



Photo: Francesca Volpi

Stuck in Time

15th March 2011 - 15th March 2021
10 Years of War in Syria

WeWorld presents the condition of women and girls
in informal tented settlements in Lebanon



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Syria

OVERVIEW

While the conflict in Syria is often represented as winding down, in reality, the crisis that results from an ongoing war fought in pockets across Syria by a multitude of actors remains as dynamic and dangerous as ever.

The main escalation of violence in 2019 was not driven by military confrontation between GoS and organised armed groups (OAGs), but by **conflict between Turkey and Kurdish forces (SDF)**. Though heavily contested, by the end of 2019, Turkey had secured a 100km strip of territory between the towns of Tell Abiad and Ras Al Ain, extending 30km south. The offensive triggered other fundamental shifts in the areas of influence and control exerted by the main actors involved in the conflict. In the absence of US assistance, SDF sought military support from GoS under an agreement brokered by Russia. While the expansion in GoS presence in the East was ultimately limited and a wider political settlement with SDF is far from resolved, the development lays the foundation in the longer term for a reassertion of GoS influence.

Across 2020, while overall conflict activity remains relatively low in the East, insecurity is primarily driven by **insufficient supply of electricity**, which in turn had a detrimental impact on the provision of water from Alok Water Pumping Station. A drop in the electricity supply was reportedly due to a decreased hydroelectric power output as a result of reduced water flows through the portion of Euphrates River in Northeast Syria. Power availability has become a major source of tension in the region, prompting major demonstrations since early June 2020.

In Northwest, increasing military hostilities have been observed during 2020, particularly in vicinity of the frontlines south of the M4 highway in the Idleb area, with more frequent shelling reported since July.

Though much lower than conflict activity elsewhere in the country, **Southern Syria** saw an increasing number of OAG attacks and rising public unrest during 2019 and 2020, particularly in Dar'a, against a backdrop of mounting local grievances over persistent issues of poor service provision, widespread conscription arrests and a worsening economy. In July and September 2020, IDF targeted sites in proximity to the capital in strikes across southern and central Syria.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

Since its start in 2011, the conflict in Syria has had a disastrous effect on the country's economy and no major improvements were seen during 2019. The country has experienced market collapse, high inflation and currency depreciation. Job shortages



and lack of cash are major challenges faced by most of the 6.2 million internally displaced people of Syria, as well as many of the host communities.

As reported by UNDP, an estimated 83% of Syrians live below the poverty line, and over 50% of the labour force has been pushed into unemployment. Sanctions and political conditions are among the obstacles standing in the way. The **value of the Syrian Pound** (SYP) in informal markets hovered around 2,200 SYP per US Dollar in August 2020, and the increase of fuel subsidized price since September 2020 are further marginalizing the poorer and more vulnerable members of society.

HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Based on the estimates produced by UNOCHA in anticipation of the publication of its Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2021, the number of People in Need (PiN) for 2021 will be 13 million.

For specific sectors identified as priorities for WeWorld's interventions in Syria, the PiN numbers estimated for 2021 are:

- » **Education Sector:** 6.9 million PIN.
- » **Protection Sector:** 13.1 million PIN.
- » **WASH Sector:** 12.2 million PIN.

Lebanon

OVERVIEW

Ten years have passed since the outbreak of the Syrian war. With no solution in sight, its negative effects continue to be felt within the region, particularly in Lebanon.

With a population of barely 7 million people, Lebanon is the country with the highest concentration per capita of refugees in the world.

Estimated figures show that the total number of refugees hosted in the Levantine country amount to approximately 2 million: **approximately 1,5 million Syrians**, including 865,500 registered with UNHCR as of end of December 2020, 15,800 refugees of Ethiopian, Iraqi, Sudanese and other origins, and 475,075 Palestinian registered to UNRWA.

As a result, the country's infrastructure and public services, which were already under-performing, have suffered heavily from such intense pressure. To make matters worse, Lebanon is currently facing an unprecedented situation of its own; since mid-October 2019, multiple crises have compounded and have become completely unmanageable.

