





2024 LEBANON Annual Report

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Our 2024 Partners:































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INTRODUCTION

2024 marked an exceptionally challenging year for Lebanon, as the country faced its most devastating conflict since the 2006 Lebanon War amid intensified cross-border hostilities in the final months of the year. In this context and amid intensified regional violence and deepening socio-economic vulnerability, women and girls in Lebanon have driven resilience and peacebuilding efforts. The year began with a focus on strengthening women's leadership, fostering community resilience, and driving long-term peacebuilding initiatives. However, the sudden escalation of conflict in the final quarter required a rapid and impactful shift toward humanitarian response, underscoring the essential role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in navigating complex emergencies.

Throughout this period, UN Women in Lebanon has been actively managing the projects funded through the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) highlighted in this annual report. These initiatives showcase how grassroots women-led organizations and initiatives have been able to address intersecting humanitarian crises and gender inequality with clarity and community-driven action.

The achievements captured in this report are a testament to the power of localized leadership and the necessity of investing in women and girls as agents of change. Whether responding to emergencies, challenging entrenched norms, or opening new spaces for civic participation, the initiatives that UN Women managed under the WPHF portfolio directly reached 19,256 individuals in 2024, including more than 14,613 women and girls, 3,986 men and boys, and 371 LGBTQI+ individuals, and indirectly impacted more than 48,000 people through bold, community-rooted action, in addition to reaching over 17 million people through social media campaigns.

Despite displacement, disruption of services, and heightened insecurity, partners under Outcome Area 5 were present on the ground delivering lifesaving assistance by distributing food, dignity kits, cash assistance, and vital protection services, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention. Such rapid, community-led

response powerfully demonstrated the effectiveness of flexible, women-led, and community-driven interventions in times of crisis as progress is sought in view of protecting the rights and well-being of women, girls, and marginalized individuals.

Furthermore, partners have made significant contributions to peacebuilding and recovery efforts under Outcome Area 6, from providing training opportunities on gendersensitive practices to establishing women-led committees that facilitate dialogue, critical thinking, participation in governance processes, and the launch of impactful community projects. Collectively, these organizations demonstrate a robust commitment to addressing the specific needs of women and girls, ensuring their meaningful participation in peacebuilding.

These initiatives reinforce the fundamental principle that inclusive and sustainable peace can only be achieved when women are meaningfully involved at all levels, tapping into their leadership potential.

Finally, partner organizations were able to scale up their work, strengthen systems, and build sustainability through programmatic support. As a result, these organizations are now better positioned within their communities to respond swiftly to emerging needs and lead with resilience and impact. Targeted support to partners' organizational structures also enabled them to invest in their staff, enhance their internal systems, and pursue new opportunities for growth and impact.

The projects featured in this report underscore the unique value of feminist, community-driven responses to crisis and injustice. The work of women leaders featured in these pages are endeavors that embody solidarity, innovation, and rights-based, feminist solutions to injustice and crisis. They demonstrate that lasting peace and protection require not just inclusion but women's leadership. Grassroots initiatives are the lifelines sustaining Lebanon's resilience through every challenge, urgent support for these efforts is critical to ensure no one is left behind.



In 2024, these women-led initiatives fostered resilience, amplified marginalized voices, and advanced gender equality, demonstrating unwavering dedication.

As you read through this report, we invite you to reflect on and celebrate the transformative impact of our partners and their vital contributions to building a more peaceful, just, and equitable future for Lebanon.



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IN FOCUS

Women Leaders: The Community Cornerstones of Crisis Response

Between September 2024 and November 2024, Lebanon experienced the largest escalation of hostilities since the 2006 Lebanon War. Intense airstrikes and widespread evacuation orders, particularly impacting eastern and southern Lebanon and the southern suburbs of Beirut, triggered mass displacement and heightened socioeconomic vulnerabilities. The conflict displaced an estimated 1.2 million people, with women and girls representing 51% of the internally displaced population¹ and leading nearly 21% of affected households ².

The crisis underscored the vital leadership of women in crisis response, community resilience, and peacebuilding. Despite facing significant obstacles, including mobility restrictions, six women-led organizations mobilized rapidly to address urgent community needs. Leveraging established relationships and deep local knowledge,

these organizations, along with their existing women's committees, swiftly assessed the evolving situation, adapted ongoing projects, and delivered life-saving assistance to over 7,531 displaced individuals (70% women, 20% men, 10% children) in collective shelters across Hermel, Barja, Tripoli, and Beirut.

This rapid, community-led response effectively reached those most in need, directly enhancing the safety, security, and mental well-being of women and girls. It also bolstered critical, yet often unseen, peacebuilding efforts at the community level. The WPHF's support demonstrated the power of flexible funding in enabling local women's organizations to lead in crises, contributing not only to immediate relief but also to the long-term goals of peace and gender equality.

IMPACT



3,951 individuals received dignity

and hygiene kits



1,023 individuals received essential food supplies



2,023
individuals
benefited from protection
and SGBV services



237
LGBTQI+
individuals
received protection
cash assistance

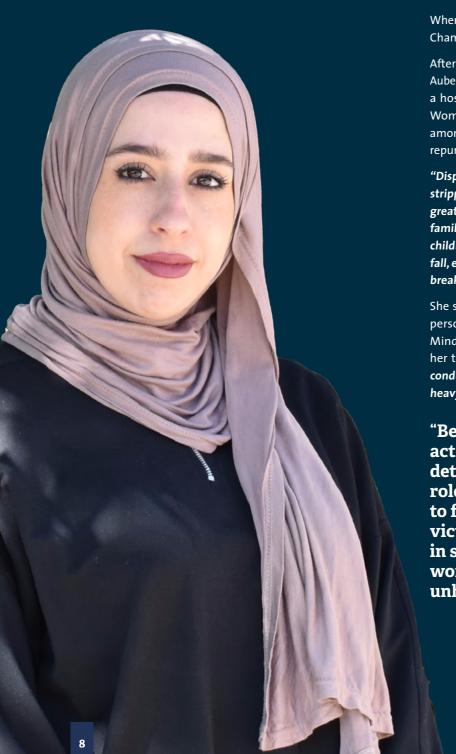


I. IOM. 2024. Lebanon Displacement Matrix, as of 25 November 2024. These numbers do not include individuals that were not tracked. Retrieved from: https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mobility-snapshot-round-65-25-11-2024/close=true

^{2.} UN Women extrapolation, informed by data from the Multisectoral Needs Assessment 2023 and IOM Displacement Matrix.

