

Making a Difference

E-helpline supports youth online - by Sandy Maroun

Children in Lebanon now have the ability to report on online dangers through an e-helpline page, jointly developed by World Vision and local partners.

"From now on children and youth who use the internet everyday will find answers to questions related to their safety and will receive help and support whenever needed," said Zeina Khoury, World Vision in Lebanon's Keeping Children Safe Online project manager.

The e-helpline includes a reporting mechanism and advice on how to deal with issues they might face online, including cyber bullying and receiving illegal content. The helpline is part of World Vision in Lebanon's on-going work to keep kids safe and was established in partnership with Himaya, a local non governmental organization working on child protection issues, gathering several specialists in a multidisciplinary approach and intervention. The e-helpline allows the government's cybercrime unit and the relative legal authorities to be notified if needed.

"After raising awareness on Internet challenges among children and parents, and equipping them with practical tips and age-appropriate information, it is now time to help them by always being there for them online," added Ms Khoury.

Year At A Glance

2012 Expenditures and Budget by Category	US Dollars
Community Development Projects	5,578,273
Gifts for Children	3,691,672
Palestinian Refugee Program	417,578
Advocacy & Children Rights	275,104
Assistance for Syrian Refugees	1,050,533
Faith and Inter-religious Dialogue	115,505
Emergency Relief and Disaster Preparedness Projects	28,420
Totals	11,157,085

Making a Difference

Syrian refugee children in Lebanon need more than food to grow up - by Patricia Mouamar

Mahmoud had perfected his language. Not Arabic, or any other language. It was the language of violence and war. Blood, injuries, shots, first aid, bombs... are all words that Mahmoud, an 11 year old Syrian refugee, should not be familiar with. Yet, they are haunting every conversation he has.

"My children started begging me to leave the country," said Mahmoud's mother, after the escalation of violence in Syria. "The situation became catastrophic and unlivable. Children were so scared that some of them had fungus growing on their head, and their hair started to fall," she added.

In Lebanon Mahmoud's family have the basics to survive, receiving assistance from World Vision and its partners on a monthly basis. World Vision is responding to the needs of refugees through food vouchers and current assistance to the families began in March 2012 with the distribution of hygiene kits for children and adults.

Mahmoud talked about his school as if it was a lost memory. "What school are you talking about, what friends, I have nothing left," he said, with the sarcasm of an adult.

Yet, when an educational opportunity opened, he grasped it with all his heart. Twice a week, Mahmoud goes to World Vision's children centre, where he gets to play with his peers and enjoy a safe, child-friendly environment.

"I like it here, the teachers play with us and have fun," said Mahmoud.

Through diversified activities, World Vision tries to gain their trust so that they open up and share their experience."



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- Dr. Riad Sarkis, MD, PhD, professor of surgery and director of research
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World Vision

رؤيتنا للبنان

جمعية شريكة للرؤية العالمية

Annual Review
2012

A Word from the Director

The Syrian refugee crisis overshadowed most of World Vision's development and advocacy work in 2012. With a constant influx of refugees, already poor hosting communities in World Vision Development Programs have shown incredible hospitality. Due to the extra efforts of our staff as well as our partners, it has been possible to continue our programs to ensure the well-being of 20,000 children in Lebanon.

During this time of insecurity and increasing unrest, the many visitors from World Vision offices have been an encouragement to staff and communities. We are grateful that the study "Profiles of Poverty" conducted in 2011 enabled us to better explain what poverty looks like in the Lebanese context and contributed to almost doubling our annual budget.



World Vision Lebanon established a foundation "Vision Lebanon" in order to enable local fundraising. The Advisory Council of World Vision Lebanon and the Board of Vision Lebanon will work closely together to ensure quality ministry.

In addition World Vision held its first "Circle of Friends" event this year. We hope to continue this initiative by regularly inviting supporters in Lebanon to learn more about ongoing emergency relief, development and advocacy work.

Following our mission and vision to promote "life in all its fullness" to the children in Lebanon is not an easy task, but with the constant support of our donors, promoting strategic partnerships with communities and key stakeholders as well as local and national authorities, we are confident that we can impact lives of children by ensuring their well-being.

In the realisation that we cannot accomplish our work without God's help, we commit all our plans and dreams for a better future for the children to Him, from Who all blessings come.

Anita Delhaas-van Dijk
National Director

2012 in Review

Children enjoy good health:

The National breast-feeding campaign organized by the health sector in World Vision in Lebanon, raised the awareness on the importance of breast-feeding in improving mother and child health. While only 14.8% of babies in Lebanon are exclusively breastfed for 6 months, thus affecting their health, the campaign targeted all of Lebanon through a TV spot that ran on local TV stations and contained health messages, in addition to training sessions for mothers and children in the North, South and in Bekaa (eastern side of the country) areas.

