

Lebanon

Child Protection Thematic Report

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A) ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CP	Child Protection
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
GBV	Gender-based Violence
MEHE	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MoSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
MTR	Mid-term Review
SDC	Social Development Centres
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

B) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Operating to address children's protection issues in what is the world's largest refugee crisis, the UNICEF Lebanon prides itself on having established quite successful modes of service delivery for the most vulnerable while at the same time becoming a trusted partner of the Government helping to develop a strong foundation for long-term consideration and preventing children from being affected by harm. 4,500 child survivors of violence, abuse and exploitation received case management services; while some 7,000 high-risk children participated in psychosocial support interventions. More than 17,000 women and girls at risk of or survivors of gender-based violence accessed safe spaces. These services were provided through partnerships with 15 civil society organization CSOs under the general direction of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). Other Ministries were aided to develop and launch Policies and practices for child protection safeguarding, including the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Health.

Moreover, UNICEF Lebanon reached and engaged around 40,000 individuals (70 percent children, 30 percent caregivers) with community-based activities mainly implemented through CSO partnerships. These activities not only provide children and caregivers with information and knowledge on child protection risks and available support services in case of needs, but also serve to stimulate collective reflection and community-led action.

C) STRATEGIC CONTEXT OF 2018

The Syrian Crisis entered its eighth year in March 2018, continuing to drive the largest refugee crisis in the world. To date, the Syrian Crisis has affected millions of people in the region with over 7.6 million Syrians internally displaced and more than 5.3 million Syrian refugees living in neighboring countries. Lebanon is hosting the highest load of Syrian refugees compared to its size; including more than one million registered and an estimate of 500,000 unregistered Syrian refugees (of which 630,000 are children, aged between 03-18 years¹)². Additionally, Lebanon hosts over 200,000 Palestinian refugees, including around 31,000 displaced from Syria.

The situation of girls and boys in Lebanon is critical; especially for the most disadvantaged. Both Lebanon's social and economic situation, along with the conflict in Syria, are placing increased pressure on already drained resources, with many national and municipal services such as education, health and water being under severe strain, impacting children and adults alike. Roughly, 3.3 million people in Lebanon, which is more than half the population (Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinians and others) living within its borders, are categorized as being vulnerable with an estimated 2.7 million being poor. 74 per cent of Syrians aged 15 and above are residing in Lebanon without legal residency³. This has great physical and psychological impact on girls and boys, including children with disabilities, living in Lebanon, regardless of nationality. It affects them on a number of levels including limiting their access to education, youth activities and other vital basic services while exposing them to various child protection and gender-based violence concerns like child marriage, child labour and increased violence.

This has numerous short and long-term effects on the well-being of children. On the short term, children in Lebanon are exposed to child labour (6 percent of Lebanese children aged 5-17, 6.7 percent of Syrians, and 5 percent for Palestinians), child marriage (11 percent of Lebanese girls aged below 18, 32 percent for Syrian girls and 20 per cent Palestinian girls) and violence with more than 56 percent of Lebanese; 65 percent of Syrians and 81 per cent of Palestinians reporting experiencing violence at home. Unfortunately, these trends are increasing as the Syrian Crisis drags on and the economic situation in Lebanon is also worsening.

On the long term, this affects child development, including brain and cognitive development. Child abuse and neglect, including not attending school, being forced to work or child marriage, in addition to being exposed to persistent conflict, can have enduring physical, intellectual, psychological and economic repercussions on children that they take with them into adolescence and adulthood.

For adolescents and youth, inequity and socio-economic constraints are factors responsible for drop-out and low access rates to post-basic education. The need to earn livelihoods, deal with insecurity and violence in schools, curriculum that is not relevant to the job market needs or for transition to tertiary education, the impact of trauma and the needs of vulnerable groups have been cited in participatory studies and assessments as barriers to accessing to educational opportunities for adolescents and youth⁴. Moreover, the labour informality and the lack of legal residency for refugees from Syria have increased the prevalence of child labour.

¹ UNHCR Lebanon estimates this group to be comprised of 164,071 children aged 3-5 years, 361,384 children aged 6-14 years, 105,850 children aged 15-18 years.

² Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, 2019

³ Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, 2017

⁴ UNICEF.2017. *Participatory Action Research*

The recent strain on the child protection services caused by the Syrian crisis triggered a large-scale response and support to government by the international community. A Policy for the Protection of Students in the School Environment has been established by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Ministry of Public Health is working towards a new Child Protection Policy for the Health Sector and a road map for health sector management of cases of sexual assault.

While these advancements are positive, recent undertaken assessments and studies⁵ are showing that the structures of Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), and the staff available in these structures require strengthening, so that the Ministry can meet its mandate more effectively and efficiently in terms of preventing and responding to cases of abuse against children and linking poor households to various social protection and safety net services. A leadership role in protection requires a certain set of core functions, processes and procedures to be in place, as well as sufficient competencies and qualified staff to implement those core functions. In addition, the mandate, vision and mission of MoSA, as stated in current legislative and regulatory documents, need further clarification and enforcement to ensure that the various structures of MoSA can operate effectively to ensure protection of children and women.

UNICEF Lebanon is playing a role in influencing policy-making towards a stronger social protection system in Lebanon by strengthening the access, outreach and referral to quality education, learning, child protection and youth services for all disadvantaged children and their families -Lebanese or refugee. In addition, UNICEF Lebanon is working towards creating a stronger link and partnership with and between main ministries (including Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Health) and is also engaged in capacity-building of ministry staff to ensure an enabling and integrated social protection system that supports the strengthening of the government and partners to implement and monitor inclusive policies and plans for meaningful participation and empowerment of Lebanese and non-Lebanese girls, boys and youth in society and also enhance the efforts in preventing and responding to violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect of boys, girls and women.

On an awareness raising level, there continues to be a need for more sensitization and outreach on the positive effects of the importance of schooling and increasing school attendance, but also on the negative effects of poverty, child protection and gender-based violence abuses, and thereby the attitudes towards especially women and girls. UNICEF Lebanon is working towards increasingly involving men and boys in becoming agents in social change within their own communities in order to mitigate and prevent risks and vulnerabilities from escalating into child protection and gender-based violence violations. Families and community members are also targeted, as families are critical to the development and protection of their children and a close child-caregiver bond is important for children. Families need knowledge, skills and support to meet and advocate for the needs and rights of their children in all settings.

D) RESULTS IN THE OUTCOME AREA

During 2018, the UNICEF Lebanon continued working in close cooperation with key Lebanese ministries, especially the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) in preventing and responding to child protection violations and gender-based violence. This continues to be done through ensuring equity for all girls and boys in

⁵ Capacity Assessment of the Ministry of Social Affairs in Lebanon, 2017 & Lebanon's National Plan to Safeguard Children and Women (2014-2016): Assessment and the ongoing Social Safety Net Assessment with ODI and the Ministry of Social Affairs (2018)

Lebanon in preventing and responding to child protection and gender-based violence abuses on three levels:

- Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity of social, justice, education and health sectors in Lebanon to legislate, plan, and budget to prevent and respond at scale to violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect.
- Increased access to an integrated package of quality prevention and response services in most disadvantaged localities, for boys, girls and women.
- Increased capacities of children, families and communities in the most disadvantaged localities to promote practices that protect them.

On strengthening the political commitment and building long-term institutional capacities, UNICEF Lebanon and MoSA have progressed on several fronts when it comes to policy development and strengthening the Lebanese child protection and gender-based violence systems. In 2018, 20 Social Development Centres under MoSA commenced implementing activities for children and care-givers in a new modality of 'self-implementation' (as oppose to CSOs running activities in the space of the Social Development Centers). Based on the positive experience of this pilot, the model is being expanded in 2019 to some 30 Social Development Centers (SDC). UNICEF has also engaged with other main ministries to strengthen partnerships, while working towards standardizing and institutionalizing efforts to prevent and respond to child protection and gender-based violence.

Key policies were also launched by line Ministries and strong progress was made towards finalization of other critical action plans that will help shape the future work on child protection and gender-based violence system strengthening in Lebanon. In line with the emerging new office-wide priorities that followed the UNICEF Mid-term Review (MTR) process, UNICEF continued to reach a large number of beneficiaries with direct child protection service support - including psychosocial support; safe spaces; case management and other child protection services – while gradually moving towards more comprehensive efforts for system-strengthening and integrated programming, positioning issues of child marriage, child labour and violence against children as cross-programme concerns.

