



THEIR WORDS, OUR ACTIONS



Save the Children

LEBANON
2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

and protection. In 2017 we reached over 265,000 people, including 102,000 children, across the country. I'm proud of this achievement, but I also realise that it's only a small contribution to a massive, complex situation – the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan aims to help over 2.8 million vulnerable people, including 1.5 million Syrian refugees, nearly 300,000 Palestinian refugees, and 1 million of the poorest Lebanese. This means nearly half the population living in Lebanon is in need of support.

While those numbers are daunting, I know that by working in partnership with the Government of Lebanon, with international donors, with national civil society, and with local communities, we can make a difference. We must continue to support families affected by this crisis until the war in Syria is over, and the country begins to recover, rebuild, and become a safe place for children once again. Only when Syria is truly safe for children – when they can not only survive, but can also grow, develop and thrive there – only then will this crisis finally come to an end. And only when I, as a parent, would send my own child to Syria, only then will I feel that it is safe for any child.

Allison Zelkowitz

Country Director

Save the Children in Lebanon

My career with Save the Children has spanned four countries – Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand and now Lebanon – and over 10 years. But it was only in 2017 that Save the Children's vision and mission really hit home for me because I, too, became a parent. When my son was born in February, I finally started to understand the depth of love one feels for our children, and my passion for helping all children thrive doubled.

As a parent, as well as the Country Director for Save the Children, it breaks my heart to know that hundreds of thousands of families in Lebanon – Syrian, Palestinian, and vulnerable Lebanese – are struggling to provide healthy food for their children, to ensure they have a safe place to live, and to send them to school. Survival, protection, and education are the most basic of children's rights, yet so many families are faced with impossible choices: *Should I send my 10-year-old to work so I can pay off our debt? Should I have my 15-year-old daughter marry so we have one less mouth to feed? Should my eldest child stay home so the youngest can go to school?*

No parent should be forced to make such choices.

Recognising this, Save the Children is working to help families throughout Lebanon via holistic programmes that address families' needs for shelter, clean water, and livelihood opportunities, along with children's rights to education



ABOUT 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 at family, school and community** levels.

Save the Children Lebanon Country Office, through **three regional field offices**, delivers comprehensive interventions that target children across all communities.

With approximately **1.5 million Syrian 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 populations have coincided with increased attention dedicated to equally vulnerable Lebanese families.

Save the Children works to help the Government of Lebanon to **improve systems and infrastructure** and increase the chance for children to live in a **safe and prosperous environment**.

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.



