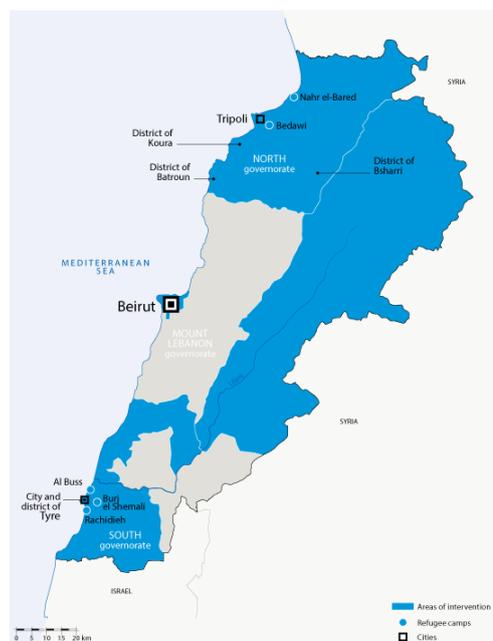




Lebanon



MANDATE

Handicap International's work in Lebanon aims at increasing the involvement of people with disabilities and vulnerable people¹ in community life, both physically (for instance, by providing access to education and health services and infrastructure etc.) and in terms of professional, cultural and social inclusion.

As a result of the humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict in Syria, Handicap International has also rolled out emergency projects aimed at affected groups (refugees and host populations). Specific situation updates provide information on these emergency projects.

SITUATION

Access to quality health, education and social protection services remains extremely limited for people with disabilities in rural and isolated regions of the country. Lebanon is home to a large community of Palestinian refugees living mainly in camps generally recognised by the Lebanese authorities². These refugees find it particularly difficult to access health and education services. Unexploded ordnance, including anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions scattered across the country during recent conflicts also cause casualties who need help for life. Lastly, more than four years after the start of hostilities, fighting in Syria is still forcing hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees to cross into neighbouring countries, including Lebanon and Jordan. They include refugees who continue to flee fierce fighting between the various warring factions and long-established refugees who, worn down by years of war, are increasingly vulnerable.

INITIAL ACTIONS

Handicap International has conducted a wide range of actions in Lebanon and Palestinian refugee camps and gatherings since 1992, including rehabilitation services for people with disabilities and mental health rehabilitation services for people worst affected by the violence. The organisation also advances the rights of people with disabilities, builds the capacities of disabled people's organisations, and provides

emergency response to various crises affecting the country and region.

STAFF

For **weapons clearance** activities:

- National staff members: 19
- Expatriate staff members: 2

For **development** activities

- 5 people in Lebanon

Emergency response (Syrian crisis):

- 500 people across the region (Lebanon + Syria + Jordan + Iraq)

KEY FACTS

Human development index (HDI) *	67 (out of 188 countries)
GNI per capita (\$PPP) **	\$16,509
Surface area **	10,450 sq.km.
Population (millions) **	4.5
Life expectancy *	80 years

*UNDP: 2014 human development report

**World Bank: 2013

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRDPH)	Ratified on 14/6/07
Oslo convention on cluster munitions	Ratified on 5/11/10
Ottawa mine ban convention	Not signed

¹ People whose independence, dignity or physical or mental integrity is at risk. Vulnerability may be caused by age, illness, infirmity, a physical or mental impairment, or pregnancy.

² Some 455,000 of the five million Palestinian refugees registered in Middle Eastern countries by the United Nations (UNRWA) since 1948 currently live in 12 camps and some 39 unofficial "gatherings" in Lebanon. Source: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, UNRWA: <http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=253>

Current projects 2016



Psychosocial and psychological support

GOAL

As part of this project, Handicap International works to meet the needs of children suffering from acute psychological problems in Palestinian refugee camps and gatherings in northern Lebanon and the region of Tyr, in order to improve the living conditions of these children in acute distress and to mitigate the impact on families who have been sorely tried by their experiences.

Since 2013, this project has also included the children of Palestinian families who were living in Syria before fleeing the conflict and who have been uprooted again in particularly traumatic circumstances, and now live in exile in Lebanon. Many of the children of these families need extensive psychological support to overcome the seriously traumatic experiences most of them endured before and while they were fleeing Syria.

Since 2014, with a view to continuously strengthening and consolidating services, and building on the organisation's existing experience, expertise and strengths, the project also aims at:

- Promoting innovative response models for mental health and psychosocial support in order to improve the governance of public policies in the health and social sectors.
- Building the technical and organisational capacities of community services provided by civil society organisations to improve the protection of the rights of people living with mental health problems.

