these challenges were the different political stances toward the crisis in Syria and the hosting of thousands of refugees from Syria in Lebanon. As a result, the existence of the refugees from Syria negatively affected the shelter situation, the labour market, the WASH and health facilities, and the general security situation.

An additional challenge is the current crisis facing Lebanon. Thousands come together in unprecedented nationwide demonstrations against the old and new governments. Lebanon's financial situation is deteriorating, the local currency is unstable, prices of commodities including food and medicines have risen, workshops and factories have closed raising the unemployment rates, education is very often suspended and road blockages obstruct the movement of the people.

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

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

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

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

## **Mission**

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

## **Vision**

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

## Principles and Values

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

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

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

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

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

## Beneficiaries

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The other gatherings were largely established between 1948 and 1955 and coincide with the early arrival of Palestinians in Lebanon. These gatherings typically house refugees of Bedouin origins who, it is believed, had historically selected those settlements because their lifestyle (breeding animals) was incompatible with the high-density living imposed in the camps and because they were eager to live together, as extended families (Stell 2013). The majority of these gatherings are located within or in close proximity to main Lebanese cities (e.g. Tyre, Saida, Tripoli, Beirut) or villages (e.g. Sheem, Kharayeb, Abbasiyeh, Burj Rahhal, Marj), where they form distinctive quarters. In their morphologies, these gatherings are not entirely identical. Thus, most gatherings (including AAs) count coherent settlement entities with relatively identifiable boundaries. In contrast, other gatherings are scattered as a coherent group of houses within a larger agglomeration. This is for instance the case of the settlement of Nehmeh that consists of individual and building complexes as well as a few houses scattered within the area of Nehmeh that also house many Lebanese families. This is also the case of the gatherings in the Tripoli area (Mina, Bab el Raml, Zahreyye, Bab el Tabbeneh) where, it is worth pointing out, Palestinian refugees and Lebanese families frequently share the same buildings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

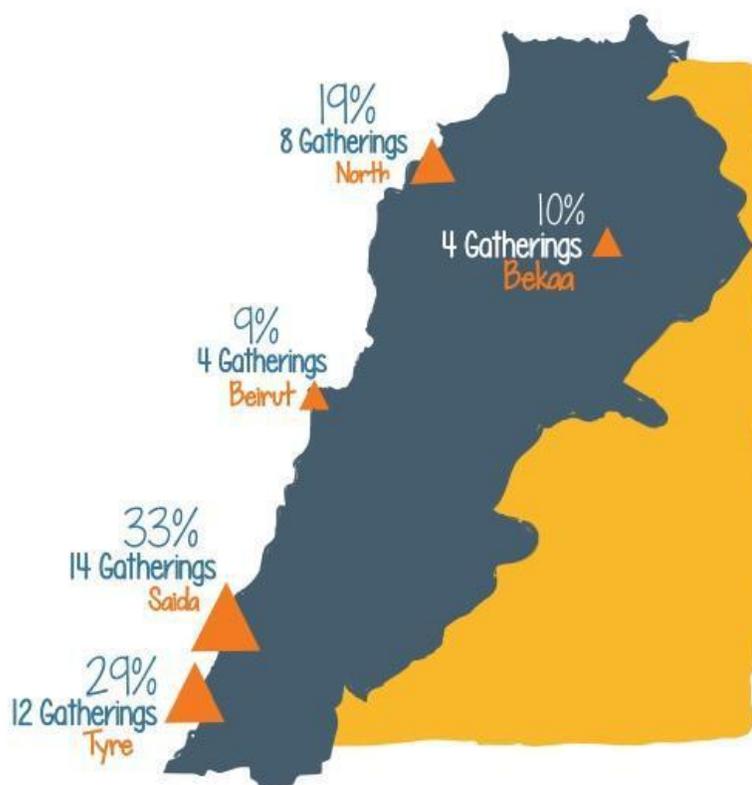
Finally, Palestinian refugees are unable to own property assets in the country since 2001 and required to bequeath them to religious authorities, if they have already purchased them. Given the central role of property ownership in the Lebanese economy as both a central financial asset for storing wealth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

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provide these services in the gatherings. In this regard, living conditions in Palestinian gatherings throughout the country are worsened, especially following the influx of new refugees from Syria.

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

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



*Geographical Distribution of the Gatherings*

**Location**

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

## Municipalities

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

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

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

*Number of Gatherings per Regions, and Concerned Municipalities*

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

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

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

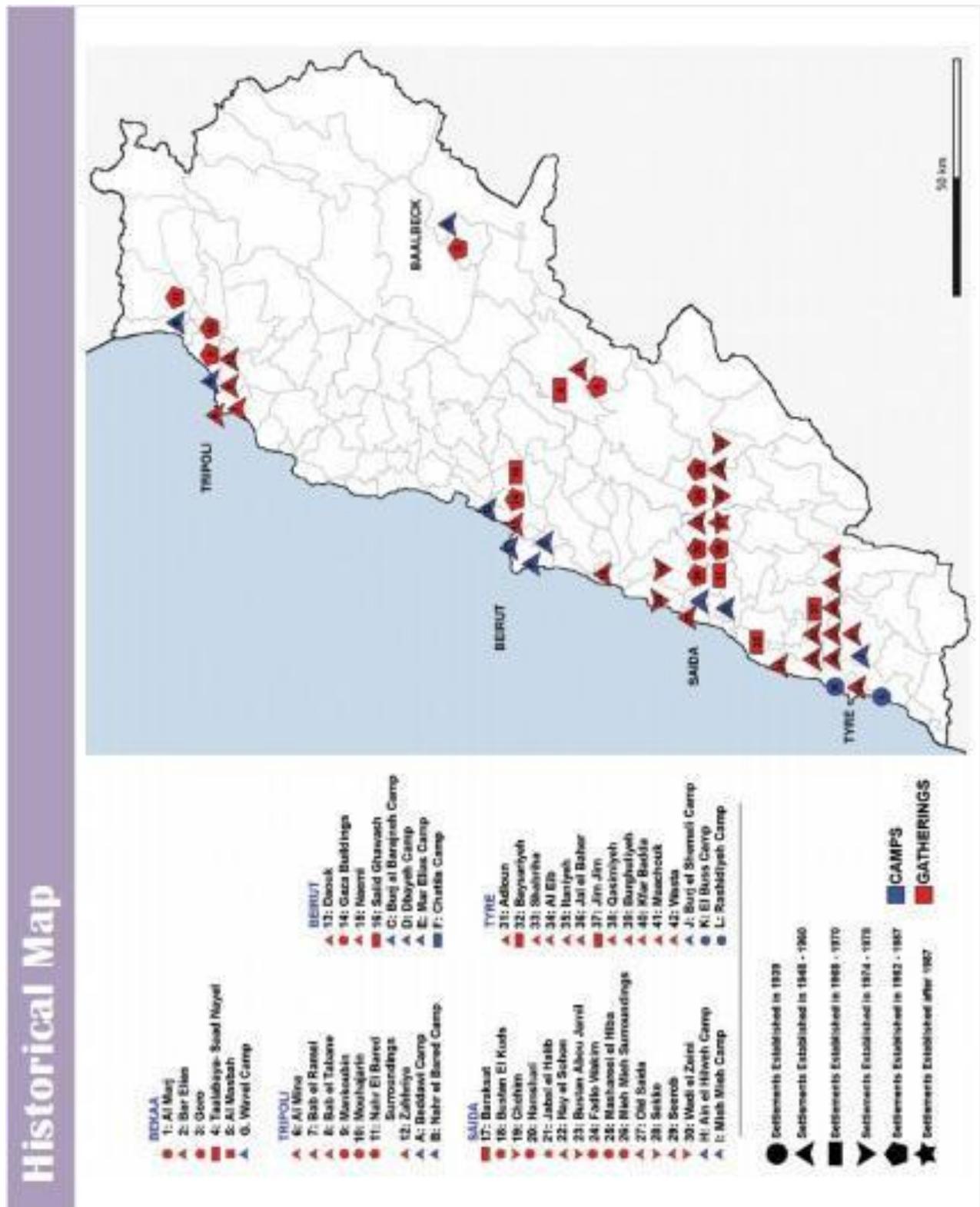
The RNA shows that remittances constitute a major source of income for residents of the 42 gatherings, not recording region-specific differences. The UNRWA-AUB survey reveals that female-headed households have a higher likelihood of having immediate emigrant relatives than male-headed ones. These relatives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

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

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

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

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



Historical Map

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

Location Name	No. of Palestinian Families	No. of Palestinian People	No. of Refugees from Syria Families	No. of Refugees from Syria People	No. of Lebanese People	Total Number of Population
<b><i>Tyre Gatherings</i></b>						
<b>Shabriha</b>	245	1355	440	2800	-	4155
<b>Wasta</b>	95	500	13	85	10	595
<b>Burghuliyeh</b>	30	215	8	50	-	265
<b>Aitaniyeh</b>	70	380	-	-	10	390
<b>Kfar Badda</b>	125	650	14	90	35	775
<b>Jim Jeem</b>	75	380	-	-	10	390
<b>Maashouk</b>	755	4000	150	960	640	5600
<b>Jal al Bahar</b>	300	1680	240	1540	-	3220
<b>Qassmiyeh</b>	405	2225	180	1190	-	3415
<b>Baysariyeh</b>	265	1400	35	210	-	1610
<b><i>Saida Gatherings</i></b>						
<b>Sekkeh</b>	510	2950	155	1000	-	3950
<b>Baraksat</b>	800	4250	210	1350	-	5600
<b>Bustan el Kuds</b>	260	1390	155	990	-	2380
<b>Bustan Abou Jamil</b>	125	650	3	20	-	670
<b>Fadlo Wakim</b>	65	350	5	30	-	380
<b>Hay el Sohoun</b>	85	460	25	170	-	630
<b>Jabal el Halib</b>	375	2025	170	1100	-	3125
<b>Tawari</b>	375	1980	125	800	-	2780
<b>Seerob</b>	2265	12000	155	990	1200(600 foriegners)	14790
<b>Hamshari</b>	375	1975	4	25	300	2300
<b>Wadi el Zaini</b>	1595	8450	190	1200	2200	11850
<b><i>Beirut Gatherings</i></b>						
<b>Daouk</b>	60	365	325	1990	-	2355
<b>Gaza Buildings</b>	405	2150	100	515	-	2665
<b>Said Ghawash</b>	255	2650	80	460	-	3110

## Situation Report

On 17 October 2019, the Lebanese government announces it will impose a \$0.20 tax per day on online calls, in addition to a gradual increase in value added tax.

Hundreds of thousands come together in unprecedented nationwide demonstrations against the ruling class. Lebanese diaspora also gathers across the world in support of the uprising.

Cabinet approves an economic reform package along with the 2020 state budget with a 0.6 deficit-to-GDP ratio. Lebanese stick to the streets, demanding the government's resignation and an overhaul of the decades-old sectarian political system.

The government is well aware of the gravity of the situation. At the beginning of September, a couple of weeks after ratings agency Fitch downgraded Lebanon's long-term foreign currency issuer default rating, local officials declared a state of economic emergency, while confirming Lebanon's two decades old peg to the dollar.

According to the World Bank, Lebanon's budget deficit stands at 11.5% of gross domestic product (GDP), whereas government debt has reached 151% of GDP. Income inequality is also a problem, arguably exacerbated by the conflict in neighboring Syria.

