



READY FOR TOMORROW



Save the Children

Lebanon
2016 Annual Report

READY FOR TOMORROW

Lebanon, 2016 Annual Report

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ABOUT SAVE THE CHILDREN



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children

Save the Children has been transforming lives in Lebanon since 1953, using rights-based approaches to increase children's access to quality education and allow them greater participation on family, school and community levels.

Save the Children Lebanon Country Office has undergone massive expansion over the past few years, delivering comprehensive interventions that target children across all communities.

With approximately 1.1 million Syrian registered refugees currently living in Lebanon, basic needs have become harder to meet and fulfilling children's rights has become challenging. Coordination with Government bodies, the UN and other humanitarian agencies has helped channel Save the Children's efforts to reach the most vulnerable, wherever they are.

Efforts to support refugee population have coincided with increased attention dedicated to equally vulnerable Lebanese families. Save the Children works to help Government departments to improve infrastructure and increase the chance for children to live in a safe and prosperous environment.



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children

OUR VISION

A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

OUR MISSION

To inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

OUR VALUES

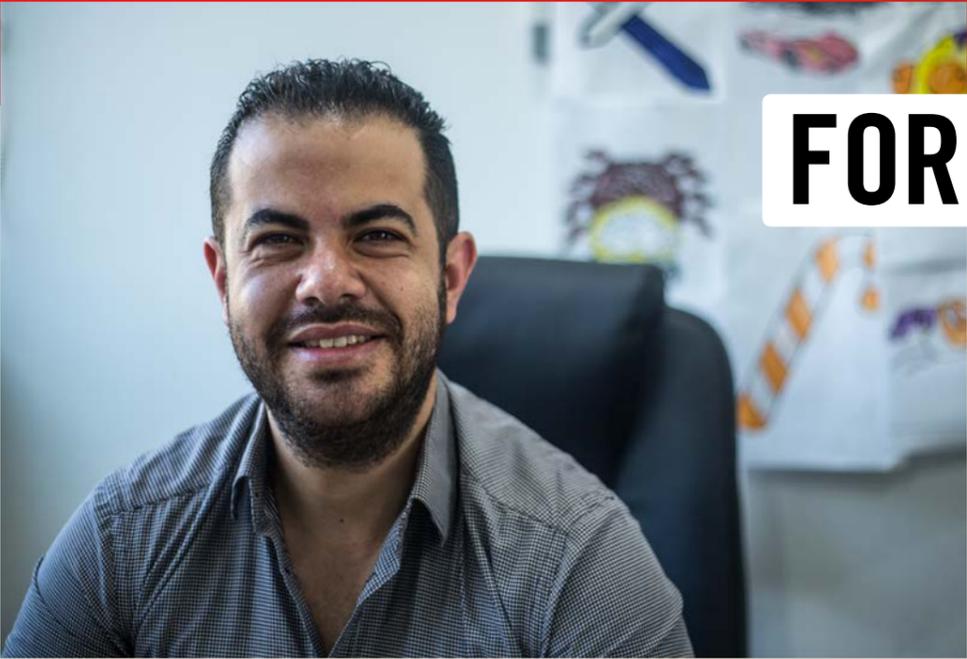
Accountability: We take personal responsibility for using our resources efficiently, achieving measurable results, and being accountable to supporters, partners and, most of all, children.

Ambition: We are demanding of ourselves and our colleagues, set high goals and are committed to improving the quality of everything we do for children.

Collaboration: We respect and value each other, thrive on our diversity, and work with partners to leverage our global strength in making a difference for children.

Creativity: We are open to new ideas, embrace change, and take disciplined risks to develop sustainable solutions for and with children.

Integrity: We aspire to live to the highest standards of personal honesty and behaviour; we never compromise our reputation and always act in the best interests of children.



FOREWORD

I am pleased to present you with Save the Children Lebanon's 2016 Annual Report, which revisits our achievements and activities as we continued to support more children to realise their rights.

The lingering crisis next door has exhausted everyone, not least children who spend another year in extremely difficult conditions. Education and protection needs for Lebanese and Syrian have become harder to meet. Resources and infrastructure are overstretched. So it was important for us to step in and give a helping hand to all communities in Lebanon.

