

Improving Living Conditions in PALESTINIAN GATHERINGS Host Communities



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Quarterly Briefing | Issue 2

1 April - 30 June 2015

HIGHLIGHTS



- ✓ **7** electricity projects completed in Tyre and Ain El Helwe Adjacent Areas and **5** water and Sanitation projects launched across Lebanon
- ✓ **850** shelter units in **20** Gatherings across Lebanon assessed to be rehabilitated and equipped with WASH facilities
- ✓ **2200** students from all educational levels engaged in a WASH competition for the **9** UNRWA schools in Ain El Helwe

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.

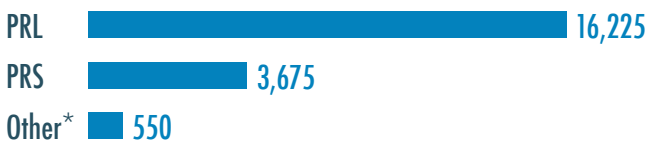
Active in the 42 Palestinian Gatherings across Lebanon since 2012, this project is designed to help stabilize and develop the resilience of these host communities, home to 110,000 original Palestinian dwellers (PRL) and recently some 30,000 Palestinian and Syrian refugees (PRS and SRS) as a result of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

In the previous quarter, we reached over 29,000 beneficiaries by upgrading WASH and basic urban services (BUS), enhancing shelter conditions, and raising awareness on healthy and environmental practices, as well through coordination efforts of NGOs' and agencies' response in the Gatherings.



BENEFICIARIES

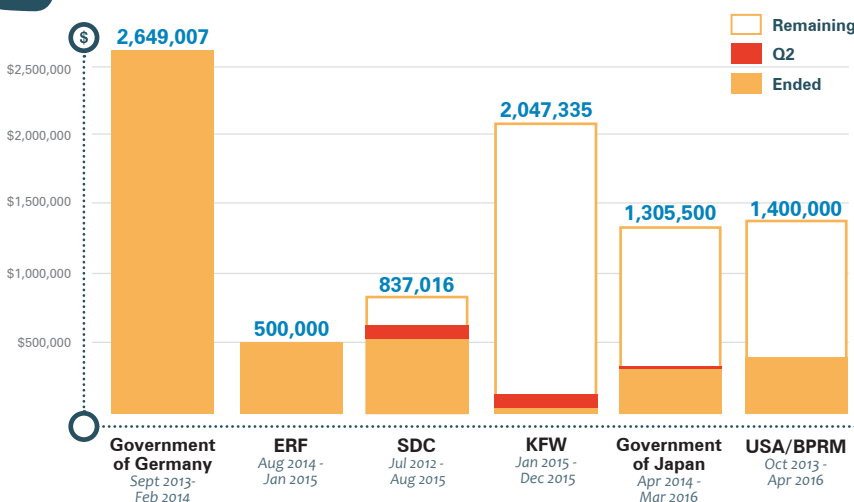
This quarter, we reached **20,450** dwellers in the Gatherings across Lebanon



*SRS +Lebanese +other nationalities



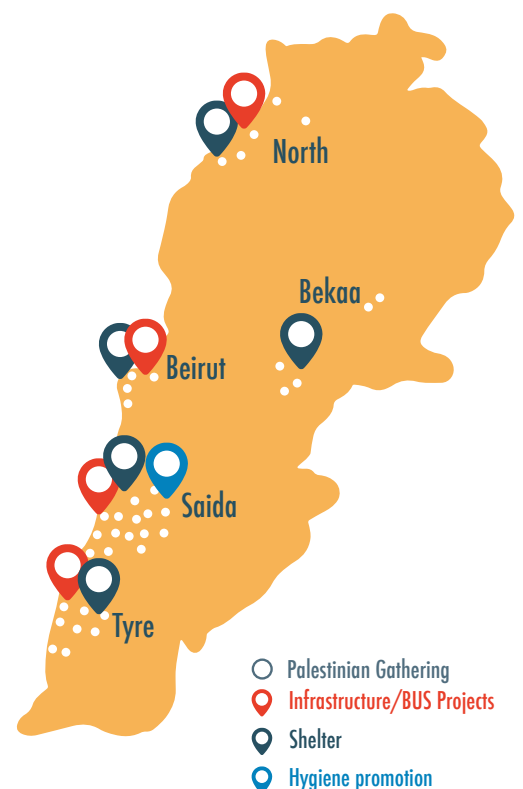
FUNDS (as of July 2012)



