

FOR A MORE JUST WORLD
2019 ANNUAL REPORT



التعاون
Taawon

LEBANON BRANCH



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Fouad Bawarshi

With the passing of 2019, Taawon can declare the completion of its 2017-19 strategic plan and the launch of its activities for the years 2020-22. We have achieved much over the past three years by implementing existing programs and developing new ones, such as the opening of a new kidney dialysis unit in the north, the establishment of an additional public library for the residents of the Bekaa area and Baalbek refugee camp, the renovation of four sports centers in several camps, in addition to providing support for a specialized program for the elderly, among many other initiatives.

In 2017-19, we succeeded in increasing the effectiveness and scope of our activities by increasing the number of our projects, as well as the number of partner organizations, in addition to reaching higher fundraising goals to finance our work.

All our past achievements and future plans are informed by the lived reality and needs of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Our new strategic plan prioritizes preserving the dignity of refugees by supporting them and addressing their needs on a variety of levels. Taawon's upcoming strategic plan includes a continued focus on supporting education to help shape a new generation that can contribute positively to their community. We will also continue to develop our work on assisting and protecting those who are most economically vulnerable and marginalized, including the elderly, Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria, those with special needs, among others. Finally, we will continue supporting Palestinian youth as well as promoting cultural and artistic activities in the camps.

As 2019 came to a close, development work in Lebanon faced tremendous difficulties in light of political developments and an unfolding financial crisis, leading to a deterioration in social and economic conditions. This new reality will have a seriously negative impact on Lebanese society as whole and an already fragile Palestinian refugee community. Already, 66% of Palestinian refugee families in Lebanon live below the poverty line (estimated to be \$6 per individual per day). Palestinian refugees are facing difficult days ahead, during which they will require additional support and

assistance. Such a dire situation necessitates a quick response from us, and this is precisely what we plan to do by doubling our efforts in the coming year.

Increasing cooperation and coordinating our efforts are essential if we are to minimize the suffering of refugees and to improve their lives. This will also require a high level of commitment to the work, something that is central to Taawon's principles. After all, we all share a common cause, and our success will benefit us all.

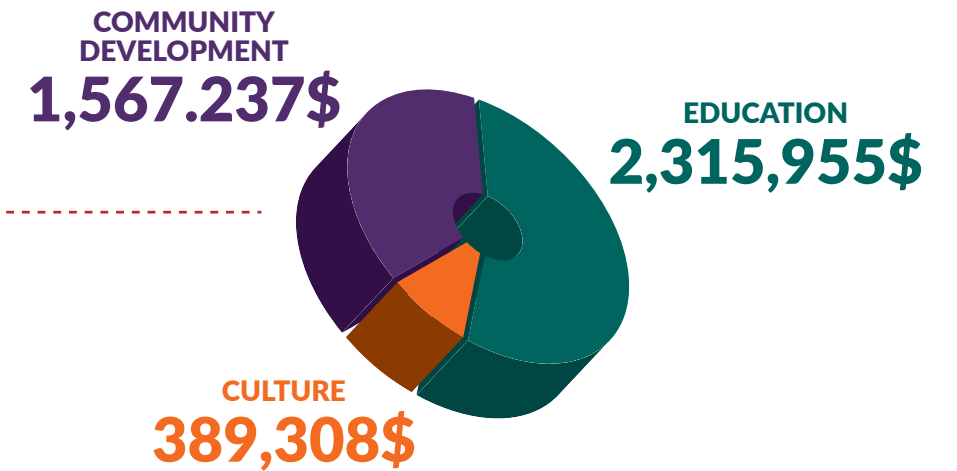
With the end of the year, Taawon-Lebanon would like to express its appreciation for the support it has received from Taawon headquarters in Palestine and members of the General Assembly, in addition to the Board of Directors, who have always been a strong source of support for our work in Lebanon. We would also like to express our gratitude to all those who have provided the critical financial support needed for us to continue our work, as well as all the partner organizations that we have worked with in the various refugee camps across the country. Last, but not least, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Taawon-Lebanon team.