Education
52,799



Child Protection
48,743



Child Rights Governance
6,958



Child Poverty
112,060



Other Services
(Cash Consortium)
69,355



Health and Nutrition
18,802

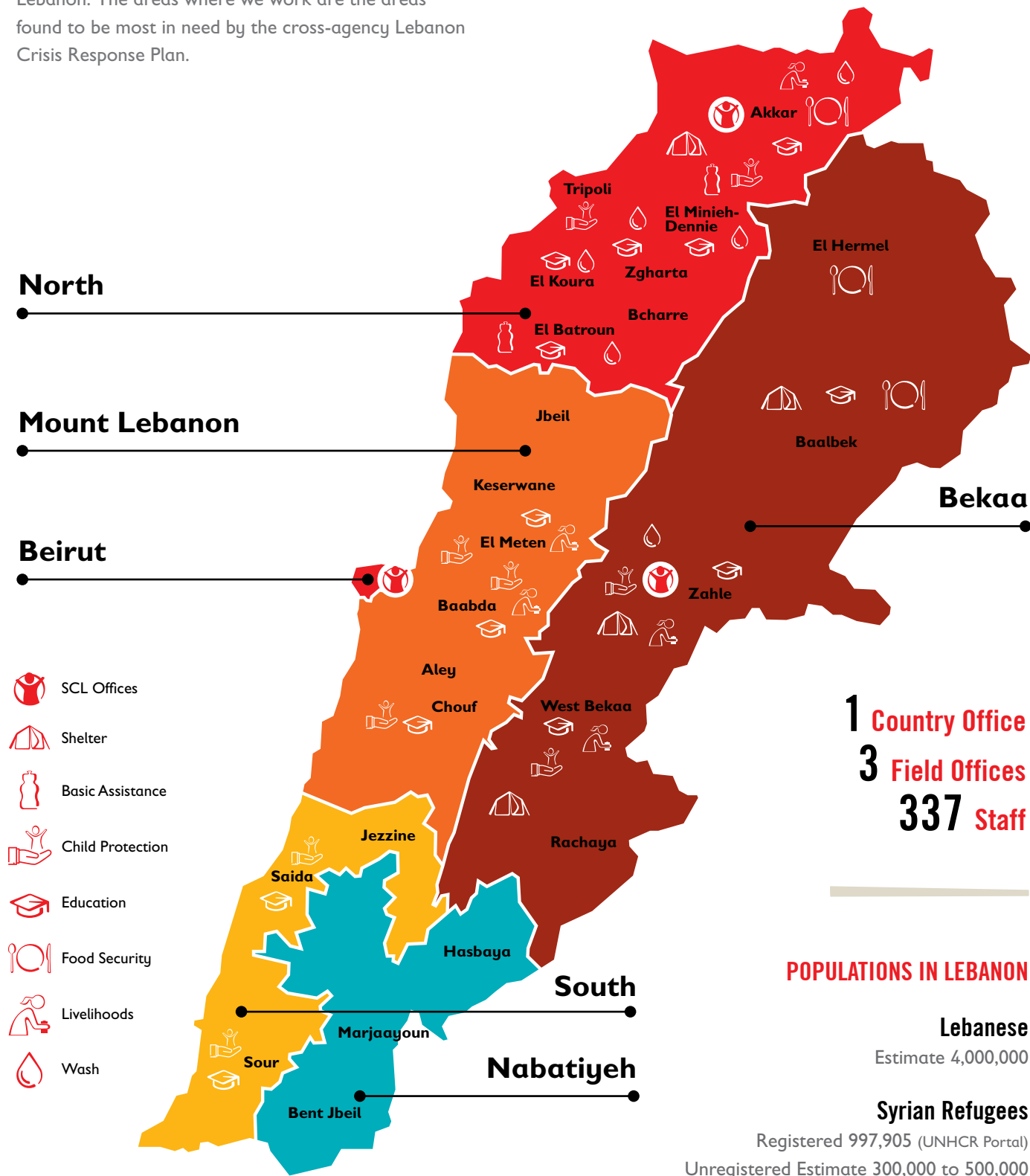
Total Number of Children Served
102,150

Total Number of People Served
265,404

THE NUMBERS: PEOPLE SERVED

THE LENGTH AND BREADTH

Save the Children's programmes are spread out across Lebanon. The areas where we work are the areas found to be most in need by the cross-agency Lebanon Crisis Response Plan.



POPULATIONS IN LEBANON

Lebanese
Estimate 4,000,000

Syrian Refugees
Registered 997,905 (UNHCR Portal)
Unregistered Estimate 300,000 to 500,000

Palestine Refugees
Registered 469,555 (UNRWA Annual Report)
Palestine Refugees from Syria 32,274 (UNRWA Annual Report)



THEIR WORDS,
OUR ACTIONS



**NO TIME
TO WAIT**

In 2017, Save the Children in Lebanon responded to three main emergencies that risked the lives and jeopardised the well-being of thousands of children and families.

EMERGENCY 1

When: July 2017

Where: Haouch Mandara, Qab Elias, the Bekaa Valley

What happened: A fire ignited by a cooking stove swept through an informal settlement for Syrian refugees, causing one death and three injuries and destroying 100 tents.

Save the Children's response: Hours after the fire had been put out, Save the Children's Shelter team, with support from UNHCR, stepped in to remove the debris and overhaul the site. Over the next seven days, tireless efforts helped rebuild new units and restore a sense of normalcy after the disaster.

"The last few days have been difficult," said father-of-seven Jihad*, who moved to Qab Elias settlement only two months ago. "We have lost our possessions and documents and were left without a shelter. But we feel lucky to stay alive. We are also happy with the support we received to build the new tent."

The Qab Elias Fire Response



170 New arrival kits



3 Medium-repair kits



10 Drainage kits provided



537 People affected



109 Families supported to rebuild their shelters

EMERGENCY 2

When: October 2017

Where: Hadath, Mount Lebanon

What happened: Up to 75 Syrian refugee families were evicted following an order by the local council. In addition to those who left immediately, up to 6,000 people, including 3,200 children residing in the neighbourhood were served with short notices to vacate their houses.

Save the Children's response: An assessment was carried out to ensure that families moving out have managed to find an alternative place. A media statement was released to highlight children's right to safety and warned against abrupt moves that could put their physical and psychological well-being at risk. Working closely with the Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children referred cases for legal assistance.

