



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Improving Living Conditions in PALESTINIAN GATHERINGS Host Communities

Quarterly Briefing | Issue 14

1 April - 30 June 2018



This Ramadan, the Outdoor Restaurant of 'Ward Al Makassed' Witnessed Vibrant Sohour Nights

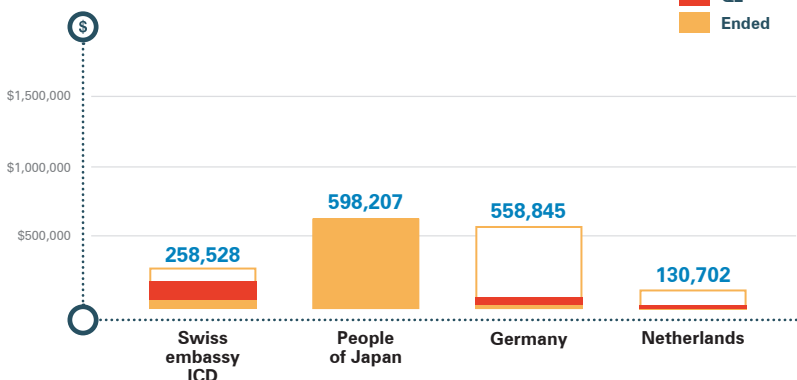
[Read more under Empowering Women and Youth]



FUNDS (Year 2018)

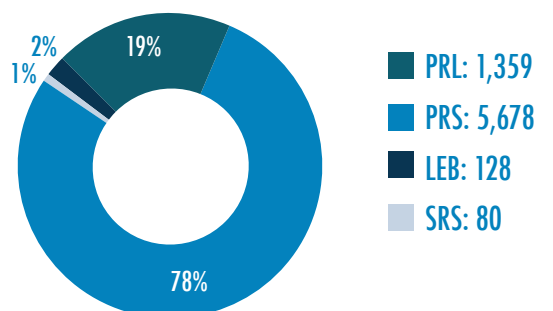
Total Q2 = \$ 186,033

Remaining
Q2
Ended



BENEFICIARIES

This quarter, we reached **7,245** direct beneficiaries in the Gatherings across Lebanon





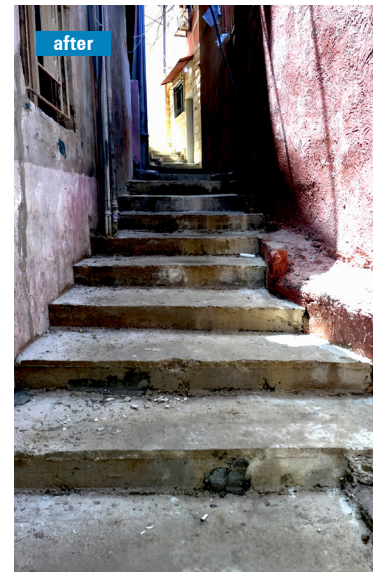
Upgrading WASH Infrastructure

Better Community Mobility in Maashouk, Tyre

Responding to the daily challenges that older adults and persons with physical disabilities face in Maashouk, the UNDP project casted a concrete stairs connecting side streets in the Palestinian Gathering and located at the water network installed by the project in the last quarter. This intervention, funded by the Swiss Embassy ICD, complemented the rehabilitation of many alleys and stairs in the Gathering, allowing safer and faster mobility to all, including **1,230** Palestinian and Lebanese dwellers.

“ I used to cancel plans to avoid passing by this street. I could barely move around Maashouk if I did not manage to ask a neighbor or a passerby for support. This has been the situation since the 1970s. Moving around is much easier and faster now, especially with the ramp that UNDP has introduced to connect my home to the stairs.”

Abu Aziz



Enhancing SHELTER Conditions

Shelter Assessment Looks at Neglected Areas

As part of its periodic shelter needs assessment in Palestinian Gatherings, the UNDP project has completed this quarter assessing needs of **179** shelters, home to Palestinian and Lebanese families living in the historical streets of Old Saida and the long neglected Gatherings of Tripoli. In Old Saida, **40** shelters were selected for rehabilitation. In Tripoli, as this assessment constitutes a precedent in overlooked areas, **19** shelters will be rehabilitated and equipped with WASH facilities in the next quarter, thanks to the funding of Germany.