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAMS

Total Program Expenditure is USD 4,272,500

Total Administrative Expenditure is USD 522,000
representing 13% of total program expenditure

We reached more than 109,000 beneficiaries



DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING BY SOURCE

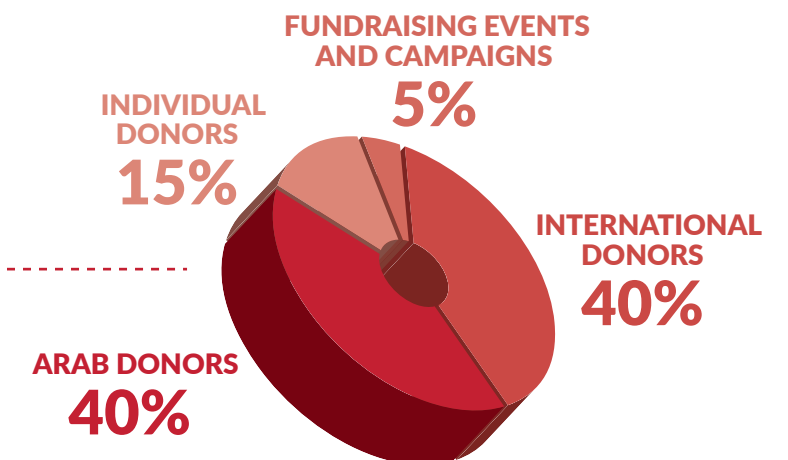




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EDUCATION

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

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- » EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
- » SCHOOL EDUCATION



Mariana Ein el-Hilweh Camp

“The support I received has enabled me to reach my fifth year of studies in mechanical engineering. I aspire to pursue postgraduate education, but my dreams are subject to the availability of financial aid; the cost of university education heavily exceeds our capacity as refugees”

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY LOANS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

University education provides a solid foundation in life, which allows refugees to take part in the development of their community and its progress. **In 2019, 21 students received university scholarships** to study at some of Lebanon's best institutions, such as the American University of Beirut, the Lebanese American University, and Beirut Arab University. In addition, **160 received university loans, with 26 graduating to begin their career.**

Nagham Aida Burj el-Barajneh Camp

“The help I received to finish my university education was my opportunity in life to stand on solid ground. Today, I have begun to pay back my university loan so that others may have the chance to go to university. I work as a registered nurse from Beirut Arab University, and my future is surely brighter as a result!”

“

GRANTS TO COMPLETE NURSING STUDIES

A total of 17 students benefited from grants to complete their nursing studies in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the Makassed Association. The funds were raised at Taawon's annual fundraising event, which was held in Dbayeh, Palais des Congres and brought together more than 900 guests. The decision to support nursing is due to a severe shortage of nurses in the Lebanese labor market, providing young Palestinians with critical work opportunities.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Investing in early childhood education has a long-lasting impact on education throughout one's life. The program is based on a holistic approach that is child-centered by addressing their needs and developing their physical, emotional, social and intellectual skills. UNICEF supports this program which covers 35 kindergartens in all camps in Lebanon.

Our intervention is as follows:



PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS TRAINING

Focusing on **developing the skills of pre-school teachers** is critical to achieving a strong basis for children's education. In this regard, we continue to offer training in cooperation with the Lebanese Institute for Educators at Saint Joseph University. **A total of 154 pre-school teachers have benefitted from this program**, which focuses on early childhood education planning and modern methods in managing and guiding behavior. This was followed up by **on-site coaching and follow up of 55 teachers in their classrooms**.

Hanaa Jihad Abdulwahab

Ghassan Kanafani Kindergarten, Baddawi Camp

“

"I began my work as a preschool teacher's aide two years ago, and I gained many skills, information, and techniques through the training I received, representing a qualitative step forward in my career. I learned how to prepare lessons, set goals, as well as come up with activities that allow me to achieve the necessary results with the children. I am now able to effectively relay information to the students and resolve conflicts among them based on an understanding of their psychological, emotional and intellectual development. Today, I am more excited about my work and look forward to a future career in this field."

”

Omar Ein el-Hilweh Camp

“Omar is excited about getting to learn new things. Smiling beside his teacher, he says: *“I am learning to write, and I will read and write a lot when I grow up.”*”

INTEGRATING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Attending pre-school education is critical for children with special needs in both preparing them for society and integrating them. For this reason, we have developed **a program to integrate special needs children into 10 kindergartens run by 8 organizations.** The work involved in-class observation and training, as well as following up with the parents, which is essential to such an intervention's success.



