



THE
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WORLD
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LWF JORDAN & SYRIA

FOR HOPE AND A FUTURE


LWF JORDAN & SYRIA
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Over ten years of love,
support and inspiration

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by Ameera Khamis
Country Director
Jordan & Syria

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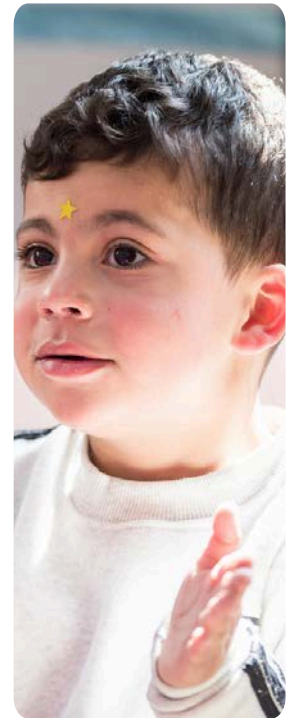
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Foreword

I am delighted to present the LWF Jordan/Syria Annual Report for 2023. This report captures our journey amidst significant challenges, outlining the strides we have made in implementing our 2019-2024 Country Strategy while addressing the critical issues faced in the Middle East.

Throughout the year, our resolve was tested as conflicts in Gaza escalated, blatantly disregarding humanitarian principles and laws. Witnessing the impact on innocent lives, restricted access to basic necessities, and the assault on humanitarian workers left us deeply troubled. These events underscore the urgency and significance of our work in the region.

2023 began with a devastating earthquake in Syria, exacerbating the already strained conditions due to over a decade of conflict. Among these crises, the prolonged adversity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic added layers of complexity, disrupting lives globally.

However, despite these daunting challenges, the LWF Jordan team remained steadfast in our commitment to the community. Our efforts expanded with emergency responses in Syria and the bolstering of operations in Aleppo. We collaborated with local organizations and laid the groundwork for a new LWF country program office in Syria, slated for 2024.

Our programs thrived, strengthening community bonds through our community centers and forging strategic partnerships across various levels. Our role as a key actor in Jordan for protection and livelihood sectors was reinforced, which was evident through our leadership in interagency coordination groups and advocacy efforts.

This year, we impacted the lives of 38,473 individuals across northern Jordan, Za'atari camp, Syria, and Lebanon, ensuring sustainable interventions that significantly improved their well-being.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the remarkable LWF Jordan team, whose dedication and resourcefulness have been the cornerstone of our achievements.

As we set our sights on 2024, we do so with hearts full of hope, aspiring for a more peaceful world. We remain committed to our tireless service, driven by our passion for humanitarian work.

Thank you for your continuous support of our mission.

Warm regards,



Ameera Khamis
Country Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ameera Khamis', written in a cursive style.

About Us



Group photo at the opening event of the Za'atari Camp Darzat Aman Boutique in August 2023

LWF is considered one of the oldest international humanitarian and development organizations operating in the region. It was established in Palestine in 1947 and then expanded to Jordan in 1949 as a direct and rapid response to the Palestinian “Nakba.” LWF has kept pace with the humanitarian and development situation in the region since then, for several decades, developing its tools, techniques, and methods of work and acquiring extensive practical and field experience that has enabled it to deal quickly, efficiently, and effectively with changing conditions and emerging circumstances.

LWF has responded to the humanitarian crisis caused by the Syrian conflict and dealt with its consequences, particularly the Syrian refugee crisis. It has provided support and assistance to both vulnerable Jordanians and Syrians affected by the crisis, in addition to its programs supporting all residents on Jordanian land, including Sudanese, Egyptians, and Iraqis, among others.

LWF Jordan, besides its work in Jordan, serves as the hub for supporting LWF programs in Lebanon and Syria and is an integral component of the LWF existence in the region (with offices also in Iraq and Palestine). As such, this multi-country existence serves as a cohesive regional network that collaborates to share best practices, knowledge, and support toward achieving outcomes that support the people we serve.

LWF focuses on three program areas in its work



PROTECTION & SOCIAL COHESION

LWF's protection and social cohesion goal is to enable individuals and communities to live safe, dignified, and empowered lives, free from all forms of discrimination, abuse, and exploitation.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

LWF aims to empower and make people and communities more resilient and economically self-reliant through increasing and protecting assets, building capacities, and promoting productive activities to sustain their basic needs and diversify their income.



QUALITY SERVICES

LWF believes that equitable access to quality services, such as education, water, energy, and health care, is a right that must be claimed by women and men, girls and boys, to enjoy a better quality of life, to claim and access their human rights and to fulfill their full potential.



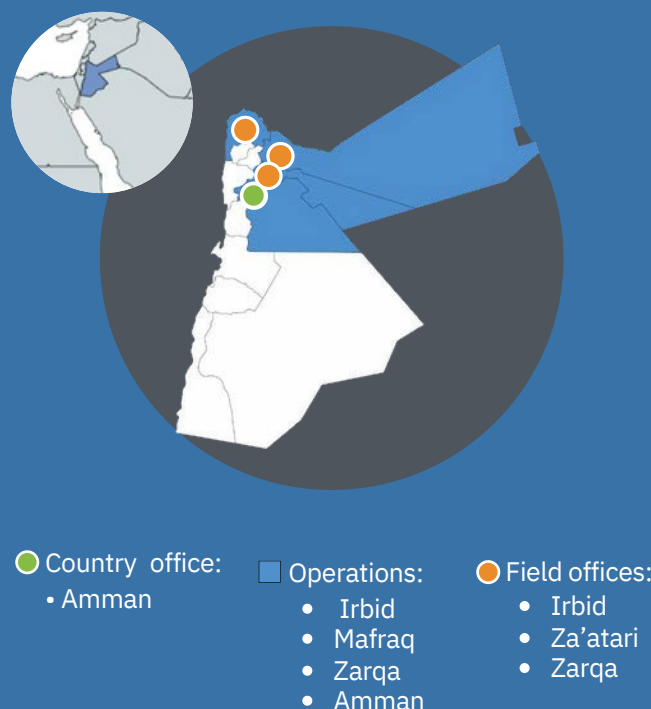
LWF in Jordan

Country Overview:

Currently, Jordan hosts, under the mandate of UNHCR 730,630 registered refugees, comprising 653,295 Syrian refugees and 77,335 refugees from other nationalities (among them, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia). An overwhelming majority of the total Syrian refugee population (estimated 81%) live outside camp settings, with Zarqa governorate hosting 14.7% of Syrian refugees countrywide. The massive influx of refugees in the country is putting unprecedented pressure on its budgetary and natural resources, infrastructure, and labor market. Acute needs remain persistent, centered on supporting the livelihoods of Syrian and non-Syrian refugees, including shelter, food security, and safety, and promoting their integration into Jordan. As the population grows, challenges in accommodating refugees in health, education, and livelihoods arise despite striving for a dignified existence. These challenges are compounded by over a decade of weak economic growth, regional instabilities, disruptions in trade, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

With conditions in Syria and other regional countries not conducive to large-scale voluntary returns in safety and dignity, continued humanitarian support in Jordan remains critical to address humanitarian needs, maintain protection space, and advance resilience to which LWF responds through its implementation of livelihood, protection, and education services directly and through local partners.

