



# WOMEN'S

PROGRAMS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2023



## WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY AWARD

In 2023, WPA was honored on World Humanitarian Day by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).

The theme for the year, "#NoMatterWhat," emphasized the resilience and dedication of humanitarian workers who continue delivering essential services despite numerous challenges.

This recognition highlights WPA's significant contributions to humanitarian efforts.

Our work exemplifies the core humanitarian values of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence, ensuring that aid reaches those in need and making a profound impact in the communities we serve.

## ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

WPA continued its journey of organizational development in 2023, aiming to enhance operational effectiveness and responsiveness for delivering impactful and sustainable interventions.

Funded by GIZ, the project focused on critical areas, including strengthening managerial frameworks, improving staff skills, upgrading internal systems and policies, and developing a five-year strategic plan for 2024 -2028.

Staff participated in a series of managerial and technical training empowering them to deliver more impactful programs.

A key milestone in this journey was the rebranding of WPA's logo, symbolizing a fresh identity aligned with the organization's evolving mission. This visual change reflected WPA's commitment to modernization and empowerment, both internally and in the services provided to the community.

With these changes, WPA is now better positioned to create a lasting impact and continue driving positive change in the lives of Palestinian refugees and other vulnerable groups.



This year, the Protection Program has diversified its activities and broadened its focus, aiming to build confidence and resilience among women and girls while also enhancing mental health and social well-being for both children and the elderly.

A key aspect of our success this year was our collaboration with UNRWA, which led to the implementation of a comprehensive life-skills program. This initiative reached 850 girls and young women across eight WPA centers, exceeding our participation targets by 16%. The program was designed to enhance self-esteem, decision-making abilities, and communication skills, resulting in significant impacts: 85% of participants reported increased personal confidence, 78% experienced strengthened social support networks, 60% felt more capable of managing daily challenges, and 70% gained a deeper understanding of gender-based violence (GBV) prevention strategies. Beyond equipping women with essential skills, the program fostered a sense of community and resilience. Building on our commitment to improving service delivery, our social workers participated in a one-year training and coaching program in partnership with Saint Joseph University. This training aimed to advance case management skills and enhance the effectiveness of our protection services. The results were impressive, with a 30% increase in intervention effectiveness and a 20% rise in positive case outcomes. This capacity-building project underscores our dedication to professionalism and excellence in service delivery.

WPA's commitment to empowering women was further highlighted during International Women's Day on March 8. We organized engaging workshops and dialogues designed to promote resilience and leadership, encouraging women to take proactive roles in their communities. By providing a platform for sharing experiences and learning from one another, these events fostered a strong sense of confidence and purpose among participants, recognizing their achievements and inspiring them to become leaders and advocates for positive change.

In our efforts to promote mental health and overall well-being, WPA engaged in initiatives targeting both children and the elderly. For children, **120** boys and girls in Rashidieh and El Buss participated in a sports project funded by PACES, which focused on enhancing their athletic skills in football and volleyball while prioritizing self-confidence and teamwork development.

For the elderly, in collaboration with TAAWON, **400** Palestinian refugees in Beddawi and Wavel camps received essential protection and healthcare services, including home care visits, hospitalization support, and physiotherapy. This comprehensive approach was complemented by recreational activities, trips, and events, ensuring the holistic well-being of the elderly population.

The year concluded with the 16 Days of Activism campaign, "UNITE! Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls." This impactful campaign engaged 580 participants across eight camps, addressing crucial issues such as economic empowerment, mental health, and education. Through compelling success stories and dialogue panels, the campaign created meaningful spaces for community engagement, allowing participants to actively share their experiences, discuss solutions, and build solidarity. This significantly amplified the campaign's impact, deepening understanding and driving collective action toward preventing violence and advancing gender equality.



# EDUCATION PROGRAM



WPA made significant strides in advancing educational opportunities and improving the overall well-being of children and youth living in Palestinian refugee camps. Through a range of projects, we addressed critical educational gaps, fostered creativity, and built a strong sense of community among students, caregivers, and community members. By the end of the year, more than **600** students were positively impacted. This success was made possible by the unwavering dedication of the WPA team, along with the support of partners the Center for Global Education, Taawon, TDH Italy, and SAL Engineering.

The STARS 2 project, "Support to At-Risk Students," built upon STARS 1 and focused on **50** students at risk of dropping out of UNRWA school in Beddawi camp, North Lebanon. Personalized interventions addressed issues like lack of parental support, academic struggles, and low self-esteem. Through tailored academic and psychological support, the project successfully reduced dropout rates with participants demonstrating improved academic performance, increased attendance, and enhanced social skills. Similarly, the "Enhancing Inclusive Education" project, funded by TDH Italy, aimed to strengthen access to and retention in education for **90** vulnerable boys and girls at risk of dropping out, in Beddawi and Nahr el Bared Camps, North Lebanon, due to poor academic performance and disabilities. The project tailored academic support, through a locally coordinated, multi-sectoral, area-based approach including remedial classes and individualized learning plans to address their specific educational challenges and were provided with daily snacks and educational kits. Students in both projects, benefited from psychosocial support (PSS) sessions, participated in community events, and attended awareness sessions designed to empower their caregivers.