METHOD

Handicap International intervenes in three main areas:

- **Community-based mental health services:** they are provided in homes and in centres run by local partner organisations and teams of psychologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, psychomotricians, speech therapists and community workers. A specialist staff member organises fun activities for children, helping them express their feelings, work through their problems and overcome their traumas and psychological disorders. These activities are performed individually and in groups.
- **Family support:** parents are encouraged to get involved in their children's rehabilitation process. They are made aware of mental health issues in order to improve their vision and understanding of them and to encourage them to seek help in order to prevent further damage to their children's psychological state. Parents in need are also provided with psychological services.
- **Technical and managerial support:** provided to local partner organisations to strengthen their skills and the quality and sustainability of mental health services.

BENEFICIARIES

- At least 245 children (annual basis) suffering from acute psychological problems in Palestinian refugee camps and gatherings and their parents
- At least 150 Palestinian children forced to flee the war in Syria with serious mental health problems (or who highly risk developing them following very traumatic experiences due to the war) and their parents. Due to the impact of the Syrian crisis, Lebanese and Syrian children living close to the Palestinian response camps also benefit from the project's support.
- Teams of health professionals from partner organisations

PARTNERS

- The Family Guidance Centre (FGC) in the region of Tyr
- The Community Based Rehabilitation Association (CBRA) in Northern Lebanon

LOCATION

- In the region of Tyr and Northern Lebanon (Tripoli)



Weapons clearance

GOAL

Reduce the impact of mines and explosive remnants of war in northern Lebanon.

METHOD

The landscape is steep and covered by vegetation and requires manual clearance (neither machines nor dogs can be used). Two teams of weapons clearance experts work daily to clear the contaminated land. They start by carefully removing grass and bushes since they prevent detectors from signalling the presence of mines or explosive remnants of war, despite functioning correctly. The clearance experts then secure the area by inspecting it inch by inch using highly sensitive detectors that can detect mines buried up to 20cm underground. When a mine or explosive remnant of war has been detected, Handicap International's team places explosives on the device and destroy it remotely (between 20 and 25 metres away).

Each team is also accompanied by a nurse who is ready to intervene in the event of an accident.

Thanks to this work, on 24 April 2012, more than 60,000 sq.m. of land was restored to the people of Toula, in the district of Batroun. A total of more than 120,000 sq.m. of land has been cleared by Handicap International since the beginning of the project.

Handicap International also makes sure there is a constant exchange of information with affected communities. Handicap International's workers gather, compile and analyse testimonies from people living in the danger zones. This data is then used to launch activities that reflect needs in the field (risk education, weapons clearance, referral to national services for victim assistance, etc.).

BENEFICIARIES

Lebanese citizens living in the province of Northern Lebanon

Efforts are already being made to bring land no longer considered to be dangerous back into use by planting olive trees, building tourist facilities, and rehabilitating or constructing infrastructure. Some projects in highly strategic areas were launched as soon as weapons clearance ended. They include road widening, the erection of electricity pylons and bridge construction.

PARTNERS

Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC)

LOCATION

Region of Batroun (*Province of Northern Lebanon*)



Empowerment of injured and disabled Syrian refugees

Regional project run in Jordan, Iraq (Iraqi Kurdistan) and Lebanon

GOAL

Foster the emergence of representative organisations and groups within the Syrian population affected by the crisis to ensure the needs of people with disabilities and injuries are taken into consideration and key actors are mobilised to meet these needs.

METHOD

- Identifying Syrian civil society organisations providing support to people with disabilities
- Selecting groups and individuals who need support
- Building their technical and organisational capacities through training
- Developing service directories for people with disabilities
- Monitoring disabled people's organisations to provide better guidance to people with disabilities/casualties
- Advocacy for the actors in question to improve service access
- Support to local initiatives by disabled people's organisations
- Support to local DPOs-CSOs local initiatives

BENEFICIARIES

- 30 organisations working with people with disabilities (four in Syria, 10 in Lebanon, nine in Jordan and seven in Iraq).
- 130 Syrian activists from these self-same organisations (including 50% women and / or people with disabilities).
- 500 other members of the supported organisations.
- 4,000 persons with disabilities/injuries, and their family members.

PARTNERS

Arab NGO Network for Development (Lebanon)

Nujeen for Family Democratising Organisation (Iraq)

LOCATION

Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq – in the communities affected by the crisis or hosting Syrian refugees

MAIN FUNDING BODIES

<p>French Development Agency (AFD)</p>  <p>AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT</p>	<p>European Commission (ECHO)</p>  <p>Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection</p>	<p>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</p>  <p>OCHA United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</p>
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