



دار السلام

House of Peace

Transforming & Connecting
Registered as Threads of Peace



Annual Report 2022

From Roots to Crown

A Year of Reaching New Heights in Growth



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The 2022 Annual Report “From Roots to Crown: A Year of Reaching New Heights in Growth” was prepared by the Threads of Peace Team:

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Letter from the Executive Director

Living in a region where violence, war, and conflicts are a constant part of daily life can be extremely challenging and emotionally draining. In such circumstances, it can feel like the hope for change is just a dream. You may come across people who encourage you, but there will also be others who will undermine your efforts and progress.

At HOPe, we strive to facilitate change and provide safe spaces to make it happen. It is reflected in the HOPe working environment, partnerships, and among the communities we serve. The HOPe team consistently works on developing tools and skills to improve safe spaces for dialogue, assessment, reflection, and adjustment, both internally and with the communities we work with, allowing progressive change to happen.

This past year has been a time of exploration, experimentation, and innovation at both the team and program levels, as well as within the community we serve. As part of our ongoing exploration, we sought to assess the impact of women's activism through the community center in Tripoli and to ensure the financial sustainability of our community work by building sustainable initiatives in various areas of Lebanon and creating new, independent funding channels for HOPe through consultancies. While these explorations came with challenges, they also allowed us to navigate new paths for development and change. We emphasize that our collective support, work, and belief in each other's skills, qualifications, and dreams have made us who we are today. One of the concrete examples of this is the publication of our first annual report with minimum resources, which was made possible by the support of team members who believe in credibility, transparency, and the importance of sharing stories of change.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who believed in our mission and contributed to this change. Your support and trust in our work will motivate us to strive for more innovation, reflection, and development. We will reflect this in our new strategy that we will be working on in 2023.



Aida Hussein

HOPe Executive Director

Who we are

Threads of Peace (known as HOPE)

In 2012, a group of young people unbeknownst to each other, met in Aleppo - Syria and formed what they have called "The Family", searching for a purpose and belonging during a time of change. They were coming from all different backgrounds, and together they worked to provide humanitarian assistance for displaced people, hoping that their diversity and common purpose will spread a message of hope and contribute in building a future Syria. "The Family" grew and its mission persisted despite the departure of most of its founders. This inspired one of them few years later to establish **House of Peace**; a virtual house that harbors an ever-expanding family in Lebanon and to develop the initial humanitarian mission towards building social peace in times of conflicts.

In 2019, House of Peace officially became Threads of Peace, a registered CSO.



Our Vision

Our vision as HOPers, is bringing together uniquely different individuals with shared values, and transforming the notion of peace into a practice of being and living, to inspire social change towards a hopeful and purposeful life.



Our Mission

In an inclusive and participatory way, we enhance social peace through:

- > Shifting perceptions about reality, peace, self and the other;
- > Supporting and connecting community-based initiatives and dialogue spaces;
- > Advancing the principles of conflict sensitivity;
- > Improving psychological wellbeing for humanitarian workers and volunteers;
- > Voicing grassroots perspectives, stories and aspirations.



Our Core Values

Egalitarian

Promoting peace as a right for all people, and respecting diversity and gender.

Family Oriented

Honoring our partnerships, empowering local ownership, and creating a family environment within our network of partners and peacebuilders.

Conflict Sensitive

Understanding and appreciating local specificities, avoiding harm and enhancing positive impact.

Committed to nonviolence

Encouraging personal and collective peace initiatives as a mean for creative, positive and liberating change.



Our Slogan

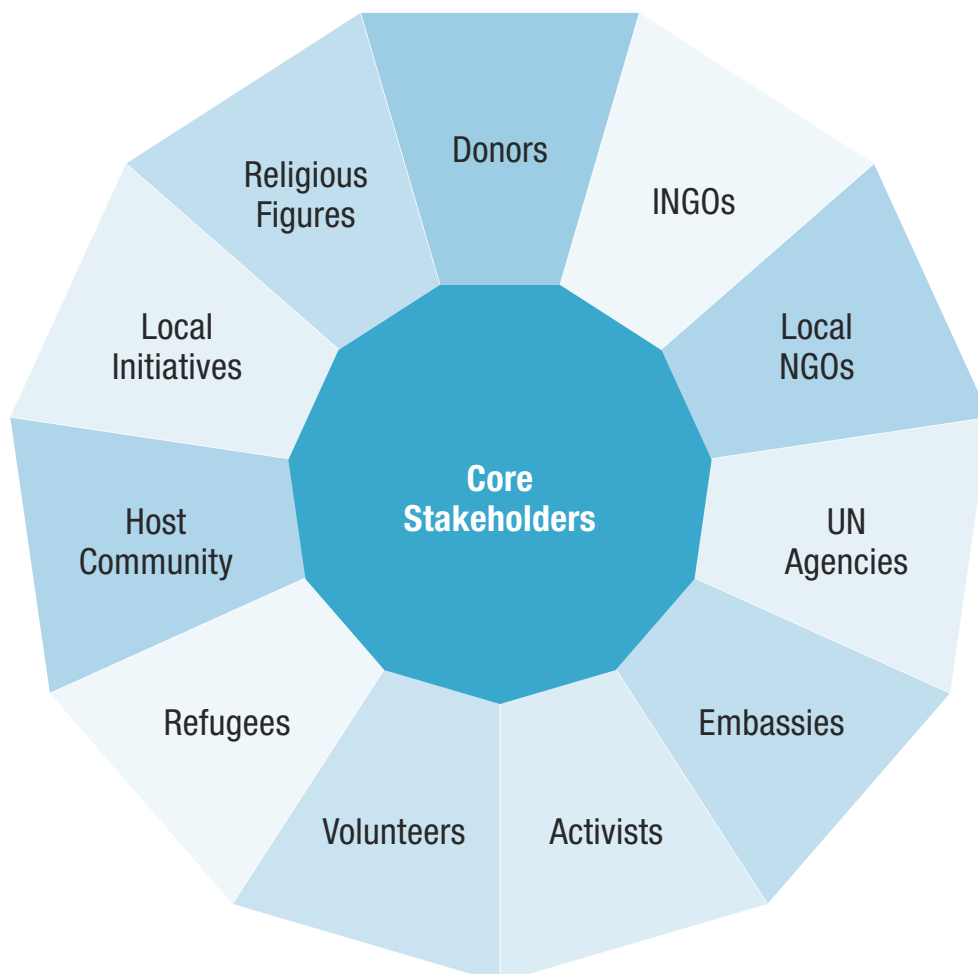
Transforming and Connecting

Incorporating SDGs

As an organization committed to making a meaningful impact on the well-being and peace of communities, we proudly align our mission with the aspirations of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specifically, our efforts are strategically directed towards embodying the principles outlined in SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).



Who do we work with



Lebanon Context 2022

The dynamic landscape of Lebanon has been in constant flux since the initiation of the revolution in 2019, and throughout 2022, the situation has taken a dire turn, marked by a series of devastating events. These heart-wrenching occurrences have significantly impacted the lives of Lebanon's inhabitants, leaving an indelible mark on their security, social stability, independence, and overall well-being.

The increasing challenges have given rise to a palpable psychological burden and distress, contributing to a troubling surge in depression and suicide rates across all age groups. In addition, these challenges have led to the emergence of new forms of intra- and inter-communal tensions, exacerbating xenophobia against refugees. A recent scientific study conducted in 2022 has underscored the enduring impact on young adults in Lebanon, who continue to grapple with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), particularly stemming from the explosion. This has unfortunately translated into a concerning rise in suicidal rates (Abed et al., 2021; Maalouf et al., 2022; Farran, 2021). Compounding these issues are armed clashes over essential resources, such as fuel, food, and water, becoming commonplace between Lebanese communities and host-refugee communities. Regrettably, this trend is expected to persist in the foreseeable future. The consistent failure of the state to provide basic services, including electricity and healthcare, as well as essential items, has stoked the residents' frustration, leading to widespread protests and violent riots that have further strained peace between communities (REACH, 2022). The first three quarters of 2022 witnessed impactful incidents on the Northern coast of Lebanon, affecting not only the residents of Tripoli but the nation as a whole. Tragically, dozens of migrant children and adults were left stranded at sea after a shipwreck while seeking safety and dignity (Pearson, 2022). Against the backdrop of an economic crisis and the lingering effects of the Beirut Blast, tensions within the community remain high. Throughout the year, the Lebanese government has struggled to stabilize the currency or implement a comprehensive plan to address the economic challenges and promote peace. The traumatic events surrounding the May 2022 election day added to existing tensions between political parties, leaving residents living in constant fear of civil unrest or clashes between factions. Furthermore, the conclusion of President Michel Aoun's term on October 30 resulted in a presidential vacuum, with uncertainty about the next leader, further hindering political stability. Recent conflicts between depositors and banks across the country have compounded governmental and banking system challenges, resulting in periodic restrictions on bank usage that impact project implementation. Amidst Lebanon's historical backdrop of sectarianism, political divisions, and volatile relations with neighboring countries, the country faces complex challenges (COAR, 2022). Crime rates have surged, with some crimes, such as murder, increasing by nearly 90% in the last year (Reach, 2022). As we navigate these multifaceted challenges, our commitment to a coordinated and sensitive response remains unwavering. The well-being of Lebanon's people and the prospect of sustainable recovery guide our efforts in the face of these unprecedented difficulties.

The Tensions Monitoring System by ARK, UNDP and UNHCR in Lebanon, shows through the Wave XII perception surveys (August 2022)¹ the following main findings:

Inter and Intra Relationships

- > Electoral rhetoric did not significantly contribute to heightened tensions or violence against refugee communities. Despite increased competition during the elections. Yet, tensions persist between Lebanese host communities and Syrian refugees in specific areas. Approximately 35.7% of Lebanese described

¹ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yADfaDM8_m1F5x5gidPXgAsl511ZPsEH/view



current relations with Syrians in their area as ‘very negative’ or ‘negative’ in April 2022, a slight decrease from 39.7% in December 2021. In the districts of Bsharri, Miniyeh-Danniyeh, Sidon, Zahle, Western Beqaa, Hermel, and Aley, over 75% of respondents described relations as ‘very negative’ or ‘negative’ in April 2022. Relations with Syrian refugee communities remained delicate, with perceived tensions mainly driven by economic factors, including competition for lower-skilled jobs (50.3%), competition for services and utilities (30.2%), and unfair aid distribution (26.3%).

- > There was substantial evidence of a reduction in political and sectarian tensions. The percentage of Lebanese describing relations with other Lebanese groups as ‘negative’ or ‘very negative’ continued to decline, reaching 39.4% in July 2022. This represented a 3.0 percentage point decline since Wave XIII (April 2022) and a 12.0 percentage point decline since Wave XII (December 2021). However, tensions remained considerably elevated compared to July 2018. Despite concerns about elections, there was evidence of improved intra-Lebanese relations, possibly due to the relative calm at the start of 2022 compared to late 2021.

Economic Tensions

- > Economic factors were cited as major drivers of local tensions, including inflation or lack of access to cash (37.6%), unfair distribution of resources (34.1%), and economic competition, such as competition over jobs and resources (33.6%).
- > Intra-group tensions persisted, with 84.6% of Lebanese naming at least one factor contributing to tensions in their area.