Hadath Eviction



75 Families evicted immediately



6,000 People ordered to leave overall



3,200 Children affected



EMERGENCY 3

When: December 2017

Where: Riyak, the Bekaa Valley

What happened: 147 families received notices to vacate an informal settlement around the Rayak Airbase for security reasons.

Save the Children's response: As families left their tents in search for a place to live, Save the Children's teams, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and humanitarian partners, worked around the holiday season's hours to locate a new site and prepare the ground for families and children. Two days into the New Year, 66 families were helped to resettle, as a new road was paved and foundation laid. Children who lost schooling as a result were referred to nearby schools and services. Precautions against fire and emergencies were also taken into consideration as the new structures were designed.

Riyak Eviction



74 Families evicted



323 People affected



72 Tents installed at the new settlement



66 Families relocated to a new site



FUTURES IN THE MAKING



REALISING OUR BREAKTHROUGHS

The breakthroughs that Save the Children aspires to realise by 2030 are:

SURVIVE
No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday

LEARN
All children learn from a quality basic education

BE PROTECTED
Violence against children is no longer tolerated

Practically speaking, these breakthroughs can only happen through a complete chain of what we call the Theory of Change, which represents the pillars on which our services rest.

THEORY OF CHANGE: OUR MODEL FOR INSPIRING BREAKTHROUGHS FOR CHILDREN WE WILL...

...BE THE INNOVATOR
Develop and prove evidence-based, replicable breakthrough solutions for problems facing children.

BUILD PARTNERSHIPS
Collaborate with children, civil society organisations, communities, governments and the private sector to share knowledge, influence others and build capacity to ensure children's rights are met.

...BE THE VOICE
Advocate and campaign for better practices and policies to fulfil children's rights and to ensure their voices are heard (particularly most marginalised or those living in poverty).

...ACHIEVE RESULTS AT SCALE
Support effective implementation of best practices, programmes and policies for children, leveraging our knowledge to ensure sustainable impact at scale.

OUR SERVICES

In Lebanon, a country of just under six million, 1.5 million Lebanese live below the poverty line of \$3.84 a day. Of those, 470,000 are children. Among Syrian and Palestinian refugees, poverty affects 76 percent and 65 percent of both populations respectively (LCRP 2018 update). More than 50 percent of school-age children are out of school while food insecurity remains critically high as income earning opportunities continue to shrink.

Children are at the centre of everything we do. We continue to reaffirm our duty to serve all vulnerable communities and children, wherever they are.

I. EDUCATION

The Convention on the Rights of the Child makes education the key to children's development through all stages of childhood. Article 28 demands that primary education be made compulsory and available free to all. It also stipulates that measures should be taken to encourage regular attendance at school and reduce drop-out rates. With that dynamic in mind, we addressed the educational need of children in Lebanon.



GIRLS' EDUCATION

Girls are more at risk of remaining out of school. Many girls attending afternoon shifts don't feel safe returning home in the dark, while others are forced to marry before they have reached their 18th birthday. Faced with these challenges, education often ends.

Supported by Save the Children, at the Kayany Foundation school in Bekaa, refugee girls are empowered to make the best of their futures. They come to learn the Lebanese curriculum and acquire life skills. The school opened a morning shift to encourage girls to enrol.

Jana, of Year 9, told that she and her friends "are here to fight for our future." This fight comes with academic armour. Up to 150 girls learn about a range of subjects, converse in English, and are trained in computer skills. Positive thinking, as Jana said, is the only way to go about it.



165 girls between 14-18 years study at the 'Malala' Kayany Foundation school in Bekaa

Unlike many second shift refugee schools, the Kayany school offers an official certificate of graduation for those who complete Year 9, having been licensed to teach the Lebanese curriculum.

who have missed out on years of school and find themselves learning the letters with classmates half their age.

Fatima, 12, expressed her wishes as she spent a full day in the classroom for the first time in her life, "My biggest hope is to join the formal school and learn how to read and write."

OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

Lebanon has made giant strides in getting more children into school. In addition to providing free education at public schools, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education opened 376 second shifts for Syria refugee children to attend in the afternoon. However, according to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan update, there are over a million children of all backgrounds in need of education assistance. Of those, nearly 50 percent remain out of school due to a number of barriers that include absence of transport methods, language difficulties and child labour.

