



OUR 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear Partners and Colleagues,

As we close another challenging year, the World Rehabilitation Fund (WRF) is honored and privileged to share the impact of our ongoing efforts and contributions toward the prevention of disabilities and the rehabilitation, protection, inclusion, and well-being of persons with disabilities in Lebanon.

Reflecting on 2024, a year marked by violence and profound adversity, we experienced the compounding effects of escalating conflict, worsening hardship, deepening insecurity, magnified socio-political turmoil, and, most notably, the intensifying war in Lebanon and the resulting population displacements, casualties, impairments and disabilities. Persons with disabilities continued to face disproportionately severe challenges, including heightened social hardships, marginalization, and often, exclusion in comprehensive emergency response planning, and increasingly restricted access to essential services, further entrenching their status among the most vulnerable populations.

In 2024, WRF maintained and strengthened its commitment to addressing the complex and multidisciplinary needs of persons with disabilities in Lebanon. This included filling gaps in person-focused rehabilitation assistance services, enhancing local capacity and outreach capabilities, implementing awareness and preventive interventions, and advocating for protection and inclusion in collaboration with relevant local and international stakeholders.

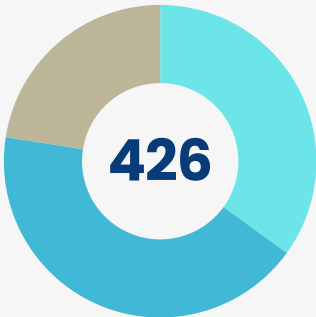
Our commitment inspires and drives us to strengthen effective assistance, expand development initiatives, advance advocacy efforts, and cultivate meaningful collaborations to ensure that no individual is left behind.

With a clear focus on prevention, protection, rehabilitation, inclusion, and well-being, WRF remains dedicated to advancing and promoting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, with solid incremental contributions to impactful progress and lasting change.

Our Emergency Response Assistance Services

The following numbers reflect assistance services delivered between **October 1** and **December 19, 2024**.

Total Emergency Response Beneficiaries Assisted



96

Residents Living in Hot Zones

149

Internally Displaced Persons Residing (IDPs) Inside Collective Shelters

181

Internally Displaced Persons Residing (IDPs) Outside Collective Shelters

The war profoundly affected Lebanon throughout 2024, with its intensity peaking between September and November. Despite compounded challenges, WRF maintained its operations, advancing partnerships across Lebanon, particularly within high-security conflict zones and areas of refuge for the internally displaced, to reach and support persons with disabilities in need. Furthermore, WRF intensified its advocacy efforts, emphasizing the critical importance of including persons with disabilities in all emergency response planning and service delivery initiatives.

Overview of our 2024 Assistance Services

The following numbers reflect assistance services delivered between **January 1** and **December 19, 2024**.

Demographic Distribution:

