



**For the wellbeing
of children**



Save the Children

**Lebanon
2015 Annual Report**

For the wellbeing of children

Lebanon, 2015 Annual Report

CONTENTS:



- 5 Thank You
 - SAVE THE 2015 NUMBERS
- 7 WHERE WE WORK
- 8 WHAT WE DID IN 2015
- 9 **A BOOK AND A PEN FOR ALL**
 - Formal Education
 - Non-Formal Education
 - Early Childhood Care and Development
 - SAVE THE NUMBERS:
First to arrive
- 15 **PROTECTION FROM HARM**
 - SAVE THE NUMBERS:
A trip to safety
- 19 **GIVING POVERTY A GOOD FIGHT**
 - A- SHELTER
 - SAVE THE NUMBERS
No more snakes
 - B- CASH ASSISTANCE
 - SAVE THE NUMBERS
End of the month
- 27 **A PURE DROP IN A RUNNING RIVER**
 - SAVE THE NUMBERS:
Water for all uses
- 31 **PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE**
 - A- FOOD SECURITY
 - SAVE THE NUMBERS
 - B- LIVELIHOODS
 - SAVE THE NUMBERS
The efforts that give fruit
- 37 **WE ARE ALL EARS**
 - SAVE THE NUMBERS
Listening to all children
- 40 CONTACTS AND ADDRESSES

SAVE THE 2015 NUMBERS



357,547

Beneficiaries directly reached by Save the Children in 2015.



203,788

Children targeted across all programmes.



33,549

Children reached in Education programmes.



208,331

People reached in WASH programmes.



62,098

People reached in Shelter programmes.



17,219

Children reached in Child Rights Governance programmes.



14,424

People reached in Livelihood programmes

THANKYOU

As the regional crises drag on, affecting the young lives of more children each day, the natural right to protection, survival and education has become more difficult to access, while growing population and dwindling economic opportunities in Lebanon meant that vulnerability among both host and refugee communities was likely to increase.

A country of 10,452 square kilometres now hosts over 1.1 million Syrian refugees, as well as 43,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria and 270,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. This adds to 1.2 million people in Lebanon who live in extreme poverty.

The socio-economic burden became heavier with the continuous influx of Syrian refugees into Lebanon. Educational needs grew, resources shortage became more conspicuous, and hence our support became all the more vital.

In 2015, we scaled up our programmes and widened the scope of intervention to reach more children, more families, more households and more communities. We covered more areas and reached farther villages across Lebanon.

This report seeks to review key areas that Save the Children's programmes in Lebanon addressed in 2015, which include Education, Child Protection, Livelihood, Child Poverty, Water Sanitation and

Hygiene, Food Security and Livelihoods and Child Rights Governance. The total number of people reached through our programmes- directly or indirectly- reached 742,567, including 435,336 children. The impact and success of these programmes are detailed in this report.