To target this vulnerable group, Save the Children set up Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN) classes where any child, of any age, who is yet to learn how to read and write can come and start from scratch. Established at private schools and community centres in Beirut, Mt Lebanon, the North and the South, the classes ran for five hours a day. Children learned from textbooks developed to resemble the Lebanese official curriculum. Save the Children approaches boost children's morale and confidence, particularly for those



1,007 children attended BLN classes for five hours a day and five days a week



The academic cycle runs for eight months



Children are then referred to public schools to undergo entry tests



EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Success at school hinges on the education received outside of it. The first years of a child's life will decide how steady their development is once they join school.

Official figures in Lebanon show that only 31 percent of schools in Lebanon provide Early Childhood Education. To bridge the gap, Save the Children increased the scale, scope and focus of its non-formal education, prioritising Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programmes so children can get the best start to life.

In spaces ornamented with colourful paintings and shapes, children between 3-6 years enjoy the safety, friendliness and inclusiveness of the learning atmosphere. The activities help children interact together and develop. They are prepared to make the transition to the first year at school as smooth as possible.

At over 20 ECCD centres, opened in Bekaa, North Lebanon, Beirut and Mount Lebanon, children learn the letters and numbers and take part in a range of exercises that develop their motor skills as well as their linguistic and cognitive skills. The activities are delivered using different approaches, including Emergent Literacy and Math (ELM) and Healing and Education through the Arts (HEART), which help children share their feelings through artistic expression.



More than 4,000 children took part in our ECCD classes



73% of targeted children showed more than 30 percent improvement in development and learning at the end of the school year



HOMEWORK SUPPORT GROUPS

Not all children have a chance to go to school. For some children, there is no bus to take them to school, others find it too difficult to learn in French. Such hurdles, which often sound trivial, shatter many a dream.

In 2017, we made sure that those dreams were not short-lived. With support from local communities and volunteers, we opened Homework Support Group classes that had one primary target: making sure that children remained at school.

Delivered by qualified teachers, the classes helped bridge the gaps. For two hours every day, children arrived to read French passages, solve equations and prepare for exams. Remie, who attended our classes in North Lebanon, said, "French is difficult for us. So they help us do the homework and prepare for the next day."



More than 41,000 schoolchildren took part in homework support activities across Lebanese villages



61% of the children showed improvement in learning development



WORKING WITH PARENTS

It all starts with the family. In 2017 and across our Education activities, we made sure that parents and guardians were engaged at all levels to address learning, protection and development needs of children at risk of dropping out of school.

Parent Community Groups were established to promote positive parenting approaches among those providing care at home.

The aim was to foster a safe environment at home and support children to continue their education. That happened through highlighting the long-term benefits of applying gentle guidance as opposed to punishment while raising a child.



10,677 parents and caregivers reached through Education activities across Lebanon



94 percent of parents demonstrated improved positive discipline parenting skills through adopting new parenting techniques



II. CHILD PROTECTION

Violence, child marriage and child labour remain among the worst violations of child rights in Lebanon, so keeping children safe from abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect is at the heart of our mission.



According to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, the use of violent discipline at home is widespread among 57 percent of Lebanese families and 65 percent of Syrian refugees. Meanwhile, children continue to take to the streets and farms to help earn an income for their families, leaving them exposed to violence and exploitation in their fight to win bread.

Girls, of all categories, are at risk of being married off half a decade earlier than they are physically or emotionally ready. Early marriage is often a result of attempts to reduce the economic burden on the family's shoulder and hopes to protect their girl's future. Data shows that the phenomenon is not exclusive to one category of people, although it is far more widespread among Syrian refugee communities, where 27 percent of girls aged between 15 and 19 are currently in union.

Over the course of the past year, our programmes sharpened focus on those trends and stepped up the fight for every childhood. We rolled out new plans to support children individually and through communities.

Children engaged in the worst forms of child labour were helped to improve their conditions, reduce long working hours and rejoin schools. Those who were the sole breadwinners in the family were supported through cash packages as well as Case Management.

Our community based psychosocial support programmes helped children build long-term resilience.

Through focused Psychosocial Support interventions, delivered directly and through partners, we targeted children who needed emotional support to overcome distress and traumas and discuss their feelings. Children were welcomed at our spaces across the country as well as through mobile and community-based approaches.

Caregivers and parents were also engaged in support groups and parenting programmes which aimed to provide psychosocial support as well address issues of physical and humiliating punishment which continue to be a concern in Lebanon. Awareness-raising sessions reached out to communities to warn of the many risks



associated with child marriage, particularly when decisions are taken based on financial necessities.

Dana, a potential child bride of the age of 16, told her parents that she didn't want to get married after hearing one of her neighbours talk in one of the sessions of the physical and emotional complications she had to contend with following her premature union with a man 10 years her senior.