Issues of child labour, child marriage and violence against children started to emerge as cross-sectoral concerns, demonstrated by two landmark Ministerial commitments: UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education launched the Policy for the Protection of Students in the School Environment in May 2018 and took practical steps to address violence in the school environment and the Ministry of Public Health launched the Briefing Note on Strengthening Child Protection Practices in Healthcare Institutions in Lebanon in December 2018. Moreover, work on the National Child Marriage strategy commenced under the leadership of MoSA along with a new Communication Plan for addressing Behaviour and social Norms for preventing Violence, Child Marriage and Child Labour.

Furthermore, the Child Protection Programme continued to work and coordinate actively within the broader UN family, notably within the framework of the Interagency Child Protection Working Group and with a new Joint UN Strategic Framework for the Rule of Law and the Joint UN Approach to address the association of children with armed violence in Lebanon. Collaboration with other UN Agencies also continues in relation to Mine Risk Awareness Education, addressing both Lebanese and Syrian children and families living in high-risk areas where unexploded ordinances still exist.

On providing access to quality services, the Child Protection Programme since 2018 redesigned its set of NGO partnerships for child protection and gender-based violence (including case management) to prioritize national NGOs (11) and reduce the number of international partners (4). The international partners took on a primary role of technical support and oversight.

During 2018, the Child Protection Programme reached on average 85% of its anticipated targets in terms of service delivery (case management, safe spaces, psychosocial support) through its 15 CSO partners and Government partnerships, while making moves to a stronger emphasis on system-strengthening and integrated programming, both internally in UNICEF, but also with other external stakeholders. 4,500 children survivors of violence, abuse and exploitation received case management services; while some 7,000 high-risk children participated in psychosocial support interventions. More than 17,000 women and girls at risk of or survivors of gender-based violence accessed safe spaces. These services were provided through partnerships with 15 CSOs under the general direction of the MoSA. The year saw a shift from mainly international NGOs to greater investment and utilization of localized and national SCOs. The Ministry itself also increasingly provided direct child protection services through its SDC which is part of UNICEF's sustainability strategy. At the end of the year, the expected number of beneficiaries of the direct services was approximately 85% of the expected targets set at the beginning of the year. While short of meeting the targets, it was still considered successful as the Programme had faced challenges in the beginning of the year in re-establishing partnerships following the sudden liquidity shortfall experienced at the end of 2017.

In line with UNICEF Lebanon's shift towards more integrated programming to address the increasing multiple vulnerabilities of children, the UNICEF Child Protection Programme started to more deliberately plan and partner with other programmes and service providers to address more holistically the drivers of child protection and gender-based violence manifestations. For example, UNICEF continued to support MoPH to develop resources and tools for the capacity building of health care professionals in relation to child protection and training and coaching was carried out for teachers, counsellors and other staff in schools leading to more child protection cases being identified and referred for services by the education sector. UNICEF Lebanon continued building the capacity of Government contracted civil society organizations and partner NGOs to address and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation of children. New tools and resources were developed, and trainings rolled out for a broad range of partners, including judges, lawyers, social workers and municipal police. UNICEF enjoys an increasingly close relationship with key state institutions responsible for justice for children, including the Ministry of Justice; the police and Lebanon's Bar Association. As a result, new standards for professional, child-friendly conduct and practices are being developed. In all courts across the country, initiatives have begun to ensure not only child-friendly attitudes and practices of those handling children's cases but the physical spaces are being refurbished to enable a more child centred approaches in the justice processes.

Efforts to institutionalize capacity-building and make training more accessible were seen through the development of an e-course on child protection case management and the launch of the Lebanon adapted Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS). The CPIMS being rolled out in partnership with MoSA and with an initial four CSO partners simplifies and strengthens case management processes and recording.

Moreover, UNICEF Lebanon reached and engaged around 40,000 individuals (70 percent children, 30 percent caregivers) with community-based activities mainly implemented through CSO partnerships. These activities not only provide children and caregivers with information and knowledge on child protection risks and available support services in case of needs, but also serve to stimulate collective reflection and community-led action and provide caregivers with the necessary support to ensure their children's wellbeing, whilst children benefit from community-led psychosocial support providing children with structured activities and key messages. Child labour, child marriage and positive discipline were topics discussed, and especially the gender-based violence and child labour sessions made the participating children and teenagers more aware on related issues and enabled them to speak up about their concerns and their opinions on the topics being discussed. Children reported enjoying community-based protection activities, which led to an increase of knowledge on protection and how to protect themselves and also being able to encounter their daily peer-to-peer problems.

