After this, we wanted to increase women’s own sense around their personal needs and issues. For this, we opened and began running a women’s center. As an organization, our main focus is refugee women. We want to help and support women to reach a level where their needs are met.

To achieve this, we implement projects that will make women’s lives easier. For example, we created a safe and educational environment – a kindergarten and nursery school – for children so that their mothers are able to work without worrying about their safety.

As an organization, we are improving yet we are also facing challenges daily. To be able to stand in the face of those challenges, we need the international community to advocate and focus on the needs and issues of refugees. We need donors to be proactive when helping us, so that this support prepares us for the challenges ahead – not when it is too late. When we face challenges raising awareness stops being enough. **We need to provide direct services and we need the donors to support us to do so.**

Lebanon has been in a state of unrest since October 17, 2019. The Lebanese government forbids refugees from the right to work, and now the whole world is facing the COVID-19 pandemic. All of these crises have worsened the economic situation in Lebanon, with the price of the U.S dollar to the Lebanese pound increasing daily. This affects everyone living in Lebanon. However, the impact on refugees living in camps is even more dire. These are the challenges we are facing and we need the support from donors to provide refugees with essential services in such times.

Looking ahead, we wish to continue working in to improve health services, to continue working on providing education for Palestinians, and we want to continue our focus on women.

In the end, we want to thank all of the people who have helped us and supported us along the way. We want to thank the people, governments and NGOs who value humanity and work to improve people’s lives.
About PWHO

The Palestinian Women’s Humanitarian Organization is a grassroots organization working to support women and their families living in refugee camps in Lebanon. Rooted in human rights principles, PWHO believes that women are not victims but are survivors and when provided with the opportunity, they have the power to affect change for themselves and others.

Our Vision

Our vision is that of a Palestinian society in the camp where human rights and dignity are universally respected. It is a society where women have equal opportunities to study, work, and enjoy their life; where children and youth are valued and are able to fulfill their potential; where the elderly have the right to enjoy good health and social life without complications; and where people with disabilities have a better life and their needs are more integrated into society.

Our Mission

PWHO is a non-profit registered ‘organization’ – 161/AD – that works within the Palestinian camps and gatherings in Lebanon. PWHO aims to improve the wellbeing of women, children, PWDs, and those with severe health problems and empower them to achieve independence through empowerment, education, rehabilitation, early intervention, and home care services, and through lobbying and advocating for their rights and causes.

PWHO Values Statements

- All people are entitled to social justice, integrity, and respect.
- All people should be treated equally and have equal access to social services.
- Empowerment of the individual strengthens society.
- Teamwork provides an opportunity for people to strengthen their abilities and learn from each other.

Membership

PWHO is proud to be a member/partner of the following forums and committees:

- Palestinian Disability Forum/Lebanon
- Women’s Forum/Lebanon
- Partner with Women Deliver’s Humanitarian Advocates Program/USA
- Local committees; such as, child protection committee and women committee/Lebanon
Early Education and Women’s Empowerment Project

Supported by Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA-DFAT-ANCP Project, this was the first project established by Women’s Humanitarian Organization (PWHO). To support mothers who are working, furthering their education, or those with children with special needs or disability, the project aims to provide a safe and educative environment for the children of refugee women through the Early Childhood Education-Kindergarten & Nursery-B.B.C Program. Building off the success of this program, this project expanded and now offers additional programs.