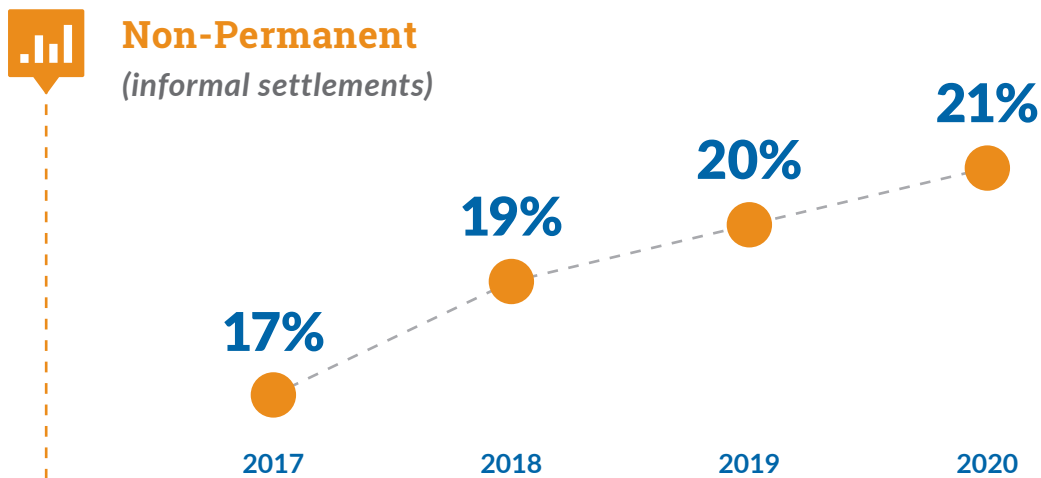
On the one hand, the economic and socio-political challenges led the country to default on its foreign debt for the very first time and witness a sharp devaluation of its local currency. On the other, the COVID-19 outbreak is further contributing to the economic recession, placing additional pressure on already difficult living conditions. This has been exacerbated by the dreadful explosions that hit Beirut on the 4th August 2020.

HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Shelter

The Lebanese Government, already familiar with refugees given the presence of Palestinian camps in the country, has refused to allow the establishment of official refugee camps with permanent structures. As a consequence, most of the Syrians refugees live in sub-standard facilities in cities and villages. The others, 21% in 2020¹, live in tents in informal settlements on private lands in which it's prohibited to have any permanent structures or equipment. They are mainly located in Baalbek-El Hermel, Bekaa and Akkar.

1 VASyR preliminary data for 2020



According to estimated data in 2019², around **75,500 adult women and 167,000 children are living in informal settlements in Lebanon.**

Shelters occupied by refugee households are classified into three categories as per below³:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Residential | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apartment 2. Concierge room in residential building 3. Hotel room |
| Non-residential | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Factory 2. Workshop 3. Farm 4. Active construction site 5. Shop 6. Agricultural/engine/pump room 7. Warehouse 8. School |
| Non-Permanent structures | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tent 2. Prefab Unit |

² Based on the IAMP

³ Table from the VASyR

More than half of the Syrian refugee households live in overcrowded shelters, shelters below humanitarian standards and/or shelters that are at risk of collapsing⁴. 92% of the informal settlements where WeWorld-GVC is operating are either at extreme or high risk of shelter damage⁵.

Most Syrian refugees are forced to live in swiftly constructed tents that are meant to be temporary and that remain unsuitable for accommodation. These shelters in informal settlements are not adequately designed to provide enough privacy, dignity and safety, and can be a risk factor for gender-based violence. In WeWorld-GVC areas of interventions, on average a tent of 30 m² is housing 6 people, sharing the sleeping space, sometimes with non-family members; they are also sharing the same latrines that are 20 m away from the shelter, with 7 different people and with no distinction between genders⁶.

The overcrowded settlements can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 because of lack of space for self-isolation.

When a family arrives in the informal settlement, they are provided with the New Arrival Kit (NAK), comprising different sizes of timber to build the structure of their tent, a toolbox, hinges and locks for one door and a synthetic plastic mattress. The new tent has to comply with the standards set internationally and adapted to Lebanon: each inhabitant should have a minimum of 4.5 m² covered space⁷.