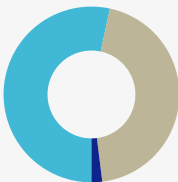


More than 5,439 Persons with Disabilities Assisted



More than 5,587 Person-Focused Assistance Services Provided

Syrian 53.4%



Lebanese 44.7%

Others 2%

50.9% Below 18 Years



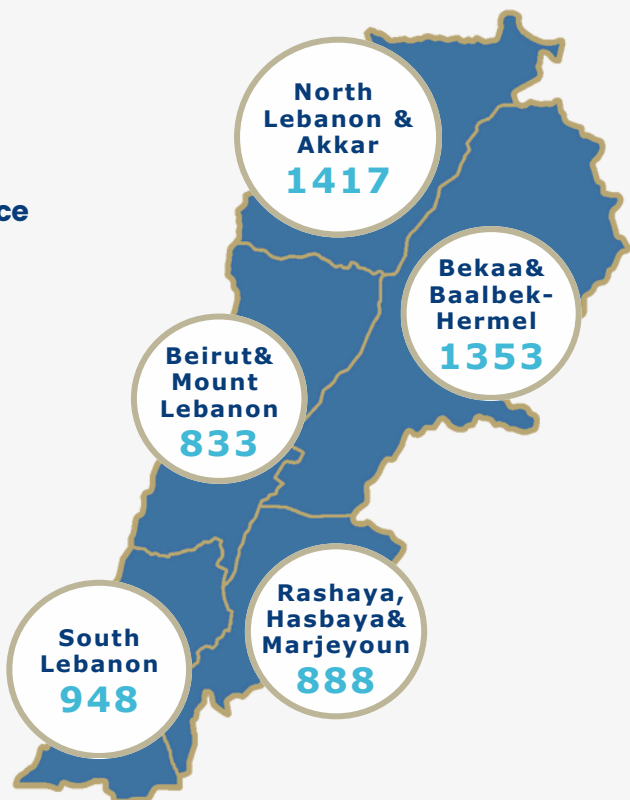
49.1% Above 18 Years

49.5% Males



50.5% Females

Geographic Distribution:



Assisting the Hard –To–Reach

Persons with disabilities are among the most vulnerable and marginalized members of families and communities, facing complex barriers to livelihood, inclusion, and well-being. They are often the hardest to reach and frequently overlooked in humanitarian assistance programs.

WRF has continued to prioritize targeted outreach assistance programming by nurturing community-based partnerships and strengthening local awareness, advocacy, and service provision processes. This approach engages those who are difficult to reach and delivers assistance services as close as possible to where persons with disabilities live. Additionally, WRF continues to implement initiatives to enhance safe accessibility to local community-serving entities that provide value and benefits to persons with disabilities.

By addressing these challenges, targeted humanitarian programming reaches the hardest-to-reach populations and their caregivers, promoting dignity and safety while enhancing needs-focused, multifaceted assistance to persons with disabilities.



Person–Focused Services

Persons with disabilities require assistive devices and services that are specifically tailored to their unique needs and priorities. Our person-focused approach is embedded in every aspect of project design and implementation, ensuring a truly transformative impact. From initial assessments to final evaluations, beneficiaries are actively engaged and empowered to provide feedback, enabling the achievement of outcomes that align with their specific needs and goals.

This unwavering commitment to person-focused assistance reflects our dedication to delivering impactful and empowering support, ensuring that every individual receives assistance tailored to their unique needs and aspirations.



Integrated Services

WRF is dedicated to delivering integrated services to persons with disabilities, combining direct assistance with guidance on psychological first aid, psychosocial and health challenges, self and home care, referrals to supporting entities, and the provision of relevant, value-added information.

By addressing the broader needs of persons with disabilities, their caregivers, and their households, WRF has enhanced the relevance, effectiveness, and overall impact of its interventions. This approach advances holistic and meaningful support, ensuring that assistance not only meets immediate needs but also advances well-being and empowerment.

Community-Based Rehabilitation

WRF's programming prioritizes engagement and collaboration with civil society organizations – including organizations of persons with disabilities – through partnerships aimed at strengthening and supporting their community-based rehabilitation (CBR) programs. These programs are instrumental in reaching and supporting the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach persons with disabilities within defined geographic catchment areas in Lebanon.

CBR programs improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities by advancing access to person-focused assistance, rehabilitation services, participation, and inclusion within their communities. They mobilize local capacities and resources, engage families and communities, advocate for rights and inclusion, facilitate safe accessibility and protection, and address disability prevention through comprehensive, multi-sectoral approaches.



Advancing Advocacy and Collaboration Efforts in Lebanon

Across Lebanon, WRF strengthened its collaboration with local and international stakeholders, UN entities, and the Disability and Older Age Working Group for Lebanon, to raise awareness and advocate for the rights and needs of persons with disabilities. These initiatives have been pivotal in mobilizing material and in-kind resources at local, national, and international levels. They have also enhanced the commitment and engagement of existing local organizations, encouraged voluntarism, and supported the establishment of new entities dedicated to addressing the needs of persons with disabilities.

