

# Improving Living Conditions in PALESTINIAN GATHERINGS Host Communities



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

Quarterly Briefing | Issue 6

1 April - 30 June 2016

## HIGHLIGHTS



- ✓ **10** infrastructure projects completed, **10** others launched in **16** Gatherings across Lebanon
- ✓ **122** Palestinian refugees have better homes in Gatherings in Saida and Beirut
- ✓ **1880** dwellers actively involved in the Neighborhood Improvement Plan in Daouk, Beirut
- ✓ **2,935** PRS households received hygiene kits in **27** Palestinian Gatherings across Lebanon
- ✓ **20** women and youth trained on design and management of small businesses in Tyre

**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.

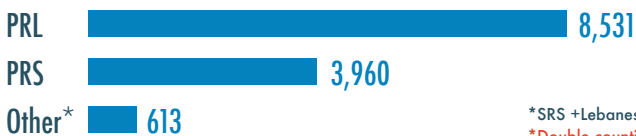
Active in the 42 Palestinian Gatherings across Lebanon since 2012, this project is designed to help stabilize and develop the resilience of these host communities, home to 110,000 original Palestinian dwellers (PRL) and some 30,000 Palestinian and Syrian refugees (PRS and SRS) as a result of the Syrian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

In the previous quarter, we reached over 21,530 beneficiaries by upgrading WASH and basic urban services (BUS), enhancing shelter conditions, making neighborhoods safer and more inclusive, promoting hygiene and environmental practices, empowering women and youth for better livelihoods, and coordinating efforts of NGOs and agencies in Palestinian Gatherings.



## BENEFICIARIES

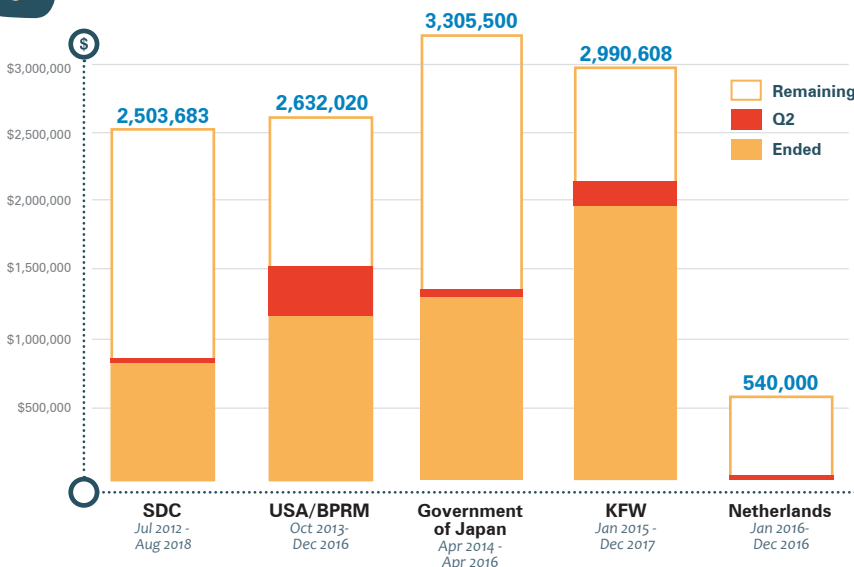
This quarter, we reached **11,224\*** dwellers in the Gatherings across Lebanon



\*SRS +Lebanese +other nationalities  
\*Double counting possible



## FUNDS (as of January 2015)



**Total Q2: \$616,019**



## GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE





## BASIC URBAN SERVICES

**6** water projects completed in Beirut, Saida and Tyre

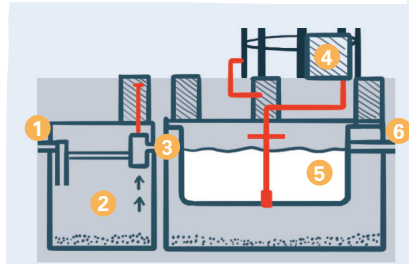
**1** sewage project completed in Tyre

**3** storm water projects and roads upgraded in Tyre and the North

### Innovative solution for sewage in Qasmieh, Tyre

The lack of proper sewage networks remains a priority need in many Palestinian Gatherings, not only due to the absence of service providers but in many cases also because linking shelters to public networks is not technically viable. This is the case of the upper neighborhoods of the Qasmieh Palestinian Gathering in Tyre, where some 100 houses are located under the nearest available public network. Households rely instead on basic methods to discharge sewage outside houses without treatment, which contaminate all surrounding areas. This situation also causes unbearable smells and flies around most shelters, not to mention the health and environmental hazards it implies.

Thanks to the generous support of SDC, UNDP has launched in June 2016 a pilot project in Qasmieh to test an innovative sewage solution, relying on a small biological treatment plant, which treats sewage through micro-organisms and allows the utilization of treated water in tree irrigation. Following a series of consultation meetings with local leaders and dwellers, UNDP started excavation works in June 2016, in preparation to installing the treatment unit. This innovative sewage system, implemented for the first time in Palestinian Gatherings, is expected to be fully functional and connected to all 100 houses by the end of August 2016.



## SHELTER

**110** Palestinian refugees have better homes in Jabal El Halib Gathering adjacent to Ain El Helwe, with their shelters rehabilitated and equipped with WASH facilities

**1** shelter rehabilitated after fire accident in Baraksat Gathering adjacent to Ain El Helwe Camp

**1** shelter at risk due to structural damage reinforced and rehabilitated in Daouk Gathering in Beirut

### Palestinian family returns to better home in Baraksat, Saida



After being forced by a fire accident to leave their modest house in Baraksat last April, the family of Mohammad Fraiji, a Palestinian father of four, returned to a better home in less than a month. The fire accident caused by an electrical short circuit had destroyed all the family's belongings and created major structural damages in the house located in the Baraksat Gathering adjacent to Ain El Helwe Camp.