But if there were any lessons to be learnt from such testing times, it is the admirable resilience that children have shown. Their burning desire to learn, be active and power through. They were not ready to relinquish their dreams. They still want to grow up and become teachers, doctors and architects. Children are not victims, they are heroes! It is up to us to give them the start they deserve.

It was also a great pleasure to welcome our donors and visitors to the different programmes we run across the country. I felt it was a great chance to see the value for money being reflected on the ground. Their generosity has made a substantial difference to the lives of children and their families. We want to build on that as we go on.

For our staff across Lebanon, 2016 was a successful year. Over 12 months, they proved fantastic capability in supporting more 365,000 people in quality services. Our relationship with our beneficiaries has become stronger and more transparent with the establishment of a robust feedback system. We recognise that satisfying the people we work for is of primary importance.

As you will read in this report, our Back to School campaign has seen thousands of children enrol and remain in school, while new projects demonstrated the innovation that children, youth and women can contribute.

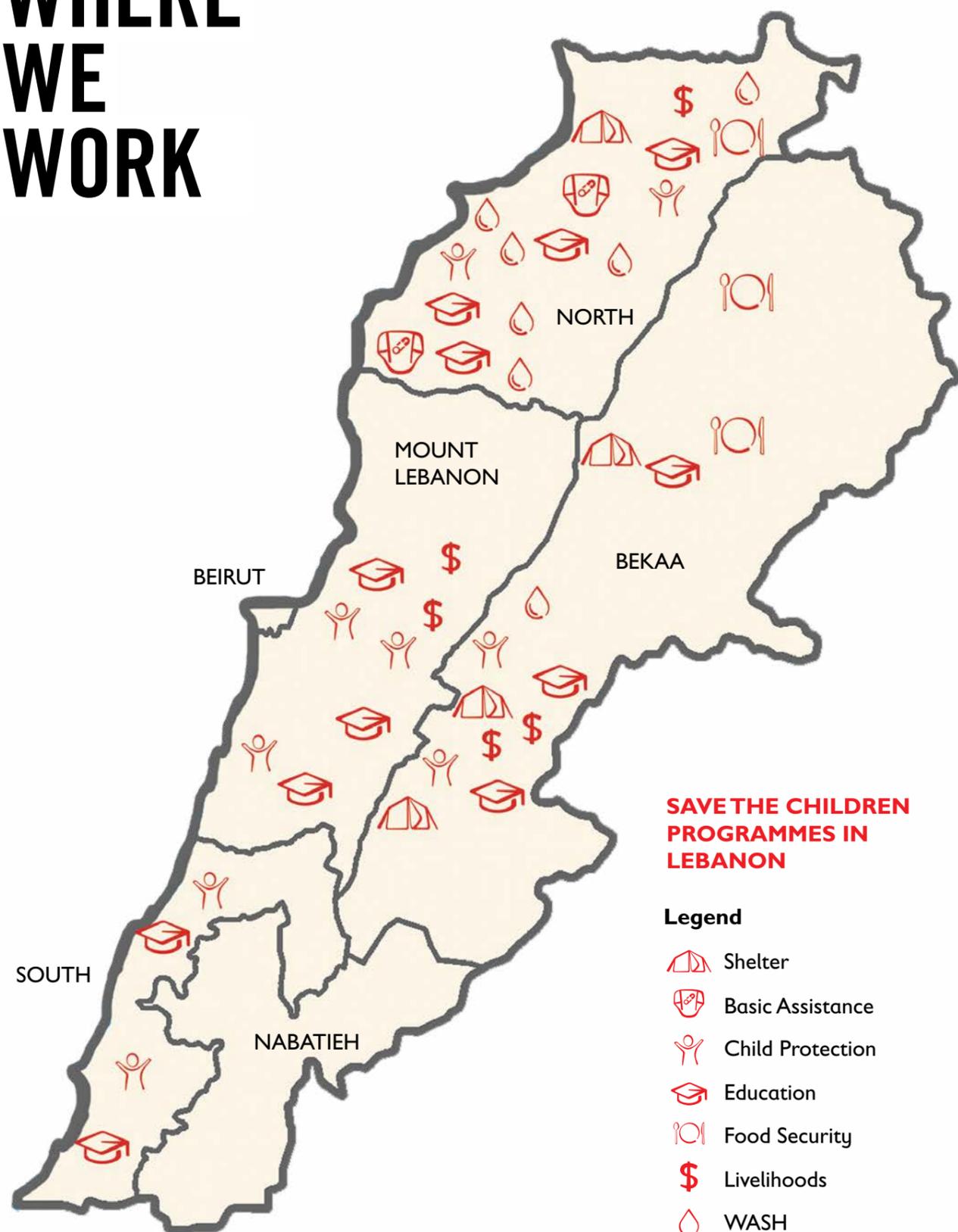
For six decades, Save the Children Lebanon worked with great ambition and relentless determination to make life better for all children, to shield them from the impending uncertainties they come to face as they grow up. In 2017, this will continue to be the case. And we look forward to making it happen.