As a result, many local organizations have expanded their assistance services, more volunteers have become actively involved, and focused local and international attention has been directed toward the specific needs of persons with disabilities and person-focused assistance. Furthermore, disability-targeted programming continues to gain recognition, advancing more inclusive and effective support systems across Lebanon.



Enhancing Referral Pathways

In 2024, WRF continued to invest in strengthening referral pathways to benefit persons with disabilities and their caregivers. Efforts focused on enhancing the WRF Individual Referral Management System platform to streamline the referral process, enable unified tracking and monitoring, and facilitate value-added data extraction, analysis, coordination, and collaboration.

To improve engagement and accessibility, WRF introduced an online form, a dedicated WhatsApp channel, and a helpline to guide persons with disabilities and their caregivers toward assistance opportunities offered by WRF and other relevant entities.

These advancements have significantly enhanced WRF's ability to respond efficiently to needs, connect persons with disabilities to available assistance, and promote inclusive and integrated humanitarian support.



Success Story

Shahd, a 16-year-old Syrian girl internally displaced from the Bekaa Valley to a village in North Lebanon, lives with the enduring scars of war. When she was just six years old, Shahd sustained a bullet wound to the head during the Syrian conflict, leaving her with lower-body paralysis and an intellectual disability. Tragically, Shahd also lost her father in the war and fled to Lebanon with her remaining family members in search of refuge. Following her mother's remarriage, Shahd and her sister—who also has a disability—were abandoned to the care of their elderly grandparents, who struggle under harsh living conditions.

Shahd's daily life is filled with challenges in the absence of assistive devices, severely impacting her ability to carry out day-to-day activities independently. These struggles, combined with the emotional impact of her circumstances, are further intensified by the financial hardships her grandparents face. With no stable income, they struggle to meet even basic needs, leaving Shahd without the care she requires.

The provision of a wheelchair tailored to Shahd's specific needs through WRF's project was transformative. The wheelchair brought profound joy and a renewed sense of independence. With a radiant smile, Shahd now navigates her surroundings with ease. Her new wheelchair serves as both a symbol of hope and a tangible step toward an improved quality of life and a more promising future.



External Impact Evaluation – 2024

WRF commissioned an external impact evaluation of its Project, *Filling Assistance Gaps in Basic Rehabilitation Services for Syrian Refugees with Disabilities and Their Peers in Host Communities in Lebanon* (2023-2024). The evaluation aimed to assess the Project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability in addressing particular needs of persons with disabilities amid Lebanon's ongoing socio-economic and political challenges. The evaluation utilized a mixed-methods approach, integrating Project data and information with insights gathered from interviews, workshops, and surveys to capture a comprehensive range of perspectives from stakeholders and beneficiaries.

The findings highlighted the Project's substantial achievements, including the provision of essential rehabilitation services, capacity strengthening of local organizations, and the promotion of disability inclusion. The evaluation also identified opportunities for enhancement, such as consolidating sustainability and expanding capacity-strengthening efforts. WRF's commitment to continuous learning, adaptation, improvement, and collaboration remains vital to advancing an inclusive and equitable future for persons with disabilities in Lebanon.



WRF extends gratitude to our partners, collaborators, supporters, and dedicated staff who share an unwavering commitment to advancing the rights, dignity, and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

We express special thanks to the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) of the U.S. Department of State for their invaluable support, unwavering attention to the needs of persons with disabilities, and funding of this Project through a Cooperative Agreement as a Gift of the United States Government. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to addressing critical needs and nurturing sustainable solutions for persons with disabilities in Lebanon. Their continued support of initiatives and interventions enables WRF's work in Lebanon to continue and thrive.

We also extend gratitude to the beneficiaries, caregivers, and families engaged with this Project. Their strength, resilience, and active participation are the foundation of the mission and the driving force behind efforts to create meaningful and lasting change.

Together, a society is being nurtured where persons with disabilities are celebrated, valued, and empowered to embrace their unique abilities and talents, paving the way for them to live fulfilling and enriched lives.

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