“ We have been living in this house for over 7 years. My husband can barely cover the needs of my 7 children. Many organizations have visited us over the years. They took pictures and we filled applications, but they never showed up again. UNDP is rehabilitating my home this summer, this is the only real promise. ”

Om Mohamad,
Mother of seven in Tabbaneh, Tripoli

Preserving Palestinian ARTS



A Makeover for AIBayader Troop for Popular Art

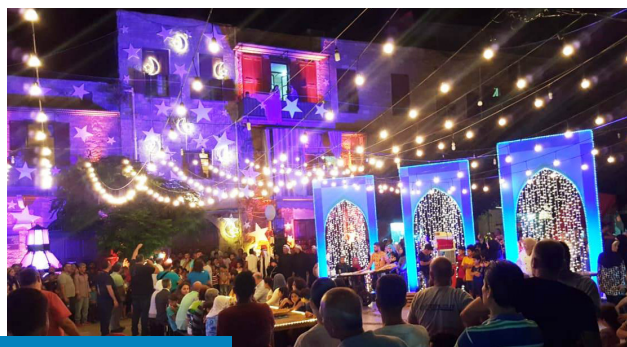
AIBayader Troop for Popular Arts are continuing their six-hour weekly rehearsals; yet this quarter its **33** dancers (6-50 year olds) are enjoying new folk costumes and props, percussion instruments, air-conditioned rehearsal rooms and a professional camera to document their concerts, all provided by the UNDP project thanks to Germany support.

In line with the ethical fashion movement, the UNDP project and the Campaign for the Children of Palestine (CCP) in Japan celebrated the cultural heritage of Palestinian embroidery, through the "Palestine Festa" organized on May 5-6 at the Red Brick warehouse at Yokahoma, Japan.

Thanks to the People of Japan, the UNDP project has been supporting CCP since 2017, with the aim to preserve Palestinian heritage and economically empower Palestinian refugee women, through the development and promotion of embroidery products adapted to the Japanese taste.



Palestinian Embroidery Reaches Japan



A Different Feel of Ramadan in Old Saida

Building on the success of the first phase of the neighborhood improvement plan in Old Saida, the UNDP project, in partnership with Saida Municipality and partner NGO DPNA, organized a series of public events and volunteering activities during Ramadan, thanks to the support of Germany.

Every Saturday of the month, historical neighborhoods witnessed vibrant nights bringing the Lebanese and Palestinian communities of Old Saida over street food markets by local shops supported and trained on food safety, art performances, dabkeh circles, awareness tents and much more. During the days, **30** Lebanese and Palestinian youth joined hands to clean AIZireh Island and Saida's cemetery and many other volunteering activities, as part of a cash for work initiative.

Empowering WOMEN and YOUTH



A GREATER POTENTIAL TO 'WARD ALMAKASSED'

Equipped Community Kitchen and restaurant, Beauty Salon and 158 Trained Women

As part of their partnership for the socio-economic development hub of Ward AlMakassed, the UNDP Project and the Makassed Philanthropic Association celebrated this quarter the successful completion of the second phase of their collaboration.

Thanks to PRM support, **158** women from underprivileged Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian communities in Tariq ElJdide completed in March 2017 a four-month intensive training in food and pastry preparation, handicrafts, veil fitting and makeup, accessories making or English language. All courses were complemented by life skills sessions. Women graduates in cooking and handicrafts had the chance to participate in public caterings and exhibitions, including street food markets (Souk Al Tayeb), Ramadan nights, mother's day events and many more occasions.



Also thanks to PRM support, the UNDP project worked to boost the sales and marketing potential of the center, by establishing a hair and beauty salon at the center and equipping the outdoor area of the restaurant to be fully functional during winter. Thanks to the People of Japan, the project also expanded and renovated the center's community kitchen and food preparation areas.

Among the women who have excelled during the trainings, four women were hired by the beauty salon and two others were recruited by the community kitchen, with many more women regularly taking part in the catering events and permanent exhibitions at the center.



On April 13, UNDP and Ward AlMakassed organized a graduation ceremony, which brought together the Makassed community and local actors and constituted an opportunity for senior and recent graduates to showcase their products and take part in the event's catering.

“ What is most special about today, April 13 marking the start of the civil war, is that we are creating a scene that is totally different from this memory. It is a bright scene that we would like to remember and repeat every year. ”

Fadi Abilmona,
UNDP Programme Analyst

Active in Palestinian Gatherings across Lebanon since 2012, **Improving Living Conditions in Palestinian Gatherings Host Communities** is a UNDP project designed to strengthen the resilience of these communities, home to 120,000 vulnerable dwellers, whose great majority are Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, in addition to poor Lebanese and Palestinian and Syrian refugees displaced from Syria.

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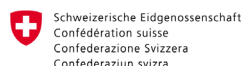
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