Nadeem Khaddaj
Acting Country Director





WHERE WE WORK



1,250
ACTIVITIES

76
UNIQUE
PROGRAMMES

17
DIFFERENT
DISTRICTS

and
ONE
CAUSE



We have travelled the height, length, width and breadth of Lebanon striving to reach every child left behind.



2016 HIGHLIGHTS

It was always going to be a challenging year, but we are proud to have done everything we could to make it a better time for children.

We recapture some nostalgia-filled moments from a special 2016:



March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

December

Photo Project

French photographer Patrick Willocq recreates children's lost dreams in a series of captivating photos

Every Last Child

Save the Children launches a global campaign to give every child in the world an equal opportunity to survive and learn

Celebrity visit

TV presenter Natasha Kaplinsky's visit to the North of Lebanon with Save the Children UK Board Member and Chair Peter Bennett-Jones

Celebrity time

Danish Hollywood actor Nikolaj Lie Kaas and singer Christopher Nissen visit our programmes in Bekaa and Beirut to draw attention to children's plight in refuge

Back to School

Lebanon-wide campaign to enable children to join formal education

New Director takes charge

Allison Zerkowitz joins as new Country Director for Save the Children in Lebanon

Celebration time

Save the Children ends the year on a high note, reaching approximately 366,000 people in Lebanon.



THE NUMBERS SPEAK

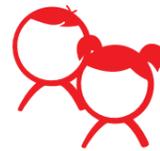
LEBANON QUICK FACTS

SIZE
10,452 km²

POPULATION
5.9m



Lebanese nationals: 4.4m
Syrian refugees: 1.1m
Palestinian refugees: 450,000



NUMBER OF CHILDREN
2.16m



PEOPLE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN AID
3.3m



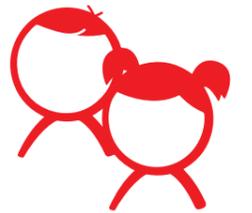
CHILDREN IN NEED FOR BASIC SERVICES
1.4 million

SUPER STATS

People reached by Save the Children **across sectors** approximately
366,000



Children reached by Save the Children
225,000



People reached in **Education programmes**
15,030



Child Protection programmes
37,814



Water and Sanitation and Hygiene and Shelter assistance
184,234



Multi-purpose cash assistance
86,537



Income generation support programmes
78,744



STOP

**HOW
WE STRIVED**

EDUCATION

BECAUSE IT CANNOT WAIT





EDUCATION BECAUSE IT CANNOT WAIT

Future societies will be shaped by brains and skills. One thing that will determine that is the quality of education that today's children receive, or don't.

In Lebanon, the education sector has come under considerable strain. There are more children at school age than were ever before. Government efforts have contributed to more children accessing schools. **Many barriers remain in place and stop children from joining a classroom**

Thanks to our **Back to School campaign**¹ **thousands of children have been enabled to enrol** in the new school year. However, a large proportion of Syrian refugee children could face eventual dropout if not closely monitored. For Syrian children, it is difficult to adapt to the language of instruction in formal schools-mainly French-which is causing many children to fall behind and suspend their education.

“**IT IS NOW OR NEVER, SO WE REACTED NOW**”

With clear determination to stop the drop-out trend, Save the Children started special **Homework Support Groups**, where children gather during after-school hours to receive extra support in different subjects. The sessions are delivered by qualified teachers who communicate with parents to offer the best advice.



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children

Children who missed out on years of education were given a chance to catch up at Save the Children's **Basic Literacy and Numeracy** learning centres, where they joined non-formal classrooms to learn about basic subjects, such as Arabic, English, maths and science.

