

Beirut, Lebanon

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED

Contributions to the SDGs 3, 4, 11 and 16 through all the work done under education, child protection and social stability in the urban municipalities currently covered in the programme.

Citywide partnership for citywide impact through multi-stakeholders' partnerships, the programme built a network (urban residents, including volunteers, universities, schools, faith-based organisations, NGOs and governments) and formed coalitions supporting scaling up impacts from neighbourhood to citywide levels.

Enhanced urban governance through the influence of child protection policies, local governments were made aware of the importance of including the voices of youth in their development plans through providing the space for them to engage with other youth, identifying needs and participating in the planning, design and implementation of interventions.

Creation of safe environment for boys and girls through enhanced child protection (6,801 children benefited from the child protection intervention in 25 schools and five NGOs); enhanced and built infrastructure and public spaces (35 schools and a range of five NGOs were fully rehabilitated to provide safe and healthy environments); enhanced local institutional capacity (three local NGOs were supported by World Vision Lebanon to enhance their programme design, monitoring and evaluation).



Beirut is characterised by high population density, high social, ethnic, political, religious and economic diversity, and unstable and changing dynamics, especially with the protracted presence of Syrian refugees, Palestinian refugee camps, and low-income settlements for rural-urban migrants.

KEY IMPACTS

6,801

children benefitted from the child protection intervention in 25 schools and 5 NGOs

2,063

children participated in online safety interventions to empower and better protect themselves

35

schools and a range of five NGOs were fully rehabilitated to be safe and healthy environments

3

NGOs were supported by WVI to enhance their programme design, monitoring and evaluation

HOW IT HAPPENED

Children are affected by poor quality of education contributing to a high dropout rate, delinquency, lack of discipline, verbal and physical violence, depression, malnutrition and drug addiction. Social, economic and political instability in Lebanon are key driving factors of poverty. Social tensions exist between host community members themselves and with refugees due to barriers in accessing basic services, social exclusion, and job competition among other factors that mainly exacerbated with the weak urban governance. The programme in Beirut incorporated three components of World Vision's Citywide Self-Sustaining Model.

Take 5 minutes to learn about the Citywide Self-Sustaining Model. 

URBAN PROGRAMME APPROACH

The programme approach matured from neighbourhood-based direct interventions in schools, churches and with informal groups to a city level focus for wider advocacy interventions with several municipalities using evidence generated at the neighbourhood level. Engagement with national and international actors helped influence the central government, donors and academic institutions to lobby for active children and youth participation on a national level. The programme impacted the lives of 40,000 people living in four low income or slum neighborhoods in Beirut. The strategic pillars and enablers of change were integrated in the programme to ensure the inclusion of 10,000 of the most vulnerable children, proper partnerships and policy influence.

Safer Cities: Social Cohesion – marginalised youth are provided with volunteering opportunities and temporary working contracts with World Vision. Urban Governance – youth committees prioritised engagement with local governments on behalf of the marginalised communities; Knowledge Building – youth committees generated evidence and made data available to the urban residents in their neighbourhoods; Built Environment, Public Space and Basic Services – all 25 schools in the programme benefited from physical rehabilitation projects to enhance children’s safety; Urban Planning and Design – youth hubs were created allowing youth quick impact projects customised to a variety of urban contexts.

Resilient Cities: Social Cohesion – youth were brought together to advocate with the municipality for interventions especially for the benefit of excluded neighbourhoods prone to high risk in case of emergency or disaster, building resilience; Technology was adopted to facilitate data collection and dissemination in the neighbourhoods through online platforms, social media and other channels. Built Environment, Public Space and Basic Services – resilience was achieved through the physical rehabilitation of social facilities to ensure all entities were equipped with fire extinguishers, first aid kits, etc.

RESOURCING: BLENDED FUNDING THROUGH CHILD SPONSORSHIP AND GRANTS



The initial cycle of the programme was solely funded by Child Sponsorship. Later, a more diversified and blended approach was adopted to better use existing resources, scale up the impact and address the needs of excluded groups. Child Sponsorship funds acted as seed funding that enabled World Vision to be present, gain the trust of urban residents, build relationships with all major stakeholders and be up to date in terms of who is doing what.

OPERATIONS: CONSOLIDATED CLUSTERING MODEL

The programme leveraged existing assets, resources and knowledge, collaborating with casual workers and volunteers for operational support, with universities to provide interns in schools and programming support in the summer, and with technical support to conduct health checks in schools and develop needed capacity materials. This approach allowed the programme to do more with less and scale-up.

The programme built a partnership network involving multi-stakeholders and played three roles for citywide impact:

Community Mobiliser and Incubator: through mobilising the urban residents to understand their context, resources and power holders, be able to identify child well-being gaps and come up with the needed interventions.

Multiplier: through moving from facilitating neighbourhood interventions to partnering with other actors, forming coalitions and engaging with formal and informal power holders in order to scale up the interventions and impact, they were able to reach out to the most vulnerable through leveraging the strengths of all the actors.

Strategic Facilitator and Convenor: through mobilising different national actors to influence decision makers on a national level for active youth participation in decisions affecting their lives through mainstreaming the youth committees work across all municipalities.