Total Q2: \$222,394



GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE





BASIC URBAN SERVICES

- 7 electricity projects completed in Tyre and Ain El Helwe Adjacent Areas
- 2 water projects completed in Daouk, Beirut and Kfarbadda, Tyre
- 1 water project on-going in Burghlieh, Tyre
- 4 sewage projects on-going in NBC Adjacent Area and Ain Helwe Adjacent Areas

Electricity Project in Ain El Helwe Adjacent Areas

In coordination with Electricité du Liban, UNDP rehabilitated the power supply systems of six Adjacent Areas to Ain El Helwe Camp. This project is expected not only to provide around 15,500 dwellers with a stable power supply, but will also make their homes and streets safer, by allowing street lighting and preventing dangerous solutions that dwellers might adopt to secure electricity.



SHELTER

850 shelter units in 20 Gatherings across Lebanon, mainly housing PRL, assessed to be rehabilitated and equipped with WASH facilities

275 shelters selected to be rehabilitated and equipped with WASH facilities before winter

Swiss Ambassador and Mountain in Beirut and Tyre

As part of their visit to SDC funded projects in the Gatherings of Beirut and Tyre, Swiss Ambassador Francois Barras and Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Lebanon Hiba Hajj-Felder visited shelters rehabilitated by UNDP.

Accompanied by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Ross Mountain and UNDP Country Director in Lebanon Luca Renda, the Swiss delegation praised UNDP efforts in making such important improvements in refugees' shelters and lives through relatively small funds.



HYGIENE PROMOTION

Clean-up Campaigns Launching in Ain El Helwe Adjacent Areas

As part of Phase II of its WASH awareness campaign, the project started in April 2015 a partnership with the Community Environmental Health Committee in Ain Helwe (CEHC) aiming at supporting the communities of the eight Gatherings adjacent to Ain Helwe Camp in adopting effective systems and healthy practices relating to environmental hygiene.

By the end of August 2015, CEHC will implement nine clean-up campaigns engaging youth groups and targeting the most polluted streets of these Gatherings. For this purpose, UNDP provided CEHC with cleaning and gardening tools as well as disinfection and rodent control equipment. The clean-up campaigns will include greening initiatives and murals paintings by local artists in targeted neighborhoods. In June 11, the first clean-up campaign took place in the Tawari Gathering adjacent to Ain El Helwe, led by 50 young men from Beit Al Makdes Scout.



Ramadan Calendars Promoting Water Conservation

As part of its WASH awareness campaign in Gatherings, UNDP developed a Ramadan calendar aiming at engaging all family members in positive practices relating to water conservation.



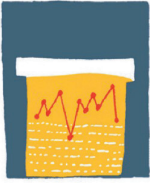
Through its local partners PARD, DPNA, Beit Atfal Assoumoud and CEHC, the calendars have reached 5000 households in Palestinian Gatherings in all regions.

WASH Competition in UNRWA Schools in Ain El Helwe

In coordination with UNRWA, UNDP launched in May 2015 a WASH competition entitled "My Hygiene is My Identity; My Environment is My Responsibility" in the nine UNRWA schools of Ain El Helwe. Implemented



in partnership with CEHC, the competition encouraged 2200 students from all educational levels to suggest ways to make their schools and neighborhoods cleaner and healthier. The competition was concluded with an Awards Ceremony in Al Samouh UNRWA School in Ain Helwe on June 3, honoring 15 winning students.



COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

Gatherings Working Group Kick-off in Tyre

In May 2015, UNDP decided to move the meetings of the Gatherings Working Group (GWG) that it chairs to Tyre, as most gatherings (and consequently NGOs) are based in the South. This quarter, UNDP organized two GWG meetings in the UNDP office in Tyre, in which participating NGOs agreed to continue meeting on a monthly basis. Several needed coordination initiatives have been planned as a result of these meetings, including but not limited to a coordinated shelter assessment and a seminar on housing and land property rights.