Security Conditions and Armed Violence

- > Recent exposure to armed violence decreased from 12.1% in December 2021 to 9.8% in April 2022; however, concerns about armed violence persisted, with 9.1% of Lebanese and 4.5% of Syrians reporting recent exposure in July 2022.
- > Although security conditions were perceived to have worsened, individuals felt safer personally. The proportion of Lebanese feeling ‘unsafe’ or ‘very unsafe’ during the day declined from 34.0% in December 2021 to 26.0% in April 2022. This improvement in safety perceptions was associated with positive intra-group relations, reduced exposure to crime and violence, and slightly increased confidence in the Lebanese Armed Forces and security agencies. As of August 2022, perceptions of safety and security worsened, with over half of both Lebanese and Syrians (54.6%) feeling unsafe in their area or neighborhood at night. A significant proportion (52.5%) believed security in their area had worsened over the previous three months.

Literature

In the intricate tapestry of societal dynamics, the concept of social stability stands out as a linchpin with multifaceted impacts on well-being, peacebuilding, and conflict sensitivity. Social stability, encapsulating the structures and routines individuals establish to maintain relationships, access resources, and safeguard against harm, is foundational for a resilient and harmonious society (Akré et al., 2021; Moen et al., 2020).

At its core, social stability intricately intertwines with the well-being of individuals and communities, constituting a pillar within the social determinants of health. This connection operates on various levels, influencing both physical and mental health outcomes. Studies consistently highlight that higher levels of social stability correlate positively with improved health, serving as a protective factor against various risks and promoting healthier behaviors (Moen et al., 2020; German et al., 2012). This interplay underscores the pivotal role of social stability in fostering the overall well-being of a society.

Expanding beyond individual well-being, social stability assumes a cornerstone role in peacebuilding. Within this realm, leadership plays a pivotal role by promoting integration and differentiation within divided societies (Louay et al., 2022). Concurrently, community-led interventions address mutual interests, fostering cooperation and diminishing prejudice, leading to enhanced social cohesion (Mpangi Kwenge et al., 2020). Peacebuilding efforts actively engage with the impact of violence on social cohesion, implementing strategies to foster inter-group interdependencies and mitigate divisive politics (Cox et al., 2017). Furthermore, entrepreneurship emerges as a dynamic force in bottom-up peacemaking, providing peaceful avenues for individuals and contributing significantly to community stability (Shafer et al., 2023). By nurturing social stability, peacebuilding efforts gain traction, creating a foundation for resilient and cohesive societies.

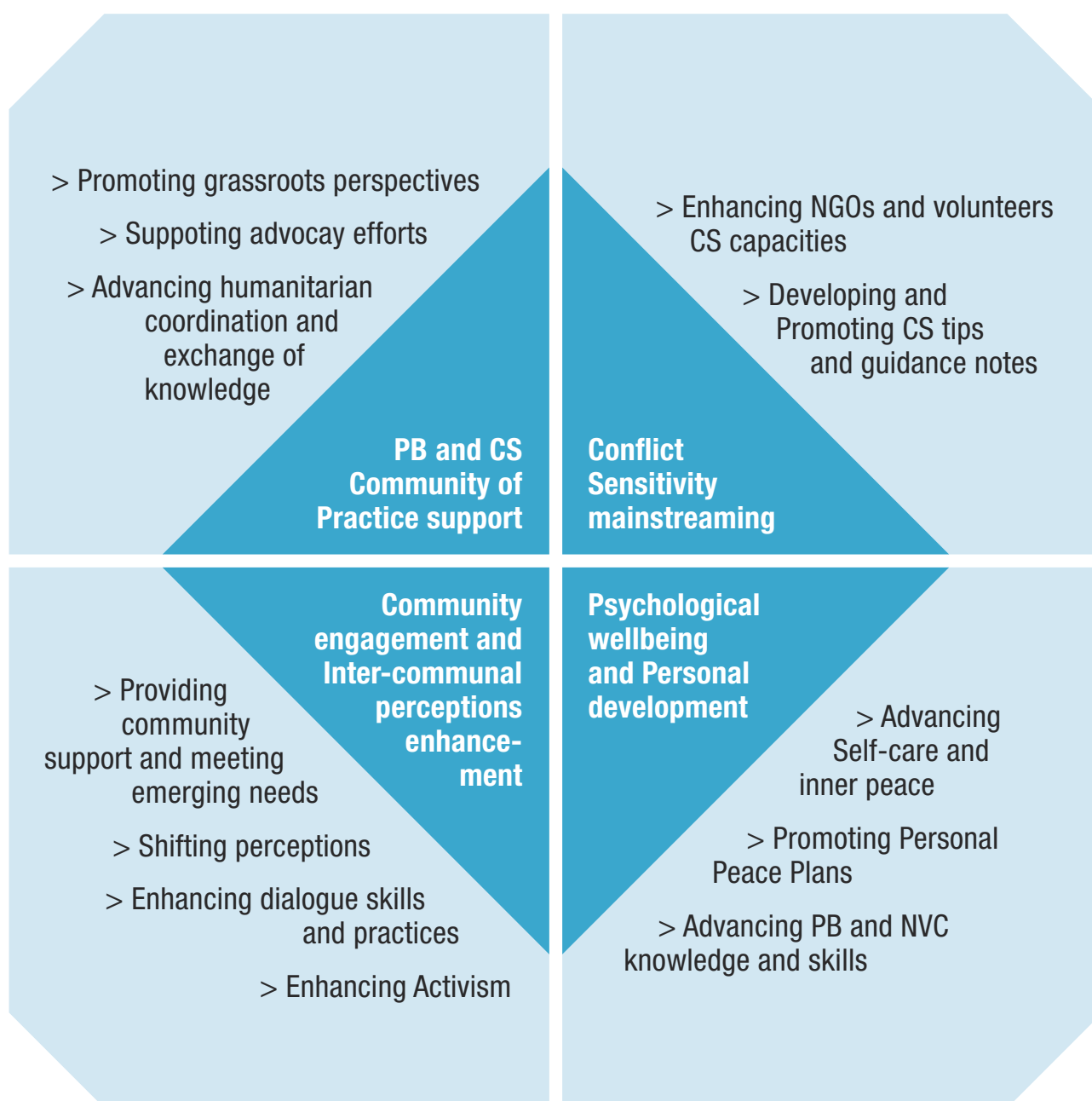
The intricate relationship between social stability and conflict sensitivity further illuminates the interconnected nature of this triad. Conflict sensitivity involves understanding and mitigating the impact of interventions on the context to minimize negative outcomes and enhance positive impacts on conflict dynamics. Social stability interventions, by their very nature, not only contribute to individual and communal well-being but also align with conflict-sensitive practices. They foster resilience and mitigate potential tensions within communities, underscoring the importance of a nuanced and context-aware approach to social stability (German et al., 2012; International Alert, 2012).

Social stability, as a dynamic force, transcends individual well-being, permeating the realms of peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity. This triadic relationship underscores the holistic approach required for sustainable societal development. As we navigate the challenges of our evolving world, prioritizing social stability becomes imperative. By doing so, we pave the way for thriving communities that not only enjoy improved health and well-being but also contribute to enduring peace and conflict-resilient societies.



HOPE Methodology and Programs

In order to achieve its ultimate objective, House of Peace, as a community-based social peacebuilding organization, developed its methodology based on 4 integral elements/areas as shown in the graph below. These four areas reflect HOPE Theory of Change. The graph shows next to each area the desired changes that HOPE aims for:



Social Peace Program/Unit

Aim

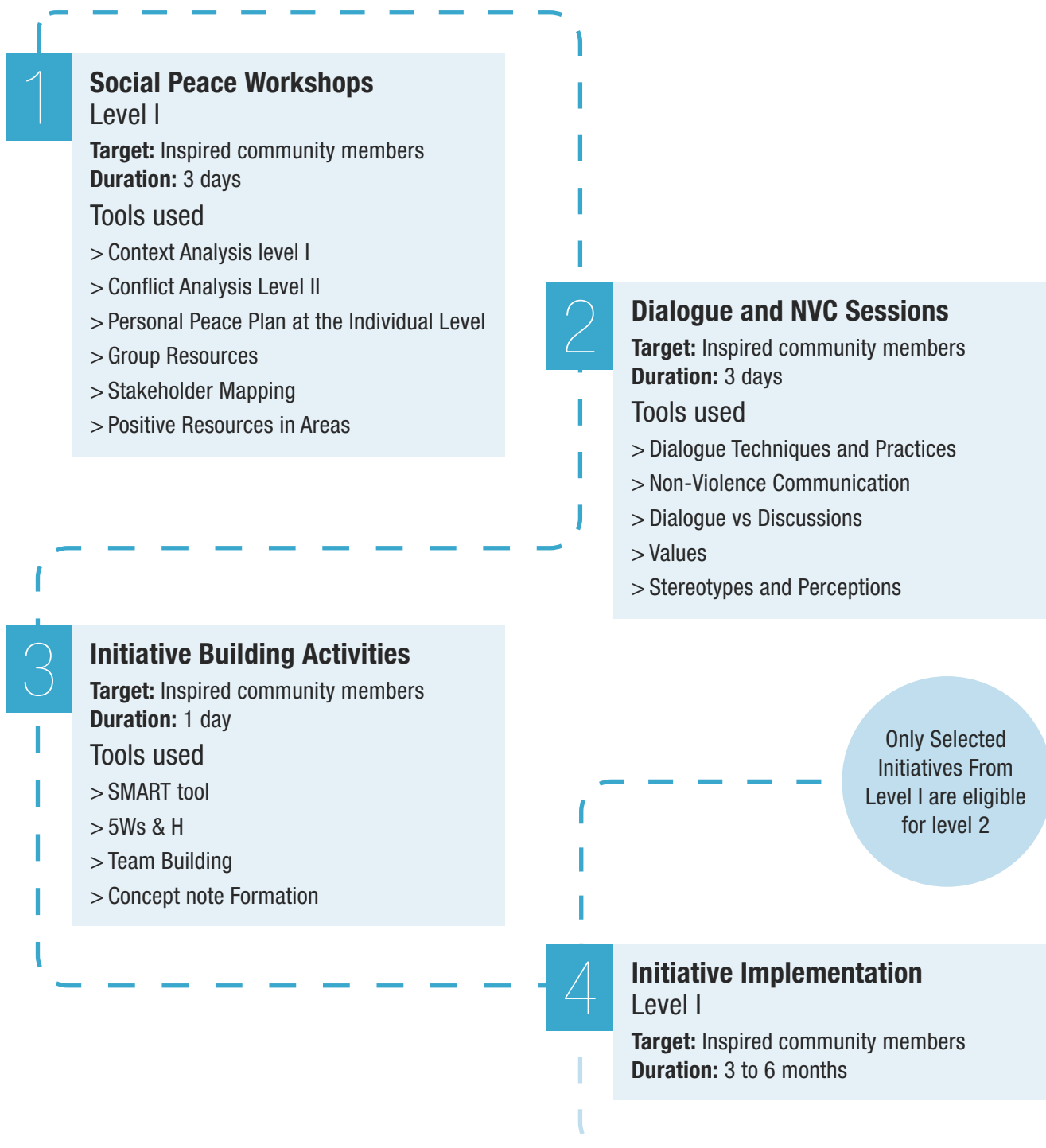
The program aims at improving inter and intra communal relationships and perceptions in Lebanon.