Adults attending awareness sessions on child rights, gender equality, non-discrimination and other events organized by UNICEF partners, reported feeling more educated on these issues and more aware of their rights and the consequences of their actions (or lack of). Parenting sessions were making caregivers comfortable and safe, with women becoming co-facilitators and starting new support groups. Caregiver and parenting programmes targeting both females and males had a positive effect when allowing participants to learn something new including new skills, life lessons, alternative stress coping ways or just a safe space where they can talk freely. Lebanon has one of the highest rates of institutionalization of children in the world. A practice which goes back to Lebanon's long civil war and grounded in interests of the different confessions of the country, a far-reaching alternative care reform does not yet have strong political support. Yet, through advocacy and technical support, UNICEF has managed to shift the needle somewhat and is supporting the Ministry of Social Affairs in regulating some care institutions and pilot family-based alternatives to institutional care.

Measuring behavioural and normative changes will always be a challenge in the short-term. The Programme has used different qualitative monitoring tools and pre- and post-assessments. Preparations for introducing Most Significant Change monitoring in 2019 were also undertaken.

Funding from the Thematic grant contributed to achieving these results in 2018.

E) FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Table 1: Planned budget for Child Protection in 2018

Output area	Funding Type	2018 Planned Budget*
3.1- Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity of social, justice and education and health sectors in Lebanon to legislate, plan, and budget for scaling up interventions that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect, including issues of children affected by armed violence, institutional care etc	RR	-
	ORR	1,397,362

3.2- Boys, girls and women at risk or survivors of violence have access to an integrated package of quality prevention and response services in most disadvantaged localities in Lebanon.	RR	-
	ORR	19,503,108
3.3- children, families and communities have increased capacities in the most disadvantaged localities to promote practices that protect them	RR	-
	ORR	9,983,775
3.4- Improved data and knowledge to inform programming and advocacy initiatives to prevent and protect children and women from violence, abuse and exploitation	RR	-
	ORR	299,500
Total		31,183,745.60

*Figures from Child Protection Annual Work Plan 2018

Table 2: Country-level Thematic contributions to thematic pool received in 2018 (Child Protection)

Donors	Grant Number*	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
Denmark	SC1899050014	1,988,401	1,858,319
Total		1,988,401	1,858,319

Table 3: Expenditures in the Thematic Sector

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount*			
	Other Resources – Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	2,643,845	1,478,926	-	4,122,771
Total	2,643,845	1,478,926	-	4,122,771

Table 4: Thematic expenses by Results Area

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts
Year	2018
Business Area	Lebanon - 2490
Prorated Goal Area	(Multiple Items)
Row Labels	Expense

Other Resources – Emergency	12,086,119
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	12,086,119
Other Resources – Regular	13,032,775
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	13,032,775
Regular Resources	1,798,992
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	1,798,992
Grand Total	26,917,886

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes

Row Labels	Expense
23-01-01 Legal and policy framework related to violence, exploitation and abuse	252,314
23-01-02 Services to prevent or respond to violence, exploitation and abuse	12,056,643
23-01-04 Psycho-social support in emergencies	3,594
23-01-05 Social welfare workforce systems strengthening (accreditation, staffing and supervision)	2,164,722
23-01-14 Parent/caregiver education and programmes on violence, exploitation and abuse - across the life cycle	6,199,621
23-01-17 Social and behaviour change communication on violence, exploitation and abuse	1,317,145
23-01-19 Violence, exploitation, and abuse - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	109,864
23-01-99 Technical assistance - Prevention and response services for violence against children	2,520,634
26-01-03 Humanitarian planning and review activities (HRP, RRP, UNICEF HAC)	872
26-02-05 Administrative data, registers and non-MICS household surveys and censuses	202,202
26-02-08 Programme monitoring	433,303
26-03-02 Capacity and skills development for social behaviour change	38,699
26-03-04 Community engagement, participation and accountability	101,497
26-03-99 Technical assistance - Cross - sectoral communication for development	89,127
26-05-05 Evaluation innovation learning, uptake and partnerships for evaluation	17,234
26-06-02 Innovation activities	66,683
26-06-04 Leading advocate	158
26-06-05 Leading voice	43,951
26-06-07 Leading brand	1,445
26-06-08 Emergency preparedness (cross-sectoral)	167,608
26-06-10 CRC, CEDAW or CRPD - follow up on concluding observations	3,283
26-07-01 Operations support to programme delivery	1,442,903
27-01-06 HQ and RO technical support to multiple Goal Areas	15,569
27-01-16 CO advocacy and communication	74,913
28-07-04 Management and Operations support at CO	-429,322
30-03-03 Private sector partnerships	23,225