In recognition of the humanitarian needs and challenges encountered by Palestinian refugees in Jordan, LWF Jordan established its primary presence in the country in 1949 in response to the aftermath of the "Nakba." This historical context underscores the organization's commitment to addressing the enduring plight of displaced populations in the region.



Community Centers

LWF Jordan addresses the psychosocial needs of refugees and host communities, particularly children and their caregivers through its Community Center Approach. LWF Jordan currently operates three community centers, one in Za'atari Camp, Mafraq Governorate; one in Irbid Governorate, and one in Zarqa Governorate.

LWF's Za'atari Camp Community Center, the Peace Oasis center, was established in 2013 and provides a safe space for Syrian refugees to build resilience through support activities, recreational activities, and skills development. The center provides youth programming as well as support for caregivers and adults. It focuses on a holistic approach in the hope that every home will be a safe and healthy place to live in. In 2019, an extension of the Peace Oasis, the Smurf Daycare Center, focusing on children, opened its doors as the first daycare center in the camp. All Peace Oasis and Smurf Center activities are facilitated by a team of Syrian volunteer facilitators from the Za'atari Camp itself, thus supporting their livelihoods and enabling opportunities for opening their own businesses.

In 2017, LWF Jordan took the Community Center Model to Irbid governorate, where a community center was established. The services and activities offered at the Irbid Community Center are similar to the ones offered at the Peace Oasis Center in Za'atari Camp and have the same aim of improving the psychosocial well-being and resilience of vulnerable children, youth, and adults. In 2019, LWF added a third community center by opening the "Aman" Center in Zarqa. Aman in Arabic means safety.



Aman Community Center in Zarqa Governorate

To address the psychosocial needs of children and adults in refugee and host communities, the LWF community centers provide a comprehensive suite of psychosocial support services encompassing diverse activities. This support framework includes case management, individual and group psychosocial counseling, and referrals to additional service providers. The centers also offer caregiver sessions focusing on positive parenting and related topics alongside various classes and activities such as music, English, sewing, and sports. More than just addressing protection needs, these community centers aim to promote social integration and raise awareness about the rights of children, women, refugees, and other societal issues. They achieve this through community-led initiatives and by encouraging the active engagement of the specific groups they serve.

As an important element of LWF's Community Center Approach, the recreational psychosocial activities are facilitated by Syrian and Jordanian Incentive-Based Volunteers (IBVs), who are themselves members of the local community. By ensuring that these services and activities are implemented by Syrians and Jordanians from the local Community, LWF Jordan contributes to increasing social cohesion and income-generation opportunities.

Every person visiting the community centers for the first time will be registered and will have an intake assessment done to be internally or externally referred to activities and services according to their interests and specific needs.



Aman Community Center in Irbid Governorate



Peace Oasis Center in Za'atari Camp in Mafraq Governorate



Our Projects

Jordan



A Rights-Based Local to Global Approach to Women's Social and Economic Rights in Jordan

Zarqa and Irbid, Jordan

This LWF project employs a Rights-Based Approach (RBA) that connects local action with national and international advocacy initiatives. The project seeks to improve women's access to their socio-economic rights and increase their livelihood opportunities in the governorates of Zarqa and Irbid.



RBA advocacy team conducting an awareness raising session in Irbid

The project actively engages rights holders, particularly Jordanian women and Syrian refugees, fostering their participation in initiatives aimed at societal transformation. Working closely with local communities, the project seeks to challenge and change harmful cultural and societal norms. The advocacy efforts are spearheaded by three specialized groups focused on drafting policy papers, raising awareness, and conducting online advocacy campaigns under "Kayan" platform, all supported by LWF staff. This initiative not only equips rights holders with essential knowledge and support but also deepens their understanding of their rights and expands their economic opportunities, thereby enhancing their empowerment and influence within the community.

The project empowers the most economically vulnerable women through community and home-based businesses and provides training in entrepreneurship and marketing through programs such as "Hosseh Community Kitchen" and "Tahweeleh" digital marketing initiative, which aim to enhance marketing and digital solutions.

Simultaneously, the project strengthens civil society organizations, enabling them to advocate for women's rights on national and international platforms, utilizing international human rights mechanisms to address local vulnerabilities and champion locally rooted solutions.

This project empowers women and amplifies their voices by engaging the larger community, raising awareness, and fostering dialogue. Additionally, it confronts cultural and gender barriers, overcoming them to significantly contribute to creating a more just and equitable society wherein women's participation in economic and social spaces increases.

"Tahweeleh" meaning detour in Arabic. This initiative encourages youth to embrace unexpected innovative routes.

"Hosseh" is a traditional Jordanian way of cooking where vegetables and ingredients are stirred in one pot together.



Saba Raed Abu Hammad, a 23-year-old Jordanian from Irbid, was drawn by her profound love and passion for cooking to participate in the Community Kitchen training under the project. LWF's training, recognizing the comprehensive needs of home-based businesses, provided a well-rounded training course. It included skill-building sessions in communication, e-marketing, photography, and advanced food preparation techniques. These sessions equipped Saba with the necessary skills for cooking, packaging, drying, and professionally photographing food, as well as effectively marketing her products both online and offline. Now, Saba is poised to carve out a professional career in the food business, showcasing her empowerment and true capabilities.

Dina, a 22-year-old artist from Zarqa, Jordan, is fervently devoted to art, drawing, and media. Channeling her skills and creativity, she actively addresses women's issues to foster awareness. Dina finds fulfillment in her role as a media team member within the 'Kayan' campaign under the RBA project. Her primary focus is to highlight crucial women's issues, such as workplace harassment and unsafe transportation.



Enhancing Psychosocial Well-Being and Economic Resilience of Households in Za'atari Camp

Za'atari Refugee Camp, Mafraq, Jordan

LWF's psychosocial support program in Za'atari Camp targets Syrian refugees through two centers: the Peace Oasis Community Center and the Smurf Center for Children. This comprehensive approach nurtures early childhood development and empowers female heads of households, fostering resilience and a thriving community amidst displacement challenges.

