



SHARING THE LANGUAGE OF *Peace*  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021



LEBANESE ASSOCIATION  
DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATION  
للتوعية الاجتماعية والتواصل

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# A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

2021 was a year of challenges, with economic, health and social problems affecting both Lebanese people and displaced Syrians. Salam LADC has shown that we are here for everyone: our team on the ground have continued to help anyone in need, without discrimination; and our donors and international branches have shown how much humanity and generosity can be extended across borders.

Throughout the year, Salam LADC continued running many previously established projects, as well as developing new services to meet the needs of our beneficiaries. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our projects this year, including everyone who has volunteered their time, both on the ground in Lebanon and further afield.

I hope that the coming months will bring peace and good things to all.



**Joseph Matta**  
Founder and Director



## 2021: AN OVERVIEW

The impact of Lebanon's compounding crises has become increasingly apparent during 2021.

The first three months of the year were spent in a nationwide lockdown, due to record numbers of Covid-19 cases. For Salam LADC, the lockdown limited our activities to remote teaching and emergency distributions. For the vulnerable communities that we serve, the lockdown severely impacted their earning potential and exacerbated the effects of the economic crisis.

By March, the poverty rate had more than doubled from its pre-crisis level, reaching 78%. The same month, the Lebanese Lira lost a third of its value over the span of four days, leading to widespread supermarket closures and pushing yet more households into poverty, in a pattern that would repeat over the course of the year.

Summer saw a dramatic worsening of the electricity and fuel shortages, and while the removal of fuel subsidies in September somewhat stabilised the supply, it also led to a more than 800% rise in the price of gasoline, diesel and cooking gas. The effect of this on the supply chain led to further increases in the price of other basic necessities, including food.

By every measure, the situation in Lebanon is deteriorating. Nevertheless, 2021 also brought some huge successes for Salam LADC. On 6th April Lebanon's final Covid-19 lockdown lifted, and the entire team - local staff, international volunteers and overseas supporters - pulled together to restart 20 face-to-face projects that same day.

Despite the challenging context, our activities kept running for the rest of the year without interruption, providing essential services to thousands of families across Central Bekaa. The Salam LADC community centre alone, after having been closed for most of 2020, reached 538 adults and children through long-term education, livelihood and social stability projects.

The year ended with Salam LADC being accepted as a 2022 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) partner in all seven sectors in which we currently operate. Acceptance as an LCRP partner indicates competency in project planning, monitoring and evaluation, and strong coordination with other organisations active in the region; it is no small feat for an organisation of Salam LADC's size.

We look forward to expanding and improving our activities in 2022, to meet the ever-growing need in Lebanon.



EDUCATION

## Basic Literacy & Numeracy

40 children are currently enrolled in Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN) classes at the Salam LADC community centre. Over eight months, students learn to read and write in both Arabic and English, as well as to count and solve simple maths problems.

BLN is increasingly the only education option for many of the most disadvantaged households in Lebanon.

Successive lockdowns, difficulty with remote learning, political instability and economic hardship have together led to situation where 40% of children in Lebanon were not enrolled in formal education during the 2020-21 academic year. 30% of school-aged Syrian refugees have never set foot in a classroom.



## Bus Project



Salam LADC's mobile classroom, now in its fifth year, provides tablet-assisted BLN classes for out of school 8 to 14 year olds in Central Bekaa. In previous years, the Bus Project has also provided homework support and summer school activities, however in 2021, due to the growing number of children not enrolled in formal education at all, the decision was taken to concentrate on BLN.

For the first three months of 2021, the Bus Project team continued to support their students remotely through contactless worksheet distributions and WhatsApp groups.

The conditions that the children live in make remote learning difficult, and staff and students alike were delighted when face-to-face classes could resume in April. Between the lifting of the lockdown and the end of the year, the Bus Project provided BLN classes for 197 children living in five Informal Tented Settlements and one shelter for widows.

As rising fuel costs force more and more children out of school, bringing education to the places where disadvantaged students live is increasingly essential. We expect the Bus Project to be more in demand than ever in 2022.