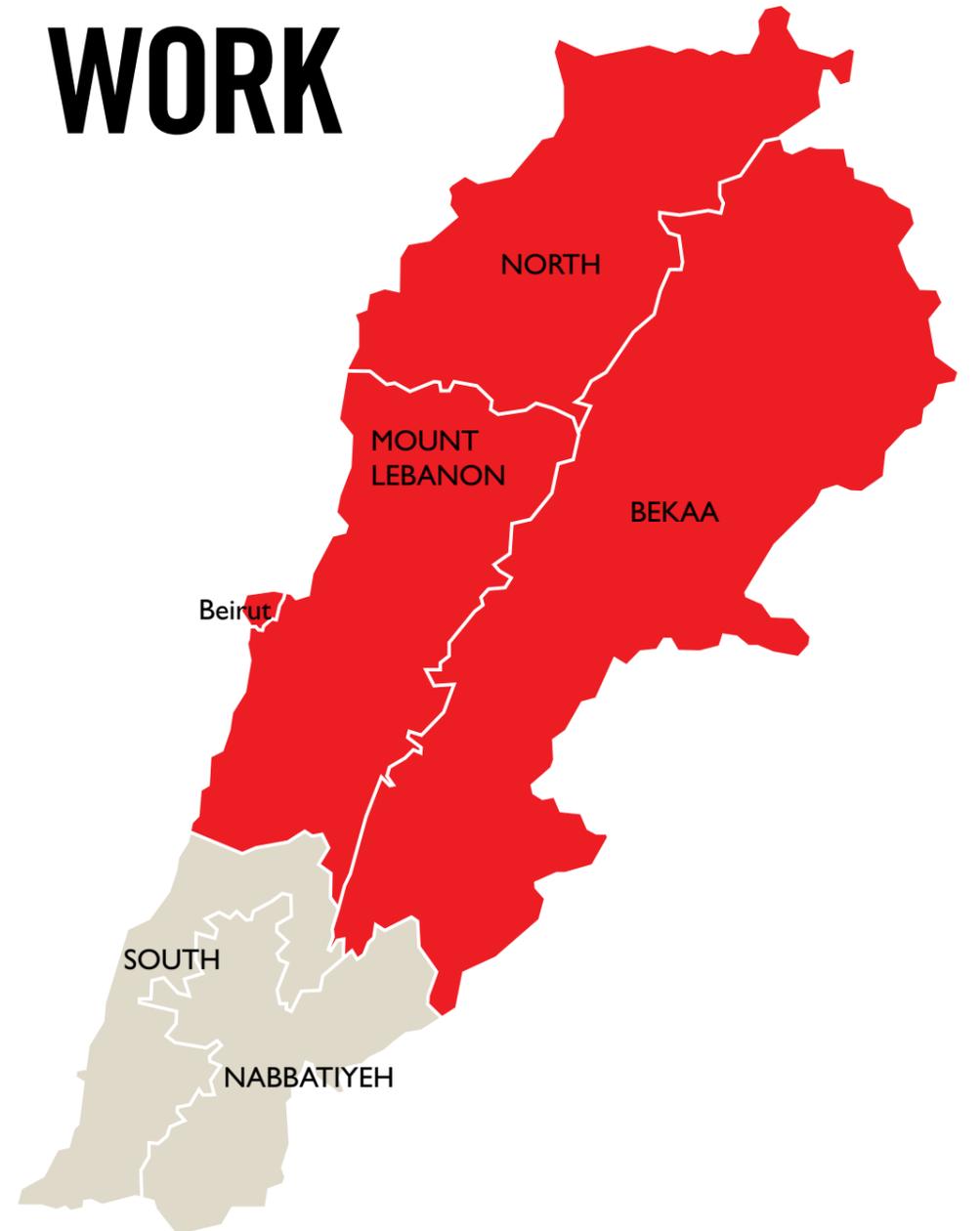
Testimonies in the report are told by children and families who benefitted from Save the Children's direct humanitarian support. They give voice to the vulnerable and highlight real stories of their lives.

Ian Rodgers
Country Director
Save the Children Lebanon





WHERE WE WORK



WHAT WE DID IN 2015



**A BOOK AND A PEN
FOR ALL**

With the firm belief that education is a basic right that every child should be able to attain, we have expanded our activities and improved the quality of education programmes to allow school-age children to enjoy adequate educational opportunities.

In 2015, Save the Children Lebanon continued to play a leading role in supporting formal and non-formal education, through collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the implementation of innovative programmes that directly address children's educational needs.

With the outset of the school year 2015-2016, our Back to School campaign was launched in the Bekaa Valley, in Tripoli and in Akkar in the North of Lebanon, to support the enrolment of Syrian children in public schools, either in morning or afternoon shifts. Tuition and transport fees were covered through the programme in order to support children in accessing the formal education sector.

FORMAL EDUCATION

Save the Children Lebanon helped 29,028 Syrian children enrol or continue their education in public schools for the 2015-2016 academic year, backed by solid outreach and community-monitoring activities.