Grand Total**26,917,886**

Table 6: Planned budget for 2019

Output	Funded	Unfunded	Total
1. Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity of social, justice, education and health sectors in Lebanon to legislate, plan, and budget to prevent and respond at scale to violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect	\$ 683,352	\$ 795,278	\$ 1,478,630
2) Girls, boys and women at risk or survivors of violence have access to an integrated package of quality prevention and response services in most disadvantaged localities in Lebanon	\$ 7,786,151	\$ 6,423,849	\$ 14,210,000
3) Girls boys, families and communities in most disadvantaged localities have increased capacities to promote practices that protect them	\$ 4,811,377	\$ 2,233,623	\$ 7,045,000
4) Improved data and knowledge to inform programming and advocacy initiatives to prevent and protect girls, boys and women from violence, abuse and exploitation	\$ 210,531	\$ 159,469	\$ 370,000
Total	\$ 15,538,041	\$ 9,612,219	\$ 25,150,260

F) FUTURE WORKPLAN

In 2019, the UNICEF Lebanon will take several steps that are deemed critical to advance the child protection and gender-based violence system strengthening process that MoSA has commenced in partnership with UNICEF and others. The actions are expected to help position the Ministry more firmly as an effective provider of critical child protection and gender-based violence services for vulnerable children and their families while at the same time strengthening the Ministry's capacity to provide oversight, set standards and ensure the quality of services and activities undertaken by CSOs. As such, the direction of the interventions outlined in the 2019-2020 rolling work plan for the programme shows progression in terms of system-strengthening and increased focus on sustainable development approach in comparison with previous funding periods where focus has been much more prominent on the humanitarian, direct service delivery, primarily by CSOs. While MoSA is expected to take on an increasing 'share' of the overall service delivery needs, civil society organizations will continue to play an important role in the foreseeable future. The funding situation provided below also involves direct support to CSOs for service delivery, although at a lower level than in previous years.

Continued integration of child protection concerns and consideration within other line Ministries, such as Health, Education, Justice and law enforcement will also be key. As UNICEF moves towards more integrated service delivery at local level, provision of child protection services such as counselling and specialized care, case management and psychosocial support will be critical to complement other basic social services. It is only through this integrated approach to service delivery - combining child protection, youth, education and social protection interventions - that the multiple vulnerabilities

faced by working children, children on the street, children who are married and children with disability will be effectively addressed. More far reaching reform of institutional care of children will also depend on the advancements made in the wider social protection agenda.

G) EXPRESSION OF THANKS

UNICEF Lebanon is grateful to its many donors for their strong and proven commitment to the vulnerable children and women affected by the Syria crisis. The flexibility of thematic support (OR+) provided for crucial humanitarian response activities and programmes is well appreciated in a context of ever-changing emergency needs, contributing significantly to results against critical Child Protection results and targets.

H) ANNEX

UNICEF Lebanon invites donors to complete the Donor Feedback Form, the link for which is here below: English: [https://intranet.unicef.org/PARMO/PARMO.nsf/0/65C04DD38430DF04852579C80055C4E2/\\$FILE/Donor%20Report%20Feedback-PARMO.doc](https://intranet.unicef.org/PARMO/PARMO.nsf/0/65C04DD38430DF04852579C80055C4E2/$FILE/Donor%20Report%20Feedback-PARMO.doc)



Child Protection Thematic Visibility Report

Grant SC 189905

Human Interest Story

Amira's Story: "I feel safe in the new tent, I feel this is my new home"

Terre des Hommes Italia (TDH IT) team ensures provision of case management services to children at risk identified in the targeted communities in North Beqaa, where TDH IT is implementing activities in partnership with UNICEF and funded by the Global Thematic Response—Child Protection.