Early Education and Women’s Empowerment Project consists of several programs including:

a) Early Childhood Education-Kindergarten & Nursery-B.B.C (Bouej el Barajneh Camp)

This program is comprised of a daycare center and kindergarten programs for children aged 3 to 5. In 2019, this program worked on developing the educational, social, and psychological skills as well as the health of 120 children. Programs were tailored to their age and needs. It prepares the children of Al-Mahaba kindergarten to be able to integrate in the public and UNRWA schools, without fear or hesitation, especially in the critical and first level of a child’s academic life, which is the elementary level.

b) Women’s Empowerment Guidance Program B.B.C and Shatilla Camp

This program works on educating refugee women through awareness sessions held on a regular basis. The aim behind those sessions is to raise the level of knowledge of refugee women with low education, with a focus on women who married early or have dire economic situations.

c) Raising Awareness of Teenage Girls (B.B.C & Shatilla Camp)

This is an awareness-raising program for teenage girls who are in schools or in the local community. The program aims to raise the awareness among teenage girls about the disadvantages and effects of early marriage. These sessions also give advice on how to protect yourself socially and be aware of the risk’s girls face.
**Women’s Leadership and Development Project**

This project, supported by *Kvinna till Kvinna*, aims to empower refugee women of Bourej el Barajneh camp to adapt to new situations and be able to plan for the future. The practical part of the project takes place at our Women’s Center in Bourej el Barajneh camp. It is a center that opens on a daily basis to provide various activities for women. These activities range from workshops about health, law, rights, and social issues to counseling sessions, sports, as well as exercises, and social outings. The Women’s Center is also involved in income generating activities for some of the most vulnerable women in the camp. Women from the camp are involved in a community kitchen offering catering services of healthy food. Also, the Women’s Center runs a Menopausal Clinic focusing on women over the age of 35. The clinic has been a large success, offering one-on-one medical consultations and counseling for the women of the camp.

**Enhanced Protection for Syrian Refugee and Host Community Teenage Girls**

This project’s overall objective is to strengthen the access to protection, participation and services for refugee women, Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and women in the host communities in Lebanon. The major impact is to empower and enhance protection for teenage girls both from the Syrian refugee and the host community.

**PWHO Educational Center Bourej el Barajneh, Save the Children Project under NORAD**

This project contains three programs to support refugee children. Those programs are Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN) Program, Remedial Classes (RC) Program and Child Rights Governance (CRG) Program.

**A. Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN) Program**

BLN is a program that supports 110 refugee children aged 6 to 14, for 5 days a week in the mornings. The program has developed a needs-based curriculum for refugee children who are not registered in the public or UNRWA schools.
B. Remedial Classes (RC) Program

RC program provides classes for 5 days per week in the afternoon. Through the UNRWA agenda classes, it supports 100 refugee children (aged 6 to 11) who are registered in UNRWA and public schools, elementary cycle. Particularly, it focuses on children with learning difficulties or whose parents have low education levels. Also, it prepares both children and parents ahead and for the school’s examination period.

The curriculums of both BLN and RC include inclusive learning to help children to merge with the educational process especially those with special needs, learning difficulties or those with health conditions. It is an educational and social project. It also works health wise, as well as working on capacity building to raise the awareness of parents. Moreover, it works on the children’s lifestyle skills to think positively and not feel less about himself/herself.

Through this project, children participate in several activities; such as, handcrafts, dabke dancing, poetry reading, etc… Additionally, they participate with other NGOs in occasions related to the Palestinian society; such as, Nakba Day and other events. The aim from those occasions is to discover the children’s talents and help them develop those talents. The project works with children and their parents on social and psychological support as well as the referring process through the services map of Bourej el Barajneh camp. The project’s main policy is the protection of children. It also provides awareness sessions for parents. It has good relations with other NGOs, Ministry of Education, UNICEF and UNHR. This good coordination is helpful for always being up to date on matters concerning the refugees and knowing what is new about the educational matter. Through our partner Dorcas (a Spanish organization), a daily meal is provided for the children – whose parents often cannot afford – to ensure they are able to focus on and enjoy their learning experience.