Partners

- > Partnership with I/NGOs and Municipalities
- > A group of diverse individuals are formed by partners and referred to The Process

The Process

The Peace Fund





5

Social Peace Workshops

Level II

Target: Activists

Duration: 3 days

Tools used

- > Observation and Evaluation
- > Context Analysis Level II
- > Conflict Analysis Level II
- > Types of Violence
- > Leadership
- > Stages of group building
- > Personal Peace Plan at the level of the area

6

Initiative Implementation

Level II

Target: Activists

Duration: 3 to 6 months

7

Family Network Events

Gathering all initiatives/Activists to celebrate achievements and exchanges challenges and lessons learned.

Triple Nexus

Activating the Network for Integrated Response

Project 1

The BEN Project

The Beqaa Emergency Network

Strengthening the Beqaa Emergency Network as a sustainable local mechanism aims to enhance coordination, preparedness, and responsiveness in emergencies. This will be achieved through capacity building and the development of a comprehensive Contingency and Coordination plan that incorporates conflict and gender sensitivity.

Project 2

The Bet el Salam Community Center

Facilitating coordination among activists who have been involved in previous initiatives supported by HOPE in the Jabal and Tabbaneh areas, with the goal of exchanging lessons learned and best practices to achieve a broader impact in Tripoli. This involves:

- > Advancing the capacities of the women's network in non-violent communication, conflict sensitivity, and teamwork to facilitate the sharing of roles and tasks.
- > Skills development and psychosocial support through vocational training conducted in a dedicated location shared between both areas. This includes technical learning and preparation of preserved food portions (Mooneh).
- > Providing women's wellness care and yoga sessions.
- > Initiating a clothes collection, upcycling, and distribution program. Clothes collection, upcycling, and distribution.

Conflict Sensitivity Program/Unit

Aim

This program aims at mainstreaming conflict sensitivity and building the capacities of humanitarian NGOs staff and volunteers (both local and international). The objective is to ensure that they consider conflict sensitivity during the development, implementation, and evaluation of their various interventions.

Partners

- > Partnership with I/NGOs
- > Interested NGOs refer staff/volunteers for the trainings

The Process

1

Conflict Sensitivity Level 0

Target: Volunteers in the humanitarian field

Duration: 1 day

Tools used

- > Triangle Tool
- > Conflict Stories
- > The Conflict and I Tool
- > My Identity Tool

2

Conflict Sensitivity Level I

Target: I/NGOs Staff

Duration: 3 days

Tools used

- > Context Analysis
- > Conflict Analysis
- > Interaction Analysis (Conflict Cake Tool)
- > Conflict Sensitivity Measures

3

Conflict Sensitivity Level II

Target: I/NGOs Staff

Duration: 3 days

Tools used

- > Resource Transfer
- > Implicit Ethical Messages
- > System Thinking Tool
- > Conflict Interaction
- > Conflict Sensitivity Measures

4

Lebanon Conflict Sensitivity Forum

Target: I/NGOs Staff

Duration: 1 day

- > National Meeting Tackling Specific Topic on Conflict Sensitivity



Self-care Program/Unit

Aim

Started after the Beirut Blast 2020, the Self-care Hub aims at improving the psychological well-being of frontline humanitarian workers by facilitating a connection between them and PSS experts/psychologists.

Partners

- > Partnership with I/NGOs
- > Interested NGOs refer staff/frontliners for the sessions or collaborate to formulate self-care internal policies

The Process

0

Self-care Hub 2021

The Self-Care Hub provided the following Activities implemented by external expertise based on I/NGOs needs

Target: Frontliners

Duration: 3 days

Activities/Services

- > Yoga Sessions
- > Breathing Techniques
- > Art Therapy
- > Group Support

1

Self-care Hub 2022

A Reform of Self-Care Hub in 2022 implemented directly by HOPe staff

Target: Frontliners

Duration: 3 days

Activities/Services

- > Psychosocial Support (PSS)

2

Drafting Self-Care Internal Policies for Organization

3

Provision of Self-Care benefits

- > Outing and Team Building to HOPe Staff

Art of Being

Aim

Promote social peace by advocating for the rights of children and youth within implemented social peace initiatives.

Partners

> Outreach Campaign

The Process

1

Define

Target: Youth

Kick off

An introduction to AOB II, and why are we doing the project. In addition to getting to know each other and our backgrounds in general

Social Peace Workshop (SPW) part I and Dialogue

Understanding the concept of social peace and human rights in general + input on MHPSS: "customized workshop"

Causes Identifications

In this workshop, we dig deeper in the diverse background of the causes represented with the participants of AOB II (LGBT/Stateless/People with Disabilities/Recovered/Refugees and underprivileged rural areas)

2

Discover

Target: Youth

Context and Conflict Analysis

(using AI approach) Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is a method for studying and changing social systems (groups, organizations, communities) that advocates collective inquiry into the best of what is in order to imagine what could be, followed by collective design of a desired future state that is compelling and thus, does not require the use of incentives, coercion or persuasion for planned change to occur.

Human and child rights

Introductory to human and child rights (with more relevant subjects to our project). What is the current situation and most recent challenges?

Understanding better our personal causes and Dialogue session II

Having more insights in our personal causes and evaluate our perceptions after 3 months inside the project

3

Dream

Personal Change and Activism

Introduction to activism

Identifying child rights that will be promoted and Dialogue III

4

Design

Art Forms Introduction, Selections and Dialogue IV

Art Forms Trainings

Design thinking and Conflict Sensitivity

Advocacy Training / Memory of war

Art Forms Trainings

5

Deliver

Initiative Implementation

Closing Event



Organization Portfolio as of 2022

Geographical Expertise

NORTH GOVERNORATE
Tripoli (Jabal Mohsen, Bab el-Tabbaneh, etc...)

KESERWAN-JBEIL GOVERNORATE
Jbeil

BEIRUT GOVERNORATE
Nabaa, Shatila Camp, Bourj Hammoud

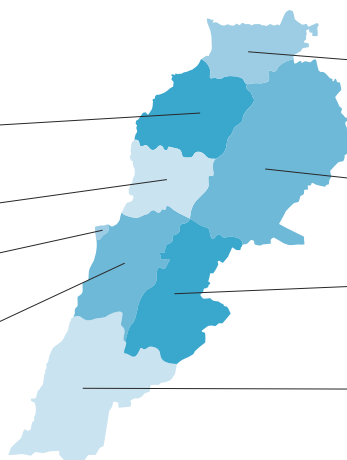
MOUNT LEBANON GOVERNORATE
Aley, Bshamoun

AKKAR GOVERNORATE
Menihe, Adweh, Amar el Baykat,
Wadi Kahled, etc...

BAALBECK-HERMEL GOVERNORATE
Baalbeck, Hermel

BEKAA GOVERNORATE
Bar Elias, Saednael, Taelbaya,
Der Zennoun, Ghazeh, etc...

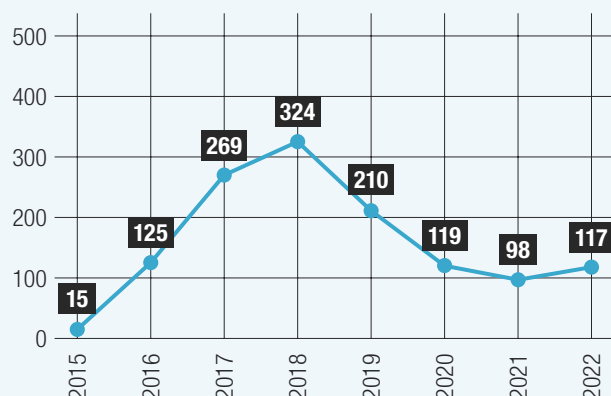
SOUTH GOVERNORATE
Saida



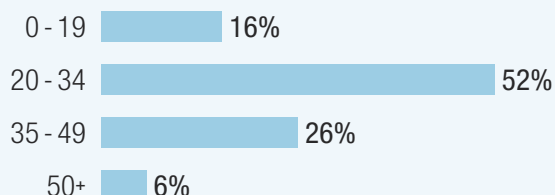
Social Peace Dashboard since 2015

Annual Outreach Progress

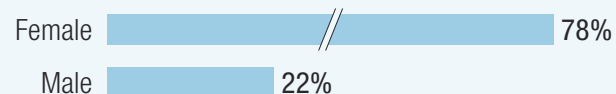
Number of participants reached per year



By Age



By Gender



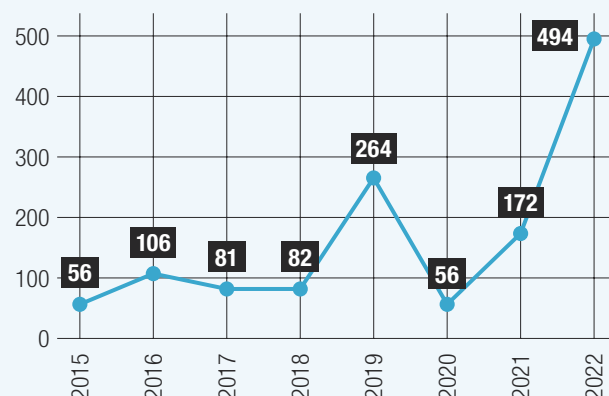
By Nationality



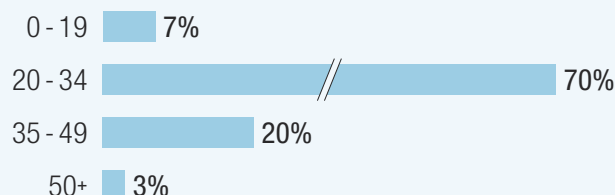
Conflict Sensitivity Dashboard since 2015

Annual Outreach Progress

Number of participants reached per year



By Age



By Gender



By Nationality



House of Peace Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective 1

Personal Development is enhanced among local community members participating in SP activities

Strategic Objective 2

Community engagement is improved among SP participants

Strategic Objective 3

Conflict Sensitivity is mainstreamed further within the humanitarian field in Lebanon