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Amira, 13-years-old, fled her home in Hama, Syria, ten months ago. She is currently living in Qaser, Al Farouq Camp, in North Beqaa, Lebanon. She escaped along with her parents and four brothers, respectively 12, 6, 5 and 2 years old.

"My life in Syria was a normal life. I had my home, my friends, and I was very happy to go to school", she says.

As Amira and her family arrived to Lebanon, they didn't know anyone. A family living in this camp offered them a room to stay. "They weren't relatives or neighbours from Syria, we met them here" - Amira's dad says - "they were supporting us as they could".

The first months weren't an easy start for Amira. She was not feeling comfortable in her living situation. They had to share one mattress among three people. They did not have enough food, and the hygiene conditions were poor. "We were too many" - she says - "and since there were men not part of my family, I wasn't able to take off my *hijab* when I was coming home. I wasn't able to wash and dry my hair

properly because of this."

Also, Amira, along with her mother, was working in the agricultural field to provide basic needs to the family, as her dad is sick and cannot work.

Amira and her brothers, together with the children from the camp, participate to the community-based psycho social support (CBPSS) sessions implemented by the TDH IT Mobile Unit.

She was identified as child at risk and referred to the case-management team, so that she could receive psychological support and individual follow up. Her family was referred to another NGO, that provided them with a tent, in addition to external toilet and water tank.

Also, TDH IT case-management team communicated with the land owner where Amira works in order to minimize the working hours and give her time to rest through the working hours.

Now Amira is living along with her family in a private tent, that includes carpets and mattresses. Amira's life changed. "I feel safe in the new tent, I feel this is my new home", she says. She is still participating to the CBPSS sessions, and she is learning about the importance of school and personal hygiene, and about the concepts of *safety* and *self-defence*. Amira is about to start school next year. She will be registered in the 4th grade in the nearest public school. She likes learning. "My dream is to become a teacher, as the ones I had when I was in Syria".



Human Interest Story

Alia's Story— "My dream is to become a doctor"

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Terre Des Hommes Italia (TDH IT), funded by UNICEF and the Global Thematic Response—Child Protection, is implementing Community-based psychosocial support activities (CBPPS) in North Beqaa, allowing children at risk to receive the support needed, gaining the skills for interpersonal relations as well as self-protection. These activities are implemented directly within the children's environments, usually the Informal tented settlements, where factors of risk are usually more present than in the centres managed by the local or international organizations.

Aliaa is 11-years-old and she is from Homs, Syria. She fled from her home at the beginning of the Syrian Crisis in 2011. Now she is living in a camp in Tal Camp in Hermel, North Beqaa, Lebanon, together with her parents, her twin brother Tareq and her 2-years-old sister Huda.

Their neighbours from Syria have also found in this camp a safe place to stay. The family is receiving basic needs from UNHCR assistance programmes, as Aliaa's dad cannot work due to his illness.

Aliaa has a physical disability, caused by a disease when she was a young child. For this reason, she isn't able to walk properly and she suffered from discriminations during all her life. She does not remember a lot of her life in Syria, as she was 4 years old when they were forced to leave.

It wasn't easy for Aliaa to play with the other children of the camp and to reach the activities implemented by TDH IT mobile unit, especially during the days where she felt tired and couldn't move. These activities focus on strengthening the children's skills in negotiation, cooperation, recognizing others' strengths, communication and conflict resolution, while focusing on self-protection and assertiveness.

CBPPS activities were conducted near Aliaa's tent and one of the session focused on the concept of *empathy*. Thankfully some of the children attending TDH IT sessions decided to support her to join the activities, where other children were helpful and glad to assist her during the sessions.

Aliaa's favorite session was the one focused on the concept of *identity*, because, as she says, "the identity card is the way to say: I exist". She dreams that one day she will be able to receive one.

Aliaa is not going to school because of her disability, as she is not able to get on the bus that her twin brother Tareq is taking to go to learn. "My dream is to become a doctor" she says. "I want to treat poor patients for free, because people in need should be helped nevertheless, especially if they *are not* able to afford expensive treatments".

TDH IT just started case-management activities in Hermel area where the girl can be supported emotionally on an individual level and refer her to education activities in the area or any other services that she might be needing