Wash

The households in non-permanent shelters are not allowed to connect to the public water service, when possible. As a consequence, refugees rely mostly on water tanks or trucked water, either provided by UN/NGOs or supplied by a private provider, which is a costly and unsustainable solution.

As it is not allowed to build permanent facilities, latrines are situated outside the tents and most of the time there is no proper toilet present inside. The agreed standard is to have one latrine for 15 persons. The most common toilet facility is a pit latrine with a seat. The sewage is discharged into covered pits that have to be emptied on a regular-basis. Without proper containment and treatment facilities, the wastewater might lead to environmental pollution and endanger the health of community members.

Community members are sometimes obliged to take their shower in the kitchen, which is too small and usually without a door, putting girls and women especially in inadequate situations to ensure their minimum dignity or safety.

4 VASyR 2019

5 Community Protection Approach assessment, 2019

6 Community Protection Approach assessment, 2019

7 Sphere



The impact of Covid-19 on Syrian refugees in Lebanon

Most of the Syrian refugees are engaged in daily work and in informal sectors, which have been severely impacted by the economic crisis and the COVID-19 measures that led to decreased job opportunities, closures of shops, and difficulties in accessing workplaces.

In 2020, the proportion of Syrian refugee households living under the extreme poverty line **increased from 55% to 89%** compared to 2019. The average monthly revenue is less than LBP 308,728 per person, less than half the minimum wage in Lebanon.

According to the CARE Rapid Gender Analysis, “men’s inability to provide for their families and fulfil their roles as breadwinners has had negative repercussions on their mental health and perception of their gender roles [...] increased feelings of stress and uncertainty has affected people’s mindset and are often guilty of venting their anger and frustration out on their family members, i.e. mostly women and children.”

Another harmful consequence of the COVID-19 measures is the disruption of education. Since October 2019, children living in Lebanon have seen their education interrupted due to protests and road blockages, followed by school closures due to lockdowns. The situation is even worse for Syrian child refugees who were already facing major impediments to education: lack of financial resources to go to school and/ or to buy school materials, inadaptability of the Lebanese curriculum - which is taught in English and French, two languages with which Syrian children are not familiar with - and the schools’ inability to open second shifts for Syrian children. According to Plan International, during the first lockdown, only 28% of Syrian girls and 15% of Syrian boys were attending distance learning classes.

Livelihoods

Wherever they live, Syrian refugees face important restrictions in terms of the range of opportunities they have access to. For example, they are prohibited from applying to legal or medical staff positions. Consequently, the main sectors of work remain construction (21%), agriculture (17%), and other services (13%)⁸.

Livelihood opportunities for Syrian refugees are restricted to two main sources of income, i.e. WFP assistance, and informal debt from friends and shops. In addition, households living in non-permanent shelters have a tendency to rely greatly on WFP



assistance (51%), as opposed to those living in non-residential (25%) and residential (16%) shelters⁹.

The economic and financial crisis that Lebanon is currently facing is further deteriorating the living conditions of Syrian refugees living in informal settlements, due to the devaluation of the national currency and as a consequence, their purchasing power. The multiple lockdowns aiming to curb the COVID-19 outbreak are also having negative impacts on job opportunities.

Among all the Syrian refugees, i.e. not only those living in informal settlements, the labor force participation rate was 39% in 2020, against 38% in 2019, 67% among men and 12% for women. 37% of the labor force was unemployed in 2020 (31% in 2019), with a higher percentage among women (46%) compared to men (35%)¹⁰.

9 Ibid

10 VASyR preliminary data for 2020

The Challenges Facing Women and Girls in Syria and Lebanon



Abir's story

Akkar, Lebanon
October 2020

«When the war started, my parents said it would be over soon. They said that there was no need to be afraid. When I arrived here in Lebanon, they said the same thing, but it wasn't true: I have been here for 8 years.

I live with my parents-in-law; there are 14 of us in the house. I left without my mother because she didn't want to leave Syria. I haven't seen her for years and we speak once a month at the most; that's why I want to go back. When we decided to bring her here, the war escalated again and now, even if she wanted to come, she couldn't.