The activities enabled Salah*, 12, to return to a classroom for the first time in five years. He "had forgotten what a school looked like," but "felt very happy to be back after all this time."²

To prepare children for school years, Save the Children scaled up its **Early Childhood Education (ECE)** activities, which equip nursery age children (between 3-6 years old) with the basic skills that qualify them for Year 1 and provide timely intervention at a critical stage of their development.

In summer seasons, Save the Children's **Mobile Library** toured villages around the country to spread the love of reading among children. The success was epitomised in the high turnout whenever the bus-turned-bookstore showed up.³



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

BACK TO SCHOOL:

In the run up to the 2016-2017 school year, Save the Children- in collaboration with UN partners- launched a nation-wide campaign to enrol and retain children in formal schools, building on a strategy by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education- known as The Reaching All Children with Education RACE- to pledge a space in public schools for all children, including refugees.

The Back to School campaign was stepped up in all areas in Lebanon. Door-to-door visits were made and meetings and discussions with parents were held to ensure there is an acknowledgement of the importance of education.

The success of the efforts bear fruits with the referral of nearly **50,000 children** and the ensuing enrolment of more than **112,000 students** in areas where Save the Children operates.

Tamer is one of those children. After two years and much effort, he finally made it to a public school in Mount Lebanon. He now says he wants "to go all the way, join the university and graduate as an architect."

Maximised efforts, however, need to be devoted to ensure that those children remain in education. This is why Save the Children launched parallel Non-Formal Education programmes (see above section) to support pre- and school-aged children in their attainment at school and home.



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children

¹ See Back to School campaign [page 18](#).
² Head to: <https://lebanon.savethechildren.net/news> to read more from Salah, or flip over to [page 53](#).
³ Watch children pore over science and geography books here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XX2iDDQe3ns>



CHILD PROTECTION
A SANCTUARY FOR ALL



CHILD PROTECTION A SANCTUARY FOR ALL



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children

Inability to meet children’s protections needs has had serious ramifications. With protracted displacement and increasing pressure on job market, vulnerable families have been forced to adapt negative coping mechanisms such as child labour and child marriage. The impact has affected children more than any other category.

The traumas of conflicts and wars have been another grave concern. Years after fleeing tragedies and destruction, the **dark memories still haunt** their days and nights, depriving them of living a normal childhood that every child deserves.

In response to these significant challenges, Save the Children ramped up its humanitarian support on all levels. A dozen **Child-Friendly Spaces** (CFS) and centres were opened in each operational area, where children engaged in recreational activities that helped them overcome distress. Closer monitoring was dedicated to those with more acute psychological problems, through a tailored Case Management programme that reached children in remote poor areas.

“ PROVIDING SAFETY IN THE RISKIEST OF TIMES ”

As more children find themselves with little options but to take to job market in order to support their families, Save the Children worked with parents and business-owners to underscore the **harmful consequences of child labour**.

Children engaged in all forms of child labour attended special recreational activities in which they shared knowledge on the dangers of child labour.

Jad*, who used to work as a street vendor, set an example to his friends by quitting work to return to school. He says “it is a mistake for children to leave education.”

Parents and community members were also trained and engaged in discussions on positive discipline and positive parenting methods with an aim to emphasize the role that the community can play in protecting children from harm and abuse.

Photo: Tracy Manners/Save the Children



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CHILD MARRIAGE

Physical damage, emotional distress and burdensome responsibilities- these are all consequences associated with child marriage, a union in which one or both of the parties are younger than 18 years old.

In Lebanon, there are numerous examples of child marriage. Although no official figures have been released, it is believed that more **girls are being pushed to marry at an early age**, due to economic reasons or lack of education opportunities.

Every Last Girl, a report released by Save the Children in October, brought home the hardship that girls face around the world. Among 144 countries, **Lebanon came 76th** in the Girls’ Opportunities Index, with child marriage being one of the factors that contributed to this unsatisfactory position.

Sahar*, who got pregnant at 14, said that for a young girl, “the excitement that comes with the prospect of marriage is soon wiped off”. The reality is that it is a ‘regrettable mistake’ for girls to get married at such an age. (👉)

To tackle the issue from its roots, Save the Children delved into the heart of communities with one well-defined mission: fighting child marriage.

Through awareness-raising sessions, meetings and close monitoring, Save the Children encouraged child brides and their husbands to share their experience. Potential child brides and their parents took part in the sessions, which led to families reconsidering the move. The alternative is there: young girls should be in school.