Sarah Saad

Najdeh Kindergarten, Ein el-Hilweh Camp

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“The kindergarten has become a happy place for the children. We now have more teaching resources and proper sports fields. All of this has allowed us to follow up on the child’s progress according to carefully designed programs.”

“

SUPPORTING KINDERGARTENS

Developing any organization’s structure and improving the way it functions is fundamental to its effectiveness. It is for this reason that **we helped implement new organizational, management, and rights policies** in 6 educational institutions that operate 38 kindergartens.

We also completed partial and full renovations in 20 kindergartens to bring them in line with pre-school education standards.

Taawon further provided **42 kindergartens with the necessary technological and educational needs** to help improve their learning programs and methods.

Finally, we offered **financial support by covering the wages of 250 pre-school teachers as a way to guarantee the sustainability of kindergartens that serve the Palestinian refugee community, while also shoring up the presence of women in the labor force.**

WORKSHOPS TO FACILITATE THE TRANSITION

The period of transition from kindergarten to elementary school is considered a critical period on the psychological-educational level among children. In light of this, and given the difficulties facing UNRWA and pre-schools in the camps, Taawon organized a **specialized workshop that brought together kindergarten coordinators** from partner organizations with **administrative staff from the UNRWA elementary schools in an effort to develop a common approach that will facilitate the transition from kindergarten to elementary school.** The workshop's recommendations will be compiled into an applicable and working plan to be implemented in the schools.

“HAPPY”

The “HAPPY” project brought together **300 children** from a number of kindergartens in Beirut, Saida, and Wadi al-Zina. They were offered creative learning opportunities outside the classroom environment that help build their personality and express themselves through playing, drawing, singing and music.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

THE “ADOPT A SCHOOL” PROJECT

In 2019, we completed the development plan for Haifa School in cooperation with UNRWA and the American University in Beirut (represented by the “Tamam” school-based project). A team was formed consisting of the school’s director and 6 teachers, the purpose of which was to draw up a plan to “increase student motivation for learning.” In addition, **school facilities will soon be undergoing renovation**, including repairing water leakage and floor tiles, besides electrical repairs and lighting improvements, not to mention renovating the bathrooms, as requested by both students and teachers. It is worth mentioning here that Haifa School has more than 700 students from sixth to ninth grades.

Dr. Aarifa Kinaan

School Counselor, Haifa School



“The process of coming up with a plan to turn our school into a model institution was very challenging. It forced us to look at our work in new ways. We are now very excited about implementing it.”

Ranin 7th Grade Student

“What I really like about the LIFE program is that we were learning by singing and playing. We were learning and having fun at the same time. The teacher in the program helped me improve my English language skills, making me more confident to use it than ever before. As my grades improved, I became more motivated to learn.”

LIFE PROGRAM: THE JOY OF LEARNING!

Motivating students to learn and to attend school, in addition to increasing their confidence in themselves, were the main goals underlying Taawon's efforts to reduce drop-out rates in middle school. The LIFE program brought together 70 students from grades 7 and 8 in **after-school activities and during the weekends held outside the school environment, including English-language**, sports, digital learning; in addition to coaching on soft skills such as **self-confidence, teamwork, problem solving and learning to accept differences**. **The program also worked closely with parents**, meeting regularly with them to encourage their participation in their children's education and to follow on their progress.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- » MEDICAL SUPPORT
- » IMPROVING THE ELDERLY'S LIVING
CONDITIONS
- » PUBLIC SPACES AND SPORTS FACILITIES
- » EMERGENCY AND RELIEF

Samira Lubani

Nahr el-Bared Camp

“

“When I enter the dialysis unit, I feel my health needs are met with complete care. If it wasn't for this unit, I don't know what would have become of us. It is truly a lifesaver for us all.”

“

MEDICAL SUPPORT

KIDNEY DIALYSIS

The cost of kidney dialysis for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are not covered by the Lebanese Ministry of Health or UNRWA. The cost of a single session at private hospitals is USD100, not including the necessary medical supplies for the procedure, which could also cost an additional USD100. Most patients require around 3 sessions per week, each one could run up to 4 hours, thus making it difficult to work or maintain a job.