We work in strawberry greenhouses a few days a week. It's very tiring, but we have no choice. We live like the Lebanese: we have to pay the rent, buy food...but everything has become so expensive. If we don't pay, they cut off our electricity and we have to buy the water we use.

When I found out that I was pregnant I was over the moon. Unfortunately, I don't have access to health services nor money to go for check-ups. Perhaps, one day, when we have enough money, I will continue the treatment I was forced to interrupt because it was too expensive.

When I was in Syria, I went to school, but then schools closed because of the war. I liked going to school because I love learning and I want a better life in the future. However, I am a married woman now and I am expecting a baby. Going back to school is a dream that I have given up on completely. I hope that my child will go to school and receive a good education, because education is a fundamental aspect of children's life.

I have many hopes, aspirations and dreams. One of these is certainly that of going back home, to Syria, to build a house and live a peaceful, happy and dignified life. I hope that my life will be better when my child is born.

I feel strong and I am able to overcome difficulties and terrible situations. It doesn't matter what I ask for, the Lord will always give me the strength to face difficulties. However, I worry about my parents and my baby. If the situation doesn't change, how will I manage to give him a decent life?»





Nafila's story

*Bekaa Valley, Lebanon
October 2020*

«The most valuable memento I brought with me from Syria is my university degree. Thanks to that certificate I can now work here as a volunteer. Anyone who knows me, also knows that I am a strong woman. I have always been ambitious. I began teaching when my oldest son was just 40 days old, I picked him up and went out to teach. When I was pregnant with my second child, I took my first child to work with me. At the start of the Syrian crisis, it got difficult to go into town to collect my wages, so I worked for a whole year without getting paid.



Photo: Francesca Volpi

It saddens me that my children don't go to school. I try my best to give them a basic education at home, but they can't reach the levels they would at school. There are many children who don't go to school in this camp, but not all of the women think like me. They are just focussed on coping with the life they are living now. Some teenagers here can't read or write but they adapt to the situation and don't complain. But, because I was a teacher, I think that my children should have access to education. Not going to school compromises their future.

Life is not easy here: we pay for water, which is often not drinkable, electricity and even to be able to stay on this land. Now, we are even more afraid of using contaminated water, because of Coronavirus. We have a bathroom inside the tent but latrines are outside and many women and young girls are afraid of using them at night because there is no illumination. For this reason, we don't go alone or we use torches. That's our solution to the problem. There is rain, wind and fog. In winter, rain comes in through the roof and the covering doesn't keep the tent warm; it's always cold. When there are storms the tents come loose and overturn.

Life for women here isn't easy; some are marginalised, other are considered inferior just because they live in a community made up mainly of men. For example, men are paid 15,000 Lebanese pounds a day while women are paid 8,000 pounds a day even if they do the same job and work the same hours. This depends a lot on the culture and mentality that people have grown up with.

I have very fond memories of my country, my friends, my family and school. I was pregnant when we fled. The saddest moment for me was when we crossed the Syrian border and that's when I said to myself: "I'll never come home again; that's the sad truth". When I got here, someone spoke to me about a midwife, who helped me give birth. My husband and I hope we will be able to go home. Our children have hopes and dreams too and sometimes they ask: "Mummy, when can we go home? When can I get my toys in Syria?" Our answer is: "Soon, God willing. Let's see what happens".

I truly hope and pray that I won't be here in 10 years from now; I want to find a better job for my own sake and that of my children. »

SYRIA

Women and girls have faced a steady increase in the risks and forms of gender-based violence (GBV), due to the ongoing conflict and the deteriorating economic situation, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on movement restrictions and access to services.

Women and girls, particularly those that are widowed, divorced and/or displaced, have been facing physical, emotional, and sexual violence, exploitation and abuse, early and forced marriage, and the denial of education and economic resources. GBV occurs almost everywhere: from schools, workplaces and public transport, to homes, camps and shelters.

Lockdown measures and lack of employment opportunities have been associated with a spike in cases of domestic violence against women and adolescent girls¹¹.