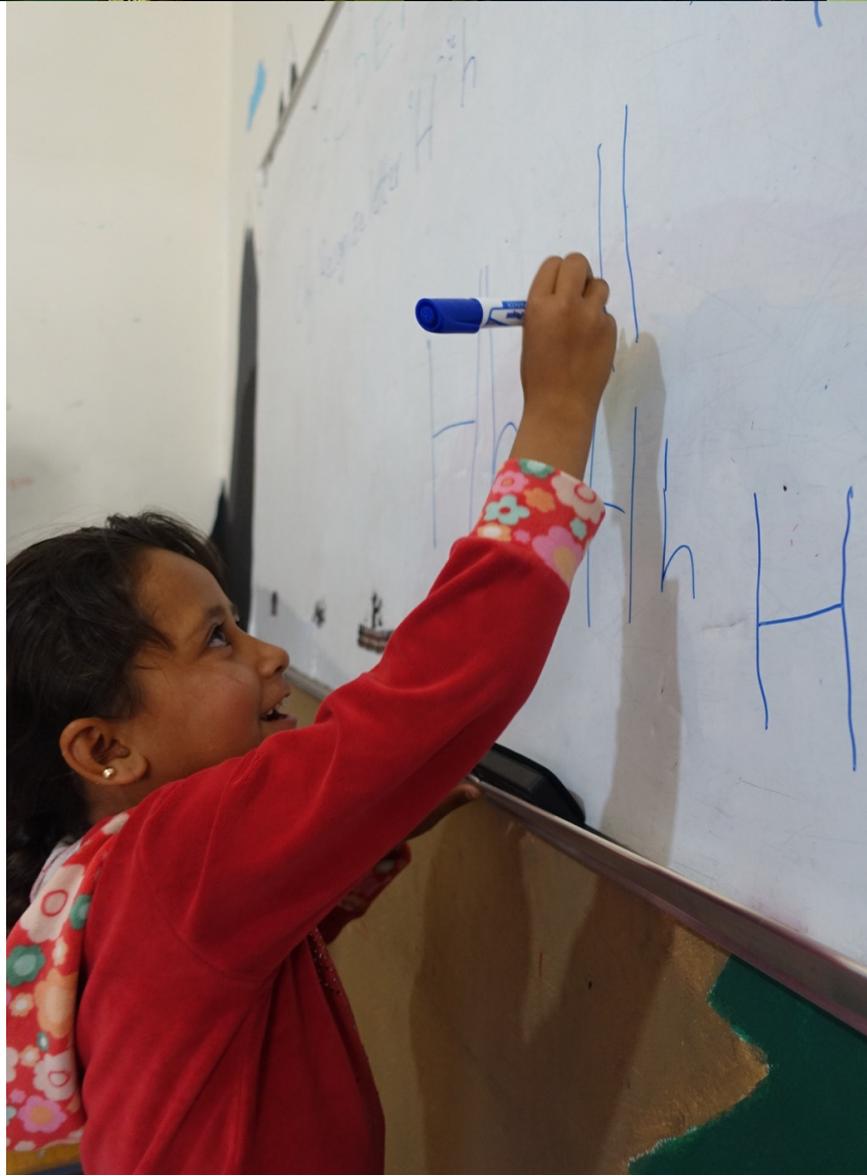
## English & French as a Second Language



After three months of remote learning at the beginning of the year, our English as a Second Language programme has gone from strength to strength since the lifting of the lockdown. By the end of the year, we were reaching 132 children and adults through our community centre and a local widows' shelter. Classes are offered at four different levels for adults, and two levels for children.

Since April 2021, an additional 11 children have been attending twice-weekly French as a Second Language classes at the community centre.

Both English and French are widely used in Lebanon, and play a key role in the national curriculum. Mastery of either of these languages opens up new education and employment opportunities. We are particularly looking forward to expanding our French offering in 2022.



## Kids Club



Kids Club is a Community-Based Early Childhood Education programme that aims to prepare 2 to 5 year olds academically and socially for entry into the public school system.

Kids Club restarted at the Salam LADC community centre in July. By popular demand, a second group was added in November, expanding our reach to 24 students.