Up to 1.5 million Syrians, about a quarter of the Lebanese population, have taken refuge in the country since the beginning of the conflict in March 2011. This has had an impact on Lebanon's public finances, and social cohesion, the World Bank said in its country overview. And the United Nations' Development Program (UNDP) has found income inequality in Lebanon to be especially stark, ranking the country 129th place among 141 countries in a 2017 report.

The current Lebanese government led by US ally Saad Hariri took nine months to form after the 2018 general elections. It is a mix of many voices, representing different religious and political affiliations in the multicultural country. In Lebanon, there are 18 recognized religious sects and around 100 political parties.

Commentators repeatedly pointed their fingers at the lethargy of political decision-making in the country, not just on the part of the government. General elections were postponed three times between 2013 to 2018. Parliament finally approved the 2019 budget in July, after many months of discussions.

So how did we get to this sorry state? It all started a decade or two ago, when the banking business model morphed from lending deposits to people and businesses, to lending the government to finance its budget and trade deficits. Due to their fast growth, in contrast with the anemic growth in the economy, deposits have now reached a staggering nearly four times the size of the Lebanese economy.

So what did our government do? It started to spend way more than it collects in taxes, and very inefficiently, with little to show for it.

At the same time, the real estate bubble also redistributed our financial and human capital from other parts of the economy, erecting these huge and vacant towers all over the place.

### **"Producing almost nothing and importing everything".**

The real estate sector sucked in the other part of our deposits, with loans directly or indirectly linked to properties consuming 90% of bank lending to the private sector, according to a 2017 IMF report.

In short, our bank deposits have gone primarily towards financing the government twin deficits or the property sector.

We believe that Lebanon has entered a pre-crisis phase and that the current political system can neither avoid it nor face it.

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But since the Lebanese economy is not competitive, -producing almost nothing and importing everything-, the loans in national currency induce a currency outflow. Putting a halt to these loans, despite the solvency risks for the banks, proves the urgency to contain the demand on the dollar.

Current usage of the term 'rentier capitalism' describes the gaining of 'rentier' income from ownership or control of assets rather than from capital or labour used for production in a 'free' competitive market. Rentier capitalism has become predominant in capitalistic economies since the 1980s. The term rentier state is mainly used not in its original meaning, as an imperialistic state thriving on labor of other countries and colonies, but as a state which derives all or a substantial portion of its national revenues from the rent of indigenous resources to external clients.

The principle of economic rent is fairly simple, but it radically shapes the basis of our contemporary global economy. Unfortunately, a rentier economy tends to concentrate wealth in the hands of the few. This brings us to another form of rent profiteering: as capital becomes concentrated into an increasingly small number of corporations and individuals, the vast majority who are engaged in productive activity do not reap the profits of collective value or of their labors, but need to borrow money to survive from those who hold financial capital. This in turn provides wealth-holders the opportunity to skim rental income from others' debt by charging exorbitant interest rates. Further rentier opportunities occur in both regressive tax rebates and progressive tax rebates (the latter compensates for the driving down of labor wages).

With a tiny industrial sector and few natural resources, the economy relies on imports and cash injections from Lebanese abroad, which have fallen in recent years, pressuring central bank foreign currency reserves.

Until now, it was the BDL (Banque De Liban – General Bank) that financed the state at a lower rate than the one at which it paid the banks' deposits. The losses suffered meant monetary creation, which in turn fueled demand for dollars. This agreement will, in the short term, allow the Treasury to pay civil servant wages by going directly into debt with banks at higher rates.

This will make the interest burden heavier for the government, but the stock of debt is such that the change in short-term maturities has been considered to be relatively minor compared to the need to curb foreign exchange outflows.

Household and corporate debt now exceeds 100% of the GDP. The public debt, added to the BDL's net debt, represents about 220% of the GDP.

With an average interest rate of 10%, the service of both private and public debt alone accounts for one third of the GDP.

If we add the levies (taxes and social charges), which represent 20% of the GDP, and the cost induced by the failures of public services such as electricity, water or education, estimated at between 5 and 10% of the GDP, this represents two thirds of residents' incomes.

This burden is unbearable as we can see by the increasing of emigration, layoffs and bankruptcy filings. This is the price to pay to maintain the current situation. A clear and fair reallocation of losses is necessary.

Hiding the losses by worsening them is totally irresponsible. The main issue is the structural deficit of our current account, which represents between 20 and 25% of the GDP. The fact that the country has been able to maintain itself in this situation for so long is a miracle, but not necessarily a positive one since the price to make things better is only heavier today.

Late on October 21st Hariri announced that the cabinet had agreed on an economic reform package to solve all the problems at hand. Firstly, it includes the highly ambitious goal of lowering the deficit in the 2020 budget to just 0.6% of GDP, down by a staggering seven percentage-points from the 2019 budget. This is supposed to be achieved by a range of cost-cutting measures like privatising public assets in the telecommunications sector along with Middle East Airlines (MEA) and Casino du Liban. Moreover, the salaries, benefits and pensions of current and former presidents, ministers and parliamentarians will be slashed by 50%. Finally, the plan is to sell

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3.4 billion USD in treasury bills carrying a 1% annual interest rate to the central bank (80%) and commercial banks (20%) to swap high-interest debt with low-interest debt to reduce debt servicing costs. The government reportedly also aims to raise 400 million USD by imposing a 2% tax on bank revenues, mostly made from the government paying off its own debt anyway. The commercial banks will likely resist subscribing to nearly 700 million USD in low-interest bills that they will also be taxed on, but the presence of politicians among shareholders and board members gives the government solid leverage. On the expenditure side, the budget includes an additional 13.3 million USD on programs for the poor and 160 million USD in subsidies for housing loans. Moreover, the reforms also entail the dissolution of the ministry of information, the Central Fund for the Displaced, the Council for the South, and the Council for Development and Reconstruction. Outside the framework of the budget, the reform package also includes the adoption of a law to recover money stolen by corrupt officials.

The reform package was broadly rejected by the protest movement as inadequate. But it was welcomed by the international community. Nonetheless, the International Support Group for Lebanon which includes the EU, US, Arab League, Russia, China, the UK, France, Germany and Italy welcomed Hariri's reforms as 'in line with the aspirations of the Lebanese people'. This is blatant falsehood given explicit protester opposition to Hariri's reform package, but reveals how little international appetite there is for more revolution and turmoil in the Middle East in general and Lebanon in particular. Despite the protester's disappointment with the reforms, they were included in the 2020 budget draft submitted by the cabinet to parliament, within the constitutional deadline and one week before Hariri's resignation. The reforms were Hariri's brainchild and it is unclear if Hezbollah, Amal and the FPM (Free Patriotic Movement) will maintain the reform measures and the wider budget in its current form as it makes its way through parliament. If, when and how the budget passes are thus quite uncertain under the current circumstances.

Shortly before the expiration of the 72-hour deadline on the evening of October 21st, Hariri announced that his government had agreed on a package of drastic economic reform measures unprecedented in scope. But it fell far short of protester demands for a new government and fresh elections, deemed as nothing short of necessary to structurally solve Lebanon's economic problems.

With the prospects of a limited reshuffle obstructed, Hariri was caught in a dilemma of either remaining head of an increasingly unpopular government with the most unpopular ministers or resign. On October 29th he submitted his resignation to President Aoun, who accepted it the following day and asked the outgoing cabinet to remain in a caretaker capacity until a new one is formed. Hariri's resignation was met by massive celebrations by protesters all around Lebanon.

The collapse of the Lebanese government, which seemed so unlikely before October 17th, reflected insurmountable differences among political elites over how to respond to the sudden uprising.

Several factors were especially worth noting. **First**, the unrest was spontaneous and uncoordinated localized manifestations of genuine popular anger towards the entire political establishment held by Lebanese from all sectarian and socio-economic strata. There were absolutely no credible signs that any internal or external political actors were instigating or fuelling the initial demonstrations. **Secondly**, conservative approximation of estimated turnouts places the total daily number of protesters from October 18th-23rd in the hundreds of thousands at least. Activists themselves claim more than 1 million took to the streets, which would render the size comparable to the 2005 demonstrations that led to the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. **Thirdly**, the amount of violence, riots and outright vandalism was surprisingly limited, mostly confined to Beirut, Tripoli and a few areas in South Lebanon. And overall, protesters showed remarkable commitment to remaining peaceful. This has been crucial in maintaining passive support from those parts of the population who have not mobilized and to avoid providing the authorities a pretext for unrestricted heavy-handedness, as well as secured a large degree of tolerance and passive goodwill from the Lebanese army. This even as the hundreds of protests and roadblocks naturally also had an indirect destructive impact on the economy by obstructing the freedom of people and goods, curbing internal trade and forcing all bank branches to close from October 18th to 31st, longer than any closure even during the civil war.

## **Economic Situation**

Lebanon's financial situation is deteriorating amid a rising political divide. International financial institutions say that it is up to the country to restore trust and overcome the current liquidity crisis.

A shortage of US dollars is forcing Lebanese authorities to work on new financial instruments and trade mechanisms to import wheat, medicine and fuel, triggering internal tensions and a confidence crisis.

## **Youth Employment**

But with 37 percent of Lebanon's youth already unemployed Beirut's streets are lined with empty restaurants and shuttered shops. More and more companies have either gone bust or suspended work, firing workers en masse to try to survive.

Employees at 15 companies told Reuters they had been laid off or taken a pay cut in the past month, along with dozens of colleagues.

**Lebanon creates six times fewer jobs than its labor market needs and exports more graduates than any country in the Arab world, a 2019 government study said.**

## **Banks**

Banks had already shut for half of October, and after reopening for a few days in early November closed again, citing staff security concerns.

Most transfers out of the country have been blocked and a scarcity in dollars has led the Lebanese pound to continue to depreciate in value on informal markets. It is currently trading at around L.L.2400 to the dollar, around 59 percent weaker than the official rate of L.L.1507.5.

Most transfers out of the country have been blocked and, with U.S. dollars scarce, the pegged Lebanese pound is weakening on a black market.

The weakening pound has led some shops to hike prices of imported goods in Lebanese pounds.

But banks have been reducing access to dollars since the end of the summer, following fears of a shortage in Central Bank reserves.

They have halted all ATM withdrawals in dollars and severely restricted conversions from Lebanese pounds.

This has forced people to change money on the black market where they are charged higher exchange rates, in what amounts to a de-facto devaluation of the pound.

The official exchange rate remains fixed at 1,507 Lebanese pounds to the dollar, but the rate on the parallel market has passed 2300, leading to price hikes.

## **Economical Trades and Companies**

The losses for companies come after years of low growth, government paralysis, regional conflict, and capital inflows from abroad drying up.

Business owners say they must make most transactions in cash on the black market, where the pound has weakened to about 20 percent below the pegged rate. Suppliers now demand payments in dollars or in local currency based on an unofficial rate that changes by the trader and the day.

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But much of the country remained at a standstill, and traders said they could not pay for imports of necessities.

Schools, banks and many shops were closed. Some major routes around the capital that had been barricaded by anti-government protesters were unblocked by authorities, but the political mood remained brittle.

### **Labors Unions**

The new Lebanese Professionals' Association was formed out of the protests as an umbrella group for workers from different industries, while some from specific industries have created their own subgroups.

Push for an independent labor union sector has begun amid the past month's largely decentralized mass protests.

### **Fuel and Petrol**

Gas stations close amid fuel shortages.