C. Child Rights Governance (CRG) Program

CRG program supports 50 refugee youths aged 14 to 25 who live in Bourej el Barajneh camp to participate in raising-awareness sessions about their rights. Additionally, the program trains students to write Participatory Alternative Research (PAR).
Support SCDP Physiotherapy and EIU centers in al Bass camp” implemented by PWHO – Sour Community Disability Project SCDP

This project is supported by MAP, UK, and aims to support people and children with disabilities (PwD and CwD). The program works to improve livelihoods of those with disabilities based on multidisciplinary rehabilitation services and referrals to complementary services, including child protection case management. It works to include PwD and CwD in local organizations’ activities, kindergartens, schools, and social activities by raising awareness, actively voicing PwDs rights and needs, and advocating for local solutions. Through this project, the staff and families of beneficiaries of the Sour Community Disability Program (SCDP) are supported to offer better assistance and services to PwDs and CwDs.

Addressing the Urgent Needs of People with Disabilities Living in Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon

This project is supported by Welfare LHF and Arab Fund and provides several services, including:

- Conducting a comprehensive field survey of the numbers of people with disabilities, to identify their problems and needs.
- Preparing individual rehabilitation plans for PwDs, to be implemented through home visits.
- Referring PwDs to local NGOs.
- Facilitating access to aids for PwDs.
- Integrating people with disabilities into kindergartens, schools and local community.
- Referring adults with disabilities into vocational training programs.
Description of 2019 projects

Tyre Area Projects

• Conducting workshops and seminars on disability and the philosophy of community rehabilitation.
• Holding community-based seminars to sensitize the community in order to reduce the incidence of disability.
• Encouraging people with disabilities to join the unions and bodies that represent them and defend their rights.
• Implementing inclusive activities for PwDs and their families.
• Exercising advocacy and pressure on decision-makers to positively influence rehabilitation policies and to empower PwDs.

Elderly Project

This project is supported by Welfare and provides several services, including:

• Personal hygiene
• Changing the way of dressing
• Bathing
• Walking
• Pressure ulcer prevention
• Healthy Food
• Mobility, routine transfer and light exercise
• Vital signs measurement; such as, blood pressure, pulse and temperature
• Administering and recording of medications’ type, dose and time
• Family visits
• Inclusive social and recreational activities
• Providing devices and aids to assist mobility
• Caregivers and volunteer’s empowerment on LCE (Life Cycle Education)
Strengthening Child Protection Systems towards a more Protective and Child-friendly Environment in Lebanon

This project is supported by Terre des hommes, Lausanne, and provides services including:

- Identification and intervention with children in need
- Promoting the principles of protection between children, parents and the local community
- Capacity building for children, parents and other NGOs
- Coordination with other NGOs services, events and networking
- Case management for the most marginalized children
- Organizing and participating in events; such as, celebrations and awareness campaigns

STEP FORWARD: Improved and Equitable Prevention of, and Response to Violence Abuse, Exploitation, and Neglect, Including Gender-based Violence for Children and Women

This project is supported by Terre des hommes, Lausanne and promotes practices that protect children, families and communities in most disadvantaged localities through:

- Engagement of communities to mitigate child protection and gender-based violence risks by social behavioral change processes
- Sharing information by raising awareness, sensitization, and community mobilization on key CP (Child Protection) and GBV (gender-based violence) issues
- Formation of Community Based Child Protection Committee (CBCPC)
- Community based child protection activities for girls and boys including activities targeting child labor specifically and inclusion of children with disabilities
- Caregivers program targeting both females and males to promote wellbeing and protection of girls and boys including activities targeting child labor specifically
- Awareness to caregivers
- Positive parenting
### Early Education and Women’s Empowerment Project

**A. Early Childhood Education-Kindergarten & Nursery-B.B.C**

**B. Women’s Empowerment Guidance Program B.B.C and Shatilla Camp**

**C. Raising Awareness of Teenage Girls (B.B.C & Shatilla)**

#### Projects’ Results

**A.** 25 refugee child, 15% PRL (Palestinian-Lebanese refugees), 3% SRS (Syrian Refugees from Syria) and 7% PRS (Palestinian-Syrian refugees, graduated to join UNRWA and public schools for the scholastic year 2019-2020. The project aimed to ensure children feel self-confident, comfortable and unafraid. This result is due to the EEC (Early Education Center) curriculum, which works on their needs by improving their educational skills and active learning during school periods.