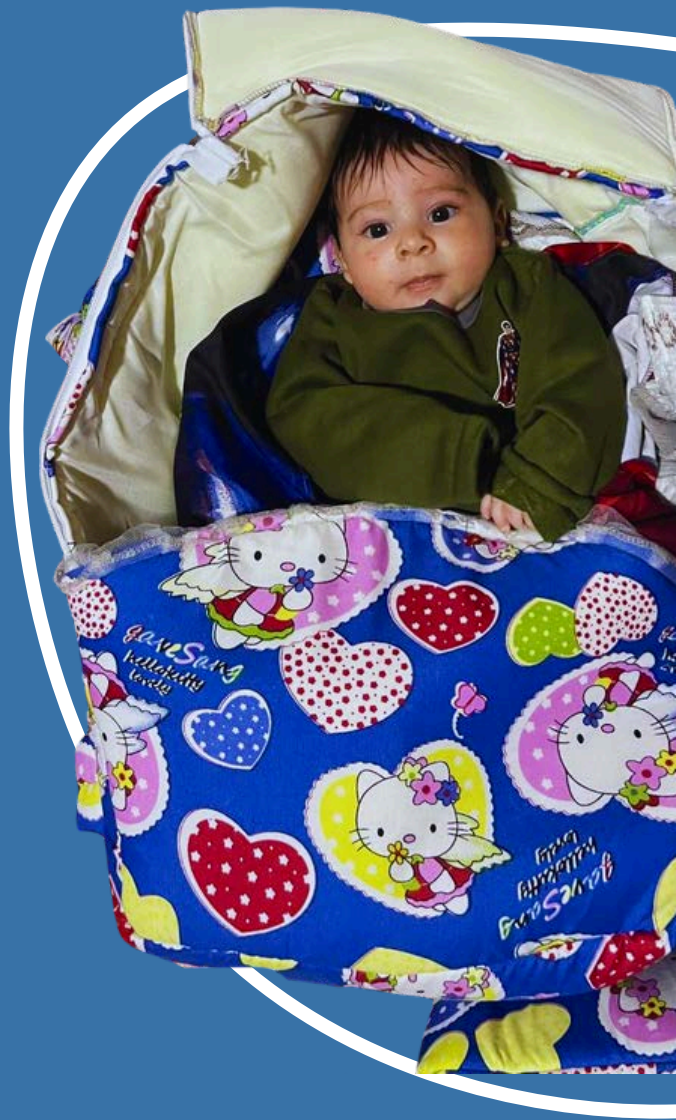


School Uniforms distribution in Za'atari Camp at Hind Bint Omer School

The project in the Za'atari Camp targets vulnerable households, particularly women and children. Women who become Incentive-based volunteers (IBVs) are trained in various roles starting from the program's core, earning income and enhancing economic stability. The goal is for IBVs to maintain or increase household income through volunteering at LWF's centers. Moreover, the extended Smurf Center daycare hours enable parents to pursue income opportunities with the assurance that their children receive quality care and education. The center prioritizes psychosocial well-being, offering support and resources to parents navigating camp life complexities.

Women IBVs contribute to the entire community by distributing the products they manufacture, such as school uniforms and baby kits to those in need, thereby providing essential support. These small yet meaningful gestures contribute to a sense of stability and hope amidst the displacement uncertainty. Additionally, the awareness-raising sessions about Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and other protection-related topics expand the project's impacts to the community level in Za'atari and the Mafraq governorate.

Abdulrahman, a two-month-old baby in Za'atari refugee camp, received a comprehensive Baby Kit from LWF, designed to support his needs through the first year of his life. This kit, containing twenty-eight pieces for newborns such as clothes, underwear, a cover, and a baby-carrying cot, offers essential support for his early development. Crafted by refugee sewists within the camp, the project not only provides vital resources to families in challenging circumstances but also empowers women by creating employment opportunities. Abdulrahman's story highlights the profound impact of community-driven projects on enhancing the well-being of refugee families.



Mayar is a four-year-old boy with Down Syndrome; his journey took a positive turn when he joined LWF's Smurfs Center daycare in Za'atari Refugee Camp. Mayar's grandmother says: "Smurf Center provided specialized attention, which improved Mayar's speech, memory, and social interaction. Mayar's joyful presence became a testament to the quality of services the center's facilitators provided, providing hope and encouragement for his future development."

Increased Wellbeing for Vulnerable Children and Adults in Zarqa Governorate

Zarqa, Jordan

LWF is implementing a project to address the protection, livelihoods, and education needs of vulnerable Jordanians, Syrian refugees, and non-Syrian refugees in Zarqa Governorate. Through its holistic approach, the project aims to enhance resilience and psychosocial well-being among vulnerable individuals, particularly women and children, and empower them through economic independence.



The project includes recreational activities, case management, psychosocial counseling, and referral services at the Aman Community Center in Zarqa. Additionally, the project distributes food vouchers and clothes to the most vulnerable refugees and host community members in Zarqa through 'Darzet Aman' boutiques. Women are also supported in achieving economic resilience by training them in ceramics and sewing, empowering functional livelihood skills that can turn into small businesses.

The project fosters community engagement and social cohesion by raising awareness about protection-related topics such as gender-based violence and child protection and initiating protection clubs and community committees. Overall, the project is a vital initiative that positively impacts the lives of vulnerable refugees and host community members on both individual and community levels in Zarqa Governorate.

"For young girls, the biggest mistake is to endure harassment or extortion in silence. You must quickly turn to one of the protection centers or talk to a qualified person."

Rital, a 13-year-old Jordanian, gained new skills and confidence after exploring diverse courses in the community center in Zarqa.



"I feel pride and satisfaction every time I rely on myself and produce an art piece that represents me and will help me secure some income."

Khuloud, a 50-year-old woman from Zarqa, is a participant in the ceramics course at the Aman Community Center in Zarqa.



Improving Resilience of Syrian Refugees and Host Communities in Irbid Governorate

Irbid, Jordan

The project aims to bolster the resilience of the vulnerable Syrian refugees and host communities in Irbid by addressing three critical areas: psychosocial well-being, food security, and livelihood opportunities. The project empowers women to participate fully in society by providing training and support, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to actively engage in the agricultural sector, contributing to their livelihoods and the economic well-being of their families. Moreover, the project implements initiatives to challenge gender stereotypes and promote equal rights and opportunities.



Women from the local community participating in a psychosocial support activity on International Mental Health Day in Irbid Aman Community Center

The project provides accessible protection services and tailored programs to address the profound impact of displacement and ongoing hardship on the mental well-being of children and adults. Community-based psychosocial support activities create safe spaces for individuals to process their experiences, develop coping mechanisms, and build resilience. Recreational psychosocial activities and life skills training enhance their emotional and social well-being, empowering them to navigate life's challenges with newfound confidence.

The project addresses food insecurity, expanding access to food and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities by establishing and enhancing community-based and home-based businesses. Technical training in agricultural sectors such as livestock, hydroponic, and dry food production equipped individuals with the skills and knowledge to cultivate their food sources and generate income.

Additionally, the distribution of goats and goat feed to groups in Irbid has significantly enhanced sustenance sustainability and income generation, bolstering food security for the community. To further this effort, the project implemented hydroponic systems, offering a controlled and sustainable method to produce fresh vegetables, thereby increasing local food availability and stability.

Manal, a 45-year-old Jordanian woman, discovered her passion for art early and pursued fine arts in college with her father's support. She joined the Aman Community Center in Irbid for artistic workshops on a friend's recommendation.

At the LWF center, Manal received training from highly qualified instructors in a variety of recreational and artistic activities, such as resin art. With the support of the LWF team, she showcased her work on social media, attracting orders within four months. Now, Manal aspires to open a gallery to display and sell her creations.



Abdulhadi, displaced from Homs, Syria, moved to Jordan in 2013. Settling in Irbid after the Za'atari Camp, he joined the KufrSoum Pomegranate Producers Association. Through an LWF-funded project, he learned about goat care and dairy production. Leveraging his rural farming background, passion for goat farming, and collaborative nature, Abdulhadi helped turn the effort into a collective success, providing a steady income and opening up opportunities for future expansion with his partners.



Improve Mental Health Psychosocial Support, Economical Opportunities, and Access to Rights for the Most Vulnerable Syrian Refugees in Za'atari Camp in Jordan

Za'atari Refugee Camp, Mafraq, Jordan

This project is a partnership between LWF & MeWe International Inc., the project utilizes the use of language and words to create impact and foster positive change among Syrian refugees in Za'atari Refugee Camp, focusing on improving mental health, economic empowerment, and rights through community engagement, storytelling, and communication skills-building. The primary objective is to empower refugees and establish facilitator networks that engage with the wider community to facilitate positive transformation.