In order to support the child protection system in the country, we built the capacity of local actors on case management. Community based child protection work continues to be key in our approach to bridge local and national systems.

This was done by engaging individuals, civil society as well as local level government institutions such as Municipalities and Social Development Centres.

NATIONAL EFFORTS

Save the Children was selected to lead the Interim Care Assessment which looked into residential care institutions providing interim and alternative care for children who are at risk of child protection violations. Thanks to the cooperation from other institutions, the findings of the assessment represent the first step to provide evidence for future advocacy work and support programmes, looking at appropriate care for children in Lebanon in collaboration with Ministry of Social Affairs. The ultimate aim is to support quality alternative care measures and give children a chance to live in a safe family environment.

In the meantime, Save the Children continued to be a key case management actor, and through its relationships with communities and other actors was able to identify and receive referrals for the most high-risk cases. These activities were tailored to support unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) including community-based care work and specific support to host families of UASC.



419 children supported against the worst forms of child labour



1,868 children protected from violence through direct intervention



CHILD POVERTY



III. CHILD POVERTY

A. FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Poverty in Lebanon is rampant. The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan says that, among nearly 4.5 million Lebanese, 1.5 million people are living below the poverty line, of whom a third are children. The rates are higher, and just as concerning, among refugee populations. Up to 65 percent of Palestinian refugees and 89 percent of Syrian refugees are living on less than USD 3.84 a day.

Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) falls in line with Save the Children's commitment to lifting families out of poverty so they can better support their children to survive, learn and be protected. In 2017, we worked to improve livelihoods and ensure people had stable and increased access to new opportunities.

CHILD SENSITIVE FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS (FSL)

In 2017, we started off by helping parents and caregivers to improve their economic conditions and alter the desperate living conditions in which their children lived. Through enhancing the economic stability of households, we made a real change on the daily reality



of caregivers and their children. The project provided case management services to 276 at-risk children, out of whom 268 received child protection cash assistance. In addition, awareness raising and livelihoods support were two essential components of the project.





CASH FOR WORK

Short-term employment was provided to vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian women and men through a cash for work scheme, through the construction and overhaul of 16 community assets. These assets supported rural livelihoods, contributed to disaster risk reduction, and improved community hygiene and sanitation facilities. Up to 314 women in Bekaa and North Lebanon were also supported to build their skills to produce food items as part of the Home-Based Skills Development project, which equipped the ladies with the efficient techniques of healthy and hygienic production, entrepreneurship and marketing. Many women, like Hamida and her friends, went on to form teams and sell their products online. “It made us feel productive. We have started our own brand and hope to extend our clientele.”



18 community assets overhauled



314 women attended and completed the Life Skills training



5,394 people supported to generate income through community-support projects

B. SHELTER

Shelter programmes in Lebanon are designed to improve protection and resilience of Syrian refugees and host communities and respond to the acute needs through various interventions. The focus is to ensure the crisis-affected population can meet their basic shelter needs and are not forced to rely on negative coping strategies, in addition to strengthening social cohesion.

VITAL REHABILITATION WORKS

During 2017, the shelter teams in Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, Beirut and North Lebanon provided humanitarian assistance to 87,378 unique individuals, including 51,120 children living in host communities and in informal tented settlements. This was achieved through shelter rehabilitation interventions, which saw the conversion of ramshackle structures and tents into inhabitable units, and minor repairs that provided important fixes that protected families and allowed more privacy.

Hoda*, whose three children slept in a roofless cottage for months, braced herself for a “winter like never before,” as the family spent a long dusty summer. The rehab intervention- windows and doors installed and a tin ceiling connected- secured the simple foundation that the family had been searching for. “To be able to close the door or turn the heating on just to feel a little bit of warmth is a simple pleasure we never thought we would enjoy.”



EFFICIENT TACTICS

Because urgent needs cannot wait, we shifted our form of shelter support towards efficient cash-based methods. Cash transfer programming has the potential to allow vulnerable communities to respond quickly to urgent needs, offering dignity, flexibility and choice to beneficiaries while supporting Lebanon’s small and large markets. Using smart cards and cash transfers, families gained independence to make their own judgement on what they need most. The move allowed them to turn from receivers to decision-makers.