The crisis in Syria, given its violent and prolonged nature, has led to the emergence of new risks linked to child protection: on one hand the presence of unexploded devices throughout the territory, and on the other the spread of traditional practices that are harmful to girls/adolescents, seen as a solution to the extreme vulnerability of families. Early marriage was a fairly common practice in Syria. Here, the minimum legal age of marriage is 17 for women and 18 for men. However, there were cases of child marriage even before the crisis, some (3%) involving girls under the age of 15.

During the crisis, Syrian girls and adolescents have seen the risk of becoming married increase substantially. Early marriage is used by families in situations of vulnerability as a protection strategy aimed at obtaining more economic security, both for their daughters and for the family itself.

The consequences of this practice, such as domestic violence, early pregnancies, abortions, family conflicts and school drop-outs, pose serious risks to the physical and mental health of girls and women who are subject to it, leading up to diseases and even suicide.

Access to education is a determining factor that can provide protection to girls and adolescents, by preventing and limiting this type of risks.

Although there is no official data, all national and international actors agree on two aspects:

1. child marriage it is a wide-spread practice;
2. there is a need to act concretely through awareness-raising activities and information campaigns involving adolescents and their parents.

¹¹ https://syria.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/2021_gbv_advocacy_brief_-_english_-_fa1_0.pdf

LEBANON

Perception of the Syrian refugees living in 78 communities in Akkar and North Bekaa (the % of the communities out of the 78 ones that mentioned the issue), before the COVID-19 outbreak.

Participation and Restrictions

Mostly due to cultural norms, women in the ITSs are not involved in decision making processes and are not included in influential/representative positions (15%), although in most cases they are not prevented from participating in any activity.

Moreover, women also see their movements restricted (22%), being forbidden to move outside the settlement alone unless – in some communities - to work or to buy utilities. These restrictions, fuelled by fear of harassment or kidnapping and cultural reasons, hinders their independency and freedom.

Security

Harassment and mistreatment of women and girls (14%) are common, with girls facing verbal harassment on the way to school, and adult women quitting jobs and reducing movements due to the risk of physical harassment.

Community latrines, located outside the tents, and often without proper doors, locks and light at night, raise privacy and safety issues (36%). To cope with this situation, women usually use these facilities in groups or accompanied by men.

In the tents, as rooms are not properly divided, women and girls face difficulties in changing clothes and taking showers (56%) due to a lack of privacy.

Responsibilities

Women are generally assigned the role of caregivers, for both PWSN (People with special needs) and children, hindering their autonomy. The responsibilities start early, with several girls quitting school to help with household chores (9%).

Women's role is traditionally limited to household responsibilities (6 mentioned directly, but implicit in more), although due to the deteriorating economic situation, the women of many communities have started to work.

However, in agriculture, women tend to receive a lower salary (12%) than men, which leads to cases in which women eventually quit working. For the remaining female



workforce, being employed results in an accumulation of responsibilities, since women who work also continue taking care of their children as well as household chores.

Furthermore, despite movement restrictions imposed by the communities, officials at checkpoints across Lebanon tend to be more tolerant with women, which grants them the possibility to access certain services that men cannot (35%) such as pharmacies, money withdrawal, shopping, etc). However, this results in extra responsibilities (and eventually insecurity), since women are those who can access most services.

Education

School drop-out (94%, of which 22% mention only girls dropping out) is a widespread problem among Syrian communities, exacerbated by early marriage (10%), unsafe transit (24%), and the need for domiciliary (8%) or economic support. This results in a high rate of illiteracy among females that protract the feeling of disempowerment across generations.

What does WeWorld do in Syria?

The presence of WeWorld-GVC in Syria dates back to 2011. WeWorld-GVC's mission has one office in Damascus, one in Aleppo and one in Deir-Ez-Zor, with ongoing operations in Aleppo and Deir-Ez-Zor governorates, counting on more than 28 country staff members (6 expatriates). Main areas of intervention are: Education, Protection, WASH and Emergency Response (including Covid-19 response).

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

In 2020, WeWorld-GVC - in collaboration with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the Ministry of Education- began to carry out awareness campaigns to sensitize communities on the risks related to early marriage, with activities targeting at least 515,000 beneficiaries in Aleppo and Deir-Ez-Zor through such activities:

1. SMS awareness campaign;
2. Community awareness campaigns.
3. In-school sessions delivered by School Counselors to girls and boys

The campaign started in July 2020 and will continue until May 2021.