Two project participants showcasing the film that they produced during the project to the local community at Za'atari Camp

A key project component involves training a network of community facilitators among Syrian refugees. Additionally, Syrian refugees are provided with incentive-based volunteer opportunities and capacity-building training to enhance their skills, knowledge, and income-generating opportunities. These facilitators lead community programs to ensure the project's impact extends beyond its duration.

Through training, workshops, and community events, participants acquire communication skills, creative expression techniques, and storytelling abilities, enabling them to advocate for their well-being and communities. Furthermore, the project offers psychosocial support services, focusing on vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and children.



A group photo of attendees from the local community of Za'atari Camp on International Day of Older Persons

Manukh Al-Diyat, known as Abu Mamoun, and Awda Ghaleb Al-Qaddah, known as Abu Ihab, are participants of the project. This photo captures them during the closing ceremony, coinciding with the International Day of Older Persons. Abu Mamoun expresses the positive impact of volunteer home visits inside the Za'atari camp, highlighting the significance of these interactions for elderly individuals in the community.



Syria

LWF in Syria

Country Overview:

Thirteen years into the protracted Syrian crisis, its population continues to endure the cumulative effects of years of instability and a far-reaching economic meltdown. According to Syria's 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), 15.3 million people need humanitarian assistance. Over the last few years, the combined effects of armed conflict, a deepening economic deterioration, currency depreciation, soaring inflation, reduced fiscal revenue and scarce livelihood opportunities, failing health and education system, coupled with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent earthquakes have resulted in a significant increase of the population's needs and vulnerabilities. Most of the country's public infrastructure is damaged or destroyed, and electricity and fuel shortages undermine the functionality even of existing essential services. Climatic shocks, shortage of natural resources, and protracted displacement cycles continue to exacerbate already precarious conditions.

90% of Syrians are currently living below the poverty line and are confronted with widespread food insecurity. The complex crisis has been further compounded by the impact of the Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM), including the Caesar sanction and the recent war in Ukraine. The protection risks and concerns remain high and continue to rise, and coping capacities are extremely limited. Households increasingly resort to negative coping mechanisms such as credit, the sale of productive assets, child labor, different forms of exploitation, and early/forced marriage. Intrinsic linkages exist across multiple needs and sectors, which require wide-ranging responses, strong coordination, and optimization of resources.

LWF reinforced its work in Jordan as a direct response to the Syrian crisis in 2012, playing a pivotal role in delivering humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable refugees arriving in Jordan through a multi-sectoral response. Subsequently, since 2019, LWF started implementing projects through partners inside Syria. Recognizing the escalating needs, LWF has strategically decided to scale up its operations and enhance its relief efforts within the country, especially after the 2023 Syria-Türkiye Earthquake.



LWF Syria & Jordan Country Director during a field assessment visit to Aleppo Post Syria-Türkiye Earthquake

Syria Intervention

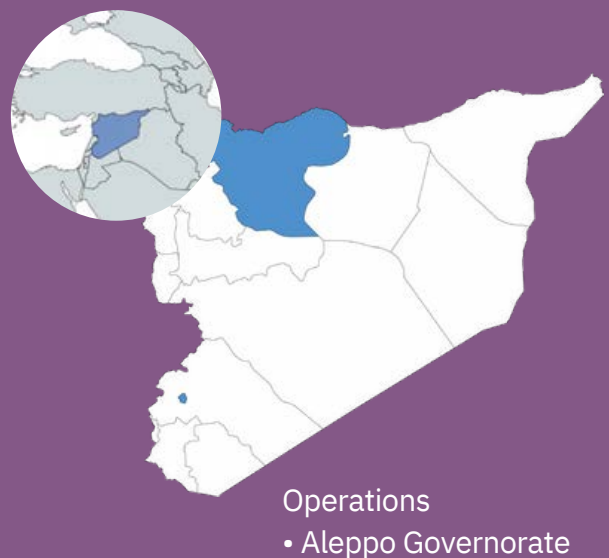
Since the onset of the Syrian crisis in 2012, LWF has been actively engaged in alleviating suffering through humanitarian interventions aimed at saving lives. These efforts have included the distribution of essential Non-Food Items (NFIs), food, hygiene promotion, and education kits, alongside awareness-raising and capacity-building programs aimed at the most vulnerable Syrians.

Following the devastating earthquake in Syria in February 2023, LWF immediately mobilized to provide crucial multi-sectoral assistance in Aleppo, one of the hardest-hit regions. Working closely with partners such as the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch (GOPA-DERD), Caritas, Al Ta'alouf, and the St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee (EPDC) in Syria, LWF swiftly initiated a comprehensive response to address urgent needs. Through consultations and on-site assessments, LWF identified priority areas for support and formulated a well-informed plan to deliver effective assistance.

In Aleppo, LWF's response focused on mitigating vulnerability among those affected by the earthquake, the ongoing conflict, and deteriorating economic conditions. The multi-sectoral approach encompassed protection, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), education, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), shelter, and health services.

Priority was given to providing MHPSS services, including psychosocial first aid and counseling, with special attention to children's needs. Health services, such as medicine support and surgeries for earthquake victims, were also provided. Additionally, the distribution of WASH-related items aimed to ensure hygiene and dignity, particularly for women and families. Education support focused on rehabilitating schools and providing school kits to enable children to return to normalcy.

Furthermore, the projects facilitated the rehabilitation of homes destroyed by the earthquake, aiming to support the recovery and resilience of affected communities. To enhance their ability to address challenges effectively, capacity-building training was provided to local partners on various topics, including prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, earthquake awareness, and cholera prevention. Through these efforts, LWF aimed to contribute to the recovery and well-being of earthquake-affected communities in Aleppo, Syria.



Our Projects

Syria



ACT Appeal: Emergency Response for Affected Communities of Syria-Turkiye Earthquake

Aleppo, Syria

In February 2023, after a devastating earthquake hit Syria, LWF rapidly mobilized to deliver essential humanitarian aid to the affected areas, working alongside partners like Caritas, Al Ta'alof, and EPDC in Aleppo. The team's on-ground assessments led to a targeted support plan addressing critical needs in Protection, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Shelter/NFI, and Health.



Damage to building occupied by people following the earthquake - Syria, Aleppo

Focusing on reducing the vulnerability of those impacted by Syria's prolonged conflict and the earthquake's aftermath, LWF assisted around 24,000 people in 2023. Efforts were particularly aimed at restoring normalcy, with a significant emphasis on school rehabilitation and the provision of educational kits to ensure the continuity of education for children. Additionally, the initiative extended to rehabilitating homes, highlighting the importance of safe living conditions.

Responding to the healthcare crisis exacerbated by the earthquake, LWF introduced a comprehensive healthcare program to supply essential medicines, facilitate critical surgeries, and distribute hygiene kits.

The distribution of hygiene kits was accompanied by health education activities addressing cholera prevention, among other topics. Conducting awareness-raising activities aimed to promote optimal hygiene practices under dire conditions. Special attention was given to MHPSS services, focusing on the needs of children to support their survival and development in the wake of the crisis.