Participatory Community Planning Report for Gatherings in Saida and Tyre

In March 2015, UNDP and Beyond Reform and Development Group (BRDI) started a participatory community planning, involving around 50 representatives of popular and local committees in 12 Gatherings in South Lebanon as well as concerned municipalities and local NGOs among other stakeholders. This exercise was concluded by an Iftar dinner for participants, in the presence of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Ross Mountain and the Swiss Ambassador to Lebanon Francois Barras. Before the dinner, UNDP and BRDI presented the main findings of a report mapping urban assets in the targeted Gatherings and proposing future interventions, based on pressing needs and challenges raised by participants throughout the exercise.

IN DEPTH



WATER BRINGS LIFE TO 400 FAMILIES IN DAOUK

Responding to the deteriorating situation of the water network in the Daouk Palestinian Gathering in Beirut, UNDP has completed in June 2015 installing a new water network to enhance the water supply for 400 families residing in the Gathering.

“You could spend four full days here with no water at all, not even a single drop in any household,” says Head of the Popular Committee in Daouk Abou Ali Anbour to describe the situation in the Gathering before UNDP’s intervention. “People had to buy water to shower and clean their houses. Others, who cannot afford it, walked to public water tabs outside the area to fill gallons and bottles.”

Like all Palestinian Gatherings, Daouk is left unattended by any service provider. Established around Sabra area in Beirut in the early years of the Palestinian exodus (1948-1950), Daouk is becoming increasingly overcrowded, especially with the recent arrivals of refugees from Syria increasing the population by 18%.

“The old water well used to barely feed all the households in the Gatherings. In the last couple of years, water connections in Daouk became even more wretched and overloaded that water supply cut off completely for days,” continues Anbour.



Rehabilitation works included installing a new pump and pipes after excavating the concrete road from the well to the main pipe as well as installing the necessary electrical boards for the pump. “As we have been waiting a long time for this intervention, the popular committee established an electrical room to preserve the new equipment provided by UNDP from environmental and human damage,” explains Anbour.

“UNDP is very aware of the heavy cost of poor water on the health and economies of communities,” says Project Manager Nancy Hilal to highlight the importance of this initiative. “Thanks to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, we believe this project will increase the Gathering’s productivity and will allow its dwellers to practice healthy hygiene behaviors.”



A glimpse into SHABRIHA

Shabriha Gathering refers to four Palestinian-majority neighborhoods located within the Lebanese town of Shabriha, falling under the domain of Abassiyeh Municipality in Tyre in south Lebanon. First established in the early 1950s with the arrival of Palestinian refugees to Abassiyeh in search of jobs in agriculture, the Gathering of Shabriha hosts today around 2,800 recent refugees from Syria, a number exceeding its original population. In 2014, UNDP rehabilitated the Gathering's well and installed needed water connections and a water storm channel. Also last year, UNDP paved the Gathering's main road with asphalt and installed a sewage network. This quarter, we rehabilitated the electricity network in Shabriha as well as three shelters housing Palestinian refugees from Syria.



Meet Dr. MAHMOUD SULEIMAN

President of the Community Environmental Health Committee in Ain El Helwe (CEHC)



"Environmental health is the centerpiece in building any wholesome society; what if this society is a congested refugee community deprived from basic services? This in mind, we launched CEHC last year to address every dweller in our beloved camp about his/her role in building healthier individuals, families and communities. Thanks to the support of UNDP, CEHC was able to embark on activities and areas that we thought were 'too ambitious'. This year, we started working in UNRWA schools and we are leading clean-up campaigns in all Gatherings adjacent to the camp. We look forward to achieve much more through our partnership with UNDP."

Dr. Suleiman obtained his medical degree in General Medicine at Stavropol State University in Russia. In 2005, he joined the UNRWA medical team and is now a Senior Medical Officer at UNRWA Help Center 1 in Ain El Helwe. Since March 2014, Dr. Suleiman heads CEHC that is leading awareness efforts with the support of UNDP, with the aim of promoting environmental practices and systems in the camp.

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