👉 Go to [page 54](#) to read what brave Sahar had to say.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

MAKING ENDS MEET





FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

MAKING ENDS MEET

Save the Children continues to dedicate as much support to other categories in the community. Disadvantaged youth itching to show what they can do were **given a platform to demonstrate their talent** and unleash the energy within.

With tailored, professional training, Save the Children provided more than **2,000 adolescents** with the skills that laid the foundation for a meaningful participation in any walk of life.

Beneficiaries were enrolled in **English and basic computer literacy classes**, while others chose to learn make-up techniques and handicraft making. Life skills training including communications, conflict resolution, peacebuilding and financial education.

Participants were encouraged to come up with their own innovative suggestions to help solve problems their communities face on a daily basis.



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Fighting poverty took different forms. Save the Children's livelihoods project has given children and their families in the poorest areas a chance to thrive in challenging conditions, strengthening a sense of self-reliance and **cementing a spirit of cooperation** among host and refugee communities.

Tackling food insecurity remained quite important for Save the Children in 2016, but the ways to achieve objectives varied. As part of the **Lebanon Cash Consortium**, nearly 20,000 vulnerable families in North Lebanon and the Bekaa received a monthly, unconditional cash and food assistance of \$175, which provided them with much-needed financial relief and independence. In Akkar, northern Lebanon, funded by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) food e-vouchers and food parcels were also distributed to cover immediate needs for thousands of families.

More than 2,700 labourers were engaged in 21 **Community-Support Projects**, taking part in the implementation of projects delivered by Save the Children. Vulnerable women were meanwhile engaged in the **Home-Based Skills Development**, an innovative food production project in which they were trained on healthy food processing as well as marketing and entrepreneurship. A large number of the ladies went on to market their delightful produce, which included jams, tomato paste, pickles and dairy products, in their communities.

Mother-of-four Salma* took part in the programme to generate a source of income to provide for her orphaned children. "It is one of the things I always loved to do," she said. "I also wanted to support my four children after my husband died. As a cancer patient, you could imagine how hard it is to live with illness and little support." (↗)



Photo: Marwan Tahtah



Photo: Marwan Tahtah

“**INSPIRING
TALENTS TO WORK
WONDERS**”

↗ Salma also took part in a food exhibition celebrating the ladies' efforts. Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ddk82ZaKuKqk>

SHELTER

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME





SHELTER

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Not everyone affords to have a roof above their head. Adequate shelters are hard to come by, and thousands of families have therefore had to cope with something that often doesn't meet the minimum humanitarian standards.

The vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VASyR) conducted by the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

and Unicef in 2016 has found that 17% of Syrian refugees live in informal settlements; tents made of plastic sheeting and timber where families spend a third, fourth or fifth year.

The rest of the refugee population is hosted by Lebanese communities in substandard buildings or one-roomed structures. In many cases, more than one family are sharing the same shelter.

“

A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR A SECURE STAY

”

In all settings, Save the Children's interventions provided long-sought relief. Families living in informal settlements received **Shelter** and **Core Relief Items** support, reaching 82,651 people, including 47,671 children. Those who had just arrived were provided with full kits that allowed them to **build a new tent**, while delivering upgrades and repairs to shelters afflicted by weather conditions.

Two months after having insulation kits installed by Save the Children in his tent in Bekaa, Fouad spoke of major changes.

“Before having this [insulation kit] installed, we couldn't stay inside the tent during the day because of the sun and heat. Now, we could see the difference. This [insulation] kit has stopped the radiant heat and kept the temperature down. (👉) ”

Another innovative programme has seen families secure a one-year, rent-free stay in substandard shelters, which were rehabilitated after an agreement with the landlord; a win-win situation for hosts and guests alike.

👉 Fouad's disabled son had suffered because of extreme temperature. Go to [page 56](#) to know more.

Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children





WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE

SPREADING BEST PRACTICES



WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE SPREADING BEST PRACTICES

Demand for safe drinking water has intensified with population growth over the past few years. Lebanon's exhausted infrastructure and strained resources meant that many villages in underserved areas get deprived of clean potable water.



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children

A waste management crisis only exacerbated the situation and added to health problems, making a response to deal with potential outbreak of diseases ever more crucial.