In February 2023, the village of Mayasar in Aleppo was devastated by the severe earthquake, which worsened its already fragile infrastructure and precarious living conditions. The disaster caused extensive damage, leading to fatalities, injuries, displacement, and significant loss of shelter.

Hasan Haj Arhem, a 42-year-old former baker living in poverty, struggled to support his family and provide for his disabled son. During the earthquake, Hasan sustained a foot injury from falling debris as their house collapsed. The family initially sought shelter in a school and later rented a damaged home due to inadequate accommodation.

LWF, through its partner EPDC, intervened to assist Hasan's family. The organization provided essential health support, including an MRI for Hasan's knee injury that he previously couldn't afford, allowing him to receive proper treatment. Additionally, Hasan's son received a nebulizer machine that dramatically improved his respiratory condition, easing the family's distress after watching him suffer for a long time.

Despite these challenges, Hasan's resilience, bolstered by LWF's support, exemplifies the profound strength of individuals facing adversity. His story underscores the crucial role of humanitarian efforts in restoring lives after a disaster.

Recovery and Resilience Support to Vulnerable Communities Affected by the Syria-Türkiye Earthquake in Aleppo, Syria

Aleppo, Syria

This project responded to the Syrian earthquake with a comprehensive effort to assist vulnerable affected families through GOPA-DERD as implementing partners. The project provided crucial food parcels, ensuring that affected families had enough to meet their basic needs.



Recreation Psychosocial Support Activity in Aleppo with Earthquake affected local community women

Alongside this, informative sessions were held to build communities' capacity to stay safe during earthquakes. Special attention was given to promoting good hygiene practices to prevent illnesses, especially given the ongoing cholera outbreak in Syria. The project team also showed flexibility by expanding the distribution of hygiene kits when they realized the growing need.

To strengthen the response efforts, LWF also worked on building the skills and resilience of the local implementing partner's staff. This included providing support for their mental health and well-being, recognizing that many of them were from the local communities in Aleppo and, therefore, were also directly affected by the earthquake.

Ebaa Ali Al-Issa, aged 36, lives with her husband and three children in Al-Midan, Aleppo. Like many residents in the affected city, Mrs. Ebaa experienced challenging psychological conditions in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Learning about the assistance provided by the project team in Aleppo during this challenging period motivated her to engage in psychosocial support activities.

Mrs. Ebaa's participation in the psychosocial support sessions provided by the project in Aleppo had a profoundly positive impact on her life. By engaging in stress management, mental health, and nonviolent communication activities, she gained valuable coping mechanisms and emotional resilience. These sessions, coupled with recreational activities and relaxation techniques, empowered Mrs. Ebaa to navigate her psychological challenges with newfound strength and positivity.



Rebuilding Together: Enhancing Partner Capacity for Well-being and Technical Excellence in Post-Earthquake Recovery with a Protection Perspective

LWF continues its steadfast support to its partners in Syria, aiming to enhance the quality of services provided to the vulnerable populations it serves. Through a combination of face-to-face and online training initiatives, LWF has prioritized the enhancement of psychosocial and mental support for partner staff members, many of whom have been personally impacted by the earthquake, experiencing loss of family members and/or homes. Also, through comprehensive assessments, LWF identified various capacity development needs, particularly in areas such as psychosocial support, mental health, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Prevention Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and earthquake preparedness. In response, LWF's dedicated team stepped in to provide essential training and support to partner teams, addressing critical skill gaps and fostering enhanced service delivery. These training efforts have proven instrumental not only in empowering staff members but also in elevating the overall quality of assistance provided to the communities in need.



LWF Protection Team Conducting Capacity Building Workshop on Protection for Al Ta'alouf in Aleppo



LWF Protection Team Conducting Capacity Building Workshop on Child Protection for all Implementing Partners in Syria

Lebanon

LWF in Lebanon

Country Overview:

Lebanon's 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) highlights the reality of a nation grappling with a multifaceted crisis that has deepened existing vulnerabilities and left 3.9 million people in dire need of assistance. This includes 2.1 million vulnerable Lebanese citizens, 1.5 million Syrian refugees, and numerous others seeking refuge, like migrants and Palestinian refugees.

The crisis, ongoing since 2019, is marked by an economic and financial meltdown characterized by hyperinflation, plummeting currency value, and widespread poverty. This is further compounded by instability in the political arena, hindering progress and solutions. The social fabric and essential systems are also under immense strain, leading to limited access to basic necessities like livelihood, healthcare, water, and sanitation.

LWF interventions in Lebanon focus on livelihoods and capacity building, which promotes long-term solutions and sustainable recovery.



Photo shows the pre and post rehabilitation of the Tahaddi vocational training center in Lebanon supported by LWF.

Our Projects

Lebanon



Expanding Livelihood Opportunities for Youth and At-Risk Adults in Lebanon through Increasing Access to Pre-vocational and Vocational Training

Beirut, Lebanon

The project was a collaborative effort between LWF and Tahaddi Center, aimed at enhancing the quality and scope of youth's prevocational and vocational training. This goal was achieved through various measures, including the establishment of a dedicated space for the prevocational program, extension of learning hours, and expansion of onsite vocational training in sewing and carpentry. Furthermore, the project aimed to increase access to community-based income-generating opportunities by providing stable income to at-risk families through the Tahaddi Sewing Atelier and New Carpentry Workshop.



LWF Jordan team along with the the regional programme coordinator's visits the Tahaddi vocational training center in Lebanon.

The project's participants included both female and male students who had completed the 7-year primary education program, as well as at-risk adults. These participants were from vulnerable backgrounds and resided in the informal settlement of Hay el Gharbeh, in Lebanon, where extreme poverty was prevalent. While most participants were Lebanese and displaced Syrians, a segment of the Dom community, also participated in the program.

Overall, the project aimed to uplift and empower vulnerable individuals and families by providing them with valuable skills and income-generating opportunities, thereby contributing to their socio-economic well-being.

Hassan, born in a poor Lebanese settlement, overcame challenges through education and vocational training in carpentry provided by Tahaddi and LWF. He excelled in his skills, secured a job, returned to contribute to the center, and furthered his education. Today, he is a successful carpenter, leading workshops and contributing to a new youth center. Grateful for the opportunities, Hassan aspires to become a renowned carpenter and share his skills globally.



Celebrating Our Milestones



Peace Oases' Sewing Workshop



Syrian incentive-based volunteer producing baby kits in the Sewing Workshop at the LWF Za'atari Peace Oasis Center

Established in 2020 to address a pressing need within the Za'atari Syrian Refugee Camp, our Sewing Workshop has emerged as a pivotal vocational training center for women and girls. It offers a secure and nurturing environment for learning, networking, and receiving psychosocial support. This sanctuary enables women to convene, learn, and enrich their personal development.

Our initiative is dedicated to teaching sewing skills, which encompass creating and altering garments, thus empowering participants to produce clothing for their families. Moreover, it opens a pathway for income generation, resonating with traditional values and leveraging the rich heritage and existing knowledge of sewing within the Syrian culture. In doing so, it promises a safe and educational setting for all involved. Additionally, the workshop includes an Incentive-Based Volunteer (IBV) program that encourages female camp residents to engage further, enhancing their access to income-generating opportunities.