Patrick Pouyanne, chairman and CEO of French hydrocarbon company Total, announced Tuesday that the company will start looking for oil and gas in Lebanese waters between December and January 2020.

In February 2018, Lebanon signed its first offshore oil and gas exploration and production agreements for Block 4 and Block 9.

The government approved bids by an international consortium of energy companies comprising Total from France, Eni from Italy and Novatek from Russia.

In the meantime, fears were deepened by warnings from gas station owners and hospitals of a shortage of fuel and medicine after banks limited access to the dollars they needed to pay for supplies.

### **Electricity**

The electricity sector is at the core of the state's financial crisis, hemorrhaging up to \$2 billion annually. Yet round-the-clock electricity remains stubbornly elusive.

Beirut suffers power cuts of an average three hours per day, a figure that rises to 12 hours outside the capital. To bridge this electricity deficit, Lebanon relies on expensive and highly polluting diesel generators.

### **Food**

Across the country, supermarkets have been hit by panic-buying amid rumors of an upcoming shortage in food staples and additional price hikes.

Some families have stocked up on supplies like canned food, rice, and flour.

### **Education in Lebanon**

The Education Ministry has left it up to schools and universities to decide if they want to open or not, after ordering them to close the first week of the uprising.

Though powerful, the protests were less crippling than the road blockages and it seemed some steam was beginning to get lost. Then, the students breathed new life into the movement. From Nov. 6 onward, an open-ended strike was announced, and thousands of kids and young adults skipped school to bring down the regime.

The massive civil unrest that broke out in Lebanon on October 17th, especially the dozens of roadblocks implemented around the country, greatly obstructed the movement of people and goods. As a result, the Lebanese ministry of education suspended classes in educational facilities around the country for nearly two entire weeks from October 18th onwards, meaning hundreds of thousands of children and youth missed out on education.

## **Judicial System**

Lebanon's judiciary has been harshly criticized by activists and experts for being systematically subservient to powerful politicians.

The Lebanese judiciary are called on to shoulder its responsibilities and prosecute any current or former public official if they are found to be guilty of corruption.

We need a judiciary that is brave, strong and does not bow to political pressure.

## **Defense and Army Position**

Defense Minister Elias Bou Saab said Thursday Lebanon was in a "very dangerous situation" and compared street unrest of recent days to the start of the 1975-90 Civil War.

The commander of the Army said that blocking roads was unacceptable, but maintained that the Army is responsible for keeping protesters safe.

"The Army works and acts based on what it sees suitable," he said, according to a statement, and that the "freedom of movement is enshrined in international treaties."

Security forces struggle to keep roads open.

## **Intervention of Political Parties in the Protests:**

The protesters quickly faced two inter-linked challenges. **One** was that some demonstrations were infiltrated early on by political party supporters using them as platforms for partisan agendas.

The infiltration of partisan agendas thus threatened the unity of the genuine protest movement.

A **second** related challenge to the protest movement was that supporters of establishment parties, mainly the FPM, Amal and Hezbollah, launched a number of counter-demonstrations to support their leaders. Such manifestations devolved – sometimes intended and sometimes not – into scuffles with the antiestablishment protesters in a manner sometimes bordering outright assault, occasionally with support from armed non-state and state actors.

This is politicising the protest movement even further and risks making the uprising a partisan affair between rival political camps, also raising the risks of political and even sectarian violence.

## **Stand of Foreign Governments and UN on the Lebanese Popular Uprising:**

Lebanon must form a new government as soon as possible, in order to implement the necessary reforms and "cross an alarming economic period," the French ambassador to Lebanon said.

He called on the Lebanese authorities to allow demonstrators to continue their protest action "in full security."

President Emmanuel Macron of France and his government expressed their will to help Lebanon, in a message delivered to President Michel Aoun by a French envoy.

Farnaud, the French Foreign Ministry's envoy for the Middle East and North Africa, arrived in Beirut for talks with senior officials focused on defusing the crisis resulting from the government's resignation, and urging rival leaders to accelerate the formation of a new Cabinet.

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Separately, the U.S. State Department announced that Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs David Schenker would stop in Paris to meet with officials from France and the United Kingdom to discuss recent developments in the Middle East. "During his trip, the assistant secretary will emphasize the United States' support for working together with its allies and partners to promote peace and stability in the Middle East," a statement from the State Department said.

Schenker is expected to meet with the French Foreign Ministry's director of Middle Eastern and North African affairs Christophe Farnaud, who returned from a trip to Beirut last week, and discuss the situation in Lebanon. Washington reiterated its support for the protests after State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said, "We proudly stand with the Lebanese people."

U.N. Special Coordinator for Lebanon Jan Kubis weighed in on the Parliamentary session, calling via Twitter for the participation of the public and civil society in discussing draft laws. "Meaningful accountability starts with full transparency. ... Opening the draft laws for comments from public, civil society is a good first step," Kubis said.

In April 2018, international donors pledged more than \$11 billion to Lebanon in the form of soft loans and grants, conditional on Lebanon's implementation of a series of key reforms.

Kubis said that the U.N. is ready to support "urgent and long-term steps to fight corruption, improve accountability, and contribute to growth and job creation. Lebanon is facing its worst financial crisis since the 1975-1990 Civil War".

Kubis said that the authorities must prioritize "urgent measures to maintain the country's monetary, financial and economic stability" during a "critical" financial and economic period.

"The continuous absence of executive and legislative action only compounds the crisis [and] contributes to social instability," he added.

Kubis urged the Lebanese authorities to ensure the safety of protesters in the interest of "civil peace and national unity."

The massive civil unrest across Lebanon also led many local and international NGOs to either have staff working from home and/or greatly reduce operations from October 18th and throughout the remainder of the month. Activities were gradually resumed in the last days of the month but still challenged by lingering roadblocks in specific areas. While it is impossible to determine all the exact implications that this temporary pause had on beneficiaries, a full resumption of aid operations in November should ensure not leaving any long-term irreversible effects.

By this point, thousands of Lebanese abroad began staging protests in solidarity with their compatriots, from the U.S. to Europe and Australia, in a touching display of the diaspora's support.

### **Conclusions:**

Many protesters rejected the measures taken by the government before its resignation as unrealistic and have remained on the streets, saying they will not be satisfied until there is a complete overhaul of the political system.

Lebanon was united in a way it had never been before, and no one saw it coming.

It's been three months since the country began its uprising against a mainly corrupt political class which many believe plundered and mismanaged Lebanon for nearly 30 years, to the point where it is now on the brink of collapse. The nationwide protests are calling for the political elite to leave. That may be a tall demand, but more workable requests have also been called for in the 30 days. A number of small concessions have been made by the politicians but this has failed to address the main demands of protesters: a government of experts, a new electoral law, and holding early elections. Instead, politicians are increasingly blaming this crisis on the month-long uprising.

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The uprising, thanks in large part to the disconnected responses of politicians, is showing no signs of letting up.

Those politicians have tried to coopt, appease and wait out the street. That has in large part failed, and now some are increasingly turning to fear tactics and repression via security forces.

Lebanon is in serious political and economic trouble with no indication of its leaders agreeing on a new government to replace the outgoing Cabinet of Saad Hariri, who quit as premier on Oct. 29.

Despite the magnitude of the economic crisis, the biggest since the war, leaders have not been able to agree a new Cabinet or to tackle the grievances of demonstrators who say they have ruined Lebanon through corruption and sectarian cronyism.

### **Reflection of the New Situation on Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Core Strategies

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

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

## Program Strategies

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

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

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

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

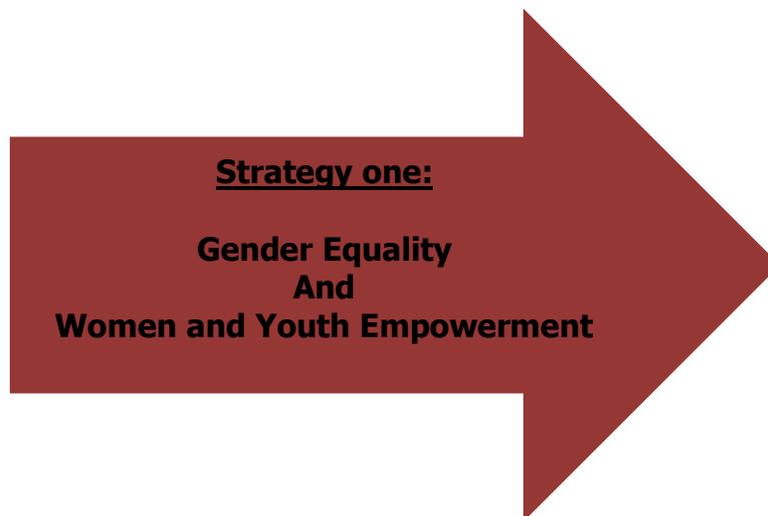
### III. Strategy Three: Relief for People in Distress

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

## Organizational Development Strategies

### IV. Strategy Four: Organizational Development of PARD

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



**This program targets 24 Palestinian gatherings in Beirut, Saida and Tyre areas benefiting 6096 families (33,019 people).**

## **Palestinian Women**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Addressing gender issues within their context**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Palestinian Youth**

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

A study of Palestinian Employment in Lebanon (CEP & ILO, 2013) maps out the situation of the Palestinians specifically the youth in Lebanon. Between 260,000 and 280,000 Palestinian refugees reside in 12 camps and 42 gatherings all around Lebanon. The great majority live under harsh living conditions with high poverty rates, inadequate infrastructure and housing conditions, and limited access to quality services and social protection, in addition to being subject to discriminatory laws and regulations. The Palestinian workforce is poorly educated, young and lacking in skills. Most are engaged in low-status jobs concentrated in commerce and construction. A large proportion work on a daily, weekly, or productivity basis and are engaged in private employment. The very difficult economic and thus social situation is affecting their daily well-being as well as deteriorated psychological status. They are struggling with limited choices for earning a living, mainly cornered between unemployment and "belonging" to political and religious groups. This has created fractions and social problems that only increase their need for awareness and guidance.

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

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

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

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

Education among youth in gatherings is on the rise; however, job opportunities are still limited by legal restrictions that ban Palestinians from working in certain high-skill jobs, in particular several liberal professions.