Save the Children reached affected areas with development programmes. In North Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley, **water facilities were constructed** and rehabilitated to extend existing services and reach new villages.

“ FILLING THE EMPTY HALF OF THE GLASS ”

Children usually learn about the right sanitation methods at home. But the question is: are they following the right methods?

Save the Children, through **Hygiene Promotion Sessions**, has turned those methods of washing, cleanliness and body hygiene into a daily practice. Children at Save the Children's centres and in schools took part in child-friendly activities that disseminated health and hygiene messages. Save the Children also raised community awareness on the importance of following healthy techniques to prevent waterborne diseases that could have serious impact on their children.



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children

CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S MAKERS



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children



CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S MAKERS

With a firm belief that children should be given the opportunity to engage in any decision that could have an impact on their future, Save the Children continued to support a drive to raise their voices and express their thoughts without restraint.

Throughout 2016, Save the Children ramped up its support. A report prepared by a group of children under the child rights Manara Network highlighted a raft of violations against children's rights and provided evidence on them. The report came with a list of recommendations to fill the gaps at a national level.

Another landmark report, the *Child Rights Situation Analysis*, examined progress made in Lebanon when it came to basic rights, including education, protection and healthcare. Children were able to communicate their concerns and suggestions to improve the situation.



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children

“ SEEING THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES, SPEAKING WITH THEIR VOICE ”

In Palestinian camps, Save the Children, through local partners Nabaa, continued to advocate for child-friendly practices and the establishment of child committees, allowing children to voice their views and call for better services in their communities.

The bottom line in this Child Rights Governance programme is empowering children to be in the heart of any plans that will have a direct impact on their lives.



Child Rights Situation Analysis

Lebanon
December 2016



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

GENDER EQUALITY

Men and women should be treated fairly in the society. They are entitled to access the same resources and opportunity. This is an integral part of all human rights conventions. In jobs, schools and services, reality, however, is very different.

For the first time in Lebanon, Save the Children has introduced gender equality as a main element in its programmes. In simple terms, boys and girls will now be fairly and deservedly represented in any project that the organisation carries out in the country. This will help give them a better start to life and a greater chance to go as far as their talents can take them.

The step is viewed as transformational, if not revolutionary. Girls and women, for example, have long struggled with under-representation and under-participation in the community. Having identified gaps in child survival, safety and participation, Save the Children aims to give the most marginalised a louder voice and bigger say in the development and implementation of any initiative. We look to the future with optimistic eye.



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children



OUR CAMPAIGN: EVERY LAST CHILD

Around the world, there are thousands of children who die from preventable causes every day, millions of children living in hazardous, violent environments, and hundreds of millions of children not able to access basic education. With poverty, conflicts and diseases affecting vast swathes of our world, it has become more imperative to tackle the root causes of children's suffering.



A milestone was reached in April with the global launch of Save the Children's Every Last Child campaign, with a mission to ensure that every excluded child survives and thrives through implementing innovative solutions and approaches.

Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children

OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN

In Lebanon, Save the Children's campaign is dedicated to support out-of-school children. (↗)¹ Over the next three years, we will work with vulnerable children who have always dreamed of joining or returning to a classroom but, for one reason or another, were unable to do so.

To ensure maximum impact, we will work with influencers in the education system, with a clear aim to eliminate barriers that stop children from getting a chance to learn. We are targeting all children, nationals and refugees, in our close for influencing existing policies and opening new spaces and expanding existing ones.

The physical change that we aspire to see cannot be separated from the behavioural one, as we believe that every segment of the society needs to appreciate the importance of education.

Great strides have already been made. Thanks to our [Back to School campaign](#) (↗)² and our work with the government, particularly with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, we have been able to see a part of our mission materialise. But we also realise that there is much more to be done to help thousands of children hoping to catch up.

↗¹ See [advocacy page 44](#)

↗² See [Back to School campaign page 18](#)





Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children



OUR ADVOCACY

As a child rights organisation, any law introduced, policy changed or measure taken has to be in favour of children. This is the backbone of Save the Children's Advocacy work in Lebanon. Independently and through alliances, the organisation **influences policy-makers, stakeholders and donors**, in Lebanon and worldwide, to make positive changes to children's lives.

In addition to global efforts across offices and countries, Save the Children works as part of the Lebanese Humanitarian INGO Forum (LHIF), an independent coalition that unifies voices to address issues of common humanitarian interest on a national level.