IN HER WORDS:

"We, as women, are strong, and the war will not break us."



When the hostilities intensified in Kfarsir–Nabatieh, Lama Chami made the courageous decision to flee.

After a gruelling 15-hour journey, Chami found shelter at Auberge Beity in Kfardebian, northeastern Beirut. Originally a hostel run by Beity Association, a partner of the UN Women Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, it is among the 1,015 schools and other sites that have been repurposed into collective shelters.

"Displacement is incredibly difficult – it makes one feel stripped of dignity," says Chami. "Women, who bear the greatest burden of displacement, take care of the entire family, silently enduring and remaining strong for their children. Women are the backbone of the family; if they fall, everyone falls with them. This is what keeps me from breaking down."

She says the psychological support internally displaced persons (IDP)s receive from Beity and its partner NGO Mind Mend has made her more resilient and allowed her to play an active role. "I, along with other women, conducted a needs assessment to help Beity handle the heavy load," she says.

"Being involved in these activities gives me strength and determination to enhance my role in the response. It allows me to feel that I'm not merely a war victim but an active participant in supporting others, like many women whose voices often go unheard."

READ THE FULL STORY



PARTNER PERSPECTIVE:

Women's Committees at the Forefront of the Crisis

Amidst escalating violence and displacement in Baalbek-Hermel, the Assi Association for Development (ADA) established five Women's Committees to coordinate crucial aid for displaced families. These committees took proactive steps, conducting needs assessments, securing basic supplies, and leading efforts to inspect and visit shelters housing displaced persons. They worked on the frontlines, gathering information on incoming IDPs and identifying the specific needs of women and girls, many of whom fled with only the barest essentials.

Initial surveys by the committees indicated that over 65 per cent of the displaced were women and children, and that women faced significant challenges due to the lack of private spaces.

"As women who can coordinate and manage responses while building communities, we fear not the war itself, but the helplessness that accompanies the humanitarian disaster unfolding before us."

- Fidaa Sahili, ADA Leader.

READ THE FULL STORY







2024 IMPACT AREAS

In Lebanon

WPHF Overview

WPHF is anchored in a theory of change with the overarching goal to contribute to more peaceful and gender equal societies. Achievement of this goal requires women who are empowered to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from conflict prevention and resolution, inclusive humanitarian response, protection, peacebuilding, and recovery. Results in these areas constitute the six key outcomes of the WPHF theory of change.

Results in these areas constitute the six key outcomes of the WPHF theory of change:

CONTRIBUTE TO PEACEFUL AND GENDER EQUAL SOCIETIES



Outcome 1:

Enabling Environment for Women, Peace and Security



Outcome 2: Conflict Prevention



Outcome 3: Humanitarian and Crisis Response



Outcome 4:
Conflict
Resolution



Outcome 5:

Protection
of Women
and Girls



Outcome 6: Peacebuilding and Recovery

In Lebanon

The WPHF's third phase of funding in Lebanon is empowering women and girls through 12 diverse projects, utilizing two distinct funding streams: programmatic funding to drive direct impact on the ground, and institutional funding to strengthen the organizations leading this vital work.

In 2024, the projects worked under two of the WPHF framework's outcomes as well as one institutional funding:



PROGRAMMATIC FUNDING (OUTCOMES 5 & 6): This funding supports projects working directly towards the:

• PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS (OUTCOME 5): Enhancing their safety, security, and mental health, and ensuring their human rights are respected.



• PEACEBUILDING AND RECOVERY (OUTCOME 6): Facilitating women and girls' socio-economic recovery and meaningful participation in peacebuilding processes.



INSTITUTIONAL FUNDING: This funding stream strengthens the internal capacity of women's rights and womenled organizations working on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, enabling them to lead transformative change sustainably.

Geographic Scope

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS (OUTCOME 5)

4	a	HAQQI AWRATH (HAQQI)
- (ш.	Haqqi Center - Legai Empowerment, Lasting Change Initiatives

- DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION TO ALL PEOPLE MOUSAWAT 'Taking the Wheel Against Harassment Initiatives'
- 4 SKOUN Center 'Substance Use and GBV Services'

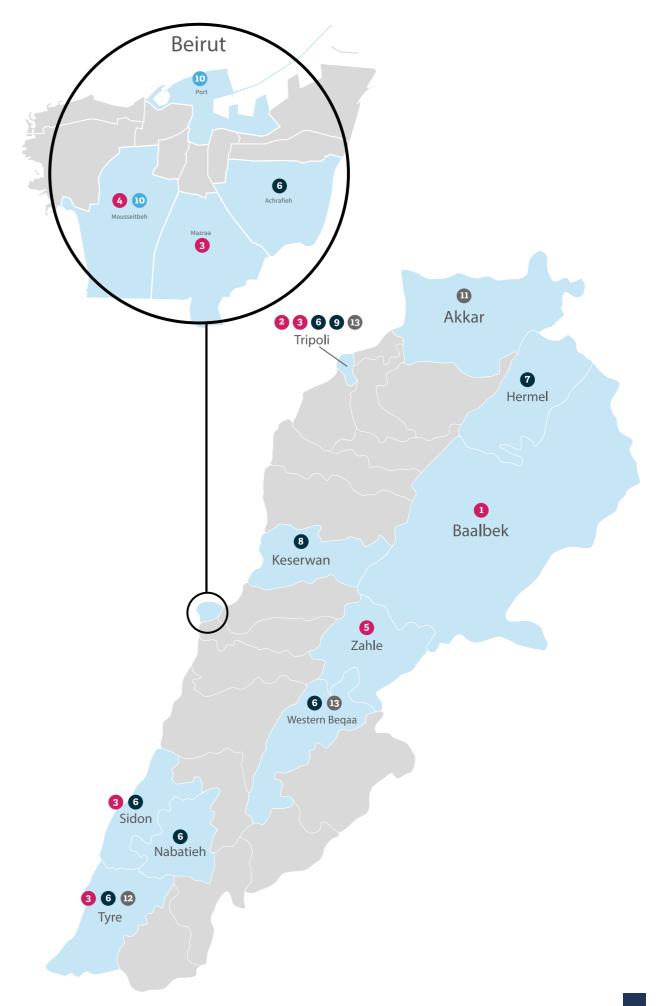
PEACEBUILDING AND RECOVERY (OUTCOME 6)