**B.** 341 women in Bourej el Barajneh and Shatilla camps increased their information and knowledge about early marriage and drug addiction. They are now aware about:

- Consequences of early marriage on their economic, social, psychological, political and educational life
- The impact of early marriage on their reproductive health.
- Their children’s behavior; for example, if they are using drugs.

**C.** 752 high school girls have increased their knowledge and understanding on early marriage and drug addiction:

- Facing difficulties with children and husband in taking decisions
- Exposed to more violence
- Inability to think positively

### Women’s Leadership and Development Project

- Women now have increased knowledge about their own reproductive health and issues.
- Women now have facilitated access to reproductive health services and consultation.
- Women’s awareness on their rights have increased.
### Projects’ Names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enhanced Protection for Syrian Refugee and Host Community Teenage Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PWHO Educational Center Bourj el Barajneh, Save the Children Project under NORAD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Projects’ Results

- 80% out of 150 women gained new information related to women, children and teenagers’ issues.
- 120 out of 150 women were reported positively to the evaluation chart (happy or saturated), and this number was collected from the staffs’ reports (social worker & psychologist).
- Women feel more empowered and confident.
- Women’s knowledge on basic educational skills increased (English language, home maintenance, first aid and literacy).

- Increase in the level of awareness among teenagers and women, having a positive impact on their families and local community, as well as, sharing this awareness with friends, relatives, schoolmates and families
- Teenage girls gained more confidence, allowing them to challenge societal myths around sexuality and to discuss their human rights openly.
- Women and their families’ economic situation improved, after being offered creative art skills, which helped them start their own businesses.

- From 2015 to 2019, the educational center of PWHO helped prepare and transfer 712 refugee children to Lebanese public schools to continue the educational process with what suits their needs, not their ages; for example, an 11-year-old boy registering at grade 5.
  
  Every child has the right to learn – no matter his or her age – as some children have missed school years due to their families’ lack of financial means.
- At the end of the 2019 scholastic year, 90 of the 97 children (a success rate of 92.7%) passed the final exams and were promoted to higher classes.
### Projects’ Names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects’ Names</th>
<th>Projects’ Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Support SCDP**  
Physiotherapy and EIU centers in al Bass camp” implemented by PWHO – Sour Community Disability Project SCDP | 513 refugees benefited from this project:  
Sour Community Disability Program (SCDP): 249 beneficiaries.  
Early Intervention Unit (EIU): 264 beneficiaries                                                                                                           |
| **Addressing the Urgent Needs of People with Disabilities Living in Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon**                                                       | 288 refugees benefited from this project.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| **Elderly Project**                                                                                                                                                | 125 elderly refugees benefited from this project.                                                                                                                                                        |
| **Strengthening Child Protection Systems towards a More Protective and Child-friendly Environment in Lebanon**                                                       | 80 cases – a mix of medium to high risk – were reported from this project.                                                                                                                                |
| **STEP FORWARD:**  
Improved and Equitable Prevention of, and Response to Violence Abuse, Exploitation, and Neglect, Including Gender-based Violence for Children and Women | 920 refugee children have benefited from this project.  
Out of those there are:  
- 320 Street Children  
- 600 PSS (Psychosocial Support) children  
- 500 Positive Parenting |
Rimas is a little girl who registered at our kindergarten when she was 3 years old for the nursery level. She is now at KG 3. When Rimas registered at our center, she didn’t know how to speak Arabic as her parents had low educational levels in Arabic and could not teach her. Now Rimas is able to speak Arabic in a clearer way and has even taught her mother how to pronounce the letters. Based on the improvement they saw through their little girls, the parents registered Rimas’s siblings in our kindergarten as well for the year of 2018-2019.