In 2017, we trialled a cash for weatherproofing initiative, with an aim to test the success of delivering weatherproofing assistance through cash assistance, thus ensuring and increasing sustainability, decreasing costs, and creating a safer working environment for our shelter staff. The trial assisted 310 families living in informal settlements where 96% of the total beneficiary population reported using the full amount to buy the weatherproofing kit items that made their shelters more resistant to harsh weather conditions.

FIGHTING FLAMES

In 2017, fatal blazes engulfed buildings, residential shelters and informal settlements. The alarming increase in the frequency and impact of fire outbreaks made our response ever more critical.

Up to 14 deaths were recorded as a result of fire incidents in 2017. Sadly, 12 victims were children, including 11 under the age of five. Although the reasons varied, electrical hazards and wrong burning and cooking practices became more common. A fire ignited by a cook stove engulfed an informal settlement in Qab Elias, the Bekaa Valley, killing one person and leaving 100 families stranded.

Save the Children is a leader in fire prevention and response programmes in Lebanon. Leading on the development of a National Fire Prevention, Preparedness and Response Guideline, we worked to mitigate the risk of fire and carry out swift fire safety interventions to reduce the risks that could lead to tragic consequences. We introduced new practical firefighting items to vulnerable host and refugee communities, while our teams delivered training to ensure understanding of how to prevent and react to fires. In 2017, we supported more than 29,000 children and their families in Informal Settlement, residential and non-residential buildings with fire prevention equipment and fire mitigation awareness sessions.



80 percent increase in understanding the correct use of fire extinguishers among refugees



50 percent increase in fire identification awareness among informal settlement residents



29,000 individuals provided with fire prevention equipment and fire mitigation awareness sessions

C. WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE

It is a long-standing mystery that, for a country like Lebanon, rich of groundwater, springs and rivers, water shortage remains a chronic problem for thousands, even in areas with abundance of rainfall.

Lack of water resources doesn't only mean less supply for households. It can lead to the spread of water-borne diseases. For impoverished communities that can't afford to buy trucked water, there is the risk of compromising personal hygiene habits.

In 2017, we responded to intricate water scarcity and hygiene challenges that children faced in Bekaa and North villages. Our support came through providing hygiene and water quality awareness sessions for beneficiaries, solid waste management at household and community level and construction of water infrastructure projects to enhance water quality and water services in those areas.

OVERHAULING THE INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM

We embarked on seven large-scale infrastructure projects that will continue to run in 2018. In North

Lebanon, a 1000-square metre water reservoir was constructed to supply the village of Berkayel, which for decades relied on bottled and trucked water. Majdal and its neighbour Kherbet Daoud will also benefit from a 500-square metre reservoir and an 8-kilometre water network respectively. Debbabieh, near the Syrian border, will also enjoy fresh water supply through a new installation.

Meanwhile in central Bekaa, a solar system to generate power and increase the volume of pumped water was introduced in Qab Elias, a town of dense Lebanese and Syrian populations (around 65,000), while in Kfar Zabad, some 20 kilometres to the east, we broke ground for a new water well to supply 20,000 people with safe water. Al Rafid, western Bekaa, was also reached with an infrastructure.

Ihab, father to eight-month Jana, said, "having fresh water supplement helps us use the money with which we buy trucked water to buy milk and clothes for our child. We worry about Saturdays because it's the time when we have to choose between buying water or getting other essentials for the baby."



PROMOTING BEST PRACTICES

Fostering a culture of water conservation was part and parcel of our Water Sanitation and Hygiene approach. Our teams engaged schoolchildren and community members in conversations about the best practices to use, treat and appreciate water. Community-based awareness campaigns sought to explain the importance of waste management starting at family level. On a municipal level, we cooperated with local players to assist environmentally-friendly practices, such as sorting, and spread the knowledge on the health risks that the ongoing waste crisis posed.



1,256 households targeted in solid waste management awareness sessions



464 waste sorting bins distributed

IV. CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

Child Rights Governance is about monitoring child rights, advocating for better governance of those rights, and empowering children to make their voices heard. In 2017, children were able to take their struggle, demands and hopes to the nation, with a national My Voice Matters Too event that brought together an array of influencers and decision-makers representing governments, development agencies and human rights organisations.



After days of preparations, a group of nine children representing Lebanon, Syria and Palestine took to the podium to discuss three main issues: child participation, education and child protection. They highlighted the suffering of working children and those who miss out on school and shared a list of recommendations that the children of their age would like to see happening.

Those children are now ready to participate in the decision-making process, having developed sufficient knowledgeable about the child participation standards. This enables them to advocate against exploitative approaches and projects.