- 8 AUBERGE BEITY ASSOCIATION (BEITY)...... Beity Centers 'Securing a Peaceful Future Initiatives'
- 9 RUWWAD AL TANEMYA (RUWWAD) & CATALYTIC ACTION CHARITY 'Creating Shared Spaces for a Shared Future Initiatives'

INSTITUTIONAL FUNDING

CALL FOR PROPOSAL 2 PARTNERS

- CEWU Center
- LEBANON FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION (LFPA) LFPA Centers



 $Note {}^* Some\ organizations\ are\ not\ included\ in\ the\ geographic\ scope\ for\ safety\ purposes.$

KEY RESULTS

At a Glance





CORE IMPACT



ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED

19,256 **DIRECT BENEFICIARIES**

48,000 over 48,000 **INDIRECTLY REACHED**



PROTECTION





Over 5,000 individuals

reached through SGBV awareness activities

2,800 community mobilizers

actively engaged in outreach and SGBV awareness efforts



729 individuals

received GBV case management support



Over 1,700 calls/texts

received on the **LGBTIO+ GBV** reporting helpline



208 women

received psychological counseling



15 policies/ plans

were developed or updated to promote women's rights in the context of peacebuilding and recovery





Over 1,100 women

participated in peacebuilding initiatives





194 grassroots



30 women's committees



Over 680 women



33 women

Forces (ISF) and Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) received specialized training

IN FOCUS



ANTI-RACISM MOVEMENT (ARM)

Opening Spaces and Amplifying Migrant Voices

In 2024, ARM's Migrant Community Center (MCC) served as a vital hub, offering a safe and inclusive space for migrant women to connect, learn, and organize for their rights. This report highlights the center's impact across four key output areas, showcasing how ARM is fostering resilience and agency within Lebanon's migrant communities.

A Place of Belonging: The MCC welcomed 114 new members in 2024, providing a critical access point and fostering a vital sense of community and belonging. This safe and inclusive environment strengthened social relationships and support networks, empowering women to engage politically and advocate for their rights.

Nurturing Wellbeing: Recognizing the unique vulnerabilities faced by migrant women, especially in times of conflict, the MCC prioritized their wellbeing through 23 social and psychosocial support sessions. These sessions, guided by community needs, addressed the impact of discrimination, the Kafala system³, and the ongoing war, offering vital support to 448 women, men, and children, and fostering resilience and a sense of shared experience.

Building Skills for Change: The MCC offered diverse learning opportunities, delivering 10 technical courses to 62 participants, building skills, and empowering migrant women. These included video editing training, crucial support for the Sri Lankan Volunteering Society navigating the escalating conflict, and a powerful exhibition attended by dozens, exposing the realities of the Kafala system. As the conflict intensified, the MCC adapted its programming, helping migrant communities document the war's devastating impact and fostering solidarity through commemorative events. A key partnership with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) mobile clinic provided a free medical day, serving numerous individuals and demonstrating the MCC's holistic approach to supporting migrant wellbeing.

Amplifying Migrant Voices: At the heart of the MCC's mission lies supporting grassroots migrant-led initiatives. The center facilitated two key community-identified events, creating valuable opportunities for learning, intercultural exchange, and stronger community bonds. Critically, the MCC provided coaching and support to 80 women actively engaged in emerging migrant-led groups like Vonwail Lebanon, Tsenat Mothers Migrant Domestic Workers, and the REMAN Organization empowering them to secure funding, build online visibility, and address their evolving needs. This targeted support has been crucial in fostering leadership and ensuring the voices of migrant women are heard.



4,139 individuals

accessed the Migrant Community Center (MCC) and benefited from project services (2,742 women, 1,111 men, and 286 children)

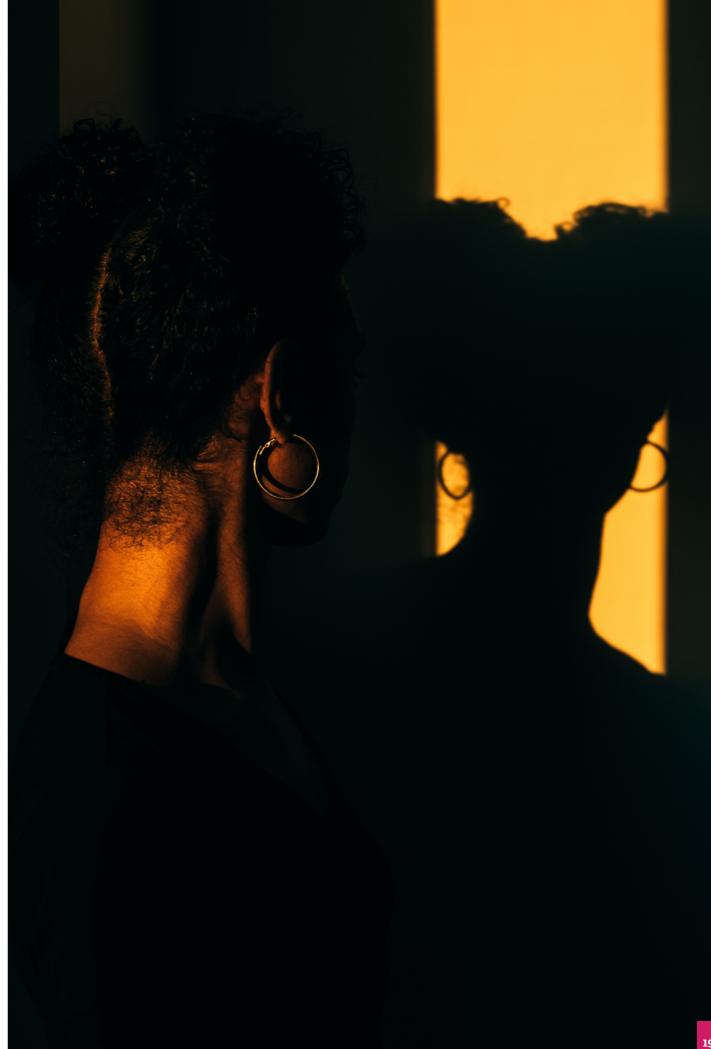
488 individuals

benefited from social and psychosocial support sessions





^{3. &}quot;Migrant workers are exempted from labour protections according to article 7 of the labour law, and locked into a system that has been likened to 'modern day slavery' through a sponsorship modality called kafala" Migrant Workers' Rights Are Women's Rights, UN Women, IOM, LAW, LAU, ILO, KAFA, p. 3 (Migrant-Workers-Rights-are-Womens-Rights-June16-2021-FINAL2.pdf)



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HAQQI AWRATH (HAQQI) - RIGHT TO INHERIT

Legal Empowerment, Lasting Change

Haqqi works to advance women's inheritance rights and prevent economic violence against women and girls in the Baalbek-Hermel region of Lebanon. In 2024, despite the challenging context of ongoing conflict, the organization made significant strides in empowering women through legal support, education, research, and preparing for future community engagement.

