

# Improving Living Conditions in PALESTINIAN GATHERINGS Host Communities



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Quarterly Briefing | Issue 5

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## HIGHLIGHTS



- ✓ **25** infrastructure projects completed in **9** Gatherings across Lebanon
- ✓ **145** shelter units assessed in Old Saida and Nahr El Bared Adjacent Area, **95** of which will be rehabilitated and equipped with WASH facilities starting the next quarter
- ✓ **5,500** household hygiene kits and **1,500** baby kits distributed in **34** Gatherings across Lebanon

**Improving Living Conditions in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities** is a project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that falls under the UNDP Lebanon Stabilization and Recovery Program – Supporting Resilience in a Time of Crisis.

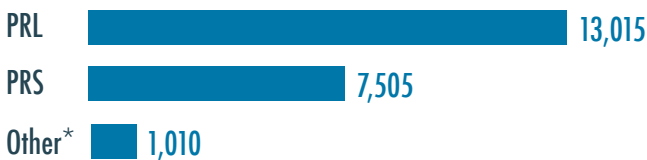
Active in the 42 Palestinian Gatherings across Lebanon since 2012, this project is designed to help stabilize and develop the resilience of these host communities, home to 110,000 original Palestinian dwellers (PRL) and recently some 30,000 Palestinian and Syrian refugees (PRS and SRS) as a result of the Syrian crisis.

In 2015, we reached over 55,000 beneficiaries by upgrading WASH and basic urban services (BUS) through 56 projects, enhancing the conditions of 412 shelters, raising awareness on healthy and environmental practices through direct activities with 9,577 dwellers, and coordinating efforts of NGOs and agencies in Palestinian Gatherings.



## BENEFICIARIES

This quarter, we reached **21,530** dwellers in the Gatherings across Lebanon



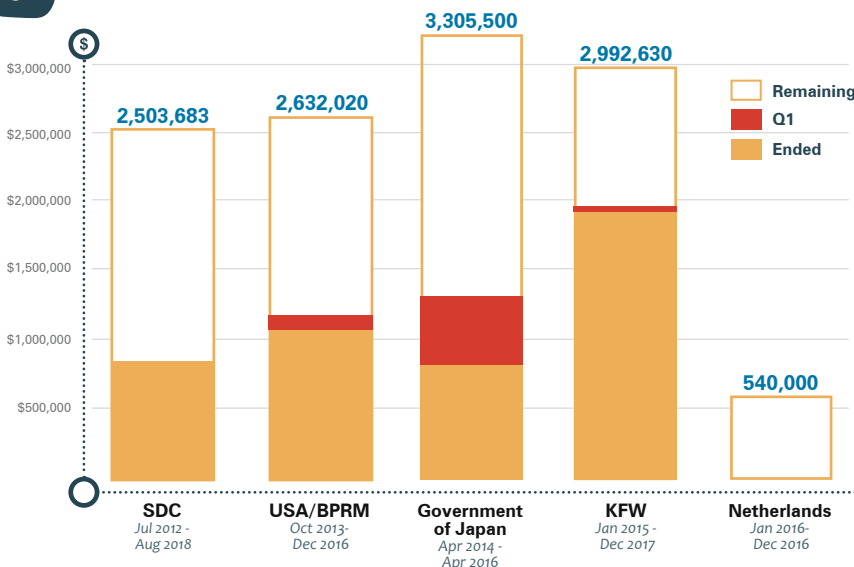
\*SRS +Lebanese +other nationalities



## GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE



## FUNDS (as of January 2015)



**Total Q1: \$626,035**



## BASIC URBAN SERVICES

- 3** water projects completed in Beirut and the North
- 7** sewage projects completed in Beirut, Saida and the North
- 7** storm water projects completed in Beirut, Tyre and the North; another one still ongoing in the North
- 5** roads upgraded in Tyre and the North, and a retaining wall built in Tyre
- 1** electricity project completed in Saida

### All shelters in Baraksat now connected to upgraded sewerage

In Barakast Adjacent Area to Ain El Helwe in Saida, over a thousand Palestinian families complained about sewer flooding in streets and shelters connected to inadequate sewage networks. Responding to this reality, the UNDP project started in November 2015 installing six sewage networks of 500 meter in total, including a network covering Baraksat's main street.



With works completed this quarter, all dwellers in Baraksat, including 4,200 PRL and PRS, have benefitted from this initiative with their shelters now connected to proper networks and no more flooding in winter or sewer gas smell throughout the year.



## SHELTER

- 75** shelters assessed in Old Said, **50** of which will be rehabilitated
- 70** shelters assessed in Nahr El Bared Adjacent Area, **45** of which will be rehabilitated

A study to rehabilitate the electricity network of Al-Bahaa collective center, located at Tawari Adjacent Area to Ain El Helwe, completed

- 100** door-to-door visits to shelters equipped with water saving devices in Ain El Helwe Adjacent Areas, aiming at raising their awareness to water conservation



### UNDP to rehabilitate historical neighborhoods in Old Saida



At the request of Saida Municipality, the UNDP project completed this quarter an assessment exercise in the historical neighborhoods of Old Saida, including 75 shelters that are home to some 400 mainly PRL, PRS and Lebanese

residents. Based on this assessment, UNDP will start in April 2016 works to rehabilitate 50 shelters as well as the general physical environment of these neighborhoods, including public squares, building façades, retaining walls, etc.

In view of the archeological character of Old Saida's structures, UNDP will closely coordinate with Saida Municipality and the Ministry of Culture's Directorate General of Antiquities, in order to ensure that all works are compliant with guidelines predefined for this area.