The conference was organised in collaboration with the Swedish Foreign Ministry and the Swedish Ambassador for Children and Armed Conflict, Gufran al-Nadaf. It was attended by the Lebanese ministers of

defence and social affairs and representatives from the ministries of education, social affairs, justice and labour, as well as stakeholders from UN agencies, the EU, international NGOs. The event was covered across a range of local and regional media outlets.

Meanwhile, under project targeting civil society organisations, Save the Children's partners in Algeria, NADA Network, and Lebanon, Nabaa, drafted a report focusing on child rights with child participation. Our partners in Yemen, SOUL and DS, conducted awareness raising sessions on child rights and child protection for 3,000 children and 3,000 families and community members affected by the war in Yemen.

On the other hand, awareness-raising activities on child rights and child participation targeting children and caregivers were rolled out in Beirut, Mount Lebanon as well as Bab al-Tabbaneh in Tripoli. A manual was developed and staff at Save the Children and other organisations were trained in order to deliver the sessions.

A mapping of child rights committees also commenced in order to establish a comprehensive overview of what type of committees are working on children rights issues. The aim of this mapping was also to assess the capacities of these committees to run capacity-building activities including trainings and provide advice with regard to the capacity gaps and what is needed to move forward with the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in local communities.

GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality has a long way to go in Lebanon, and that's why, for years, it has been central to our programming.

Through our current UN Women-funded project, Save the Children provides nine Community-Based Organisations with the support needed to work on gender equality, ensuring boys and men's engagement in partnership with girls and women. In addition to the sub-grant, we offered technical knowledge and mentoring that inspired a clear vision for our partners. In order to make this support available and consistent, Save the Children proposed strategies and approaches that included several components to ensure that the project was on track and to direct this investment and effort towards realising gender equality in Lebanon. These strategies include:

- 1 The sub-grant model (design, implementation, monitoring) strategy
- 2 The Networking and participation strategy
- 3 The approaches for making progress towards gender equality.



Through this intervention, Save the Children is committed to deliver gender transformative programmes that aim to directly address gender discrimination and promote gender equality. Our ambition is to ensure that no harm comes to children, and to advance our vision for a world where every girl and boy attains their equal right to survive, learn and be protected.



FUTURES IN THE MAKING

THEIR EDUCATION, OUR FUTURE

Futures in the face of uncertainty

There are just over two million children in Lebanon. Of those, a staggering 20 percent are out of education. The numbers, so vast and worrisome, often go unnoticed.

Expectedly, the proportions are higher among Syrian refugees. For every child who joins school, there is one still waiting. In spite of the laudable efforts of the Lebanese government, represented by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, more must be done to ensure all children in Lebanon can access quality education.

#TheirEducation_OurFuture

On 12 September 2017, Save the Children's Every Last Child campaign was officially launched in Lebanon, under the name Their Education, Our Future. As the name suggests, the campaign highlights the importance of education in the making of the future of our societies. The campaign calls for vulnerable children to access the basic right to education without any strings attached.

A one-minute launch [video](#) viewed by hundreds of thousands and shared across media outlets put the struggle without education into perspective. The video depicts the stark image of neglect that leaves children deprived of their right to education. The clip follows in 60 seconds the different stages of parallel lives led by an achieving girl on the one hand and an out-of-school child who ends up on the street on the

other. The launch video was followed by personal anecdotes from [sixteen](#) children and adults who shared their hopes and spoke out about hurdles that stop children from acquiring their fundamental right.

The campaign identified a set of avoidable barriers that stop children from going to school, including lack of sufficient spaces, lack of transport methods, demanding curriculum, language difficulties, overwhelming paperwork, bullying and violence, and lack of valid residency for refugee children.

#TheirEducation_OurFuture saw high level of engagement on media channels. In the three months that followed the launch, the campaign's content reached 5.1 million users in Lebanon and the region on Facebook. Children took to TV channels to share their stories with the wider world.

The campaign will continue throughout 2018 to highlight that education is a right for every child.

To keep abreast of our campaign activities, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

#TheirEducation_OurFuture: The numbers that count

 **Facebook reach: 5.1 million**

 **Twitter impressions: 330,000**

 **New Twitter followers: 500**

 **Media outlets covering the campaign in the first month: 30**

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Providing support to the most vulnerable is at the core of Save the Children's humanitarian mission, but there is much more that we do.