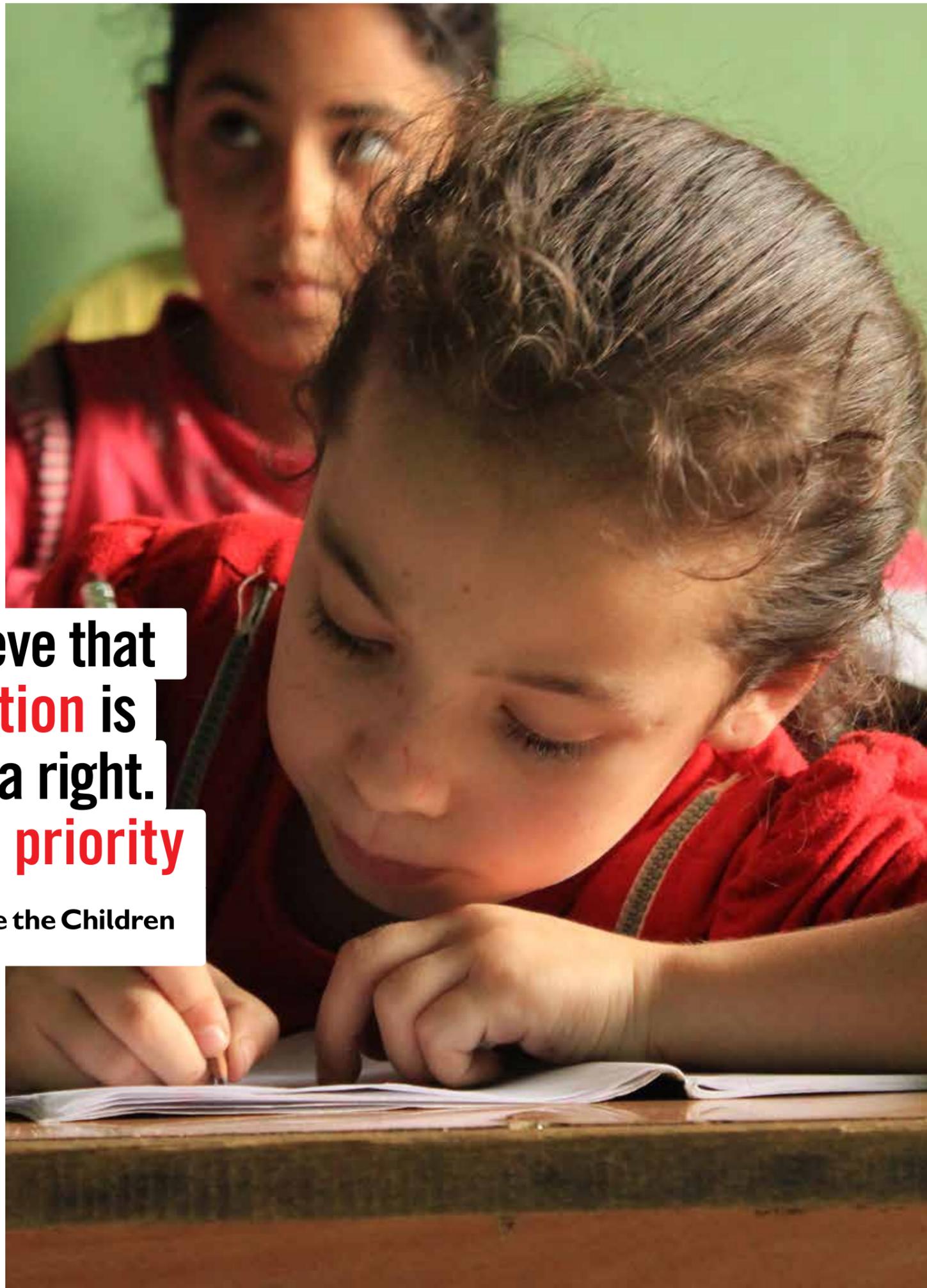
Additionally, two public schools were rehabilitated and maintenance to water and sanitation facilities was undertaken.

Save the Children also approached parents through positive parenting sessions, with the aim to strengthen community capacity to respond to education needs, an initiative that opened parents' eyes to the importance of education and keeping children in school.

**We believe that
education is
not just a right.
It is a top priority**



Save the Children



NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

For those who didn't get the chance to join public schools, there was still an opportunity to learn, as Save the Children Lebanon launched several non-formal programmes in Mount Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley and the North.

The programme targeted out-of-school children aged nine and over and focused on teaching math and Arabic using materials that follow the Lebanese curriculum, with French taught as a foreign language. The main objective is to give those who had missed out on learning earlier a chance to catch up on the level they should be reaching at their age.

A total of 119 non-formal education classrooms were set up across the country, providing 7,388 children with the required competencies to re-enrol in formal schools. Teachers enhanced their teaching skills as they were trained on positive discipline, multi-grade teaching and classroom management. Children also received school supplies.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (ECCD)

Responding to the overlooked needs of preschool-aged children (3-5 years), Save the Children Lebanon extended its Early Childhood Care and Development programme (ECCD), to reach out to 1,649 children, who attended community-based activities.

Through this programme, children acquired preschool learning, protection and psychological wellbeing to boost their physical and cognitive development and prepare them for school.



SAVE THE 2015 NUMBERS



29,029
Children enrolled in public school.



13,196
Students received school supplies.



7,000
Children participated in awareness-raising sessions.



615
Youths supported to attend vocational schools.



16,000
Students reached through ALPs.



119
Non-formal classrooms set up.



1,649
Children in ECCD activities.