Claim Your Inheritance: Haqqi provided direct legal support to 60 women, equipping them to navigate inheritance law and assert their claims. This support fostered self-confidence and increased legal literacy. Critically, for many women, especially those experiencing domestic violence, access to inheritance became a means of escaping abusive relationships and achieving financial independence and safety.

Knowledge is Power: Haqqi reached 258 individuals through targeted training sessions on legal empowerment and gender-based economic violence. These sessions empowered participants to advocate for their rights and challenged the silence and fear often surrounding inheritance issues.

A Foundation for Change: Haqqi completed a survey with 1,504 participants and conducted 21 key informant interviews with clergymen, mayors, and legal professionals to measure the percentage of women deprived of inheritance rights and assess barriers to women accessing those rights. This data will inform a comprehensive study on inheritance rights to be launched in a public conference, driving policy recommendations.

Amplifying Impact: Haqqi's social media outreach exceeded 17 million people. The organization launched a dedicated Facebook page for Syrian women's inheritance rights (ققي اورث سوريا), attracting volunteer Syrian lawyers who offer free legal advice. Haqqi also partnered with the Egyptian initiative "My Inheritance", expanding regional collaboration on women's property rights advocacy.

Looking Forward: Building on the achievements of 2024, Haqqi will continue to expand digital outreach and legal support to women across Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, and Jordan. Theatrical performances will be held in six schools, targeting 1,500 students, to raise awareness among youth on gender equality and inheritance rights.



258 women

women participated in legal empowerment and inheritance rights training





1,504 individuals participated in a survey on inheritance rights

17 million people

reached through advocacy on social media platforms







MOSAIC

Breaking Barriers, Building Community

MOSAIC's "Breaking Barriers" project focuses on strengthening safety and support systems for LGBTIQ+ individuals in Lebanon, a community facing unique vulnerabilities. In 2024, MOSAIC enhanced access to essential services, promoted advocacy, and provided safe spaces for LGBTIQ+ individuals to thrive.

Essential Services for LGBTIQ+ Individuals:

MOSAIC provided direct support to 324 LGBTIQ+ individuals, offering services such as mental health support, legal assistance, and social assessments. The organization also facilitated over 1,700 interactions through its helpline, addressing needs ranging from shelter and food aid to mental health and legal support.

Therapy and Psychosocial Support: MOSAIC delivered 26 individual psychotherapy sessions. As a result, 92.9% of participants reported increased self-esteem and resilience, demonstrating the positive impact of these personalized interventions.

Connecting and Amplifying Voices: MOSAIC engaged 7,266 individuals through social media campaigns, reaching a total of 98,341 interactions since the project's inception.

Enhancing Resilience During Crisis: In response to the crisis at the end of 2024, MOSAIC distributed emergency cash assistance to 234 LGBTIQ+ individuals, addressing immediate needs and bolstering their resilience.

Access to Justice: MOSAIC facilitated legal sessions for 22 LGBTIQ+ individuals, providing crucial legal information and assistance. 92.9% of participants reported an increased understanding of their rights and the justice system.



1,700+ helpline interactions





92.9% of participants

reported increased self-esteem and resilience from their dedicated psychotherapy sessions

IN HER WORDS:

"I believe change is possible, but it requires belief, persistence and collaboration."

Rana Dabliz, a lawyer and human rights advocate, has spent her career championing justice and equality. From her beginnings at the Lebanese University to her impactful role at the Tripoli Bar Association, her journey reflects a steadfast dedication to creating transformative change.

"My passion for human rights advocacy began the moment I decided to study law. I've always believed in the power of standing up against injustice, and I knew I could make a difference.

My involvement with the Lebanese Council of Women was a turning point. I joined its Legal Committee, eventually becoming the youngest head. We tackled pressing issues like the Juvenile Law, nationality rights for children of Lebanese women and women's political participation. These experiences shaped my commitment to advocate for women's rights at both national and international levels.

When I joined the Human Rights Institute at the Tripoli Bar Association in 2008, I saw it as a chance to make a tangible difference. Over the years, I've worked alongside colleagues to advocate for women's rights, leveraging networks and partnerships to drive change.

One project that stands out is the initiative supported by the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) in partnership with Mousawat. Through this project, we broke the silence on sexual harassment in taxis – an issue that was rarely, if ever, addressed. The roundtable discussions we organized brought together stakeholders who had never imagined working together. It was ground-breaking.

Including marginalized women in these discussions was a priority. Collaborating with the Forum for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ensured that all voices were heard.

This project has been transformative. For the first time, law practitioners and security forces came together in Tripoli for training and dialogue. The draft agreement on a reporting mechanism for harassment is a groundbreaking step that I hope will soon come to light. If successful, it could combat harassment in taxis across Lebanon, not just in Tripoli.

I believe change is possible, but it requires belief, persistence and collaboration. Organizing and joining forces with civil society organizations is key. Despite the backlash we sometimes face, we have always stood firm. We found common ground and proved skeptics wrong through our achievements. Our work is proof that perseverance and collaboration can overcome even the toughest resistance."

READ THE FULL STORY





DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION TO ALL PEOPLE - MOUSAWAT (MOUSAWAT)

Taking the Wheel Against Harassment

Sexual harassment in public spaces, particularly in taxis, poses a significant threat to women's safety and wellbeing. In Tripoli, Mousawat is tackling this challenge head-on.

In 2024, Mousawat empowered women and girls by providing them with essential information, practical self-defense skills, and innovative reporting mechanisms to combat harassment. The organization also worked to strengthen support systems, foster collaboration among key stakeholders, and advance legal frameworks to create a safer and more equitable environment for all.

Combatting Harassment: Mousawat reached 1,181 individuals (80% women) through targeted awareness sessions, leading to a 45% increase in knowledge about sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harassment prevention. Complementing this, 80 women and girls participated in self-defense training, equipping them with practical skills and boosting their confidence to confront harassment. This training emphasized a shift from victimhood to "confrontor" or "fighter" status.