Strategic Objective 4

Peacebuilding community of practice is empowered

Strategic Objective 5

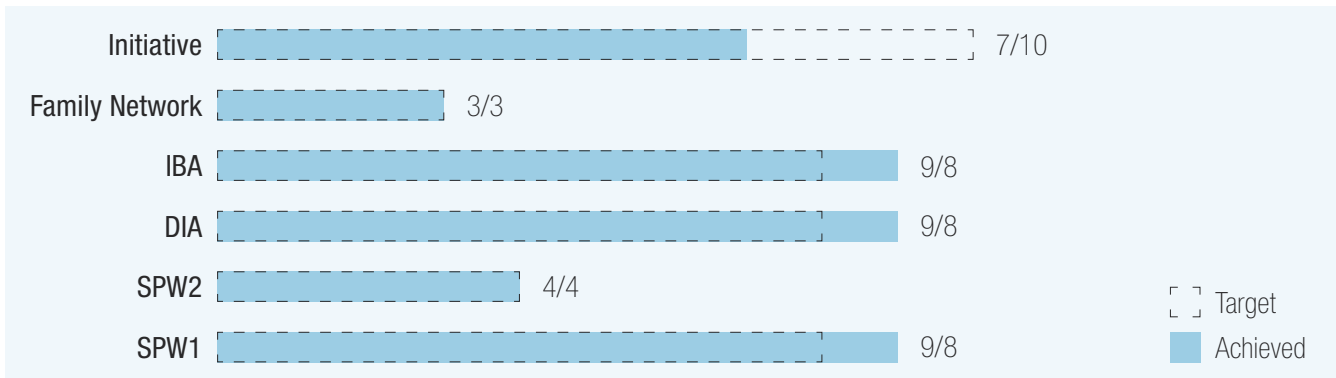
Psychological wellbeing of humanitarian frontline workers is improved

Key Achievements

- > House of Peace Programs exceeded nearly all of their annual targets, equipping 167 community members from diverse backgrounds with peacebuilding skills. This effort included the implementation of 7 social peace initiatives across different governorates, reaching more than 1437 indirect participants. Additionally, 494 humanitarian and frontline staff/volunteers benefited from conflict sensitivity training.
- > Within the Beqaa Emergency Network, House of Peace provided support to 57 internally displaced Syrian refugees, offering shelter in response to the internal conflict.
- > House of Peace successfully completed the initial phase of establishing a community center in the conflict area of Jabal Mohsen and Beb el Tebeneh. This center is run by 56 women activists in the area, contributing to peace reinforcement between the two areas through women's empowerment.
- > House of Peace extended support to 11 organizations' frontline staff with Psychosocial Support, benefiting 159 staff members.
- > Collaboration efforts were evident as House for Peace partnered with more than 30 organizations, including international and local NGOs, as well as health centers, for the implementation of various interventions.
- > Noteworthy achievements include the creation of Conflict Sensitivity Guidance Notes and Toolbox kit in collaboration with UNDP.
- > By the end of 2022, significant strides were made with the establishment of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Department and Media Departments as integral components. These additions brought about substantial reforms in data management, evaluation and monitoring goals, enhancing transparency and visibility of work impact.
- > In a forward-looking initiative, House of Peace initiated consultancy services for capacity building by the end of 2022.

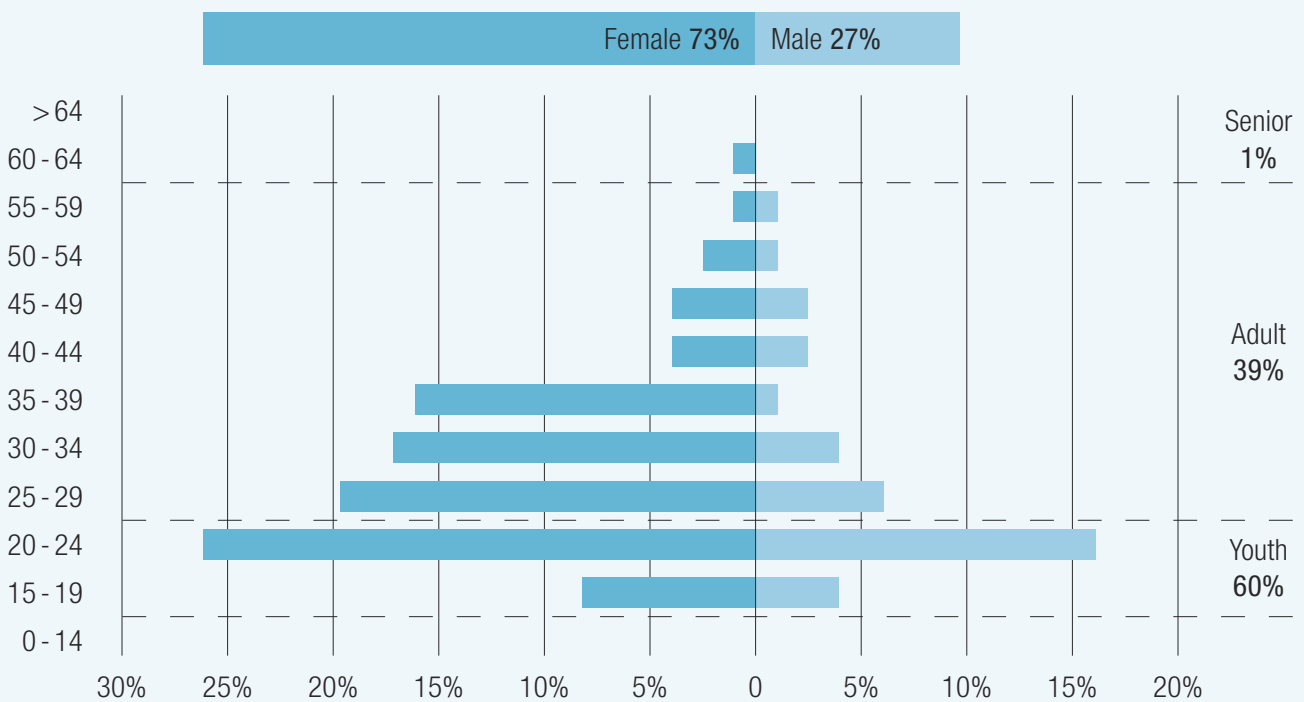
Social Peace Unit/Program

Target Achievements

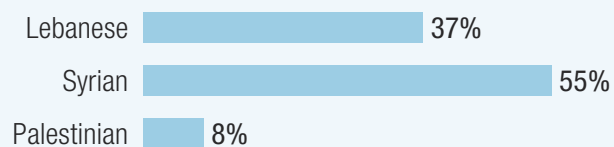


Sociodemographic reach

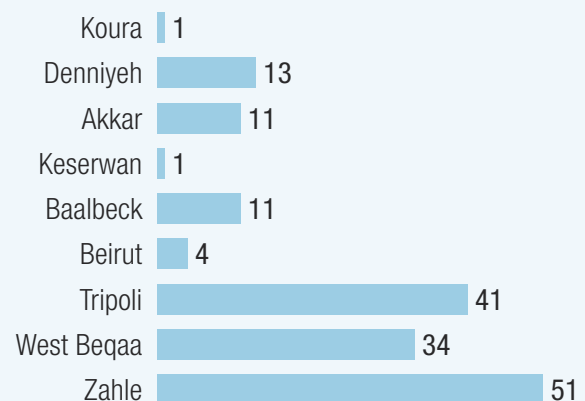
By Age and Gender



By Nationality



By District



Strategic Objective 1

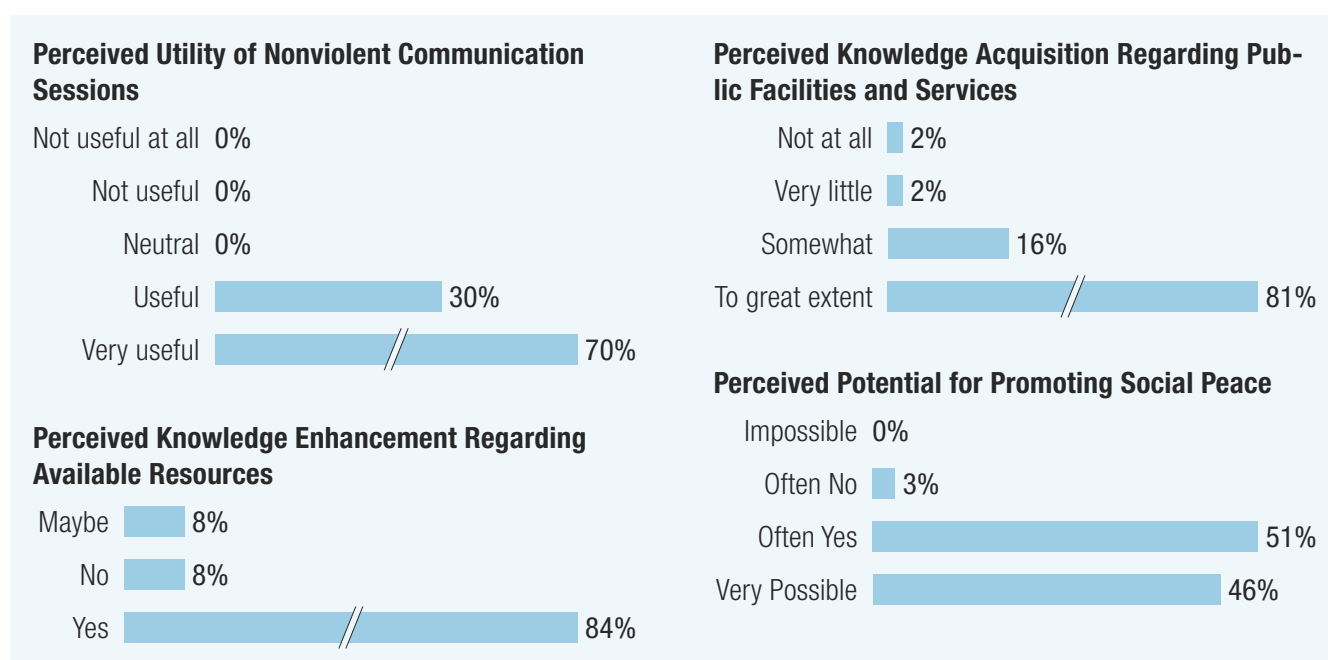
Personal Development is enhanced among local community members participating in SP activities

> **Indicator:** #% of participants report that SP process helped them discover and develop their personal resources and capacities.

Outcome 1.1

Participants knowledge and confidence about social peacebuilding are improved

> **Indicator:** #% of participants expressing their confidence to participate in social peace building in their communities after attending SPWs.



Strategic Objective 2

Community engagement is improved among SP participants.

> **Indicator:** #% of community members shows improvement in trust, civic engagement, and social relationship
Based on the pilot-tested methodology in 2022 by House of Peace, utilizing a non-experimental evaluation design, the validated scales of the domains of social cohesion reveal the following:

Trust Domain²

Baseline Misanthropy Trust Average Score 4.29
% of MSL Change **+10%**

> **Endline Misanthropy Trust Average Score 4.71**

Baseline General Trust Average Score 8.14
% of GT Change **+5%**

> **Endline General Trust Average Score 8.57**

² Robbins, B. G. (2019). Measuring generalized trust: Two new approaches. Sociological Methods and Research, 51(1), 305–356.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0049124119852371>

Civic Engagement Domain³

Baseline Civic Engagement Attitude Average Score 40.86
% CEA Change **+16%**

> **Endline Civic Engagement Attitude Average Score 47.57**

Baseline Civic Engagement Behaviour Average Score 29.57
% of CEB Change **+7%**

> **Endline Civic Engagement Behaviour Average Score 31.57**

Social Relationship Domain⁴

Baseline Social Relationship Average Score 25.14
% SR Change **+2%**

> **Endline Social Relationship Average Score 25.57**

Baseline Total Civic Engagement Average Score 70.43
% of CE Change **+12%**

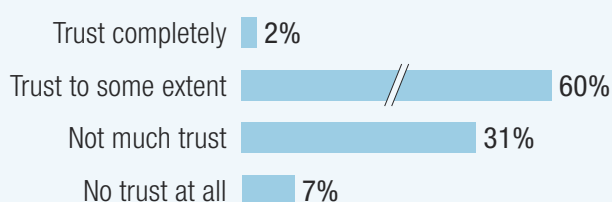
> **Endline Total Civic Engagement Average Score 79.14**

The pilot test confirmed that the scales used were suitable for the House of Peace social peace process. However, data were collected these scales before the initiative's implementation and followed up 3-6 months after the initiatives concluded. Due to the methodology being tested at the year-end, only 7 participants were followed up. For the 2023 social peace process, House of Peace will adopt these three validated scales and more rigorous data will be collected. Yet the timeline of data collection will be adapted where Baseline data will be collected at the very beginning of the peace process, and follow-up data will be gathered after the conclusion of initiative implementation.