FIRST TO ARRIVE



“One night, Kassem had toothache and couldn’t sleep. I asked him what was wrong and, in spite of his pain, he didn’t answer. It was that moment when I knew he had a serious problem.

It all started back in Syria and didn’t stop here. He gets scared whenever he hears fireworks or any loud noise, or when he sees the police. He stops talking and suddenly becomes aggressive.

The teacher has told me he has improved a lot. He now knows how to write, read and do his homework. I can see huge improvements myself.

He is certainly better. He used to be isolated and would not talk to anyone. The teacher is encouraging him to interact with kids.

I am happy for him. There is a big difference since he started in this [ECCD] centre.

When they opened this class, he used to stay at the doorstep. Now, he arrives before the teacher. He even waits for her. He is the first to attend each morning and last to leave.”

Kassem’s mother



**PROTECTION
FROM HARM**



A safer world for children



Fighting all forms of neglect and abuse is at the heart of our work. Our commitment to protect the most vulnerable children is unquestionable. Over the past year, Save the Children expanded its reach to children in need, with great emphasis on child protection services.

An all-inclusive psychosocial support programme was implemented aiming to tackle the roots of violence against children, through the integration of different curriculum, such as "Child Resilience" and "Safe You and Safe Me". In total, nearly 10,000 boys and girls between the ages of 3-17 benefitted from the child-friendly programme. The aim was to strengthen their resilience and empower them for the years ahead.

Child protection sessions were meanwhile held for 2,575 caregivers to enrich their knowledge about the subject, adopting the special Positive Discipline in Every Day Parenting methods.

We have also rushed to support children who experienced different types of disasters, extending special care and opening customised child-friendly spaces in which they can play, express their feelings and speak about their dreams. These spaces helped build their confidence and overcome their difficulties and traumas. They did so with freedom and joy.

SAVE THE 2015 NUMBERS



71,000
Children reached in Child Protection activities.



9,998
Children in psychological support programmes



2,575
Caregivers attended sessions.

A TRIP TO SAFETY



"Samer was born with a disability. He had a defect in the spine that impeded his natural growth. He underwent a surgery and we would consistently go see the neurologist.

The tragedy of his brothers who was killed in a car crash deeply affected him. He misses him as they were together all the time. Save the Children's [child protection] activities have helped him improve psychologically. He has been attending the

Child Friendly Space activities conducted by the organisation for few months now. We can see the difference clearly.

His psychological state, however, has improved a lot. He plays and sings and learns. When he returns, he tells me what he did at Save the Children's tent all day. We are happy that he knows how to count and write his name."

Samer's father



**GIVING POVERTY
A GOOD FIGHT**



**Combatting poverty so children
have a chance to prosper**



Save the Children

Millions of children are affected by poverty around the world, and Lebanon is no exception. Eradicating poverty might still be a long shot at this stage, but at Save the Children, we believe that it is an indispensable requirement to eliminate impoverishment among children and their communities.

In 2015, we took yet another giant stride to do that.

A- SHELTER

**Every child has the right to
live in a safe shelter**



Save the Children

Accommodating an increasing number of refugees in Lebanon is one of the biggest challenges the country faces. Limited options and the lack of enough spaces added to an already-existing housing problem.

Save the Children worked in 2015 on a strategy to improve conditions of sub-standard shelters through different assistance packages, catering for over 62,000 people, including 33,500 children, living in tough circumstances.

Winterisation:

During the winter season, we provided winterisation assistance to nearly 53,000 individuals across Lebanon, reducing health vulnerabilities associated with climatic exposure whilst also addressing issues related to privacy and security.

Temporary Shelters:

Save the Children has supported those who don't have a shelter or are living with other families. In total 2,630 people- many of whom were victims of fire, flooding or eviction- were supported to find a quick-fix solution.

Rehabilitation:

Projects were carried out to rehabilitate and improve basic housing conditions at below-standard shelters, where children were exposed to harsh weather conditions. Rehabilitation works were applied across hundreds of unfinished houses, bringing protection and security of tenure to over 4,666 individuals, including over 2,500 children.

Save the Children has also made sure the risk of abrupt eviction was also reduced, through occupancy free-of-charge agreements between landlords and tenants for 12 month duration.





SAVE THE 2015 NUMBERS



33,589

Children reached in shelter programmes.



52,849

Individuals received winter assistance.



2,630

Beneficiaries from emergency shelter assistance.



4,666

Individuals benefited from rehabilitation.