We continue to **cover the cost of kidney dialysis for 145 Palestinian refugees** in both Hamshari Hospital in Sidon and at the Baddawi Camp unit in northern Lebanon. **During 2019, the two units conducted a total of 20,888 dialysis sessions.**

Fathiyeh Abduh

Burj el-Barajneh Camp

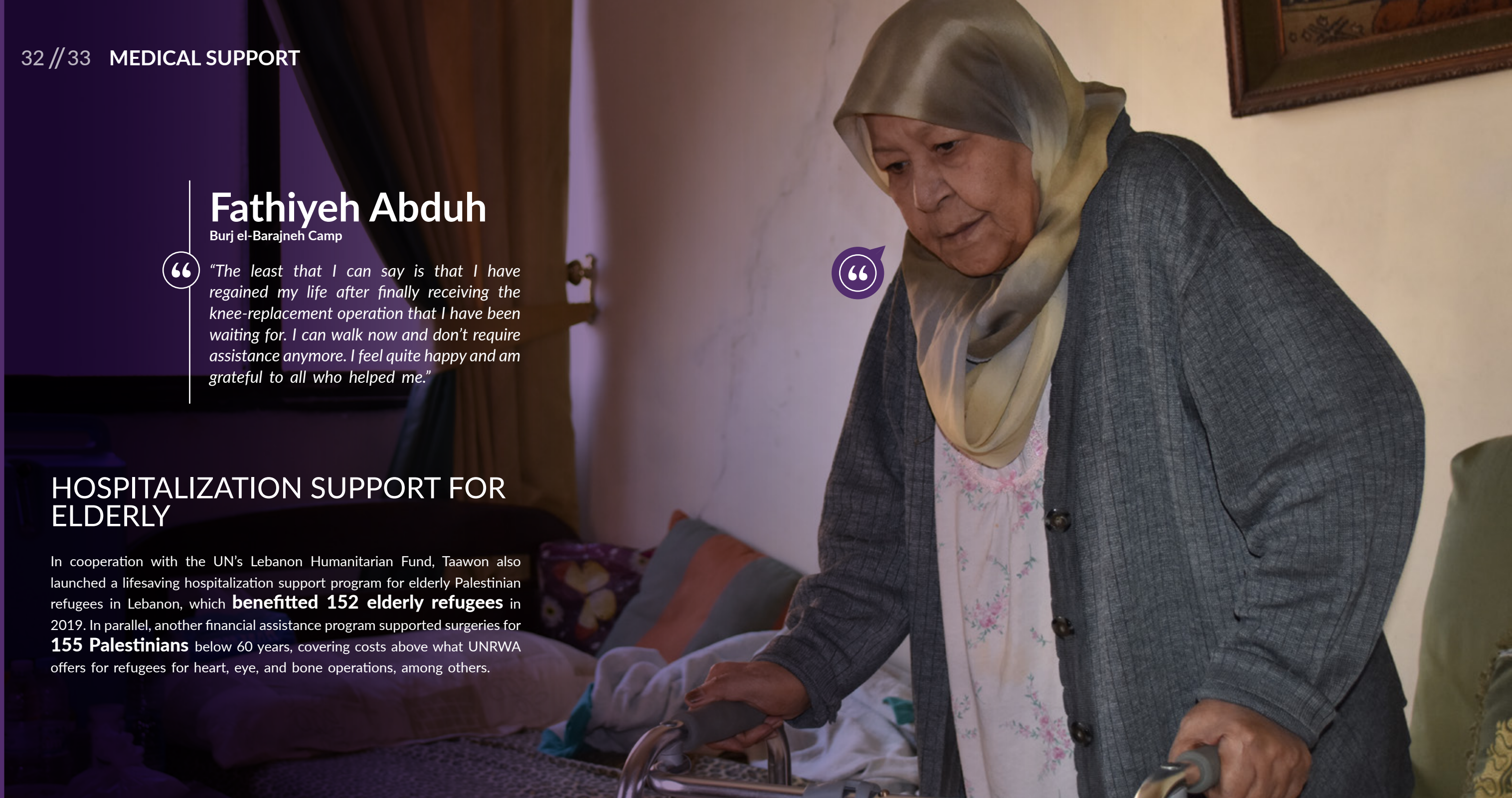
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“The least that I can say is that I have regained my life after finally receiving the knee-replacement operation that I have been waiting for. I can walk now and don’t require assistance anymore. I feel quite happy and am grateful to all who helped me.”