Thanks to the support of the Government of the Netherlands, UNDP started rehabilitating the two-room shelter few days after the accident, equipped it with WASH facilities and installed all necessary sanitary and electrical networks.



## HYGIENE PROMOTION

**2,935** PRS households received hygiene kits in **27** Palestinian Gatherings across Lebanon

**2000** copies of Ramadan calendar distributed in Gatherings across Lebanon, to promote better solid waste management at household level

### Ramadan in Palestinian Gatherings: Blessed and Green

Encouraging dwellers in Palestinian Gatherings to reduce, re-use and recycle waste, the UNDP project designed a Ramadan calendar promoting green practices among children and adults. Thanks to the support of KFW, the project distributed 2,000 copies of the calendar in Gatherings across Lebanon, through its local partners Beit Atfal Assumoud, PARD and PAWL.



For the third year in a row, the project largely disseminates Ramadan calendars in Palestinian Gatherings to promote environmental responsibility, mainly during Friday sermons preceding the fasting month of Ramadan. This activity is one of many initiatives that the project is implementing, as part of the WASH behavior-change campaign it has been leading since March 2014.



## NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

**100** children actively participated in painting murals, floor games and community bulletin boards, raising awareness on environmental and community responsibility

**9** local women participated in an 8-week recycled art workshop; recycled artwork will be presented at an exhibition planned for the next quarter

**5** adolescents participated in an 8-week recycled art workshop, where they transformed rubber tires into community seats, tables, bins and flower pots to be placed in roof garden in Daouk initiated by UNDP

**336** door-to-door visits to households in Daouk to promote recycling of plastic and metal at household level



### Daouk Improvement Plan: 6 months already and ongoing!

In December 2015, UNDP launched a pilot neighborhood improvement plan in the Daouk Palestinian Gathering in Beirut, following a series of consultations with local leaders and community groups. After the animation and photography workshops for children organized in the last quarter, designed participatory activities continue in Daouk, thanks to the generous support of PRM, KFW, and the people of Japan.



“Two months ago, Saturday became my favorite day of the week. Painting on the walls and grounds of where you live is so fun. Everytime I pass by, I look at the paintings and I feel very happy that I have done this. I have a lot of friends now. Because I go to the afternoon shift of school, I come to the activities wearing my school uniform so I can paint as long as I can.”

Shaymaa, 11, a Palestinian girl from Syria living in Daouk. She has been participating in the community painting activities organized in Daouk every Saturday since April 2016.

“Things have a different meaning to me now. Since I started coming to the workshop, I look at every item in my house and ask myself: how can I make it more useful or more beautiful? Even my neighbors are joining me in turning buttons into earrings, shampoo bottles into phone cases, etc.”



Razan, 26, a Palestinian woman from Daouk who participated in the recycled art workshop engaging local women every Tuesday and Thursday since April 2016.



## LIVELIHOODS

### Women and Youth Empowered for better Livelihoods in Palestinian Gatherings

As part of its recently-launched livelihood sector, the UNDP project kicked off its training program aiming to empower women and youth interested in designing and managing their own small businesses. In partnership with the Palestinian Arab Women League (PAWL), UNDP organized a five-day training in early June bringing together 20 Palestinian women and young men residing in Shabriha Gathering, Tyre.



A professional trainer introduced participants to practical tips and basic skills to start and expand business projects and then closely worked with each of them to develop his/her own business idea and plan. Sewing projects, homemade catering, a driving school, a hummus and ful restaurant, a barbershop, in-house photography and a juice bar were among the business ideas developed by participants. Two similar trainings will take place in the Gatherings of Qasmieh and Maashouk after the month of Ramadan, thanks to the generous support from the people of Japan.



## A glimpse into DAOUK

Daouk is a Palestinian-majority neighborhood adjacent to Sabra area in Beirut. Forced to leave their homeland in 1948, Palestinian families sought refuge in Daouk on lands owned by the Daouk family. Additional Palestinians arrived to the Gathering during the Lebanese civil war, escaping violence in the camps. Recently, 60 Palestinian and Syrian families fled Syria to Daouk, adding to some 2,000 original dwellers.

Last year, UNDP rehabilitated 2 water wells in Daouk and upgraded the main network. Also in 2015, the UNDP installed a sewage network and steel grates for better drainage. 14 shelter units and 2 staircases were also rehabilitated. Last December, the UNDP project launched an improvement plan in Daouk aiming to make the Gathering a safer and more inclusive space for all community groups.



## Donors & Partners



April 25, Daouk

*His Excellency Japanese Ambassador Mr. Seiichi Otsuka tours UNDP's improvement activities in Daouk, accompanied by UNDP Country Director in Lebanon Luca Renda and project team. The Japanese delegation stopped next to check the poor shelter conditions in Gatherings in Saida before they met with representatives of local committees in the Adjacent Areas to Ain El Helwe Camp.*



June 15, Beddawi

*KFW representative Renata Glischinik visits shelter and infrastructure projects implemented by UNDP in Mankoubin Palestinian Gathering in Beddawi, before she meets UNDP's local partner Beit Atfal Assumoud to discuss hygiene promotion activities.*



May 18, Ain El Helwe Adjacent Areas

*UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Philippe Lazzarini tours UNDP project achievement in Ain El Helwe Adjacent Areas including rehabilitated shelters and kindergarten as well as upgraded sewage and electricity networks.*

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