The "Chance to Learn" project, however, targets children out of school in the Mar Elias refugee Camp, in Beirut, in partnership with the Palestinian Club, targeting **100** Palestinian and Syrian refugees aged 6 to 14, who had previously dropped out of formal schooling. This project delivered a series of non-formal educational classes for basic literacy, engaging participants in creative and cultural activities such as Dabki dancing, arts, and collaborative programs. The project's impact extended beyond academic learning by fostering personal development and creativity, ultimately offering these students a profound second chance to re-engage with education and acquire new skills.

Outside the traditional classroom environment, the "Summer Adventures" project offered an enriching experience for **380** children aged 6 to 12 from eight Palestinian refugee camps across Lebanon. This initiative provided a vibrant platform for growth, learning, and fun, engaging participants in a variety of diverse activities. Children explored their creativity through arts and crafts, developed a sense of volunteerism and social responsibility and enhanced their learning through interactive workshops and educational games. The program was designed to make the most of their summer vacation, fostering not only individual skills but also a strong sense of community among the participants.

# LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM



WPA's livelihood projects were instrumental in empowering vulnerable Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian women and youth by addressing critical socio-economic challenges and fostering sustainable development. With a clear focus on employability and economic resilience, WPA implemented a diverse range of targeted projects designed to equip individuals with practical skills, enhance their economic opportunities, and strengthen their self-reliance.

Through these projects, WPA provided vocational training tailored to market demands, enabling participants to gain in-demand skills that opened pathways to employment and career growth. Job placement services further bridged the gap between training and the workforce, ensuring that participants found meaningful employment aligned with their aspirations. WPA supported small projects in business development by offering mentorship, resources and cash-for-work opportunities, empowering women and youth to establish and sustain their businesses. Collectively, these efforts directly impacted over 1,500 individuals and their families, improving their economic stability and creating ripple effects of empowerment and resilience within their communities.



# LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM

The "My Career, My Choice" project, funded by Secours Islamic France (SIF), enhanced the employability of **270** young women aged 18 to 29 across North and Beirut.

Participants underwent life-skills training, career counseling, and vocational training, which led to successful job placements of 270 aligned with their aspirations.

The "Women Economic Empowerment" project, funded by INITIATE focused on creating employment opportunities for women in Beddawi Camp in North Lebanon, Ein El Hilweh Camp in Saida , and Rashidieh Camp in Tyre. The project successfully provided **120** job opportunities, supported through cash-for-work initiatives, and also distributed over **40,000** hot meals to vulnerable families. By prioritizing job creation, the project enabled women to support their families and foster economic resilience.

The "Agrofood Project" funded by ANERA provided intensive training in culinary and customer service skills, combining theoretical knowledge with practical experience. This initiative prepared **40** youth for employment in the food service industry, ensuring a smooth transition into the workforce.

The "STEPS" project, funded by Right to Play, supported **400** vulnerable youth and school dropouts in Rashidieh, El Buss, and Burj El Shemali Camps in Tyre. The project offered life-skills training, career guidance, and basic English and computer skills, equipping participants with the tools to pursue a better future. These projects collectively highlighted WPA's dedication to enhancing livelihoods, providing essential skills, and fostering sustainable economic opportunities for vulnerable communities. They serve as a testament to the organization's commitment to its mission and motto: "Shaping Lives".

# HUMANITARIAN AID



WPA provides vital support to vulnerable groups in times of crisis, alleviating suffering and improving overall well-being by addressing immediate needs for food and non-food items. In 2023, this program benefited **1,580** families and **7,624** individuals.

In response to food insecurity, WPA distributed hot meals to approximately 500 individuals in Ein El Hilweh Camp in Saida, who were affected by internal armed conflict, with support from the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). Additionally, **803** families received fresh meat through funding from Mercy USA and Secours Islamique France (SIF), while **445** families benefited from food parcels provided by DCL and the Zakat Fund.

Addressing other basic needs, **1,974** individuals and **332** families received essential supplies and diesel, respectively, thanks to funding from Taawon. Through the Wash Extension 3 and Americares projects, funded by ANERA, WPA also promoted health and hygiene by raising awareness about personal hygiene, menstrual health, and cholera prevention. In collaboration with ACTED, the Hygiene Support Initiative provided hygiene pads to **5,150** women and girls, ensuring their dignity and well-being.



## OUR PARTNERS



**Norwegian People's Aid**



**RIGHT TO PLAY**  
PROTECT. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.



**PACES** خطوات