Our approach is deeply rooted in community feedback, which guides the design of our training programs and the selection of tailoring projects. For instance, in response to requests and the high cost of newborn essential items, the women from the IBV program have been trained to sew comprehensive newborn care packages. These include carrying coats and full outfits, which are then distributed to mothers facing dire needs within the camp. This initiative not only addresses immediate material needs but also empowers women through skill development and community support.

Additionally, our workshop addresses the community's educational needs by sewing and distributing school uniforms to children in dire circumstances. This ensures that educational participation is not hindered by a lack of proper attire, thereby supporting the academic journey of every child within the camp.

“Darzet Aman” Boutique



LWF piloted the Darzet Aman boutique concept in its community centers located in Zarqa, Irbid, and Za'atari camp. This initiative transforms donated clothes by upscaling them, and then distributes these items at no cost to vulnerable individuals through a dignified and respectful shopping experience designed to mirror a real retail environment, by maintaining protection standards.

LWF's process starts with the careful acquisition of clothing, either purchased or donated. Each item is meticulously sorted to ensure quality. The clothing then undergoes a comprehensive refurbishment process: washing, necessary repairs, ironing, and sterilization to ensure each piece meets the highest standards of quality and hygiene.

Access to the boutique is granted through referrals from LWF case managers, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence sub-working groups, and specialized agencies. At the boutique, families can select up to three clothing items per family-member, which they can try on in private fitting rooms for a personalized experience. On-site volunteer tailors are available for immediate alterations, ensuring a perfect fit during the fitting session. To maintain a dignified shopping experience, a structured cash-like system is utilized. Shoppers at Darzet Aman are guided to the cash counter where they complete their transactions and receive receipts for their selected, coded items. Volunteers and staff manage logistics, and the monitoring and evaluation department collects feedback of the experience.

The Multi-Purpose Theatre



LWF Country Director, giving the welcoming speech for LWF inauguration of the theatre and boutique in Zatar Camp



LWF opened its theater to provide a space for the community to enjoy watching World Cup matches together

The Multi-Purpose Theatre is one of LWF's initiatives to support refugees in the Za'atari camp. It provides technical, artistic, and content articulation skills while encouraging self-expression for improved mental well-being. The theatre also showcases cultural videos and films from local and international art directors, fostering knowledge exchange and ideas. Moreover, it is open to the public during significant events like major sports finals, promoting inclusivity and community engagement. At LWF, we believe in art's transformative power to create a better future and open new horizons.

Youth Support



LWF psychosocial support counselor providing counselling session to a juvenile youth

In September 2022, LWF Jordan was one of the selected few organizations that were officially accredited by the Ministry of Social Development. This accreditation grants LWF Jordan's community centers in Irbid and Zarqa governorates the authority to offer community service opportunities to juveniles adjudicated for minor offenses as part of non-custodial penalties. This recognition from the Jordanian government underscores LWF Jordan's exceptional ability and dedication to providing rehabilitative measures as an alternative to conventional penal consequences for young Jordanians.

Following accreditation, LWF Jordan implemented a comprehensive and integrative approach to managing juvenile cases and their familial contexts. Upon referral from judicial authorities and behavioral assessment done by specialists, each juvenile and their family undergo a thorough case management process. This process begins with an initial assessment session to delineate specific needs and circumstances, leading to the development of a tailored intervention plan. This plan incorporates psychosocial and recreational activities aimed at fostering skill acquisition, emotional resilience, and pro-social behaviors.

Integral to this intervention model is the engagement of juveniles in community service projects, serving as both a rehabilitative tool and a mechanism for societal reintegration. A prime example of such engagement is their participation in LWF Jordan's "Darzet Aman" boutique. Here, they develop practical skills such as communication, customer service, and logistics while also enhancing social interactions and behavioral adjustment within the community. This approach ensures interventions are conducted within a child-centric and secure socio-developmental framework, prioritizing the well-being and holistic development of the juveniles involved.

LWF a Knowledge-Sharing Hub



Ameera Khamis the Country Director for LWF Jordan & Syria along with Dr. Islam Massad Yarmouk University president signing the MoU agreement between LWF and Yarmouk University

LWF serves as a knowledge-sharing hub that fosters collaborations with local and international universities. In this capacity, LWF has extended support to scholars and students from esteemed higher educational institutions inside and outside Jordan.

Concurrently, LWF has formalized Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with distinct Jordanian universities such as the Hashemite University, and Yarmouk University, to facilitate research initiatives and internship placements for Jordanian scholars.

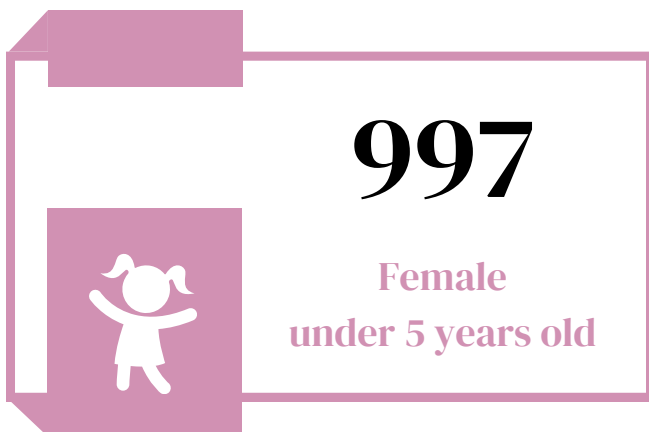
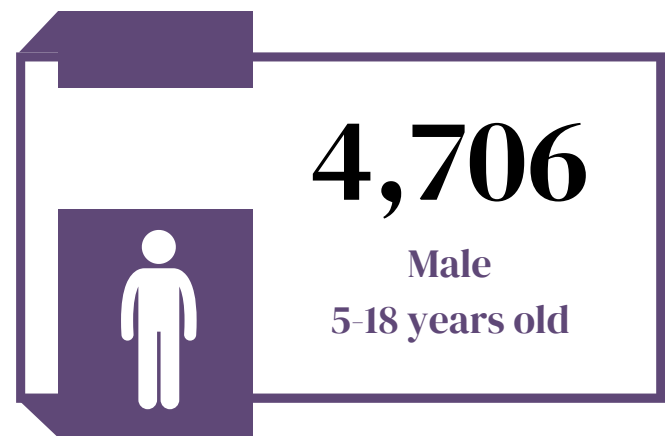
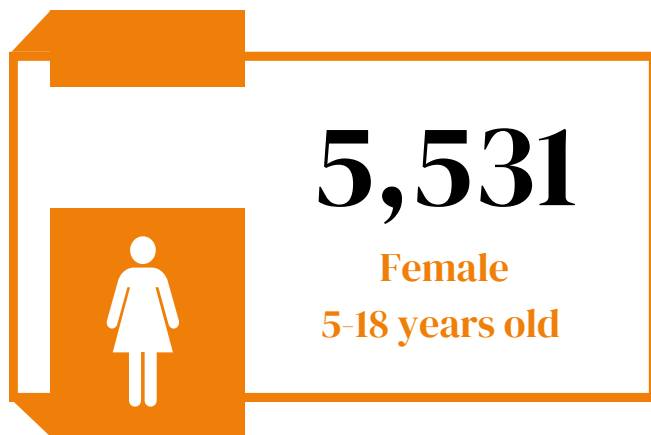
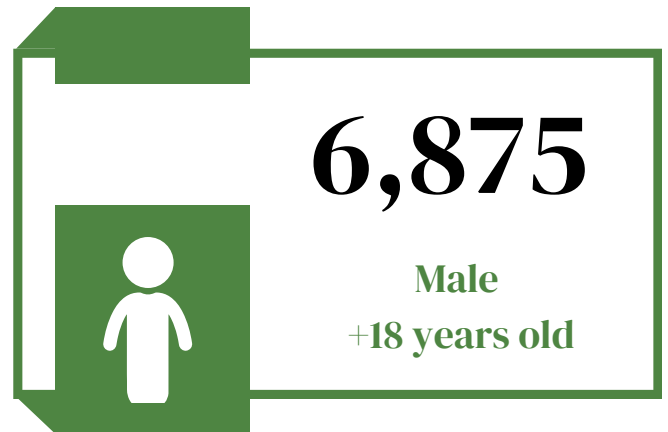
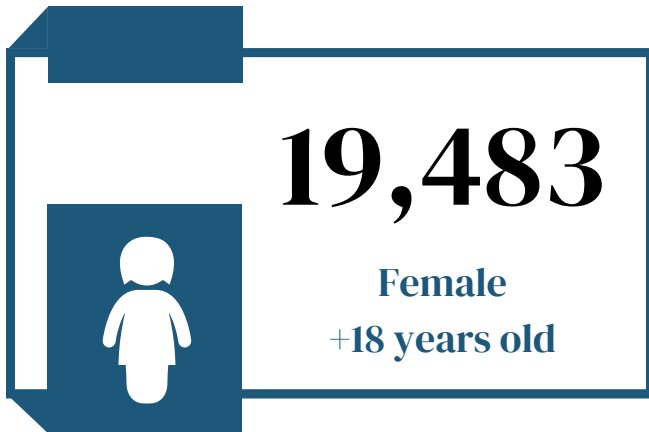
Furthermore, LWF is committed to raising awareness among university students about critical issues such as GBV prevention and response, and International Humanitarian Law, among other prioritized topics through mutual events and activities. We have also created multiple opportunities specifically tailored for university students to engage in our protection, entrepreneurship, and educational programs.