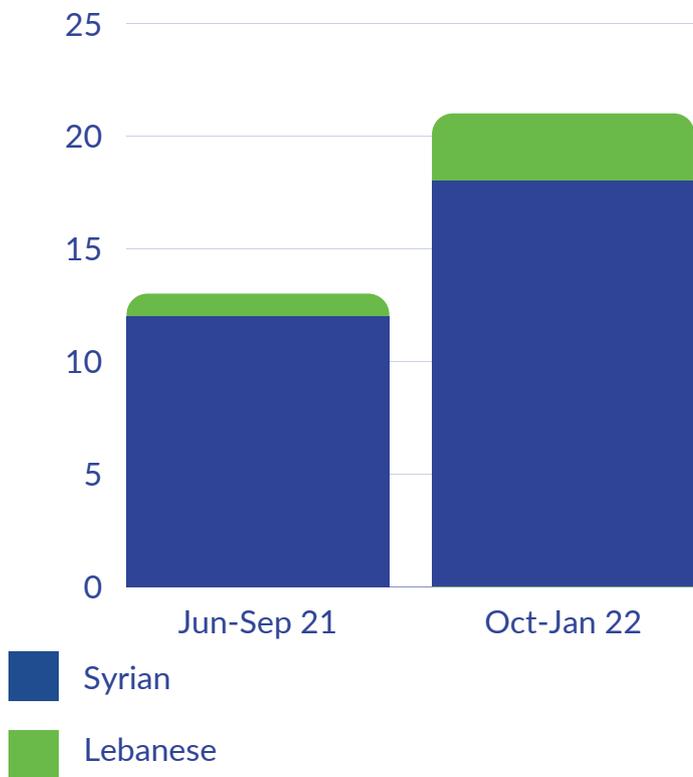
A summer programme following the same curriculum also ran at a local widows' shelter from June to October, reaching an additional 10 children.





## LIVELIHOODS

## Adult Basic Literacy & Numeracy



Adult Basic Literacy and Numeracy classes target those aged 18 years and above who did not have the opportunity to learn to read and write when they were younger.

Based on feedback from our service users, in 2021 our Adult BLN classes transitioned into a women-only activity. This allows them to double as a safe space where women can ask questions and share information about topics that affect them.

34 Syrian and Lebanese women benefited from the four-month course in 2021.





In August 2021, Salam LADC received funding from the IKI Small Grants Initiative to begin a new project called Trees for Lebanon.

Lebanon has lost more than 30% of its forest cover in the last 60 years, and a majority of remaining woodlands are privately owned and/or degraded, meaning that they have suffered a reduction in density or species variation.

Trees for Lebanon aims to plant 600,000 trees across Lebanon within two years, as well as to raise awareness of the dangers of deforestation amongst the general population.

To plant these trees, volunteers from all over Lebanon are scattering seedballs produced at our community centre by cash-for-work participants.

## Cash-for-Work

Cash-for-work projects allow vulnerable people to earn money through short-term employment that benefits the general public. We consistently receive feedback from participants that they prefer the dignity of working for a salary over relying on handouts.

During the first seedball making cycle in autumn 2021, 23 women - 11 Syrian, 8 Lebanese, 3 Palestinian Refugees from Lebanese and 1 Palestinian Refugee from Syria - produced 101,824 seedballs.

Through a separate cash-for-work project, another three vulnerable women were paid to sew 1650 reusable face masks. These have since been distributed to Salam LADC's students and others living in crowded settlements.



## Support to MSMEs



A new cohort of ten women wishing to start or expand their own microbusinesses was welcomed in October. By the end of the year, they had received introductory training on accounting and business practices, and three shops had already been opened.

Participants were selected based on the feasibility of their business plans, and their own vulnerability; a majority are widowed or divorced. Their business ideas include clothing shops, tailoring services, beauty parlours and small restaurants.

During the cycle, each woman will receive a total of \$500-worth of stock and equipment per her individual needs, and will be supported via regular check-ins with the project coordinator.

