

Improving Living Conditions in PALESTINIAN GATHERINGS Host Communities



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Quarterly Briefing | Issue 8

1 October - 31 December 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ **18** infrastructure projects completed and **8** others launched in **18** Palestinian Gatherings
- ✓ **148** families are living in safer rehabilitated shelters in **10** Palestinian Gatherings
- ✓ **6,333** PRS families in Palestinian Gatherings across Lebanon received household and baby hygiene kits
- ✓ **54** women and youth from Palestinian Gatherings in Tyre supported to expand or launch their small businesses
- ✓ **17** community mobilizers and **14** sanitation officers trained to lead a waste sorting campaign in Kharayeb and **4** adjacent Palestinian Gatherings

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 some 25,000 Palestinian and Syrian refugees (PRS and SRS) as a result of the Syrian crisis.

In the previous quarter, we reached over 12,602 beneficiaries by upgrading WASH and basic urban services (BUS), enhancing shelter conditions, promoting hygiene and environmental practices, empowering women and youth, and coordinating efforts of NGOs and agencies in Palestinian Gatherings.

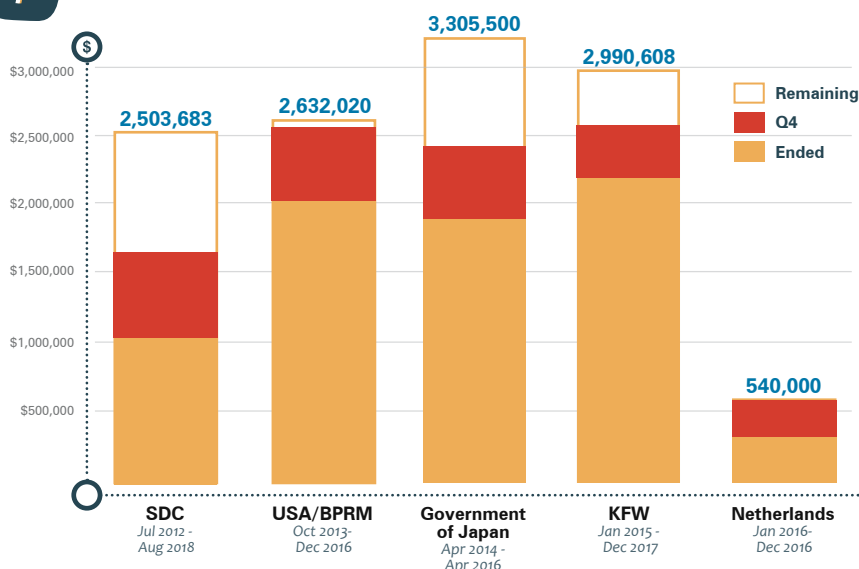


BENEFICIARIES

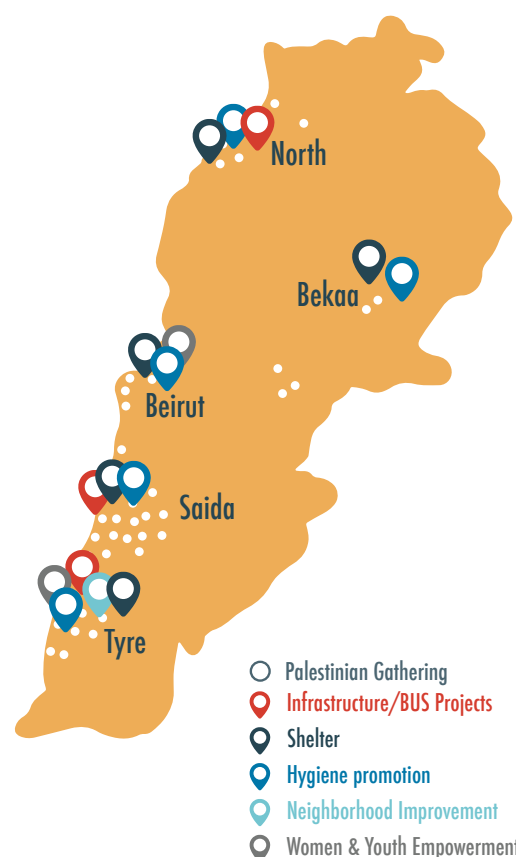
This quarter, we reached **28,699** dwellers in the Gatherings across Lebanon



FUNDS (as of January 2015)



GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE





BASIC URBAN SERVICES

New sewerage system for 350 families in Mankoubin

With the generous support of the Swiss Embassy's ICD and the people of Japan, UNDP replaced the 20-year-old worn-out sewerage system in the Mankoubin Palestinian Gathering, to finally alleviate years of health and environmental problems affecting 2,400 Palestinian dwellers. In close collaboration with the newly elected Municipality of Wadi Nahle, the installation works of the new network were followed by the pavement of the roads.



"As usual, UNDP offered a radical solution to the poor conditions of sewerage in Mankoubin," said Ahmad Ghannoumi, Secretary of Popular Committees in North Lebanon. "This solution has finally put an end to the spread of diseases and pests in the Gathering."

Also this quarter, UNDP has completed 9 other sewage projects in Palestinian Gatherings in Saida, Tyre and the North, benefitting more than 6,000 dwellers.



SHELTER

Rehabilitation works in Nahr ElBared Adjacent Area allows dwellers to return home after 10 years

Following the assessment of some 80 shelters in Nahr El Bared Adjacent Area (NBC AA) in North Lebanon earlier this year, UNDP has completed this quarter rehabilitating 46 most vulnerable shelters and equipping them with necessary WASH facilities.