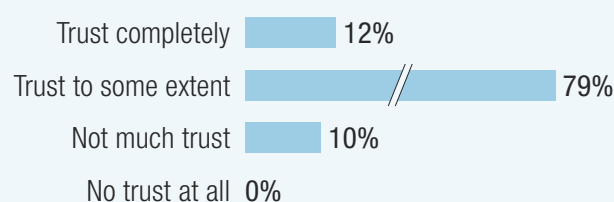
Scales were also used for all participant as an exist survey to report for the objective:

Prototype A: Generalized Trust Scale at the Endline (number of participants responding= 42)

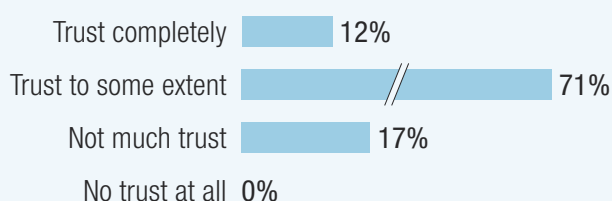
People you meet for the first time



People from another religion



People from another religion



Outcome 2.1

Initiatives teams and beneficiaries improve their perceptions about the other

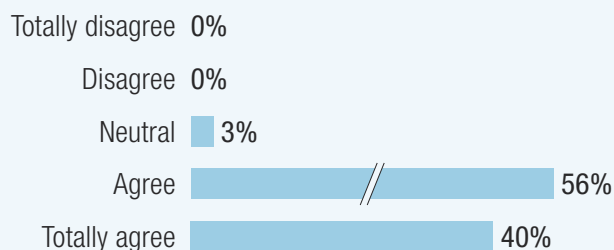
> **Indicator:** #% of initiative participants express that their perceptions about the “other” have improved after implementing the initiatives

> **Indicator:** #% of people having the ability to discuss in a Non-violence communication

³ Doolittle, A., & Faul, A. C. (2013). Civic Engagement Scale. SAGE Open, 3(3), 215824401349554. <https://doi.org/10.1177/215824401349554>

⁴ Wilson, C., & Secker, J. (2015). Validation of the Social Inclusion Scale with students. Social Inclusion, 3(4), 52–62. <https://doi.org/10.17645/si.v3i4.121>

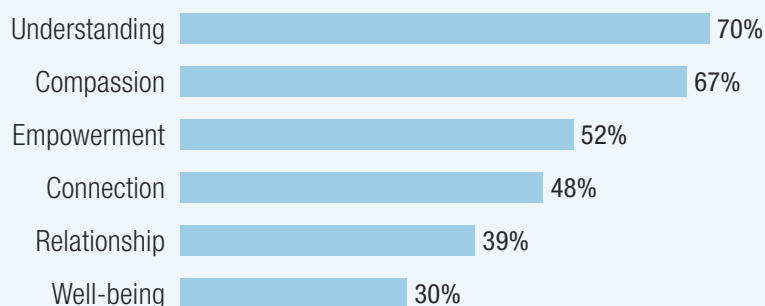
Increased Understanding of Others' Behavior and Circumstances



Impact of Nonviolent Communication Training on Life Changes



Impact of Attending Nonviolent Communication Sessions on Various Aspects of Life



Outcome 2.2:

Activism and volunteerism are promoted among participants of SP program

> **Indicator:** # of new groups of activists/volunteers formed after the SP process

Ten groups were established in various areas in Lebanon to carry out initiatives, but only seven successfully implemented their social peace activities in their respective regions. This was attributed to challenges like failed group dynamics, discouragement, and non-commitment, largely influenced by external difficulties such as the economic crisis.

Enta w Ana (You and I) Level I

Unity Beyond Barriers: Transformative Collaboration in Baalbek for Inclusive Play and Breaking the Negative Perceptions Toward Disabled Communities

In the ancient city of Baalbek, a transformative collaboration unfolded as a diverse group of Syrian and Palestinian individuals, including both abled and disabled participants, joined forces with a shared vision. Their mission was twofold: to create a joyous and inclusive haven for disabled children through activities like football and, concurrently, to bridge the gap between disabled and abled communities, working together to reduce stereotypes. Motivated by a profound commitment to inclusivity and a shared recognition of the limited opportunities for both disabled children and the integration of disabled individuals into the broader community, these participants pooled their skills and resources. Their dual objectives were to establish a sanctuary where





children of all abilities could experience the universal joy of play and to foster meaningful connections that would challenge and dispel prevailing stereotypes. Choosing the historic city of Baalbek as their backdrop, these Syrian and Palestinian collaborators crafted activities that seamlessly integrated disabled and abled participants. Through shared experiences on the playing field and beyond, the initiative aimed to break down societal barriers and challenge preconceived notions about disability. The project became a living example of the power of unity in dismantling stereotypes, as both communities worked together to create a more inclusive society. The diverse backgrounds of the participants, with connections to both Syrian and Palestinian communities, added a unique depth to their collaboration. Through their combined efforts, they not only established a recreational space for disabled children but also paved the way for a more integrated and understanding community. The impact of their initiative resonated far beyond the historic walls of Baalbek, contributing to a more inclusive and compassionate society where the merging of disabled and abled communities became a catalyst for positive change.

Empowering Communities: Impact and Insights from You and I “

Beneficiaries	Female	Male	Total (%)
Lebanese	8	11	19 (8%)
Syrian	30	24	54 (21%)
Palestinian	62	117	179 (71%)
Total (%)	100 (40%)	152 (60%)	252 (100%)

Athar (Impact)

Level I

The Melodic Tapestry of ‘Athar’ in Taanayel A Journey of Compassion, Conflict Resolution, and Cultural Unity

In the enchanting setting of Taanayel, a group of spirited young individuals, each bringing a unique set of skills and cultural richness, came together to weave the tapestry of the “Athar” initiative.

Against the backdrop of this picturesque locale, their vision unfolded – a journey aimed at uniting young men and women from different nationalities through the harmonious threads of traditional music, particularly the soulful strains of the oud.

Designed to unfold over six months, the heartbeat of the initiative resided in dedicating one day every two weeks to a distinctive blend of conflict resolution and compassionate communication, all underscored by the transformative power of music. As the oud’s melodies resonated through the air, participants immersed themselves in activities carefully curated to foster acquaintance, break the ice, and build trust. The initiative’s agenda, akin to a well-composed symphony, progressed through a crescendo of engagement, moving beyond the surface to explore the depths of violence and conflict. The oud, with its emotive notes, became a guide on this exploration, facilitating a deeper understanding of complex issues that often divide. As the day unfolded, the dulcet tones of the oud served as a backdrop to the introduction of the concept of compassionate bonds. Participants discovered the nuances of applying and spreading this invaluable approach in society, guided by the rich cultural heritage embedded in the music that accompanied their discussions. The crescendo of the day, echoing the rhythm of shared experiences, culminated in a lyrical and entertaining paragraph. It encapsulated the essence of the journey – a harmonious blend of education and entertainment, where the oud not only served as a musical conduit but as a catalyst for dialogue and understanding. The “Athar” initiative, with Taanayel as its



muse, wove a narrative of cultural unity, where the oud's timeless melodies transcended boundaries, bringing forth the transformative potential of music in navigating conflict and fostering compassionate connections. As the echoes of the oud lingered in the air, the initiative sought to leave behind a melody of positive change, echoing in the hearts and minds of all who participated.

Empowering Communities: Impact and Insights from Athar"

Beneficiaries	Female	Male	Total (%)
Lebanese	31	8	39 (21%)
Syrian	110	22	132 (73%)
Palestinian	5	4	9 (5%)
Other	1	1	2 (1%)
Total (%)	147 (81%)	35 (19%)	182 (100%)

Bel 3elem Nabni Al Salam (From Education We Build Peace) Level I

Building Dreams: Syrian and Lebanese Youths Unite Against School Violence in Tripoli

In the vibrant city of Tripoli, a collaborative effort has taken root as a group of Syrian and Lebanese youths, representing diverse backgrounds, unite under a common cause. Their shared mission revolves around supporting students with essential school needs, including bags, notebooks, and pens. Beyond the tangible support, this youth group is dedicated to educating students about the critical issues of school violence and bullying.

This impactful initiative goes beyond the immediate goal of providing school supplies; it serves as a beacon of support for those who may face challenges in securing their educational necessities. By bridging the gap in access to school essentials, the group aims to ensure that every student has the tools they need to pursue their education. However, their commitment doesn't stop at material support. The youth group has taken up the mantle of education, actively engaging with students to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of school violence and bullying. Through workshops and discussions, they empower students to recognize, address, and prevent instances of violence, fostering a culture of non-violence within schools. This initiative is a testament to the transformative power of collective action, where individuals from different backgrounds unite to make a tangible impact on the educational landscape. In the bustling streets of Tripoli, this unnamed youth group is not only filling backpacks but also sowing the seeds of knowledge and empathy, contributing to a future where every student feels safe, supported, and equipped for success.

Empowering Communities: Impact and Insights from Bel 3elem Nabni Al Salam.

Beneficiaries	Female	Male	Total (%)
Lebanese	53	43	96 (100%)
Total (%)	53 (55%)	43 (45%)	96 (100%)





3a2ilat Al Salam (Peace Families) Level I

Breaking Bread, Building Bridges: Syrian Couples Redefining Community Through Culinary Unity in Marj Beqaa: In the vibrant community of Marj Beqaa, nine resilient Syrian married couples embarked on an inspiring venture to promote cross-cultural understanding and challenge ingrained stereotypes. Recognizing the potential for positive impact, these couples united around a shared goal: to bake bread and cookies and distribute them among families of various nationalities within their host community. Motivated by a desire to foster a sense of unity and dispel cultural misconceptions, the couples strategically chose the universal language of food to convey their message. Their mission extended beyond the act of baking; it was a purposeful effort to cultivate connections and build bridges between diverse backgrounds. The heart of their initiative lay in the belief that breaking bread together could transcend cultural boundaries and initiate meaningful conversations. By engaging in this communal act, they sought to redefine traditional gender roles, particularly challenging stereotypes associated with women and men. Their commitment to equality and inclusivity was evident in every loaf of bread and batch of cookies they lovingly prepared. As the enticing aroma of freshly baked goods wafted through Marj Beqaa, the couples set out to deliver their offerings with open hearts and open minds. Each interaction became an opportunity to share stories, exchange experiences, and forge connections that transcended national borders. Through these genuine conversations, the couples aimed to showcase the richness that diversity brings to a community. Their initiative, far from being a mere culinary endeavor, became a testament to the transformative potential of community-driven actions. In Marj Beqaa, the Syrian couples not only succeeded in building positive relationships but also played a vital role in dismantling stereotypes. Their project demonstrated that, in the tapestry of shared experiences, the threads of understanding and acceptance are woven through acts of kindness and connection. The impact of their endeavor echoed not only in the delicious treats shared but also in the enduring spirit of unity that flourished within their diverse community.