EDUCATION

In 2020, WeWorld-GVC conducted 3 projects (funded by AICS, ECHO and UN-OCHA) encompassing Education in Aleppo and Deir-Ez-Zor governorates, including:

1. **REHABILITATION OF SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURES INCLUDING IN-SCHOOL WASH FACILITIES.** WeWorld-GVC adopts standards and measures that make rehabilitated schools well-equipped for PWDs (people with disabilities) and that ensure there is enough space to manage gender diversity within the classrooms. Furthermore, rehabilitation of the learning spaces is oriented to create comfortable and friendly spaces (e.g. colored wall paintings). In 2020, WeWorld-GVC rehabilitated 11 schools (2 schools located in Aleppo city; 4 located in rural Aleppo areas; 5 located in Deir-Ez-Zor city), and additional 11 facilities are being rehabilitated since January 2021. As part of each rehabilitation work, WeWorld-GVC guarantees the provision of school furniture. In 2020, 3,144 desks were provided to rehabilitated schools and other schools in need in rural Aleppo and Deir-Ez-Zor city. In 2019, WeWorld-GVC rehabilitated 8 school infrastructures (2 schools located in Aleppo city; 3 in rural Aleppo areas; 3 in Deir-Ez-Zor city). In the same

year, 2,814 double school desks with chairs were distributed to schools after rehabilitation, benefiting 5,628 students.

2. EQUIPMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT ROOMS IN SCHOOLS OF ALEPPO AND DEIR-EZ-ZOR. The rehabilitation and equipment of 6 ECD rooms (5 in Aleppo, 1 in Deir-Ez-Zor) in 2020/21 allows at least 140 children in pre-school age (3-5 years old) to attend educational services in a protective school environment.

3. CREATE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN (OOSC) AND CHILDREN AT RISK OF DROP-OUT through the activation of Non-formal Education programs (NFE) like Self-Learning programs (SLP) and Remedial Classes (RCs). Specifically, the SLP targets **out-of-school children** and covers essential elements of the official curriculum in a simplified manner, allowing children to recover their gaps until they can be integrated into a regular classroom. Remedial classes provide educational support to children who are **newly enrolled** in regular classes, being at risk of drop-out from school because of their poor performance/commitment. In 2019 and 2020, 21 SLP centers were opened, enrolling 2,949 OOSC girls and boys; 2,162 of them concluded one cycle of the program, therefore catching up 1 year's gap of education. In parallel, 18 Remedial Classes centers have been activated, reaching 3,569 students; 3,433 of them completed one course of the program.

4. CONDUCT BACK-TO-LEARNING (BTL) CAMPAIGNS (MEDIA OUTREACH, AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION). Through the BTL campaigns, with the primary purpose of reinserting OOSC into formal education, WeWorld-GVC mobilizes communities and children on the importance of attending school. In 2019, a total number of 29,540 individuals were reached by: door to door visits to collect lists of out-of-school children and create databases that also integrate a breakdown of the main barriers to education; edu-entertainment activities; distribution of awareness materials stressing the importance of education; awareness-raising sessions and help-desks to address questions from parents and community members. New BTL campaigns were implemented in October and November 2020, identifying around 2,300 OOSC in both governorates.

5. PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH LIFE SKILLS AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAMS. WeWorld-GVC – supported by trained teachers - implements recreational activities as specific structured events where children enrolled in NFE programs can have fun while learning life-skills and improving school commitment and abilities on different topics.

6. PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH SCHOOL BAGS AND LEARNING MATERIALS, AND SCHOOLS WITH TEACHING MATERIALS (SCHOOL IN A BOX KITS). In 2019, a total number of 3,579 children were provided with stationery/learning

materials in non-formal settings. In 2020, the 11 rehabilitated schools were provided with teaching materials (n. 60 School in a Box kits); furthermore, around 6.000 children in NFE programs received learning materials, including school bags.

