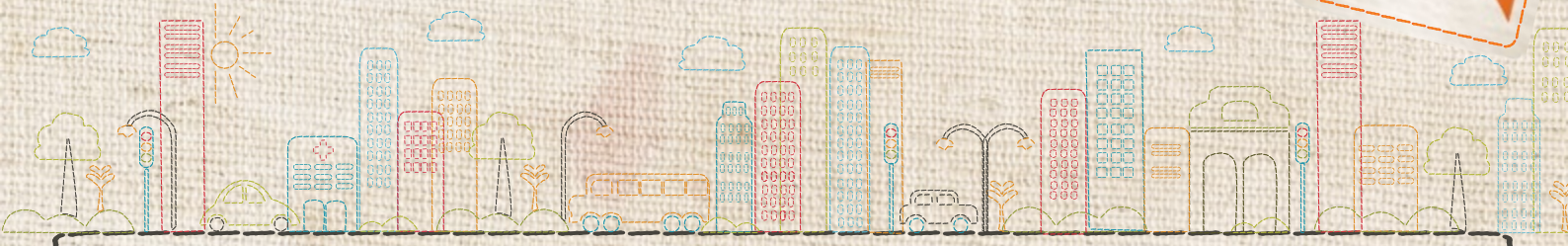


CASE STUDY: LEBANON



LEBANON URBAN PILOT PROJECT

Urbanisation is a global megatrend that is changing the aid and development landscape. The world's population is already over half 'urban', with more than one billion people living in slums.

World Vision has established a Centre of Expertise for Urban Programming that is leading urban pilot projects in six countries. The pilots are testing innovative, locally-driven urban poverty solutions such as securing urban land rights, influencing municipal policy implementation, and creating livelihood opportunities – with children and youth leading change in their communities.

The Lebanon Urban Pilot Project provides opportunities for children and youth to proactively engage in building positive relationships and a healthy and resilient community.



Project name:

Ain el Remmaneh Area Development Programme - Peace building project

Start date:

October 2009

Direct project participants:

Approx. 850 children and youth

Beirut total population:

361,366 (2007 est.)

Proportion of national urban population in slums:

53.1% (2005 est.)

Annual national slum population growth rate:

3% (2001 est.)

Projected national urban population by 2030:

4,439,900

(Source: UNDESA Population Division, 2008)

PROJECT CONTEXT

The social and political history of Lebanon has been largely characterised by successive outbreaks of civil strife, cross-border tensions and political instability translated by clashes and 'normalized' violence. In the midst of this a report published by the UNDP in 2008 showed that 28% of Lebanese people live below the poverty line. The figure does not include Palestinian, Iraqi and Syrian refugees as well as migrant workers living in Lebanon.

Ain el Remmaneh (AER) is located in the southeast suburbs of Beirut which was an active green line - a line of demarcation separating Muslim factions from the Christian Lebanese Front during the civil war (1975-1990). Although the war has ended, the symbolic division is still present between different communities in AER which remain largely divided along lines of religious and political affiliations.

During the war of 2006, AER witnessed the displacement of community members and was host to internally displaced people (IDPs). In the AER project area, the conflict reached its peak in 2008 on the "black Sunday" where seven people were killed during a protest against the power cuts in the Shiite district of Chiyah, one of the four areas covered by the AER project.

PROJECT APPROACH

Post-2006 war, unintentional mobilisation of youth around relief and recovery efforts was a result of their voluntary engagement in World Vision's efforts to assist the IDPs and war affected communities. Building momentum around this initial mobilization, a peace building project was designed as a response to the youth's interest in supporting the children and other youth of AER in developing peaceful behavior. This was achieved through peace and civic education as well building on local capacities for emergency preparedness and disaster mitigation.

The project adopted an approach based on:

1. Engaging with local stakeholders, coming from divided communities around one specific issue,
2. Active participation of youth and children in addressing issues affecting their lives, and
3. Building capacities of local communities around peace building and emergency preparedness topics.

The project promotes genuine participation of different segments of the communities by providing opportunities to children and youth to plan, implement and evaluate their own initiatives. These initiatives have the support of local organisations to ensure long-term sustainability of peace building efforts in the area. The project also supported the formation of a network of relationships between local organisations for promoting a peaceful and resilient environment in AER.

CASE STUDY: LEBANON

World Vision

PROJECT GOAL

Ain el Remanneh (AER) community proactively engaged in building positive relationships and a healthy and resilient community for peace.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- 1. Youth and children in AER project demonstrate peaceful behaviour.**
- 2. Local organisations of the AER project form a mutually beneficial network of relationships for a peaceful and resilient environment.**

FIRST PROJECT PHASE:

October 2009 - September 2013

PROGRESS TO DATE

- A youth group has been established, which holds meetings in a space provided by the local municipality. Youth group members were provided with several trainings and capacity building events that contributed to their personal as well as professional development.
- AER and Palestinian refugee camp youth have gathered through a number of activities (planning activities, peace camp, video making) with the theme of conflict transformation. These activities promote understanding, tolerance and acceptance between youth from diverse ethnic, political and religious groups.
- Professional training consisted of providing youth with skills to plan, implement and evaluate initiatives (following the service learning approach in life skills development).
- All activities organized by the youth group were executed in coordination with local authorities and civil society organisations that formerly never worked together to address issues faced across the different communities.
- A Disaster Mitigation and Peace Initiative committee was formed joining together local municipalities, social development centers and different civil society organizations involved in disaster risk reduction. The committee conducted a Community Owned Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment based on which a community-based disaster preparedness plan was developed.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- Relationship building and team dynamics are essential when working with youth groups but tackling decision-making within the group through a consensus building approach is integral.
- The skill sets required of staff working in urban contexts are mobilisation, facilitation, the ability to relate to youth and their experiences, flexibility of time and requirements, and capacity to coach and support both emotionally and technically.
- In a diverse context, challenging the pre-conceptions of the youth about "the other" through effective facilitation, debate, and providing the proper space and environment for such dialogue contributes to effective results.



Beirut after the 2006 war.



Sports activities are part of World Vision's peace building project.

For more information, please contact:

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World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities world-wide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision is dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. World Vision serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.