Community Reached: Empowering Communities: Impact and Insights from Peace Families”

Providing Bread and Sweets to **25 Lebanese Families**, **28 Syrian Families**, **2 Palestinian Families**.

Betrehlak meshwar (Let's Go on a Trip) Level II

A Trip of Connection: A Cultural Odyssey of Twelve Journeys, Connecting Hearts Across Diverse Landscapes

Over the course of the next three months, a remarkable initiative is set to unfold – twelve carefully organized trips that will traverse the diverse landscapes of Lebanon, reaching every segment of society and embracing individuals from various nationalities, including nomads in the most remote regions. Each of these meticulously planned trips



will serve as a cultural odyssey, immersing participants in the rich tapestry of Lebanon's heritage. The heart of each journey lies in providing a comprehensive introduction to the visited region. Participants will delve into the intricacies of the area, exploring its landmarks, and delving into the captivating history that has shaped its identity. These expeditions are not mere visits; they are immersive experiences, designed to connect individuals with the essence of each location. Moreover, each trip will feature a carefully curated set of activities, tailored to the unique nature of the target area. Whether it's engaging in local traditions, participating in community events, or embracing the natural wonders of the region, the activities are crafted to deepen the connection between participants and the places they visit. In embracing all segments of society and welcoming individuals from different nationalities, including nomads, this initiative is a celebration of diversity and a bridge that connects people across cultural boundaries. It seeks to foster a sense of shared heritage, understanding, and appreciation for the mosaic of communities that form the vibrant tapestry of Lebanon. As these twelve journeys unfold, they hold the promise of not just showcasing the beauty of Lebanon but also of forging lasting connections and breaking down barriers between people of different backgrounds. In the spirit of exploration and unity, these trips aim to create a shared narrative that transcends geographical and cultural divides, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of all who embark on this cultural odyssey.

Empowering Communities: Impact and Insights from Betrehlak Meshwar Level II.

Beneficiaries	Female	Male	Total (%)
Lebanese	99	3	102 (22%)
Syrian	280	61	341 (72%)
Palestinian	20	3	23 (5%)
Other	1	0	1 (1%)
Total (%)	400 (86%)	67 (14%)	467 (100%)

Souna3 El Amal (Hope Makers) Level I

Harmony Haven: Bridging Cultures and Breaking Stereotypes through a Visionary Women-Driven Initiative in Al Marj Beqaa

In a proactive response to the absence of dedicated spaces for mothers and their children to gather and play in Al Marj Beqaa, a group of visionary women, all mothers themselves, undertook a significant initiative. Motivated by a shared commitment to community building and recognizing the void in such facilities within their area, these women set out to create a safe and welcoming haven. Their objective was clear: establish a space where mothers and children, irrespective of their nationalities, could come together to foster relationships and dispel stereotypes. The lack of such inclusive environments in their community served as the driving force behind their collective endeavor. This innovative space became more than just a physical location; it evolved into a nurturing environment where women and children from diverse backgrounds could connect on a personal level. The initiative was a response to the inherent need for shared spaces that transcended cultural boundaries, providing a platform for meaningful interactions. The women behind this project recognized the potential of their initiative to challenge preconceived notions and break down stereotypes associated with different nationalities. By facilitating genuine connections among mothers and their children, they sought to build a foundation of understanding



and children from diverse backgrounds could connect on a personal level. The initiative was a response to the inherent need for shared spaces that transcended cultural boundaries, providing a platform for meaningful interactions. The women behind this project recognized the potential of their initiative to challenge preconceived notions and break down stereotypes associated with different nationalities. By facilitating genuine connections among mothers and their children, they sought to build a foundation of understanding



and unity. In this nurturing haven, conversations flowed freely, and bonds were formed, contributing to a tapestry of shared experiences. The impact of their initiative extended beyond the immediate benefits of a safe space; it reverberated in the broader community, promoting a spirit of inclusivity and dismantling barriers that may have existed between different nationalities. This collective effort to create a haven for mothers and children stands as a testament to the transformative power of community-driven initiatives. In bridging cultural divides, dispelling stereotypes, and fostering genuine connections, these women not only addressed a pressing need in their community but also sowed the seeds for a more harmonious and understanding society.

Empowering Communities: Impact and Insights from Hope Makers”

Beneficiaries	Female	Male	Total (%)
Lebanese	61	0	61 (14%)
Syrian	375	1	376 (85%)
Palestinian	3	0	3 (1%)
Total (%)	439 (99.7%)	1 (0.3%)	440 (100%)

Lamet Farha (Joyful Gathering) Level I

Unveiling the Mobile Cinema Initiative Weaving Peace and Unity in Qalmoun

In the scenic landscapes of Qalmoun, a collective effort emerged as Lebanese and Syrian individuals collaborated to introduce a mobile cinema initiative aimed at fostering peace. This innovative endeavor, designed to traverse communities, delivered carefully curated films with a specific focus on children and women. At the heart of this initiative was a commitment to peace-building, offering a cinematic respite for communities grappling with chal-

lenging circumstances. The mobile cinema became a source of joy and happiness, particularly for children, providing a welcomed escape through the enchantment of film. In the face of adversity, the initiative sought to bring a sense of delight and shared experiences to the forefront. The films selected for the mobile cinema were intentionally chosen to convey messages of peace, understanding, and unity. Tailored screenings for children aimed to capture their imagination while instilling values of cooperation and friendship. Simultaneously, films addressing women’s experiences aimed to foster a sense of solidarity among the diverse audience. Beyond the cinematic entertainment, the initiative held a deeper purpose – challenging and reshaping prevailing stereotypes. By attracting and integrating children of different nationalities, the mobile cinema became a powerful instrument for change. It created shared spaces where friendships could flourish, breaking down barriers and fostering a sense of shared humanity. As the mobile cinema journeyed through various communities in Qalmoun, it carried with it the potential to transform perspectives and inspire dialogue. In the luminescence of the cinematic screen, this unnamed initiative became a symbol of hope, unity, and the transformative power of storytelling. It wove together the narratives of Lebanese and Syrian communities, inviting them to embark on a shared journey towards peace.

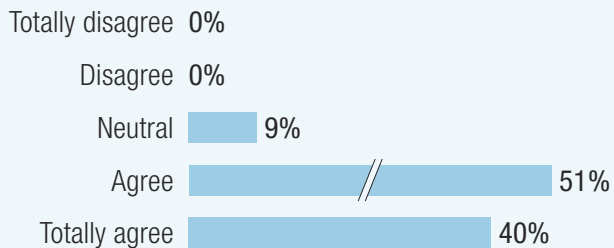


Strategic Objective 3

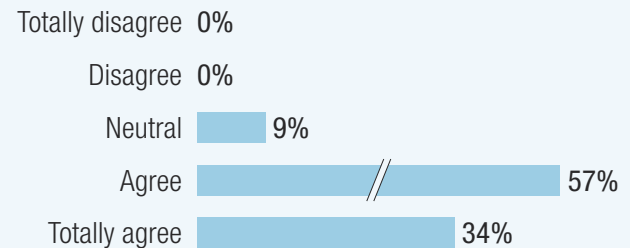
Peacebuilding community of practice is empowered

> **Indicator:** %Solidarity is improved between PB Activists attending Family Network meetings

Family Networking Expressed an Increase in Solidarity among Groups



Ability in Identifying Peacebuilding Challenges and Opportunities through Family Networking



The BEN Project

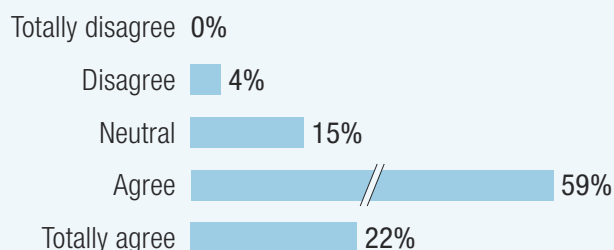
Empowering Communities During Crisis

The Beqaa Emergency Network (BEN) was established by House of Peace to address urgent needs in Lebanon's crisis, particularly in impoverished regions like Beqaa. Focused on shelter-based intervention, BEN responded to emergencies in a conflict-sensitive manner, targeting internally displaced refugees in Beqaa Valley during harsh winter conditions by recognizing the pressing need, while also strengthening the emergency network that is meant to coordinate relief efforts effectively.

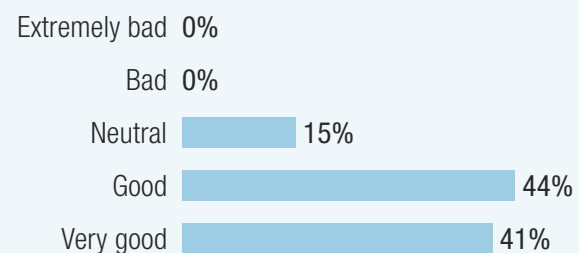
Social Cohesion Triumphs

BEN successfully promoted social cohesion in the Shtoura shelter, overcoming challenges. An exit survey revealed that 81% of volunteers established social contact, and 85% reported positive relationships. The high trust (82%) between volunteers and hosted families underscored the project's impactful contribution to social stability and cohesion.

Volunteers Agreement to the Following Sentence: By hosting families at the center, I have established social contact



Volunteers Rating their Relationships with the Families at the Center



Volunteers Agreement to the Following Sentence: I have built a trust with the families at the center



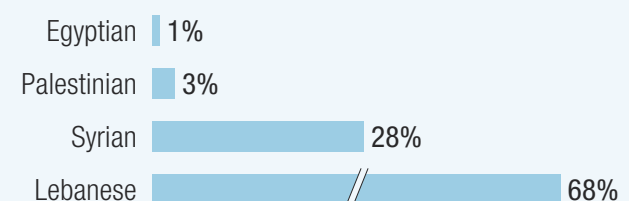
Effective Emergency Shelter Assistance

The emergency shelter played a vital role in meeting the immediate needs of internally displaced refugees from Ersel. Successful food assistance provided approximately 3,313 meals to 100 families. Despite challenges in direct feedback, the network ensured equitable distribution of essential resources, including water, meals, clothes, medical support, and psychological assistance, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to address displaced families' needs.