“

HOSPITALIZATION SUPPORT FOR ELDERLY

In cooperation with the UN’s Lebanon Humanitarian Fund, Taawon also launched a lifesaving hospitalization support program for elderly Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, which **benefitted 152 elderly refugees** in 2019. In parallel, another financial assistance program supported surgeries for **155 Palestinians** below 60 years, covering costs above what UNRWA offers for refugees for heart, eye, and bone operations, among others.



Anas Awad Al-Jalil Camp

Anas had trouble seeing the finer details of life due to optic atrophy that affected his eyesight. A single device helped change his life, allowing him to see more clearly. *“I would like to thank the UNRWA school for their help as well as the association that secured the device,” Anas says, “This will allow me to excel in school now that I can see the board more clearly.”*

COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION

Our Community-Based Rehabilitation program for people with disabilities seeks to **support community integration and skills building among those with special needs**, including providing the necessary equipment and support, such as prosthetics, wheelchairs, and corrective devices. The program benefitted 552 children, by offering services like physical therapy to 500 beneficiaries, in addition to **home visits by experts to assist parents**. The program also provided **financial support to those specialists** who offered their services.



Subhiyeh Suleiman

Nahr el-Bared Camp

“

“When we get together in the center, each one of us leaves their troubles behind and we enjoy our time together. We talk together, take trips, find people to listen to us, and most importantly we get to move around physically by planting in the garden.”

“

IMPROVING THE ELDERLY'S LIVING CONDITIONS

In 2019, Taawon launched a program directed at reducing protection risks and improving the living conditions for elderly Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, funded through the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund. The project supports three care centers for the elderly in Burj el-Barajneh, Shatila, and Nahr el-Bared camps, **benefitting 178 elderly Palestinians**, including physical therapy sessions, home visits (to check up on them and organize their medication regimes), and offering their relatives advice on how to best care for them. In al-Bus camp in southern Lebanon, Taawon supports the “Giving Back” project that provides care for the elderly by offering advice on medical, health, and nutritional matters, in addition to involving them in social and entertainment activities. **The project has reached up to 140 beneficiaries.**



Farid Chahine Shatila Camp

At the age of 78, Farid Chahine roamed the alleyways of Shatila camp without a home to shelter his frail body. He suffers from a stroke that paralyzed the left side of his body, so the first order of business was to find ways to improve his personal hygiene, provide the necessary healthcare, and find him a place to live.

With the help of camp residents, a sum of money was collected to rent him a home, and he was immediately transferred to Taawon-supported program for the elderly. At first, he would sit by himself without talking to anyone, then he quickly adjusted to his new environment. *"My days have changed completely. Now, I have a completely new life,"* says Farid.

Farid today benefits from the program's social activities, daily meals, and physical therapy, which has allowed him to use his left hand once again. He tells us, with a smile on his face, *"All is well in the world!"*



PUBLIC SPACES AND SPORTS FACILITIES

In the crowded and dense refugee camps of Lebanon, public spaces are the only outlet for residents, particularly the youth. In 2019, Taawon continued its work on renovating and providing equipment for public spaces and sports facilities. We outfitted a **sports center run by the Al-Jalil Organization for Development in Rashidiyeh refugee camp**, and it is the only facility in the camp that is open to both men and women. **Houla Club in Burj al-Shamali** was also equipped properly for it is one of the first facilities of its kind that offers services to women, including providing trainer supervision. **In al-Jalil camp in Baalbek, we renovated a basketball court** which can also serve as an all-purpose sports field for a variety of activities. Finally, Taawon rehabilitated the children's playground in Dbayeh camp, which benefits upwards of 300 children.

The Omar Abdulhadi Coummunity Playground, which was completed in 2018, quickly turned into a social and cultural meeting point in Burj el-Barajneh camp. Sharing the space with the Said Khoury Public Library and al-Qassam Kindergarten has helped make it a central and lively location for both visitors and residents alike. The area is divided into two sections: a playground for children under 7, and a sports field for older kid to play football, volleyball, or ping pong, in addition to a theater that can host a wide array of activities. **The area is visited by approximately 80 children every day.**

A group of local athletes agreed to maintain a regular presence to coordinate sports activities for the youth who regularly visit the field, including organizing mini-football tournaments and building up a team made up of some of the more skilled players.