Additionally, we offer volunteering opportunities that enable students to gain firsthand experience in humanitarian and development work directly in the field. Our team is dedicated to sharing knowledge and providing peer support as needed to enrich students' educational journey.

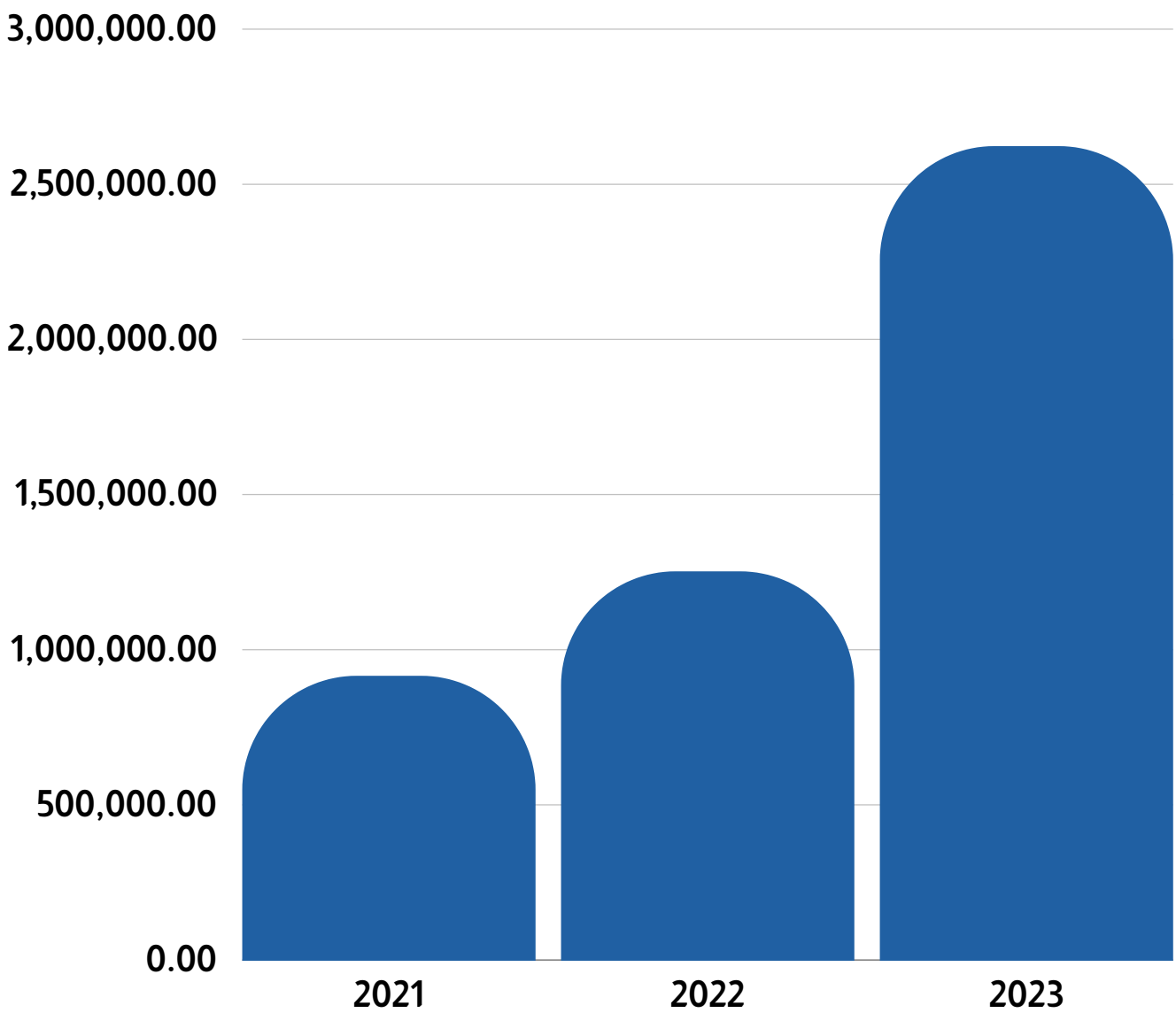
Beneficiaries

38,473

The total direct beneficiaries of projects in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon in 2023.



Total Projects Amount Euro



Our Team Voices



Management Team



Ameera Khamis
Country Director

"I'm deeply proud of our team's unwavering dedication, which has significantly impacted lives this past year. We've reached vulnerable host communities, refugees, and IDPs, with a spirit of unconditional giving. This journey of growth and learning inspires us to continue making a lasting difference. Let's keep shining as a beacon of hope for those in need."



Islam Shdefat
Program Coordinator

"LWF is one of the best organizations I have worked for; its mission and visions are valuable and realistic, and it has flexibility, especially in targeting different nationalities and people in need."



Samer Al.Masri
Finance Manager

"The diversity of programs provided to beneficiaries in LWF is a source of personal pride for me in humanitarian work. Through the Finance Department, we provide all possible support according to the organization's standards and laws."