1,362 individuals

- including 60% adult women - benefited directly from the project's services



1,181 individuals participated in targeted awareness SGBV and

awareness SGBV and harassment prevention sessions

Strengthening the Framework for Justice:

In partnership with the Tripoli Bar Association (TBA), 10 TBA-assigned lawyers have been providing continuous legal support, which is crucial to the project's success. Additionally, Mousawat finalized and disseminated an open-resource toolkit on combating sexual harassment.

Equipping Key Actors: Mousawat trained 92 individuals (70 women and 22 men) on preventing and responding to sexual harassment, including lawyers, security forces, and civil society organizations. Participants gained practical knowledge and skills, increasing their confidence in addressing these issues. Post-training

evaluations indicated 90% felt better equipped for their work, with all participants reporting learning at least three new things.

United Action: Mousawat created and led a network of stakeholders to raise awareness of and promote the implementation of the sexual harassment law. This was achieved through seven coordination meetings and two high-level roundtables, engaging CSOs, municipalities, universities, international bodies, women's rights and leadership organizations, and political parties. 80% of partners demonstrated sustained commitment throughout the project phases.



INNOVATION IN MOTION

Ishtaki, an Accessible App for Safe Transportation

Ishtaki (meaning "Report" in Arabic) is a groundbreaking mobile application developed by Mousawat to combat sexual harassment in Tripoli's public taxis. This innovative tool empowers women and girls to report incidents confidentially, access vital support services, and contribute to a safer transportation

Key Features and Functionalities:



Confidential Reporting:

Secure and anonymous platform for reporting incidents, including details about the driver, vehicle, and location.



Support Services Access:

Provides a directory of essential support services in Tripoli for survivors, including legal, psychological, and medical



Real-Time Monitoring:

Tracks taxi trips in relation to reported incidents, allowing for better monitoring of harassment



ensure accessibility for all women and girls.





Awareness-Raising & **Prevention:**

Disseminates prevention messages to all users, fostering a culture of respect and accountability.



Multilingual Support:

Available in multiple languages to



Accessible & **User-Friendly Interface**

The design prominently disabilities, including visual impairments and other diverse needs.

Collaboration and Inclusion

Ishtaki was developed through a collaborative process, incorporating input from diverse stakeholders. Legal experts, civil society organizations (including women's rights organizations), and women and girls from various backgrounds participated in shaping the app's design and functionality. To ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach, Mousawat partnered with the Forum for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (FRPD) to facilitate the active participation of women leaders with disabilities from various civil society organizations.

Helmiya Al Masri and Eliana Sassine, both with lived experience of visual impairment, played key leadership roles in the app's development, with their suggestions, incorporating accessibility features like audio commands and enlarged text, were integral to the app's design:



Women and people with disabilities may be seen as the weakest, but we are the strongest because we have a cause to fight for. I felt my strength in creating change."

- Eliana Sassine



Often, people with disabilities are overlooked in such initiatives. Being invited to contribute to Ishtaki made me feel included and respected ... and I'll be the first to use it."

- Helmiya Al Masri



Partnership with the Tripoli Bar Association

The partnership with the Tripoli Bar Association (TBA) has been essential, providing legal guidance and ensuring survivors have access to professional legal assistance.

Looking Ahead

Mousawat is coordinating with the Public Transportation Syndicate to finalize data input. Following this, the app will be launched with a targeted awareness campaign. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will ensure Ishtaki remains a relevant and impactful tool.



FIND OUT MORE **ABOUT ISHTAKI'S DEVELOPMENT AND THE INSPIRING WOMEN BEHIND IT**

NAJDEH ASSOCIATION (NAJDEH)

Safety, Support, and Resilience

Najdeh is dedicated to enhancing the safety, security, and mental health of women and girls in Palestine refugee camps and gatherings across Lebanon. In 2024, the organization's multifaceted project directly reached 6,119 individuals and indirectly impacted a further 729, creating a ripple effect of positive change within these vulnerable communities. Through a combination of support services, awareness activities, and community-led advocacy, Najdeh is working to build a more protective and empowering environment for women and girls.

Raising Voices, Shifting Norms: Najdeh engaged 2,473 community members in awareness activities on GBV prevention, gender discrimination, and risk mitigation. These initiatives fostered positive shifts in attitudes regarding women's rights, with 86% of participants now rejecting the notion that women should endure abuse. The project's reach expanded through 2,800 community mobilizers who led outreach and awareness sessions.

Providing Services and Building Resilience:

Najdeh provided support to 729 individuals, including case management, individual follow-up, and psychological counselling, including art therapy, which helped women express feelings, build self-esteem, and cope with trauma. These interventions fostered individual resilience.

A Ripple Effect of Change: The project directly impacted 6,449 individuals, and also indirectly reached 729 individuals, contributing to greater community awareness.



6,449 individuals

reached through community awareness raising activities



actively engaged in outreach and SGBV awareness efforts



2,473 participants

actively participated in awareness activities



729 individuals

received case management and support



SKOUN

Bridging the Gap: Substance Use and GBV Services

SKOUN is dedicated to addressing the intersection of substance use and gender-based violence (GBV) in Lebanon. In 2024, the organization focused on integrating substance use concerns into the GBV response framework and enhancing mental health support for women at risk of or survivors of GBV. SKOUN achieved important milestones in research, capacity building, and service delivery.

Exposing the Intersection: SKOUN conducted and published a groundbreaking study, "Compounding Vulnerabilities Among Different Groups of Women," exploring the intersection of substance use and GBV. This research, informed by focus group discussions and stakeholder input, offers valuable recommendations to improve services. SKOUN shared these findings with key coordination mechanisms, including the Protection Working Group, MHPSS Task Force, LGBTQI Task Force, and Child Protection Working Group, advocating for integrating substance use into GBV responses.

Training the Front Lines: SKOUN conducted two training sessions for 42 participants from 27 GBV organizations on screening for substance use disorders and making appropriate referrals. 82% of participants reported being able to apply their new knowledge, demonstrating increased confidence in identifying substance use disorders and referrals.

Healing and Empowerment: SKOUN provided 114 counseling sessions to women at risk of or survivors of GBV, primarily online. Seventeen individuals received specialized services, with 35% identifying as belonging to one or more vulnerable groups. One referral came directly from a GBV actor, demonstrating increased awareness of this intersectional issue.

Community Connections: Through 22 street outreach interventions, SKOUN reached 921 women with information about substance use, associated risks, and available support services. This work increased awareness and access to specialized mental health resources.

Building GBV Actors' Capacities: Through two intensive trainings in Beirut and Tripoli, SKOUN trained 42 staff members from 27 organizations working on GBV cases and prevention to identify substance use disorders and make safe referrals, helping reduce stigma and strengthen survivor-centered responses.