In partnership with the ministry of Public Health, 17 hospitals' representatives were trained on how to transform their hospitals to Baby Friendly ones. The representatives showed full commitment to support their peers by training them and spreading the knowledge.

For the first time in Lebanon and in the Middle East, a new growth standard course was conducted for children under 5 with partnership of World Health Organization, targeting health care providers from different primary health care centres in Lebanon.

As for Mother Action Groups members formed by World Vision, 50 mother members from Bsharreh and Bekaa areas were certified as official facilitators for the early childhood care development curriculum produced by World Vision. The certificate will enable them counsel other mothers in their homes and conduct health activities and events, in their community.

Children are educated for life:

School committee members in different areas participated in trainings enabling them to increase their skills and knowledge in resource acquisition techniques, and hence improving the likelihood of achieving financial dependence and sustaining efforts to improve the quality of education.



Children with learning difficulties underwent psychology sessions, and counselling sessions were given to them, as well as to their teachers and parents in Bsharreh area. As for youth groups all over Lebanon, they became better equipped in working with children in their towns, to improve the quality of informal education setting as well as organizing safe and effective recreational and educational activities for them.

Since career guidance for youth is considered a priority issue making them self-reliant and able to choose their future careers, World Vision conducted sessions in this regard for students, teachers, school directors and partners in South of Lebanon.

As part of World Vision life skills project in Akkar, Marjeyoun and Bekaa areas, working groups of volunteers were created in villages, youth were trained on time management, leadership, communication skills, organisational skills, etc. and action plans were put in place by youth on how to proceed with awareness sessions in their own villages.

2012 in Review

Children enjoy the love of God and their neighbours:

World Vision sought this year to strengthen its relationship with religious leaders and faith based organisations while engaging them in activities. A partnership was built with the institute of Middle East Studies, which strives to bring positive transformation in thinking and practice between Christians and Muslims in the Middle East and beyond. One life skills curriculum emphasizing peace building themes such as conflict resolution, tolerance, diversity, acceptance of others and anti-discrimination was designed and approved. Furthermore, 12 youth organizations collaboratively worked to promote peaceful practices and attitudes through activities organized by community groups for children.

Protected and cared for:

To protect children all over Lebanon, the process of developing a national action plan has been designed for anti-child trafficking with the Higher Council for Childhood. More than 5,000 children and community members including teachers were trained on child protection and child rights through activities (plays, trips, camps, etc.). Children Council members (council formed by World Vision in Lebanon including children and youth from all areas) developed and published a book voicing their opinions against discrimination entitled, "We stand together Against Discrimination".

Moreover, children and youth delegation from Lebanon participated in the regional youth forum, taking part in the discussions on the Millennium Development Goals post 2015. Besides, World Vision launched a national System Approach to Child Protection initiative and started the implementation of two community based Child Protection programmes in Bint Jbeil (South of Lebanon) and Dreib el Awsat in Akkar area.

As part of protecting children on the internet, 2,000 children and 800 parents in partnerships with World Vision programmes and Palestinian camp partners received trainings on online safety. Kermes and rally paper activities and open days were organized benefitting 1,500 children and 200 parents all over Lebanon.



On the national level, online safety was integrated into the education curriculum in partnership with the Centre for Educational Research and Development affiliated to the Ministry of Education; and a national workshop held in partnership with the Higher Council for Childhood (affiliated to the Ministry of Social Affairs) mapped different actors, defining roles and responsibilities and levels of integration on safer Internet issues.

Under the umbrella of the Cyber Crime Unit at the Ministry of Interior in Lebanon, in partnership with "Himaya" (a local non governmental organization), World Vision developed an E-Helpline which provides mail and chat counselling, referrals and cooperates with the Cyber Crime police unit. And on the International Safer Internet Day, World Vision conducted a nation-wide campaign to raise the awareness on online safety among children and parents with multiple partners.

As part of Lebanon's emergency response to the Syrian refugee crisis, World Vision in Lebanon initiated a partnership agreement with the World Food Programme to help Syrian Refugees living in Bekaa Valley survive their basic food needs. In 2012 alone, World Vision assisted more than 12,000 Syrian Refugees with food vouchers and hygiene kits. In addition, it has provided psycho-social support to more than 250 children who have fled with their families the escalation of violence in Syria. The centres are equipped with games and toys and learning materials to give the children a sense of normalcy and routine they now lack being away from their homes.

- > 167,800 child impacted by World Vision in Lebanon
- > 19,950 Children in sponsorship programme
- > 112 Employees
- > 15 Programme locations
- > 37 Years in Lebanon