Aroub Alkhateeb
Fundraising, Grants and Reporting Manager

"At LWF, I've connected with empowering colleagues, fostering personal growth. Together, we've boosted fundraising, ensuring aid reaches vulnerable individuals. Transparent reporting, built program credibility, promoting trust and expanding partnerships, benefiting local communities."



Abdallah Alomari
Irbid Community Center Team Leader

"It's been quite a trip. The diversity of questions, conversations, and diverse experiences of colleagues keep things interesting as you pick up new information and learn about different ways to approach challenges."



Nirmeen Saadeh
Zaraq & Za'atari Community Center Team Leader

"It is extremely rewarding to receive feedback from those who have benefitted from psychological counselling, sharing how they achieved their goals and improved their mental health."



Management Team



Ammar Kalabani
Support Service Senior Officer

“The range of sectors and projects in which the LWF works provides me with a diverse set of experiences, exposure and learning.”



Amer Ghozlan
Monitoring and Evaluation Senior Officer

“Being part of such an effective team is a tremendous honor, and my role in implementing the meal plan for the projects will enhance the quality of the results.”

Staff



Saddam Haddad
Technical logistics officer

“It expanded my knowledge in logistics, and fleet management, and also helped provide supplies of items that proved beneficial for the team.”



Shaima Al-Awaqleh
Technical Referral & Case Management Officer

“LWF has significantly boosted my skills and allowed me space for creativity. It's like my second home, providing reassurance and a friendly environment where I've gained knowledge and familiarity with various matters through interactions with people.”



Dima Al Twal
Psychosocial counselor officer

“I learn something new with every case and task, significantly adding to my experience. Additionally, I receive positive feedback from the beneficiaries.”



Ayman AlKhalidi
Livelihood Officer

“Working with the LWF enhanced my project goal achievement, service delivery, problem analysis, planning, and organization skills. This experience advanced my professional competence, emphasizing teamwork and leadership with a focus on empowerment.”



Staff



Dr. Hajar Sakarneh
Psychosocial Counselor officer

“I feel loyal to this work. Every day I learn new skills due to the diversity of tasks and knowledge. There is a high level of trust among beneficiaries, an increase in the number of services provided, and positive feedback.”



Akram Yazigee
Syria Field Consultant

“My experience with LWF is a unique experience different from other organizations; with great focus on reaching the most vulnerable right holders, while maintaining all the aspects of compliance and donors' rules and regulations.”



Batool Moh'd Altaheri
Advocacy Assistant

“I've encountered numerous new opportunities that have positively impacted me. Working closely with the beneficiaries, I directly engage them to achieve project goals, primarily focused on enhancing their capacity and reinforcing their knowledge.”



Ruaa Al Hakeem
Finance Assistant

“My particular delight in my humanitarian work through the financial department stems from my observation of the positive results for the beneficiaries, which is through my role in supporting all operations.”



Manal Kharabsheh
Case Management Assistant

“My experience with LWF has been personally enriching in several ways. It has allowed me to engage with individuals from diverse backgrounds, learning about their experiences and challenges.”



Weed Aljnadeh
M&E Assistant

“The positive work environment has had a profound impact on me, fostering a constant sense of optimism and comfort.”

Staff



Bashar Alazzam
Project Assistant

“My personal experience with LWF has been rewarding, satisfying me through meaningful work. Thanks to LWF, I gained access to up-to-date and comprehensive information, benefiting me in various aspects of life.”



Lana Alkilani
M&E Assistant

“We have seen improvement in beneficiary uptake results and increased participation levels, and we have received positive feedback from program participants, enhancing our presence's impact.”



Ibrahim Bani Khaled
M&E Assistant

“The experience was personally valuable, contributing to developing various skills and fostering positive relationships with LWF.”



Ali Al-Samra
Communication Assistant

“Through my work, I firmly believe in the transformative power of images and words to illuminate human rights issues. This conviction propels me to advocate for positive change and amplify the voices of those in need.”



Partners' Voices : Shared Perspectives and Collaborative Insights





Abd Al Hafeth Orabi
Director of Irbid Agriculture

“Through my experience, I facilitated and supported LWF’s work by providing leadership and development in the field of agricultural environment We always look for real partners like LWF and seek to increase funding for future projects and plans.”



Ahed Obiadate
The Director of Kufrsom Agricultural Cooperative CBO of Pomegranate Product

“The Livestock project in a highly rural and agricultural area has had a significant positive impact on the CBO and the local community, by providing learning opportunities and serving as a source of income for the association and the beneficiaries from the local community.”



Murad Srehien
The Director of Youth Without Borders CBO

“I constantly aspire to leverage our partnership with LWF to implement projects of interest to the community, including activities for youth, and women’s economic empowerment through training and employment programs in the modern agriculture and hydroponic agriculture sector, which is one of the most critical food security and sustainable projects and has a clear positive impact on the lives of beneficiaries.”



Eman Al-Zubi
The Director of Zahr Al Rumman CBO

“Our partnership with LWF in Irbid has proven to be highly influential and successful for our beneficiaries including Syrian women, community men, and refugees We treated this partnership as an equal partnership through knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and providing resources for activities related to livelihoods, advocacy, and protection..”



Rafat Badran
Executive Director - NAYA Community Network

“Our partnership with LWF has fostered positive change and progress by providing beneficiaries with enhanced tools, insights, and opportunities for development The rich experience, marked by experiential, collaborative, and professional aspects, has played a crucial role in enhancing and empowering communities through facilitating a meaningful exchange of knowledge and ideast.”

Partners



Shakeeb Khozam
Program Coordinator - GOPA-DERD

“GOPA-DERD and LWF's emergency intervention and rapid response to help those affected by the earthquake played a significant role in meeting the needs of the beneficiaries through all the activities implemented in terms of timing and quality.”



Mtanos Al-Khoury
Project Coordinator - St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee

“Through our partnership with LWF, we have been able to meet the essential needs of our beneficiaries. Our project, which was comprised of many aspects, has yielded excellent outcomes, most notably the improved health situation of some patients. ”

Volunteers Testimonials



Mohammed Al Hariri
Za'atari Camp Volunteer

“Programs have a positive effect on our participants; the people participating in these programs have the opportunity to get the PSS and get help with protection, livelihood, and basic needs; this is often reflected in their well-being.”



Mufleh Alfaouri
Za'atari Camp Volunteer

“It was rewarding because I gained so many new skills and have good experience in volunteer humanitarian work. In addition to experience, working in the LWF was a great help to me and my family at the economic level.”

International Partners



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



**Methodist
relief and
development**



actalliance



Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren



**Canadian Lutheran
World Relief**



*Australian
Lutheran
World Service*



LUTHERISCHER
WELTBUND
DEUTSCHES
NATIONALKOMITEE



**EMERGENCY
ACTION**
ALLIANCE

Local Partners

NAYA



GOPA-DERD
actalliance



Thaka ذكاء





Strategic Alliances

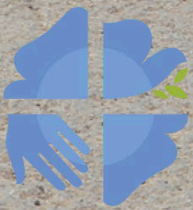
- **The Moving Minds Alliance - MMA**
- **The ACT alliance**
- **The ICVA alliance**
- **The CHS alliance**

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