987 direct beneficiaries

were reached through community connections and SGBV services



114 counseling sessions

were provided to survivors of GBV and women at risk

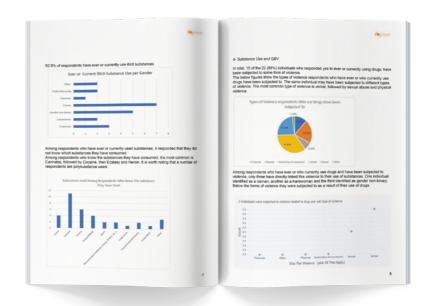


42 staff

from 27 GBV organizations engaged in intensive trainings

Report: Compounding Vulnerabilities Among Different Groups of Women





VIEW THE FULL REPORT







SEENARYO

Taking Center Stage

Seenaryo, in partnership with Women Now for Development, used participatory theatre to empower women in the Bekaa Valley. In 2024, Seenaryo continued its work, focusing on performance, leadership, and community impact.

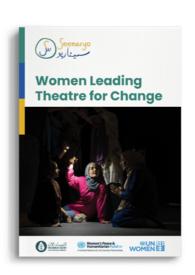
Amplified Voices: 78 women, trained in participatory theatre techniques, took center stage in Tripoli, performing their original play, "I Dream of Dreaming," for an audience of 82, including the UN Special Coordinator to Lebanon and representatives from other WPHF partners. The performance sparked insightful discussions about the challenges faced by women in Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, Palestine, and around the world. The women demonstrated increased confidence and public speaking skills, engaging in dynamic post-performance dialogues with the audience. Their journey was further documented in the "Learning to Lead" video, showcasing their growing leadership and the transformative power of participatory theatre.

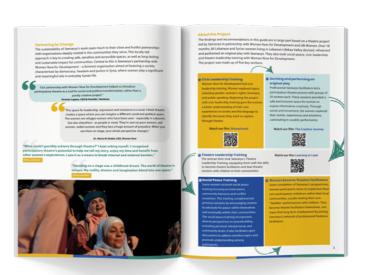
Community Action: Seenaryo's work extended beyond the stage, reaching an additional 15 women and girls in 2024 through targeted advocacy initiatives. This brought the total number of women and girls reached, since the project's inception, to 575. Furthermore, building on their training, 18 women formed four distinct community advocacy initiatives, employing diverse strategies, including storytelling, media engagement, and community mobilization, to address critical issues affecting their communities.



128 women

were trained in participatory theatre techniques, and took to center stage **Skills for Change:** Recognizing the need for accessible resources, Seenaryo developed the <u>"Seenaryo Cookbook: Empowering Communities Through Participatory Arts."</u> This comprehensive guide, created in collaboration with Women Now for Development and UN Women, draws on Seenaryo's nine years of experience and provides practical, step-by-step guidance for using participatory theatre to empower women and foster peacebuilding within communities. In addition, 19 women continued to deepen their self-awareness and leadership skills through a reflective journaling process.







VIEW THE FULL COOKBOOK

34 35



ASSABIL - CULTURE FOR ALL (ASSABIL)

Reading into, and unto Peace

Assabil empowers women and fosters peacebuilding through dynamic library-based initiatives. In 2024, the organization provided diverse training opportunities, established women-led committees, and created spaces for dialogue and critical thinking, transforming libraries into vibrant hubs for positive change.

Literacy for Leadership: Assabil delivered 26 training sessions, reaching 504 women across various locations. These interactive workshops covered a wide range of topics crucial for personal and professional development, including digital literacy, social media engagement, effective communication, negotiation strategies, and creative writing. Participants gained valuable skills and knowledge, with 70% reporting an increase in their capacity for decision-making.

Peace Perspectives: Assabil established two debate clubs, providing a dynamic space for 27 participants to hone their communication and negotiation skills. Through eight dedicated activities, participants engaged in constructive dialogue, practiced critical thinking, and developed their ability to articulate and defend their perspectives. These clubs foster essential skills for effective leadership and civic engagement. Assabil aims to expand this initiative by establishing two additional debate clubs in the coming year.

Writing Their Own Story: Six women's committees were formed, providing platforms for women to lead and actively participate in decision-making processes within their communities. These committees held 24 meetings throughout the year, collaborating on and implementing 27 diverse activities focused on community needs. These activities, held in revitalized library spaces in Ansar, Mansoura, and Borj Chamali, promoted economic empowerment, sustainability, and essential life skills, engaging hundreds of community members. Examples of activities included workshops on supporting small businesses, recycling initiatives, time management, and mobile photography.



504 women

trained in personal and professional development skills

Six women's committees

were formed, providing platforms for women to lead and actively participate in decision-making processes





Two debate clubs

providing a dynamic space for 27 participants to hone their communication and negotiation skills

27 diverse activities

implemented to focus on fostering peace and promoting community needs





ASSI DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (ADA)

Brick by Brick, Women Laying the Foundation of Peace

The Assi Development Association (ADA) is committed to reducing local tensions and building peace in the northern Bekaa region of Lebanon. In 2024, ADA focused on empowering women as peacebuilders, equipping them with the skills and resources to lead initiatives, influence decision-making, and drive positive change within their communities. Through training, advocacy, and direct action, ADA is fostering a culture of peace and demonstrating the vital role of women in conflict resolution and community development.

Leaders for Peace: 100 women participated in training sessions on a range of topics, including education rights, active citizenship, peacebuilding strategies, public policy, advocacy, and decision-making. These sessions resulted in a measurable increase in knowledge and capacity, with 65% of participants reporting improvement. The women effectively applied these new skills by launching social initiatives such as securing a community center, proposing a garbage sorting project, and organizing a "Marathon for Peace and Rights," demonstrating their growing leadership and influence.



Shaping Narratives, Building Peace: ADA established a network of feminist actors, including individuals and CSOs, and launched a dedicated Facebook page to raise awareness and advocate for women's participation in peacebuilding and decision-making. The committees also secured municipal approval for a safe space for women's activities, demonstrating their responsiveness, they conducted needs assessments and provided crucial assistance to three shelters, including distributing dignity kits and hygiene items to 1,053 women and girls. This direct action addressed urgent needs and showcased the committees' effectiveness.