## Vocational Training



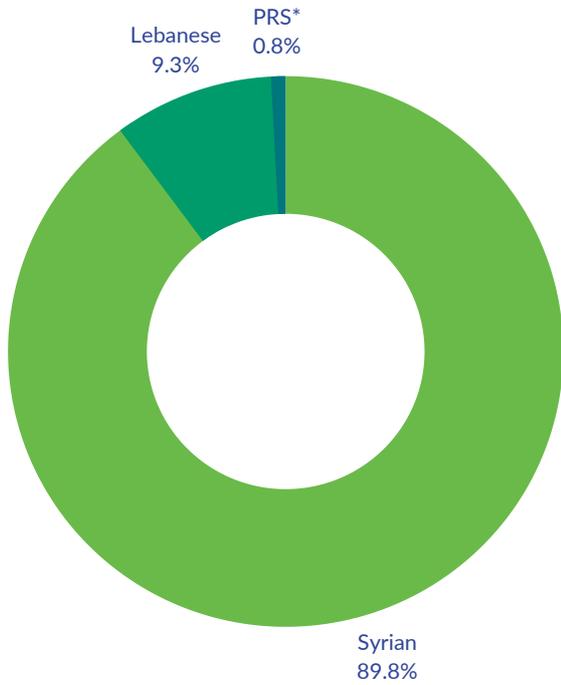
Avenues to skilled employment have become more and more valuable as the economic situation has deteriorated. Salam LADC was delighted to begin the second season of our Makerspace programme in April 2021, in partnership with Doin Good. Makerspace is a collection of three-month vocational training courses: carpentry, electrical work and sewing.

By popular demand, a crochet vocational training course was also opened in May 2021.

All of Salam LADC's vocational training courses are designed to be useful on both a professional and a personal level. The skills that participants learn can act as a solid foundation for a career in carpentry or as an electrician or seamstress, but will also allow them to make repairs to their own dwellings or create items for their family's use.

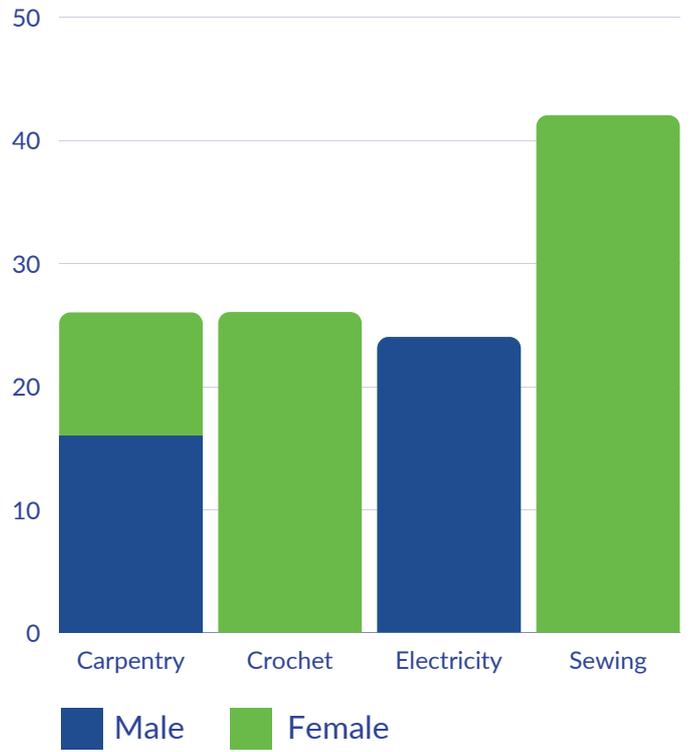
Several of our sewing and crochet graduates are already using their newly acquired skills to supplement their household income.

### Participants by Nationality



\*Palestinian Refugees from Syria

### Participants by Gender



118 students benefited from vocational training courses in 2021, across 11 cohorts.





## SOCIAL STABILITY

## Art Classes

Since April, Salam LADC have been offering twice-weekly art classes for 24 children at our community centre, divided into a morning and an afternoon session. Thanks to our inventive and resourceful international volunteers, students have tried their hand at huge variety of different crafts, including:

- Origami
- Watercolour
- Paper lanterns
- Aztec, Mayan, Maori and Van Gogh-inspired painting
- Collages using upcycled materials like egg boxes and lollipop sticks

A summer course following the same curriculum was also provided from June to October 2021 for children living at a local widows' shelter.