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

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

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

In these circumstances, 52% of households in the gatherings are concerned about the spread of drug use among youth. While this data (UNDP study) does not show actual consumption of drugs and might in fact overstate its magnitude, it demonstrates that households in gatherings are significantly concerned about this issue associated with disenfranchisement of youth in their communities. This finding adds to the narrative of previous reports which find that some inactive Palestinian youth, given high unemployment and lack of better future prospects, resort to the use of drugs (CLS and UNICEF 2017).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Among youth aged 19 to 24, 22% of male students and 34% of female students are enrolled in secondary school, highlighting the challenge of grade repetition in school. 17% percent of men and 19% of women in this age group are enrolled in vocational education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, only 45% of the working population in the gatherings are monthly paid employees (which is associated with higher degree of earning security) compared to 52% of Lebanese workers (ILO 2011). Also, 31% of workers in gatherings are daily laborers, with greater job instability and more volatile income, compared to only 10% among Lebanese workers. Given the limited job opportunities for residents in gatherings, there is also a significant portion of the working population that is self-employed (15%).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Activity One: Empowerment Training for Women and Youth

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

### I. Empowerment of Women

Women Committees according to location:

Location	No. of women committees	No. of members
Shabriha south and north	2	20
Jal al Bahar two quarters	2	22
Al Samer	1	4
Maashouk	1	15
Qasmiyeh upper and lower	2	22
Kfar Badda	1	10
Jim Jeem	1	9
Wasta	1	11
Aitaniyeh	1	8
Sikkeh three quarters	3	45
Said Ghawash	1	15
Gaza Buildings	1	9
Wadi El Zeineh	1	16
Burguliyeh	2	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>231</b>

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

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

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

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

**a. Training on Empowerment**

Location	Number of Women in the Committees	Subjects	No. of Sessions
<b>Shabriha</b> <b>Jal al Bahar</b> <b>Al Samer</b> <b>Maashouk</b> <b>Burghuliyeh</b> <b>Qasmiyeh</b> <b>Kfar Badda</b> <b>Jim Jeem</b> <b>Wasta</b> <b>Aitaniyeh</b> <b>Sikkeh</b> <b>Said Ghawash</b> <b>Gaza Buildings</b> <b>Daouk</b>	231 women	Definition of empowerment, Women's rights and gender justice, Gender-based violence, Community mapping, Needs assessments, Planning of campaigns, Conflict resolution skills, Specifying stakeholders, Community lobbying, group work, human rights, writing minutes of meetings, annual plans.	182 session



The women committee in Maashouk (15 members) attended workshops on "participation and dialogue in married life" and "Decision making".

The women committees in Maashouk and Shabriha (20 members) joined aerobics sessions accompanied by music, led by a volunteer studying sports coaching at a VC center in Tyre (supported by PARd).

21 women in the women committee in Sikkeh attended a lecture on legal ways to obtain legal identification papers, organized by NRC.

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

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

**On the International Women Day** (March 8), 160 members of the women committees from the South and Beirut attended a celebration in Maashouk center. Representatives of those committees talked about their achievements. The women in general enjoyed the performance of PARD's Folk dance (Dabkeh) team, poetry reciting by some women and refreshments.

The women committees in the South and Beirut gathering also celebrated the **International Mother's Day** (March 21).

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

## II. Empowerment of Youth

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

Youth Groups	Number of youth beneficiaries			Subjects
	Male	Female	Total	
1 <sup>st</sup> aid Teams in the South	35	30	65	Conflict resolution, planning, promoting self confidence TOT training Communication skills Participatory leadership Community mapping Human Rights Gender Equality Needs Assessment
Leaders of 1 <sup>st</sup> aid teams	5		5	
Students of VC center	17	38	55	

**Raising awareness on health and social issues** took place for the benefit of youth from different gatherings.

### Vocational Training:

In 2019, PARD trained 40 Palestinian and Syrian youth living in the south gatherings and the surrounding areas. Of these youth, 7 were males and 33 were females. They will graduate in the following vocations: Graphic Design, nursing, preschool education, sports coaching, Hospitality, accounting.

Moreover, PARD trained 15 students both Palestinian and Syrian youth living in the gathering of Beirut. They will graduate in the following vocations: Accounting, graphic design, practical nursing, assistant accounting, and preschool education. Those students will finalize their education by June 2020.

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



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

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

The criteria taken into consideration were as follows:

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

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

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

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

	<b>Vocations</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
1-	Nursing	10	11
2-	Practical nursing	-	2
3-	Child Care	-	4
4-	Preschool Education	-	11
5-	Sports Coaching	3	-
6-	Accounting	3	4
7-	Assistant accounting	-	2
8-	Graphic Design	-	1
9-	Hospitality	1	2
10-	Marketing and public relations	-	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>38</b>
		<b>55</b>	

### Extra activities of the students at the V.C. center:

- Participation in the ceremony of the Lebanese Independence Day.
- Participation in the weekly sports day of mini-football.
- Preschool students visited the books exhibition in the Islamic university to check on children books and stories.
- Participation in the students council elections.
- Some students in preschool education practice once a week in two private and public kindergartens.
- Students of nursing practice once a week at Hiram Hospital.
- A student of sports coaching, practices coaching at the Evangelical school once a week (Football, basketball and volleyball).



### III. Activities and Achievement of Women and Youth Committees

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

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

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

### **Common Activities of Women Committees:**

- The women committees in the South and Beirut worked with PARD to deliver health education sessions.
- Participating in campaigns (promoting health issues in the community, cleaning whole areas in the gatherings, organizing spraying of insecticides, raising awareness on social and health issues such as drug addiction or AIDS and others).
- Alerting PARD if a certain contagious disease shows up (chicken pox, Hepatitis A, diarrhea, scabies, head lice and others caused by overpopulation due to the arrival of refugees from Syria or other reasons).
- Data collecting
- Celebrating International Mothers' Day & Women's Day with members of their communities.
- Supporting first aid teams in their gatherings.
- Coordinating with PARD in water caretaking.
- Supporting and implementing health education for the community and teach literacy groups.
- Distributing support materials, including bread to needy families.
- Supporting the refugees from Syria (data collection, relief services).
- All the women and youth committees participated with many people from their communities in sit-ins to lobby for better services offered by UNRWA
- Members of the women committee in the Burghuliyeh, Kfar Badda, Qasmiyeh, Maashouk, Aitaniyeh, Jim Jeem, Wasta and Shabriha gatherings participated in compost preparation through special barrels distributed by PARD.
- Conducting many friendly meetings with women who have problems (domestic violence, marriage problems, problems with their children and so on) so they could unload problems through listening, discussing them openly and finding solutions when possible.
- Conducting social visits to patients, newly married couples, families bereaved through death, etc.
- Coordination meetings among the women's committees, in addition to individual visits and joint actions.

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



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

The **achievements** were reached through the women committee's communications with PARD and other donors such as Norwegian refugee council (NRC), UNDP, UN-HABITAT, Terre Des Hommes (TDH), popular committees, and local Lebanese municipalities.

### **Achievements of women committees:**

- Members of the women committees work as animators for children’s activities with PARD and other organizations and as local health educators.
- One member acts as a practical nurse at PARD Women’s Health Clinic in Kfar Badda.
- Some members work with PARD in the implementation of its relief projects. One works as the local water caretaker (Wasta), another collects local subscriptions from the beneficiary families for garbage collection.
- All youth committees (mostly the first aiders) participate in local cleaning campaigns, insecticide spraying campaigns, and cleaning water tanks.
- All first aid teams constituted by local youth will provide first aid services in their communities and transfer patients to city Hospitals. They also constantly provide first aid training to youth and women in the communities.
- Some youth joined membership in local governance (popular committees) in their gatherings.



## Activity Two: Training of Animators and Children Activities

### I. Training course for animators on children activities:

17 animators/facilitators (2 M, 15 F) from PARD's psychosocial activities participated in a training course of psychosocial activities in PARD's kindergarten in Wadi Al Zayne for 3 days **as a preparation phase** before the beginning of the activities in August 2018.

The course subjects were based on a previous evaluation session that showed some weakness in their performance.

#### The subjects of training included:

- 1- Characteristics of an animators and her/his role in allocating cases of family violence or sexual harassment. How to intervene when such cases appear (PARD's protocol on child protection).
- 2- Substitutes for punishment: how to deal with problematic children (hyperactive, violent, bully, obstinate).
- 3- Bullying: intervention of facilitator between bully and his/her victim.
- 4- Documentation: The importance of documenting case studies, stories and photographing activities.
- 5- Planning of sessions (safety, place, timing, tools, and appropriate activities for children).
- 6- Training on PARD protocol for child protection and signing of animators as a commitment to its contents.
- 7- Evaluation: why it is necessary and tools.
- 8- Report writing: contents to serve objectives. Clear and accurate information.
- 9- Gender justice – roles of boys and girls.
- 10- Conflict resolution among children.
- 11- Communication skills between animators and children.
- 12- Handicrafts.

**Tools:** LCD projector and Laptop – Flip Chart – Camera – Sticky Notes.

### Children's Activities:

The locally trained animators with PARD have been implementing a children's activities project supported by MCC since August 2016 till 2018. The project hopes to improve the psychological and social situation of about **225 children (107 M, 118 F)** and to improve social cohesion of their families with the host communities in 5 Palestinian gatherings in South Lebanon by providing community-forming psychological support through interactive activities geared toward their emotional and physical well-being, as well as providing opportunities to build friendships with those from other groups. Activity daytrips as well as opportunities for their families to have better social relations due to monthly dialogue-led meetings.

This project started in August 2019 and will end by May 2020.

The following activities took place:

#### Psychosocial activities: in 5 gatherings

Ice breaking activities so that the children get to know each other in each gathering alone. Each group decided on their own identification song. Code of conducts for each group was written in a participatory method.



### Activities serving the objective:

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

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

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

Handicrafts aiming at discharging (unloading) of negative feelings.

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

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

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

Child rights through exercises to discharge of fears.

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

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

### Health related activities:

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

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

Water preservation: race for carrying water, cleaning with water scarcity.

Handicrafts: Reuse of materials.

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

### Activity Three: Shabriha Community Center

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

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

**(a) Two dabkeh (folklore) teams** (14 F, 2 M) who are trained on 4 folklore songs. They practice every Sunday and have performed in many events like the graduation party of the vocational training youth in Tyre, and on International Child's day in one UNRWA school, and the final party of last year's psychosocial activities in PARD.

**(b) Football teams:** 14 members in the team for girls, 15 members in the team for boys. Proper uniforms, balls, training spaces and a volunteer trainer were provided for them. They train once a week after school. They also joined many friendly games with other football teams in other areas in the South. When they practice, boys and girls play together, and the girls proved to be very competent. Playing football promotes team work, physical and self-confidence.

2- **Children Activities** for 56 children (27 M, 29 F) (as described above).

**Meetings with parents (20 women)** of children participating in the activities take place once a month. Themes discussed included conflict resolution, prevention of home accidents, safe use of internet, and family violence. Incentives were distributed to the women including sanitary napkins, shampoo, detergents, blankets and others.

**65 children (32 M, 33 F)** enjoyed a recreational day at a local zoo restaurant.



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- 3- **Puppet Theater:** One puppet theater performance was implemented for the benefit of 53 children on the theme of primary eyes protection (the hazards of fireworks).
- 4- **Support of women groups:** The two women committees (20 members) meet regularly in the center. Moreover, those women benefited from 2 Aerobics sessions accompanied by music organized by a young female volunteer studying at a vocational training center (tuition on sports coaching supported by PARD).
- 5- **Support of first aid center in Shebriha** since the first aid team uses one of the rooms in the center. The team consisting of 20 volunteers (youth) offer about 130 first aid services per month to the community in Shabriha. The team also provided first aid training to:
  - 14 children (6 M, 8 F) ages between 13 and 14 years.
  - 10 women.
- 6- **Raising awareness on health issues:** 17 women benefited from workshops on Typhoid and Diabetes.
- 7- **Coordination Role of the Center:**
  - With "Jana" NGO who trained the animators on activities encouraging reading in the center, and on puppet making. Together with PARD, participation in "Janana Week" took place in providing a corner for puppets making with the participation of 37 children (14 M, 23 F).
  - With "Sabil" NGO whereby this organization implemented a puppet theater performance on the "Life of insects" for the benefit of the children in the center.
  - With "Al Ghad" NGO whereby the organization provided psychosocial activities.
  - With "Women Philanthropy" NGO who conducts meetings with mothers of handicapped children.
  - With "Terre Des Hommes" INGO who conducted 4 raising awareness sessions on "Protection and Rights", "Early Marriage", GBV and "Child Harassment", and 4 empowerment sessions on "Chocolate Decoration" for the benefit of 28 young women in Shabriha. At the end of the courses, the women were invited to lunch at a local restaurant and received presents.