## HYGIENE PROMOTION

- 20** adolescents participate in painting murals on environmental responsibility at Ain El Helwe entrance
- 10** adolescents from Daouk Gathering in Beirut participate in a photography/drawing workshop to re-create healthier neighborhoods
- 5,500** household hygiene kits and **1,500** baby kits distributed in **34** Gatherings across Lebanon

### Ain El Helwe Camp entrance creatively promotes environmental responsibility

Guided by two female and two male Palestinian local artists, 20 adolescent boys and girls decorated the rehabilitated entrance of Ain El Helwe camp with 15 murals promoting water conservation and solid waste management, while commemorating the Palestinian villages from which the camp dwellers originate. The murals, which carry the key messages of the UNDP WASH awareness campaign, will attract the attention of dwellers of eight Adjacent Areas to the camp who daily pass by this entrance.





## COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

### BPRM Representative visits Daouk Palestinian Gathering

As part of her visit to the BPRM-funded projects in Palestinian Gatherings, the US Department of State's BPRM representative Samah Khoury accompanied UNDP Country Director in Lebanon Luca Renda and the team of the UNDP project in Palestinian Gatherings in a tour to BUS and shelter completed project in the Daouk Palestinian Gathering in Beirut. The tour followed a presentation on the Daouk improvement plan, aiming at creating safe inclusive spaces in the Palestinian Gathering, through a series of awareness activities involving the women and children of Daouk.



### Participatory community mapping to launch livelihood sector

In January 2016, the UNDP project launched a participatory mapping to design local economic initiatives in the 12 Palestinian Gatherings of Tyre, serving as a pilot under the recently-launched livelihood component of the project. Between January and March 2016, a comprehensive mapping of human, physical and social assets was assessed in six Gatherings, thanks to a series of meetings, focus groups and field visits that involved local leaders and dwellers of all gender and age groups. The designed interventions will particularly focus on increasing the self-reliance of local women and the resilience of the youth not to engage in risky behaviors through income-generating activities.

## IN DEPTH



### Safer Neighborhoods for 3,500 Dwellers in Qasmieh, Tyre



Responding to the many falling and drowning incidents reported in the Palestinian Gathering of Qasmieh in Tyre, UNDP completed in March 2016 a series of road safety interventions, seeking to provide a safe and convenient infrastructure for the Qasmieh dwellers, children in particular.

"Last winter, I remember that at least four women have broken their legs or hands, because they slipped on the muddy road connecting lower and upper parts of the Gathering," recalls Abu Ismail, representative of the Popular Committee of Qasmieh.

UNDP rehabilitated and enlarged the stairs located at the middle of the Gathering, and built retaining walls and iron fences along the roads used by pedestrians to cross from upper Qasmieh to lower Qasmieh. This intervention will not only limit similar falling incidents, but will also provide children with a safe route to their school located in upper Qasmieh.



"At least, these women have survived. The exposed water canal in lower Qasmieh has caused fatal accidents. Two children died after they fell and drowned in the water back in 2006," adds Abu Ismail. Addressing this fatal risk, UNDP introduced a 500 meter iron fence along the water canal.

In the upper part of Qasmieh, considered the largest Palestinian Gathering in Lebanon, UNDP has also installed a 150 meter storm water network and built two retaining walls for safety, before paving the affected roads.



Also this quarter, UNDP has completed rehabilitating the main electricity network in Qasmieh and provided a new transformer room for better power supply in the Gathering, which will also make dwellers' homes and streets safer, by allowing street lighting and preventing some dangerous solutions that dwellers were adopting to secure electricity.

"We design our interventions to address all possible hazards. As you walk in Qasmieh now, you will definitely feel safer," says Ahmad El-Hajj, the UNDP project engineer. Some 3,500 dwellers, among whom one third are recent refugees from Syria, now feel safer in Qasmieh.



## A glimpse into GORO

The Goro Gathering refers to the old army base (*thakanat Goro*) located near the ruins of Baalbek in north Beqaa. First established in 1982 with the arrival of Palestinian refugees escaping the Israeli invasion of south Lebanon, Goro is today home to some 80 Lebanese families and 27 Palestinian families and has recently hosted another 20 refugees from Syria. In May 2015, UNDP completed installing a sewerage system covering all Goro, with all shelters now connected to the sewage network. Suffering from water leaks and structural problems, 27 shelter units in the Goro compound were also rehabilitated by UNDP and equipped with WASH facilities throughout 2015.



## Meet AHMAD GHANNOUMI



*“In Nahr El Bared, we have been always overwhelmed with problems, especially after the 2007 conflict. We faced particular challenges in addressing these difficulties in the area adjacent to Nahr El Bared camp, as it falls outside the UNRWA mandate and the concerned municipality does not work there. I say with confidence that UNDP is not only the first organization to respond to this service gap, but also among the very few agencies who are supporting Palestinian refugees arriving from Syria to this area. As we are used to partial, slow and temporary projects, we cannot but praise the efforts of UNDP, which has been promptly responding to the shelter and infrastructure needs in our neighborhoods, through holistic interventions so far separating and upgrading our sewage, storm water and water networks, among many other projects. The UNDP team is not just another passerby organization. For us, they are family.”*

Ghannoumi is the Secretary of Popular Committees in North Lebanon since 2009, and the president of the committee bringing together the twin towns Mity Mory in France and the Nahr El Bared Palestinian Camp. Ghannoumi is also the former Secretary of the General Union of Palestinian workers in Lebanon.

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