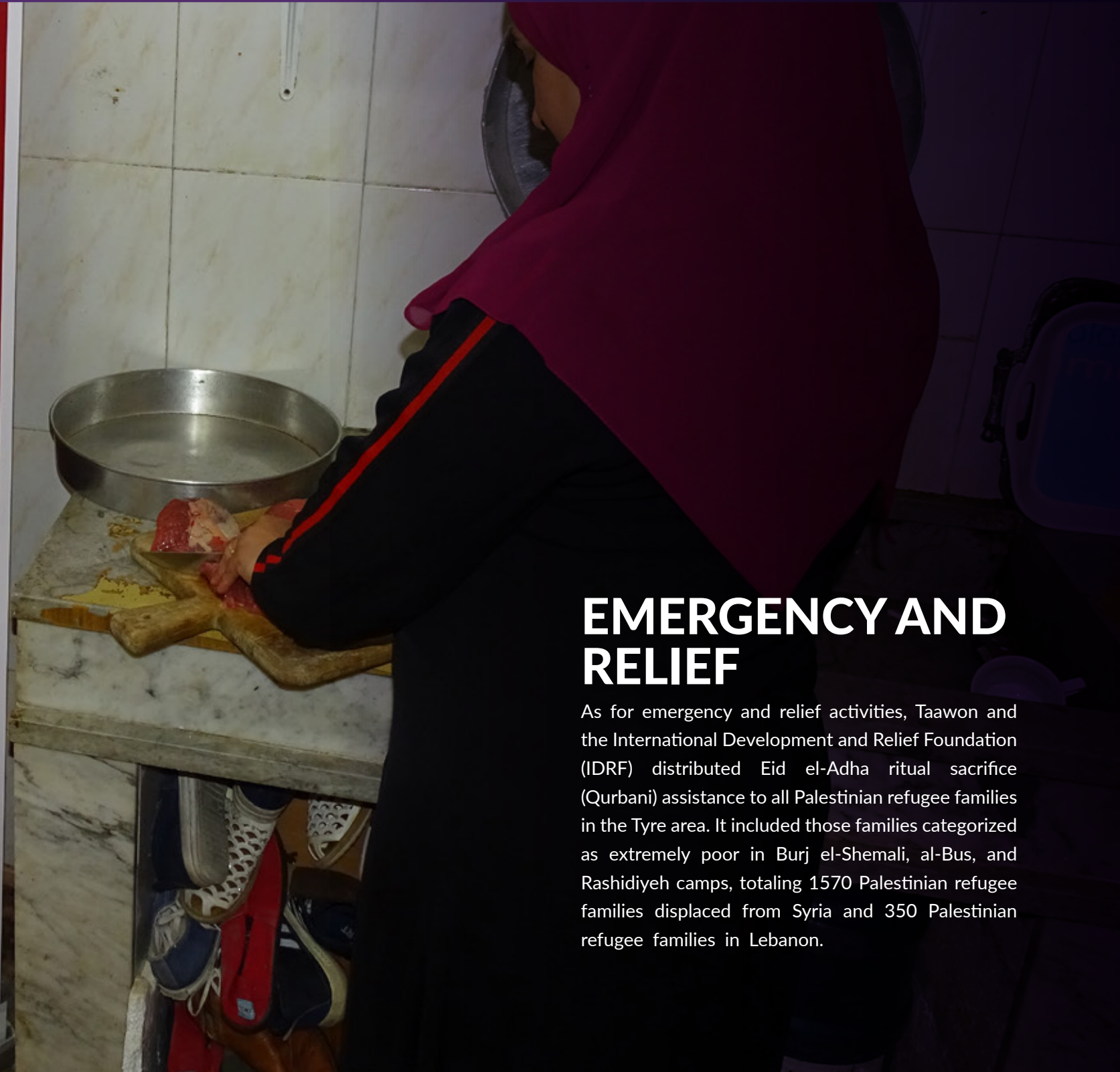


أضاحي العيد في مخيمات صور ٢٠١٩

EMERGENCY SUPPORT TO
PALESTINIAN REFUGEES FROM
SYRIA IN LEBANON FOR EID AL
ADHA (2019)



التعاون
Taawon



EMERGENCY AND RELIEF

As for emergency and relief activities, Taawon and the International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF) distributed Eid el-Adha ritual sacrifice (Qurbani) assistance to all Palestinian refugee families in the Tyre area. It included those families categorized as extremely poor in Burj el-Shemali, al-Bus, and Rashidiyeh camps, totaling 1570 Palestinian refugee families displaced from Syria and 350 Palestinian refugee families in Lebanon.