### Activity Four: Maashouk Community Center

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



- 1- **Children Activities:** For 46 children (20 M, 26 F) (as described above). Moreover, 62 children (32 M, 30 F) joined a recreational day at a local Zoo\restaurant in Tyre.

**Meetings with parents (20 women)** of children participating in the activities take place once a month. Themes discussed included conflict resolution, prevention of home accidents, safe use of internet, and family violence. Incentives were distributed to the women including sanitary napkins, shampoo, detergents, blankets and others.

- 2- **Computer Training:** 15 children (8 M, 7 F) ages between 13-15 years participated in a computer training course.
- 3- **Support of Women Group:** The women committee (15 members) meets regularly in the center. The same women benefited from raising awareness sessions on food in Ramadan (during fasting), and Typhoid. They also benefited from 2 Aerobics sessions accompanied by music organized by a young female volunteer studying at a vocational training center (tuition on sports coaching supported by PARD).
- 4- **For children over 12 years of age** who are not included in psychosocial activities, PARD provides:
 

**Two dabkeh (folklore) teams** (14 F, 2 M) who are trained on 4 folklore songs. They practice every Sunday and have performed in many events like the graduation party of the vocational training youth in Tyre, and on International Child's day in one UNRWA school, and the final party of last year's psychosocial activities in PARD.
- 5- **Morning Meetings of Women:** Different women in Maashouk gathering meet every Thursday in the center to discuss matters concerning them or their communities. The center offers an open space for the women to express themselves and communicate. Moreover, this space helps PARD understand local general and private problems in the gathering of Maashouk.
- 6- **Celebrating International Women's day:** 160 women members of women committees in 10 gatherings in the South and Beirut came together to celebrate this day. Women representatives talked by their committee's achievements and discussions took place. At the end of the event, the women enjoyed a show presented by PARD's Dabkeh dancing (folklore) team and took refreshments.

- 7- The women committee members celebrated **the international mother's day** in the center.
- 8- **Training on SPHERE:** Two training courses on SPHERE project took place in the center, one for the benefit of 15 workers and volunteers in PARD, the second for the benefit of 5 first aid team leaders.
- 9- **Hosting of Different Meetings:** The center hosts the meetings of the animators of children activities, the first aiders, parents meetings (of children activities), women committees and others.
- 10- **Training of First Aid Team in Jal Al Bahar:** A group of 14 youth were trained on basic first aid in the center.
- 11- One **puppet theater** performance was conducted in the center on the theme of "Primary eye care and the hazards of fireworks". 78 (46 M, 32 F) children attended.
- 12- **Coordination Role of the Center:**
  - With "Sabil" NGO through a mobile library whereby children borrow books to read and learn the making of puppets. 20 children ages between 10-12 years benefited from this activity.
  - With "Jana" NGO who trained the animators on activities encouraging reading in the center. 14 children (6 M, 8 F) ages between 7-12 years benefited from this activity.

Moreover, the NGO projected a film on "the role of women in crisis situations and wars" for the benefit of 11 women. A dialogue was opened after the film was screened.



### **Puppet Theater Performances**

One puppet theater performance was implemented for the benefit of 55 children (33 M, 22 F) on the theme of primary eyes protection (the hazards of fireworks) in Shabriha community center.

One puppet theater performance was implemented for the benefit of 32 children (17 M, 15 F) on the theme of hygiene and environment protection. Moreover, another performance was implemented for the benefit of 22 children (8 M, 14 F) on the theme of "Intigration of Handicapped Children in Society". A third performance was

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implemented by "Sabil NGO" for the benefit of 42 children (18 M, 24 F), on the theme of "Promoting Self Confidence for Children".

One puppet theater performance was conducted in the Maashouk center on the theme of "Primary eye care and the hazards of fireworks". 78 (46 M, 32 F) children attended.

Another performance was conducted for 130 children (70 M, 60 F) from the gatherings of Kfar Badda and JimJeem at the local UNRWA school on the theme of "Integration of Handicapped Children in Society".

### **In relation to children psychosocial activities the mothers expressed the following opinions:**

- Their children enjoy the activities; they wake up early to prepare showing their enthusiasm in wanting to go join their fellow participants in the activities.
- Their children have become less violent when dealing with their brothers or sisters or neighbors.
- They are more inclined to communicate with their parents instead of running away.
- The PRL children befriended PRS children and called them by their names (before they used to say "you Syrian!").
- The children are not too active at home after hours of psychosocial activities including physical.
- Some children showed inclination to read or draw at home on their own initiative and not as a school homework.

The number of mothers attending "parents meeting" is less than the number of participating children in the activities (184 to 225) because of the following:

- Some mothers work in the morning and cannot attend meetings.
- Some mothers have two or more children participating in the activities.



### Activity Five: Training on first aid and providing services

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



Currently there are five first aid teams working in the gatherings of Jal al Bahar, Shabriha, Qasmiyeh, Maashouk, and Kfar Badda. The total number of the first aiders for now has reached 65 (35 M, 30 F), but more numbers will join due to the constant training courses on first aid which take place among the youth in the gatherings. Each team meets once a week locally, and the coordinator meets with every team weekly to discuss progress and respond to their needs. Assignments and responsibilities in the teams are shared and divided among all the team members.

#### The teams conduct the following activities:

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

### (a) TOT Training:



The trainers of the teams were subjected to a TOT training course on first aid. The trainers who studied nursing and practice their vocations at local hospitals volunteered to train local youth to become first aiders. PARD's trainer taught the nurses/ trainers the techniques of successful training. They mastered the information on first aid, yet they learned how to best relay their information to youth groups. Moreover, they received training materials & tools from PARD.

### (b) Training on Basic First Aid:

- 21 youth (3 M, 18 F) were trained on first aid and blood pressure monitoring in Qasmiyeh.
- 24 youth (10 M, 14 F) ages between 13 – 14 were trained on first aid in Shabriha and Kfarbadda.
- 23 women were trained on first aid in Shabriha and Wadi El Zeineh.

**Basic first aid training includes the following:** introduction to first aid, CPR-recovery position, injuries and bleeding, poisoning, burns, fractures, suffocation, and safety and first aider behaviors.

In the centers, the first aiders, under the supervision of the team leaders (nurses) offered first aid services to their local communities. **During 2019, 7,578 services were offered to 2,288 refugees** (Palestinian and Syrian) residing in the five above-mentioned gatherings.

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

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

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

At first aid centers, ambulances were provided through donations from the expatriates and were equipped with some equipment provided by efforts of the local community in Qasmiyeh, Kfar Badda, and Shabriha, and placed at the disposal of the first aid teams for use in case of emergency. All these ambulances still need some equipment to be fully equipped for use in any emergency case. Many cases were transported by the local ambulances accompanied by the first aid team leaders and volunteers from the team. The exceptional case is Maashouk, where no ambulance is available for use. PARD will provide an ambulance for emergency use in Maashouk. In Jal Al-Bahar, there is no need for an ambulance, as the gathering is very close to the city center of Tyre and accessibility to the hospitals is available and easy.

### **Cases transported by Ambulances**

<b>Type of cases transported</b>	<b>No. of Cases</b>	<b>Name of Hospitals Receiving the Cases</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hip Fracture</li> <li>- Rupture in Knee Ligament</li> <li>- Dyspnea (Difficulty in Breathing)</li> <li>- Asthma</li> <li>- Swollen hand from falling</li> <li>- Motorcycle accidents</li> <li>- Vomiting and nausea</li> <li>- Stroke in right leg</li> <li>- Head fall</li> <li>- Loss of consciousness</li> <li>- Hyper tension</li> <li>- Severe abdomen pain and vomiting</li> <li>- Drowsiness and control loss</li> <li>- Hypotension</li> <li>- Leg fracture</li> </ul>	166	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hiram</li> <li>- Balsam</li> <li>- Lebanese – Italian Hospital</li> <li>- Jabal Amel</li> <li>- Ghassan Hammoud</li> </ul>

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

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



### **Special Activities:**

- 1- The first aid team in Shabriha acted as a standby to administer first aid services to any football team practicing or playing in the football playground located near our first aid center. Those practices and games took place at least twice each week, and our first aid team has actually provided first aid services to several of the football teams.
- 2- The first aid team in Maashouk frequently compete in playing football with other teams in the playground of nearby Burj Rahal village.
- 3- The First Aid team in Maashouk visited all the pilgrims returning from Mecca to congratulate them. They also socially visited two of their team mates who had accidents and were injured.
- 4- In Qasmieh, the head of the first aid team and one other first aider donated their blood to an accident case that was transported by the Lebanese Red Cross to a hospital.
- 5- In Qasmieh, the first aid team participated in cleaning up the main road which was blocked by debris from a rain and wind storm.
- 6- In Shabriha, 3 members of the first aid team became victims of a car accident (the driver being a friend and was killed instantly). They were moved by the help of another member first aider from their team to various hospitals in Tyre. The head of the first aid in Shabriha worked in his capacity as a trained nurse in saving the life of one of the first team members at one of the hospitals. The injuries included fractures in the hands and feet and tongue.
- 7- In Shabriha, the first aid team participated in spraying of insecticides in the gathering.
- 8- 29 first aiders (23 M, 6 F) went to a trip in "Bustan Al Hawr" in Bekaa' Vally, where they mixed recreation with training. The place provided for exercises on high ropes between the trees and over ponds, all training usually implemented by civil defense people.
- 9- A Graduation party was organized for the 13 women in Wadi Zaineh who were trained on first aid. The women received certificates.
- 10- In Shabriha, the team participated in a funeral gathering ceremony supporting the deceased family. They also attended a poetry evening locally.
- 11- In Maashouk, the team socially visited two patients in their homes after returning from hospitals where they had surgery.
- 12- The team in Jal Al Bahar visited homes in the gathering to introduce the families to the new center now available.

### **Activity Six: Training and Meetings with Popular Committees**

#### **Workshops with Popular Committees:**

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

#### **Subjects discussed or resolved were divided into two categories mainly:**

##### **1- Issues directly related to the local communities:**

Several problems were discussed:

- Garbage disposal
- Electricity problems
- Sewer network problem
- Maintenance works on some buildings
- Asphaltting the road

- Spraying of insecticides
- Chlorination of water
- Distributing rodenticide bags
- Collecting fees to pay the local garbage collector in Beirut
- Follow up on rehabilitation of shelters supported by NRC (Jal Al Bahar).
- Discuss results of meetings with Lebanese municipality in Burj Rahal to recruit their services related to the sewage network and other services (Qasmiyeh women committee).
- Facing water shortages in the summer of 2015 in all gatherings.
- Damage in electricity cables causing electricity cuts and solving the problem of the maintenance needed in all gatherings.

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

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

**Activity Seven: Participation in Human Rights Campaigns**

PARD, together with the women’s committees mobilized communities for the participation in Advocacy Campaigns for Women Rights in particular and for Palestinian Rights in Lebanon in general, which are often interconnected. For example, the citizen law of Lebanon is still gender discriminating against Lebanese women who are married to Palestinian men: their children cannot gain the Lebanese citizenship.