## Cinema Club



One positive aspect of the extended lockdown is that it gave us the opportunity to take a thorough look at our ongoing projects and make adjustments where necessary. When Cinema Club restarted in April, it did so at our community centre instead of inside settlements. This allowed us to better implement Covid-19 safety measures, but is also more suitable for Bekaa's freezing cold winters and extremely hot summers, and creates a calmer environment for attendees.

Every week from April to December, between 10 and 20 children gathered for Cinema Club. Films were chosen for their messages about things like equality and perseverance, or because they modelled positive, respectful examples of friendships and familial relationships.

## Music

From April onwards, 20 children and teenagers benefitted from music lessons with our talented local instructor. Covering voice, percussion, keyboard and oud, classes were an opportunity for children to grow in confidence and express themselves through a new medium.

Students particularly enjoyed performing as part of our Community Centre Open Afternoon in November.



## Salam Photo School



Salam Photo School is designed to amplify the voices of people with lived experience as a refugee, or of subsisting under the poverty line in Bekaa.

We were delighted that the first cycle of the project could finally conclude in 2021, after classes were interrupted for so long by the Covid-19 pandemic and related lockdowns.

Ultimately, eight young people from a settlement in Central Bekaa produced final projects around a theme of their choosing. Topics included child custody, employment rights, and restriction on women's movement.

We look forward to bringing an exhibition of the students' work to Beirut and Europe in 2022. Some of the photographs will also be made available for purchase, with profits being used for to fund future rounds of the Salam Photo School, and to benefit the settlement in which the students live.

## Sport for Peace



The summer and autumn cycles of Sport for Peace brought 70 Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian children living near Al Marj together for football training and awareness sessions covering teamwork, prejudice, nutrition and healthy living.

An additional Sport for Peace class was initiated at our community centre, reaching 10 children on a weekly basis.



## Yoga for Peace



We were delighted to be able to return to a full programme of yoga classes in 2021, especially given how crucial emotional regulation skills are in the current context.

84 women and children were involved in weekly classes at our community centre and a local shelter for widows. An additional 21 women were reached via a summer course in Jeb Jannine, in partnership with the Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering (RDFL).

Thanks to the vision of our local teacher, 12 Lebanese and Syrian girls between the ages of 8 and 13 also benefited from a yoga day retreat in November, giving them space to bond and increase their self-esteem.