CULTURE

PRESERVING IDENTITY

- » TAAWON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY
NETWORK
- » MUSIC PROGRAM
- » SUPPORTING A VARIETY OF
CULTURAL PROGRAMS

TAAWON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY NETWORK

Taawon's network of eight public libraries located inside camps are points of convergence for cultural and social activities, where camp residents can educate themselves and broaden their intellectual horizons, in addition developing and improving their skills in a wide range of subjects.

In 2019, over 32,000 camp residents have visited these libraries, participating in a total of 1,400 regular weekly organized events, including reading stories, book club discussions, arts and crafts workshops, and courses on such subject as robotics, photography, chocolate-making, and recycling. There were also regular cultural events such as theater shows and film club screenings.

Taawon also sponsors the **"Kotobus," a mobile library that is able to reach all Palestinian refugee gatherings and locations where no public libraries exist,** benefitting 3,400 children over the course of 64 field visits. The Kotobus offers a wide range of activities for children, such as reading stories, puppet shows, "Hakawati" traditional storytelling, as well as arts and crafts, giving kids the opportunity to engage one another through entertainment.

Taawon libraries also organized **events for women,** consisting of weekly discussion intended to raise awareness around issues such as breast cancer, learning difficulties, and other matters related to child rearing. These activities included 320 sessions and benefitted around 6,400 women across all refugee camps.



Khadijah Issa

Al -Jalil Camp

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“I am overcome with joy when it comes to reading books. The book club at the Ahmad Abou Ghazalah Public Library gives us a rare opportunity to discuss what we read with mutual respect for each other's views.”

Aala Aqad

Nahr el-Bared Camp

“

“I got to know the library after I heard about a session on breast cancer that was to be held there. That was my first visit, and since then, I have returned regularly to attend many events, participating in recycling and first aid workshops. The library has become a welcome outlet for me and my daughter who is three years old. We spend an hour there nearly every day, reading stories or drawing and coloring together. The presence of a library here compensates for a lot of things we are missing in our area.”

“



Ahmad Musa

10 years old, Shatila Camp

"I really enjoy playing the violin, even if I have spent all day practicing at home. I see music as a career, and not just a hobby."

MUSIC PROGRAM

Taawon has been supporting and developing the music program since 2014. It can be divided into two streams: First is **Community Music**, whereby we teach music in the camps both **as a means of expression and to develop skills and talent** among the Palestinian children in Lebanon; and second is **Music Therapy, in which music is used therapeutically to improve children's psychological well-being.**

In 2019, we have accomplished the following:

- **Progress in improving psychological and behavioral issues** among 36 Palestinian refugee children (including those from Syria) through 570 music therapy sessions. The result showed a marked decline in hyperactivity and aggression among 55% of those treated.
- **Trained 68 children** to play **various musical instruments** in Baddawi, Rashidiyeh, Burj el-Barajneh, and Shatila camps.
- **Trained 30 kindergarten teachers and social workers** on how to use music therapy in their work in both schools and social centers.
- **Launched music appreciation classes in the camps** and public libraries of Beirut in cooperation with various organizations and associations that specialize in the field along with Lebanese and Palestinian schools.
- **Developed the abilities of the more skilled musicians in two summer camps.** The first was attended by 20 students and 20 volunteer teachers who came from Italy, and the second was attended by 47 students. The camps concluded with a public concert by the students in Sidon, attended by 320 people, during which they performed both Western and Palestinian music.

“

Ahmad Al-Aswad Burj el-Barajneh Camp

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“Music is my language. At first people would ask me, “What is that bamboo stick that you carry around? It was actually a nay (flute), the instrument I am learning to play.” This is how Ahmad Al-Aswad from Burj el-Barajneh camp describes his journey from a music student starting at the age of eight to becoming a music teacher today, as well as being a fourth-year student at the conservatory.

“Music has helped me fill in my free time, and quickly it became a means to relax and escape my reality,” he says. And despite having a university degree in engineering, he was unable to find work in this field given the difficult conditions placed on Palestinian refugees in the Lebanese labor market. By chance, he started to give private lessons as well as volunteer teaching in the same program he participated in many years ago. “Recently, I received a scholarship to study music in Berkeley, steering my future towards what I love doing. I hope to become a musical composer one day,” he says.