Such campaigns were organized typically from a coalition of Lebanese and Palestinian NGOs, e.g. the Lebanese Palestinian Coalition for the Rights of Work to the Palestinian Refugees. PARP has joined these activities in the past. Furthermore, a recent coalition has been formed of NGOs working in the Palestinian communities to claim the “right to land property” for Palestinians, so that families who have bought and built houses and apartments outside the camps can register them legally.

These campaigns have had the additional effect, to strengthen the relations between Lebanese and Palestinians and overcoming the sense of isolation that Palestinians have vis-à-vis the official Lebanese policy. This type of cooperation has been intensified on the local level with the Lebanese authorities and Lebanese neighborhoods which has led to a stronger integration of the project within the Palestinian communities.

In 2010, Parliament approved granting Palestinian refugees free work permits and end-of-service benefits through the National Social Security Fund, according to the International Labor Organization, which estimates that only 2 percent of Palestinian workers have acquired work permits.

The Lebanese Minister of Labour launched a plan in June 2019 with 13 measures to combat unauthorized labor, giving workers and their employees a one-month grace period to apply for a permit. He placed particular emphasis on the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon, of whom he said “hundreds of thousands are competing with Lebanese” for jobs.

Abousleiman, the minister who was appointed in late January, has set his sights on updating Lebanon's labor code, which dates back to 1946, reforming the notorious kafala sponsorship system for migrant workers that he has likened to modern-day slavery, and regulating "foreign" workers in Lebanon, especially Syrians.

The minister has repeatedly said that his ministry's plan was not specifically directed at Palestinians, but sought to combat undocumented labor in accordance with Lebanese labor law, which requires non-Lebanese workers to have work permits.

After a month-long grace period for Lebanese employers to sort out the legality of their foreign employees ended, the labor Ministry has closed down dozens of noncompliant shops and fined many more if they were found to employ foreign workers without work permits.

Many Palestinians do not hold official work contracts, and their employers are put off by the paperwork and fees necessary to obtain a work permit. In 2010, Parliament approved granting Palestinian refugees work permits at no cost to them and at a reduced price for their employers, in addition to end-of-service benefits through the National Social Security Fund.

The question of Palestinian refugees' rights in Lebanon had been largely pushed to the back burner in the years since the beginning of the Syrian conflict and influx of Syrian refugees to the country. But the question made a dramatic return to the forefront of public debate in recent weeks, after the Labor Ministry began a crackdown on undocumented foreign workers that caught up Palestinians as well as Syrians and others working without work permits. The crackdown sparked weeks of mass protests inside and outside of the Palestinian camps, accompanied by a general strike within the camps.

Apart from the requirement to obtain a work permit, Palestinians in Lebanon are banned from owning property - a restriction that does not apply to other foreign residents in the country - and from working in most skilled professions. While a 2005 ministerial decision expanded the number of jobs permitted for Palestinians, 39 professions remain off limits.

Despite the waiver of the work permit fee, hurdles remain for Palestinian workers to obtain permits. Chief among those is the requirement that employees have an official work contract in order to obtain the permit.

In the typically low-paid jobs that Palestinians are working, it's very rare to find employers who accept easily to issue a certificate or a contract for a Palestinian worker, because they know very well the legal consequences of that request, which is that they will be demanding social security contributions, they're going to be demanding the minimum wage and other labor rights.

Only two Palestinian-owned businesses had been closed as a result of the crackdown. But hundreds of Palestinian workers in Lebanese-owned businesses were caught up in the sweeps, either directly or indirectly, as some anxious employers pre-emptively fired their Palestinian workers.

The effects of the crackdown were exacerbated as it came at a time when international aid for Palestinian refugees had been shrinking. The United States last year eliminated its funding of UNRWA, citing fundamental disagreements with the agency's approach.

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The Palestinian file had lost its importance for international donors, for U.N. agencies, and all the focus has been shifted to the Syrian crisis given the large humanitarian needs that existed, and this definitely implicated on the living conditions [of Palestinians]. Unless there was a security threat or a security issue in one of the camps, there has been little interest in the Palestinian file in general.

Palestinians across the country have been protesting in an attempt to pressure Lebanese authorities to stop the crackdown on undocumented foreign labor, which they say unfairly targets them.

Amid the recent protests, Palestinians have been calling for a complete elimination of the work permit requirement. The Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions issued a statement calling on the government to "suspend the procedures of the Labor Ministry and cancel the [requirement for] a work permit" and "accelerate the Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue ... to issue legislation guaranteeing our people the right to work without a work permit and benefit from social security, and the right to own property and the adoption of all human rights."



Many women, members of the women committees and others, participated in those protests as such:

Location	No. of Women	Location of Sit-ins and demonstrations
Gatherings of Beirut and Wadi El Zeineh	155	Main UNRWA office in Beirut
Gathering of Sikkeh in Saida	40	Main UNRWA office in Ain El Hilwe camp – Saida
South gatherings of Jal al Bahar – Maashouk – Shabriha – Wasta – Aitaniyeh – Qasmiyeh – Kfar Badda – Jim Jeem	130	Main UNRWA office in Tyre.

### Activity Eight: Providing Health Services to Women

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

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

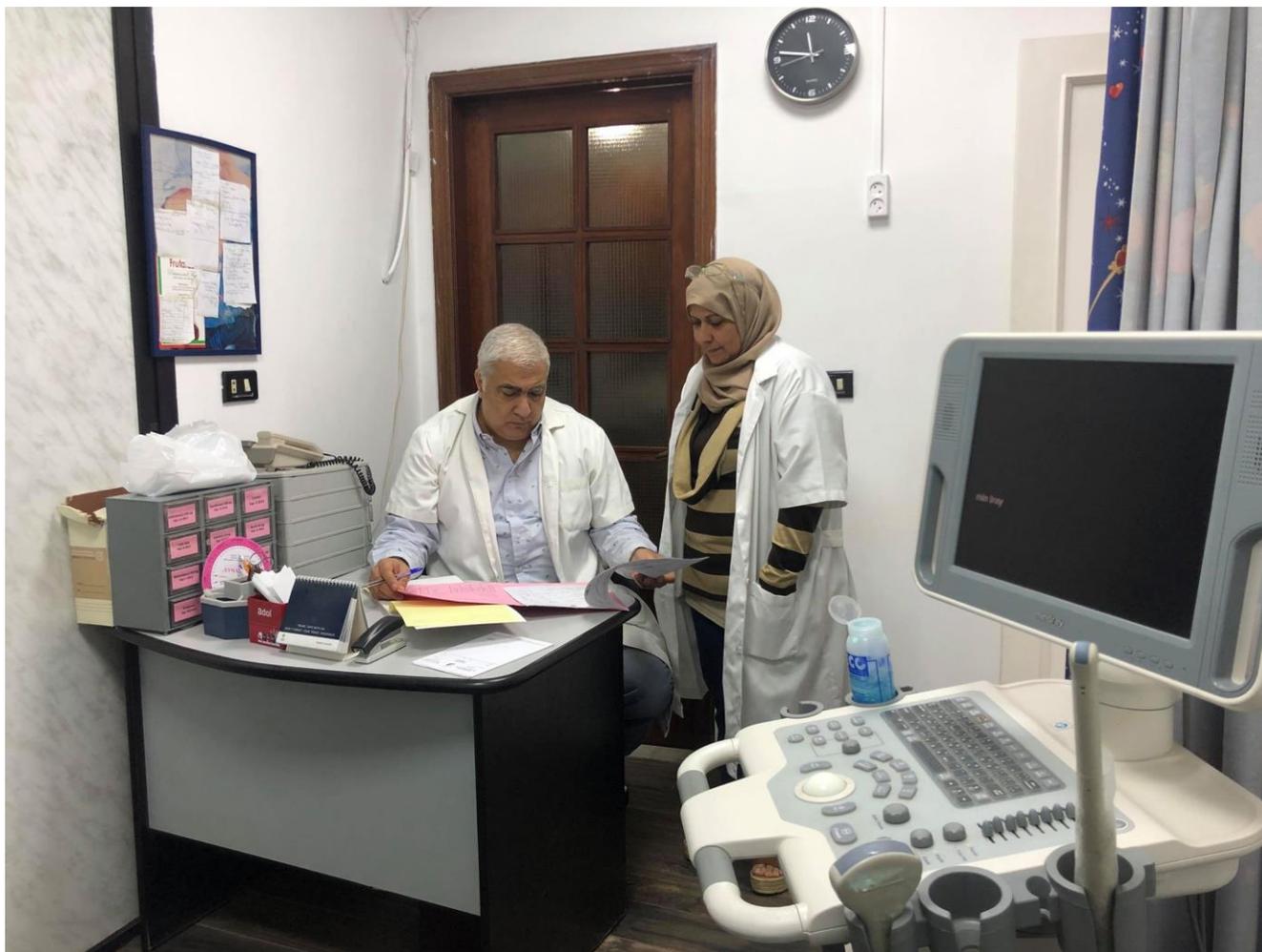
The equitable provision of affordable and accessible primary healthcare is central to human development, critical to meeting the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and a basic human right. Attention to the equity dimension of health care is especially important within the Palestinian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

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

## Services

**2,681 affordable primary health services were used by about 1,255 women patients** through PARD's women health clinics in Beirut, Shabriha, and Kfar Badda. The services include medical consultations by four gynecologists and two midwives, ultrasound, PAP smear and family planning.

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





**Strategy Two:**  
**Environmental Health Services,  
Awareness and Training**

**19,554 Palestinian refugees and poor Lebanese (15643 females and 3911 males) living in gatherings in the outskirts of the Palestinian camps; 4,704 living in Beirut gatherings (these are 3763 females and 940 males); 14,850 living in the South gatherings (11880 females and 2970 males) living in better environment and infrastructure condition. Through the following activities:**

## Activity One: Water control and testing

**24 water tests in 9 Palestinian gatherings** (1 time x 24 locations in the gatherings including the well, reservoirs, network and household water tap) were conducted. About 14,050 Palestinian refugees benefited from this project (7,728 females and 6,322 males), as well as 6,200 refugees from Syria.

### Regular activities of water testing and control include

1. Collecting and analyzing water samples to control quality (free from bacteria-causing waterborne diseases). Analysis takes place at the official water laboratory in Saida.
2. Control of chlorine residue in the water.
3. Follow up and control of chlorine pumps installed in the water wells.
4. Follow up with the local water caretakers for operating the chlorine pumps.

## Activity Two: Solid waste collection and disposal

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

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

6,687 Palestinian refugees benefited from this project in the south (3,678 females and 3,009 males), as well as 6,200 refugees from Syria.

### **Solid waste management solution in Kharayeb and adjacent gatherings of Kfar Badda, Jim Jeem, Aitaniyeh, and Wasta:**

Almost two years after the eruption of the garbage crisis in Lebanon and following six months of joint efforts between Kharayeb Municipality, UNDP and local NGO PARD, over 2,300 families and enterprises are now engaged in sorting waste at-source in Kharayeb and the four adjacent Palestinian gatherings of Wasta, Jim Jeem, Itanieh and Kfar Badda. As a result of this community effort, the Beam of Environment (Shoa'a Al Bia'a) collection center in Sarafand is daily treating two tons of recyclables within the town's municipal domain. PARD follows up this activity regularly.



### **Solid waste management solution in Baysariyeh:**

Since the first project in the Kharayeb area, implemented by UNDP, Kharayeb municipality and PARD proved to be successful, this experience was replicated in the town of Baysariyeh.