No more snakes



“This house was a makeshift room when we moved around three years ago. We built a room that was basically nothing like a place where humans would live.

The room was infested with reptiles and rodents. You would see a snake slipping around or get a sting from a wasp. I took my wife to the hospital after she was once bitten by a centipede. I was worried about the kids. They would have insects hidden in their clothes.

When winter came, we were completely exposed to rains and storms. Plastic sheets and bags didn't help. I went to Save the Children office and sought help. Thankfully, their response was instant.

We now have two rooms, a small kitchen and a bathroom. It surely feels safer. We have also been exempted from rent for a year.”

Hadi, 30

B- CASH ASSISTANCE

Direct support helps those in massive need get on with their life



Our direct cash support continues to expand to reach vulnerable families. Meeting basic needs and providing more effective livelihood opportunities are an integral part of our mission.

We continued to lead the Lebanon Cash Consortium (LCC), which brings together six international NGOs to deliver multi-purpose,

monthly cash assistance to around 18,000 households across all regions.

The support has evidently helped beneficiaries get on with their life, offering them an essential option to secure nutritional needs and provide protection for their children.

SAVE THE 2015 NUMBERS



17,946

Households benefitted from cash assistance.



175

USD dollars transferred to each household every month.



END OF THE MONTH



"For the days my husband worked, he used to bring us some food, but when he didn't, we would sleep with empty tummies.

Imagine how we lived; no food, no heater, no stable tent. It was literally living in hell. We were hopeless and were waiting to die.

When I received a call that we would be receiving cash assistance nine months ago, I couldn't believe it. I started to cry. I went straight away to the centre to receive the card, I was quite relieved.

People spend \$175 on a meal at a fancy restaurant, but we manage to live off \$75 for the whole month.

But we are really grateful. Before receiving the cash assistance, we wouldn't eat meat for the whole year. Now, we manage to have meat once a month."

Nisreen, 27



**A PURE DROP
IN A RUNNING RIVER**

Because **safe water** is safe life, children should be able to access clean water, and **good sanitation and hygiene**



Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) was one of the sectors covered by Save the Children on a large scale in 2015, as water and hygiene needs became more critical for a growing population.

Life-saving interventions were made among refugee and host communities, with a total of 208,331 individuals- including 107,199 children- reached in the process.

WASH activities included community-oriented projects to secure access to safe water in the Bekaa Valley and Akkar in the North, through the extension of water networks and the rehabilitation of pumping stations. Sanitation facilities were also constructed in informal settlements, and water chlorination stations were renovated.

To raise the public awareness on the necessity of adapting the best hygiene practices, Save the Children held a series of hygiene promotion sessions among different communities. Community Health Promoters were also encouraged to conduct similar sessions in their own community.

As Lebanon struggled with waste management dilemma, Save the Children intervened to support local municipalities in the worst-affected areas. Garbage bins were distributed in several towns across the North, benefitting around 88,900 individuals.



SAVE THE 2015 NUMBERS



208,331
People benefited from WASH.



2000
Water tanks distributed.



200
Informal settlements reached.



1,102
Latrines built.



55,000
Children attended hygiene promotion sessions.



273
Drainage kits distributed.

WATER FOR ALL USES



“For almost four years, we had to buy water or depend on non governmental organisations that would truck water here. On other occasions, we would go fill water from the spring, which you had to walk for 20 minutes to reach. It was a hassle, especially when children were involved. It was dangerous.

Later on, we noticed that waterborne diseases started to spread among kids. They fell ill with diarrhoea, typhoid and skin diseases

such as scabies. We found out that water was contaminated.

Save the Children came to assess the situation here. And they extended support to construct a water network in the village. The project was completed two months ago. Since then, drinking water has reached almost every house.”

Ahmed, father of seven

PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE



A- FOOD SECURITY

Securing food needs is an unquestionable, fundamental right



Save the Children continued to play a major role in securing the basic food needs for vulnerable families in Lebanon. We continued to partner with the World Food Programme to deliver food assistance through the provision of e-vouchers redeemable in local markets.

The programme is effectively helping 4,410 individuals buy essential food items.

SAVE THE 2015 NUMBERS



4,410

Individuals received e-vouchers.



2,266

Children benefitted from direct food assistance.



1,309

Households being supported.



B- LIVELIHOODS

We help families earn a living, thrive and get inspired



Save the Children has strived to support people to improve their living conditions and generate a source of income. In a country where job opportunities aren't considerable, competition is tough.