- 7. PROVIDE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS.** In 2019, 950 teachers and educators benefited from WeWorld-GVC training courses on a variety of skills and topics across Aleppo rural areas and Deir-Ez-Zor city, under AICS and ECHO funds. More specifically, 3 different training courses were provided: on Active Learning methodology (AL), Psychosocial support (PSS), and Risk Education on Improvised Explosive Devices, Unexploded Ordnance and Mines (RE). In November and December 2020, an additional 100 teachers have been trained in Life-Skills and PSS contents in newly accessible areas (shifted under GoS' control in February 2020) of Aleppo.

PROTECTION

Through the AICS and ECHO-funded projects, WeWorld-GVC in 2019 and 2020 implemented:

- 1. TRAINING TO TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS IN MINE RISK EDUCATION (RE).** A total number of 350 teachers were trained in Risk Education (100 in rural Aleppo areas, 250 in Deir-Ez-Zor city). Each teacher was able to transfer to 50 students key knowledge on how to deal with the risks of mines/IEDs, reaching a total number of 17.500 students.
- 2. RISK EDUCATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN ALEPPO AND DEIR-EZ-ZOR CITIES.** The campaign sensitizes at least 4.000 children through edu-entertainment events focused on Mine Risk Education (20 events in Aleppo and 20 in Deir-Ez-Zor).
- 3. EARLY MARRIAGE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN ALEPPO AND DEIR-EZ-ZOR CITIES.** The campaign sensitizes at least 515.000 individuals on the risks linked with early marriage practices, through: SMS campaigns, awareness sessions with parents and in-school sessions delivered by School Counselors to girls and boys. The campaign started in July 2020 and will continue until May 2021.
- 4. PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL AND AT RISK OF DROPPING OUT.** All children enrolled in NFE education program are supported through structured PSS events to strengthen their well-being. Events are delivered by WeWorld-GVC and trained SARC volunteers.

WASH

The WASH interventions implemented in 2019 and 2020 contribute to the Strategic Objective 3 of the HRP 2019 (Humanitarian Response Plan 2019-Syria under ECHO and OCHA funded projects

The interventions encompass the following activities contributing to the achievement of the WASH Sector Objective 1: **Support to water, sanitation/ sewage and solid waste management systems to ensure regular services for affected people in Syria**

- 1. REHABILITATION OF 3 WATER PUMPING STATIONS IN RURAL ALEPPO.** The interventions benefit around 90.000 individuals who gain access to safe and sufficient water for domestic use
- 2. REHABILITATION OF DECENTRALIZED WATER NETWORKS IN RURAL ALEPPO AND DEIR-EZ-ZOR,** benefiting around 21.000 individuals
- 3. REHABILITATION OF A WATER RESERVOIR IN DEIR-EZ-ZOR,** benefiting around 15.000 individuals

Soft component activities are also carried out in order to improve adequate hygiene practices to the targeted population.

FIRST LINE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE, INCLUDING COVID-19 RESPONSE

As a rapid emergency response WeWorld-GVC will be able to target IDPs influx by quickly providing WASH Community Emergency Items in case any emergency (related to North-West and/or North East Syria crisis) should occur.

Response to COVID-19 epidemic is ongoing in terms of:

- » Rehabilitation of WASH-in school facilities in Aleppo and Deir-Ez-Zor;
- » Implementation of hygiene promotion campaigns in schools in Aleppo;
- » Distribution of sanitizers/cleaning kits to schools in Aleppo and Deir-Ez-Zor;
- » Distribution of family hygiene kits to vulnerable families in Aleppo;
- » Rehabilitation of health centers in Deir-Ez-Zor city.

What does WeWorld do in Lebanon?

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The presence of WeWorld-GVC in Lebanon dates back to 2006. With offices in Beirut, Zahlé, Kobayat and El Ain, the organization's main areas of intervention in 2021 are: WASH, Shelter, and Emergency Response (including Covid-19 response with activities targeting both Lebanese nationals and Syrian citizens living in Informal Settlements and in villages).

Since 2012, WeWorld-GVC is providing assistance to Syrian refugees living in informal tented settlements under the ECHO-funded Lebanon Protection Consortium, along with NRC and Action against Hunger. The LPC assists persons affected by displacement through a community-oriented holistic protection approach under the framework of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP).