Thanks to the USA PRM and the Swiss Embassy's ICD, 230 Palestinian families in NBC AA have now safer and healthier shelters, among

them many families who could not afford the cost of repairing their houses affected by the 2007 conflict in Nahr El Bared and who were finally able to return home after 10 years of displacement. "We have been waiting for this for so long," says the Atiyeh family expressing their relief to finally be back home. "After the suspension of the cash-for-rent assistance to the NBC displaced in 2015, we thought we will never go back home."

AlSafi family has also witnessed a significant change this quarter. For the past five years, the family of five has lived in extreme weather conditions under corrugated iron sheets and old wood partitions that have replaced their home completely destroyed in the 2007 conflict. "We survived the last years with the hope that someone would support us in this; I can't believe that my family is living in a decent house again."

Also this quarter, the UNDP project rehabilitated 102 shelters in Ain ElHelwe Adjacent Areas and Gatherings in the Bekaa and Tyre, thanks to KFW and the Netherlands.





HYGIENE PROMOTION

Community Mobilizers ready to lead sorting campaign in Kharayeb

As part of the solid waste management plan developed by UNDP and the Municipality of Kharayeb in the last quarter, 17 community mobilizers participated in a three-day training on waste reduction behaviors and persuasion techniques, equipping them to lead a large-scale door-to-door campaign engaging dwellers in waste sorting at source.

Throughout January and February 2017, the recruited mobilizers, who include local activists and volunteers from all age and community groups, will conduct more than 2000 visits in Kharayeb and the four Palestinian Gatherings within its municipal domain, under the direct supervision of municipal members and local partner Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARC).

As visits progress, the municipality of Kharayeb supported by UNDP will place bins for recyclables in all its neighborhoods and will proceed with picking up sorted waste twice a week, before they are transported to the recycling collection center "Shou'a AlBia'a".

Aware of the role of sanitation officers in observing the dwellers' commitment to sorting, 14 sanitation officers participated in a long training day, in which they were informed about the solid waste management plan to be adopted by the municipality and their central role in its future success.



The development and implementation of the solid waste management plan in Kharayeb is made possible by KfW and the Swiss Embassy's ICD. Thanks to the support of Japan, this plan is complemented by the rehabilitation works of the dumpsite in Kharayeb, aiming at alleviating its environmental and health hazards.



UNDP and UNRWA launch the "WASH-friendly School Toolkit"

Following 9 months of joint efforts by the UNDP project in Palestinian Gatherings and the UNRWA Education Programme, UNDP and UNRWA launched on December 16 the "WASH-friendly School Toolkit" to serve as an activity guide for teachers and health educators at UNRWA schools as well as all service providers aiming to transfer WASH life skills to children between 6 and 17 years.

Bringing together 50 representatives of donors, UN agencies and organizations active in the fields of hygiene promotion and education, the launch included a panel discussion led by UNRWA Chief Field Education Programme Ahmad Mouh, UNICEF WASH Officer Diala Ktaiche and UNDP Community Engagement Officer in Palestinian Gatherings Sheeraz Moujally.

The panel emphasized the vital role of life skills education in building positive behaviors for life among children and the importance of building alliances to improve WASH hardware in UNRWA schools. The launch concluded with the honoring of 17 health educators in UNRWA schools in North Lebanon who took part in the testing of the toolkit.

In 2017, the UNDP project will continue supporting the adoption of the toolkit in UNRWA schools as well as non-formal education programs, through a series capacity building trainings for health educators in all 67 UNRWA schools and a pilot campaign in three schools in North Lebanon.



**The WASH-friendly School Toolkit is available on the UNDP website under "Research and Publications" of the "Crisis Prevention and Recovery" Program.*

http://www.lb.undp.org/content/lebanon/en/home/library/crisis_prevention_and_recovery/UNDP-UNRWA-WASH-friendly-School-Toolkit.html



WOMEN & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

54 young and women entrepreneurs supported in Gatherings in Tyre

In the Palestinian Gatherings of Shabriha, Maashouq and Qasmieh in Tyre, 53 small businesses are expected to flourish, thanks to in-kind grants UNDP has provided this quarter to 28 women and 26 young entrepreneurs.

The small grants provided by the people of Japan will not only enhance the livelihoods of 54 families but will also reflect on the local economy by uplifting and making available the products and services of local farmers, caterers, plumbers, hairdressers, restaurants and grocery shops, among other fields.

This step comes following a series of five-day trainings on design and management of small businesses that UNDP has organized in the Gatherings of Tyre in the last quarter, benefitting 57 women and youth, 45 among them have later applied for small grants.



Donors & Partners



October 5, Daouk

UNDP Country Director Luca Renda honors adolescent boys and girls who took part in the Neighborhood Improvement Plan in the Daouk Palestinian Gathering in Beirut, during the opening of "Stouh AlDaouk" roof garden installed by the UNDP project, in the presence of representatives of KFW, the Swiss Embassy, Japan and the Netherlands.



November 3, Tyre

Head of Swiss Embassy's ICD Philippe Beutler and UNDP Country Director Luca Renda checks the sewage biological treatment plant implemented by the UNDP project as an innovative pilot in Qasmieh in Tyre, before meeting with the municipal council of Kharayeb to discuss recent waste management plan and touring works under the UNDP neighborhood improvement plan in Shabriha.



December 1, Beirut

Representatives of 12 UN agencies and NGOs active in Palestinian Gatherings meet to explore challenges and opportunities for youth in these communities, an exercise that will represent a first step towards more coordinated interventions among NGOs and guide UNDP's strategies in the Gatherings in 2017.

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