Today, Ahmad is a member of the Al Kamandjati band. He is one of many students who developed their musical skills in the Beit Atfal Assumoud, which is supported by Taawon’s music program.

SUPPORTING A VARIETY OF CULTURAL PROGRAMS

“OUR STORIES THE MOST SPLENDID”

Taawon continued its support for the “Our Stories the most splendid” Palestinian oral history project for the fifth year in a row. In 2019, the program focused on **developing the skills of a new generation of Hakawatis** (storytellers) through specialized training courses. It also **organized the “Our Stories” Festival**, which brought together local and regional Hakawatis (from Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt, and Lebanon). The festival, which included performances in public libraries throughout Lebanon, represented an opportunity for the storytellers to share and develop their skills.

Taawon organized 20 storytelling events in public places, such as libraries and cultural centers, with the aim of reviving the Hakawati tradition.

CONTEMPORARY THEATER AND DANCE

Since 2018, Taawon has established a contemporary theater and dance training course that brings together young men and women from Ein el-Hilweh camp in Sidon to learn modern dance techniques and to express themselves artistically. The program culminated in the production of “Puppets and Dance”, which was performed for the first time in Hammana’s Artist House under the title “dreamy splits”

FILM SCREENINGS

In cooperation with Metropolis-Sofil and the Al-Jana Center, **Taawon supported film screenings in many of Lebanon's camps** over the course of the year. We organized a showing of the animated film "Burj" (Norway, Sweden, France) narrating the story of a young Palestinian refugee who learns about her history from stories told by three older generations of refugees. Taawon also supported **films about Gaza** in the Beirut Cinema Days Festival, many of which were later shown in a number of camps. One such film was **"Samouni Road" by the Italian director Stefano Savona.**

VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE PALESTINIAN MUSEUM

Taawon organized a virtual tour of the exhibit "Labour of Love" – New approaches to Palestinian embroidery - giving those outside Palestine the opportunity to digitally roam the halls of the Palestinian Museum in Birzeit. The exhibit made its way to Lebanon, where it was first hosted by Dar El-Nimr for two weeks, and witnessed the launch of the Friends of Palestinian Museum Committee in the presence of the museum's chairperson followed by a tour around Lebanon's camps within the premises of Taawon's network of eight public libraries for a full week in each.

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS IMPROVE THEIR LIVES

INTERNATIONAL AND ARAB DONORS

Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development

International Development and Relief Fund – IDRF

Lebanon Humanitarian Fund – LHF

United Nations Children’s Fund – UNICEF

CORPORATE DONORS

Arab Bank

Arabian Construction Company – ACC

BLOM Invest Bank

Consolidated Contractors Company – CCC

Credit Bank

Gezairi Transport

Khatib and Alami

Libano-Suisse Insurance Company

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Ammar Al Kurdi

Faisal Alami

Fatima Abou Ghazaleh

Family of the Late Abdul Aziz Al-Shakhshir

Family of the Late Saeed Khoury

Family of the Late Hani Qaddumi

Fouad Bawarshi

Gamal Abu Ali

Ihsan Abu Ghazaleh

Munir Kalouti

Nasser Al-Suwaidi

Nabil Qadoumi

Omar and Ghalia Al-Qattan

Omar Abdul Hadi

Samer Khoury

Suheil Sabbagh

Tayseer Barakat

Yusuf Alami

In addition to several individuals who prefer to stay anonymous. We are very grateful to their support.

WITH OUR PARTNERS WE GROW

American University of Beirut- Tamam project (a school-based reform project)

Al Kamandjati Association

Al-Houla Organization

Assabil

Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps INAASH

Association Najdeh – Lebanon

Association Al Jaleel Al Tanmawia

Community-Based Rehabilitation Association

Dar El-Nimer

Fraternity Association for Social and Cultural Work

General Union of Palestinian Women

Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation

Health Care Society

Joint Christian Committee for Social Services in Lebanon

Just Childhood

Mousawat Organization

National Association for Vocational Training and Social Services

Palestinian Students’ Fund

Palestinian Red Crescent Society

Prima Materia

Social Support Society

Saint Joseph University of Beirut -Institut Libanais d'Educateurs

Social Communication Centre – Ajjal

The Arab Resource Centre for Popular Arts

The National Institution of Social Care and Vocational Training – Beit Atfal Assumoud

Unite Lebanon Youth Project

Women’s Humanitarian Organization