Building on the municipal solid waste management plan designed last year for Baysarieh, trained local volunteers have completed over 2,500 door-to-door visits, urging all houses and enterprises within the municipal domain of Baysarieh to take part in sorting at source, as part of the awareness raising campaign. As volunteers advanced in

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conducting visits, the municipality of Baysarieh placed 60 additional metal bins as well as 918 plastic bins within its municipal domain, all provided by the UNDP project.

Since January 23, 2018, the municipality of Baysarieh has been delivering daily (except Sundays) to the Beam of Environment collection center around 1.5 the volume capacity of its recyclables truck. PARD follows up this activity regularly.

### **Solid Waste Management in Jal Al Bahar:**

Based on the success of similar projects in Kharayb and the nearby gatherings of Jim Jeem, Kfar Badda, Aitaniyeh and Wasta, PARD worked with ICRC on improving solid waste collection implemented by Abbasiyeh municipality in Jal Al Bahar to include sorting from the source (house hold level). Through this joint project with ICRC, Abbasiyeh municipality and PARD, two local volunteers were trained and home to home visits were conducted for 219 families in Jal Al Bahar to raise their awareness on proper garbage disposal including sorting recycled materials.

Since then, Abbasiyeh municipality has been collecting the sorted garbage through a truck donated by ICRC, in addition to the rest of the garbage. PARD follows up this activity regularly.

### **Solid Waste Management in Hay El Zaiton (near Miyeh Miyeh camp):**

Based on the success of similar projects in other areas, PARD worked again with ICRC on improving solid waste collection implemented by Miyeh Miyeh municipality in Hay El Zaiton (near Miyeh Miyeh camp in Saida). Sorting from the source (house hold level) was the target.

Through this joint project with ICRC, Miyeh Miyeh municipality, NTCC (private company collecting the garbage of Saida city), and PARD, two local volunteers were trained and home to home visits conducted for 96 families in Hay El Zaiton to raise their awareness on proper garbage disposal including sorting recycled material.

Since then, NTCC contracted by Miyeh Miyeh municipality has been collecting sorted garbage through a truck donated by ICRC, in addition to the rest of the garbage. PARD follows up this activity regularly.

### **Solid waste management solution in Wadi El Zeineh:**

Once more, the successful experience in many locations will be replicated in the gathering of Wadi El Zeineh. About 20,000 people reside here, over 15,000 of who are Palestinian and Syrian refugees.

The report, the nearby municipality of Siblin was committed to the removal of sorted garbage from the gathering of Wadi El Zeineh in exchange for an extra truck, donated for their benefit from UNDP.



By the end of 2019, eight volunteers were trained to conduct house-to-house visits to raise awareness on garbage sorting. Related colored bins will be distributed. By the end of February 2020, the project should be completed.

## Solid waste Management in Qasmiyeh

About 3415 Palestinian refugees and refugees from Syria will benefit from a "Sorting from the Source" project in the South gathering of Qasmiyeh. Three local women were trained to conduct house-to-house visits to raise awareness on garbage sorting.

The municipality of Burj Rahal was contacted through Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and PARD to coordinate in this project. The municipality is committed to receive the sorted garbage after collection by PARD.

380 house hold visits will be conducted for raising awareness on garbage sorting by end of December 2019. Bins related are already distributed.

### Activity Three: Spraying of insecticides

Rodents and insects constituted a major source of nuisance to the residents of the gatherings, especially during summer when the number of insects increases tremendously. To control the problem, PARD implemented twenty spraying campaigns in each of the 10 gatherings in the South and 3 gatherings in Beirut, in addition to the gathering of Wadi El Zeineh.

PARD sprayed 41,500 liters of insecticides (200 ml of insecticides for every 20 liters of water).

About 21,203 people benefited from this project (11,662 females and 9,541 males), in addition to 6,200 refugees from Syria.



### Activity Four: Maintenance of water and chlorine pumps, sewage and water networks

#### **Water Supply includes the following sub-activities:**

- 1.1 Maintenance of water network, wells reservoirs and chlorine pumps
- 1.2 Pumping out wastewater from septic tanks.

#### **1.1 Maintenance of water network, wells, reservoirs and chlorine pumps:**

The Chlorine Pumps in the gatherings of Sikkeh, Maashouk, Wasta and Shabriha were maintained.

#### **1.2 Pumping out of wastewater, cleaning manholes and maintaining wastewater network (to prevent infiltration of wastewater into drinking water network):**

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

A new truck for suction of waste water was purchased with support from UNDP and we are in the process of registering and equipping the truck.

### Number of Cesspits Emptied

Location	Number of Cesspits Emptied (Beneficiaries)	Number of Shifts
Shabriha	6	9
Rachidiyeh	7	8
Kfarbadda	13	21
Wasta	12	14
Al Maashouk	8	17
Burghuliyeh	3	3
Al Bus	1	1
Al Kharayeb	6	6
Qasmiyeh	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>80</b>

### Activity Five: Cleaning campaigns of general premises

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

In 2019, **20 campaigns took place in the gatherings** in the South, and the collected wastes were removed by PARAD's 2 garbage trucks and deposited at designated places.

**6 campaigns were implemented in the Beirut gatherings.**

### Activity Six: Distribution of rodenticides, anti-lice shampoo, and anti-scabies lotion

The Beirut gatherings are overcrowded habitats with problems in the sewage systems. The Southern gatherings are not over crowded, but individual problems related to the sewer system and household garbage might pose breeding places for rodents like in Beirut. The local health educators and members of local women's committees are the ones who distribute rodenticides to control such pests. Distributions are accompanied by written instructions on proper use and the protection of family users. **4230 rodenticide bags were distributed in 2019.**

**Additionally, 733 anti-lice shampoo were distributed during the year**

### Rodenticides Distributed

Location	Number of small bags	Number of Units (Beneficiaries)
Beirut Gatherings	4100	820
South Gatherings	17050	3410
<b>Total</b>	<b>21150</b>	<b>4230</b>

### Anti-lice Shampoo Distribution

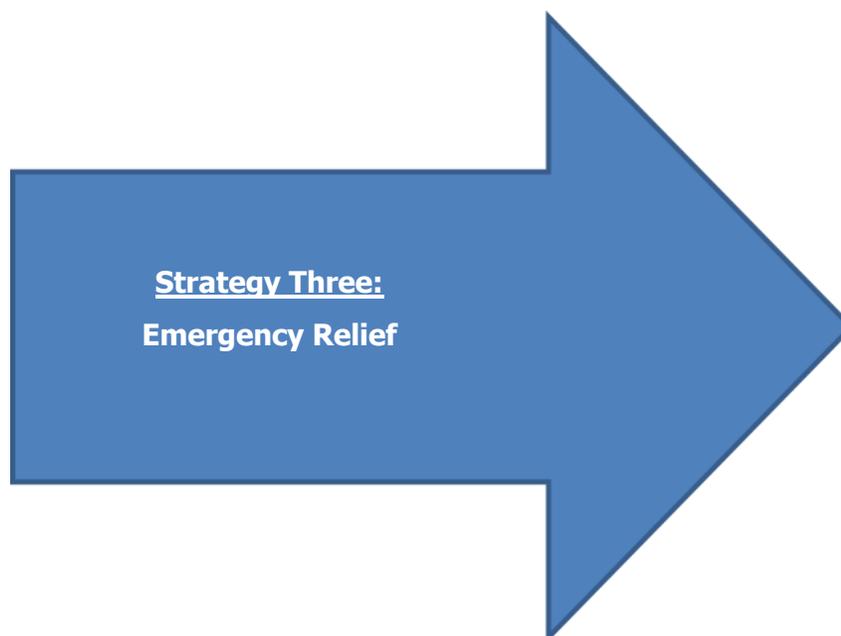
Location	Number of Anti-lice Shampoo (Beneficiaries)
Beirut Gatherings	148
South Gatherings	525
UNRWA School – Wadi El Zeineh	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>733</b>

### Activity Seven: Health Education

Health education in 2019 focused on proper disposal of garbage including sorting recyclable materials for about 2,813 people in 3 gatherings.



*This program was supported by Welfare Association (Lebanon), UNDP Lebanon, ICRC and NRC.*



**PARD became involved in the relief operation for refugee families from Syria since July 2012. Our relief program was guided by PARD's contingency plan prepared in 2012 and revisited in 2019. Since July 2012 till the end of 2019, PARD implemented many projects for the benefits of refugees from Syria residing mainly in the Palestinian gatherings (nine in Tyre, seven in Saida, four in Beirut and one in Wadi Zeineh). The targeted refugees have reached about 11,000 people including both Syrians and Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS). The support ranged from food and non-food items (NFIs) to WASH activities, shelter rehabilitation, health education and children education.**

## Relief activities in 2018 included the following:

### 1. Nutrition

#### a. With CFGB and MCC

For six successive years, PARD continues to support refugee families from Syria and hardship cases in the host community of Palestinian refugees. During January – March 2018, PARD supported 4,255 refugees monthly. Due to budget cuts, during April – December 2018, PARD supported 3,000 refugees monthly through distributing vouchers (US\$27 each) for 12 months. The same was repeated for the 2019 (3000 refugees monthly). The criteria for choosing the families follows:

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

The refugees reside in the following gatherings:

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

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

In 2019, nutrition support was provided to pregnant (90 kits) and lactating women (112 kits), also Bledina (250 kits) were being provided to infants aged 6 – 23 months in Beirut and the South gatherings.

The project was supported by the Canadian Food Grains Bank and the Mennonite Central Committee.

### 2. WASH Activities

Distribution of hygiene kits during 2019:

#### a- With MCC:

Item	Location	Quantities Distributed
Personal Hygiene Kit	South and Beirut gatherings	3920
	UNRWA school in Syblin	60
	UNRWA schools in the South gatherings	944
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4924</b>
Family Hygiene Kit (Buckets)	South and Beirut gatherings	765
	<b>Total</b>	<b>765</b>

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The family relief hygiene bucket included

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

The personal hygiene kit included

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

**b- With UNDP:**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of hygiene kits distributed</b>	<b>Number of Baby kits distributed</b>
Beirut	74	16
Wadi Zayne & Iklim	500	105
Saida Gatherings	1,018	213
Tyre Gatherings	681	142
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,273</b>	<b>476</b>

7,962 refugee families from Syria and Palestine benefited.



### 3. Education

#### a. Kindergarten for Refugee Children from Syria and Palestine

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

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

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

In addition to the regular tuition and activities in kindergartens, special celebrations took place, such as international child's and women's days, Christmas and New Year, and others. Along with the activities on those events, food, drinks, and presents are offered for all the children. Moreover, field trips to recreational centers also took place.

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

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

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

PARD constantly conducts capacity building trainings for all the teams working in the three kindergartens. The training program aims at providing the team with new methodologies and techniques to be used during the scholastic year.

In the year 2018, the training included:

- Documentation through photos.
- First Aid.
- Learning and promotion of self-confidence through play.
- Violence against children and substitutes for punishment.
- Communication skills.
- Psychological problems and neurotic diseases (Differentiation and how to deal with them).

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In 2019, the training included:

- Planning and report writing.