In 2020, under the LPC, WeWorld-GVC responded to 8,967 emergencies in ITSs, by, among other interventions, providing a new shelter after a fire, a storm or evictions, responding to water and sanitation needs such as emptying the pit of a latrine that was spilling over. To tackle the spread of the COVID-19 in overcrowded settlements, WeWorld-GVC provided 49,706 COVID-19 kits that included re-usable masks for children and adults, bleach and soaps, along with awareness-raising sessions on how to protect against the pandemics.

In order to help refugees meet their basic needs and access essential services, WeWorld-GVC implemented activities to improve the living conditions of refugees, such as installing a non-permanent sewage system to dispose of used water, providing refugees with solar lamps so they can move outdoors safely at night and other activities. In 2020, 835 individuals benefitted from those activities under the Protection Response Plans which they helped create; and 5,767 individuals benefitted from activities to meet their most urgent needs.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

WeWorld-GVC is coordinating with the best-placed partners in Akkar and North Bekaa to provide women with activities to promote their ability to determine their own choices. For example, our partners provided mental health and psycho-social support sessions for women and girls, vocational trainings for women, and capacity building for home-based income generating activities.

SHELTER

WeWorld-GVC is responding to refugees' acute shelter needs by providing them with shelter kits to help them settle (New Arrival Kits) or to reinforce their shelters after a shock, such as flooding (Medium Repairs Kits) or fire incidents (Large Repair Kits). These kits include different materials and tools that are necessary to build or repair tents: tarpaulins, different types of nails, claw hammer, handsaw, plastic mattresses etc. In 2020, WW-GVC distributed 231 kits that helped 233 households meeting their shelter needs.

Fire incidents are common in informal settlements due to overcrowding and poorly maintained electric wiring: wires are cut and reconnected several times, hanging without protection and exposed to weather conditions. This poses serious risks to community members and children specifically, due to risks of short circuits and the danger posed by electrical wires laying uncovered on the ground.

In 2020, 222 electrical kits were distributed to support refugees in the installation of a formal and safe electrical connection, stressing the importance of installing new lighting points in places where all family members could benefit from, (i.e. sleeping areas, common spaces, in order to optimize the illumination of the tent).

82 fire extinguishers were also provided along with specific information sessions on how to use the materials and on the importance of safe electrical connections to avoid the risk of short-circuits and fires.

As part of the “no-camp” policy, it's prohibited to upgrade any of the external electrical connections. These constraints can significantly limit the scope of humanitarian actions; which often result in “sub-optimal” interventions, cyclical and substitution activities with limited sustainability in the medium-long term. To allow refugees to be able to move safely out of their tents at night - to go to the latrines for instance - and without installing any permanent structures, WeWorld-GVC distributed 561 portable solar lamps in 2020.

WASH

In informal settlements there has to be 1 latrine per 15 people, this is the minimum standard. WeWorld-GVC is striving to install one latrine per household to increase refugees' safety, privacy and dignity so that they do not have to share their latrines with people who are not members of their households.

In 2020, WeWorld-GVC distributed 137 latrines in informal settlements to allow a safer and dignified access to sanitation, including for people with special needs: latrines that are larger and with a ramp to enable elderlies and people with disabilities to easily use the latrines by themselves when possible.



When the latrine pit is full, it may spill over and pose a risk to the health of refugee communities due to the unsafe disposal of the excreta. In 2020, WeWorld-GVC emptied and carried out 1,847 m² of wastewater, protecting the health of the members of 935 households.

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, access to clean water is of paramount importance. WeWorld-GVC distributed 404 water tanks of 1,000 liters, allowing refugees to have easier access to clean water.

WeWorld-GVC also distributed 145 hygiene kits to promote good sanitation practices. The kits included soaps, bleach but also sanitary pads which are becoming increasingly expensive due to the economic crisis, the devaluation of the national currency and the lifting of this product subsidies. Adolescent girls and women can manage their menstrual hygiene in a dignified way.

STUCK IN TIME

15th March 2011 – 15th March 2021
10 Years of War in Syria



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