Five women's committees

were formed in six villages to raise awareness and advocate for women's participation in peacebuilding

2,053 individuals







AUBERGE BEITY ASSOCIATION (BEITY)

Securing a Peaceful Future

In 2024, Beity Association focused on empowering women within Lebanon's security sector—the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the Internal Security Forces (ISF)—to enhance their influence in peacebuilding. The project's broad impact indirectly reached 395,600 people.

Skills for Security, Strategies for Peace:

Thirty-three women from LAF and ISF participated in 10 specialized training sessions covering diverse topics, from social media and leadership to gender awareness, human rights, and peace and security. These trainings resulted in significant knowledge gains, with overall participant satisfaction exceeding 90%. Notably, 70% of LAF and 75% of ISF participants were officers, and 25-30% held high-level positions.

Community Voices, Collective Action: Beity fostered dialogue and collaboration through six gendersensitivity panels with ISF representatives and four focus group discussions (FGDs) with IDPs, host communities, and humanitarian actors. These discussions, involving 483 participants in the data collection process, highlighted key barriers for women in peacebuilding and informed recommendations for future initiatives.

Advancing Peace: Based on the findings from the FGDs and surveys, Beity selected 22 participants for advanced training on public policy, legal frameworks, and facilitation skills. This three-day training, coupled with 30 individual coaching sessions, resulted in a remarkable 73.2% improvement in participants' understanding of these critical areas, further equipping them to advocate for gender-sensitive practices within their institutions. Beity also adapted its panel discussions to include both host and displaced communities, fostering greater inclusion and unity in peacebuilding efforts.







Women
from the security sector
participated in specialized
gender awareness sessions

individuals participated in advanced

participated in advanced training on public policy, legal frameworks, and facilitation skills



IN HER WORDS:

"Putting women in charge... gives them more of a say."

Josephine Zgheib, PhD, is a long-time social and political activist from Lebanon. She is President of the Beity Association NGO, Secretary-General of the Lebanese Youth Hostels Federation, and Vice-President of the Arab Network for Social Accountability. Zgheib was elected to the Kfardebian Municipal Council in 2010 and re-elected in 2016. Zgheib has helped develop strategic development plans for several Lebanese and Arab cities, launched myriad social justice campaigns, and helped many associations institutionalize themselves.

How has your experience in civil society contributed to your role as a Municipal Council member?

"I was able to forge new partnerships and network with other organizations and stakeholders, such as our strategic partnership with the UN Women Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. This collaboration enabled me and the team to develop solid insights, which I use to advocate for women's causes in my role as a Municipal Council member. At Beity Association, we focus a lot on public accountability for better governance, so one of the first activities we carried out within the Municipal Council was to integrate accountability and governance into our planning and work.

Because I have an NGO with many women members seeking to have an active role in society, I pushed for and established the Women's Development Bureau in the municipality in 2012, as a model for community participation in local development. More than 12 other municipalities across Lebanon have followed in our footsteps to establish such bureaus. So I cannot separate my work within the NGO from my role in the municipality.

How have your roles shifted in light of the escalating conflict and displacement in Lebanon?

At Auberge Beity, after the initial humanitarian response and meeting people's urgent need for shelter and food in the first week, we sought to preserve the dignity of the displaced. We focused on this by trying to provide each family with their own bathroom, to guarantee more privacy and comfort. We also asked locals and those working with us to use inclusive terminology and avoid pitiful terms when talking to or referring to the displaced. We also started exploring how the displaced view the host community.

What are you doing to amplify women's voices and representation in decision-making?

In every radio or TV appearance, I shed light on the needs of women in shelters but also on their leadership. In Auberge Beity shelters, I have six women leaders with whom I coordinate the arrival and distribution of the aid, whether it is food or blankets or other items.

Putting these women in charge, whether displaced women or women from the local community, gives them more of a say within their families and communities and enables them to prove themselves and play an active role in management. I also support women to lead on dispensary visits, so they coordinate their family's doctor appointments. I believe all this is part of my mission in life.

READ THE FULL STORY





RUWWAD AL TANEMYA (RUWWAD) & CATALYTIC ACTION CHARITY

Creating Shared Spaces for a Shared Future

Ruwwad Al Tanmeya (Ruwwad), in partnership with Catalytic Action Charity, empowers women and youth in Tripoli's historically divided neighborhoods of Bab Al Tebbaneh and Jabal Mohsen. In 2024, the "Women-led Placemaking for Peacebuilding" initiative engaged 125 women across two cycles, utilizing participatory design to rehabilitate public spaces and foster social cohesion.

Placemaking and Peacemaking: 125 women (70% Lebanese, 30% Syrian) participated in the program, which comprised two sequential cycles. In Cycle 1, 63 women gained knowledge and leadership skills in areas such as women's rights, GBV, conflict resolution, urban design, and placemaking. These women then led community consultations, engaging 40 residents to gather feedback on their proposed designs for two public spaces: Al Omari Stairs and the Souk Al Qamh entrance. This direct engagement boosted the women's confidence and fostered a strong sense of project ownership.

A Stairway to Unity: The women's designs for Al Omari Stairs and the Souk Al Qamh entrance were implemented, with renovations including murals, benches, shading, and walkways. A community gathering celebrated the completion of a mural at Al Omari Stairs, co-created by the women and artist Marie Jose Ayoub. While awaiting municipal approval for full public access, these revitalized spaces are poised to benefit over 1,000 residents. Meanwhile, the 62 women participating in Cycle 2 began their training and site selection process, adapting their approach in response to the year-end conflict and exploring ways to engage with women in shelters.

Gender Equality in Urban Design: All 125 women participating in the program actively contributed to discussions on urban planning and budgeting, raising awareness of how gender inequality impacts the built environment. They mapped safe and unsafe spaces in their neighborhoods, generating valuable data for future urban design initiatives. Additionally, 30 youth volunteers (21 women, 9 men) from Ruwwad conducted site observations and gathered baseline data to assess the impact of the rehabilitated spaces.

Sustaining Momentum: 21 women from Cycle 1 formed a steering committee to ensure the long-term maintenance and sustainability of the new public spaces. Ruwwad and atalytic Action Charity, will continue working with Cycle 2 participants to finalize their designs, engage with displaced women, and activate their chosen spaces.



Over 1,000 residents

benefit from the rehabilitated public spaces

125 women

participated in the capacitybuilding cycles





40 community members

were actively engaged in design consultations

Two public spaces

were rehabilitated and revitalized







BORDERLESS

Investing in Women, to Invest in the Future

Borderless, a women-led organization, received institutional support from WPHF to strengthen its organizational capacity and sustain its impact in peacebuilding and humanitarian efforts. This support focused on fortifying the organization's foundation, promoting women's leadership, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Investing in Women's Leadership: The institutional support co-funded the salaries of four female staff members at Borderless, contributing to their professional growth and the organization's overall stability. This investment in women's leadership enabled Borderless to maintain its crucial work in supporting marginalized communities in Beirut's suburbs.