As we serve children and communities, we make sure that the communication doesn't stop there. In 2016, we broke the ground for a two-pronged Complaints and Referrals Management System, which allows those who need help, have a complaint or want to share information to talk directly to a member of Save the Children staff. A dedicated helpline opened in all areas to give them instant access.

Another innovative feature for the system was introduced in late 2017. A referral application for smartphones was developed by the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Unit (MEAL) to help staff share urgent cases directly from operation zones. The ultimate aim is to enhance the quality of service and ensure the fastest possible response.

In numbers: Phone-ins and referrals



11,008 requests for assistance or information received



2,692 cases were referred to partner organisations



40 centre and field staff trained on the new system



81 cases recorded on the referral application in the first month



OUR STAFF

As of December 2017, Save the Children employed 337 staff, including four expatriates. The staff members, in addition to 521 volunteers, work across services and programmes to provide much-needed support to vulnerable communities.

In October, Save the Children Lebanon's Country Director Allison Zerkowitz announced the monthly #CDAward to celebrate the achievements of our workers making a difference to thousands of lives. The awarded is provided for two main purposes; going "above and beyond" to achieve exceptional results and demonstrating innovation that leads to positive change.



OCTOBER

Leila Assi, Education Officer
For contribution to the Back to School campaign



NOVEMBER

Rana Kharat, Child Rights Governance Technical Advisor,
Aliaa Awada, Media Advocacy and Communications Manager,
Nour Wahid, Digital and Social Media Officer,
Ahmed Bayram, Media and Communications Officer
For helping organise the My Voice Matters Too national event



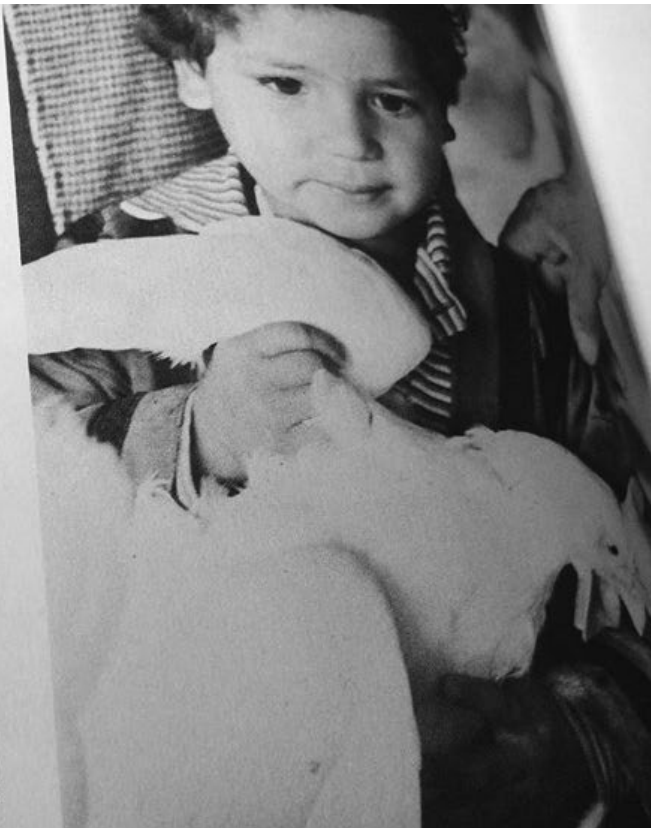
DECEMBER

Pamela Hajal, Child Protection Manager
Fatima Cheikh Ali, Child Protection Coordinator
Josette Kassouf, Case Worker
For extraordinary case management efforts to help Sultan and his family

65 YEARS, ONE MISSION

















1953 was a busy year for Lebanon. The general elections were held under a new electoral system and 50 percent of the population turned out to cast their ballots. In the same year, Homenmen won the football league and the first Lebanese Chess Championship took place. In the midst of all the activities, a charity that would change millions of young lives for the next six decades arrived in the country.

We have been around for a while. This year, 2018, marks the 65th anniversary since we supported the first child in Lebanon. Archives were not as abundant as they are today, but memories don't fade for us. For 65 years, our mission remained steadfast, our faith in children realising their potential unwavering, and our red flag flying. There is one thing we can promise for the next 65 years: children will always be our number-one priority. **Here are some nostalgia-filled memories from the past decades.**



OUR DONORS

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

This publication is prepared by the Media, Advocacy and Communications Department at Save the Children Lebanon, a non-profit organisation established by the presidential decree number 8073.

Information and numbers related to Save the Children are provided from programme departments. Other statistics are based on latest available figures from recognised international resources.

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



Save the Children

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