This training was done for two months for two times a week. Some of topics that were tackled through this training were moving of an elder person in a safe way, and using the diabetes screening machine and the pressure machine. Women practice with the help of a trainer and reported that they feel more comfortable in their ability to take care of elder relatives and people. After the elderly care training, one of the participants reported to us that after two months of this training, she started to take care of elder women inside the camp. She now has a job and earns a salary at the end of each month.

The BLN Program sees children with special needs. This year, a young girl with physical and mental disabilities registered in our center. The caseworker and the head of the class talked to the children about their incoming classmate’s special needs and prepared them on how to be good friends to her. Now, this child has integrated well into the class and is happy and positively engaged with the students. Moreover, the other children know to help and take care of their classmate.

A boy and a girl, who had aggressive and violent attitude, registered at our center. They used to take their friends stuff; such as, pens, copy-books. With follow ups and meetings with case management, including with the children’s mother, their attitude and behavior changed almost entirely. The mother informed us that they live with 25 persons who are their relatives in the same house, which contributed to their behavior issues.
**Fatimah**

is a 4-year-old little girl who was born prematurely at 6 months, weighing 600 grams due to her mother experiencing preeclampsia. Fatimah had to stay in incubator for two months. Her parents noticed that she had vision problems and delays in her motor development compared to other children of her age. She was diagnosed with motor delay. In 2014, at the age of 2, she started to have physiotherapy sessions in SCDP and in the Early Intervention Unit in order to improve her motor skills. Also, she had a surgery for strabismus correction. Currently, she is able to walk without assistance using medical shoes, started to climb up and down stairs using handrails and has been referred to an endocrinologist for further consultations. For the next academic year, she is registered in a regular school, as she became able to grasp the pencil and other small things. While she still faces difficulties in writing, the continuous follow-ups through the center’s services as well as efforts by the family, Fatimah has shown a huge improvement in her motor skills. Accordingly, plans will continue until she becomes more independent and is able to perform daily living activities.

**Hussein**

is a Syrian boy born on 1/4/2019? He lived with his family, which consists of 9 members in al Ramadiah village. He was diagnosed with a left brachial plexus injury and erb’s palsy, so he was referred to physical therapy sessions. He started the physical therapy sessions on 1/6/2019 at EIU center. He was able to move his hand, but not his shoulder. Also, his arm was pronated and his shoulder was internally rotated. The sessions consisted of strengthening exercises for all muscles of the left hand, improving the kinetic range and the form of the hand to forbid distortions in addition to stretching exercises for the lower limbs, the way of sitting and balance exercise. After four months of sessions (3/week), Hussein showed a great improvement in his left hand, he is now able to stretch it and reach his head, nose and back. Also, he is able to sit alone and his balance has improved.

*Through Commitment Everything is Possible*
Zahra’a is a 4-year-old girl who was born in 2014 in Tyre, South Lebanon. She suffers from language disorders and has undergone many sessions in speech therapy and physiotherapy. Zahra’a has language problems, learning difficulties, muscular weakness with a pen stroke, slow activity, poor attention and concentration and cognitive and linguistic problems. She has no skills acquired by language assessment (Linguistic Growth Scale - Linguistic Communication scale).

**Working with Zahra’a, we aimed to improve:**

- Her ability to use spoken language in terms of understanding and comprehension
- Her perception, distinguishing and attempting to utter concepts that indicate action
- Development in her mental skills by improving focus and memory by matching and distinguishing some spatial concepts
- A marked development in her development of audio and video memory and attempt to connect two audio clips
- Development in strengthening her muscles responsible for pronunciation through appropriate exercises
- Development in her mental skills (such as matching and strengthening audio and visual attention)
- The development of enriching the linguistic stock of her verbal expression in terms of understanding of names and acts
- Working to recognize, distinguish and try to utter concepts that indicate actions.
- Development of her mental skills by improving concentration and memory by matching and distinguishing some spatial concepts
- Ability to move her muscles that are responsible for pronunciation through appropriate exercises
- Simple development of her mental skills; such as, matching and strengthening auditory and visual attention