In all three kindergartens, PARD conducts monthly meetings with parents to discuss the following:

- Children's progress and/or difficulties
- Personal hygiene for children
- Psychological improvement (in each kindergarten, PARD has a psychological assistant who is working with special cases to improve their psychological status. This includes separate sessions with each child and home visits to discuss the situation of the child at home.
- PARD listens to the parents if they have any concerns about their life in the gatherings and difficulties they face that may affect the children on an educational level. PARD teachers give constantly moral and informative recommendation that helps secure an education-friendly environment for the children.
- Other recommendations from the families for the future.



### **Beirut Kindergarten**

This kindergarten was established in 2012 and continued operating in response to the needs of refugee families and the hard cases from among the host Palestinian community. In 2019, it accommodated 140 children (71 M, 69 F). As for nationality, 130 of the children were Syrian, 10 PRL. It is operated by 6 teachers, 4 assistant teachers, one coordinator, one psychosocial worker and one cleaning lady.

The classes were divided as follows:

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

### **Wadi el Zeineh Kindergarten**

This kindergarten was established in 2016. In 2019, it accommodated 110 children (58 M, 52 F). It is operated by 5 teachers, 4 assistant teachers, one cleaning lady, and one coordinator. As for nationality, 37 children were Syrian, 14 PRS, 57 PRL, and 2 Lebanese.

The classes were divided as follows:

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



### **Tyre Kindergarten**

This kindergarten was established in 2016. In 2019, it accommodated 201 children (110 M, 91 F). As for nationality, 134 children were Syrian, 28 PRS, 34 PRL, and 5 Lebanese. It is operated by 9 teachers, 9 assistant teachers, one cleaning lady, and one coordinator.

The classes were divided as follows:

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

## **b. Student Educational Support for Palestinian Hosts and Refugees**

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

The project included the following:

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

The project took place in summer before the start of the scholastic year in September 2019. Parents of the children were involved through monthly meetings. The project was run by ten staff, including a coordinator, teachers, assistants, a psychological assistant, and a cleaner. The project was prepared to engage both boys and girls whereby they learned that they have equal rights and responsibilities through the recreational activities.

**The outcomes** were the following:

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

**The outputs** were the following:

- 100 children participated in informal educational support lessons and were better prepared for the next scholastic year. The same children participated in the summer recreational activities.
- 100 children and their families received training in conflict transformation.

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

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**c. Vocational Training**

In 2019, **PARD trained 55 youth (17 M, 38 F) in vocational training centers in Tyre and Beirut.** The vocations targeted were the following:

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



See details in *Empowerment for Youth Project*.

d. **School kits** were distributed for the benefit of students from level three till level nine at the UNRWA schools in the gatherings.

<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of kits distributed</b>
Qaysariyeh School	Shabriha	544
Mansouriyeh School	Qasmiyeh	996
Awja School	Adloun	504
Tantourah School	Maashouk	556
Houla School	Kfar Badda	1176
<b>Total</b>		<b>3776</b>



Each kit consists of 4 copybooks and 4 pencils. **So 944 students benefited from the kits** (3776 copybooks and pencils ÷ 4 = 944 students).

#### 4. Children's Activities

PARD implemented children activities:

With a focus on improving the psychological and social situation of about 225 refugee children from Syria and Palestine, and to improve social cohesion of their families with the host communities. Methods included interactive community psychological activities, computer and English classes, basic first aid, health awareness, puppet theater performances and monthly meetings with the parents. This project started in June 2019 and will end in May 2020.

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



#### 6. Training of SPHERE project:

The purpose of training on SPHERE project is to promote the capacities of PARD's workers in dealing with natural and man-made disasters.

15 people from PARD participated in the 3 days course (10 F, 5 M). They work in different vocations such as first aid, environmental health, women empowerment, administration and accounting, heads of community centers.

*This program was supported by Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Mennonite Central Committee, UNDP Lebanon, Humanserve International, Solidaridad Internacional, Refugees International Japan.*



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

**(a) Capacity Building for Employees and Volunteers**

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Animators of Children Activities Trainer on Empowerment Head of Community center – Shabriha Head of Community Center – Maashok	Monitoring and Evaluation	PARD
45 Kindergarten Teachers Coordinator of relief Project Coordinator of First Aid Project Head of Community Center – Maashouk Head of Community Center – Shabriha Coordinator of Kindergartens	Planning and Report Writing	Workshop PARD
3 volunteers in first aid teams 1 Environmental Health project Supervisor 1 Trainer on women empowerment 1 Chief Accountant 3 Volunteers in Saida office 1 Head of Community Center – Shabriha 3 Animators of children activities 1 Driver 1 Coordinator of first aid project	SPHERE Project	Workshop PARD

**(b) Workshops for Organizational Development and Financial Auditing:**

- A workshop to revisit the previous Strategic plan (SP) for PARD was conducted with the participation of 18 employees and two volunteers.

**At the end of workshop, a new document for PARD's new SP 2019-2021 was produced.**

- A workshop to revisit the previous action plan which compliments the previous SP for PARD was conducted with the participation of 18 employees and two volunteers.

**At the end of the workshops, a new document for PARD's new Action Plan 2019-2021 was produced.**

- A workshop to revisit the previous Emergency Plan of PARD was conducted with the participation of 14 employees and one volunteer.

**At the end of the workshop, a new document for PARD's Emergency plan 2019-2021 was produced.**

- A workshop to revisit the previous Action Plan complimentary to the Emergency plan was conducted with the participation of 14 employees and one volunteer.

**At the end of the workshop, a new Action Plan for the Emergency Plan 2019-2021 for PARD was produced.**

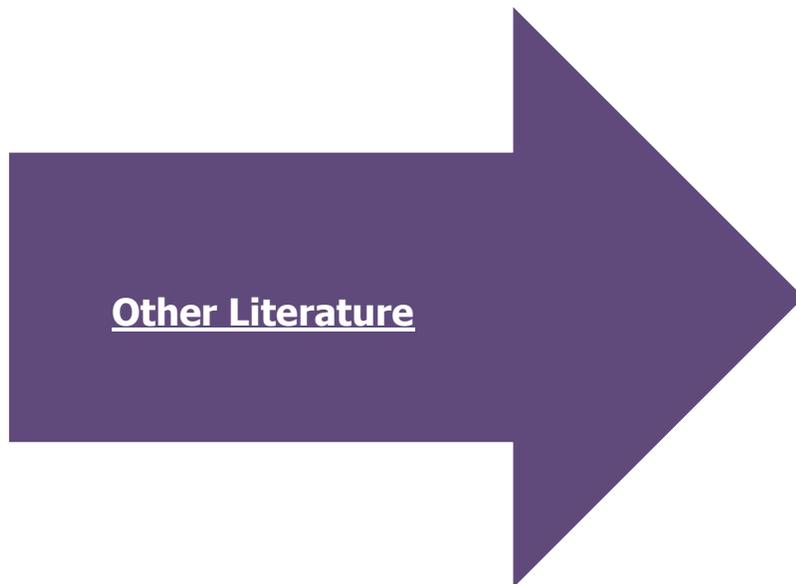
- A workshop to revisit PARD's previous policy on Gender Equality was conducted with the participation of 9 employees and one volunteer.

**At the end of the workshop, a new document for PARD's Gender Equality Policy was produced.**

- **An Emergency Respond Team (ERT)** was formed to follow-up on PARD's Emergency plan in view of new events in Lebanon and the surrounding area. They meet regularly.

- **A Gender Committee** was formed to follow-up on the tasks stated in PARD's Gender Policy. They meet regularly.

- **One external financial audit** was conducted by a specialized company on request from the donor NPA, on the project "Youth Empowerment".



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

## Coordination Forums

1. **The coordination forum of the NGOs working among the Palestinian Community** has been operating since the beginning of 1995. Its aim is to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon in all aspects of their lives, including the political (through lobbying), social, and health, educational and economic. PARD has been a founder of this forum of 16 NGO members. As long as this forum helps its NGO members to reach a better understanding about the problems facing them and facing the communities they work with, and succeeds in complying with its aims, namely to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinian refugees, PARD will remain an active member within it. This forum has implemented many joint projects, participated in joint training programs and participated in national and international workshops and conferences.
2. **The Platform of Social and Health NGOs in Saida Area** was established as a result of the Israeli aggression on the South of Lebanon July 1993. PARD is one of its founders, and it has played an active role in it from the start. There are approximately 100 NGOs who are members of this forum. This forum has implemented many joint projects both for the Lebanese and Palestinians in the areas of health, social issues, education, and relief in the city of Saida and the surrounding area. It gained official recognition from the Lebanese Ministry of the Interior in 2015. PARD is a member of its administrative board.



### 3. EPEP Network

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

### 4. International Coalition

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

5. It was to mark the anniversary of landmark Primary Health Care declaration of Alma Ata in November 2018. In the context of escalating threats to health worldwide and the shift away from Primary Health Care, the Assembly brought together civil society organizations and networks, social movements, those from academia and other stakeholders from around the globe to share experiences, for mutual learning and to develop joint strategizing to fight back against neoliberal approaches to health.

About 1500 participants from across the globe attended Assembly, particularly from low and middle income countries. Participants were mobilized through country and regional mobilization processes leading up to the Assembly and included representatives of civil society organizations/ networks (including non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, trade unions, professional associations); governments, intergovernmental bodies, academic institutions, and many more.

## **Coordination / Net Working**

### **(a) Coordination**

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

**(b) Networking**

Name of Association	Activity	Duration
UNRWA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of Protection trends/incidents affecting Palestine refugees in Tyre/South Lebanon:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Access to Territory (new arrivals, border monitoring)</li> <li>ii. Civil status documentation (birth registration, statelessness, residency permit, access to camps)</li> <li>iii. Access to Services (discriminatory practices, access to information, persons with specific needs)</li> <li>iv. Freedom of Movement / Detention (curfew, check points, arbitrary detention)</li> <li>v. Physical safety (threats, violation, security incidents, minorities)</li> <li>vi. SGBV</li> <li>vii. Child Protection</li> <li>viii. House, land and property</li> <li>ix. Right to Work</li> <li>x. Social Cohesion</li> <li>xi. Refugee Outreach</li> <li>xii. Training and Capacity building opportunities</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	
EPEP	Combating Illiteracy in the Arab world spasmodic.	
Oxfam	<p><b>Oxfam GB:</b> Oxfam is a globally renowned aid and development charity with 70 years of experience, working and campaigning with partners in over 90 countries worldwide. Oxfam's focus in Lebanon today is to reduce the impact of the Syria crisis on vulnerable groups through integrated Economic Justice. Protection, WASH, Active Citizen and Advocacy.</p> <p><b>The Lebanese Observatory for Workers and Employers Rights (LOWER):</b> Established in Lebanon in 2011, LOWER is specialized in social and economic rights. It has developed extensive experience working on the rights of workers and has produced or carried out more than 8 studies, 3 guides for worker's right, an educational book for vocational students, 8 TV spots, 2 video documentaries on the working conditions of fresh graduates and Palestinian workers, 5 documentaries about Labor Arbitrary councils, more than 600 articles about related issues, and numerous training sessions and orientation meetings.</p> <p><b>The Legal Agenda:</b> The Legal Agenda (LA) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization that aims to lift the barriers between the law and society in Lebanon and in the Arab region, so that lawmaking is no longer monopolized by those in power and can be understood and critiqued by ordinary citizens. The <b>goal</b> of the project is to contribute to improved protection for individuals involved in the formal and informal labor market in Lebanon, in accordance with international human rights law, worker's rights and labor safeguards.</p>	Ongoing

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

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

PARD also provides support and relief to people affected by disasters.