## BASIC AND FOOD ASSISTANCE



## In 2021 we distributed



542 food parcels

1053 Ramadan sweet platters

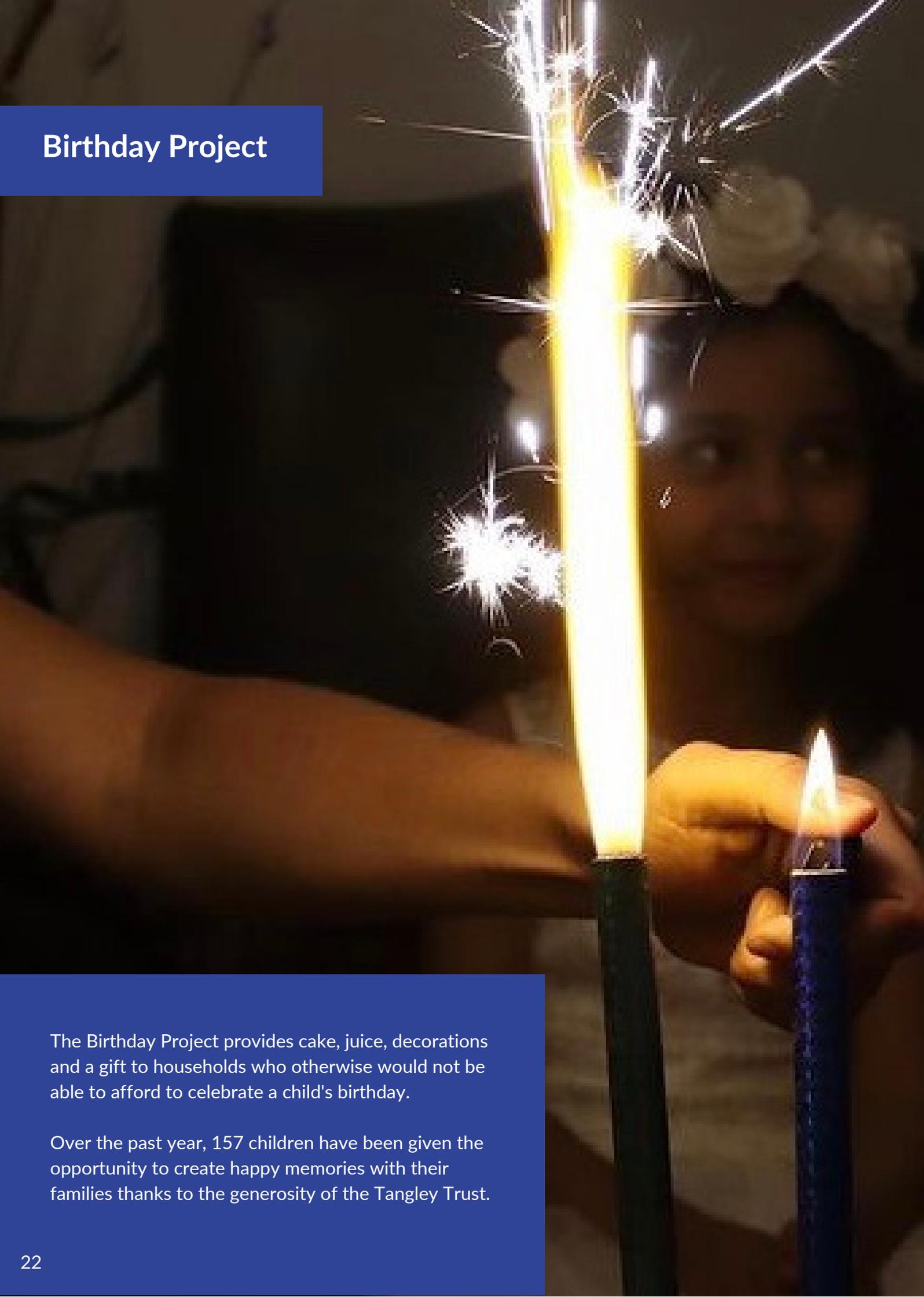


1650 reusable fabric masks

3143kg of apples



5779 pairs of shoes

A close-up photograph of a child's hands lighting a sparkler. The child is holding a lit matchstick to the base of a long, thin sparkler. Bright sparks are erupting from the top of the sparkler. The background is dark and out of focus, showing other people's faces.

## Birthday Project

The Birthday Project provides cake, juice, decorations and a gift to households who otherwise would not be able to afford to celebrate a child's birthday.

Over the past year, 157 children have been given the opportunity to create happy memories with their families thanks to the generosity of the Tangley Trust.

# Greenhouse & Apple Orchard

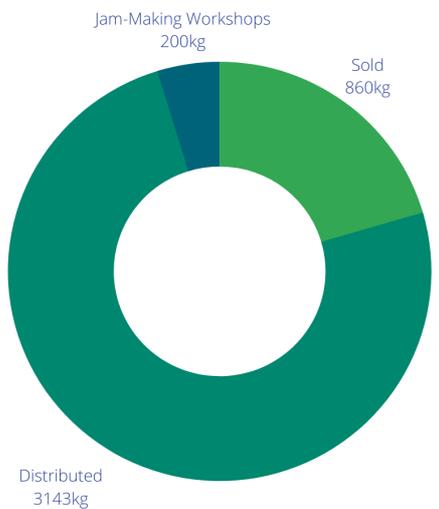
An exciting new chapter began in 2021, with the unveiling of a brand new greenhouse in Kawkaba, the town in southern Lebanon where Salam LADC was founded.

The new greenhouse is benefiting five families, who work together to plant, tend and harvest their crops, and can choose whether to sell what they grow for profit or to keep it for personal consumption.