Save the Children also relies on the media and general public to spread the word, believing they have a great role to play to amplify children's voices and influence decision makers and draw their attention to issues that have a direct impact on children.



In 2016 Save the Children strived to see full recognition and realisation of three main asks:

1- All children have access to quality learning opportunities:

As part of the Every Last Child campaign (see above section), Save the Children advocated for the implementation of education framework and curricula in line with the Reaching All Children with Education (RACEII) strategy by the Lebanese Government, with a clear mission to close gaps limiting access to quality education and enhance the learning and the retention in schools.

2- Syrian refugees are able to obtain and retain valid residency:

Save the Children called for an officially-recognised process that does not incur any cost or require refugees to secure sponsorship. We aim at protecting children and families and remove restrictions for those who don't have a valid residency usually face.

3- Increased employment opportunities for vulnerable Lebanese and refugees:

More jobs for the disadvantaged and the underprivileged. Whether a Lebanese national or Syrian refugee, everyone should be able to have a job. Save the Children called for the amendment of policies and the strengthening of programmes that include adequate monitoring and enforcement of protection of labour.



Photo: Nour Wahid/Save the Children



OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Listening to people and seeking their satisfaction forms the basis of our work. Whether it is a feedback, a complaint or a suggestion, we lend an ear and act with full consideration.

Several steps were taken in 2016 to better understand what the public needed and garner solid evidence to measure successes and identify gaps. As part of the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) work, three initiatives were taken in that direction:

External and Internal Evaluations:

Community members across all age categories and backgrounds were reached in seven research studies in 2016, in an attempt to examine the impact that Save the Children programmes made on ground.

Children and adults gave their input. And Save the Children has in turn introduced improvements based on that feedback. Not one, but all services were covered in the researches, which encouraged people to turn the attention to vital issues such as food needs, protection and access to education.

Listen Learn and Act:

A new project was introduced in May to explore the relevance and quality of services as viewed by communities, which would ultimately contribute to the integration of the Core Humanitarian Standards into Save the Children's activities.

Through Listen Learn and Act, Save the Children did not only survey, but also re-surveyed community members to discuss new feedbacks and monitor change. Over multiple sessions, Save the Children promoted online training and learning about what accountability means, engaging children in discussions about their views and concerns.



Communicating with Community Members:

Another ground was broken with the introduction of a special helpline for beneficiaries to share any feedback they might have directly with Save the Children.

Thanks to the “Complaints Feedback and Referral Management System (CFRMS)”, people across Lebanon are now able to get in touch over the week to request assistance or enquire about a specific service. Four helpline numbers were dedicated to respond to callers' queries in any operational zone:

In the Bekaa Valley:
81700202

In North Lebanon:
81692992

In Beirut and Mount Lebanon:
01397509

Throughout the year, Save the Children successfully responded to 14,319 out of 17,119 calls made.

A PROUD PARTNERSHIP

Save the Children is proud to work with generous donors, who share our belief that it is never too late to save vulnerable children's future. In 2016, we worked with 10 donors and partners representing 13 countries. The generosity of their support has been fundamental to our successes.

We are grateful to:



The Asfari Foundation



BPRM - US Bureau of Population Refugees Migration



C&A Foundation



Conrad N. Hilton Foundation



DANIDA



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)



DFID - Department for International Development



ECHO - European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (European Commission)



Felissimo Fund



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Government of Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs



IKEA Foundation



JAPAN PLATFORM
اليابان بلات فورم
للمنظمة الدولية اليابانية لتقديم المساعدات الإنسانية
Japan Platform Fund



Johnson & Johnson



The Lego Foundation



Medair



Middle East Broadcasting Center



Mihira Corporation



USAID
Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance



Radiohjälpen 90 1950-6
SBFF - Radiohjälpen



Reckitt Benckiser



SC Australia - Emergency/ Restricted Appeal



Schueler helfen leben



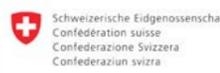
Sida - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency



Söderberg & Partners



Swedish Postcode Lottery



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation



UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund



World Food Programme



OUR ASPIRATIONS FOR 2017... AND BEYOND

We have an unshakeable belief that all children have a right to:

Survive:

Children have access to basic needs

Learn:

Children have access to quality education

Be protected:

Children are protected in practice and law



Photo: Ahmed Bayram/Save the Children

SCHOOL... AT LONG LAST

Salah is bubbling with this excitement again. At 12, he returns to school for the first time in five years. He is in a new classroom, meeting new teachers, sitting on new desk and flipping through new books.