Four staff salaries

were co-funded, contributing to their professional growth and the organization's overall stability

Targeted Training and Tailored Support:

A comprehensive needs assessment informed a tailored training program for 20 staff members. 12 training sessions were conducted on critical topics such as GBV, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), case management, communication strategies, risk management, and project management. These sessions equipped staff with practical skills and knowledge, enhancing their capacity to deliver high-quality services.



Four key areas

of organizational capacity strengthened: Risk Management, Fundraising, Data Management and Human Resources

Tools for Sustainability and Growth:

Borderless received tailored consultancies in key areas, including project management, risk management, fundraising, data management, and human resources. These consultancies provided in-depth assessments, developed customized tools, and delivered 12 hands-on training sessions on critical topics such as GBV, PSEA, AAP, case management, communication strategies, and risk management. These sessions equipped staff with practical skills and knowledge, enhancing their capacity to deliver high-quality services.



IN HER WORDS:

"Every step forward – no matter how small – is part of a larger, transformative movement."

Myriam Sfeir is a member of the National Steering Committee for the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) in Lebanon. She reflects on her journey to reshape societal structures and empower local organizations to promote gender equality.

"Change may be slow, but every step forward – no matter how small – is part of a larger, transformative movement. We are not just fighting for laws or policies, but for a profound cultural shift – a change in the way society perceives and treats women.

Grass-roots organizations supported by WPHF are the ones driving the real change. They're addressing the root causes of oppression, one community at a time. These organizations are pushing boundaries, challenging outdated norms, and creating safe spaces for vulnerable groups – especially women and LGBTQI+communities. We understand the specific needs of the communities we're trying to serve because we're part of those communities. We know who should be supported, and we know what needs to change.

Successful collaborations with the Internal Security Forces (ISF) and Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in integrating gender-sensitive practices within these institutions have helped them foster a culture of respect and accountability. These collaborations are a great example of how lasting, institutional change can be achieved through collective action. We've seen these partnerships produce real results – results that protect women and ensure that their rights are respected across Lebanon.

My message to women who want to be part of this change is: Keep going. It's easy to feel discouraged when things aren't changing quickly, but real, meaningful transformation takes time. Do not despair. The journey is long and change is not immediate. But the work we do now is cumulative.

Every effort, every campaign, every bit of awareness we raise is laying the foundation for future victories. We must remain engaged, even when the results are not instantly visible. Every step, every challenge we face, is part of a broader movement towards justice. We should never underestimate the power of persistence and the importance of standing together as a force for change."

READ THE FULL STORY





IN FOCUS

CALL FOR PROPOSAL 2 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, UN women and the WPHF launched the second round of selected projects in Lebanon. This pivotal event brought together six women-led and feminist organizations to advance gender-responsive peacebuilding, protect vulnerable women and girls, and address the needs of marginalized groups across the country. While the projects officially began in 2023, several remained active through 2024 due to no-cost extensions, allowing partners to complete activities and further sustain their impact during a period of heightened need.

COMMITTEE OF EMPLOYEE WOMEN UNION (CEWU)

In 2024, CEWU, in partnership with Smart Centre and Creadel, successfully increased the role of women in conflict resolution and policy promotion, with tangible impact on peacebuilding efforts. A total of 102 women and young women, including 10% Syrian refugees, contributed to resolving, averting, and mediating conflicts within their communities. Their interventions led to four successful conflict resolutions, where trained mediators facilitated dialogue in family disputes, neighborhood tensions, and workplace conflicts, preventing escalations and fostering reconciliation.

University Youth Debate Clubs: In 2024, established university clubs launched dynamic activities, including four public debates in Koura and Bekaa, fostering student engagement on peacebuilding, gender equality, and public policy. The clubs expanded their impact through digital advocacy, storytelling, and collaboration with

municipalities, spreading discussions on peacebuilding and promoting inclusive policy dialogue within universities and local communities.

Conflict Mitigation & Mediation Committees (CMMCs): In 2024, four CMMCs were successfully formed in both Baalbeck and Koura (North Lebanon). These committees focused on the creation and application of conflict resolution. They conducted four mediation sessions, demonstrating women's active role in fostering peace and cohesion within their communities.

Public Debates for Peace: 102 empowered women actively participated, organized four debates at Lebanese International University, Notre Dame University, and the Amioun Municipality. These debates exceeded expectations by engaging 1,860 online viewers and 177 physical attendees.

WOMEN ALIVE

In 2024, one hundred additional women (161 since project start) demonstrated an improvement through their active leadership as community leaders and mobilizers. These women peacebuilders played a critical role in expanding public discourse on gender equality, women's political participation (WPP), and peacebuilding processes.

Women Peacebuilders Leading Lasting Change: In 2024, they led 58 additional peacebuilding and awareness-raising activities, bringing the total to 194 initiatives (since project start) that directly reached

2,954 people. Throughout 2024, Women Alive facilitated meaningful connections between women and 14 key stakeholders, including local NGOs, the Municipality of Tripoli, the Tripoli Bar Association, universities, and women-led groups. As a direct result, four draft policies were developed to enhance gender inclusion within these institutions.

LEBANON FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION (LFPA)

Empowering Women Through Advocacy and Leadership: In 2024, 210 adult women gained valuable insights into political and decision-making processes. These women, organized into 17 committees since 2023, have been leading local advocacy and community development efforts, even in the face of postponed municipal elections.

Community-Led Advocacy Initiatives: Despite challenges, women continued to champion key initiatives. In 2024, four new advocacy initiatives were launched. One notable effort was in Jenata, where 18 elderly women received support through a community gathering focusing on financial and family care in the wake of the September 2024 conflict.

Educational Empowerment and Economic Development: In Maarakeh, 28 teachers received training in cyber literacy, improving their ability to integrate technology into classrooms. Meanwhile, in Abbassieh and Jenata, 36 displaced women were trained in knitting, and 23 women learned the art of jam-making and confectionery. These skills are helping them to start small businesses and build financial independence.

Inclusive Public Awareness Events: A public event at Mansoura Park brought together 50 elderly individuals and people with disabilities. Led by women leaders, the gathering focused on promoting rights, inclusion, and accessibility, fostering a more equitable community for all.





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