To complement the new greenhouse, we rented an apple orchard for the harvest season. The yield was divided between three purposes: a majority was distributed to 449 families in need in Kawkaba and Central Bekaa, a portion was sold to local small businesses at an affordable price, and the remainder was used for a jam- and vinegar-making workshop for women at our community centre.



## How The Apples Were Used :



## Sahra Project



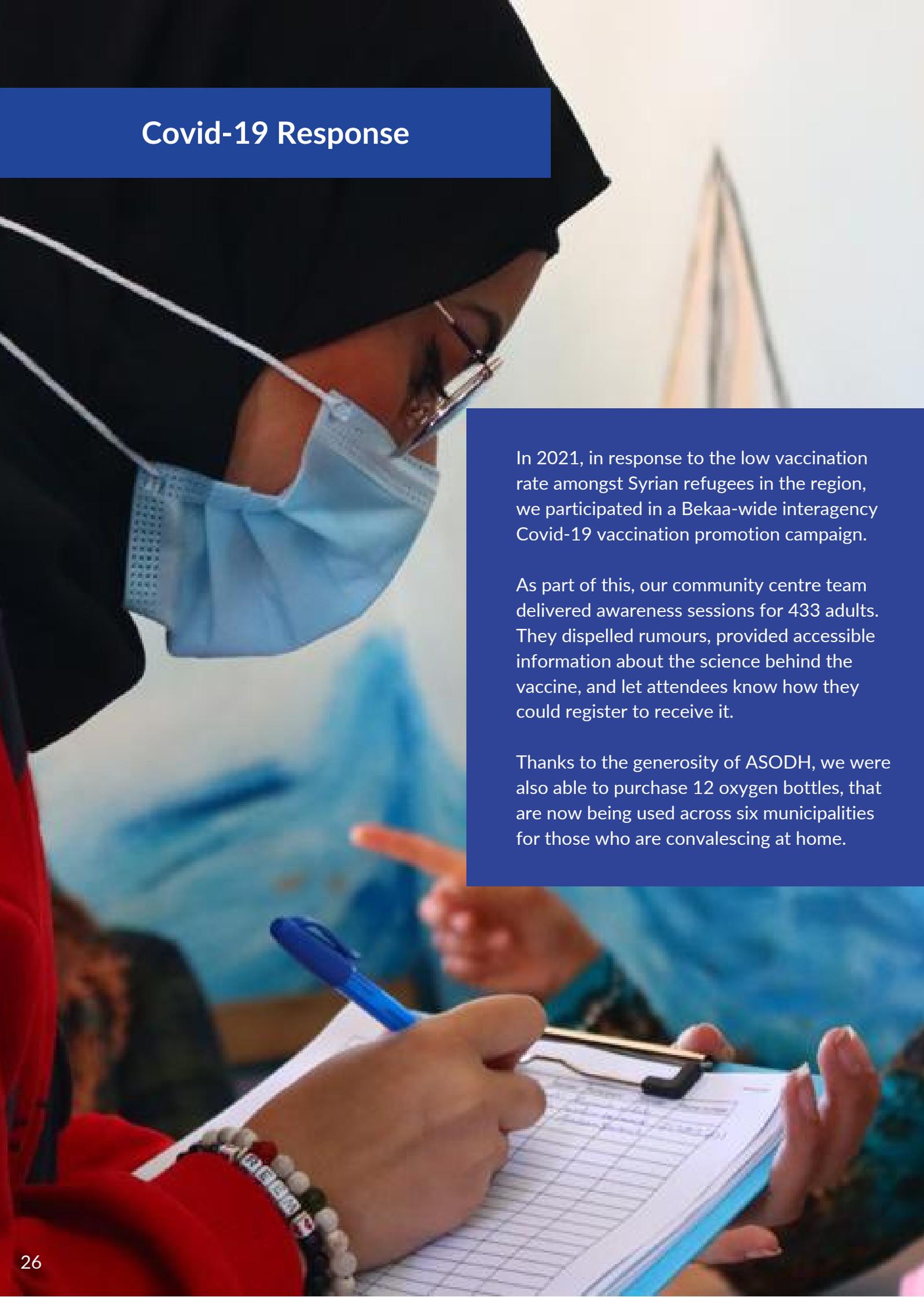
In 2021, 59 Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian families benefited from assistance as part of the Sahra Project.