And there it was where Community Support Projects (CSPs) were essential. Programmes were expanded to engage vulnerable communities in activities to create small businesses in a variety of sectors.



Lebanese and Syrian labourers took part in 15 CSPs implemented across nine communities in Akkar in the North and the Bekaa Valley. The projects focussed on overhauling WASH infrastructure, which was carried out in coordination with local municipalities.

It was a window of opportunity that generated temporary income for vulnerable unskilled populations, benefitting communities in more than one way.

Young people were also given a chance they deserve, as Save the Children endeavoured to increase their employability chances through skill-enhancing and knowledge-building programmes.

Two main approaches, "Youth to Adolescent" and "Youth to Youth," were adopted to empower this category and help them reach job market through enrolling them in life-skills training.

Another scheme that helped improve the livelihood of more than 475 women was the Home-Based Skills Development (HBSD) programme, which engaged women from both communities, host and refugees, in micro-enterprises based on their own capacities.

Having received entrepreneurial training and financial support, the women mixed up and worked in teams to produce food items that they were able to market among their communities. The successful programme helped participants invest in their time and generate a new source of income to support their families.

SAVE THE 2015 NUMBERS



1,248

Unskilled labourers took part in projects.



9

Communities covered in Bekaa and Akkar.



476

Women participated in HBSD programme.



98%

Participants say they obtained life skills.



209

Youths completed apprenticeship programme.

The efforts that give fruit



Jinan:

"I worked with Ranim on pickling over four days. We pickled cucumber, broccoli, and carrot.

What we always followed were old, traditional methods of pickling. When Save the Children told about efficient and healthy ways, we could see the difference.

We sold out almost everything we produced—around 25 kgs of pickled vegetables and fruits. We packed ten jars in total, only three are left now. People liked what we did. They say pickles taste better.

We are happy with the success of this micro enterprise, and hope more opportunities will open up in the future. Maybe new horizons will open and the market gets bigger. We could start supplying restaurants, you never know."

Ranim, Jihan's neighbour:

"I took part in this programme for two purposes; learning something new and useful, and helping my ill husband in generating some income. I have three kids who go to school, so it would be great to invest in my time and make this source more sustainable.

There are a lot of people who do pickles in the village, but after attending Save the Children's training sessions, we found out that many things were being done the wrong way. So, over three weeks, we worked according to the consultant's instructions during the training we received beforehand.

We marketed through word of mouth—each buyer would tell relatives and friends, and they would come asking about what we have. When we tell them about the process and quality, they ask for more products."



**WE ARE ALL EARS:
THE CHILD RIGHTS
GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME**

Save the Children places a great importance on encouraging children and young people to speak up about their rights, delivering a message to those who have the power to change. We partnered with civil society organisations to build the capacity of municipal councils and Palestinian Popular Committees to adopt child rights friendly practices and policies.

Through the Child Led Data Collection methodology, over 200 children and young people in Lebanon were able to identify child rights violations and challenges that directly relate to fears and concerns in their life. Around 2,500 children shared dreams and hopes about their need for better healthcare, education, security and safety. A list of demands was later taken to local municipalities to demand an instant action.

Moreover, Save the Children cooperated with Manara, a network of 10 civil society organisations from a number of Arab countries aiming to amplify have children's voices and make them heard on the national, regional and global level. Child-led data collection was also conducted and the findings were highlighted in national and regional events gathering stakeholders who emphasized on the importance of child participation in decision making



Giving children a voice



SAVE THE 2015 NUMBERS



200
Children and youth conducted research on child rights.



2,500
Children gave their opinion about their lives.

Listening to all children



Nadine, 18:

"The group asked children what they think their demands and concerns were. Then, we drew up a list of child rights and demands and shared them with the municipalities.

Safety was a top priority; children need safety and security. They used to be afraid of going out because of the lack of security.

We agreed that we would demand something tangible and sustainable, and told the municipality that we needed a dedicated security hotline so people can call whenever they are at risk. We also asked for an increase in the number of security personnel, and had that implemented.

It was a great experience. Thanks to Social Mouvement and Save the Children organisations, I feel a better person who can speak about what I achieved."

John, 22:

"We found that children don't have child-friendly spaces to play. There was a garden that wasn't suitable for kids- even dangerous. We tried to work on that and have the park replenished to suit them.

We coordinated with youth committees inside municipalities, which were quite active in the area. We unified our work and went to the municipality with credibility.

The children felt that their voice was being heard, that someone is championing their rights- a link with the authorities."

"We save children's lives. We fight for their rights. We help them fulfil their potential"



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