Gender Segregation of Family Head Individuals Benefiting from Vouchers



Nationality Segregation of Family Head Individuals Benefiting from Vouchers



The Bet El Salam Community Center 2022

Women in Peace

In the strife-ridden locales of Jabal Mohsen and Bab al-Tabbaneh in Tripoli, a community-based initiative emerges amidst the echoes of violent history. Born from sectarian conflict and navigating political machinations, this project defies the odds in the face of an economic crisis that disproportionately affects vulnerable communities. Since 2018, HOPe has been unwavering, with a Women Network of 56 activists from Jabal Mohsen and Bab al-Tabbaneh at its forefront. These women, diverse in backgrounds, unite for peace, creating a symphony of change in the bordering neighborhood of Riva. The community center in Riva is a testament to resilience, sparked by women's impassioned pleas in 2018. It's more than a physical space; it's a crucible of change, where women take charge, empowered by a common purpose. House of Peace, serving as the director, guides and empowers these women to manage the center, organize events, and maintain facilities. The initiative's revolutionary goal is to rewrite the conflict narrative in Jabal Mohsen and Bab al-Tabbaneh. Through a triple nexus approach, it aims not only to reduce tensions but to stage a grand performance of social peace and transformative change, focusing on improving the quality of life for vulnerable families and fostering social cohesion against the odds.

The community center is led by 4 women-led initiatives that started their peacebuilding efforts in August 2022:



Ot3et Mahabeh (A Piece of Love)

In 2019, Ot3et Mahabeh and the House of Peace teamed up for something special. They combined recycling with empowering women, using the community center as a canvas for artistic upcycling and embroidery. This unique collaboration wove a beautiful tapestry of resilience and unity. Out of this creative venture sprang a lively bazaar, not just a marketplace but a social hub during tough economic times. It became a symbol of shared struggles and a force for bringing the community together. The positive impact of this collaboration reached beyond the community center, empowering women and creating connections with 50 local businesses. Together, they sparked positive change, forming a tight-knit community committed to unity. It was more than just about clothing; it unfolded as a story of creativity, entrepreneurship, and collective effort, turning challenges into a narrative of social stability and peace.

104 individuals received upcycled clothes

25 women provided with trainings in embroidery and knitting skills



Lamset Amal (A touch of Hope)

In 2020, “Beit el Kel” and the House of Peace collaborated to establish “Lamset Amal” (A Touch of Hope). This initiative focused on holistic well-being, offering diverse activities such as yoga, sports, psychosocial support, and educational opportunities. Formed by a spectrum of voices, including disabled individuals and bodybuilders, Lamset Amal became a nucleus for social peace, dismantling barriers and fostering unity. Amidst a backdrop of multiple crises, Lamset Amal’s activities played a pivotal role in providing self-care and mitigating tensions between diverse community groups. Beyond its role as a beauty care platform, the initiative acted as a dynamic force for social change, empowering women through skill enhancement and challenging societal norms.

541 women benefited from wellness care services (beauty care, yoga, sport)

330 women provided with trainings in wellness care skills

Mounet el Salam (Peace Through Mounet)

In 2018, Mounet el Salam teamed up with the House of Peace. What began as seasonal product distribution evolved into a dynamic collaboration with healthcare centers and schools. Striking a delicate balance, the initiative now provides free products to vulnerable families while selling others for income, each item carrying messages of peace. In the tale of triumph, Mounet el Salam sold 100 kg of products, received positive feedback from schools and healthcare centers, and creatively repurposed discarded mandarin fruits in collaboration with the municipality. Engaging workers and promoting environmental consciousness, the initiative not only empowered members but also spread awareness through bottle donations. The women journey transcends sweet treats; it’s a testament to the transformative power of community initiatives. From humble beginnings, they’ve woven a narrative of positive change, collaboration, and empowerment, leaving an indelible mark on the community they serve.

11 women provided with food processing preparations skills training (distribution to be set in 2023)

Matbakh El Salam (Kitchen of Peace)

Matbakh El Salam has been scripting a remarkable story since its inception in 2020, guided by the House of Peace. What began as baking traditional Lebanese delights and herbal tea has evolved into a flourishing venture, producing both savory and sweet pastries, and establishing a catering unit. The narrative reached new heights with successful catering for various events, from coffee shop gatherings to heartfelt iftars, and collaborations with local organizations. Financial growth enabled the acquisition of new equipment, culminating in a culinary feat of crafting 100 kg of maamoul al eid in just two weeks. Matbakh El Salam’s story is more than culinary conquests; it’s about breaking barriers, fostering social cohesion, and leaving a lasting impact on the community.

115 individuals received meals during distribution

25 women benefited from cooking trainings

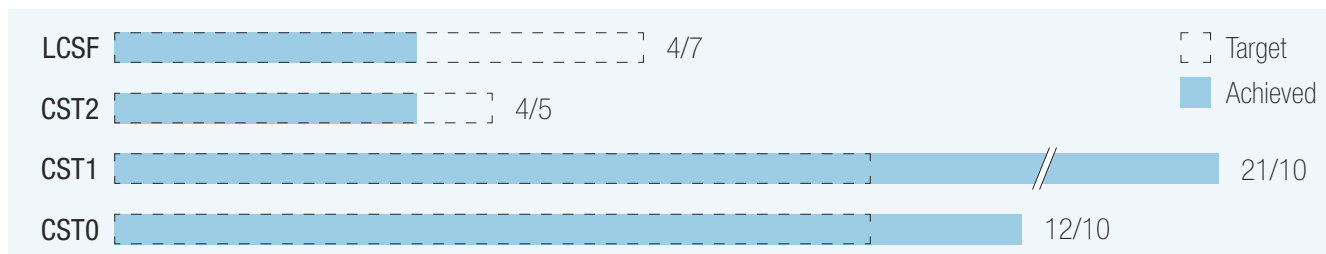
How the community center as whole is serving social change:

The community center stands as a powerful force for social change, creating a transformative impact through its unwavering commitment to empowering women, reshaping mindsets, and fostering economic engagement with a strong sense of social responsibility. By providing women with opportunities to build skills and break free from traditional gender roles, the center is not just transforming individual lives but challenging and reshaping societal perceptions. Moreover, it serves as a beacon of unity, bridging divides and creating new perspectives on peace by emphasizing shared values and interconnected stories. The center actively engages with the local economy, forging connections between communities and businesses, and inspiring a shift toward a more socially responsible approach to commerce.

Conflict Sensitivity Unit

Target Achievements

494 staff/volunteers from CSOs were provided with capacity building: 15 Local NGOs, 4 International NGOs, more than 12 Public Institution – Primary Health Care Centers



Strategic Objective D

Conflict Sensitivity is mainstreamed further within the humanitarian field in Lebanon

> **Indicator:** #% of targeted L/INGOs reporting being more CS in their interventions

11 out of 13 Partners unfolded Conflict Sensitivity Measures for their programs/interventions after the end of the program. (Measures unfolded cannot be a sole identifier to prove that Conflict Sensitivity is mainstreamed within the humanitarian field in Lebanon.

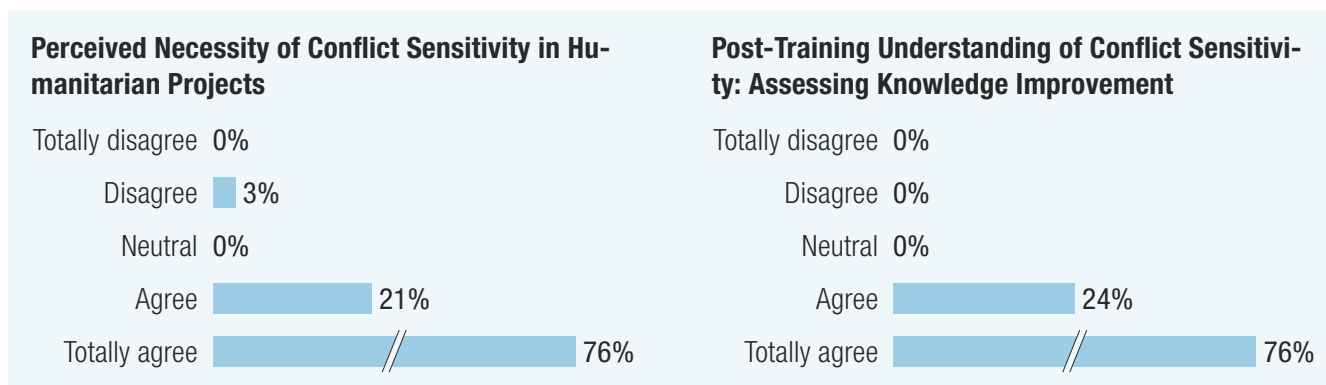
Intermediate Outcome D.1

Participating NGOs staff/volunteers integrate conflict sensitivity when developing/ implementing/monitoring their interventions

> **Indicator:** %# of participating NGOs staff and volunteer reporting to be integrate conflict sensitivity approach.

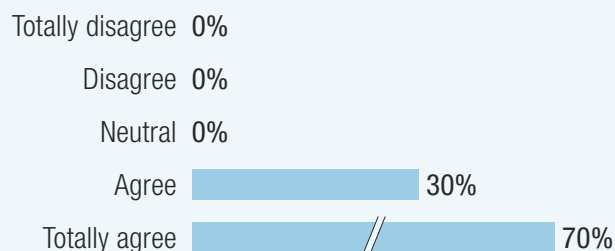
Looking at the knowledge gain shows insights of CSOs staff and volunteers in integrating conflict sensitivity when developing, monitoring, and implementing their interventions. NB: Knowledge alone cannot be a sole identifier for the outcome.

For CSO staff (CST1 and CST2)



At the level of volunteers (CST0)

Perceived Increase in Conflict Sensitivity Understanding After Training



A pilot study was conducted by the House of Peace to assess improvements in the concept of conflict sensitivity at the individual level. This was achieved by constructing a knowledge scale of 4 items designed to measure knowledge improvement. The number of participants enrolled in the pilot study was 39.

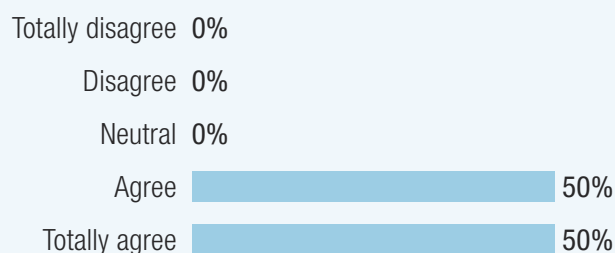
Knowledge Average Score Baseline	11.12820513	% Knowledge Gain	+34%
Knowledge Average Score Endline	14.89473684		
Differences in Means	3.766531714		

Intermediate Outcome D.2:

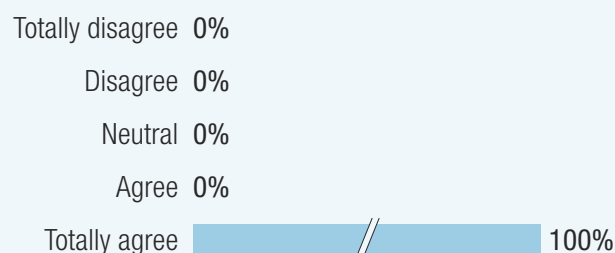
Coordination and exchange of knowledge are advanced amongst NGOs around CS topics

> **Indicator:** #% of LCSF members expressing improved CS exchange with other NGOs

Perceived Utility of Acquired Conflict-Sensitive Measures after the Meeting



Perceived Knowledge Exchange in Conflict Sensitivity at the LCSF Session



2022 Efforts News by the Conflict Sensitivity to Mainstream Conflict Sensitivity in Lebanon

Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming with UNDP:

Two consecutive projects implemented with UNDP Lebanon. In the first phase, 3 guidance notes were developed to address crosscutting issues and CS: [Getting Started with CS in Lebanon](#), [project design process](#), and [Procurement, Recruitment and Accountability](#). In its second phase, [3 conflict sensitivity Toolboxes](#) were developed for Cash-based Assistance, Engagement with Local Authorities, and for the Institutionalisation of Conflict Sensitivity.