After a home visit from the Salam LADC team, households received individualised support according to their specific needs.

This included medication and support for paying hospital bills, food parcels, household appliances, clothing, shoes, and diesel for heating homes.



## OTHER SECTORS



## Covid-19 Response

In 2021, in response to the low vaccination rate amongst Syrian refugees in the region, we participated in a Bekaa-wide interagency Covid-19 vaccination promotion campaign.

As part of this, our community centre team delivered awareness sessions for 433 adults. They dispelled rumours, provided accessible information about the science behind the vaccine, and let attendees know how they could register to receive it.

Thanks to the generosity of ASODH, we were also able to purchase 12 oxygen bottles, that are now being used across six municipalities for those who are convalescing at home.

## PSEA Awareness Sessions



Over the year, we reached 117 people through focus groups and awareness sessions about Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

SEA refers specifically to sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by humanitarian workers on service users. As the level of need continues to rise in Bekaa, more and more people are relying on humanitarian assistance, and the imbalance of power between humanitarian workers and service users is increasingly pronounced.

Unfortunately, in similar crisis situations in other countries, this has typically led to an increase in individuals seeking to exploit that imbalance.

Our PSEA activities were divided into three groups: adult women and teen girls; adult men; and parents. Each group attended sessions targeted to their specific needs, explaining the difference between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour by humanitarian workers, how to report inappropriate behaviour, and also touching on more general concerns that the communities raised related to sexual violence.

# Noah Project

Noah Project, which aimed to raise awareness of fire and flooding risks inside settlements and prepare residents to respond in an emergency, ran from November 2019 to June 2021. 175 families (1280 individuals) were reached across seven settlements in the Bar Elias area, Central Bekaa.

The final months of the project were particularly busy, including:

- Installation of 21 graduated rods for measuring the river level
- Mapping of each settlement and installation of signage indicating evacuation routes, muster points and the location of communal emergency response materials
- Distribution of torches and waterproof bags and phone covers to each household
- Distribution of roof securing kits, including straps and nails, to each household. This was intended to discourage the use of old tyres to weigh tarpaulin roofs down, as the tyres constitute a fire risk: they are highly flammable and produce carcinogenic smoke when burnt
- Distribution of tent repair kits to 40 households particularly susceptible to flooding. Kits contained tarpaulins, tape measures, scissors and heavy duty needles and thread, as well as instructions on how to extend the wall of the tents to create an improved flood barrier



- Distribution of emergency kits to each settlement, including head torches, handheld megaphones, first aid kits, respirators to protect against smoke, emergency blankets and water pumps
- First Aid training for 24 members of the Emergency Response Committees that Salam LADC had previously established inside the settlements
- Dissemination of a video version of the Jasmine Camp book, designed to inform children in an age-appropriate way about flooding risks, mitigation, and what to do in an emergency
- Dissemination of a video version of the training on risks, prevention and emergency response that had been provided to adult residents of the settlements in 2019 and 2020

# Volunteering Programme

53 international volunteers from 17 different countries travelled to Lebanon in 2021, providing invaluable support for our local team.

We are grateful that, despite lockdowns and the added difficulty of travelling during a pandemic, so many people were still willing to donate their time to support those living in Bekaa. It would not have been possible to achieve what we have this year without their support.

The happiness of our volunteers is very important to us at Salam LADC. In 2021, we introduced a new role, Wellbeing Coordinator, that works alongside the Volunteer Coordinator to ensure that volunteers are well looked after during their time on the ground.

From April to October our Program Manager and our first ever Wellbeing Coordinator participated in a remote training programme provided by Indigo Volunteers, Choose Love, The Human Hive and the Refugee Trauma Initiative. They learnt about secondary trauma and how to safeguard the wellbeing of humanitarian volunteers in a refugee context. We are grateful to have been included in the training and look forward to continuing to apply what was learnt in 2022.

To find out more about volunteering with Salam LADC, email [volunteering@salamladc.org](mailto:volunteering@salamladc.org)



# OUR PARTNERS



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE HUMANITARIAN ACTION



# STAY IN TOUCH



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