“I feel very happy to be back after all this time. I told my parents that I wanted to go to school again.”

Salah had to work to help their father secure a living for the family. He found a job at a bakery, where he has been working for three years.

“I work from 06:00pm until midnight. I sell bread, pastry, cake...”

Salah relishes being inside a classroom again. He enjoys being with children like him.

“I want to learn. I forgot what school looked like. I forgot how to read and write. Now, I learn many things; English, Arabic and math.

“Children like me should not give up on education, “They should be determined to go back to school.”



A MESSAGE TO CHILD BRIDES

Married at 13 and pregnant at 14, **Sahar** had no power and little decision over a hastily-arranged union with her neighbor. She says she did not want to leave her family and that she was too young.

She calls it a ‘mistake’ that she regrets. Even though she describes herself as attached to her husband, she says she misses her childhood.

“When I was younger, I felt marriage would be good and lovely. I would live with my husband and be happy. However, I didn’t realize that marriage means lots of responsibilities. I wish I hadn’t ended up in this situation.”

Sahar believes she is not alone in this. There has to be many girls like her. She meets them at Save the Children’s awareness-raising sessions. They share their stories and discuss what could or should have been done.

“Marriage is not for young girls. I think it should be for older girls, over 20, because marriage involves so many responsibilities- too many responsibilities. I don’t think girls should get married when they are 13 or 14.”



Photo: Tracy Manners/Save the Children



Photo: Ahmed Bayram/Save the Children

DELICIOUS EFFORTS

Salma's husband passed away in 2002 leaving behind a widow with four young children to raise. For a family with little support and no sustainable source of income, there was no choice but to rely on charity.

Salma's illness, however, meant that the only head of the house couldn't provide for the four children. When the Lebanese lady learnt of Save the Children's Home-Based Skills Development programme, she instantly asked to register.

"It is one of the things I always loved to do. I also wanted to support my four children after my husband died. As a cancer patient, you could imagine how hard it is to live with illness and little support."

"I have successfully marketed my products among my neighbors and around towns here [in Bekaa Valley]. It was a great experience."

"It is not only about money. I enjoyed the activities because it was a great way to fill my time and feel productive."

BROUGHT IN BACK FROM THE HEAT

For the past three years, **Fouad**, his wife and their seven children have spent dawns and dusks, hot days and stormy nights in a tent. The plastic sheets that became the roof and walls not only did little to stop the searing heat and freezing cold from invading his tent. They did little to help Fouad's 12-year-old disabled son Khaled, whose illness worsened in the heat.

"It affected him so badly that he had a recurrence of convulsions. He would lose awareness and remain in physical pain for hours. We were warned that unless we controlled the temperature inside the tent, his situation would only get worse."

Save the Children provided the family with insulation kits that helped keep the temperature inside tents at reasonable range across seasons and protect families from harsh weather conditions. The intervention gave solace to Fouad.

"We are grateful for this support. It is amazing how this addition to the room has made all the difference. An adequate shelter might sound a simple thing to many, but it means something so precious to us."



Photo: Ahmed Bayram/Save the Children

***All names in this report have been changed for protection purposes**

SAVE THE CHILDREN LEBANON

WE SAVE CHILDREN'S LIVES. WE FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS. WE HELP THEM FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL



CONTACTS AND ADDRESSES

Beirut Country Office

Beirut, Ashrafieh
Sodeco Square, Bloc B, First Floor
Tel: +961 (1) 614680/1/2/4/5/6/9

Beirut Field Office

Beirut, Ashrafieh
Sodeco Square, Bloc A, Second Floor
Tel: +961 (1) 614680/1/2/4/5/6/9

Bekaa Office

Zahle, Houch El Omara
Stargate Street, CET College building, Third Floor
Tel: +961 (8) 813117

North Office

Akkar, Kouwaykhat
Plot No. 356, Khaled Al Hayek Building
Tel: +961 (6) 695761

 <https://lebanon.savethechildren.net>

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Project Manager:
Sandy Maroun

Text:
Ahmed Bayram

Cover photo by:
Nour Wahid

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