The project included consultancy workshops conducted with LCRP partners to reflect on their priorities and needs.

Self-Care Unit

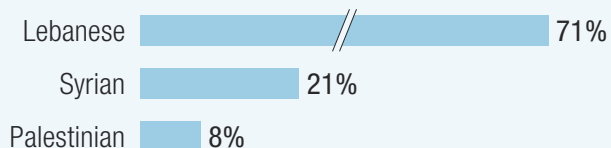
11 Focus PSS, 11 Creative support and 11 follow up

Total number of beneficiaries: 159

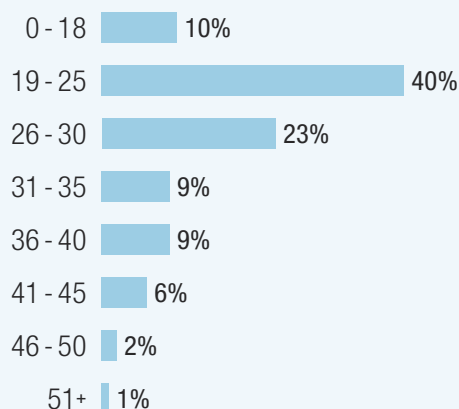
By Gender



By Nationality



By Age

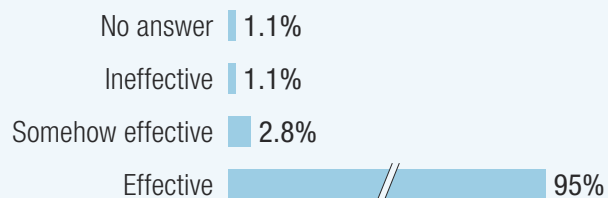


Strategic Objective

Psychological wellbeing of humanitarian frontline workers is improved

> **Indicator:** #% of Participants report reduced stress and anxiety after benefiting from the Hub activities and tools

Effectiveness of Self-care activities on Participants's daily life?



Stress Reduction Assessment: Analysing Participants' Dominant Emotional Responses

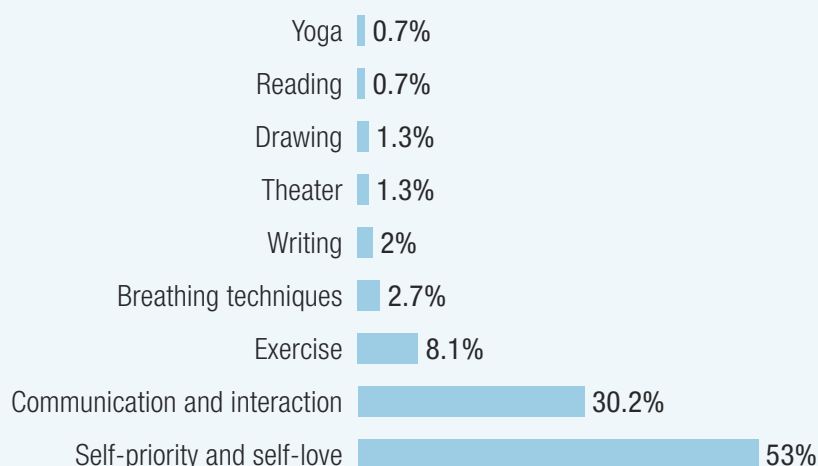


Intermediate Outcome A.1

Self-care for NGOs frontline staff is enhanced

> **Indicator:** #% of participants applying self-care tools for their well-being after finishing the journey with the Hub.

Post-Peace Plan Actions: Participants' Initial Steps



Art of Being Unit

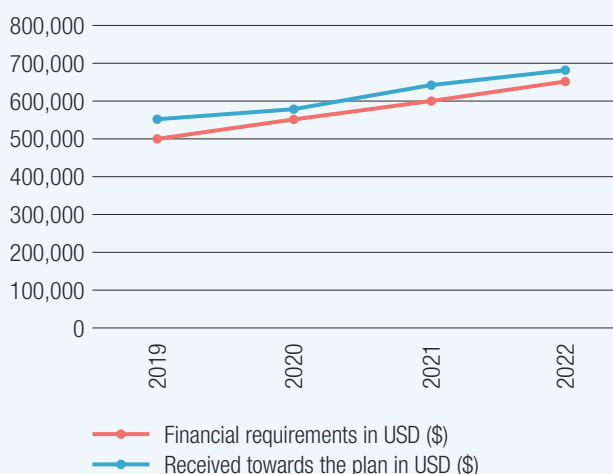
Despite the project not reaching its intended conclusion due to miscommunication with GiZ (including payment delays, difficulties in meeting with high-level executives, lack of involvement in project processes, and frequent changes in managerial personnel hindering many activities), over the past two years, a group of 15 diverse youth from various areas came together in a shared space. During this time, they shared their values, experiences, thoughts, and fears, leading to the development of trust relationships among themselves. Moreover, they have built capacity in conflict sensitivity, activism, human rights advocacy, and peacebuilding.

The group of 15 youth activists provided with the following capacity building and services:



Organizational Development: The Support Unit

Finance Department



Human Resources Department

- **Policies Established and updated:**
 - > Protection and Safeguarding (Including PSEA) – Updated
 - > Whistleblower – Established
 - > Code of Conduct – Updated
 - > A Structured Staff-Care and Capacity Building Process
 - > Informed Consent Form and Process (for M&E and Media) – Established
- **Turn-Over Indicator: 12.5%**
- **Recruitment Indicator: 111%**
 - > 7 New employees
 - > 2 project-based employees
 - > 1 intern
- **Staff-Care (Outing and Team Building)**
 - > 4 Staff-Care implemented

Media Department

Established in 2022

- **9 Videos filmed**
- **Social Media Platforms established**
 - > Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, Youtube
- **Coverage of Field Activities, Events, and Meetings**
- **Media Equipment Updated Partially**

M&E Department

A more rigorous department was established in 2022

- **Comprehensive Systems Created for Data and Information Management:**
 - > Developed a comprehensive system tailored for low-resourced humanitarian settings.
- **Monitoring Activity Tracking System:**
 - > Facilitates ongoing monitoring of activity implementation throughout the year.
- **Segregation System (Outreach):**
 - > Gathers sociodemographic and partnership data using OneDrive-Excel.
- **Monthly Reporting System:**
 - > Involves collection of insights (challenges, best practices, lessons learned, recommendations, success stories) from officers
- **External System with KoboToolBox:**
 - > Utilizes KoboToolBox for data collection in monitoring indicators
- **M&E Dashboard Initiated via PowerBi (Under Construction) :**
- **Updated Tools for Evaluation in House of Peace Program:**
 - Identified and unfolded scientific scales for monitoring program indicators.
 - > Social Stability Scale: Embedded for three domains: Trust, Civic Engagement, and Social
 - > Knowledge Scale: Established in collaboration with the Conflict Sensitivity unit's expertise.
 - > Pilot Testing (End of 2022): Following successful pilot testing, these scales are slated for official implementation in the monitoring and evaluation processes in 2023. M&E will contribute to a more comprehensive, scientific, and nuanced evaluation of the House of Peace Program



Challenges

Conflict Sensitivity Unit

Human Resource Constraints

The unit experienced challenges related to a lack of human resources, particularly difficulties in recruiting for key positions such as a Conflict Sensitivity Officer and M&E personnel. This shortage impacted the overall capacity and efficiency of the unit.

Impact of COVID-19 and Inconsistent Guidelines

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic posed challenges due to the non-unification of restriction guidelines across the sector. Confusion arose from varying interpretations of remotely working days, leading to delays and rescheduling of activities in the Conflict Sensitivity Unit. This situation was particularly prominent in the initial two months of 2022.

Economic Challenges in Lebanon

The economic situation in Lebanon presented multifaceted challenges impacting all aspects of the Conflict Sensitivity Unit's operations. Issues such as the fuel crisis, electricity shortages, safety concerns, and the prioritization of other pressing matters over capacity-building trainings have significantly influenced the unit's ability to function optimally.

Social Peace Unit

Rent Escalation by Landlords

Difficulty in finding suitable places for initiatives arises as landlords increase rent upon learning that an NGO will cover the expenses. This poses financial challenges and affects the planning and execution of initiatives.

Obstruction from Uncooperative Municipalities

Some municipalities, led by uncooperative mayors, obstruct the implementation of local initiatives. Lack of support or cooperation from local authorities hampers the progress of social peace initiatives.

Lack of Confidence in Abilities

Some initiative members lack confidence in their abilities, emphasizing the need for embedding skills development and capacity-building programs. Empowering members enhances their effectiveness in executing events.

Transportation Fees and Currency Fluctuations

Transportation fees and currency fluctuations create challenges, impeding the execution of events. Strategies to address these challenges may include budget adjustments and seeking local partnerships.

More challenges have arisen, but the ones mentioned above are the most impactful issues that have affected the implementations.

Lessons learned

Conflict Sensitivity Unit

Impact of Hiring Interns, Part-Timers, and Volunteers

The positive impact of hiring interns, part-time staff, and volunteers on the unit's performance has been recognized. Their contributions in terms of skills and resources have proven beneficial to the overall effectiveness of conflict sensitivity initiatives.

Effectiveness of Offline Trainings

Through experience, it has been established that offline trainings are more effective than their online counterparts. In-person sessions have demonstrated higher levels of participant engagement and better learning outcomes.

Demand-Driven Approach to Online Trainings

Recognizing the varying needs and preferences of participants, the unit has decided to conduct online trainings based on demand. This approach ensures a more targeted and efficient utilization of resources.

Importance of Reflective Time for Trainers

Providing trainers with dedicated time for reflection after conducting trainings has proven valuable. This period allows for a comprehensive evaluation of the tools and content used, facilitating the identification of areas for improvement and the creation of enhanced materials.

Social Peace Unit

Clear Planning with Partners

Detailed planning with partners, including the creation of a code of conduct, enhances communication channels and collaboration between HOPE and partner organizations during implementation.

Impact of Couples' Participation

Couples' participation, particularly married individuals, yields a more significant social impact as the knowledge and tools acquired during training are transferred more effectively to children or the next generation.

Diverse Resources for Higher Impact

Initiatives involving participants from diverse backgrounds with varied resources tend to have a higher impact during implementation.

Safe Spaces for Communication

Increasing the availability of safe spaces for beneficiaries to discuss their feelings and experiences improves communication and trust between different communities.

Additional lessons were unfolded, but the ones outlined above represent the most significant takeaways from the year 2022.



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